

7th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is wonderful to welcome our students back to school following the half term break. I am exceptionally proud of how the very large majority of students conduct themselves everyday in terms of dedication to their learning, appearance, and respectful behaviour.

To ensure that all students adhere to the standards, this half term will focus on **5 golden rules**. These basic expectations are not new, simply things that will be the focus for the next 7 weeks. If students get the basics correct this allows everything to follow.

1: Line up orderly outside their classroom.

Provides an orderly and calm start to the lesson. Staff will meet and greet students at the door.

2: No coats inside the building.

All outerwear should be removed as students enter the school building, not once student get to lessons.

3. Uniform as per uniform policy as outlined below.

All students are part of our St Thomas More community, and we want students to wear their uniform with pride and showcase our school in the community. The vast majority of students look exceptionally smart every day. When students have a uniform issue a note or sticker will be placed in their planner to show all teachers. In previous correspondence I have referred to our uniform policy and outlined that the school skirt should not be too tight, too short or made of Lycra.

Appropriate school skirts must be worn by Monday 20th November. If parents have any issues regarding obtaining the correct uniform (financial or availability issues) please contact form tutors or Heads of Learning.

4. Planner and pencil case are placed out the desk in all lessons.

Planner and pencil case should be placed on tables for all lessons, allows students to using the red, amber, green teaching aids, allows staff to add notes and check the recording of home learning in the planner.

5. Toilets are only to be used during lessons in an emergency.

My priorities are to protect learning time, halt the small amount of internal truancy, ensure that the toilets are well maintained and are a place where all feel safe.

To ensure the above, the toilets will be locked during lesson times. Toilets will be unlocked during all social times. Students are still able to use the toilets.

- If a student NEEDS the toilet during a lesson, they should ask their teacher.
- The staff member will record a note in their student planner.
- The student will then collect the key from student reception.

Any students who require a toilet/ medical pass must ensure that they are using this pass. If a new pass is required, please visit Learning support to obtain a toilet pass. These measures will allow us to oversee toilet usage and maximise learning time.



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**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



St. Thomas More
CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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

Year 9 standards and expectations

Prior to half term SLT and the extended leadership of the school held a year 9 spotlight week. Lessons were visited, students were spoken to about learning and behaviour. Subject leaders from core subjects met to look at findings. There were many positives and areas which needed attention.

- Most students were well behaved and engaged in learning.
- Students were rewarded for good work or effort in most areas.
- School leaders felt that alteration to groups in RE, English and MFL would significantly improve student engagement and progress.
- These new classes were created with subject leaders, pastoral leaders and SEND specialists.
- Changes to student timetables will only affect RE, English and MFL and will begin on Monday 6th November.

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 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.

I thank parents and carers for the ongoing support.

Mrs Sarah Lancett
Acting Headteacher



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