

Dear Parents/Carers

Apologies that there are quite a few reminders in the letter this week but I know that it is a busy end to the term.

Assemblies this week have focused on the importance of excellent attendance and high standards and expectations for the long-term success of every young person in our school community. We were also very fortunate to be able to welcome Father Peter Hapgood-Strickland from Holy Family Parish in Reddish to say Mass for us on Thursday. All Year 8 students attended the Advent Mass in the morning and it was a meaningful and prayerful way to continue our preparations for Christmas and it was also lovely to be able to invite Sister Dolores into school to support us during the service.

Father Peter provided the students with a fantastic Homily centred around the feast day of St Ambrose. Father Peter also told both myself and the students how impressed he was with their polite, prayerful and respectful behaviour during Mass and it made me so very proud of all the students in our wonderful school.

Sporting Success

Well done to all the students who braved the rain and the cold this week to compete in the Tameside Cross Country Championships. The school had some fantastic results and a number of our students have now been selected to represent Tameside at the Greater Manchester Finals next year.

A special well done to Libby Taylor in Year 11 who won her event and is now the Tameside Cross Country Champion in her age category, Libby is a fantastic student and sportswoman and an excellent role model. Well done Libby.

Last Day of Term: Early Finish 12:15/Christmas Liturgies

As is usual on the last day of the Christmas term school will close early on Friday 15th December at 12:15, with our usual staggered finish with Year 7 being the first-year group to depart at 12:10, with each Year group in turn leaving every minute until 12:15.

Please note: The following school buses will be available to collect students at the end of the day 786 and 790, students who usually get the special 219 service will need to walk to the top of Town Lane to get a connecting bus to join the normal 219 service at Guide Bridge.

All students will of course mark the start of the Christmas period by celebrating together in our Christmas Liturgies on the final day of term, it will be wonderful to have the opportunity to remind ourselves of the true meaning of Christmas.

The Hall, Foyer and Dining Hall all look very festive at the moment with three wonderful Christmas trees that have been decorated by the GIFT team.

School re-opens for students on Thursday 4th January

Term Dates for next academic year 2024-2025 and are now available on the website and at the end of this letter

St Marys Foodbank

With the cost of living crisis, we are aware that more families and individuals are experiencing times when they are struggling to find enough money to put food on the table. As part of our Catholic

mission of Social Justice we are committed to trying to find ways to support those in need in our community. So, we can try to help those in need who might otherwise go hungry at Christmas, we are asking all forms to collect non-perishable food items so that the school can make a significant donation to St Mary's Foodbank based in Haughton Green. This local foodbank has been operating for many years and is a wonderful charitable cause to support.

We asking students to bring in the following items if possible, Powdered Milk, Tea/coffee, Instant Noodles, Tinned Soup, Cereals, Tinned Fruit/Veg/Meat/Fish/Tinned Meals, Rice/Pasta, Multi pack crisps/biscuits, Toiletries – non-liquid only e.g. Bars of soap.

We do understand that our families may be facing their own pressures so please only donate if you are able. Please give any donations to your child to bring into school on Monday 11th December

Reminder Memory Revisited Raffle for St Mary's Foodbank

One of our parents has very kindly donated a raffle voucher for the website she is involved in that makes keepsake items in memory of loved ones. The voucher is for the full purchase price of a keepsake Bear memento from the website: www.memoryrevisited.co.uk

Please do take a look at the items that the website has to offer.

Raffle tickets can be purchased from our parent pay website for £1 and all proceeds of the raffle will be donated to St Mary's Foodbank. Please give generously if you are able.

Closing date: Wednesday 13th December

Reminder: Christmas Dinner Day and Charity Christmas Jumper Day

Christmas Dinner Day in school will take place on Wednesday 13th December in normal dinner time, there will be a full Christmas Dinner available and a vegetarian option, the cost of the meal is £2.53 which includes a drink and a Christmas Cracker. Students need to buy a ticket for the meal in advance by the deadline of Friday 8th December, the tickets can be bought in the canteen on any day at break or lunchtime and any purchased tickets will then be given out by form tutors in the week beginning Monday 11th December. We will make sure the Christmas Music keeps our diners entertained! Only Christmas Dinner will be available on the 13th December.

The 13th December will also be our annual Christmas Jumper Day when students can wear a Christmas themed Jumper or Hoodie instead of their school uniform jumper. Please note that students must still wear full uniform if substituting their school jumper for a Christmas themed jumper.

