



St. Thomas More High School

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8th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

May I take this opportunity after our first two full days open to all students again, to extend a warm welcome back to you all and a thank you, for sending your children back into school. Our attendance figures for both days has been over 97% attendance, which is the greatest endorsement we could have, that you are supporting our full reopening. I understand the anxiety and concerns that some of you have had in preparing for this day but am reassured that you have trusted the work the staff here have done and will continue to do, to keep your sons and daughters safe and in our school, ready to learn. Yesterday, students spent all morning with staff going through new routines and responded with a sense of care and responsibility. Today has continued with even greater success and we really enjoyed seeing all our students again. We are reviewing procedures daily to adjust our systems of control and ask that you talk through the reminders in this letter about the lessons we continue to learn, so that the new routines and expectations become familiar to them.

Some reminders:

1. Once students arrive at school they will remain outside on the playground and fields until 8.30am. At **8.30am**, they will line up as a form group and this week will be met by their form tutors so that they learn the new routes into and around school.
2. Students are asked to clear the roads and pavements around school as quickly as possible at both the start and end of the day.
3. Students who cycle are to use the one way system in the bike sheds.
4. There is absolutely NO parking available in the school in the morning or afternoon and ask that you do not drop children off or pick them up in the bus lanes or at the gates.
5. Please ensure your son or daughter has with them their own hand sanitiser for personal use, in addition to the handwashing and sanitisers around the school for use during the day. I have asked students to keep their personal hand sanitiser accessible rather than in their bags.
6. Face coverings can be worn in all communal areas including corridors and main hall areas. Please ensure your son or daughter has at least two face coverings with them and has undertaken the video tutorial on putting on and taking off coverings.
7. Face coverings are mandatory in shops and on transport and **MUST** be put on **BEFORE** they enter or board the train or bus.
8. Each year group has successfully used the dining hall at lunchtime. Each year group enters the dining hall at a separate time. There is a full 'grab and go' food service across the dining hall, so please make sure you have topped up on School Gateway.
9. Seating plans are strictly adhered to during all lessons and practical subjects will be working through a range of safety measures of control this week suggested by both Government, PHE

guidance and professional bodies eg CLEAPSS etc to ensure the curriculum delivered is as balanced as possible. There may be further guidance from these departments later this week.

10. School finishes at 3.20pm for Year 7 – 11 and all students are encouraged to use all available exits to leave the site quickly whilst maintaining their distance and again are asked not to congregate in the roads and pavement around the school.
11. Please do not send your son or daughter to school if they are unwell. Here is the link to the [NHS symptoms](#) to check and the latest [Government guidance](#). We will have to isolate and call you to collect your son or daughter immediately if they report feeling unwell with any of these symptoms so that you can book a test.
12. Please do not attempt to come into school without an appointment. If you have any concerns or wish to discuss any important matters, please telephone or email the office@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk

Those who may have had some anxiety about returning to school, seemed to have had a really positive day. Students enjoyed seeing each other again and we had many productive conversations with them, which I hope reassured them too. We will continue to modify our systems of control in school to keep things running as safely and smoothly as we possibly can.

Thank you again for your continued support and co-operation in moving forward. I look forward to seeing students again tomorrow and providing some really positive learning experiences for your son or daughter.

Yours sincerely



Mrs G Ackred
Headteacher