

Dear parents/guardians

The GCSE exams are now well underway, and the pupils are clearly well prepared. Attendance and punctuality to the exams has been, unsurprisingly, exemplary. The resilience and hard work has paid off and I could not be prouder of the way they are approaching these assessments. I wanted to take this opportunity to clarify to parents the finer details of how the final few months will look for the pupils.

Study Leave:

There have been many queries regarding attendance to school during exam times. Pupils are still on roll at school and should continue to attend as normal. Their attendance is still monitored by the government and by law pupils cannot leave school until the last Friday of June, unless study leave is formally granted.

The date for study leave will not be decided by Mr Redfern until after May half term. As soon as he has decided on the date, we will communicate this with you. Until this is decided and communicated to parents, pupils remain in school as normal, in front of their teachers who are the experts in their field. If any child is kept off school, we will consider this to be unauthorised absence and normal absence procedures will be followed. This is standard common practice in schools, we are not unlike thousands of schools across the country.

Top Tips:

Pupils have been provided a timetable of top tips sessions. These have been in place and take place immediately before exams where possible. They are designed to remind pupils of key facts, exam practice, and steady nerves. The timetable for these sessions is attached to this letter.

Breakfast club and Breathe sessions:

The stage will be open every morning during the exam series, with some breakfast bars and cereal options available for any student who arrives at school for an exam without having eaten anything. The library will be open every morning when there is an exam for a quiet space for pupils to have a moment of calm, perhaps for prayer or to practice some breathing exercises.

Leavers Assembly:

The Leavers assembly will take place on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June. Pupils are invited to arrive at school for 11:10 – the beginning of breacktime. During breacktime they can ask other pupils and staff to sign their shirts. This is the only time shirt signing will be permitted. The assembly will begin at 11:25, and we expect it to finish at 12:15. Pupils will then leave site via a guard of honour. As part of the assembly, it is often nice to reflect on how far the pupils have come by including photos of them as younger pupils – photographs of them on their first day in reception for example. With this in mind I am asking parents to please forward any photos you have of this nature to me via email at [hscampion@stm.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:hscampion@stm.srscmat.co.uk), ensuring these are as embarrassing as possible!

Prom:

Thank you for your support in ensuring consent forms have been returned for the Prom. Please be aware that payment is now overdue. Pupils have been voting for different awards that will be handed out on the day, and it promises to be a fantastic event.





**St. Thomas More**  
CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

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

Hoodies and Yearbooks:

We are grateful for your understanding regarding the hoodies. A reminder that these must be ordered by Sunday at the absolute latest to ensure delivery for the leavers assembly. Yearbooks will be completed after the prom, and will include prom photographs and the aforementioned list of award winners. The yearbooks will be available to collect on results day.

Uniform:

Finally, I would just like to reiterate the importance that pupils continue to attend school in full school uniform. Many pupils have arrived over the last few weeks with excess jewellery and in a few cases non-school trousers or skirts which are not part of our uniform policy. In order to avoid any unnecessary stress at this time, it is crucial that pupils continue to adhere to our policies while they attend school to complete exams. I do understand that if there are uniform issues, replacing specific items may not be sensible, however we have a store of school uniform in school and are happy to loan any pieces necessary to ensure pupils are in uniform.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Scampion

Head of Learning for year 11



DIOCESE OF  
NOTTINGHAM

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



**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust