

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

28th March 2024

### Dear Parents / Carers

During this season of Lent, pupils and staff have been involved in raising money and awareness for both local and international charities. Pupils wanted to continue in supporting our local charity, Blythe House, whilst also raising money for CAFOD, supporting people outside of the UK. Form groups have been creative in their endeavours, from throwing sponges at teacher, to running a tombola, from guessing the teacher based on their baby picture, to a darts competition. Whilst having fun, we are glad to be raising much needed funds for those in need both here at home and abroad.

In Maths, Music and PE, pupils celebrated Pi Day, whilst in English, pupils honoured World Book Day by spotlighting inspirational female writers in acknowledgment of International Women's Day. Science and Geography took 50 pupils to Iceland, where they experienced the natural wonders of Iceland. This half term has been exceptionally busy, and these activities represent just a fraction of the diverse experiences our students have engaged in alongside their regular curriculum.

# Changes to the school day - starting Monday 15th April

To further enhance the provision for PSHE, RSHE, and Careers at STM, we have made the decision to alter the school day every Wednesday starting from the new term. This adjustment will provide form tutors with extra time to deliver curriculum content and create more opportunities for students to engage in discussions about their opinions and learning during class. Please note that the school day's start and end times will remain unchanged. Beginning Monday 15th April, our school day will look like this:

#### Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Time	Session
8.50 - 9.10	Registration
9.10 - 10.10	Period 1
10.10 - 11.10	Period 2
11.10 - 11.25	Break
11.25 - 12.25	Period 3
12.25 - 13.10	Lunch
13.10 - 14.10	Period 4
14.10 - 15.10	Period 5

#### Wednesday

Time	Session
8.50 - 9.35	Registration & PSHE/RSHE/Careers
9.35 - 10.30	Period 1
10.30 - 11.25	Period 2
11.25- 11.40	Break
11.40 - 12.35	Period 3
12.35 - 13.20	Lunch
13.20 - 14.15	Period 4
14.15 - 15.10	Period 5







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### **Data Drops for Years 7-10**

Parents will be provided with their child's latest data in the first week back after the Easter holidays.

# Year 8 Parents' Evening - 18th April 2024

Letters have been sent out to parents this week, and bookings are currently open until April 16th. Should you encounter any difficulties, please reach out to the school office.

### **Year 11**

After receiving their mock results this half term, attention shifted to the final preparations leading up to the exams in May. Parents were welcomed into the school on Mock Results Day to experience a simulation of the actual Results Day in August alongside their children. Stepping Up Evening provided an opportunity for parents to engage with subject leaders, identifying areas for improvement and strategies to enhance student achievement. As part of our career development program at STM, the Rotary Club conducted mock interviews with Year 11 students, offering personalized feedback on their strengths and areas for improvement in interview techniques. The Rotary Club members praised the students' exemplary conduct and thorough preparation.

## Uniform

Thank you to those parents/carers who have already participated in our consultation regarding the school skirt, as mentioned in Miss Pimblett's recent letter. If you wish to share your feedback on the available options, kindly do so by emailing <u>STMuniform2024@stm.srscmat.co.uk</u> by Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> April. For reference, you can find a copy of the letter here: Link to Letter

I wish all our pupils and their families a very joyful, peaceful, and safe Easter holiday. 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