On Christmas Jumper Day we are supporting the amazing Charity Friends of Rosie, this charity is a volunteer led organisation that seeks to raise funds for ground-breaking cancer treatment for young people who have received a cancer diagnosis. The charity also supports families and young people through diagnosis and treatment.

If your son/daughter is wearing a festive jumper on the day we would simply ask that you donate through our parent pay website to support this amazing charity. Many thanks in advance for your generosity.

Top of the Achievement Points League

The list of bronze students is increasing daily and it fantastic to see so many students with their bronze badges and it is great to see the amazing scores in the list of the top achievers in each form below

T	H	O	M	A	S
Year 7					
Charlotte H 2270	Jacob B 2340	Abbie H 2440	Ellis P 2040	Eleanor L 1920	Erin L 2070
Year 8					
Lucy M 2270	Christopher M 2630	Maria B 2590	Florence S 2070	Carrie M 2780	Isla N 2140
Year 9					
Olivia K 2070	Jack R 1900	Francesca W 2000	Leyton W 2190	Alex D 1820	Reve MM 2060
Year 10					
Eid A 2360	Luca H 2130	Ben F 2210	Daisy N 2770	David W 2490	Rosin M 2260
Year 11					
Nathan V 1970	Mia P 1650	Abigail T 1750	Rory M 2030	Olivia T 2110	Annabel M 1880

St Thomas More RC College Fantasy Football League.

A Double Week to report due to the Amazon Prime midweek fixtures and some unexpected results meant some variable scoring from our Fantasy Managers.

Don't forget to make any changes to teams before the 12:30 kick off on Saturday between Crystal Palace and Liverpool.

League leader is Mr Turner who took the lead in Game week 14 and has maintained his position during the week to sit at the top of the league with 918 points

Game week 14 winner was

Clayton Latchford with 87 Points

Game week 15 winner was

Mr Sanderson with 63 Points

There is still time for students or staff to join the league to win the weekly award.

Students just need to create a Premier League account and a team at [Fantasy Premier League](#), [Official Fantasy Football Game of the Premier League](#) then they can join the school mini league named;

St Thomas More League

The league code is; wojosv

Alternatively, you can click on the link below to automatically join the league.

<https://fantasy.premierleague.com/leagues/auto-join/wojosv>

Finally

Please remember that you can contact school each weekday Monday to Friday either by calling 0161 336 2743 or emailing admin@stmcollege.org.uk during normal school hours, if you do want to visit school to talk to a member of staff that can of course be arranged but do please contact school prior to your journey so that mutually convenient time and date can be arranged for an appointment.

God bless

H Brophy

St Thomas More RC College - Term Dates 2024-2025

Term	First day	Last day	Pupil Days
Autumn half-term 1	Wednesday 4 th September	Friday 25 th October	38
Half-term holiday	Monday 28th October	Friday 1st November	
Autumn half-term 2	Monday 4 th November	Friday 20 th December	35
Christmas holiday	Monday 23rd December	Friday 3rd January	
Spring half-term 1	Tuesday 7 th January	Friday 14 th February	29
Half-term holiday	Monday 17th February	Friday 21st February	
Spring half-term 2	Monday 24 th February	Friday 4 th April	30
Easter holiday	Monday 7th April	Monday 21st April	
Summer half-term 1	Tuesday 22 nd April	Friday 23 rd May	23
Half-term holiday	Monday 26th May	Friday 30th April	
Summer half-term 2	Monday 2 nd June	Friday 18 th July	35
Total Pupil Days			190
Total Staff Days including INSET/Training that is listed below			195

Important Dates

Christmas Day (Bank Holiday): Wednesday 25th December 2024

Boxing Day (Bank Holiday): Thursday 26th December 2024

New Years Day (Bank Holiday): Wednesday 1st January 2025

Good Friday (Bank Holiday): Friday 18th April 2025

Easter Sunday: Sunday 20th April 2025

Easter Monday (Bank Holiday): Monday 21st April 2025

Bank Holidays: Monday 5th May (School Closed)

Monday 26th May (During Summer half-term holiday)

INSET Days

There are three INSET days (when school is closed to pupils) during the year but open for staff these are:

Monday 2th September 2024

Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Monday 6th January 2025

Disaggregated dates on Monday 21st July 2025 and Tuesday 22nd July 2025 will be used as 6 twilight insets

On the 20th December 2024 and 18th July 2025 the last days of Christmas and Summer term the school will close early to pupils at 12:15pm