



ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

Dear Parents,

As you were informed by Mr Tissot a while ago, Mrs Rowland and I are retiring this summer. Clearly this is not how we wished to leave the school after 34 years but, as you can imagine, this has been planned for some time. The greatest disappointment is that I have not had the chance to speak to the pupils directly as planned, at our annual St Thomas More Feast Day.

I have enclosed a letter to the pupils. I would be grateful if you can pass it on. Hopefully during the next academic year there will be an opportunity to return to address the pupils when the lockdown and risk from this pandemic has passed.

As mentioned above, I have taught at St Thomas More for the last 34 years, most of the time as a senior leader of the school. For the last seven years I have had the honour to lead the school as Head of School. Without doubt, St Thomas More School is outstanding, and that's not just an Ofsted grading. The school is blessed with an enthusiastic, professional and extremely hard-working staff. Throughout the years, schools develop and change – St Thomas More School is no different. The one constant factor is that it is a Catholic school. Our community, which is made up of many different cultures and faiths, comes together to ensure the best for all the pupils. The overarching aim is to give the pupils the best life chances. As a past pupil of the school before joining as a teacher, I can say that with knowledge and experience, having been on both 'sides', receiving an education and then as part of the team educating others.

Our pupil body is truly amazing. The togetherness and support for each other is witnessed every day in school. Our 'Moment for Jesus' each day, along with our weekly and special masses, enable pupils to grow spiritually, even those who are not of the Catholic faith. These services, while being based on the Catholic religion, bring together the whole school community to help us all to live out the Gospel values, which in reality are universal in all faiths.

As parents, you have entrusted your children to St Thomas More School for seven of their most formative years. I am sure you have not, and will not, be disappointed. Your support for the school is a major factor in the school's success. The home-school partnership is what really makes St Thomas More School great.

Mr Rosen has been appointed by the Governors to lead the school following my retirement. I am confident that under his leadership, the school will continue to thrive and remain the exceptional school it now is. I am sure you will give him the support I have been privileged to have.

I will keep the whole school community in my prayers, and look forward to seeing the school go from strength to strength.

God Bless,

Mark Rowland



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD



National Teaching School designated by National College for Teaching & Leadership



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

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

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