



15th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to congratulate our St Thomas More students for their efforts this week. Students have shown commitment to their learning, attendance and their smart appearance. I want our students to be the best versions of themselves and present themselves in the best possible way. A special well done to Year 8 who achieved 100% attendance on Thursday.

Uniform reminders

Prior to the summer break and last week, I shared the most up to date uniform expectations. We have a small handful of students who are struggling to meet our standards. Coats are of course allowed but ask that students remove them upon entering the building. Our school building is warm, and coats are not needed due to our new boiler. Removing coats indoors also allows staff to differentiate between year groups when moving around the Academy. Nose studs are not permitted. Students can replace these with a clear retainer which are available from pastoral staff. Skirts need to be appropriate for school. Short, tight pencil skirts are not suitable. Students are permitted to wear one pair of small earrings and a watch. Any additional jewellery will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day. Finally, the black Nike Air Force One trainers are a popular choice for footwear this year, but please be aware that the silver tag on the laces must be removed. We ask that parents support their children in unlacing the shoes, removing the tag, and relacing the shoelace. We ask our students to adhere to our uniform policy to show our community is united, and to prepare students for the world of work.

Attendance

During the Lent and Pentecost terms last academic year, I was exceptionally proud to see the school receive two National attendance awards. Attendance does matter. Students in lessons do better. I have already alluded to the huge achievement of Year 8 this week hitting 100% attendance on Thursday. The other Year Groups are in hot pursuit of this accolade. To support our students and families, a copy of the attendance policy has gone home with all students today.

Extra-curricular clubs

The timetable for extra-curricular clubs has been circulated via form tutors and the school website. In addition to sports clubs, there will be a plethora of other clubs for students to attend. As a school we will track participation and students who are taking advantages of enrichment activities will be recognised and rewarded.

Planners

A reminder that planners are to be checked and signed by parents each week. This is a fantastic way to get a picture of Home Learning being set as well as any rewards or sanctions noted by teaching staff. I would ask that parents take the time to read the policies and guidance in the planners. Towards the back of the planner, you will see a copy of the 'Learning Expectations' document. This will underpin our practice in classroom. The planner remains the best tool for communication. I would like to remind parents that emails and calls will be responded to within three working days, I also implore parents to thinking about how they communicate with staff. There will be no tolerance for abusive or threatening behaviour, written, verbal or physical.





Fusion

Fusion is our VLE (Virtual Learning Environment). It gives us the ability to keep both students and their parents informed about how students are engaging with school, in particular, home learning and attendance. All Year 7 students have now received their login details. They have also been given a letter containing parent login information so that you can activate your own account. If you need support with Fusion, please contact the school office.

Key Dates for Parents and Carers

As we look forward to this new academic year, I am excited by the journey that is ahead. I want to work with students and their families to maximise the potential of each child at St Thomas More. Please find a list of dates for Pupil Progress Evenings for the rest of the academic year. I hope that the period of notice will allow all Parents and Carers to attend.

Pupil Progress Evenings

Year 7: Wednesday 3rd July 2024

Year 8: Thursday 18th April 2024

Year 9: Thursday 8th February 2024

Year 10: Thursday 7th December 2023

Year 11: Thursday 9th November 2023 and Thursday 14th March 2024

Inset Days

4th December 2023

26th February 2024

1st July 2024

Kind Regards,

Mrs Sarah Lancett
Acting Headteacher

