

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been fantastic to see all the different form groups who have been involved in the Lenten Effort Charity work this week, there have been cake sales, reading challenges and lots of money raised for the Christie Cancer Hospital by our fantastic community. Well done every one.

National issue of Vaping by Young People

The Government has recently proposed the introduction of new legislation aimed at tackling the national problem of an increase in a small but significant young people using vapes across the country.

Information on the Governments approach can be found at:

<https://healthmedia.blog.gov.uk/2024/01/30/creating-a-smokefree-generation-and-tackling-youth-vaping-what-you-need-to-know/>

This is what the Government guidance says about young people and the dangers of vaping:

What is the danger of children using vapes?

Children should never vape. The number of children using vapes has tripled in the last three years, and the bulk of that increase has been driven by disposables. The evidence is clear that vapes should not be used by, or targeted at, kids – due to the risk and unknown harms involved. That is why the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health has said disposable vapes should be banned.

The active ingredient in most vapes is nicotine, which when inhaled, is a highly addictive drug. The addictive nature of nicotine means that a user can become dependent on vapes, especially if they use them regularly.

We have a duty to protect children from these potential harms, which is why we will be banning disposable vapes and bringing forward measures in the Bill to restrict vape flavours, displays and packaging. Reusable and refillable vapes will continue to play a valuable role in helping adults to stop smoking.

We take our responsibility to protect students from harm and students are aware that if they are found with a vape in their possession or are seen vaping that they risk further serious action including suspension, we take this tough stance so that students know that vaping is unacceptable and so that other students don't feel pressurised into trying vaping because there isn't a clear message from school.

Although we have not had concerning incidents of students using vapes on the school site we have now taken the precautionary step of installing vape detectors in the main school bathrooms. The detectors when operational will send an email alert to relevant staff of the detection of vaping so that staff can respond appropriately. Students will be informed of this additional measure that we are putting in place in Assemblies next week, we are taking this approach so that we can support the health and wellbeing of students and the Government's zero tolerance approach to vaping in young people.

Top of the Achievement Points League

Another fantastic week of collecting Achievement points

T	H	O	M	A	S
Year 7 Total					
Charlotte H 4010	Jacob B 4480	Abbie H 4340	Ellis P 3550	Eleanor L 3920	Erin L 3810
Year 7 Weekly Winner					
Aiden F 170	Scarlett B Zuzanna F 130	Abbie H 180	Myles T 120	Charlotte L 140	Ruby W 240
Year 8 Total					
Miracle O 4590	Christopher M 4450	Maria B Rachel L 4280	Florence S 4790	Carrie M 5560	Evie B 3890
Year 8 Weekly Winner					
Lucy M 190	Anyia S140	Olivia D 210	Timmy S 170	Carrie M 190	Erica S 250
Year 9 Total					
Olivia K 3600	Jack R 3485	Dominik C 3300	Leyton W 3410	Francesca D 3160	Anna R 3470
Year 9 Weekly Winner					
Olivia K Georgie A Isla C 100	Sam A 180	Emma H 130	Leyton W 160	Harry C 110	Archie R 100
Year 10 Total					
Eid A 3750	Luca H 3250	Ben F 3570	Daisy N 4430	David W 3900	Megan T 3570
Year 10 Weekly Winner					
Eid A 130	Luca H 150	Ben F 120	Daisy N 140	Akiel U 150	Mehan T 140
Year 11 Total					
Nathan V 3390	Harrison T 2420	Delano M 2540	Rory M 3270	Olivia T 3200	Annabel M 2750
Year 11 Weekly Winner					
Nathan V 250	Millie S 180	Cameron M Kelsey P 120	David S 230	Matthew H 210	Phoebe W 160

Special Mention to Joe W Year 11.

Well done to Joe in Year 11 who competed in the kickboxing GB nationals in Nottingham., he achieved a gold and 2 silver medals so is now officially a junior British kickboxing champion.

This fantastic performance means Joe has achieved a place on the GB team and will be representing the Country at the World Championships in August.

We also wish Joe luck as he is in the Netherlands this weekend competing in the high level European Kickboxing Competition the Yokosu Dutch open 2024. Well done and Good Luck Joe.

Special Mention to Libby T Year 11

Congratulations to Libby in Year 11 who went to Las Vegas in America this week to represent Wigan Athletic Women and Girls football team.

Libby is an incredible footballer player and is interested in considering a football scholarship in the United States, it is fantastic that Libby has been able to represent the huge amount of talent in the women's and girl's football game on an international stage. Well done Libby.

Reminder: 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.

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

A tough week to collect points last week with some top players misfiring, I am still just hanging onto the lead ahead of the chasing pack with 1638 **points!!!**

The top school players for gameweek 26 were Mr Turner and Owen W with 81 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.

This week's prayer was shared by CAFOD as part of their weekly reflection.

Prayer

God of wisdom,

help us to build meaningful relationships with one another, with the earth and with you,

so that together we may build a fairer world and proclaim to all people the greatness of your love.

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 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