

St. Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy, Palace Fields, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6AF Headteacher: Mr D Redfern

20th March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware, St Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy was inspected by Ofsted on the 10th and 11th January 2023. We have shared the report with our school community and write to you today to provide a further update on our school's journey.

Visiting inspectors identified several positive aspects. The final report describes our school as a friendly and welcoming place. The relationships between staff and students were seen as a strength, so too was the role played by staff in upholding the school's Catholic ethos and values. Ofsted confirmed that pupils feel safe in the Academy and that our safeguarding procedures are effective.

However, as a Leadership Team we fully recognise that there are areas for development, and we are committed to addressing these as quickly as possible.

One key area for development is communication. Therefore, actions have been swiftly put in place. Firstly, every term there will be a Headteacher's Surgery. This will give you the opportunity to speak with the Executive Head Teacher (Mrs Morris) and the Deputy Headteacher (Mrs Lancett), regarding any concerns or queries you wish to raise. The first of these surgeries will take place on **Wednesday 29th March 4pm-5.30pm.** Appointments will be made through our new booking system 'School Cloud' details of which can be found on our website. In addition to this, we will be writing to you every three weeks to update on our progress to date in relation to the school's priorities, which we have identified and had confirmed by Ofsted.

Updates, school news, achievements and key information will be further relayed in our Newsletter which we will publish every term.

We are in the process of communicating with families to arrange meetings for the parents/carers of children who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). These meetings will be an opportunity for parents/carers and Academy staff to work together to ensure that the provision for these children is as effective as it can be. During these meetings, parents will meet with our SENDco and the SEND lead for the St Ralph Sherwin Trust. Alternatively, if you have a child with special educational needs, please contact our SENDco if you have any urgent questions or require specialised support.

We are keen to update and involve all members of our community in our pursuit for improvement. Therefore, it is vital that we have the most up to date information regarding you and your child. Your child will receive their information gathering form that we would ask you to complete at your earliest convenience but return no later than **Friday 31**st **March.**

Once again, please be encouraged that as a Leadership Team we are aware of the measures required to rapidly move St Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy in a positive direction and we thank you for your continued support at this time.

Kind regards,

LMorris

Louisa Morris
Executive Headteacher





