

Dear Parents/Carers

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

CHANGE: 'His face shone like the sun.'

– **Last Sunday's Gospel** - Matthew 17:1-9

The school embraced World Book Day yesterday with teachers decorating their classroom doors to represent famous works of literature for a student competition. Students were tasked with visiting each door to work out the name of the book represented, some of them were very tricky but the students showed great ingenuity working out the names of the books. Best of luck to all the entrants.

Thank you to all the staff who made the effort to decorate their doors and the English staff who coordinated the project, it is so important that young people realise the value of reading and are supported to read widely and often. Even though reading can be a struggle for some and easier for others it is vital that all students are supported to read appropriate books or different literature at home as even small developments in reading proficiency are a huge indicator for success and outcomes in school as obviously nearly all examinations require significant amounts of text to be read and understood before questions can be answered.

The most important thing though is that reading when done properly can be huge fun and open us up to worlds, imagination and ideas we never knew was possible.

At St Thomas More RC College we love reading and want every student and family to share that passion.

Year 11 IMPORTANT

GCSE Summer 2026 Exams:

MFL (Speaking) & Art – 20th April 2026 to 2nd May 2026

GCSE Written Exams begins -- 5th May 2026 to 15th June 2026

There are only 6 school weeks until GCSE exams start

This will now be the last half term before the written GCSE examinations begin in May so it is vitally important that Year 11 students are completing lots of revision at home at evenings during the week and at the weekends. It isn't always the easiest task for Year 11 students to revise consistently and regularly at home so any support and encouragement provided by parents/carers could be crucial in securing the best possible grades for your child. Thank you for your support in this, these next few weeks are a hugely important time for Year 11 students and any sustained revision that they can do at home in the next few weeks will be a superb preparation for their exams.

Please note that the Summer 2026 GCSE Timetable is available to download on our school website

<https://www.stmcollege.org.uk/parents/examination-guidance>

This also means that the Easter Holidays when they arrive in three weeks are perhaps the last opportunity for Year 11 students to complete a significant amount of revision at home in preparation for these key examinations.

Students will have plenty of materials to revise from that have been provided by all relevant subject areas and there are plenty of resources available online too such as BBC Bitesize. Through years of experience, school staff know that there is no better preparation for exams than individual students sitting down in a quiet space and making notes on a topic whilst also practicing exam questions that are available both from staff in school and exam board websites. Please also remember that students can do a huge amount of revision for Maths just using the SPARX website, and the school has paid for access to this resource for every student.

During the exam period, school will be open to Year 11 students from 8:20am so that they can have a relaxing start with possibly some last-minute revision before the day of exams ahead, in previous years it has been great to see so many students taking advantage of this and showing so much commitment to success in their examinations.

Please note that as always Year 11 will continue to attend all their lessons during these initial parts of the exam timetable, we have found through many years of experience that it is much better for students to continue to attend their lessons on days when they don't have exams as teachers are able to direct and support their revision.

We have carefully considered the exam timetable structure and concluded that on **Friday 5th June** the first week back after half term that the majority of the exams will have been completed, after this date students will then only need to come into school for their exams or for lessons in which they still have an exam left to take, at other times from Monday 8th June students can then revise for the small number of remaining exams at home.

On the morning of Friday 5th June, pupils will complete their English Language exam and will be allowed to leave site to go home to revise however on this day we will also have the facility to allow students to remain in school if required to complete silent revision for exams on the following Monday.

On Tuesday 9th June there will be a specially scheduled maths lesson periods 10 and 11 for all Year 11 students in advance of the final maths paper the next day. Following the additional Maths lesson on Tuesday 9th June, students will be given the opportunity to sign shirts at the end of the the school day, this has been a lovely experience for students in times past and as in previous years students will also have the opportunity to collect their leavers hoodies, we will also once again make every effort to organise an ice cream van on site dependent on weather.

The date for the Year 11 Prom is Wednesday 1st July 7pm to 10pm, please remember that the Prom is by invitation only at the discretion of the school and that students must be in positive More points to have the opportunity to attend alongside other criteria including attendance.

On Friday 1st May, before the written GCSE exams start Year 11 will have a liturgical assembly to pray for success in the forthcoming exams.

Reminder: Year 9 Pathways Evening 9th March

Further to the letter you have already received Year 9 Parents are invited to Pathway's Evening on Monday 9th March starting at 6.00pm.

The event is a great opportunity to learn more about the different courses available for study in Year 10 and 11. There is also further information on the school website about all the subject areas and the presentations that have been given to students in lessons about each qualification are also available on the school social media channels for parents/carers information.

GCSE Drama and Music Performance Night

Well done to the students last night who took part in the GCSE Drama and Music performance night, the event was a huge success and demonstrated the incredible talent and commitment of all the students who took part. Thank you to the staff who organised and facilitated the event and thank you also to all the parents and carers who attended, you were a magnificent audience for the students. We are so proud of them!

Lenten Charity Effort

We are so proud to once again be raising money for the Christie Cancer Hospital during our Lenten Effort. We have already had some incredibly inventive ways of raising money for this very worthwhile cause from Easter hampers, to cake sales, to distance running, and bike rides. As always we are very grateful of any donations that we receive and parents/carers can contribute on ParentPay.

