



## 01 | Headteacher Article

My first wish as ever is that I hope you are all well.

### Schools reopening

I am sure that many of you saw yesterday's announcement from the Prime Minister. Schools will begin to reopen from the 8 March at the earliest. This is two weeks later than the initial plan. The reason for this date is that it is linked to when all those who are due to be vaccinated by 15 February will have increased immunity and therefore it will be safer to allow pupils back to school.

This is still not a confirmed date of return and depends on amongst other things all of the vaccinations for the identified groups being completed by 15 February. The Prime Minister did say later in his talk that it does "depend on a lot of things going right." We can only wait and see but we have a date.

It was confirmed that the government will extend the arrangements for providing free school meals so for those to whom that applies, you can know things will continue as they have been doing.

I will of course let you know how this will impact on school in due course. At this time I am intending that we continue with remote learning after half term following our current model.

We will hopefully hear the Ofqual decisions on how exam grades will be decided in this period as well. The consultation ends this Friday.

## Screen Time and Every Third Lesson

Wednesday 3rd February – For Years 7-10 only

Next Wednesday there will be no lessons for Years 7, 8, 9, 10. Instead they will be given the day for the launch of the Thomas More Lockdown Charter which I am attaching. It is a day given over to extra-curricular activities and even though there will be some screen time involved it is designed as being a different sort of day, for doing other things.

Tutor time will run in the morning at 8:30am and the registration at this point will be crucial.

There are a series of tasks and challenges to complete and pupils have the choice of how to do them. Once they have been completed they need to take a photo or video or a written report and send to the designated email address which is on the attached instruction sheet.

This day is given over to the launch of this Lockdown Charter but pupils can, of course, continue to complete the tasks after this day. We strongly encourage participation.





HANDS

FACE

SPACE

## Hands. Face. Space

Protect the NHS and save lives

## Screen Time and Every Third Lesson

Wednesday 3rd February – For Years 11-13 only

For the exam Years 11-13, lessons will carry on as usual. It is vital for those school years to keep going given the disruption in their exam years and ahead of knowing how they will be assessed. They may find however that some of their teachers use Wednesday for the ‘third lesson’ option whereby the lesson is registered but then work is set offline. Again this is to reduce screen time.

## Parental Survey

Thank you very much to all of you who completed the parental survey. It was overwhelmingly positive although of course there were some helpful suggestions on how things can be tweaked and you can know that I will consider everything for the return after half term.

Of particular note was that not one parent/carer said that they could not access the learning. This is obviously really important and I was pleased to see that. Of course, if it is not the case for someone who has not completed the survey – please let us know.



More information on Online Learning

<http://www.tmore.org.uk/2427/remote-blended-learning>

## Learning at this Time

I am struck by how the government and the media are talking about the loss of learning for the children of the UK at the moment. There is no question that things are not ideal at the moment and being in school is much better for everyone but I have to say that I am quietly impressed with all the learning that is going on. I visit the keyworker classroom every day and the sample of work I see on display is very good. I talk to staff all the time and ask them about their lessons and they are very positive. I walk around the school and see classes very happily taking place online and the survey results were also very positive in the main.

I have no doubts that schools and learning work best when pupils and students are in school but I also know that the learning that is taking place online at the moment is doing a very good job of substituting for the ideal.

Again I thank all parents and carers for your efforts in engaging with the process and I know that your efforts and the efforts of the staff will leave our young people in the best possible situation when they do eventually return to school.

Mr. N. Walters  
Headteacher



**To Care. To Learn. To Achieve**

## TMI Other School News

 @tmcspurley 
  @tmcspurley



## Thomas More Lockdown Charter Challenges (Years 7-10)

Get away from the screen and enjoy some other activities! We are launching the 'Thomas More lockdown challenge' next week. You can find all of the Lock down challenges on the next page of the newsletter.

We encourage all students to take part in the Lockdown Challenges. You will need to show evidence of having completed each challenge; this could be a photograph, a video or a written report.

Please have a look at the challenges and see how many you can complete. There will be prizes for completing the most challenges. You can upload your videos/pictures of challenges to: [challenge@tmore.org.uk](mailto:challenge@tmore.org.uk)

Alternatively, you could present your achievements on the Office 365 App called Sway. Sway is an app that allows you to create simple webpages and blog post with no coding required. If you decide to use Sway, copy the share link and email to [challenge@tmore.org.uk](mailto:challenge@tmore.org.uk)



Prizes will be given out

5 challenges completed – Bronze award  
 10 challenges completed – Silver award  
 15 challenges completed – Gold award  
 20 challenges complete – Platinum award

Whatever method you choose to present your work the most important part is you trying out some of the challenges and engaging. We look forward to seeing all of your entries.

