

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy Valentine's Day! I have included a St Valentine's Day Prayer at the end of my letter.

Well done also to the Stewards and GIFT team for running a Valentine's Cake and Sweet Stall this morning to raise money for CAFOD.

This week the students have had celebration assemblies focused on all their achievements over the last half term and I must say that our hardworking and committed students have had a brilliant first half-term in 2025 and they are doing a fantastic job of creating superb foundations for their future through the education they are receiving in school. Thank you, parents and carers, for your ongoing support.

I hope all our students; staff and their families have a well deserved half term holiday next week. Please remember that students return to school on Monday 24th February

Astroturf footwear and further information:

The school is pleased to announce that there has already been significant interest from the community in hiring the new school Astroturf and as a result this confirms that the facility will be a real asset to the wider community and the school.

The additional funding from pitch hire will provide money for the school to spend on the maintenance of the pitch, and the remainder will be added directly to the school budget so that we can further increase spending on the educational experience of all the students of St Thomas More RC College, both now and in the future. Every penny of the almost a million pounds investment was spent on construction of the pitch and associated facilities and the new Astroturf will now benefit thousands of students and countless members of the wider community who will use this first-class pitch over the coming years.

We are aware that some parents/carers have enquired about the regulations regarding permitted footwear for safe use of the Astroturf and we are more than happy to confirm the following:

- Students will be given advance notice of PE lessons by PE staff that will be timetabled on the Astroturf, this will mainly be football sessions in the first instance.
- Use of the Astroturf by school students will not begin until after the half term holidays
- As is always the case any items of PE footwear do not need to be a specific colour, for example there is no need for football boots to be black.
- During this academic year no detentions, sanctions or negative points will be issued for students who do not have football boots when they are timetabled to use the Astroturf, where possible instead they will be moved to an alternative PE group completing a different activity. On an occasion when it is not possible to move a student to an alternative PE activity, they will be able to observe the session from the viewing area on the pitch.
- Over the coming weeks the school will be looking to set up a football boot bank of preloved or donated football boots so that students have access to good quality footwear (for a small donation if possible) for use on the Astroturf.

I would just like to take this opportunity to reiterate my thanks to all the school staff and external partners who have worked exceptionally hard over the past four years to secure the additional funding needed for the project whilst also resolving project, planning, and construction issues to that have allowed this amazing resource to be created for the school.

Year 11 Revision

Parents/Carers please do encourage and remind Year 11 students to be completing revision over the half term holiday as the GCSE's are now only a few weeks away. All Year 11 students do have plenty of revision they can be completing and the work they put in now will be paid back in the exam results they achieve in the Summer. We know that revising isn't always easy or the most fun activity but each week that goes by when a student hasn't done enough revision is unfortunately a missed opportunity. Well done to the vast majority of Year 11 students who are following excellent revision patterns at home and are trying to complete revision most nights of the week and at the weekends.

National Apprenticeship Week 2025

We are proud to have supported National Apprenticeship Week again this week. This annual event is a fantastic opportunity for our learners to engage with opportunities and careers information related to their learning at St Thomas More.

Apprenticeships are just one of many future pathways that are open to young people and can provide a meaningful way to secure a fulfilling career. Further information can be found on the official government website (<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/>)

Students are always welcome to attend the Careers Cafe in room 42 each Tuesday with Mr Wright to seek guidance or information around navigating the world of careers and post-16 opportunities.

KS3 pupils have the opportunity to take part in a competition to be entered into a prize draw to win a £15 voucher. All details can be found on Satchel: One.

Consideration of our Neighbours (parking)

I am sorry to say that we have been contacted by some of our neighbours who are concerned about parking in the streets near school at pick up and drop off time. We have always had a fantastic relationship with the local community so could I please ask parents and carers to be mindful and considerate of where you are parking and please don't park across residents driveways or dropped kerbs, I am sure that this has only happened inadvertently as I am sure that no-one would deliberately or knowingly park across someone else's driveway but please do take a moment to consider where you are parking/waiting particularly at the end of the day.

Sparx Maths

The school is very proud of the fact that we are able to afford to pay for a Sparx Maths subscription for every student in school so they can complete their home learning through this incredible resource. Research indicates that proper use of Sparx Maths home work can boost Maths examination grades significantly. Please can parents/carers do all you can to ensure that your child is completing all the questions on their Sparks Maths home learning, remember if they are stuck on any topic Sparx Maths will provide a video explanation of how to complete the question. By encouraging your child to complete Sparx maths you are actively supporting them to improve their outcomes.

