



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

9th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to congratulate students for their effort and determination during our first assessment week of the academic year and over the term as a whole. They have had to cope with much change and uncertainty but have shown resilience and determination.

During Advent we have been preparing and looking forward to welcoming Christ into our homes. We also spent this time reflecting on what has certainly been an unprecedented year, with challenges and difficulties faced by many of us.

As a school community we have continued to support others within the wider community throughout both lockdown periods in 2020. After the success of last year, we have once again decided to launch the Reverse Advent Calendar as a whole school charity throughout December. Unlike the traditional Advent calendar where something is taken each day, we suggest that we instead, offer something each day and donate to the local foodbank. Each student should aim to bring in at least one item as we approach the end of the term, which their form tutor will collect before the boxes are then donated in the final week.

The foodbank has stated that they require the following items in particular: biscuits, mash, tinned potatoes, chocolates for Christmas and tea bags (boxes of 40).

Many thanks in advance for your support. Last year the volunteers were extremely grateful for the efforts from both our staff and students and we look forward to being able to support the foodbank which just as many – if not more – donations this year so that those families in need over the Christmas period can receive support, particularly during the pandemic.

I am grateful that parents and families have been so supportive, especially when contacted and students asked to self-isolate. I understand the impact that this may cause as we move closer to Christmas and therefore appreciate your continued support in ensuring that we all play our part to reduce the risk of Covid-19 infection rates.

To reduce the chances of students being asked to self-isolate over Christmas, the last week of term will look and feel different from normal.

- From Monday to Wednesday students will attend their normal lessons
- On Monday and Tuesday Christmas lunch will be available from the canteen
- On Wednesday we will have our Advent services
- From Thursday students will be based solely in forms, thus reducing contact with each other and staff. They will work on year-appropriate curriculum content, and have separate break and lunchtimes to further reduce the number of students that they will come into contact with.
- From Thursday sixth form students will be working independently from home

On the last day of term school will finish at 12.55pm for year 7, year 8 & 9 students which finish at 1:00pm, and year 10 and 11 students will finish at 1:05pm.





St Thomas More Catholic Academy

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Unfortunately, we would encourage students not to bring the normal array of food, gifts and cards into school as the sharing of such items would increase the risk of spreading infection.

Over Christmas, if your child tests positive, please can you send an email to office@stmca.org.uk, to notify the school. We will track and trace close contacts and, if appropriate, contact families so these students isolate over the Christmas holidays.

As a reminder, students should not be attending school if anyone in the household is displaying Covid-19 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.

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, and wish you a peaceful Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Rayner
Headteacher



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