

Dear Parents/Carers

It was lovely to welcome the new Year 7 Students to our school community on induction day this week and all the Year 6 students have certainly made an excellent impression on staff in school. We are looking forward to seeing them again in September as full members of our school community and it was also fantastic to be able to meet their parents/carers at new intake evening last Tuesday.

School Mock General Election

We took the opportunity of the General Election that was held yesterday to give the students an experience of the democratic process by holding a school mock election in the main hall with ballot papers listing all the candidates standing in the Gorton and Denton Constituency.

Mr Wright the school's returning officer was able to report at the end of voting that the school community had voted the winning party as Labour who is represented by Andrew Gwynne in our constituency. In school Labour was the largest party with 39% of the vote. The voter turnout across all years for pupils was 88.3%! Year 7 attained the highest voter turnout with 91.3%!

Many thanks to Mr Wright for organising such a great experience for the students and to the stewards' team who staffed the ballot boxes and electoral roll during the day. Thank you as well to all the staff who supervised students while voting took place and to the site staff who worked really hard to turn the assembly hall into a fully functioning Polling Station.

Year 10 College Taster Days

The Two College Taster Days for Year 10 at Tameside College and Clarendon College were a great success.

I am told by the staff attending the days that the students were a real credit to themselves, their families and our school!

Mr Wright the trip leader was approached by several members of staff at the college, from student ambassadors, college tutors, and even a member of the college SLT to praise our pupils for their conduct, manners, respect and engagement through the day.

There were lots of activities including building a cardboard bridge to support your own bodyweight, and of course access to taster sessions in brand new subjects such as Law.

Well done to Year 10 for representing the school so well.

Tameside Athletics

Well done to all the superb student athletes who represented the school this week at the Tameside Athletic Tournament, there were many brilliant individual performances with medals in individual events but it was amazing to see that overall the whole athletic team performed so well.

The girls team came overall SECOND across the 14 secondary schools in Tameside and the boys team came FOURTH but were only 2 points off a tie for THIRD place.

Well done to all the competitors

I had a fantastic message from a member of staff from another school who was at the event that reads....

I had the pleasure of watching the Tameside athletics competition today at Sport City. I wanted to take the opportunity to tell you that the conduct and behaviour of the St Thomas More pupils was exemplary, it was clear that they had great respect for the staff and their team members. It was wonderful to see such great team spirit and so many happy children!

Please pass on my congratulations to all the competitors, they wore their uniform with pride and were great ambassadors for your school!

End of Term

A reminder that the school year ends on Tuesday 23rd July, school will close at 12:15 for the start of the Summer Holidays.

The school reopens on Wednesday 4th September for all students.

Year 10 Work Experience

Year 10 Work experience takes place from Monday 15th July to Friday 19th July, students should have all the details that they need for a successful week but if parents/carers have any questions or queries then please contact school to speak to Mr Wright.

Year 10 Students will return to school on Monday 22nd July in full uniform and be in normal lessons on the Monday and Tuesday, there will be one session on Monday 22nd July where students will complete a review of their work experience placement.

Celebration Event

Monday 22nd July will be our celebration Event for students in Year 7 to 9.

As usual the day involves permission for Year 7-9 to wear appropriate non-uniform and a period of time spent on enjoyable activities on the school field such as inflatables or team sports. More details about the day will be sent in due course.

Year 10 will have their celebration event next half term before they begin their Year 11 Mock exams, in previous years students have been to the cinema, gone ten-pin bowling or gone out for a meal as a year group.

Please be aware that as usual students who are in overall negative MORE points will **not** be able to participate in school events such as this and students in negative points will not be able to take part in the celebration activities on the school field on Monday 22nd July. Students in Year 7-9 on Monday 22nd July in negative points will be able to wear appropriate non-uniform but they will complete appropriate learning activities inside school rather than taking part in the event on the school field during their year groups allocated time.

Inspirational Talks

Today the Year 7s were visited by the CEO and Founder of Place Capital Group who was delivering a speech on life, career and aspirations. The students really enjoyed the engaging presentation and our guest was very impressed by our students' intelligence and excellent behaviour.

A small number of Year 9 and Year 10 students also were involved in a practical workshop with the Royal Exchange theatre company today that was a fantastic experience.

Top of the Achievement Points League

Well done to all the students who are getting so many positive achievement points in school, fantastic effort!!

T	H	O	M	A	S
Year 7 Total					
Aidan F 6820	Jacob B 7510	Abbie H 6150	Ellis P 5810	Eleanor L 6090	Erin L 6400
Year 7 Weekly Winner					
Charlotte H 160	Alex D Tanzil A 120	Fern S 190	Oscar S 110	Eleanor L 140	Mitchelle N 190
Year 8 Total					
Miracle O 7080	Doreen A 7630	Maria B 6780	Florence S 6750	Carrie M 9130	Evie B 6870
Year 8 Weekly Winner					
Brooke D 330	Doreen A 220	Maria B 170	Oliver T James G 120	Carrie M 390	Erica S 250
Year 9 Total					
Olivia K 6260	Sam A 6080	Dominik C 5780	Leyton W 5840	Alice O'C 5045	Anna R 5550
Year 9 Weekly Winner					
Paul K 240	Sam A Jack R 240	Dominik C 140	Leyton W 160	Harry C 250	Anna R James H Jakub K Maisie L 100
Year 10 Total					
Eid A 6410	Luca H 5150	Ben F 5850	Daisy N 7030	David W 6390	Megan T 6180
Year 10 Weekly Winner					
Alex P 230	Ryan F 130	Pippa SM Meida 150	Kaja S 130	Charlie G 90	Isiah P 290

Reminder: St Thomas More RC College Summer Foodbank Appeal

This year we are once again supporting the St Mary's Foodbank "Hungry Holidays" Appeal, that aims to ensure that families in the local area who are in need over the long Summer Holiday can get access to healthy nutritious food if they find themselves in challenging circumstances.

Students/Families are being asked to donate non-perishable items such as Powdered Milk, Tea/Coffee, Instant Noodles, Tinned Soup, Cereals, Tinned Goods, Rice, Pasta, Crisps and non-liquid toiletries such as bars of soap.

Year 7 and 8 can bring in any items to school on the 11th July and Year 9 and 10 can drop off items in school on the 12th July.

Please do support this very worthwhile charity if you are able.

Reminder Uniform (pre-loved)

We are aware that the cost of school uniform can be a significant consideration for parents/carers so last year we reviewed our school uniform policy with affordability in mind, the updated policy is available on the school website policy documents page.

For parents/carers who are finding purchasing uniform challenging we can on occasion offer financial support, but each year we go further and seek to provide good quality second hand uniform for free or a small school fund donation.

If you do have any unwanted uniform at home that is in good condition then please do consider donating it to school for redistribution, we are especially interested in blazers, jumpers, ties and school PE Kit.

Any items for donation can be brought to the school office and over the summer we will arrange a pre-owned uniform collection event.

Thank you to all those that have already donated items of uniform.

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.

As today marks the results of the General Election it may be appropriate to recall the prayer that is said at the start of each sitting of Parliament.

Prayer for Parliament

Lord, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our King and his government, to Members of Parliament and all in positions of responsibility, the guidance of your Spirit.

May they never lead the nation wrongly through love of power, desire to please, or unworthy ideals but laying aside all private interests and prejudices keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all in society.

Amen

Key Parent/Carer Dates

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

Event	Date
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
Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Qualifying Expedition	19 th July to 20 th July 2024
Celebration Day	22 nd July 2024
GCSE Results Day	22 nd August 2024