



11th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I want to take this opportunity to welcome back all of our students. Year 8 to 11 it is fantastic to have you back. A very warm welcome to our year 7 students, we are all very proud to have you as part of our St Thomas More family.

The start to 2023-24 has been very positive. Our summer GCSE results reflected the journey we are taking as a school. 20% of our students achieved the very top grades, this is testament to their hard work and that of the teaching staff. It can be clearly seen that students made significant progress since their mock exams back in January. Our results show an improving picture for our students with SEND. Results follow the national trends post covid and we are exceptionally proud of our students for the tenacity they have shown during their secondary education years.

As we look to the new year, we are delighted to strengthen the pastoral staffing structure. I have appointed 3 Heads of Learning and a Lead Teacher for personal development. These key roles will be pivotal in the development of our students. These appointments add capacity to our school leadership in the key areas. The new SENDco has joined our team and is already meeting with numerous parents. The Headteacher surgeries and meet the SENDco events will also take place this half term. In order to maximise progress for all of our learners staff will be reinforcing our consistency in the classroom policy and our new learning expectations. Both of these initiatives strive to create the best learning culture that we can.

Over the summer break work has been completed to replace the boiler and to restore a wall which has now opened up more space for social times. A full comprehensive survey has been carried out on the school buildings in light of the RAAC concerns. I can confirm that there are no concerns for us. It has been a pleasure to show parents, governors and visitors the works that had already been completed. In the last half of 2022-23 school year we moved the Inclusion unit to the heart of the school and created 2 purpose built meeting rooms for parent/ staff meetings. Finally, we have improved our telephone system, meaning that a greater volume of calls can be answered and triaged.

As we look forward to this new academic year, I am excited by the journey that is ahead. My focus will remain of creating a culture where every student can learn, and they are supported to meet their full potential. I want our learners to go on to have a choice filled life, armed with academic success and the life skills to enhance their attainment. My aim for the St Thomas More students is to be role models to all, both in our school and within the wider community. The standards and expectations for 2023-24 are high, and we expect our students to meet these standards.

For your reference I have attached an overview of the Academy's uniform and equipment guidance for the upcoming academic year.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Sarah Lancett
Acting Head of School





Uniform and equipment guidance 2023-24

GIRLS (Years 7,8,9)

- Plain white shirt and school tie
- Maroon V-neck sweater with school crest (not optional)
- Black skirt or trousers (not jeans, cords, ski pants, bootleg trousers, etc.)
- Sensible black shoes – high heels, platform heels and trainers are not suitable
- Socks – black or tights

BOYS (Years 7,8,9)

- White shirt and school tie
- Maroon V-neck sweater with school crest (not optional)
- Black trousers (NOT jeans)
- Sensible black shoes- no trainers
- Socks – black or other dark colour

Year 10/11 Uniform

GIRLS

- Black skirt or trousers of an acceptable style (**Not jeans, cords or leggings etc.**)
- Black V-neck jumper with school crest (not optional)
- Maroon school tie
- White shirt
- Sensible black shoes- no trainers

BOYS

- Black trousers
- Black V-neck sweater with school crest (not optional)
- Maroon school tie
- White Shirt
- Sensible black shoes- no trainers

In exceptional circumstance (eg broken shoe/ ripped trouser) staff will provide laundered spare uniform and/ or a sticker in their planner

Reasonable outdoor coat – it is not acceptable for students to wear leather, denim, tracksuit top, sweatshirt, non-school hoodies, coloured shirts worn as coats.

ALL YEARS – P.E. KIT – Basic Kit – COMPULSORY

- School Polo Shirt- Black
- Plain black P.E. shorts, black jogging bottoms or black leggings
- Trainers
- Black football socks
- School Hoodie (Optional)
- A towel for showering
- All valuable items such watches, and money and mobile phones should be left at home. Staff will not be held responsible for any lost property.





Equipment

Every student is expected to provide the following basic items of equipment for every lesson:

- School Bag
- Planner
- Black or blue ball point pen
- Coloured pencils/fine fibre tips
- Calculator- Casio FX 83 GT Plus Scientific Calculator or similar.
- Pencil case
- Pencil
- Pencil sharpener
- Ruler 12"/30cm

HAIR and MAKEUP

Pupils are expected to wear hair in a neat and acceptable style. Hair must be of one colour, natural in appearance. Hair styles must not be cut below a number two. Hair styles judged to be extreme by the Head Teacher are not permitted. Make-up, including coloured nail varnish, lip gloss and fake tan, is not to be worn. Hair fashion accessories are also not to be worn. False nails or other such beauty accessories are not acceptable.

JEWELLERY

Watches and one small stud earring in each ear lobe are the only pieces of jewellery permitted at school, no rings or necklaces should be worn. Jewellery worn to school will be confiscated, stored in a locked cupboard and returned at the end of the day. The Academy does not take any responsibility for the loss of or damage to personal possessions brought on to site. Large amounts of money or items of value (including personal audio equipment (such as, airpods, electronic devices or jewellery) should not be brought into the Academy. Such items will be confiscated by staff. The property can then be obtained by parents from the Visitors reception.

The Head Teacher reserves the right to make the final decision on what is or what is not appropriate.

