



21<sup>st</sup> October, 2022

Dear parents and carers,

Having just completed a rather damp, lengthy but incredibly enjoyable Sponsored Walk I wanted to thank you for your support this past half term. It has gone exceptionally quickly and I can't believe that it is already the half term break. The number of sporting fixtures has been amazing (with 9 this week alone!) and to see how well all the boys and girls are doing is also tremendous.

Thank you to all the students for the start to this year. Year 7 have settled in incredibly well and have made a great start to their secondary career. Year 11 and Year 13 are preparing for their first round of mock exams in November/December and we look forward to seeing how they do. Staff have been continuing to develop as teachers and ensuring that the curriculum is being delivered to the highest standard. I had a lovely morning at the beginning of the day today celebrating the excellent start to the year with a large number of students who were invited to breakfast for receiving the highest number of achievement points this half term within their year group. We look forward to awarding the first bronze awards next half term! You will also have heard of the 'Wispa' bars that have been given out on Fridays to students who have been awarded by departments for outstanding work, contributions or efforts. It is great that we can celebrate the hard work and effort that students are putting into their time at school.

There has been significant improvement in the standard of uniform since the beginning of term, thank you for supporting us in this. We have also noticed a marked improvement in the behaviour of the vast majority of students during lesson time. The line up before school is ensuring pupils are modelling the expected behaviour from the very beginning of the day. We have had a number of conversations with staff, parents and pupils, and based on these conversations, want to make you aware of a handful of small adjustments that we will be making from straight after half term.

1. Points for homework are no longer going to contribute towards the overall behaviour points totals for detentions
2. Points for uniform (which will now only be 1 rather than 2) will also no longer contribute to overall points totals for detentions.
3. We are exploring our use of Classcharts as a way to streamline our procedures i.e. using it as a method for parents reporting a child's absence and to send parents push notifications.

We have high expectations of our students in terms of their behaviour, learning and approach to school. These high expectations will always remain, however, we also know that when new systems and procedures are introduced, we need to evaluate their effectiveness to ensure that these high standards are maintained, as well as ensuring consistency for the students and staff.

**Classcharts.** Thank you for your feedback on Classcharts, it is clear that the clarity of this communication is appreciated and proving effective as well. Currently we have 84% of parents and 94% of pupils logged in and using Classcharts, we thank you for your support. Please refer to my bulletin from 3 weeks ago if you have not managed to download the app or been able to access this online (all past bulletins are on the school website under the news tab). If you need any guidance on how to do this, please contact the school as this is now the vehicle that we are using to consolidate a lot of our communications to you



St Alban  
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Headteacher Mr Andrew Bull MA

St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust Registered Number: 9660515



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regarding your son's or daughter's achievements and consequences of not meeting the high standards that we set. Homework is now also accessed through this platform.

**Consultations.** This coming term there will be two consultations coming your way. The first will be on the school day. As you will have read the government has made it clear that from September 2023 the school week needs to be a minimum of 32.5 hours. Currently we are at 31.25 hours. We will therefore be seeking your thoughts on this. The second consultation will be on school uniform, with a view to ensure value for money, consistency and equality. We will write to you about these in more detail next half term.

**Working with parents and carers in relation to safeguarding and child protection concerns.**

This Autumn term we would like to welcome parents into CNS to meet with Ms Lymer and Ms Bradshaw to discuss some of the challenges our young people are facing. This will be on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November between 4pm – 5pm.

**Luton Sports.** The heads of PE across Luton have made the decision that this season there will be no spectators at sporting fixtures across the borough. This is a blanket decision and will remain in place until further notice. Thank you for your support.

**Sponsored Walk.** Thank you for your contributions made via ParentMail. Unfortunately, some amounts have not been entered prior to checkout so the entries have been reversed and returned. If you would like to make a donation, please ensure you enter the monetary amount before checking out.

A number of school staff will be running in the Love Luton 5K, 10K and Half Marathon on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October, to raise funds for the Keeping Luton Warm campaign. You might see us fly past if you come down to watch. We have raised nearly £500 through family, friends and colleagues' donations so far. If you wish, and are able, to contribute please follow this [link](#).

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October. Have a restful and blessed week.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Bull  
Headteacher



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