

10<sup>th</sup> September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Year 11 back into their final year at St Thomas More. Year 11 have made a positive start towards the year by wearing their STM uniform proudly, demonstrating a positive attitude towards learning and attending all lessons punctually.

Year 11 have huge potential, and we are determined to ensure that every pupil has the opportunity to achieve their very best. Throughout this important year, they will receive dedicated support, guidance and encouragement in school, with a clear focus on aiming high and achieving the strongest grades possible. Alongside their academic progress, we want them to develop the confidence, resilience and ambition they need to succeed, both in their GCSEs and in the next stage of their lives.

Below is an outline of key information to note over the coming weeks.

#### **College talks within school and Open Day Dates:**

At the end of this letter, you will find information about upcoming Open Days at local colleges and sixth forms. We would strongly encourage pupils and parents to take the opportunity to attend these events as part of their planning for the next stage of education.

#### **Pastoral Structure for Year 11:**

Please see below the key members of staff who will be working with students this academic year.

| 11S                                                                    | 11T                     | 11M                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Head of Learning – Mrs Doherty Perkins<br>Pastoral Manager – Miss Ward |                         |                            |
| Form Tutor:<br>Mr Richardson                                           | Form Tutor:<br>Mr Coyle | Form Tutor:<br>Mrs Johnson |

If you have any concerns or would like to discuss something in relation to your child, please do not hesitate to contact myself as Head of Learning, your child's Form Tutor or Pastoral Manager.

#### **Going the Distance:**

This academic year, we are introducing a new 'Going the Distance' reward postcard specifically for Year 11 pupils. These postcards will recognise pupils who go above and beyond in their studies – showing exceptional effort, determination and commitment to

achieving their very best. We want to recognise and celebrate those pupils who are prepared to *go the distance* in order to achieve their full potential.

### **Year 11 Parents' Evenings:**

For this academic year, we are increasing the number of Parents' Evenings for Year 11 so that we can have more regular contact with you as parents and carers at key milestones throughout this important year.

The dates are:

- **Parents' Evening 1:** Thursday 22nd October 2026
- **Parents' Evening 2:** Thursday 14th January 2027
- **Targeted Parents' Evening:** Thursday 4th March 2027

The Targeted Parents' Evening will be an **invitation-only event** for families where subject teachers feel that further discussion would be helpful regarding a pupil's progress, engagement or next steps in a particular subject.

I will contact you closer to each of these events with further information and details of the booking process.

### **Mock Exams:**

Year 11 pupils will sit their **first round of Mock Examinations from Monday 9th to Friday 20th November 2026**. These examinations will cover all of their subjects and are an important opportunity for pupils to experience formal examination conditions, demonstrate what they have learnt and identify any areas that require further development.

**A second round of Mock Examinations will then take place from Monday 1st to Friday 5th February 2027**. This second series will focus on the **core subjects** and will provide a further opportunity to assess progress as pupils move closer to their final GCSE examinations.

In practical and coursework-based subjects, pupils will also continue to complete important coursework and practical assessment work throughout the year, including a number of mock practical examinations where appropriate. Subject teachers will contact you nearer the time with further information about the arrangements for these assessments.

Further details, including examination timetables, will be shared nearer the time. I will also contact you with information regarding revision sessions, additional support and other opportunities that will be available to help pupils prepare fully for these important assessments.

### **Save the Date – Prom 2027!**

The Year 11 Prom will take place on Friday 25th June 2027, from 5.30pm until 10.00pm at the Palace Hotel, Buxton.

Further information regarding our Prom expectations can be found at the end of this letter.

I would like to thank you for the continued support you provide both your child and St Thomas More. If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me either by phone on 01298 23167 or via email at [ldohertyperkins@stm.srscmat.co.uk](mailto:ldohertyperkins@stm.srscmat.co.uk)

Yours sincerely,



Mrs L Doherty-Perkins  
Head of Learning Year 8 and 11

**Upcoming College and 6<sup>th</sup> Form Open Days:**

**Aquinas College** - Visit to STM – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2026 10.0am – 1pm

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2026 10.00am – 1pm

**Macclesfield College** - Visit to STM – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2026 – 5.30 to 7.30pm

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2026 – 10.30am to 12.30pm

**Xaverian College** - Virtual assembly to be shared with students in Celebration of the Word

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2026 10am-12pm

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2026 1-3pm

**Loreto College** - Virtual assembly to be shared with students in Celebration of the Word

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2026 10am-12pm

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2026 1-3pm

**Fallibroome Sixth Form**

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2026 6-8pm

**Stockport College**

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October – 10am – 2pm

**University of Derby (formally known as Buxton & Leek College)**

Visit to STM Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2026 – 10am to 2pm

**Buxton Community Sixth Form** - Visit to STM Monday 14<sup>h</sup> September

Open Evening – tbc

**Marple Sixth Form College** – Visit to STM Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October – 10am – 2pm

## **Year 11 Prom – Expectations**

The Year 11 Prom is an important celebration of pupils' time at St Thomas More and an opportunity to recognise the contribution they have made to our school community over the past five years.

Attendance at the Prom is a privilege, and throughout Year 11 we expect pupils to demonstrate the standards and values that we would expect of our oldest pupils. When considering eligibility to attend, we will take into account a pupil's overall attendance, behaviour, attitude to learning, engagement with their studies and contribution to school life.

As part of this, pupils will be expected to achieve a minimum of 50 ASPIRE points between September 2026 and June 2027. These points recognise the positive contribution pupils make to school life and the way in which they demonstrate our ASPIRE values.

We recognise that individual circumstances can be different, and decisions will therefore not be based solely on one isolated concern or a rigid set of numerical thresholds. Instead, we will consider the overall picture across the year, including any improvements a pupil has made and how they have responded when concerns have been raised.

### **Serious Behaviour Incidents and Suspensions**

Where a pupil receives a suspension, they will lose their right to attend the Prom at that point.

However, we believe pupils should have the opportunity to learn from mistakes and demonstrate positive change. A pupil who has been suspended may therefore earn back the opportunity to attend Prom through sustained improvement in their behaviour, attitude, engagement with school and commitment to their studies.

This will not be automatic and will be considered on an individual basis, taking into account the nature of the incident, the pupil's response afterwards and the progress they make over the remainder of Year 11.

Where we have concerns that a pupil may be at risk of losing their place at the Prom, we will communicate this clearly with both you and your child, so that everyone understands the concerns and what positive changes are needed moving forward.

The final decision regarding attendance at the Prom will rest with Mr Redfern as Headteacher, following consideration of the pupil's overall circumstances and their journey throughout Year 11.