The act of giving to others is such an important part of Catholic Social Teaching and a corner stone of our school ethos, it is humbling to imagine how many people we have helped and supported over the years due to this community's generosity.

Student Spotlights

Well done to all the students who took part in the UK Maths Challenge led by the Maths Department in school, we have had our most successful showing ever in the challenge to the hard work and intelligence of our gifted mathematicians studying our highly academic curriculum. Fantastic!

Well done also to Paul K in Year 11 who has been successfully admitted onto the Royal Northern College of Music's Young Artists Programme. The course has been created for exceptionally talented musicians from the North West and we are so proud that Paul has made it onto this prestigious course.

A final well done to Katie M, Yr10, and Margot K, Yr7, who recently performed at the Palace Theatre in Manchester to an audience of 1500 people, they are both so talented and the whole night was an incredible showcase of dance and music.

Catholic Life of the School

We are very proud that we have received in school this week our Bronze, Silver and Gold Faith in Action Awards for the community due to the huge number of hours our students and staff have put into the Faith in Action Scheme over recent years. The awards will be displayed in the Chapel in school and we are so proud!

Thank you as well to the representatives from the RSPCA who visited school this week to talk to the Stewards Team about how we as a community can help support animal welfare and look after our common home the Earth.

Reminder: Scholastic Book Fair

We are excited to announce that, to raise the profile of reading for pleasure, and also to celebrate World Book Day, we have the Scholastic Book Fair coming into school. This will take place week commencing 16th March- 23rd March. Students will be able to redeem their WBD tokens in order to receive a discount off the books on sale. These will be given out to students in their English lessons. We will also be running competitions where students could win an additional £5 book token. All books are

aimed at KS3/4 students and have been carefully curated to ensure they cater to all tastes. Some revision guides will also be available on the stands.

Books will also be able to be purchased at Y7 Parent's Evening. As a school, for every book purchased, we will earn rewards in order to purchase books for our classroom libraries. More information will follow about payment options and times when students can peruse and purchase books of their choice.

St Thomas More RC College Achievement Point League

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 5020	Lily E 4570	Inioluwa A 4890	Dora C 4860	Billy W 5570	Qasim IB 3810
Year 8 Total					
Mikayla C 4910	Isabelle C 4140	Ella FO 4320	Maya L 4100	Daisy T 4440	Isabelle D 3810
Year 9 Total					
Charlotte H 3430	Abbie H 4500	Aiden F 3840	Charlotte L 4400	Eleanor L 3730	Charlie M 3920
Year 10 Total					
Lucy M 5140	Chris M 4210	Lucy W 4180	Finlay D 3810	Carragan M 4570	Erica S 4490
Year 11 Total					
Olivia K 4180	Oliver H 3160	Dominik C 4420	Elizabeth O 3940	Harry C 5220	Reve MM 3830

Weekly Winners

T	H	O	M	A	S
Year 7 Weekly Total					
Sam G 440	Lily E 460	Alistair P 390	Margot K 430	Rosie B Billy W 380	Qasim IB 390
Year 8 Weekly Total					
Mikayla C 420	Isabelle C 410	Ella FO 350	Maya L 430	Daisy T 420	Una L Stemiliy O 330
Year 9 Weekly Total					
Charlotte H 380	Abbie H 360	Aiden F Alfie D Valentine I	Charlotte L 450	Aerin L 400	Erin L 430

		330			
Year 10 Weekly Total					
Lucy M 300	Chris M 190	Lucas K 260	Finlay D 240	Jake T 230	Joshua F 290
Year 11 Weekly Total					
Saskia T 170	Sam A 140	Dominik C 270	Leyton W Dylan H 190	William W 190	Amelie S Cody S 170

St Thomas More RC College Fantasy Football League.

Well done to all our managers!!

The current overall school leader is now back to Patrick H with 1735 points.

Our current gameweek winner is Finlay M with 104 points

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: Confirmation 2026

I have been asked by the parishes of

St Mary and John Fisher,

Holy Family,

And St Joseph's

To share with you the details of the joint confirmation programme for students in Year 8, or older students who have not yet been confirmed and wish to be.

The covering letter and application form are available on the Parish Newsletters page of the school website and completed forms should be returned to your Parish Priest (not school).

Main details are as follows: The Catechetical sessions will take place in the parish hall at St Mary's church hall, Market street, Denton on Saturday 18th and 25th April from 9.30am to 2.30pm (Children will need to bring a packed lunch). BOTH SESSIONS must be attended. As well as regular attendance at Weekend masses (Saturday Vigil or Sunday Morning).

Bishop John has agreed to visit St Mary's Church on 10th June 2026 at 7pm to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on our young parishioners currently in Year 8 (and indeed any older pupils that wish to be Confirmed but missed previous years).

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

Weekly Prayer

Dear Lord,

As we near Easter let us remember that this was the time you showed the world that we are sacred.

In our lives let us act in a way that shows your Gospel values of love,
peace and mercy and in doing so show thanks for your sacrifice.

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