

7th May 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

At KS4, pupils in both history and geography have been enjoying field trips. History pupils visited The Crescent in Buxton, while geography pupils have been busy with field trips related to their GCSE studies. These trips provide hands-on learning experiences that help pupils better understand their subjects in a practical context.

In Maths, a selection of KS3 pupils took on the Maths Challenge. The results are back, and pupils will soon find out their scores. Well done and good luck to you all!

FOSTM (Friends of St Thomas More)

FOSTM is a wonderful group of parents who collaborate with the school to raise funds for various needs. Given the financial challenges faced by public services like schools, FOSTM works hard to support school projects that directly benefit STM pupils. I'm reaching out to all parents and carers to ask for new volunteers to join this fantastic group. If your schedule is tight, consider making a donation or setting up a standing order. Any contribution, big or small, would be greatly appreciated. For more information about our Parent Teacher Association (PTA), FOSTM, and how you can help, please visit the following link:

<https://www.stthomasmorebuxton.srscmat.co.uk/parents/pta-fostm/> alternatively, email enquires@stm.srscmat.co.uk for the attention of Mrs K Taylor.

Consultation about Planners / VLE

Thank you to the 115 parents/carers who took part in our consultation regarding planners and the VLE. As outlined by Mrs Birch, frustratingly, our VLE will not sync with the new Trust-wide MIS system, Arbor. This requires us to have a rethink and your views and comments are very helpful. We will now consider how we move forward, in the hope of having a new system ready for September. Mrs Birch's original letter can be found here: <https://www.stthomasmorebuxton.srscmat.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2024/04/26th-April-2024-Pupil-Planner-Consultation.pdf>

Data Drop for Year 9

Apologies for the delay in Year 9 data being uploaded to the VLE. Years 7, 8 and 10 were uploaded just before our move to Arbor, however Year 9 took place over the Easter holidays, this caused an issue. We should have informed you of these problems, but these have now been rectified and the data has been successfully uploaded.

Year 9 Options

Following on from our communication in the Year 9 Parents' Evening letter, we informed you that the Year 9 Option Process would begin this term. You will soon be receiving a letter about the process, with Options Evening for parents/carers taking place soon after the half term.



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**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

Safeguarding - Sextortion Concerns

The National Crime Agency (NCA) sent an 'unprecedented' alert to schools last week after cases surged worldwide. Sextortion, also known as webcam blackmail, is a form of intimate image abuse. It involves the threat of sharing images or videos – often 'nudes' or sexually explicit content – to extort money or force someone to do something against their will. Adults, often posing as other children are asking for nude pictures and videos to be sent to them. Once sent, they threaten the child with exposing their images to family and friends, unless money is sent to them. Unfortunately, many children have fallen victim to this in the UK, sometimes ending in tragedy. In school, we discuss the dangers of being online, including mobile phones. I ask that parents take the time to discuss this concern with their child, no matter what age they may be. If they have a mobile phone, they are at risk from the people they encounter online and through Apps.

If you would like further information about Sextortion, click here:

<https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/crime-info/types-crime/sextortion/>

Year 11

GCSE Examinations commence this Thursday, 9th May. It is essential that all pupils arrive in full school uniform and equipped with the necessary materials to support their success. Please ensure that your child starts their day with a nutritious breakfast to fuel their body and arrives punctually to avoid unnecessary stress before their exam.

Today, the BBC highlighted concerns regarding pupils being lured into 'manipulative' exam scams. Reports indicate that students are being deceived into sending money in exchange for access to exam papers, with numerous social media accounts falsely purporting to possess them. Platforms such as TikTok, Reddit, and Telegram appear to be the primary channels used to target young individuals. JCQ, the national organisation overseeing public exams, has cautioned students against falling prey to these scams, emphasising the risk of compromising their exams due to potential misconduct. For more details, please visit: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c72pk0xrdded0>

Please note that study leave will not be granted to the majority of students until after the half-term holiday. Details regarding study leave arrangements will be communicated to parents in a letter scheduled for Friday, 24th May.

As we enter the exam season, I extend my best wishes to all pupils for success and positive outcomes.

Uniform

Today, 7th May, marks the beginning of the summer uniform. Please familiarise yourself with Miss Pimblett's letter sent on 30th April where she clarifies our summer uniform expectations.

<https://www.stthomasmorebuxton.srscmat.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2024/04/Uniform-Decision-Letter.pdf>



I also want to draw attention to the letter that was sent about uniform last half term on 22nd March where Mrs Pimblett explains our move to a new uniform supplier. Headmasters in New Mills pulled out as our uniform supplier mid-year leaving us to set up a new partnership with Classworx in Macclesfield. Due to Headmasters' withdrawal mid-year, this left the school without a supplier, especially for summer uniform. Our solution to the summer uniform is outlined in these letters. Here is the link to the letter sent on 22nd March: <https://www.stthomasmorebuxton.srscmat.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2024/03/22nd-March-2024-Uniform-Letter-from-Miss-Pimblett.pdf>

Half Term

Pupils will finish school on Friday 24th May at the normal time of 3:10pm.

With sincere thanks for your continued support,



Mr Redfern
Headteacher