We hope you enjoy doing the challenges, Goodluck!

## PE Department Steps Challenge

The PE department are running a step competition for pupils and staff. If you would like to join our step challenge, you can use the Health app on iPhones, Google Fit app on any smartphone or a smartwatch to count how many steps you do each day. Please take a screenshot of your daily steps and upload via the link sent out on SIMS Student.

The challenge will run Monday 25th January - Sunday 31st January . Each screenshot will be 1 entry to the prize raffle which will be drawn at the end of the week.

Well done to the following pupils for their hardwork in their online PE lessons

Year 7 - Kevin S, Roshan M, Elfe M

Year 8 - Jerome R, PJ Marshall, Rachael J, Taylah M, Amelle B

Year 9 - Joseph N, Mohnish R, Ruthie M, Maciej K

Year 10 - Lucas De C M, Tyra A-S, Israel B, Eesha P, Sneha S

Year 11 - Christian C, Angel F

# WELL DONE





# Thomas More 'Lockdown' Charter Challenges

TO CARE • TO LEARN • TO ACHIEVE



Create a photography diary of at least 5 images



Make a stained glass picture



Take a gallery or museum virtual tour and write a review

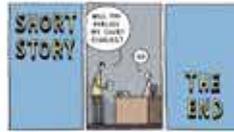


Take part in the 'spirited Arts' competition



Create a prayer for during lockdown

Write a short story



Create a project on a person you admire



Make a storyboard entitled 'My Culture'



Create a lockdown Poem or rap



Random acts of kindness - can you do some shopping for an elderly neighbour, donate to a food bank or help in the home?



Take part in the birdwatch challenge via RSPB 'Big garden birdwatch'

## Maths challenges

- Take part in the Friday Numeracy puzzles
- Enter the UK Maths Challenge



Write a movie or computer game review



Research a career of your choice



Upload a song or musical performance

Create a piece of Art- collage, painting or sculpture



Reading Challenge How many books can you read in lockdown?



Science lockdown experiments:  
- Craftymorning.com (Skittles science experiment for kids)   
- Youtube (Red cabbage indicator colours)

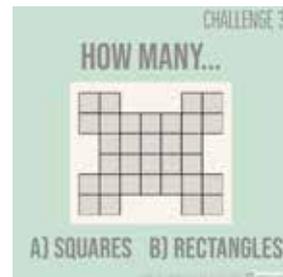


'Keepy uppy football challenge' Can you improve your count over time?



Cooking/baking challenges  
- upload pictures and reviews of your favourite dishes  
- Lockdown baking challenge - upload your photos of your brilliant bakes!   
- Create a 3 course menu 'masterchef' style





## HOW MANY SQUARES AND RECTANGLES?

### Digital devices & Internet connectivity

Thomas More have now received 165 laptops and 115 have been issued to pupils that require devices to access their learning. We do have a waiting list of 36 and we are just waiting for IT to finish the set up on the Geobooks. We are also awaiting 11 laptops to arrive and then we can supply every parent that has requested one.

The school is continuing to request more laptops as we become aware of new situations, and to support the need of our parents. I would like to thank the IT department that have done a tremendous job in setting up the laptops to go out to pupils.

We have now also received 50 SIM cards and 10 routers to help people with multiple internet usage. 21 SIM cards have been issued and 1 router. If you are concerned about internet connectivity or pupil device access please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

[Schooloffice@tmore.org.uk](mailto:Schooloffice@tmore.org.uk)



## Spirituality Corner LAY CHAPLAIN



### Thanks giving prayer

"We cannot let our weariness; our falls and our failings discourage us. Instead, by humbly acknowledging them, we should make them opportunities to progress towards the Lord Jesus. Life is not about showing off our abilities, but a journey towards the One who loves us. We are not to show off our virtues in every step of our life; rather, with humility we should journey towards the Lord. By keeping our gaze fixed on the Lord, we will find the strength needed to persevere with renewed joy" - Pope Francis.

Pope Francis; born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, as Jorge Mario Bergoglio. He is the head of the Catholic Church. Francis is the first Jesuit pope, the first from the Americas, the first from the Southern Hemisphere, and the first pope from outside Europe since the Syrian Gregory III, who reigned in the 8th century.

