



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

Tuesday 5th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Yesterday, as you will be aware, we received further news of changes regarding the closure of schools following the announcement of the national lockdown.

This half term school will operate virtually apart from being open for vulnerable and children of critical worker children.

From Monday 4th January all year groups will follow **their full normal timetable** from home, accessing **live lessons** virtually on TEAMS. Only **vulnerable children and children of critical workers** will physically return into school and are expected to attend as normal for the spring term next week. An updated list of the DfE criteria for vulnerable students and for critical worker roles can be found at www.gov.uk However, if you have any questions, please do contact the school office.

Students on site are expected to be in full school uniform. Those students in school will be situated in a classroom within their year group bubble, and will access the same lessons through Microsoft Teams.

Students, while working from home, will follow their normal timetable virtually on TEAMS. The times of the day are below, and registers will be taken in every session. **All students are expected to be present throughout every session, ready to respond to teachers as required.**

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

Sixth Form - The timings of the day for sixth form are slightly different to fit in with the Trinity:

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
	Lunch
13.20 – 14.05	Period 4
14.20 – 3.05	Period 5





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

Examinations

We are still expecting vocational examinations to continue this week and next. Students will be given further details in their lessons over the week regarding the arrangements for these examinations.

During the statement by the Prime Minister last night, he said "We recognise that this will mean it is not possible or fair for all exams to go ahead this summer as normal. The Education Secretary will work with Ofqual to put in place alternative arrangements." It is very unclear at this stage therefore, but I would be surprised if we went to the same system as last year as it does not read that all exams will necessarily be cancelled. As soon as we have details of the assessment framework we will be in touch immediately. Whilst uncertainty is unwelcome **it is vital that students in all classes – and particularly examination classes - continue to engage with lessons and make progress.** Education is vital in its own right, no matter the form of assessment.

Please reassure your children, on our behalf, that they should not worry at this stage about what is to happen in determining their exam grades. We will do our utmost to support our students, both now and into the future. What we need to do now is to give ourselves time whilst we wait for further detail around last night's announcement.

Testing

A huge amount of effort has gone into setting up the mass testing regime in school. We will be still be setting up a testing regime for students and staff in school. We will initially contact those students who this will effect and lateral flow testing will commence from Monday 11th January.

I am wholly disappointed by this news; it is not the news I was hoping for, given all the time and effort a number of the staff have put in to get the testing regime ready in order for your children to return safely to school, and the efforts that students have made over the last term. However, we are able to deliver the full curriculum online following the normal timetable. This will allow students to continue to make progress and remain on track for when they physically return to school after half term. Pastoral and support staff will continue to be in school and work tirelessly to support your child through this time. Please contact school if you or your child has any concerns or worries at this time.

Thanks for your support at this time.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Rayner
Headteacher

