

22nd March 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

As we near the end of a busy term here at St Thomas More, I will be updating you, this week and next, about some of the events of this half term, as well as some of the important changes that are soon to take place.

On a wonderful note, following our fundraising efforts for Blythe House at the end of the last half-term, I'm thrilled to announce that STM raised £408.00 for this fantastic local charity. Your generosity has made a significant impact, and I extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed!

Derbyshire Consultation on Children's Services

As financial pressures continue to affect all public services, Derbyshire County Council are running a consultation on plans to cut roughly £3.9m from the early help services and children's centre budgets. As residents of Derbyshire, I urge you to complete the short questionnaire so that your voice can be heard. If we lose these vital services, yet further pressure will be added to institutions such as schools. To express your views, please click here: <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/have-your-say/consultation-search/consultation-details/early-help-and-childrens-centres-review.aspx> The consultation closes this Sunday, 24th March.

Iceland

Our recent school trip to Iceland was a fantastic experience for everyone involved. From exploring Reykjavik to discovering Iceland's natural wonders, students had a lot of fun and learned a lot too. Highlights of the trip included seeing geothermal activity, visiting waterfalls, and exploring volcanic landscapes. Students also enjoyed immersing themselves in Icelandic culture, trying local food, and meeting friendly locals. Further details about our trip to Iceland will be published in the Buxton Advertiser soon.

Website

Numerous sections of the website have recently undergone updates. Notably for parents, the website now accurately displays our current pastoral structure, encompassing form tutors, pastoral leaders, and safeguarding leads. Additionally, we've introduced a new segment dedicated to wellbeing and support for both pupils and families, accessible at the following link: [Wellbeing and Support](#). We trust that this extensive collection of agency information will assist pupils and parents in accessing support whenever needed. Further updates to the website will continue after Easter.

Arbor – a new MIS System

Following the Easter holidays, St Thomas More, along with other secondary schools in our Trust, will transition to a new Management Information System (MIS) called Arbor. Further details about this system have been provided by Mrs. Lancett in a separate letter.



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**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

Uniform

Please look out for a separate letter from Miss Pimblett regarding our new uniform suppliers and some changes to our summer uniform. In addition, I urge parents/carers to engage with our consultation regarding changes to a school skirt for September 2024.

STM Facebook

Staying informed about the school's latest developments and news is easily done through our Facebook page. If you haven't already followed us, I invite you to join, where we'll keep you informed about everything from school events, trips, sporting updates, to individual student achievements.

Thursday 28th March – Early Closure

A reminder that the school closes for the Easter holidays on Thursday 28th March. Pupils will finish at 12:15pm, with brunch available to all pupil before we close. We look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 15th April, at the usual time.

With sincere thanks for your continued support,



Mr Redfern
Headteacher

