



27th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I want to take this opportunity to share with our school community all that has been taking place over a very busy but very positive half term at St Thomas More.

Firstly, I was delighted to open up our school to the community we serve for our Open Evening. It was fantastic to see the school buzzing with energy and standing room only in the multiple Headteacher talks. Visitors agreed that our staff and students were passionate about our school and the development of our learners. I was exceptionally proud of all of our student representatives, but special recognition must be given to our talented musicians and the four students who spoke to parents/carers and young people.

Year 7, 8 and 9 students were lucky enough to attend the 'Punctuation Show' an informative literacy-based show but with a twist. Students thoroughly enjoyed the performances. Presenter Barrie was extremely complementary about all three year groups in terms of their willingness to join in and their exceptional manners.

Year 7 celebrated their first School Mass last week. I, along with Fr Gerry and Mrs Taylor, were exceptionally proud of how the students conducted themselves and participated during their 'Welcome to St Thomas More' Mass. Students were actively involved in the Mass, reading, leading bidding prayers and receiving holy communion or a blessing.

Last week myself and Mrs Doherty-Perkins (Head of Learning- Year 11), had the privilege of meeting with many students from Year 11 as part of our student leadership interviews. The applications completed by Year 11 showed maturity and dedication. The quality of applications was incredibly impressive and demonstrated a desire of students to #Bemore. The newly appointed Senior Student Leaders, Prefects, Be Kind team and Library Leads will now work to create leadership opportunities for younger students.

During this final week of half term the Heads of Learning have held celebration assemblies, rewarding students for attitude, attendance and performance during tutor time.

Uniform reminders

Prior to the summer break and in previous letters, 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 I 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 more effectively 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.





St. Thomas More
CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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

The upcoming Half Term looks to be one rich with academic, cultural and social opportunities for our students.

Below is just a flavour of the upcoming events.

- Year 11 Progress Evening 9th November.
- Year 10 Progress Evening 10th December.
- The Chaplaincy Team will be representing the school at the Buxton Students Together for our Planet conference.
- All form groups will be visiting our chapel for a liturgical prayer from November.
- Year 7 settling in evening. Date tbc.
- Year 11 road safety demonstration. This event is arranged and led by Buxton Fire Service and targets drivers, soon to be drivers and passengers.
- Year 7 will be attending the pantomime at the Buxton Opera house to celebrate their first term.
- Poland trip 8th November.
- Year 11 form time intervention will continue. This is designed to target students who have specific gaps which need closing in core subjects.

Looking further forward into 2024, a group of students will visit Iceland. In addition, we are looking to visit Briars retreat as well as a trust wide visit to Lourdes.

You will also receive a letter this week from Kevin Gritton, the CEO of the St Ralph Sherwin Trust, providing an update on staffing and the leadership of the school.

I want to ensure that parents/carers receive frequent communication and are aware of everything that is going on within the school. In addition to 'Headteacher letters' there will be Progress evenings, Headteacher surgeries, Meet the SENDCo events, coffee mornings and Masses, where we will invite parents to join us.

I wish all students, parents and carers a restful half term.

Mrs Sarah Lancett

Acting Head of School



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