



St Thomas More Catholic High School

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20th July 2022

Dear Parent and Carers,

As we come to the end of another school year, please can I thank you again for your support over the past twelve months. During the year we have been able to get back to a much more normal way of doing things and it has been lovely to see your children enjoying the full curriculum in specialist rooms again and taking part in the many extra-curricular activities on offer.

There are a few things happening over the summer and in the new academic year that I want to let you know about.

Two Week Timetable

As you may know it is a requirement for Catholic schools that in Year 7-11, 10% of the timetable should be for RE. Historically we have been slightly under that but from September we will be fulfilling the 10% which is the equivalent to five lessons across a two week period. In order to accommodate this, we are moving to a two week timetable which is already common in many secondary schools. This means your child will have a different timetable for each of the two weeks. I know that in September this change will feel quite strange for students and staff alike but once everyone gets used to it, it will become routine. We will remind students regularly whether it is week one or week 2 and the ClassCharts app now has a timetable tab on it and will automatically have the correct week and day.

At the same time, we are changing the way that students are grouped in Years 8 and 9. Students will be in the same group for English, RE, History and languages and then a different group for Maths, Science, Geography and Computing. These groups will be based on ability but will not be as strictly set as has been previously in individual subjects.

Change of Catering Provider

After five years of working with Mellors to provide our school catering, from September the catering company Aspens are taking over. As is required, we undertook a full tendering process and involved members of the School Council both in shaping our requirements and in using their opinions of the different companies in deciding the successful bidder. There will be no change to the systems we use both for topping up payments and for purchasing in the dining hall. I would like to thank Mellors for their work over the past five years but we look forward to developing our catering provision for students with Aspens from the autumn term.

Redevelopment of Reception and Administration Offices

During the summer there will be a significant remodelling and redevelopment of Reception and Administration Offices at the front of school. This is being funded almost entirely by the Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust as part of their capital investment scheme. As a result there will be no access to the School Office during the summer holidays. If you need to contact school, please use the info@stmacademy.org.uk email address. The office will reopen on Monday 5th September 2022 so ties can be purchased on the two training days on 5th and 6th September.

Uniform

A reminder of uniform expectations and regulations will be sent to you tomorrow in case, for example, you're buying new school shoes and aren't sure whether particular pair are appropriate.



Loaned ICT Devices

We have directly contacted families to whom we have loaned ICT devices to inform them that all of those devices now need a critical update without which, they will no longer work. In order to update all equipment we require that any loaned Chromebooks, ipads or laptops are returned to School to allow us to update the equipment so that they can be reissued to you for next year. If you have not yet returned a device please email our ICT team via ictadmin@stmacademy.org.uk to make arrangements to drop it off during the holiday.

Thank you again for your support and I hope you have a lovely summer.

Yours sincerely



Mr D Watson
Headteacher

