

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you, Parents and Carers, for your support over the course of this half-term, even though it has been a short one I know that our hard-working students and staff will be ready for a well-deserved break next week. The quality of the behaviour and teaching and learning that I have witnessed when touring the schools has just been excellent so thank you to the students and the staff for your superb efforts over January and February.

Trips and Visits: Ambassadors for our school

There have been lots of wonderful trips and visits this half term to increase students experiences and engagement with their subjects in school including 3 trips this week alone, Year 9 at Chester Zoom, Year 10 Media Students at the Coronation Street Exhibition and Year 8 at Quarry Bank Mill.

On all of the trips it is a great tribute to the school and the students that members of the public and representatives of the places that we are visiting comment on how polite, well-mannered and intelligent our students and your sons and daughters are. I am so proud that the young people of our community are such excellent ambassadors for the school and demonstrate the high standards insist on in school when they are outside the classroom.

On the Quarry Bank Mill trip one of the National Trust Volunteers commented that "The students of St Thomas More are such good students, it is a pleasure to lead a group of such lovely and enthusiastic pupils"

Please remember that in order for students to represent the school or attend trips and visits they must remain in overall positive More (achievement) points, there are only a very tiny number of students with overall negative behaviour points and it is great to see the evidence of those students who are working exceptionally hard to get back to positive points.

Faith in Action in the Parish

Father Joseph Gee from our parish St Mary and St John Fisher has asked me to share with you the following important message about the youth Faith in Action group that is a wonderful opportunity for our young people.

"Dear Parents/carers of students in St Thomas More RC College, as I am sure you are aware from the weekly Parish newsletter, the children's Faith in Action Masses are now becoming embedded at St Mary's and take place on the fourth Sunday of each month at 11am Mass. These are Masses for young people created and led by young people. The only time this will change is if one of the Feast Day Masses falls on a different Sunday/day to this. These are Christ the King, Christmas Eve Vigil and Palm Sunday. We look forward to seeing as many young people as possible at these wonderful celebrations."

Lenten Charity

During the half term holiday, the Catholic Church will mark the start of lent with Ash Wednesday on the 14th February. When we return to school on Monday 19th February Lent will therefore be underway and we will again be supporting The Christie Cancer Hospital Charity as part of our Lenten effort. The details have already been shared with students and I know they will be keen to raise as much money as they can for this very worthwhile cause. The theme this year is the number 7 as 2024 marks the 7th year that the school has been the representative of the Christie, over this time period the staff, students and their families have raised thousands and thousands of pounds to support the life-saving work and research conducted at the hospital.

There have been lots of fantastic fundraising ideas on the theme of 7 already including a 7km run, a 7 hour sponsored silence, 7 hours of sponsored revision, cake sales with each student in a form bringing 7 small cakes, etc. Thank you in advance for your support.

Year 11: Revision

Year 11 are impressing all the teachers in school at the moment with their dedication to their studies and their performance in the recent mock examinations.

The final summer GCSE exams will be here before they know it and as they start in May there are only 2 full months in school before they begin. I know the vast majority of Year 11 have already started their revision for the exams in earnest but it is now really important that all Year 11 students are completing revision every week because there is no substitute for hard-work in preparation for these important exams. We do know that revision can be challenging for students to complete so sometimes they might need a little nudge or support at home to get going, please always remember that staff are available in school for your child to talk to about what they need to revise and the best strategies for effective revision. We know they have had this information already about how to revise in-form time and assemblies but staff are more than happy to go through it with them again if needed so please remind them to ask for help if it is required.

Top of the Achievement Points League

A fantastic effort this week and year so far from the following amazing students and all their classmates who are doing so well with their education and collecting achievement points

T	H	O	M	A	S
Year 7 Total					
Charlotte H 3710	Jacob B 4080	Abbie H 3760	Ellis P 3240	Eleanor L 3720	Erin L 3430
Year 7 Weekly Winner					
Aiden F 180	Sam S 360	Abbie H 130	Ellis P 120	Charlotte L 140	Erin L 120
Year 8 Total					
Miracle O 4160	Christopher M 4080	Rachel L 3810	Florence S 4280	Carrie M 4930	Evie B 3590
Year 8 Weekly Winner					
Miracle O 140	Doreen A 370	Rachel L Oliver D 130	Florence S Timmy S 210	Carrie M Jake T 190	Alfred K 120
Year 9 Total					
Olivia K 3370	Jack R 3165	Dominik C 3090	Leyton W 3180	Alexander D 2870	Anna R 3210
Year 9 Weekly Winner					
Paul K 130	Sam A 110	Emma H 120	Leyton W 100	Harry C Francesca D 110	Eva P 140
Year 10 Total					
Eid A 3510	Luca H 2980	Ben F 3320	Daisy N 4100	David W 3540	Megan T 3260
Year 10 Weekly Winner					
Tymon N 110	Amy E 130	Meida K 130	Kaja S 110	Poppy C 120	Megan Mc 140
Year 11 Total					

