

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been great to welcome the students back to school this week and our hardworking students have made a great start to the half-term and it is clear to see that Year 11s are using their time now really usefully as they revise and prepare for their Summer Examinations that will be here before we know it.

We have started our Lenten Effort in school this week to raise money for the Christie Cancer Hospital and with all the fundraising activities that the students have planned we are hoping that this will be a record-breaking year for such a worthwhile cause. Families can make donations to the school charity fund via ParentPay and Mrs Halligan and staff are also raising money on a just giving page for their sponsored walk for the Christie, the just giving page for the sponsored walk can be found at:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/rebecca-halligan-1707255321294?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Frebecca-halligan-1707255321294&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share

Thank you to all families for your support in our charity and social justice work, having an appreciation of the importance of helping others in need, even if you don't know them, is such an important part of developing a kind and caring society.

With Ash Wednesday taking place over the half-term holidays we were very pleased to invite Father Peter Hapgood-Strickland and Sister Dolores into school to celebrate Mass for the Year 9 students to mark the start of Lent, the students behaved wonderfully and created a lovely prayerful atmosphere during the service. As a Catholic School it is so important that we can have the opportunity to celebrate Mass together so thank you to Father Peter and Sister Dolores.

St Thomas More RC College - Careers Fair 2024

We are very excited to be hosting our annual careers fair on Wednesday 13th March 2024.

We anticipate many providers (from post-16 providers, to local businesses, to careers guidance and more) to be in attendance! The event is open to all parent(s)/carer(s) and students from 2:45pm to 3:40pm. We hope to see you there!

Do you own a business or work for a company and are interested in hosting a stall at the careers fair? Please email the school office or follow this link (<https://forms.office.com/e/KrbV0kdFSK>) to request a free stall.

Mobile Phones in Schools

The Department for Education and Government this week have launched their reinforced guidance to schools that recommends the banning of Mobile Phones in all Primary and Secondary Schools in England due to the negative effects that mobile phone use can have on learning and school culture during the day. [Mobile phones in schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mobile-phones-in-schools)

I am pleased to say that due to our high standards and expectations that there is no need to change our policy in school as students already know that they are not allowed Mobile Phones or similar devices in school and if they are seen or heard they are confiscated. This policy has protected teaching and learning in our school for many years and as always, I am thankful for your support.

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 3840	Jacob B 4320	Abbie H 4120	Ellis P 3410	Eleanor L 3810	Erin L 3660
Year 7 Weekly Winner					
Georgia O 200	Jacob B Zuzanna F 2010	Abbie H 320	Myles T 170	Aerin L Layla SG 190	Hugo S 250
Year 8 Total					
Miracle O 4370	Christopher M 4320	Maria B 4060	Florence S 4530	Carrie M 5370	Evie B 3710
Year 8 Weekly Winner					
Evie A Lucy M Bobby MF 130	Doreen A 190	Maria B 250	Timmy S 160	Carrie M 300	Alfred K 200
Year 9 Total					
Olivia K 3480	Jack R 3355	Dominik C 3200	Leyton W 3250	Francesca D 3040	Anna R 3350
Year 9 Weekly Winner					
Heidi R 120	Sam A 250	Joana D 130	Lauren L 130	Francesca D 180	Anna R 100
Year 10 Total					
Eid A 3600	Luca H 3060	Ben F 3420	Daisy N 4270	David W 3720	Megan T 3390
Year 10 Weekly Winner					
Tymon N Atlanta R 110	Amy E 80	Pippa SM 150	Daisy N 100	Jonjo C 130	Claire G Isiah P 120
Year 11 Total					
Nathan V 3110	Mia P Harrison T 2180	Delano M 2410	Rory M 3100	Olivia T 3000	Annabel M 2620
Year 11 Weekly Winner					
Nathan V 130	Charlie NK 80	Amelia O 100	Kenzie S 140	Christelle N 110	Annabel M 130

Special Mention to Sam H Year 7.

We are incredibly proud of Sam H in Year 7 who was selected to represent Manchester City on tour to play in the Abu Dhabi Cup in the United Arab Emirates on 18th and 19th February 2023.

I have seen some of the footage and Sam scored an absolutely incredible goal in one of the matches and with his determination and hard work he is an excellent example to the other students in school.

Well done Sam!

Special Mention of Zuzanna F and Fern S in Year 7

We are very proud of these two Year 7s too as they participated in the English-Speaking Union's Performing Shakespeare Competition, they were so successful that they have made it through to the next round in a highly competitive environment.

It is fantastic to see the students making the best use of their gifts and talents, well done Zuzanna and Fern!

The Importance of Sleep for the success of your child

I have written to you before about the importance of home and school working in partnership to make sure that students are getting enough sleep so that they can be successful in school.

Thank you to all the parents and carers that are actively involved in making sure that their sons/daughters have enough sleep for school as we see that well rested students are happier, more able to concentrate and study well, they also find it easier to regulate their feelings and emotions all of which helps them to be successful in school and in life.

Parents and carers may be interested to know therefore that previous research into the importance of sleep has now been backed up by further new scientific research that shows that more sleep can improve success and academic outcomes and that regularly disrupted sleep can actually affect the structure of the brain which is why a lack of sleep may be linked to lower academic achievement and associated concerns with mental health.

The research can be found at the following link but it is good to know that by making sure that our children are getting enough sleep we are doing the right thing even if it can lead to challenges at bedtimes on some occasions. Thank you for your support for the wellbeing of your child.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/brb3.2859>

St Thomas More RC College Fantasy Football League.

Don't forget to make any changes to your team before 1:30pm tomorrow, before the 3pm kick offs

Half term and a double game-week for 4 teams saw lots of our managers collecting points but not quite enough to take over my team STM 11 who are sitting in number one position with **1575 points!!!**

The top school players for gameweek 25 were Mr Turner and Segun O with a massive 103 points

The top school players for gameweek 24 were Owen W and Jack K with 97 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: 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.”

Reminder 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.

Please note the provisional date for the Year 11 Prom Is 19th June 2024

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

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 prayer below is an appropriate prayer for the start of Lent as we focus on about helping others in society

Prayer

Compassionate God, you are always with us.

Help us to walk alongside one another in challenging times, and to ease one another's burdens through our thoughts and actions.

Amen.

Key Parent/Carer Dates

Please note some dates particularly trips may 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 11 Prom (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