



ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Glendale Avenue, Wood Green, London, N22 5HN

Tel: 020 8888 7122 Fax: 020 8826 9370

Email: office@stthomasmoreschool.org.uk

www.stthomasmoreschool.org.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr Martin Tissot, MA, MBA, NPQH

June 2020

Dear Year 11 Pupil,

As I am sure you are aware, Mrs Rowland and I are retiring this summer. I was delighted that I had the chance to speak 'virtually' to those of you that were able to join the online end of year mass at the end of June. I am very disappointed that I have not had the chance to speak to you all personally as I would have done at your end of year mass in school. Sadly, with the lockdown and this pandemic, a letter to you is all I am able to do at present. I hope I will be able to see you when you come to school to collect your grades on Thursday 20th August.

I have taught at the school for 34 years and have been Head of School for the last seven years. Like you, I started my secondary education at St Thomas More School, back in 1974.

You have now completed your main statutory education at St Thomas More School, although the last couple of months have been very different, and difficult at times, I am sure. I understand that there is a lot of concern and worry as you have not had the opportunity, like every other year 11 pupil has had in years gone by, to sit your exams and really prove yourself. What is done is done and there is no point looking back. Someone once told me 'if you keep looking back you will never move forward'. Wise words I have always believed.

So the future is now laid out in front of you but it is a maze of paths and you will have to choose which one is right for you. The main question for many of you is - should I stay to continue my education at St Thomas More School or should I embark on a new adventure in a new establishment? It is, in reality, your decision, with your parent's guidance, I am sure. Having sat down with the vast majority of you individually we were able to talk this through, looking at the pros and cons. That was, of course, when everything was 'normal' and life was continuing its normal path. That is now not the case and many have spoken about the a 'new normal' in the future, whatever that means. What is definite is that there is a lot of uncertainty and no one really knows what will happen in September. During times of uncertainty it is often best to stick with what you know and my strong advice at this stage would be to continue at St Thomas More School for your post 16 education. As you know it is an outstanding school and what it can offer, most importantly, is stability. As I have already said, it is your choice and whatever your final decision, I, of course, wish you well and every success with your future education.

Wherever you decide to continue your education, it is very important you prepare yourself. With that in mind you need to continue to study, in particular, those subjects which you wish to take next year. You do not want the fact that you did not have the opportunity to take your exams this year and all the study you would have had to do, but didn't, affect your future exams. If you do nothing now it will definitely have a negative effect and you will have so much more to do just trying to get back into the habit of studying.

Always remember that education is a gift that should never be taken for granted. You should love to learn new things every day and that's not just for future exams. Investigate why, when and how everything connects. I can assure you, learning never stops; it is something I am always doing and will continue to do.



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD



Head of School: Mr M A Rowland, BSc, NPQH

St Thomas More Catholic School is part of The Cardinal Hume Academies Trust

Registered Address: St George's RC School, Lanark Road, Maida Vale, London, W9 1RB

Company Number: 08148675

The only other reminder I would like to give is that, in this busy world, and even more so at the moment, don't forget that God is always with you. Give those few minutes each day to turn to God in prayer and say thank you, for your life, your family, your friends, and all those who help you and all you meet.

Mr Rosen will be the new Head of School to ensure that St Thomas More School continues to be a great school. I am confident that those of you that continue in 6th form will give him the respect you have given me and ensure that St Thomas More continues to be the envy of all the schools around. 'Tommy More' will continue in my heart, even when I have left. I look forward to hearing about how it goes from strength to strength in the future.

You will always be in my prayers.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mr Rowland', written in a cursive style.

Mr Rowland