

St. Thomas More High School

Kenilworth Gardens
Westcliff-on-Sea
Essex SS0 0BW
Telephone: Southend (01702) 344933

Headteacher:
Mrs G Ackred

Email: office@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk

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'.

As advised by the government, we will do all that we can to stay open for the children of key workers <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/stmparentworksurvey2020> (e.g. NHS, emergency services) and for children with certain needs.

Although we had been anticipating such an announcement, the limited details provided so far raise considerably more questions than answers.

As I have said previously, we are increasingly unable to operate school as we normally do and staff have been united in their combined and collective effort today to work through the detail of this unprecedented school closure and reassure our students.

Therefore, as of this evening, **school is closed for all Year 7,8 and 9 students except** key workers and those with certain needs. Most students in Years 7, 8 and 9 are not to attend school tomorrow and indefinitely.

School is open tomorrow for all Year 10 and 12 students who are not yet self-isolating and are healthy [NHS](https://www.nhs.uk). We ask that Year 10 and 12 students attend school tomorrow, if they are able, in order to attend lessons and meet with as many of their course teachers as possible. Lessons for Year 10 and 12 are our priority tomorrow, to reassure them as much as possible in these difficult circumstances.

In short term, by this I mean tomorrow and next week, we intend to run a timetable which, will ensure children of key workers and those with particular needs who attend school (in uniform and with their PE kit) are cared for and engaged in learning as follows:

- 8:00 – 8:40am – Breakfast (optional)
- 8:45 – 9:30am – Form Time
- 9:30 – 10:30am – Lesson 1
- 10:30 – 11:30am – Lesson 2
- 11:30 – 12:30 – Lunchtime
- 12:30 – 1:30pm – Lesson 3
- 1:30 – 2:30pm – Lesson 4
- End of the Day

As I said to students in assemblies this afternoon, work is available via the VLE and our website for students and we will continue to update this in the coming weeks. This is as much as we know at present and we appreciate your continued patience as we deal with this ever-changing situation. We understand this latest news will have an impact on you and your family but will keep in touch with updates as the situation develops.

Extended Learning Booklets for each year group, which contain many additional hyperlinks.

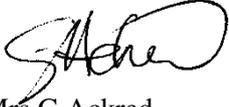
[Year 7](#)

[Year 8](#)

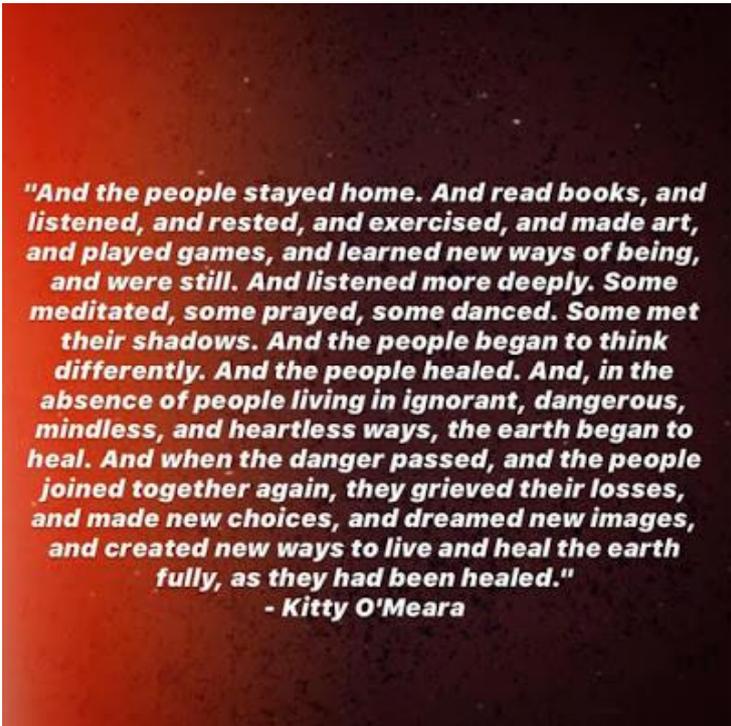
[Year 9](#)

[Year 10](#)

Yours sincerely



Mrs G Ackred
Headteacher



"And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently. And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal. And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed."
- Kitty O'Meara