

17 July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well given what continues to be strange and uncertain times. As we continue to adjust to a new way of living, staff at St Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy have been busy preparing for the safe return of all pupils to our school in September. Whilst we are delighted to be able to welcome back all pupils following a long absence from school, the school they are returning to will be very different from the one they left in March 2020.

As instructed by the Government, we will be welcoming all pupils back to school in September. We are now permitted to have all pupils return as restrictions on group sizes in schools have been lifted. Covid-19 secure measures will remain in place to reduce the risk of transmission; our children will be kept in year group 'bubbles' and encouraged to keep their distance from each other and staff where possible. This is alongside protective measures such as regular cleaning and handwashing and in support of our 'STM SAFE' mantra.

In order to ensure that the school continues to be Covid-secure, the staff at St Thomas More have been working tirelessly in collaboration with a number of organisations, including the St Ralph Sherwin Multi Academy Trust in ensuring that the school is as safe as it can be for our students, staff and wider community. Using guidance provided by these organisations and further support from Government agencies, we have conducted thorough risk assessments which have informed a number of changes to our policies and procedures. It has also determined some significant changes to what students will experience.

In this 'return to school package' you will find a number of important documents regarding the arrangements that we have put in place for the return of all pupils in September. Enclosed is the following:

- 'Parent Guidance on the reopening of STM to all students in September 2020' - A comprehensive guide for parents about the important changes we have made for the children's return.
- 'Behaviour Letter from Mrs Galletly'- A letter detailing changes to our policy for the return of all students.
- 'STM SAFE'- Our daily mantra for keeping the health and safety of students and staff at the forefront of our actions. This can be seen on Mrs Galletly's letter.



We understand that there is a lot of material to read in this package, but we ask that you read the contents of these documents carefully. We also ask that you discuss these measures with your child before they return to school. Time will be spent on your child's first day back, explaining the new measures and ensuring they know the importance of what we are asking of them in order to keep everyone safe.

We will continue to use our 'home learning package' should the need arise; home learning will also be utilised in the event of a localised lockdown. If you have any questions or queries in relation to home learning, please contact Mr Coyle.

If you have any further questions or queries about the reopening of St Thomas More in September please contact us on: enquiries@st-thomasmore.derbyshire.sch.uk

We have missed all our pupils greatly over the last few months; our school has been quiet without them, but we are delighted to be opening to all pupils after the summer holidays. As always, we will try to care for and educate your child under difficult circumstances and we will endeavour to keep you informed of any changes from the Government.

We thank you for your continued support and messages of goodwill sent to us over the last few months, these mean a lot to our staff at St Thomas More.

We hope you have a restful and safe summer.

Yours sincerely,

The Senior Leadership Team at St Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy