

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been fantastic to welcome back all the students this academic year and the Year 7 students have settled magnificently into their first week at secondary school. I have spoken to all year groups in assembly at the start of 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.

As we start the academic year, I know that you will probably be aware of the increasing amount of research focused on young people that warns of the dangers of: lack of sleep, too much time on technology, too much time on social media, vaping, and energy drinks that contain caffeine.

So they can concentrate and make good progress in school it is really important that young people get enough sleep and use technology sensibly and in moderation. It is especially important that young people don't have access to technology and social media during times that they should be asleep as it can be very disruptive to sleeping patterns. We are aware that often young people will need guidance, support and boundaries at home to help them follow sensible guidelines, and I thank you for all you do in making sure that your children make good choices as we can see in school the students who are well rested and use technology sensibly and they tend to be much better equipped to be successful each day in school and make more progress over time. This is also part of the reason why mobile phone use is not permitted in school.

The evidence against young people Vaping and consuming Energy Drinks is now so strong that the Government is taking action through consultations and new restrictions on the sale of these products to Under 16s and this is why in school we take such a strong line on banning their use and possession in school.

By working together on these issues, we can give your children the opportunity to be highly successful in school and grow into healthy well-rounded adults in the future.

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 69% of Students gaining a grade 9-4 in both Maths and English GCSE.

79% of students gained a 9-4 grade in Maths and 75% 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. These figures are once again above national averages across the country and continue our position as one of the leading schools in Tameside and region, and adds to our proud record of high academic achievement that is based on our culture of excellence, fantastic behaviour, and our highly challenging curriculum.

Congratulations class of 2025!

Open Evening: Early Finish

Our Open Evening for prospective parents/carers and students will take place on Thursday 25th September 5.00pm to 7.00pm.

As is usual practice school will close early on the day of Open Evening (25th 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.

The current overall school leader with 206 points is Sam H.
Frank C-S was the Game week 3 winner with a massive 71 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](#) you can join the school mini league named;
St Thomas More League
The league code is; rfjc8l

Alternatively, you can click on the link below to automatically join the league.
<https://fantasy.premierleague.com/leagues/auto-join/rfjc8l>

New Staff

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

Mr S Reese - Curriculum Leader of Art

Due to the excellent reputation of our school we are always fortunate to be able to attract highly qualified professional staff and I wish Mr Reese a very warm welcome and success in his new role.

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 farewell to the following staff with our very best wishes for the future.

Mrs J Mc Nairn, Mrs K Tindale and Mr P Baryla (maternity leave cover).

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.

School travel information from Transport for Greater Manchester

Transport for Greater Manchester have asked if I would share the following information with parents/carers:

Igo card

If you're 11-16 years old you'll need an igo card to travel using child tickets on buses and trams in Greater Manchester. It can take up to two weeks to process your igo card application, so make sure you apply as soon as possible to ensure you can get child tickets.

You can also for an igo by post or at a Bee Network Information and Ticket Office. Find out more about the igo card at the following website. https://tfgm.com/tickets-and-passes/discounted-and-free-travel/young-people/igo?utm_source=redirect&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=igo_pass

TravelSafe

Make sure you travel to school on buses and trams safely and responsibly. TravelSafe Officers patrol the transport network to keep everyone safe and offer help if you need it. Remember, it's fine to have fun. But it's also important you don't do things that might make other people using buses or trams feel uncomfortable, or get you banned. You can get advice and tips for you and your friends at the following website

<https://tfgm.com/schools/taking-a-school-bus>

Travel support for getting to schools (Walking, Wheeling and Cycling)

Our updated '[Travelling to school](#)' webpage offers a 'one-stop shop' for travel information, including a school travel checklist. The page also links out to a bespoke travel webpage, with more detailed and localised information, including any school bus services.

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

2025 Jubilee Year for the Catholic Church

2025 has been designated as a Jubilee Year by the Catholic Church 'Pilgrims of Hope' as the theme.

This week it seems appropriate to pray for the new school year.

New Academic Year Prayer

Dear Lord

Bless our students, and staff with knowledge, patience, and strength.

Guide us in our learning journey this year and protect us along the way.

May this year be filled with achievements, friendships, and positive experiences.
In your loving name, we pray

Amen