



Thomas More Catholic School 11-19

Mr N. Walters, Headteacher
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London Borough of Croydon
Roman Catholic Archdiocese
of Southwark

To Care. To Learn. To Achieve

Tuesday 12th January 2021

Dear All,

I hope you are all well. This letter is an update to my previous letter and contains some new points.

Online Learning

Online lessons are now up and running via Microsoft Teams. Students should be familiar with this by now but there are instructions on the website. Lessons start at the following times:

Lesson One - 8:40am

Lesson Two - 9:40am

Lesson Three - 11:00am

Lesson Four- 12:00pm

Lesson Five - 1:45pm

Lessons online will last for between 30-40 minutes which will allow staff and pupils to transition between lessons and also take a brief break which is important when you are spending so much of the day in front of a screen.

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.

An Interim progress report

I must congratulate all our pupils and students on their performance so far. Attendance to lessons is very good and so is engagement and participation. Keep going everyone and we can get through this lockdown as well as we got through the last one.

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 the official notification comes out.

Fridays

I would also like to remind you that Fridays will be timetabled as normal days not as the shortened day which we used to help pupils get home on the buses.



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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 Kearns – 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. ecl@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

There are also the Heads of Year who can be contacted via schooloffice@tmore.org.uk

Head of Year 7 and 8 - Miss Ogbonnaya

Head of Year 9 – Mrs Osei-Fosu

Head of Year 10 - Miss Gayle

Head of Year 11 Mr Ogwuda

God Bless and stay safe.

Mr Nathan Walters
Headteacher