

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been fantastic to welcome back all the students this academic year and the Year 7 students have settled in magnificently to their first week at secondary school. I have spoken to all year groups in assembly this week about the importance of high standards in all aspects of school life including learning in lessons and uniform, it is our high expectations that allows our students to achieve so highly and perform so well in school in a calm, polite and respectful culture. Thank you for your support in ensuring that your sons and daughters have returned to school well prepared for the year ahead. The students are well rested and eager to learn and we are all aware of the importance of young people getting enough sleep every night to make the most of the opportunities that they receive every day.

Congratulations to Year 11 Leavers

Very well done to our Year 11 Leavers who received fantastic exam results during the Summer holidays with an impressive 78% of Students gaining a grade 9-4 in both Maths and English GCSE.

81% of students gained a 9-4 grade in Maths and 86% gained a grade 9-4 in English.

These results are a testament to the hard work of the students and the dedication of their teachers, the figures once again confirm our position as one of the leading schools in Tameside and the North West, and adds to our proud record of high academic achievement that is based on our culture of excellence and our highly challenging curriculum.

Congratulations class of 2024!

PE Uniform - Shorts

As is often the case at the start of the year there are often questions about the requirements of the school uniform and we have had a number of queries about suitable shorts in PE. The school PE kit is for simple black shorts for PE (not cycling shorts), the shorts don't require an STM Logo or branding and this is in an attempt to keep school uniform costs as low as possible for parents/carers.

3G Pitch Construction Project: Site Safety

We are very excited that next week the construction teams will be on site in school to start work on building our new floodlit 3G sports pitch. The project will take between 3 to 4 months to complete so we are hoping it will be finished by Christmas, weather permitting.

During the construction period there will be significant areas of the school yard and field fenced off to allow access for construction vehicles. Students will be reminded though in assemblies next week to be sensible and vigilant when arriving and leaving school as inevitably the construction traffic will make the entrance to school busier than usual, although there will be a restriction where possible on construction traffic access at the start and end of the school day.

Open Evening: Early Finish

Our Open Evening for prospective parents/carers and students will take place on Thursday 26th September 6pm to 8pm.

As is usual practice school will close early on the day of Open Evening (26th September) at 12:15 to facilitate the organisation that is required to open the school to many hundreds of parents/carers and their children.

Further information will be provided about buses that are available for students to travel home in on the day in due course

St Thomas More RC College Fantasy Football League.

The school fantasy football league was a great success last year with lots of students and staff taking part.

With a great deal of luck I am the current overall school leader with 241 points.

G Mclean Year 8 was the Game week 4 winner with a massive 90 points.

There is still time to join the league especially now the Premier league is on a break for international football and there are weekly winners for every gameweek.

Once you have created a Premier League account and a team at [Fantasy Premier League, Official Fantasy Football Game of the Premier League](https://fantasy.premierleague.com/) you can join the school mini league named;

St Thomas More League

The league code is; v25n52

Alternatively, you can click on the link below to automatically join the league.

<https://fantasy.premierleague.com/leagues/auto-join/v25n52>

New Staff

Welcome to the following new staff who have joined us this September:

Mrs S Kirk Curriculum Leader Design and Technology

Mrs A Milnes Teacher of RE

Mrs A Morris Teacher of RE with additional responsibility for Liturgy

Mr P Baryla Teacher of Maths (maternity cover)

Ms V Froggatt Admin Team

Mr P Freeman Teacher of Music (maternity cover)

Mr A Levick Teacher of Geography (maternity cover)

Mr C Presciado Cover Supervisor

Due to the excellent reputation of our school we are always fortunate to be able to attract highly qualified professional staff and I wish all our new colleagues a warm welcome to our school community.

Good-byes

At the end of the term we said goodbye to colleagues who successfully gained promotion in a new school or who have taken the decision to retire after many years of service in Education.

We said a fond fare well to the following staff with our very best wishes for the future.

Mr K Smith, Mr C Sanderson, Mrs E Walker, Ms G Slattery, Mr J Briscoe, Mrs S Broadbent and Mr P Greenhall.

We also said farewell to Mrs J Stobart who has taken the difficult decision to take ill health retirement following her diagnosis of Leukaemia at the start of 2022. Mrs Stobart has been incredible in the way that she has battled against this devastating disease and has been part of the inspiration for the school raising thousands of pounds for the Christie Cancer Hospital.

Mrs Stobart will be missed hugely in the school community as she is a wonderful science teacher and was warm and caring colleague who was respected by staff and students alike. We wish Mrs Stobart every happiness in the future as she embarks on the next steps of her recovery and spends time with her loving family. I know that Mrs Stobart will keep in touch with the school and we continue to pray for her and her family.

Pre-Loved Uniform

Thank you for the kindness of all the families who donated items of uniform for our pre-loved uniform events so that uniform that was no longer needed could be redistributed to other families.

The distribution event over the Summer Holidays were a great success and as a result our community has been able to support families needing items of uniform but it has also had great benefits for the environment, by re-using good quality uniform we have protected valuable natural resources and stopped perfectly good items going to landfill.

Thank you for your support! We are still taking donations of good quality uniform for future pre-loved events and please be aware that you can contact the school office at any time during the remainder of the school year if you would like to access any of the pre-loved items we have in stock.

Satchel One SMHW Year 7 Parents/Carers

Please be aware that details for parents/carers login for Satchel One to check homework completion and Achievements/Behaviours will be sent to parents/carers within the next couple of weeks.

Satchel One is an extremely useful tool for parents/carers as it allows you to access up to date information on your child's progress in school each day.

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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