Nathan V 2960	Mia P 2150	Delano M 2340	Rory M 2930	Olivia T 2870	Annabel M 2480
Year 11 Weekly Winner					
Nathan V 170	Aleksandra Z 110	Kelsey P 110	Thomas W 150	Olivia T 110	Annabel M 110

Special Mention to three fantastic Year 7 Students.

I have been contacted by a member of the public who is full of praise for three of our Year 7 students, Filip, Nicholas and Stanislaw. These community minded young men noticed on their way home that some electrical wires near a primary school had become damaged and were possibly dangerous. The boys then contacted the authorities and a fire engine then arrived in short order to make the area safe.

Well done to these students who sum up perfectly the ethos and culture of our community in that we should always try to look out for others and do the right thing.

St Thomas More RC College Fantasy Football League.

Don't forget to make any changes to your team before 11am tomorrow, before the early kick off between Manchester City and Everton.

Three assists and a goal for my team captain Ollie Watkins saw my team STM 11 catapulted back to the top of the league with **1397 points!!!**

Mr Turner is close behind but not very happy!!!

The top student player in school for gameweek 23 was Alex D with a massive 106 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>

Reminder: Resource Base Consultation: School Website

Following discussions with Tameside Local Authority the School Governors have taken the decision to launch a consultation on a proposal to admit no more students to the ASD Resource Base from September 2024 onwards. This would eventually result in no additional students being placed in the Resource Base by the Local Authority, the consultation proposal spells out that this would mean the eventual closure of the resource base after five years.

Please note: As the resource base will stay open for student currently on roll, all current students within the Resource Base would finish their Education at St Thomas More RC College.

The consultation document is being shared widely and we are seeking to encourage as many people as possible to make their views/comments known. Full details of the consultation proposal and all additional information including on how you can make your views known are available on the school website at the following link.

<https://www.stmcollege.org.uk/resource-base-consultation>

The Consultation now closes on Monday 19th February, the deadline has been extended by request

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

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2024 Year of Prayer

As you may be aware in the Catholic Church 2025 has been designated as a Jubilee Year by Pope Francis with 'Pilgrims of Hope' as the theme.

The Holy Father has therefore asked that 2024 be year of prayer, as a preparatory year for the Jubilee.

The Gospel on Sunday tells the story of Jesus healing a person with leprosy so the prayer below seems fitting for the week ahead.

Prayer

Loving Lord, you reach out your hand to all who need your healing touch.

Help us to reach out to others with love and acceptance, building your Kingdom here in our families and communities.

Amen.

Key Parent/Carer Dates

Please note some dates particularly trips may be provisional and subject to change.

Event	Date
Year 9 Science Trip Chester Zoo Trip	6 th February 2024
Year 8 History Quarry Bank Mill Trip	8 th February 2024
Math Pi Day	14 th March 2024
Year 9 Parents Evening	21 st March 2024
Year 9 Pathways Evening (Options)	18 th April 2024
GCSE MFL Speaking Exams	18 th April to 3 rd May 2024
Duke of Edinburgh Silver Expedition	26 th April to 28 th April 2024
GCSE Art Exam (Over 3 Days)	29 th April to 1 st May 2024
Year 8 Parents Evening	2 nd May 2024
GCSE Exams Begin	7 th May 2024
Year 10 London Trip	13 th June to 15 th June 2024
GCSE Exams End (Provisional)	19 th June 2024
Year 10 Mock Exams	20 th June to 27 th June 2024
Year 10 Geography Trip	28 th June 2024
Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition	21 st June to 23 rd June 2024
Year 6 Induction Day	4 th July 2024
Rewards Evening Year 10-7	11 th July 2024
Sports Day Week	15 th July to 19 th July 2024
Work Experience Week	15 th July to 19 th July 2024
Celebration Day	22 nd July 2024
GCSE Results Day	22 nd August 2024