

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to wish all our students and families a very Happy and Holy Easter. Everyone in school has worked exceptionally hard this term and I know everyone is looking forward to a well-deserved rest during the Easter Holidays.

Our school community is in a fantastic place with

- excellent student behaviour,
- high standards and expectations,
- fantastic exam results that are among the best in the North West,
- excellent reports from Ofsted and the Salford Diocese,
- and exciting opportunities for student development and extra-curricular activities.

This is only possible due to the amazing commitment of our students, the incredible work of all the school staff and of course the support from our amazing parents and carers. Thank you to parents and carers for all you have done this term to make sure the students are ready to learn in school by making sure they are smartly dressed in their uniform, well rested with enough sleep and for raising them so well so they are polite, well-mannered and resilient with a great attitude to education and their learning.

Holy Week Liturgies

Thank you to the Religious Education Team, the Music Department, the GIFT Team, Musicians, Singers and Readers for a lovely Holy Week Liturgy this morning that was attended by all students.

All Year Groups were exceptionally well behaved which created a very reflective and prayerful atmosphere which was fantastic to be a part of. Well done to everyone in our Outstanding Catholic Community.

Lenten Effort – Charity Work – Epilepsy Awareness Day

The staff, students and families have been incredible with the Lenten Effort this year and we have raised over £5000 for the Christie Cancer Hospital with some more donations still to arrive. There have been lots of ingenious ways of raising money this year and the fact that our community can see the benefit of helping those in need shows what a wonderful place this is.

I am very proud of the whole community.

Epilepsy Awareness Day – Well done to Francesca D in year 9 for organising and supporting the events for Epilepsy Awareness Day this week, Francesca is an amazing student and we are so proud of her. We have had a fantastic message of thanks from a parent who was diagnosed with Epilepsy when they were a child and they were full of praise for Francesca for doing such a great job of raising awareness of the condition. Francesca raised over £200 on the day that will be donated to support ongoing medical research, support and treatment for epilepsy.

End of term

Please be aware that the school term ends today, Thursday 28th March at the normal time, school is closed tomorrow on Good Friday which is a Bank Holiday.

School reopens for students on Tuesday 16th April at the normal time.

Tameside NHS Children's Nutrition Team Newsletter

Please find attached a copy of the April newsletter from the Children's Nutrition Team, as it includes some adverts for local free events taking place over the Easter break.

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 is now only 1 full month 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

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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.

A prayer for Good Friday

Jesus, you are my Lord and my God,

you endured such pain and suffering for me, you died for love of me.

I kneel beneath your cross and beg for mercy.

Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

O blood and water flowing from your side, sanctify and cleanse me.

Lord, I love you with all my heart and place all my trust in you.

Amen.

Key Parent/Carer Dates

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

Event	Date
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