

26<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been an interesting week to say the least. I first of all would like to thank you for your support and understanding. The vast majority of you have been extremely supportive and appreciative of the work our staff are doing. The majority of staff are now working from home: setting work remotely, curriculum planning and completing a lot of the administration normally done in the summer term. The school building is closed to pupils other than those invited by the school but St Thomas More still remains operational.

We have been informed that we will receive further information regarding the awarding of grades to the current year 11, sometime next week. It is likely that this will be based on evidence the school can supply. It is for this reason, year 11s must continue to work on their different assignments; art work, science Tassomai work, BTEC assignments, past papers etc. All this will help support information the school will provide to the examination boards after Easter. For year 10s, in many ways it is even more important that they keep up with the work set by their teachers. I am sure that year 11s will have the current situation considered when grades are allocated. It is unclear how much the exam boards will consider the current situation when pupils sit their GCSEs this time next year. Students cannot afford to lose 3 weeks of lessons, let alone 3 months. So it is vitally important that year 10s access showmyhomework and complete the work set promptly.

In the same way, key stage 3 students should continue to complete their school work daily. When this is all over, we need to know that pupils in the same classes have kept up with their learning and have not fallen behind others in their group. Again, students should check showmyhomework on a daily basis and complete the work set. I am aware that certain websites have struggled with the increased traffic nationally. I am sure that operators will improve this as time goes on. It will be in their interest to do so if they wish to secure contracts in the future. I ask that pupils persist in trying to access these sites.

Having said all that, our main priority is to keep everyone safe and well. We will continue to keep the school building open for the supervision of children who are unable to be looked after at home for key workers and the most vulnerable.

Please look after yourselves and others. Wishing you all good health. God Bless.



Mr B Hickey  
Headteacher

