

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you to parents and carers for all your support this term, I am so grateful to each of you that supports our systems in school as you ensure your sons and daughters are well rested and prepared for the school day with the correct equipment/uniform and a great attitude to learning and education that undoubtedly comes from the support they have at home. Well done to all our committed and conscientious students this term who have made excellent progress in their studies and supported each other in the school community by displaying a superb attitude towards school and the community they are part of. Thank you as well to all the teachers and staff in school for their hard work and care for the students this term, it is a pleasure and privilege to work with all of you.

I wish all members of our community a Happy and Holy Christmas and a well-deserved rest over the holidays, we look forward to the New Year when we can continue to deliver outstanding and excellent education through our focus on high standards and expectations that benefits our students with some of the highest outcomes in the region.

God bless and Merry Christmas

Christmas Card Competition Year 7

Well done to all the entrants of the Year 7 Christmas Card Competition there were some incredible entries and the task of judging the winners was harder than ever before such was the standard.

The winning design and a selection of other notable entries are available to view as a video/slide pop-up on the homepage of the school's website at: www.stmcollege.org.uk.

The winning design was by Valentina F-N who receives £30 in Gift Vouchers, the following students' designs were so good they are worthy of a Special Mention and they each receive £15 in Gift Vouchers: Isabel D, Isla H, James W, and Oliver H-H

Well done all. Winners will receive their vouchers on Friday.

Reminder Tomorrow End of Term

The last day of term is next Friday 20th December and school will close for students for a staggered early finish between 12:10 and 12:15, with all students having departed by 12:15.

Students return to school on Tuesday 7th January

Please note the new bus company that has taken over the school bus routes on a temporary basis have informed us that they will not be able to provide buses for students at the earlier finish time of 12:15 so students will need to make alternative arrangements to get home, we are hopeful that the early finish can be accommodated by the buses in the Summer when the new permanent bus company takes over.

Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner Day

Well done to all the staff and students who wore their Christmas Jumpers yesterday to make the day a very enjoyable and festive experience. Thank you as well to all the catering and lunchtime team who created a wonderful experience at Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings, crackers and Christmas Music, it was a fantastic day and I know that staff and students alike really enjoyed the day. There are lots of pictures of the fun on our school Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/17oq56KVYu/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Willow Wood Fundraising.

Thank you for your generosity in supporting our Willow Wood Fundraising Activities in Advent, with the support of the student Faith in Action Team the school has raised over £1000 for this incredible local hospice. The fundraising culminated in a student concert and dance event yesterday afternoon attended by staff and it was a lovely way to end Christmas Jumper day as it showed off the talents of so many of our kind and thoughtful students who were willing to give up their time to help raise money for others.

STM Showcase

Thank you to Mrs Doran and the Drama Club who organised the Drama Club Showcase after school on Tuesday with a production of singing, dancing and acting inspired by the poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas. It was incredible and we are so proud of all the performers and the backstage crew.

Maths Support for Year 11

Year 11 students have received a letter from Miss Terry the Curriculum Leader for Mathematics detailing some of the materials/resources that the students have been provided with as they prepare for their Mock Exams in January, the letter highlights:

- The Maths Expert Book that includes the Practice Mock Paper that has been analysed for each student.
- That Sparx is the optimum revision tool recommended by school.
- Where students can access past exam papers.

Maths Rewards

The Maths dept this week have been awarding Xmas selection boxes to pupils who have achieved the most XP points on SPARX. The XP leader board will now be reset to zero and a new competition will begin in the new term; this time the prize will be an Easter Egg. Well done Winners!

Job Vacancy: Parish of St Mary and St John Fisher: Parish Administrator

I have been asked to inform you of the following job opportunity in the local Parish Community:

The parish of St Mary and St John Fisher are looking for a Parish Administrator to provide administrative support to the parish including office administration, secretarial and basic accounting duties

The role is part-time, permanent Working hours: 9 hours per week, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 9:30am- 12:30pm Location: St Mary's Presbytery, Duke Street, Denton, M34 2AN Salary and benefits: £12.60 per hour, 25 holidays, plus statutory bank holidays and 5 Diocesan closure days (subject to pro-rata).

For more details please see the advert that I have included on the Headteacher's Letter section of the school website.

<https://www.stmcollege.org.uk/news/headteachers-letters>

Reminder: Additional GCSE Languages

If any Year 11 students can speak a second language such as Polish, Arabic, Chinese, Russian, or Italian, then please speak to Mrs Laycock in Room 29B at either break or lunchtime before the end of

term. It is possible that you might be able to take an extra GCSE in a second language without any additional study.

St Thomas More RC College Fantasy Football League.

Mr Turner's lead is narrowing now at the top of the league can anyone catch him over Christmas where it is all to play for

Mr Turner continues on top spot in the League this week with 979 points

Joseph B in 9T was our in school weekly winner with 67 points

There is still time to join the league as there are weekly winners for every gameweek and there is always the chance to win the whole league and take the trophy off reigning champion Mr Turner!

Once students have created a Premier League account and a team at [Fantasy Premier League](#), [Official Fantasy Football Game of the Premier League](#) they 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 join the league.

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

Year 11 Mock Exams

Y11 Mock Exam Begins from Wednesday 8th Jan 2025 to Tuesday 21st Jan 2025, we wish all the students the best of luck in these assessments, we know they have been working really hard to revise and prepare.

The Y11 Mock Exam Timetable is available in the dining hall, on Satchel One and on our college website under parents' tab — Exam guidance.

Students will also receive a paper copy of the exam timetable and the exam seating plan will be given to students on the Tuesday 7th Jan 2025

Students must be in school for their exams and make their best efforts as the Mock Grades will be used to inform the estimated grades for students that will be sent to Colleges and Exam Boards on request. Please don't book appointments during the exams that will mean an absence from an exam.

St Thomas More RC College Achievement Point League

Not quite a full week this week for points collection so we will pause the league for the moment until the new year but a huge well done to all the students who have collected so many positive points this year it is already on course to be our highest total ever by the end of the academic year. Superb!!

Reminder: Year 10 Work Experience

A reminder that for Year 10 the deadline to complete their work experience paperwork is the last day of term in December. The work experience itself takes place in the Summer Term but the placements are arranged many weeks in advance, if your son/daughter needs any help or support in completing the paperwork then please see Mr Wright in room 42.

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.

Treasured gift a Christmas Prayer

O Loving God, At this holy time of year,

we remember those who are facing hardships and ask you to fill them with strength and courage.

Let us live with humanity in our hearts.

Remind us about what we should be reflecting on namely the true meaning of Christmas,

when we celebrate that you loved us so much that you sent your only Son to die for us.

Christ is our most treasured gift, and as the Light of the World he taught us to show compassion and generosity to others.

We are called to be faith-filled and hopeful; people of God who strive for the best interests of others.

Bless us all this Christmas and bring Joy and Peace to all our homes and families.

Amen.