



St. Thomas More High School

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19th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you will almost certainly be aware, all UK schools are to close at the end of the school day on Friday 20th March to most pupils 'for the foreseeable future'. The government has also said they will cancel all formal examinations due this summer, but they are committed to working with Ofqual to ensure 'every pupil gets what they deserve and is not unfairly penalised'. Although we had been anticipating such an announcement, the limited details provided so far raise considerably more questions than answers.

I have met today with Year 13 and for those who were in we brought forward their leavers assembly, distributing their lapel crosses, given them breakfast with staff, shared their leavers slideshow and have given them the option to now go home.

We also held a Year 11 assembly, once again trying to provide these students with our reassurance and support in these challenging circumstances. We have celebrated with them, distributed their lapel crosses with our blessing, enjoyed lunch with them and given them the option to go home from 12:30pm today.

All these students reflected this morning on how education with us at St Thomas More High School is always about more than a piece of paper. We are proud to educate the whole individual and these fine young men and women have responded maturely to these unprecedented and challenging circumstances today.

I tried to reassure both Year 11 and Year 13, that I count them as a 'vulnerable' group and as such will be in contact with them and their families once we have the information from the government regarding their A Level, GCSE and BTEC qualifications.

Please see attached a form to complete and return to the finance office finance@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk to apply for a Caterlink refund.

We will continue to do our best for our Year 13 and Year 11 students in the coming weeks, holding them in our prayers and have asked them now not to return to school unless the situation changes or we are in touch.

Our students must now go into the world to play their part as a responsible citizen following the NHS advice and guidance to protect their families and support the wider community in which they live. To continue to be 'Gods Servant First'.

Yours sincerely

Mrs G Ackred
Headteacher

