



## St. Thomas More High School

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20<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you and your family are managing to cope with these difficult times.

Further to the Government announcement that asked;  
'Secondary Schools, Sixth Form and Further Education Colleges to offer some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of Year 10 and Year 12 students who are due to take key exams next year alongside the full-time provision they are offering to priority groups.'

I have been working, over the past couple of weeks, with senior colleagues, the Local Authority, Diocesan heads and National Associations to work out exactly what these plans would be and how we can ensure a safe and secure environment for staff and students if the school were to be open in some form after half-term. We are currently working to develop risk assessments and to ascertain how we could engage with students to offer face-to-face support from after half-term. This is an extremely difficult and complex process and I know that parents, staff and students may be anxious about the idea of a full return to school for certain year groups. At this stage, it seems unlikely that Years 7, 8 and 9 (as well as Years 11 and 13) will be returning to school in the near future. For Years 10 and 12, we will be working to provide some type of face-to-face support alongside the on-line teaching that will continue for all year groups for the rest of the year. To help us in our deliberations, I will be e-mailing all parents of Year 10 and 12 students to ascertain their views regarding a potential re-opening of school at some point in the future.

We will be closed to all on Bank Holiday Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May and then open again for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers. Until we're told it's safe to do so, we are unable to provide places for other children. The government encourages children in the eligible year groups and priority groups to attend school, unless they are self-isolating or there are other reasons for absence (such as shielding due to health conditions).

I am sorry I cannot give you any definitive plans following the announcement but please be assured that we are working extremely hard to find solutions to support our students in all that they are doing. As you will appreciate, the most important thing for us to consider is how to provide a safe environment for all those who will work and study within the school.

May I take this opportunity to, once again, thank you for all your support in these difficult times. I know the school closure has caused distress, heartache and anxieties which none of us could have planned for or expected in our daily lives but, together, we will get through this and we will continue to be a community strengthened by meeting the challenges head on.

My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time. Wishing you and your family a peaceful and restful half term.

Yours sincerely

Mrs G Ackred  
Headteacher