



ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

June 2020

Dear Year 13 student,

As I am sure you are aware, Mrs Rowland and I are retiring this summer. I was delighted that at least I did get to speak 'virtually' to those of you that were able to join the online leavers 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 leavers mass had it been 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 many of you when you come to school to collect your grades on Thursday 13th 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 secondary 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 13 students have 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 continue my education at university straight away or should I have a year out? What is really important, in my opinion, is that you decide, after thinking very carefully about all the pros and cons. Without doubt, University will not be the same as it was in the past; many are talking about virtual lectures during the next academic year, a very different type of experience. This is now being talked about as moving to the 'new normal', whatever that means. The real problem is if you decide on a year out what are you really going to be able to do and achieve? In the past, that could have been going off travelling for a while or getting a job to support your finances in preparation for university. The reality is that both of those options are going to be very difficult to do. Normal travel may not be that possible for quite some time and the current economic situation will mean that jobs will definitely be harder to come by. My advice would be not to waste a year and just get stuck into university and move yourself forward. You could change it around and have the 'year out' after university when hopefully the world has returned to some normality.

Whenever 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, your chosen subject for university. 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 in preparation, but didn't, affect your future education. 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.



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

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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.

Like me this year, you are now leaving 'Tommy More'. I hope that also, like me, it will continue in your heart, even when you have left. I look forward to hearing about all your successes in the future and who knows, like me, one of you may return someday to be the future 'Head of St Thomas More Catholic School', an OUTSTANDING school!

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