

4th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

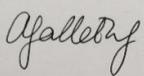
Thank you for the support and encouragement that you are giving your children to ensure that they participate in their remote learning provision during this national lockdown. We are pleased to say that levels of attendance at lessons and submission of work are very high. This is the result of your support and your child's effort. We will be holding our usual half-termly celebration assemblies on Teams on Wednesday 10th February. Pupils will be awarded one achievement point per lesson attended as well as the bonus points that their teachers have been asking us to assign to pupils where effort or improvement has been of special note.

As you know, we expect pupils to attend the live lessons and to complete the work set. As the weeks go by, it can become more difficult for some pupils to maintain momentum with their live lessons and standards can slip. We want to avoid this happening so we ask you to discuss the following with your children:

- Ask them to tell you about their learning, perhaps starting with the things they are proudest of over the last weeks.
- Remind them that live lessons are not optional, that school expects them to join and to complete work set.
- Tell them that they must join their lesson at the expected time and not arrive late or leave early. This has a serious negative impact on their learning in a lesson. It is a clear expectation from school that pupils will be on time and present throughout.
- Encourage them to switch on their cameras during lessons. This is so important! It makes the remote learning experience feel closer to the real thing. It helps pupils to combat loneliness as they see others and it helps their teacher to judge understanding.
- Tell them that they must accept all Teams invitations from school staff. To decline them is to refuse education, which will only further disrupt their learning and limit their progress and success overall.

We have worked hard to help families overcome barriers to accessing remote learning. However, if an issue remains, please do contact school and we will do what we can to support your child.

Kind regards,



Mrs Galletly
Deputy Headteacher

ST THOMAS MORE CVA PARENT/CARER REMOTE LEARNING AGREEMENT

This agreement outlines the conditions which will apply when St Thomas More CVA provides online remote learning. This should be read alongside the safeguarding and behaviour policy.

This document outlines the parameters to which all students are expected to adhere, in order to engage safely in online sessions. Students are expected to read and discuss this agreement with you, and then adhere to its terms. Any concerns or queries can be emailed to enquiries@st-thomasmore.derbyshire.sch.uk

To facilitate the high quality remote learning that we offer parents should support pupils by:

- where possible providing students with the means to access the lessons using a web enabled device (PC, laptop, tablet, etc)*
- where possible providing children with a workspace that is quiet, safe and free from distractions with an adult nearby if necessary. Also ensuring that the workspace has a plain background for cameras if required.
- ensuring your child is dressed appropriately
- helping them to follow their normal school timetable of lessons, including taking breaks
- ensuring that face-to-face communication is only between teachers and students, any parent to teacher communication should be in the usual manner via email between 08:30-15:30
- in the event of an IT issue arising, please email enquiries@st-thomasmore.sch.uk ; a member of the IT Services Team will be in touch to help pupils continue their learning remotely
- helping ensure that your child only attends the online lessons to which they are invited by their teacher through Microsoft Teams (children must also not share the lesson hyperlink with anyone).
- having a discussion with your child about appropriate behaviour in a remote lesson for example treating other pupils with respect and waiting to be invited to speak so that the same standards are maintained remotely as would be in a real classroom
- ensuring that that parents are not present or involved in the online learning to support pupil engagement and independence and to maintain a 'normal' classroom environment for all parties

Students may not record or screen-grab/photograph, share, or comment on public forums in regard to any interactive learning provided by St Thomas More CVA or in regard to any individual teachers. We trust that all pupils will make the most of this opportunity to explore a new way of learning. Rewards systems continue as usual. Any form of cyberbullying, directed at any member of the community, including staff, will still be taken very seriously by the school.

Finally, please be aware that, as part of this agreement, parents may also not record, screen-grab or photograph, share, or comment on public forums in regard to any interactive learning provided by St Thomas More CVA or in regard to any individual teachers.

By allowing your child to log on, you are accepting this agreement and acknowledge that you have shared this document and discussed it with your child. It is vital that your child agrees to follow the rules.

We thank you for your ongoing support.

