December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I want to take this opportunity to thank our students, parents and carers for the support shown to St Thomas More during 2023. We are a school on a journey, and we are happy to be making positive progress since our Ofsted report back in January. As a school we have made huge strides forward in terms of the areas of school life we are looking to further improve.

As we look forward to the new 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. To support with this, I am delighted to confirm numerous appointments joining our staff body in January. Mr Gritton our CEO wrote to you earlier in the year, but to confirm we will welcome staff into the following pivotal positions.

Assistant Headteacher- Behaviour and Safeguarding

Assistant Headteacher- Teaching and Learning

Head of English

Teacher of English

In recent weeks we have been delighted to welcome an additional pastoral manager and an inclusion manager to our pastoral team.

I am exceptionally delighted to remind parents and carers that Mr David Redfern will be back in January as the Headteacher and will resume my role as Deputy Headteacher. Mr Redfern and I have worked closely over the previous month to ensure a smooth transition and a clear direction for the school.

Mr Redfern and I are excited about the year ahead and what it holds for St Thomas More and all of our school community.

**Students will return to school on Monday 8th January 2024**

On behalf of myself and all the staff I wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and a restful school holiday.

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

**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.

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

**JEWELLERY**

Watches and one small stud earring in each ear lobe are the only pieces of jewellery permitted at school, no rings should be worn. 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.