

Dear Parents/Carers

Assemblies this week have focused on the remembrance of the Holocaust ahead of Holocaust Memorial Day next week on January 27th 2025, the theme of this year's event is **"For a Better Future"** and the prayers that we have shared for Peace and Reconciliation this week are particularly relevant as World Leaders continue to work towards a peaceful resolution for the ongoing conflicts around the world.

More information about Holocaust Memorial Day can be found at the following very thought-provoking website.

<https://hmd.org.uk/>

The students were incredibly respectful as they listened to the powerful messages and thank you to Mrs McEnroe for preparing and delivering the assembly.

School Buses: Bee Network

As students and parents/carers may be aware all bus services in Greater Manchester have now joined the Bee Network, this includes all school buses.

We are aware that on a number of days there have been issues with the reliability and punctuality of the buses that transport our students to and from school. When buses are late, we contact the Bee Network and Transport for Greater Manchester to notify them whenever possible.

We are acutely aware how frustrating it must be for Parents/Carers/Students on days when the Bus Service does not provide the service you expect however I must point out that the school has no responsibility for booking or arranging the school bus services. As such we are unable to resolve any complaints made to the school about the bus service as we have no authority or power in this respect and I assure you that we are as keen as you are to ensure that students are able to get to and from school safely, happily, and in good time.

If you do have a concern about the bus services that are being provided currently by the Bee Network then the contact details for members of the public to raise a complaint or ask a question can be found on the following website: <https://tfgm.com/help-and-contact-us/complaints>

Year 10 GCSE PE and CNat Sports Science Trip

Well done to the Year 10 students who visited the Manchester Institute of Health and Sports Performance yesterday, they represented the schools superbly and were able to have access to world class facilities that are used by top Great British Sports Men and Women. Thank you to the PE department for putting on this unique event.

Stewards: Form Pet Plant

The Stewards team have provided each form with a pet plant to take care of over the next few weeks so that it can be eventually planted in the prayer garden, the project is to emphasise the importance of caring for our community and the environment, it is wonderful that the Stewards have found a way to make sure each form is actively involved in Caring for our Common Home.

Year 10 Parents Evening

Thank you to the parents and carers who attended Year 10 Parents Evening last night, there were lots of really positive messages about the fantastic learning that is taking place in year 10 and it was

good to see so many parents/carers in attendance, thank you for your support as providing the message that your sons/daughters education is important to you is vitally important for their success in school.

Reminder: 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

Special Mention Lucas BT 7M

A special mention to Lucas as he was asked to attend a Holocaust memorial service at the Town Hall this week, in Manchester.

Lucas represented the Navy Cadets at the event and had the great honour of meeting Dr Martin Stern MBE who survived the Holocaust.

Well done Lucas for being a superb representative and role model for young people.

St Thomas More RC College Fantasy Football League.

Thomas H in Year 9 continues to sit at the top of the school league with 1366 points although Mr Turner is only 6 points behind.

Jacob B Year 8 wins Week 22 with 69 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
Year 7 Total					
Valentina F 3620	Erin K 3470	Ella F 300	Rohan G 4050	Abigail B 3270	Connor M Lillie May P 3000
Year 7 Weekly Winner					
Valentina F 130	Ayomide O Kacper C 150	Anyia M 130	Maddie D 170	Holly P 140	Connor M 130
Year 8 Total					
Aiden F 4080	Albie N 2860	Abbie H 3820	Milena R 3520	Charlotte L 4010	Charlie M 3890
Year 8 Weekly Winner					
Aiden F 170	Jacob B 160	Abbie H 140	Milena R 170	Charlotte L 230	Erin L Charlie M Hugo S 230
Year 9 Total					
Miracle O 4500	Chris M 3650	Thomas H 3670	Evelyn SH 2480	Carrie M 3610	Ole M 3410
Year 9 Weekly Winner					
Lucy M 200	Chris M 170	Oliver D 190	Kaila D 160	Angel O 130	Harmony W 160
Year 10 Total					
Olivia K 4490	Jack R 3150	Dominik C 3540	Kaitlyn F 4250	Harry C 4490	Reve MM 3040
Year 10 Weekly Winner					
Olivia K 210	Joshua A 190	Dominik C 170	Kaitlyn F 180	Alice O'C 210	Daniel R 150
Year 11 Total					
Jess K 2930	Hope C 2450	Joshua McK 3180	Daisy N 3770	Mia Rose L 2790	Megan T 2620
Year 11 Weekly Winner					
Maddie McG 150	Luca H 140	Kaci Lea D Shalom O 140	Ethan C 140	Mia R L 150	Rosin G Megan T 100

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.

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.