More information can be found at: <https://sparxmaths.com/parents/>

Please remember that Sparx Maths is a self-learning computer program and if students find the task too easy then the computer system will give them more challenging work. For this reason it is really important that students DON'T use AI Calculators on their mobile phones to scan a question and provide the correct answer, if students do this then they won't learn how to answer the question correctly and Sparx Maths will be tricked into thinking they find the tasks easy so will start producing much harder work for them which might not be appropriate. If you can, please do check in that your son/daughter is completing Sparx Maths regularly and properly.

St Thomas More RC College Fantasy Football League.

A high scoring double gameweek has seen Mr Turner narrowly retain his grip on the top spot with 1551 points

Zac H in form 7T takes the prize for Gameweek 24 with a massive 163 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>

Special Mentions

Well done to Tom M in Year 11 who participated in and won his first powerlifting competition. The competition was held in Stalybridge at Wolfpack Strength where Tom has been training since last year and Tom did brilliantly to take home the gold medal.
Well done Tom.

Well done to the Art Club students this week as they have produced some amazing pieces of artwork and the fencing club students who competed in their first tournament this week.

Superb effort and achievement as well from the Year 10 students who achieved Bronze and Silver Awards in the UK Mathematics Trust Challenge.

Show Racism the Red Card/LGBTQ+ Out-loud

Thank you to the RE, CPSHE and PE department who this week delivered a number of activities for Year 8 with a focus on the importance of diversity and inclusion so that we can all commit to saying NO to any form of racism. It is wonderful to see how strongly the students involved spoke out against racism of any type. Well done Year 8

It was also a pleasure to welcome into school today the "Out-Loud" theatre company who delivered a session about the impact and dangers of discriminatory language that is directed towards members of the LGBTQ+ community, Year 8 and Year 9 were praised for their attentiveness during the activity.

St Thomas More RC College Achievement Point League

Magnificent points collecting by all our committed students week after week!

Remember that you can log into satchel one to check your child individual achievements and successes at any time as the parent page is updated daily, if you are unable to log in for any reason please contact school for help. admin@stmcollege.org.uk

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 4150	Erin K 3950	Ella F 3600	Rohan G 4510	Abigail B 3620	Connor M 3670
Year 7 Weekly Winner					
Valentina F 220	Kacper C Libby HK Dalyn McG 160	Ella F 180	Maddie D Lucas J 210	Dylan K 160	Connor M 200
Year 8 Total					
Aiden F 4690	Albie N 3380	Abbie H 4320	Milena R 4180	Charlotte L 4580	Erin L 4550
Year 8 Weekly Winner					
James B 150	Zuzanna F Albie N 160	Steven C 130	Isla P Milena R 120	Aerin L 130	Erin L 230
Year 9 Total					
Miracle O 5330	Chris M 4220	Thomas H 4340	Evelyn SH 2940	Carrie M 4090	Ole M 3900
Year 9 Weekly Winner					
Miracle O 220	Doreen A Chris M 130	Isla McG 180	Timmy S 190	Jake T 190	Erica S Ole M 170
Year 10 Total					
Olivia K 4930	Jack R 3610	Dominik C 4080	Kaitlyn F 4850	Harry C 5250	Reve MM 3490
Year 10 Weekly Winner					
Paul K 150	Jack R 190	Pelumi A 180	Olivia M 170	Harry C Ciaran M 170	Maisie L 160
Year 11 Total					
Eid A 3450	Caitlyn McC 2790	Joshua McK 3660	Daisy N 440	Mia Rose L 3410	Megan T 2960
Year 11 Weekly Winner					
Eid A 150	Richard A 120	Jessica R Ben F 110	Daisy N 240	David W 150	Megan T 80

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

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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.

Prayer for St Valentine's Day

God of love,

you give us St. Valentine as an example of love.

As we gather to celebrate the feast of this loving and caring saint we ask you to bless our friendships.

May the love and affection we share with each other, always come from a sense of care and respect.

May we always follow the example of your Son,

Jesus Christ, who is Lord forever and ever.

Amen