



Longton Hall Road, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent. ST3 2NJ

Tel: 01782 882900 | Email: office@stmca.org.uk | www.stmca.org.uk | @StThomasMoreCA

Headteacher: Mr M Rayner BA(Hons) NPQH

30th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

This Sunday was the first Sunday of advent. We lit the first candle in our advent wreath during our Act of Worship this morning – this purple candle symbolises hope. Hope is certainly welcome in our world at present, now more than ever, and therefore Advent allows us to appreciate its value as a community as we move through December.

This week is our first assessment week of the academic year. This is an important week as it allows staff to identify progress and any gaps in knowledge. We expect that students have revised, are prepared and give it their best! Resources are available on Microsoft Teams to support revision. Please support students to do their best and guide them towards the resources to help them.

Next week – the penultimate week of term, students will be reviewing their assessments and teachers will be addressing any misconceptions.

The following week is the last week of term. Students will be completing the National Enterprise Challenge on the Thursday and Friday and so will be based solely in forms, thus reducing contact with students and staff. The last day will also be a Christmas Jumper or Festive Wear day and there will be the chance to have Christmas dinner during this week. More details will follow.

Unfortunately, I have written to you over the last month or so about a number of isolated Covid-19 cases within school. Thank you to everyone for their support, particularly those students who have been asked to isolate.

We continue to ensure all year groups remain in their year group zones/bubbles. This has worked very well so far but please ensure that your child is aware that they must not cross zones/bubbles whilst at school. All students must also bring the following with them to school:

- Hand sanitiser
- Face Covering
- Tissues
- All pens and pencils / school bag
- Sharpener and rubber
- Ruler and maths equipment (including a calculator)
- Standard headphones if using online programmes such as Hegarty and Bedrock

As a reminder, students should not be attending school if anyone in the household is displaying covid19 symptoms. The entire household should self-isolate, get tested and then follow the advice. If someone in the household does test positive then the household needs to self-isolate for 14 days. If you are unsure, please contact us and we can assist you.





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We continue to follow government guidance on face coverings. Students must wear a mask in communal areas or on corridors. Masks must be:

- Reusable (washable)
- Plain black, blue or red (school colours)
- Stored in a plastic bag when not in use and never passed to another student

Masks **must be worn** on public transport, including the school bus and Trinity bus.

Standards

Although we are approaching the end of term, students must continue to adhere to our academy expectations for uniform and punctuality. Students should adhere to the following uniform:

Boys	Girls
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School blazer • White shirt • School tie • Black / grey long sleeved v neck jumper (School jumper available) • Black / dark grey trousers • Black socks • Plain black sensible shoes. • No trainers or plimsolls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School blazer • White shirt • School tie • Black / grey long sleeved v neck jumper (School Jumper available) • Black trousers • Plain grey skirt • Black ankle socks or black tights • Plain black sensible shoes. No heel or low heel. • No open toe or open back. • No trainers or plimsolls

I am particularly concerned by the number of hoodies being worn in school. An outdoor coat should be worn above the blazer and jumper. Hoodies will be confiscated if they are continually worn. Students failing to attend school in the correct uniform may be sent home to change into the correct uniform.

Online learning

Should it be necessary in the future for a whole class or year group to be taught online, students will follow their normal timetable virtually on TEAMS. All students should be accessing their class TEAMS regularly to view and submit home learning and as such should be familiar with the software.

The times of the day will be as follows and registers will be taken in every session. Please note that lessons times have been adjusted to 45 minutes to allow for swift change overs between sessions. **All students are expected to be present throughout every session, ready to respond to teachers as required.** Some written work will be required between sessions, and home learning will be set as normal to be completed during the evening. In this way all students will meet the required minimum 5 hours of study per day.





St Thomas More Catholic Academy

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Archdiocese of
Birmingham

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Time	
9.05 – 9.20	Registration
9.30 – 10.15	Period 1
10.30 – 11.15	Period 2
	Break
11.50 – 12.35	Period 3
12.50 – 1.35	Period 4
	Lunch
2.20 – 3.05	Period 5

Should you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to contact school via email or the main school office. I thank you for your support during these times.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Rayner
Headteacher



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