

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year to everyone in our happy community. It is a lovely feeling writing the first letter of 2025 as it provides an opportunity to reflect on all the hopes for the year ahead. It has been a superb first week to the new term and well done to all the students who came back to school well rested, smart in their full uniform, and most importantly ready to learn! Thank you as well to parents/carers for all your support in making sure your sons and daughters were ready for the new term by preparing them for the routine of school with a few early nights before we started on Tuesday, we know the messages that the students receive at home about the importance of education are often a key driver to their success and I am always grateful to our parents/carers who do such fantastic work to raise polite and engaged young people that make our school community a joy to work in.

As you will know the Holy Father of our Catholic Church, Pope Francis has declared 2025 to be a Jubilee Year, this is a celebration that takes place every 25 Years and Pope Francis has decreed that this year will be focused on the theme of “Pilgrims of Hope”, for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis. The students in school will be involved in lots of activities and liturgies this year related to the Jubilee Year and I have included the official Jubilee Prayer given to us by Pope Francis at the end of my letter so that we can all begin this special year together in prayer.

### **Year 11 Mocks**

Well done to Year 11 who have made a fantastic start to their Mock Examinations in the exam Hall this week, it is clear that the students have done plenty of revision already as they have been switched on and focused in each exam I have visited so far and clearly trying their best to answer all the questions to the best of their ability, Fantastic Year 11.

### **Careers Café and Year 10 Work Experience**

The Careers Café is open every Tuesday after school 2:45pm to 3:30pm in room 42 and is a drop in session for students to find out more about future pathways and careers, there is also advice available for work experience and completing college application forms.

For Year 10 students, the work experience company, Our Futures, has extended the deadline for the completion of documents and securing of placements. The new deadline is Friday 31 January 2025.

Students are encouraged to attend the Careers Cafe in room 42 each Tuesday if they require any support or guidance in securing a placement.

A representative from Our Futures will be attending year 10 parents' evening to offer any additional support or to answer any queries.

Well done to all of the year 10 students who have already secured wonderful work experience placements.

### **St Thomas More Alumni**

We are inviting former St Thomas More RC College students to get in touch and join our alumni programme so they can share the stories of their careers and success to inspire the next generation! If you would be happy for us to celebrate your successes on social media or even are willing to come into school to talk to our current students then please get in touch on the following email address.

[alumni@stmcollege.org.uk](mailto:alumni@stmcollege.org.uk)

## **Fencing Club**

Thank you to Barry Massey from Ashton Fencing club who has been visiting school over the last few weeks to run the first ever St Thomas More Fencing Club, the students have absolutely loved the experience and we are keen to continue to run the initiative as the students are getting so much enjoyment from it, and who knows we might uncover the next undiscovered Olympic Fencing Champion from our amazing school.

## **An Inspector Calls Theatre Trip**

Thank you to the staff who organised and supervised a wonderful theatre trip to the Lowry Theatre in Salford to watch the wonderful production of "An Inspector Calls", I am told that the students were impeccably behaved as always and were fantastic ambassadors for the school.

## **Reminder: 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>

## **St Thomas More RC College Fantasy Football League.**

Mr Turner our current reigning champion cannot believe it, but after an outstanding Christmas Period Thomas H in Year 9 has taken the lead in the Fantasy Football League with a huge 1244 points.

Thomas H in Year 10 almost joined the 100 club to win Week 20 with 99 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>

## St Thomas More RC College Achievement Point League

Fantastic points collection from all students this week and in the week before the holidays, well done to all the students who are doing so well with their learning and attitude, we could list hundreds of students but unfortunately there is only the space to list those at the top of each list but well done to all.

*Please note: The achievement point list below is collated and calculated at approximately 11am each Friday. This can mean that sometimes students may have slightly different points totals by the end of the day on Friday which are not reflected in the figures printed. Please do rest assured though that the points total and students highlighted are accurate at the time of production of the list.*

T	H	O	M	A	S
<b>Year 7 Total</b>					
Valentina F 3250	Erin K 3060	Ella F 2680	Rohan G 3610	Abigail B 3000	Lillie May P 2690
<b>Year 7 Weekly Winner</b>					
Valentina F 170	Ayomide O Raluca D 100	Poppy G Kiera D Anna M 100	Maya L 180	Abigail B 130	Lillie May P 120
<b>Year 8 Total</b>					
Aiden F 3650	Albie N 2510	Abbie H 3360	Milena R 3040	Charlotte L 3410	Charlie M 3450
<b>Year 8 Weekly Winner</b>					
Lacey Mai C 220	Albie N 120	Olivia N 90	Ellis P 140	Charlotte L 130	Erin L 170
<b>Year 9 Total</b>					
Miracle O 4030	Chris M 3230	Thomas H 3190	Finlay D Evelyn SH Oliver T 2100	Carrie M 3350	Ole M 3000
<b>Year 9 Weekly Winner</b>					
Hassanat O 300	Chris M Doreen A 170	Thomas H 190	Leon J 190	Carrie M 180	Alfred K Harmony W 150
<b>Year 10 Total</b>					
Olivia K 4010	Jack R 2830	Dominik C 3190	Kaitlyn F 3840	Harry C 3990	Reve MM 2690
<b>Year 10 Weekly Winner</b>					
Olivia K 400	Jack R 310	Valerie I 400	Olivia M 360	Phoebe S 350	Jakub O 340
<b>Year 11 Total</b>					
Jess K 2620	Hope C 2220	Joshua McK 2810	Daisy N 3360	Mia Rose L 2430	Megan T 23202140
<b>Year 11 Weekly Winner</b>					
Harry O'C Tymon N 100	Hope C Amy B Harley M Kendra O	Joshua Mck 110	Flavius D 120	Sara K 110	Lucas J Jack K 70

	100				
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### **Special Mention**

Well done to Ella F and Valentina F Year 7 who won the Poetry by Heart competition in school by competing with great confidence in front of their year group. We are so proud of them and we are sure they have a bright future ahead of them.

### **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](mailto: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.

*Please Note: If you have an appointment to meet with a member of staff in school, then please ensure that you are on time to the meeting, on the rare occasion a parent/carer is more than 15 minutes late to a meeting then due to the busy nature of schools the meeting will be cancelled and will need to be rearranged at another time and/or date.*

*If you are offered an appointment time for a meeting with a member of staff in school, then please ensure that you have confirm your attendance at the meeting in advance either verbally or in writing to prevent the meeting time being rebooked.*

God bless

H Brophy

### **2025 Jubilee Year for the Catholic Church**

2025 has been designated as a Jubilee Year by Pope Francis with 'Pilgrims of Hope' as the theme.

#### **The Jubilee prayer**

#### **Official Prayer from Pope Francis for 2025**

Father in heaven,

may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.  
To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.

**Amen.**