

Dear Parents/Carers

Salford Diocese Theme of the Week for Schools for the Current Week. (Monday – Friday)

YOUTH: “Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’

– ***Last Sunday’s Gospel*** - Luke 23:35-43

A shorter letter this week due to the shorter week and no achievement point league due to the 4-day week but it will return next week!

All year groups had assemblies marking the start of Advent on Sunday delivered by the student GIFT team. The atmosphere in the assemblies was respectful and prayerful as we prepared ourselves for this important season in the Church’s Calendar. We also launch the Advent Food Bank Appeal for St Mary’s during the assembly.

Our Christmas trees for the Dining Room, Foyer, and Reception area have been delivered today and the student helpers are looking forward to getting them decorated so we can begin to get into the festive spirit as we move into December next week!!

St Mary’s Foodbank Appeal

With the cost-of-living crisis, we are aware that more families and individuals are experiencing times when they are struggling to find enough money to put food on the table. As part of our Catholic mission of Social Justice we are committed to trying to find ways to support those in need in our community. So, we can try to help those in need who might otherwise go hungry at Christmas, we are asking all forms to collect non-perishable food items so that the school can make a significant donation to St Mary’s Foodbank based in Haughton Green. This local foodbank has been operating for many years and is a wonderful charitable cause to support.

We asking students to bring in the following items if possible, Powdered Milk, Tea/coffee, Instant Noodles, Tinned Soup, Cereals, Tinned Fruit/Veg/Meat/Fish/Tinned Meals, Rice/Pasta, multi-pack crisps/biscuits, Toiletries – non-liquid only e.g. Bars of soap.

We do understand that our families may be facing their own pressures so please only donate if you are able. Please give any donations to your child to bring into school on Monday 8th December.

Year Group Mass

Thank you to Father Peter and Sister Dolores who visited school today to say Mass for all of Year 8.

It was a lovely service that kept in mind the Feast of Christ the King from last Sunday and the start of Advent on the weekend ahead.

The behaviour from the students was absolutely impeccable and I was incredibly proud of them.

Many thanks to Miss Hague and the GIFT team for arranging the Music, readings and bidding prayers.

Reminder: School Closure Day: Friday 28th November

*A reminder that school is closed to students **tomorrow** on Friday 28th November 2025 for 1 day during this half term as indicated in the school calendar, school is open as normal on Monday 1st December.*

Staff Retirement

Mrs Julie Wright our amazing Cleaning Supervisor is leaving our community today after making the difficult decision to retire. Mrs Wright has been an incredible servant to the school for 25 years and is adored by staff and students alike.

We are all going to miss her terribly but I know everyone is wishing her a long, well deserved and happy retirement.

Have a fantastic rest Julie the school community won't be quite the same without you.

Year 11 (Leavers) Presentation Evening

Well done to the class of 2025 who returned to school last night to collect their exam certificates and subject awards. I spoke to all of them and their parents and carers to express how proud we are of them all as they were a superb year group and achieved well above average GCSE results at Grade 4 and above which indicates just how successful they were.

Thank you to the parents/carers and staff who attended the evening last night and thank you also for all your hard work and support for the students that guided them to such amazing outcomes.

Salford Diocese Website

We are so proud of the Faith in Action team who have been recognised on the Salford Diocese Website for their outstanding contribution to our wider community.

Please follow the link below to read this inspiring article:

<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith-in-action-inspiring-youth-groups-awarded-for-efforts/>

Well done to all the Faith in Action team, you are making a huge difference to people's lives.

Reminder: Salford Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026

We have been asked by The Salford Diocese to pass on the following information:

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

Please follow the link above to the Headteacher's Letter section of the school website to view a letter from The Diocese of Salford regarding a Pilgrimage to Lourdes that the Diocesan Team are organising.

REMINDER: Countdown to Year 11 December Mocks Examinations

Exams start MONDAY

Key Messages before the Mock Exams Year 11:

- *The importance of the Mock Examinations can't be overstated, Students who do well in the Mocks go on to do well in the Summer GCSEs. Students must make the Mock Examinations a priority.*
- *Students have been given challenging/appropriate target grades to work towards for their Mock Exams, it is great to hear that some students have been requesting increased target grades!!*

- *Revision outside of school is key, students have been provided with a revision timetable and booklet, students should be doing some revision most days (5/6 days out of 7 days) in the lead up to the Mocks and Summer exams. Revision for the Mocks should have started now.*
- *Getting enough sleep this year is vital so that students can concentrate well in class every day.*
- *Consider how much screen time (mobile phones/consoles) is appropriate to leave enough time for revision, if screen time is too high it needs to be reduced to leave enough time to revise for exams.*
- *Work hard in every lesson without distraction and ensure attendance and punctuality is as good as it possibly can be.*
- *Attend as many revision classes as possible afterschool, some of these classes have already begun in subjects such as RE and Geography and they can be vital in supporting students to hit and exceed their targets*

Reminder: Year 10 Work Experience

Last week, Year 10 students attended a morning assembly led by the Director of Our Futures - the work experience company who facilitate year 10 work experience.