Interfaith Prayer for Holocaust Memorial Day

Loving God, we come to you with heavy hearts, remembering the six million Jewish souls murdered during the Holocaust.

In the horrors of that history, when so many groups were targeted because of their identity, and in genocides which followed, we recognise destructive prejudices that drive people apart.

Forgive us when we give space to fear, negativity and hatred of others, simply because they are different from us.

In the light of God, we see everyone as equally precious manifestations of the Divine, and can know the courage to face the darkness.

Through our prayers and actions, help us to stand together with those who are suffering, so that light may banish all darkness, love will prevail over hate and good will triumph over evil.

Amen

I have been asked to share the following messages by Tameside Local Authority:

Support for people who show harmful behaviours in relationships

PEOPLE who show harmful behaviours in their relationships are being urged to get help in a new campaign aimed at reducing domestic abuse and supporting families.

In 2023/24 there were 3692 domestic abuse suspects from Tameside reported to Greater Manchester Police – of these 673 were repeat suspects.

Tameside Council is working with partners to help people to break the cycle of harmful behaviours and help build safer, stronger and happier home environments.

The support, commissioned by the council and provided by Talk Listen Change (TLC), can help people build better relationships with their families, where everyone will benefit including any children they have.

People can self refer onto the programme or they can be referred by a professional working with them such as a GP or social worker.

An unhealthy behaviour is a direct action that intimidates your partner or another family member and makes them feel scared or anxious. It could be hitting, kicking, shouting, criticising them, or subjecting them to emotional or financial abuse. It could be preventing them from seeing friends or family or controlling what they wear or where they go.

The programme has successfully reduced physical and emotionally abusive behaviours in most people who have completed it.

Tameside Council Executive Member for Public Health Cllr Taf Sharif said: “People at the heart of what we do. We want to support you to have safe, happy and healthy relationships. It’s normal to have disagreements and get into arguments with your partner or a family member from time to time. But if you’re causing them physical or frequent emotional harm, it’s time to seek help and we want you to know we have effective support available in a welcoming and non judgemental environment.”

The programme includes work around: identifying healthy, unhealthy and abusive relationships; raising awareness of the impact of domestic abuse on children, partner and self and; reflecting on the participant’s own incidents of abuse. Benefits can include: reduction of physical violence; respectful relationships; decreased isolation; enhanced parenting; understanding of the impact and reduced impact on children.

There are bespoke programmes tailored for different needs including people in same sex relationships, women who use harm and people where English is not their first language. Partners, family members and children will also be offered support whilst the person is accessing TLC support

For more information and to get free support see www.bridgespartnership/breakthecycle. The website also has information on support for people experiencing domestic abuse.

HAF Food Vouchers – Referral Form on School website in Headteacher Letter Section

Tameside MBC and Active Tameside are pleased to offer HAF Food Vouchers to eligible children during the Winter Holiday period.

As part of our Fuel 4 Fun Holiday Activity and Food offer, we have previously provided eligible families with a food hamper. These hampers will now be replaced with supermarket vouchers, valued at £10 per eligible child per week.

As previously only children and young people not attending a holiday camp will be able to receive these as those attending camps will receive their free lunch as part of this.

There is a choice of four different supermarket vouchers on the form and we hope that this will allow children and young people to be able to choose healthy foods that they enjoy for their lunch over the school holiday period.

The vouchers can be emailed to yourself as the professional referring or direct to the family if an email address is provided for redemption.

Key Points to Remember:

Each eligible child is entitled to a £10 supermarket voucher for Spring 2025.

Families can choose from four supermarket options listed on the referral form, providing flexibility to select healthy foods they enjoy for their lunches. Please note if we run out of vouchers for a particular supermarket a different store voucher may be issued as an alternative.

Vouchers can be sent directly to the referring professional or emailed to the family if their email address is provided.

Please complete the referral form and return it to caroline.barker@activetameside.com

Fuel 4 Fun Holiday Camps


Dates Running: 17th February 2025 – 21st February 2025

Bookings Open: Wednesday 15th January 2025

Tameside MBC and Active Tameside have partnered to deliver the Fuel 4 Fun programme, funded through the Holiday Activity and Food Fund (HAF). This initiative supports children, young people, and families who receive benefit-related free school meals (FSM) or are in crisis.

Important Booking Information:

- When booking on behalf of a family, please ensure THEIR contact details are provided, not yours as the referring professional.
- If you've referred previously, avoid copying and pasting information—ensure all details are up-to-date and accurate.
- If a request is issued for additional information for your referral please avoid copy and pasting information this ensures we have the most accurate perception of the child's individual UpToDate needs and can offer them the best support.

 How to Book:

Visit the website for more details and to secure your booking:

 <https://eequ.org/tamesidefuel4fun>