



ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to update you on a couple of areas following from my letter last week.

Free School Meals

The government have announced that they are reintroducing a national voucher scheme for families entitled to free school meals. This is very welcome and will give families the support they need within the flexibility the national scheme will offer. In the short term we are issuing Aldi vouchers that will initially cover the first two weeks of this half term. If the national scheme takes some time to be introduced we will of course issue more vouchers.

Remote Learning

As you know from Monday, 11 January work for Year 7 to Year 11 students is being set via the homework function of ClassCharts. We have already received some positive feedback from students and parents that this is making organisation and submission of work easier. Over the next week or so there will be an increase in the amount of live contact that students will have with teachers during the timetabled lessons. This live contact will take a variety of forms including direct instruction enabling student discussion, answering student questions and providing immediate feedback. We hope that this increased live contact will further support our students in maintaining a good working routine and completing set work with a greater level of understanding.

I would encourage all students to engage with this live contact, although I recognise that it may not always be possible.

Completing Work

The work that staff set aims to be for the equivalent amount of time that a student would be spending on that subject if they were in school. We understand that in certain subjects some students will take different amounts of time to complete the work. All we ask is that students try their best and do what they can within the allocated time and then submit what they have been able to complete.

Going forward parents and students will receive a notification on ClassCharts (behaviour section – activity feed) that lets you know if your child has missed a work submission deadline or a live session. This is a supportive measure, **it does not carry a negative point** and is simply for your information. If staff have concerns about your child regularly not submitting work or attending live sessions then we will contact you directly.

As outlined in our Remote Learning Policy (available on the school website) if your child is struggling with the work set we encourage them to email their teacher directly for support. Likewise if you have concerns re the work set for any subject please contact the relevant Head of Department (email addresses are in the appendix of the policy).

PSE Lessons

From Tuesday, 19 January the PSE period which is 9.05am – 10.05am each Tuesday will include live contact with form tutors. We will continue to deliver the PSE programme but there will also be an opportunity for students to “meet” with other members of their form class and discuss how things are going.



Thank you for your messages of support in the last week or so. We will continue to strive to develop the remote learning we are providing to support our students. Once all of the latest developments are in place we will issue an updated overview of remote learning expectations and processes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Watson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr D Watson
Headteacher