



ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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RN/CSP

22nd October 2020

To: All Parents/Carers of Year 11 Pupils

Dear Parent/Carers

We have faced many challenges since we started in September and I am sure we will have a few more leading up to Christmas. We continue to remain vigilant and take the necessary steps to mitigate against the risk of COVID-19 transmission, everyone in the school is now required to wear a plain blue/black or surgical mask in the buildings. I take this opportunity to remind everyone about social distancing whilst at school and during the break.

Overall the consensus is that it has been a very productive eight weeks, considering we have been out of school since March. I am delighted that pupils have responded extremely well and have been engaged in lessons and well-behaved. A timely reminder that mobile phones are not allowed in school. It is testament to the determined nature and resilience of both pupils and staff that the return to school has been such a great success. The Catholic ethos of the school has shone through and enabled us to find the right path.

This half-term pupils have been re-connecting with their teachers and working hard on the curriculum content of their various subjects. We are now looking to push on to ensure that all pupils are making optimum progress. We will be monitoring closely the work being produced and looking to introduce some extra interventions, where necessary.

At this moment in time it seems very likely that the summer exams will be going ahead; therefore, the focus for your child must be on preparing for these exams and attending all of the interventions that we have put in place. These interventions include: period 6; Saturdays; and holiday sessions. Your child has been given a timetable for these sessions during half-term (timetables are also on the website). You will see that we will be having a full set of mock exams before Christmas, **25th November to 30th November**, which will enable us to have a clear idea on the progress your child is making. Please encourage your child to use our online resources that are loaded onto their Microsoft TEAMS account and complete all homework that has been set.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a safe and restful break and I look forward to welcoming your children back after the half-term break. Now the weather is turning colder, I would ask all to return in a plain black or navy coat, and to wear several layers to enable them to keep warm as the site is well-ventilated. Our thought for the week encompasses what we are all trying to achieve: "Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today". There is no substitute for hard work.

God Bless

Mr A Rosen
Acting Head of School