In tutor time, pupils received a set of work experience letters detailing the next steps in beginning their work experience journey, and in securing their work experience placements.

Parents/carers: Please read the work experience letters and use the QR codes to register and express consent.

Dates of note (issued by the work experience company)

*Parent/carer consent deadline: **Friday 24th October 2025***

*Student deadline for completion of all paperwork: **Friday 23rd January 2026***

Reminder: *All year 10 students can access 1:1 support with all related work experience queries at the Careers Cafe, each Tuesday after school in room 42.*

Reminder: Tameside Youth Drama Group

A number of St Thomas More Students are taking part in the Tameside Youth Drama Group Pantomime production of Cinderella, running from 22nd January 2026 to 24th January 2026.

All the cast are working incredibly hard in rehearsals and we wish them all the best of luck for the performances in January!!

Tickets are now on sale priced at £10/£12 and are available at www.sparksem.co.uk

St Thomas More RC College Fantasy Football League.

No change at the top this week with Bobby still leading the way, Managers need to make any team changes before 1:30pm on Saturday

The current overall school leader with 784 points is still Bobby D.

Oliver B Yr 11 was also the Game week winner with a respectable 67 points.

There is still time to join the league as 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](https://fantasy.premierleague.com/) 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>

Reminder: GCSEs in other Languages

Can your child speak an additional language other than English and would like to achieve an additional GCSE?

Students in Year 10 and 11 who are able to speak a language other than English and would like to sit a GCSE in the Summer 2026 in this language are encouraged to please see Mrs Laycock/Mrs Jennings during your lunch or after school in R29B/R29A as soon as possible so we can make the arrangements to support you in achieving an additional GCSE.

Reminder: Exam Invigilator Vacancy

CASUAL POSTS: During exam periods only (2wks Dec; 8wks May & June)

Hours as required: 8.15am – 4.00pm

St Thomas More RC College is looking for Exam Invigilators, responsible for the supervision of external (GCSE) and internal examinations in the examination rooms in accordance with the rules and regulations of the respective examination boards and the school as instructed by the Exams Manager. If you interested and require any further information or an informal discussion about the post, please do not hesitate to contact our Exams Manager via: Email: r.mansoor@stmcollege.org.uk

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

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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.

Prayer as we look to the first start of Advent this Sunday

God of all,

**Fill us with joy and expectation as we prepare for the season of Advent,
and move us to share our hope with others, by being a good neighbour,**

that we might be found ready, when you come in glory.

Amen

Upcoming Events (dates may be subject to change for unforeseen circumstances)

Thursday 25 th September	Open Evening
Monday 29 th September	Year 11 Information Evening
Wednesday 1 st to 3 rd October	Year 7 Retreats Savio House
Tuesday 14 th October	Visit of the Right Reverend Bishop of Salford
Tuesday 21 st October	Year 11 Mock Interviews
Wednesday 22 nd to 24 th October	Year 8/9 Battlefields Trip
Thursday 23 rd October	Talent Show
Friday 24 th October	School Closes for October Holiday
Monday 3 rd November	School opens for November Half Term
Thursday 6 th November	Year 11 Parents Evening
Wednesday 26 th November	Leavers Presentation Evening
Friday 28 th November	School Closed to Students/Staff
Monday 1 st December	Year 11 Mock Exams Begin
Thursday 4 th December	Advent Mass
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 18 th December	Senior Citizens Christmas Party
Friday 19 th December	School closes for Christmas 12:15
Tuesday 6 th January	School Opens for Spring Term for Students
Thursday 8 th January	New Year Mass
Thursday 22 nd January	Year 10 Parents Evening
Thursday 29 th to 30 th January	Year 7 Stratford Trip
Friday 13 th February	School Closes For February Holiday
Monday 23 rd February	School opens for February Half Term
Thursday 26 th February	Year 9 Parents Evening
Thursday 5 th March	GCSE Drama Performance Event
Monday 9 th March	Year 9 Pathways Evening
Thursday 19 th March	Year 7 Parents Evening
Friday 27 th March	School Closes for Easter Holiday
Monday 13 th April	School Opens for Summer Term
Wednesday 29 th April	Open Mic Event
Thursday 30 th April	Year 8 Parents Evening
Tuesday 5 th May	GCSEs Begin Year 11
Friday 22 nd May	School Closes for May Half Term
Monday 1st June	School opens for June Half Term
Wednesday 10 th to 11 th June	Year 10 Science Residential
Tuesday 16 th June	Year 10 Exams Begin
Monday 29 th June	Year 6 Information/Induction Evening
Wednesday 1 st July	Year 11 Prom
Thursday 9 th July	Key Stage 3 Rewards Evening
Thursday 9th July to Saturday 11th July	Year 10 London Trip
Friday 17 th July	School Closes for Summer 12:15

