

14<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am delighted to invite you to our **Stepping Up Evening** on **Thursday, 6th March, from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm**. This event has been carefully designed to support your child in their final weeks before the start of the GCSE examination series, with the first exam, BTEC Sport, taking place on Thursday, 8th May.

### What to Expect

The evening will consist of two key elements:

#### 1) A Marketplace Activity (approx. 45 minutes)

- Department leaders will share essential revision materials, last-minute tips, and subject-specific guidance.
- You will receive recommendations for useful revision websites and resources.
- Staff will outline what students should be focusing on to maximise their success.

#### 2) A Presentation by the Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Lancett, and Head of Learning for Year 11, Ms Scampion

- Guidance on how to support your child both **practically and emotionally** in the lead-up to exams.
- An overview of **JCQ exam regulations** and school protocols to ensure a smooth exam series.
- Strategies for maintaining **mental health and well-being** during this important period.

### Event Structure & Timings

Due to the expected high attendance, the event will run on a **rotation basis** to ensure all families can fully engage.

- **Group 1: Students with surnames A – K**
  - 🕒 Arrive at **5:00 pm**
  - 📍 **Hall:** Presentation begins at **5:10 pm**
  - 📍 **Dance Studio:** Marketplace activity from **5:45 pm – 6:30 pm**
- **Group 2: Students with surnames L – Z**
  - 🕒 Arrive at **5:00 pm**
  - 📍 **Dance Studio:** Marketplace activity from **5:00 pm – 5:45 pm**
  - 📍 **Hall:** Presentation begins at **5:45 pm**

We **strongly encourage all students to attend** with their parents/carers, as this will be an invaluable opportunity to prepare for the upcoming exams.

If you are unable to attend, please email [enquiries@stm.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@stm.srscmat.co.uk), and we will ensure you receive the relevant information.



### Year 11 Updates and Key Events

This half-term has been exceptionally busy for Year 11. Our students have shown **remarkable determination and resilience** during their second round of mock exams. Additionally, they have:

- ✓ Begun **one-to-one careers interviews** with an independent advisor.
- ✓ Completed **draft CVs**.

As we move into the next half-term, we anticipate an equally busy and productive period, with key events ahead.

### Year 11 Photographs – Retake Information

We have received several concerns from parents regarding the quality of the Year 11 photographs taken a few weeks ago. After reviewing the images and discussing the matter with the photography company, we have arranged for the photographs to be retaken on **Wednesday, 12th March**.

The company has assured us that parents will have the option to choose between their child's **original photograph or the newly taken one**.

### St Oscar Romero Feast Day – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025

- We're officially launching our sponsored "**24 Hours, No Phones!**" challenge when we return from the half-term break. However, students and parents can start fundraising early by visiting and sharing our JustGiving page: [JustGiving - Year 11 No Phones](#).

All funds raised will go towards our chosen charity, **Mind**. Thank you for your support!

- As part of this event, we kindly ask parents to provide a handwritten letter for their child to open—a heartfelt message of encouragement, love and support at this important stage of their school journey.

Letters can be dropped off at the school office or emailed to me at [hscampion@stm.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:hscampion@stm.srscmat.co.uk). Please ensure they are submitted by **Friday, 28th February**.

### Careers visit to Manchester Metropolitan University

A reminder that Year 11 pupils will be visiting Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) on **Tuesday, 11th March** for an insightful experience into university life.

#### Key Details:

**Departure:** 7:45 am from school

**Return:** 3:10 pm to school

**Dress Code:** Full school uniform

**Lunch:** Pupils should bring a packed lunch and refreshments. Free school meal pupils will be provided with a lunch



but may bring their own if preferred.

**Cost:** £15.00 (non-refundable), payable via ParentPay to cover transport expenses.

The visit will introduce pupils to **Higher Education and Degree Apprenticeships**, including a campus tour, a student life presentation, and a Q&A with student ambassadors.

### Rotary Club Mock interviews

On Friday, March 21st, all our Year 11 pupils will be taking part in interviews, led by members of the local community. Buxton Rotary Club has organised practice interviews for over thirty years for Year 11 in local schools. The initiative is strongly supported by school staff and from local employers. Year 11 prepare a CV/Personal statement in preparation for the interview. The interview lasts for twenty minutes, with two interviewers. There is a brief assessment of the pupil's performance and suggestions are given to enable pupils to prepare for a 'real' interview.

This is a fantastic opportunity for St Thomas More Year 11 pupils to be CV and interview ready, in preparation for College and workplace interviews they will have in the future.

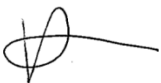
### Prom – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**Reminder:** The deadline for consent forms for students wishing to attend the Year 11 Prom was the final day of half term. If you have not yet submitted a form, please ensure it is returned by **Friday, 28th February** to secure your child's place at the event.

The deadline for ticket payment is **Friday, 4th April**.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to seeing you at Stepping Up Evening and working together to help your child achieve their best.

Yours sincerely,



Ms H Scampion

Head of Learning for Year 11

