

Dear Parents/Carers

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

JOY: *“Are you the one, or shall we look for another?”*

– **Last Sunday’s Gospel** - Matthew 11: 2-11

I want to take this opportunity to wish all our Families and our students and staff a very Joyful and Holy Christmas. The feast of Christmas is one of the most important festivals in the Catholic Calendar and I hope our whole community takes the opportunity over the next two weeks to remember the true meaning of Christmas which of course focuses on the themes of love, hope, joy, and redemption.

I would like to congratulate our committed students who have put so much into their learning and excellent behaviour this term, all your efforts will pay off with excellent outcomes and prospects at the end of your time in school. Thank you to our families for all your support as we maintain the focus on high standards and excellent education. I am also so grateful for all the staff in school who consistently go above and beyond to provide a fantastic learning environment in school and also beyond the classroom.

God bless everyone associated with our Community. Merry Christmas and I hope everyone has the opportunity to have a well-deserved rest.

The school Christmas Card is available to view on the school website at:

<https://www.stmcollege.org.uk/>

The Christmas Card was designed by the winner of our school Christmas Card Competition 2025:

Elif M, Year 7.

The Christmas Card designs of: Anna M Year 8, Aering L Year 9, and Valentina F-N Year 8 are also featured on the website as their cards received a special mention. Well done to the winners and all the entrants.

Christmas Liturgies

Thank you to the GIFT team, the Faith in Action Team, The Stewards, the musicians, readers, singers all the staff who helped plan and deliver our fantastic Christmas Liturgies on Friday morning.

It was a lovely prayerful joyous celebration of the start of Christmas and the behaviour of every year group was impeccable, it was lovely to be part of such a special occasion.

Reminder Start of New Term: Advance Notice

School reopens for the Spring term on Tuesday 6th January.

Festive Activities

There are some fantastic photos on the school social media pages of the Staff Carol Concert organised by P Kennedy, Year 11, The Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day on Wednesday and the Senior Citizens Christmas Party which took place on Thursday. All of the events were great fun and the canteen staff did an amazing job of catering for hundreds of Christmas Dinners.

Thank you to all the performers and helpers at the Staff Carol Concert and Senior Citizens Christmas Party, it is these kinds of events that show the amazing talent and kindness of our students and staff.

Well done to Mrs Laycock's form 8H who won the school wide competition for decorating their form door with the most festive wreath, the winning entrant was magnificent but the standard across the whole school was amazing and provided a very festive feeling to Advent.

Student Spotlights

Cian L, Year 10

Well-done to Cian L in Year 10 who played up an age group for Stockport County at the weekend vs Carlisle FC, scoring an absolutely superb goal. The fact that Cian was asked to play up an age group at such a high standard of football shows what an amazing talent he has and we are over the moon that he has such a bright future ahead of him. Bravo, Cian

Cyber Starlets

Well-done to our Year 8 girls who took part in the National Cyber First Competition and came in at an amazing 3rd place in the whole of the North West, we are so proud of you girls!!

Harvey W, Year 8

Well-done to Harvey W in Year 8 who rides BMX competitively for Bruntwood Park BMX Club. Harvey has recently won the most improved rider award for the club and finished the season with an overall ranking of 9th in the whole of the North West. Amazing Harvey you have an incredible talent!

Year 11 Product Design Trip

Year 11 Product Design students took part in a taster day in Construction and Engineering at The Manchester College. Students took part in bricklaying and carpentry as well as listening to some valuable career advice, the students all represented our school brilliantly and all the College staff were very impressed with their excellent attitude and behaviour.

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.

We have a new leader in the school fantasy league as we head into the festive period....

The current overall school leader with 1006 points is Patrick H.

Thomas H was the game week winner with a huge 96 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](#) 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.

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.

Prayer at Christmas

Loving Father,

Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels,

the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,

and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,

forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.

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 1 st 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 9 th July to Saturday 11 th July	Year 10 London Trip
Friday 17 th July	School Closes for Summer 12:15