

20th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of this term, I wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on what has been an incredibly busy but productive year at St Thomas More. It is hard to believe it has been nearly a year since I returned to work here, and I must say that the renewal and progress we have experienced has brought me immense joy.

This term has been a particularly successful one for St Thomas More. We have achieved so much as a school community, and I am immensely proud of everyone's contributions. The final week has been full of festive spirit, culminating today in a beautiful liturgy and our legendary STM Christmas Karaoke spectacular – an entertaining way to end the term.

Last Friday, we were honoured to host the Senior Citizens Christmas Party, an event that was wonderfully covered by the BBC. If you missed it, you can listen to the coverage here: [BBC Sounds](#) (we feature around the 2hr 7min mark). Events like these highlight the kindness and community spirit of our school.

Looking ahead, I am pleased to share some updates regarding staffing and structures:

- From January, our SEND Team will have a new structure. Mrs Sharon Light has been promoted to SEND Manager, and Mrs Sahinkaya will step into the role of HLTA. To strengthen the team further, we are recruiting an additional permanent TA as well as a temporary TA role. Mrs Lancett will be in touch with families of children with additional needs with more information.
- Miss Lucy Brocklesby will be transitioning from her role on reception to a promoted position as Inclusion Manager, while also retaining her responsibilities as Attendance Officer. A new receptionist will join us towards the end of January.
- We continue our search for a permanent, high-quality teacher of Chemistry and will resume this work in January.

I would like to remind all parents and carers about the Arbor App, which we launched recently. Currently, less than a third of parents have signed up, and I strongly encourage you to do so. You can find more information about the app on our website: [Arbor App Information](#). We will resend invites to sign up again today, but please note that these links are only valid for 96 hours.

If you haven't yet had a chance to read my report on the priorities and improvements at STM, I encourage you to take a moment to do so. It provides an overview of the significant work being undertaken at the school. You can find the report here: [STM Priority Improvements](#).

We are also thrilled to share that our recent CSI Inspection, conducted in November 2024, resulted in a 'Good' judgement across all nine areas. If you haven't yet read the report, please visit our website for further details: [CSI Inspection Report](#).





St. Thomas More
CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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

Additionally, our school Facebook page remains a fantastic resource for staying up to date with everything happening in school and celebrating the achievements of our pupils. Do take a moment to check it out.

As we close this term, I want to express my genuine gratitude to our incredible pupils and hardworking staff who make St Thomas More such a special place. We look forward to 2025 with great excitement, especially as we prepare for a visit from Ofsted following our successful CSI Inspection.

Finally, I wish you all a very happy, holy, and peaceful Christmas, and the very best for you and your family in the New Year. Thank you for your continued support of St Thomas More.

With warm regards,

Mr D Redfern
Headteacher



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**St Ralph
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Catholic Multi Academy Trust



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