

Dear Parents/Carers

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

LIGHT: *“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us”*

– **Last Sunday’s Gospel** - John 1:1-18

Happy New Year to all our students, staff and families linked to our wonderful community. I hope all of you had a happy, restful and Holy Christmas that perhaps now seems like a distant memory.

I must say that our really committed students have returned to school eager to learn and well prepared for the New Year. Behaviour and attitudes have been excellent this week as usual and the students have looked professional and smart in their uniform which creates a really purposeful culture and atmosphere in school.

Year 9 Welcome Mass

On Thursday, Father Peter Hapgood-Strickland and Sister Dolores, visited school to celebrate Mass for the new school year with the whole of Year 9. It was a lovely service that touched on the themes of Hope, the feeding of the 5000 from the Gospel Reading, and the Feast of the Epiphany that was celebrated with prayers in school on Tuesday. In Mass we also looked ahead to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord which is celebrated on Sunday and I have included a prayer for this Feast Day and the Epiphany at the end of this letter.

As always, the students’ behaviour in Mass was very respectful and prayerful and it was a pleasure to participate Mass with all the students.

Holy Communion at Mass and Low-Gluten

On the Headteacher’s Letters Page on the school Website I have posted the Document titled “Holy Communion and People with Coeliac Disease” for Parents/Carers information.

Father Peter has asked school to find out if any students who have completed their first Holy Communion and cannot consume gluten would like to receive a low-gluten host at Holy Communion when taking part in Mass in school.

If your child is Coeliac or cannot consume gluten **and** they would like to receive a low-gluten host at future school masses please can you email admin@stmcollege.org.uk with their name and year group explaining that they would like to receive low-gluten hosts at communion at Mass. A member of staff will then talk to them in advance of their next Mass so Father Peter can be aware of their requirements.

School All Weather Pitch

I have requested that a letter I have written to external users of the school all weather pitch to be posted on the school social media accounts today as unfortunately Tameside Council have decided to issue noise and light abatement notices for the all-weather pitch due to a complaint from local residents. Due to the threat of prosecution from Tameside Council and the risk of an unlimited fine the school has felt forced into cancelling future out of hours use by external organisations to prevent the risk of further legal action. The school is planning to appeal Tameside’s Council’s Notices at Magistrates Court and we are exploring any measures that can lift the restrictions that have been forced on us.

We are deeply sorry to the community groups and young people that are affected by a course of action that is out of our hands at the moment.

Please be reassured that our understanding is that school students and staff are still permitted to use the pitch during the school day and after school for school related activities.

Alan Turing Cryptography Competition

The school is proud to be taking part in the Alan Turing Cryptography Competition which starts next week on Monday 12th January.

Students can either complete the challenges independently or join Maths Mayhem Club on Tuesday after school to join with others to break the code.

More details can be found on school social media and at the following website

<https://www.maths.manchester.ac.uk/cryptography/>

St Thomas More RC College Achievement Point League

Well done to all the students who are collecting so many achievements by doing the simple things really well in school. Bravo!

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.

Total Points

T	H	O	M	A	S
Year 7 Total					
Joseph M 3660	Enya K 3190	Inioluwa A 3370	Margot K 3230	Billy W 3810	Izzy N 2790
Year 8 Total					
Valentina FN 3230	Isabelle C 2660	Mikayla C 3180	Maya L 2850	Daisy T 2890	Isabelle D 2500
Year 9 Total					
Jalodia O Charlotte H 2160	Abbie H 3130	Aiden F 2730	Charlotte L 2900	Eleanor L 2460	Erin L Isabelle P 2300
Year 10 Total					
Lucy M 3660	Chris M 2610	Oliver D 2820	Iris L 2540	Carragan M 3120	Ole M 2800
Year 11 Total					
Olivia K 2430	Oliver H 1980	Dominik C 2700	Elizabeth O 2800	Harry C 3330	Reve MM 2820

Weekly Winners

T	H	O	M	A	S
Year 7 Weekly Total					
Joseph M 190	Sebastian S 230	Inioluwa A 300	Grace T Dora C 220	Billy W 190	Tommy M 180
Year 8 Weekly Total					
Archie M 280	Ayomide O 200	Dominic C 280	Heidi K 300	Daisy T 260	Darcie K Conor M 270
Year 9 Weekly Total					
Poppy W 150	Abbie H 170	Aiden F Joshua S 140	Ellis P 140	Aerin L 140	Evie S 160
Year 10 Weekly Total					
Lucy M 170	Harry D 100	Sam H 120	Florence S 80	Carragan M 90	Erica S 90
Year 11 Weekly Total					
Thomas H 150	Finlay W 190	Adnana M Dominik C 200	Lily C Ella C 200	Elizabeth O 210	Reve MM 170

Year 10 Parents Evening

Year 10 Parents Evening will be held in school on Thursday 22nd January 3:30pm to 6:30pm for all Year 10 Parents and Carers. The event is an invaluable opportunity to gain really important information about your child's progress during this crucial first year of their GCSE and vocational qualifications.

The link to the online booking system is as follows but you will need the login information from the separate letter that has been sent home to access the system to book your appointments:
<https://stmcollege.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Please contact school if you have any issues booking appointments

Reminder: Year 10 Work Experience

Year 10 students recently 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/carers 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 case are working incredibly hard in rehearsals and we wish them all the best of luck for the performances!!

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 New Year

The current overall school leader with 1307 points is once again Bobby D.

Cian L was the game week winner with a huge 78 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.

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

Prayer from the Epiphany

God of heaven and earth,
you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star.
Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love.

Bless us all and those we hope to meet over the course of this year.

May we be blessed with health, goodness of heart, gentleness, and abiding in your will.
We ask this through Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for
ever and ever.

Amen.

Prayer For the Lord's Baptism

"Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed Him to be Your Son, anointing Him with the Holy Spirit: grant that we may be faithful to our call as Children of God, listening to you, guided by Your Spirit, to fulfil our unique and definite purpose."

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