

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the members of our community and their families a very Happy and Holy Christmas, it has been a long winter term and I know that students and staff are ready for the holiday but I would just like to congratulate them all on their hard work and determination this term. Thank you to our supportive parents and carers too, the staff in school are genuinely committed to running the best possible school with a calm, polite, respectful and purposeful environment and parent/carer support is crucial so that we can give every student the best possible opportunity to be successful.

Christmas

On Thursday we invited residents from local care homes for our Senior Citizens Christmas party which was a great success. Our guests were treated to some food and drink while being entertained by the GIFT team, choir, our soloists, and school musicians. Everyone had a great time and remarked on the lovely manners of our students and their considerable talents in the performing arts. We are very proud to be able to showcase the school in this way and it is fantastic to be able to contribute to the wider community.

On Wednesday the Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day was a lovely way to mark the festive season, the kitchen staff did a fantastic job of catering for over 500 Christmas Dinner orders and the quality was superb. It was fantastic to see so many students in their Christmas Jumpers or adding a festive touch to their school jumpers, all the students who took part were awarded "Christmas Spirit" Achievement points so that hopefully there is enough Christmas Spirit to make Father Christmas' Sleigh Fly on Christmas Eve!!! Thank you to all parents/carers for your kind donations to the Christmas Jumper Day fund for our nominated Childhood Cancer Treatment Charity "Friends of Rosie".

The Year 7 Christmas Card Art Competition has been a great success this year and the standard of the entries was absolutely phenomenal. Well done to all the students who submitted a design as selecting a winner from all the wonderful artwork was extremely difficult.

The winning design will be displayed on the school website to wish everyone in the local community a very Merry Christmas from everyone at St Thomas More RC College.

Winning Designer receiving a £20 Voucher: Amelia F

Special Mentions receiving a £10 Voucher

Isla Y, Jaiden B, and Ruben S.

St Mary's Foodbank.

Thank you for all the donations that we have received for St Mary's Foodbank, the amount of donations has been incredible and your generosity will help many families in need to have a much brighter Christmas this year, so thank you.

Congratulations to the Nia T in Year 7 whose family have won the keepsake voucher for www.memoryrevisited.co.uk. The raffle was extremely successful and all the funds have been donated to St Mary's Foodbank for their Christmas Appeal. Thank you to Ms Los for the generous gift of the voucher and thank you to all the families who entered the raffle with their kind donations.

Christmas Liturgies

Today the Christmas Liturgies were a lovely way to mark the end of term and the start of the Christmas Holidays. The message was very much about the true meaning of Christmas which is all about hope, charity and kindness. Christmas is an incredible time of the year but as a Catholic Community it is also vital to remember the things that are really important.

Thank you to all the staff and students who planned and delivered such a wonderful experience for staff and students alike.

I am so grateful to the choir, GIFT team, musicians, leaders and soloists who created a very joyful and prayerful liturgy. A special mention to Olivia W, in Year 10, as she sang beautifully and set an outstanding example to her year group and the rest of the school. It was also great to see the range of instruments that the students could play including the Piano, Saxophone, Trumpet, Electric Guitar, Drums, Violin and Cello.

I am really proud of these students for contributing so well to our community and for getting involved in these wider opportunities as it will help them significantly in their futures as it will give them a well-rounded experience and confidence for job or university interviews. Very well done!

Reminder: School re-opens for students on Thursday 4th January

Sporting Success

Well done to Ben A-C in Year 11 who this week has signed for a Port Vale Professional Football scholarship this week, this really is a huge achievement for and very well deserved after working so hard after the last two years.

Ben is an excellent student in school and his commitment to both his football and his Education indicates a very bright future ahead. Congratulations Ben

Geography Trip

Mrs McNairn this week took budding Geographers from every year group to visit the map rooms at Manchester University. The students selected had a fantastic experience on the trip but what was really pleasing to hear was that all the University Staff said that they had never met such polite, well behaved and intelligent school students on a school trip. This was lovely feedback and the students were a credit to the school.

Top of the Achievement Points League

The amount of achievement points gathered so far this year already shows how talented and hardworking our students are and listed below are the top achievers in each form and the top net point collectors for the last 7 days.

Well done everyone, everyone present on the list had a festive delivery of Haribo, but if anyone was missed make sure they come and see me during the first week back.

T	H	O	M	A	S
Year 7 Total					
Charlotte H 2500	Jacob B 2490	Abbie H 2570	Ellis P 2170	Eleanor L 2060 Kyle W 2060	Erin L 2240

Year 7 Weekly Winner					
Charlotte H 180	Isabelle P 120	Steven C 135	Milena R 145	Kyle W 140	Lennie V 190
Year 8 Total					
Miracle O 2450	Christopher M 2870	Maria B 2770	Florence S 2440	Carrie M 3010	Isla N 2310
Year 8 Weekly Winner					
Miracle O 200	Christopher M 190	Rachel L 200	Florence S 370	Lilly W 270	William C 220
Year 9 Total					
Olivia K 2120	Jack R 2015	Francesca W 2090	Leyton W 2260	Alex D 1930	Anna R 2310
Year 9 Weekly Winner					
Isla C 90 Charlie H 90	Oliver H 120	Dominik C 110	Olivia M 90	Harry C 165	Anna R 240
Year 10 Total					
Eid A 2550	Luca H 2180	Ben F 2390	Daisy N 2930	David W 2600	Rosin M 2350
Year 10 Weekly Winner					
Eid A 170	Hope C 60 Dylan M 60	Kim F 140	Daisy N 140	Owen W 110	Charlie C 160
Year 11 Total					
Nathan V 2140	Mia P 1760	Abigail T 1830	Rory M 2170	Olivia T 2230	Annabel M 1960
Year 11 Weekly Winner					
Nathan V 160	Harrison T 140	Jack H 110 Kelsey P 110	Anjola T 140 Thomas W 140	Abigail T 120 Olivia T 120	Phoebe W 120

St Thomas More RC College Fantasy Football League.

A change at the top of the school league as we move into the festive period, thank you to all the students and staff who are involved in the league it certainly is keeping student's interest.

Don't forget to make any changes to teams before the Friday night kick off this evening between Nottingham Forrest and Tottenham

League leader now back to back to myself (976 points) with a 10 point lead over Mr Turner.

Game week 16 winner was

Clayton L Year 7 with 64 Points (Haribo here too)!!

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>

Year 10 Work Experience

On Thursday during assembly our work experience provider called “Our Futures” came into college and launched work experience programme for year 10 students. The work experience placements will take place at the end of the summer term.

Further information is now available online on Satchel: One pupils have been given paper copies of the forms to complete. The deadline for the return of these forms is Friday 19th January 2024.

Mr Wright is available each day afterschool in room 42 to support pupils with any questions or tips on how to source placements, as students are advised to arrange their own placements in their chosen area of interest to make the experience as worthwhile as possible.

Leaders are Readers

Well done to the Leaders are Readers group who launched a very successful book swapping scheme in school this week after they were inspired by the book they read in their book club.

The book swap will be a great support to all Year groups as we launch our Sparx reader program with Year 7.

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