

Friday 22nd July 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

For the first time since the summer of 2019, pupils have completed a full school year without significant disruption and school closure. It is hard to believe the events of the last 3 years and the impact on children has been profound. Not only has learning been affected, but children's development and welfare has suffered significantly. We have worked extremely hard over the last academic year to fill gaps in knowledge, accelerate progress and rebuild confidence and resilience in our pupils. I am pleased to say that whole school interventions deployed this year, such as STM Reads, Commando Joe's and catch up tuition, have resulted in some excellent outcomes, particularly in reading, literacy, numeracy and wellbeing. We know that there is still work to do and will continue with renewed energy when pupils return in September.

GCSE examinations returned this summer for Year 11 pupils. With some modifications and additional materials to support them, pupils worked extremely hard in the run up to their exams and we wish them the very best of luck as results are released on Thursday 25th August.

As the academic year progressed and more rules and restrictions were removed from society, we ceased the moment to reintroduce clubs, trips, academic visits and experiences for our pupils. To name but a few, two retreats took place at The Briars, the Ski Trip 2023 was announced and last weekend 87 pupils visited London. In November, 63 Year 9 pupils will go on retreat for a week at the Briars, and in the coming months we will launch the Krakow Trip for October 2023, visiting Auschwitz and the UNESCO Wieliczka Salt Mines, as well as a trip to Iceland in February 2024.

School leavers

As the academic year comes to a close, we will bid a fond farewell to a few members of staff. Mrs Christine Barnes, Head of PE, will leave St Thomas More after 37 years of teaching at the school. Mrs Barnes will be retiring after devoting her whole career to the STM community. I want to thank Mrs Barnes for her many years of service and dedication to our school and wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement. Also retiring this summer is Mrs Jane Taylor. Mrs Taylor will be leaving her role as a Teaching Assistant. Thank you for supporting our pupils and we wish you the very best as you fulfil your exciting retirement plans.

Mrs Jane Hudson, Head of MFL, Mrs Joanne Coulduck, Food and Nutrition and Mr Matt Ryan, Pastoral Manager will be leaving STM for pastures new and Mrs Lesley Brennan, TA, will be leaving to spend more time with her family. Thank you and we wish you the best of luck.

Mr Peter Chan, Mrs Julie Clemett, Mr Ben Greener and Mr Ayaz Ahmad will be leaving STM as our staff return from maternity leave in September. Thank you for providing stability and support to our pupils this year.



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**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

Return in September

We will be welcoming some fantastic new members of staff in September along with a few changes to how we operate pastoral support and inclusion. I will write to you in September with more details about who's who and how we are changing things to give our pupils the very best support.

Our expectations regarding uniform and equipment can be found on our new website: <https://www.stthomasmorebuxton.srscmat.co.uk/parents/uniform-and-equipment/>. We want pupils to be prepared and ready for a new academic year with all the things they need for a smooth and calm start in September.

All pupils will return to school on Monday 5th September at 8:45am.

Summer Support for Parents and Carers

For some families the summer holidays can be a challenging time. This year we have published a summer support guide on our website to help parents and carers through the next six weeks. From holiday clubs, to food banks and even tips on dealing with having your children at home all summer, a range of support can be found by visiting:


<https://www.stthomasmorebuxton.srscmat.co.uk/parents/summer-support/>.

Safeguarding

If you are concerned for the welfare of a child whilst we are closed for the holidays, please contact Starting Point on 01629 533190 or in an emergency, the Police on 101/999.

Once again, thank you for everything you have done to support the school over the last academic year and for your kind, supportive messages to school.

Enjoy the summer, stay safe and see you in September!



Mr D Redfern
Headteacher