



Hands. Face. Space
Protect the NHS and save lives

01 | Headteacher Article Welcome to 2021

I would like to welcome all pupils and staff back to a term with a slightly different feel. Due to restrictions and government measures, the school will be closed until February and all lessons will move to virtual lessons for all year groups.

Pupils can access all of their lessons via Office 365 Teams application, and resources for the lessons are available via SIMS student. Instructions on how to access virtual lessons can also be found on the school's website.

I would like to take this time to thank Mr. Knott and the IT team that have done a fantastic job to ensure that all of the remote online learning systems are in place and stay operational despite the extra demands being placed on them.

If there are any parents or careers who are having difficulty accessing lesson resources please do not hesitate to contact the school, alternatively please visit the link below for more information regarding accessing online learning. The school will continue to revisit our remote learning policy to ensure that our pupils are getting the best possible learning experience during this period.

Screen Time and Every Third Lesson

Every third lesson per subject may be a bit different. The pupils and students will still need to log on and be registered but then they will, in most cases, be set work to do independently. This is designed to mix up the teaching and learning a bit and introduce variety but also to ideally get children and staff away from the screens periodically which is an unfortunate side effect of this lockdown. We all know that screen time should be limited both for ourselves and for our children but this lockdown is pushing more screen time onto our children and us. To some extent this is unavoidable but we will try, every third lesson to make things a bit different.

Exam news

We were initially told that we would know this week what arrangements were going to be in place for the summer exams. I have heard today that the Secretary of State for Education and the Chief of Ofqual are instituting a two-week consultation in order to get it right this year. This is a good idea and I will update you as soon as they publish their ideas. official notification comes out.

More information on Online Learning

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



Photography Competition

Last week Mr. Clarke launched a 4-day photography competition titled – ‘Learning during the lockdown’. Staff and pupils were set the task of capturing a moment during this period of working remotely and in isolation. The photos received from the staff and pupils were amazing and all entries can be found on all of our social media channels.

There are three winners the first winner will be the photo that received the most likes on social media. The second and third winner has been selected by the two teachers in the Art department.

Thank you to all the staff and pupils that contributed to the competition.

The Winners

Social Media Winner - Lily (Year 7)

Caption - This was a photo I took last night from my bedroom window as the sky lit up and I thought it look pretty. - Lily.

Winner from Miss Schutz - Mrs Dako

Comments from judge - Composition is really nice and it just shows us how nature is bigger than us. I also like how the shot is taken from inside... captures something of the feeling of the lockdown.

Winner from Miss Garcia - Mr Silverwell

Comments from judge - For me the winner has got to be the shot in which it is dark and we are looking up at the trees above. Just beautiful! Makes me think about how trees are the lungs of the planet, the exposed branches remind me of little veins and arteries. I am reminded me how we are all connected. I also just love that whoever took the photo thought about looking up and taking the shot - we all spend too long looking down these days. The photographer is clearly looking around at the world around them.

Caption - With lots of other options closed, my family has gone to the woods a lot. This is dawn during a December morning walk. We listened to birds and I taught my son which ones were singing. We heard tawny owls and lots of others. - Mr. Silverwell.



To Care. To Learn. To Achieve

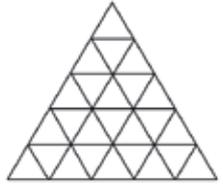
03 | Other School News

THOMAS MORE Newsletter

 @tmcspurley  @tmcspurley



Maths Challenge
How many triangles?



Digital devices & Internet connectivity

At Thomas More we want to ensure that all of our pupils have access to the devices and connectivity that they need to access their work remotely. Our school has been provided with a limited supply of laptops that can be loaned out to pupils that qualify and require them.

We have taken the proactive approach and contacted some parents and careers to ensure that they have suitable provision to support their child with their learning. If you have not been contacted and would like further support please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Schooloffice@tmore.org.uk

A Reminder of Useful Contacts

It may be useful for you to know who to contact in the next few weeks should you have any concerns or queries. Here is a list of the principal contacts:

Mr Keams – Deputy headteacher - to be the point of contact for unwell pupils, those showing symptoms or anyone who has had a positive test and to be responsible for any students of key workers or vulnerable children coming to school and to coordinate all of the work on testing. jke@tmore.org.uk

Mrs Dako – Deputy headteacher – to coordinate high quality home school Teaching and Learning and making sure that the staff are kept well informed of expectations and possibilities. Also to be the particularly responsible for the learning of any students of key workers or vulnerable children coming to school. mda@tmore.org.uk

Mr Pitt – Assistant headteacher – to be responsible for the more able to make sure they are getting enough challenge, to follow up online behaviour and to coordinate tutor actions. dpi@tmore.org.uk

Ms Yost – Head of Sixth Form and Assistant headteacher - to be the link for the Sixth form for home learning, those in school and for those taking external exams. lyo@tmore.org.uk

Mr Clarke – to be working with the staff supporting the online Teams lessons. ecd@tmore.org.uk

Dr Brushwood – to support any pupils or students who are having significant technology issues in order that pupils can undertake home learning effectively. jbr@tmore.org.uk

Mr Beech – to stay abreast of assessments and catch up in Year 7 and 8 jbe@tmore.org.uk

Miss Tejera – to be the point of contact for SEN pupils and the most vulnerable rte@tmore.org.uk

If you have any Safeguarding Concerns – please contact safeguarding@tmore.org.uk

Schooloffice@tmore.org.uk

Spirituality Corner LAY CHAPLAIN



Thanks giving prayer

Thanksgiving prayers, we remember our colleagues who are undergoing medical treatment. Let us spent a few minutes in prayer for them and for all who are burdened with worries of their own health or the health of their loved ones.

Lord Jesus Christ, healer of all diseases and our great physician of all times,
We pray for our colleagues who are undergoing various medical treatments, for their illnesses.
We pray and ask You to come and take Your place in spirit in the doctors, nurses and specialists, who will aid them in their medical needs.
We believe that nothing is impossible in Your hands of Power,
In Your hands of Healing and in Your heart of Love, Mercy and Compassion.
Come be with them, and let them feel your healing presence.
We pray that you will give them strength and courage,
to face all that they have to go through.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

