



9th December 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians

Activity Week

Here at St Thomas More, we have had a long tradition of running a range of activities in the final week of the academic year, such as; a visit to a theme park, sports day and project days. Following consultation, with both pupils and staff, we would like to change this tradition, and offer pupils an alternative; this being an Activity Week.

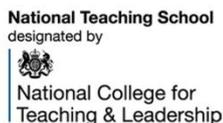
This will take place in the final week of the Summer Term (Monday 17th July 2017 – Friday 21st July 2017 – dates will change year on year). This will involve students choosing an activity, or programme of related activities, which would last for 4 days. On Friday 21st July 2017, we will have school masses as usual. This means that pupils will stay with the same group of pupils and staff members for the 4 days, which gives them the opportunity to become fully involved in an activity, whilst gaining new skills and experiences. This is part of our enrichment curriculum which we have held onto over the years, and valued for the following important reasons:

- It provides a safe, structured opportunity where our young people can enjoy new experiences and gain new skills.
- It gives them confidence to achieve in different year groups.
- It gives them the chance to be active, take on responsibility and show maturity.
- It is a time to find out about new interests, hobbies and places to visit, which will make them more aware of what they can do in the future.
- The whole week is one of sharing, learning together, and getting on with people, in an atmosphere of trust and with a huge sense of fun.

In this first year, Year 7 will be offered activities which they will do together as a year group, and details of this will become available in the next term. All other year groups in school will have the opportunity to sign up for one activity. Year 10 pupils will have the opportunity to carry out work experience during this week.

There will be a range of activities available:

Category A	School based – No Charge
Category B	School based – Small charge for specific materials
Category C	Would include some local travel - Costs up to £150
Category D	Travel (abroad or within the UK), with overnight accommodation, and specific training opportunity/activity – Costs in excess of £150



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Category D Trips

I have enclosed some brief information about the Category D trips, as these will require an immediate deposit to reserve a place. The price of these trips is approximate, due to the fact that we are booking so far in advance and therefore, exact prices are not possible from the various providers. We would expect the final price to be within £100 of the price quoted, and we would expect to make parents aware of the final price and payment deadlines in the New Year, as soon as final numbers are confirmed.

The balance will be due to be paid over the next 6 months, and this will provide time for families to budget for this expense. If your child/children are interested in one of these trips, please pay a £50 deposit on ParentPay, and in the comment box, please note which trip you are wishing to reserve a place for. **Please ensure a deposit is paid by Thursday 22nd December 2016.** The deposit would only be refunded if there were insufficient numbers to run the trip, or if the trip was oversubscribed.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mrs B Kamali
Assistant Head Teacher



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