

Longton Hall Road, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent. ST3 2NJ

Tel: 01782 882900 | Email: office@stmca.org.uk | www.stmca.org.uk | @StThomasMoreCA

Headteacher: Mr M Rayner BA(Hons) NPQH

December 2024

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to provide you regarding information about additional funding for your child. Our records indicate that we receive additional funding for your child through Pupil Premium funds from the government. This may be for a range of reasons including the following:

- pupils who are recorded as eligible for free school meals, or have been recorded as eligible in the past 6 years, including eligible children of families who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF)
- children looked after by local authorities, referred to as looked-after children
- children previously looked after by a local authority or other state care, referred to as previously looked-after children

This additional funding available for your child is to benefit your child. The government has increased funding for Pupil Premium to £1050 per pupil. This is additional funding that is used in school to support your child's education.

The funding will be used to support curriculum areas including activities and interventions to accelerate your child's progress in their studies. This includes Maths and English Interventions by dedicated staff which will support students at different times of the year. At STMCA, every student in Year 7 who is eligible for the Pupil Premium will receive a scientific calculator to support them with their academic studies.

A range of intervention programmes will take place throughout the year with identified students to further support progress. We will provide opportunities to ensure that your child can access reading materials and computer technology in order to complete classwork, independent study and homework, providing an effective study environment for pupils supported by dedicated staff. In addition, support can be used to assist in the funding of educational visits and retreat opportunities. Your child's progress will be monitored regularly in school and you will receive updates on their progress twice a year. In addition, some students will be involved in a range of mentoring programmes to provide individual support and their progress in school.

We want to make sure that we are providing your child with the best education and support that we can. All students including those eligible for the Pupil Premium have access to a free breakfast bagel in school each school day, which can be collected from the school Dining Hall between 8.30am-9am. If your child is currently in receipt of Free School Meals, there have been some changes made to eligibility under Universal Credit. If you don't currently claim for Free School Meals but think that you may be eligible, please use this link on our school website to apply [Free School Meals - St Thomas More Catholic Academy \(stmca.org.uk\)](http://Free School Meals - St Thomas More Catholic Academy (stmca.org.uk)). If your child is eligible to receive Free School Meals, they will receive the value of £3 onto their account every day to allow them to buy a meal.

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We work with local charity the HUBB Foundation to provide a range of opportunities such as the recent 'Potts Project' providing families with a free Airfryer and food vouchers; you will be contacted with more information about these later in the year, but if you are interested in benefitting from future schemes like this, please email the school office expressing your interest.

We are also working with the Digital Poverty Alliance to provide families in need of technology to support their child's learning with a free computer, under the 'Tech4Families' scheme. If your child does not have access to a suitable device at home, please apply through <https://digitalpovertyalliance.org/tech4families/> or using this link [Application Form - Tech4Families - Digital Poverty Alliance](#) and provide the name of your child's Form Tutor as the in-school contact. We will review and verify your application; many of our families have been successful this year so far in gaining a free device.

Pupil Premium students have access to homework / study facilities every night after school in the new Learning Resource Centre. Computer access will be available at this club, as well as support from a dedicated member of staff. If your child would like to attend, they do not have to book a place but can attend as regularly as they wish.

We also run a uniform donation scheme where families can donate any St Thomas More uniform items that they no longer use, which can be redistributed to families in need. If you have any clean and undamaged uniform items that you would like to donate, please drop them into our school reception, and if you would like to access any items of free uniform, please contact your child's Head of Year.

Should you have any other questions please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Key Stage or your child's Progress Leader to discuss their provision further, including study facilities, funding for educational visits or other areas where your child can be supported to fulfil their educational potential.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Rayner
Headteacher

Mrs S Barker
Assistant Headteacher