



12th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin our second half-term, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for your continued support in helping our school maintain high standards and expectations.

Uniform

At St Thomas More, we take pride in our uniform as it fosters a sense of belonging and supports our aspiration to #BeMore. Since the start of term, we've been conducting weekly uniform checks, and it's been wonderful to see such an improvement in our pupils' appearance. We've received positive feedback from the Buxton community on how well-presented St Thomas More pupils are.

Just to clarify, here are a few points regarding uniform that parents have raised with us:

Jewellery

The only permitted jewellery is a wristwatch, a light chain crucifix (worn discreetly inside the shirt), and either a single stud earring or a pair of plain stud earrings, worn one in each lower earlobe. Other piercings and jewellery are not allowed.

Earrings should be simple studs in gold, silver, or clear jewel styles, without extra shapes or designs.

Socks

Pupils should wear plain black or charcoal grey school socks, not white.

Please note that if pupils arrive at school in incorrect uniform, we may issue a sanction in line with our uniform policy.

Equipment

Last term, the quality of work pupils produced in class was fantastic. Senior Leadership has reviewed their books, and classroom visits have shown engaging lessons with pupils excited about their learning.

Please take a moment to review our equipment list, available on the school website under "Uniform and Equipment." We've noticed that some Key Stage 3 pupils are missing rulers, which are important for Maths and for maintaining presentation in their work. Equipment checks take place weekly, so please help us by ensuring your child's pencil case is fully stocked with all necessary items.





Reading Books

At St Thomas More, we are dedicated to nurturing a love of reading and helping pupils become confident and fluent readers. As part of our form time programme, tutors read aloud with pupils once a week, and each half-term, all subjects integrate literacy into their lessons. Key Stage 3 pupils are encouraged to carry a reading book daily, as they may be asked to read during form time or lessons. We're fortunate to have a fantastic library, where pupils can borrow books for this purpose.

Chewing Gum

Please remind your child that chewing gum should **not** be brought to school. If a pupil is seen chewing gum, they will be asked to dispose of it, and repeated offences may lead to a sanction according to our behaviour policy.

Mobile Phones

Research shows that mobile phones can impact young people's well-being and learning. Consequently, mobile phones and other electronic devices are not allowed during the school day. Any phone brought to school must remain switched off and stored in the pupil's bag, and tutors will check this each morning. Our full mobile phone policy is available on the school website, and we greatly appreciate your support.

Planners and Homework

Our mission emphasises resilience and learning from challenges. Homework is a valuable part of this, giving pupils opportunities to practise skills and deepen understanding outside of the classroom. We kindly ask that you support your child with homework and sign their planner weekly to confirm that tasks have been completed. If a pupil's planner is not signed, they may receive a reminder and/or sanction from their form tutor.

Due to recent transitions to our Arbor system, the planner is currently the main record for homework. We are working with partners to address our VLE issue, and we appreciate your patience.

Attendance

We expect high attendance and punctuality from all our pupils. Evidence shows that regular attendance (97% or higher) significantly improves both academic and personal development. Absence can affect learning and lead pupils to fall behind, which can then impact their feelings about school. Statistics suggest that pupils with attendance below 94% may drop at least one grade across subjects.

Last half-term, we sent out our attendance strategy. You will receive a termly letter updating you on your child's attendance category and any necessary interventions. We always strive to work in partnership with you for the best outcomes for your child, so please contact your child's form tutor if you have any concerns.





St. Thomas More
CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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

ASPIRE

Finally, I'd like to highlight our ASPIRE assemblies. ASPIRE recognises and celebrates pupils' achievements, motivation, and holistic growth. Each term, pupils in six categories receive an ASPIRE badge as a visible mark of accomplishment. Pupils can also earn ASPIRE postcards for exceptional work.

It's been wonderful to see pupils proudly embracing 'ASPIRE' and congratulating one another on their successes.

We are very proud of St Thomas More's progress and, most importantly, of our pupils and their journey to #BeMore.

Thank you once again for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss A Pimblett
Assistant Headteacher (Behaviour and Standards)



DIOCESE OF
NOTTINGHAM

St Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy
enquiries@stm.srscmat.co.uk Tel: 01298 23167
[f stthomasmorebux](https://www.facebook.com/stthomasmorebux) [t stthomasmorebux](https://www.twitter.com/stthomasmorebux)



**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



DIOCESE OF
NOTTINGHAM

St Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy
enquiries@stm.srscmat.co.uk Tel: 01298 23167
 [stthomasmorebux](https://www.facebook.com/stthomasmorebux)  [stthomasmorebux](https://www.twitter.com/stthomasmorebux)



**St Ralph
Sherwin**
Catholic Multi Academy Trust