

Dear Parents/Carers

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

LIFE: 'A spring of water welling up to eternal life.'

– **Last Sunday's Gospel** - John 4: 5-42

As we move through the period of Lent in preparation for Easter we are both praying together as a community in form time/assembly and fulfilling our call to action in Catholic Social Teaching by fundraising for others who require our support in their time of need. There are lots of incredible fundraising activities taking place in school at the moment and I am so impressed by the students and staff as they give up their time and money for others, thank you to everyone who is supporting our charity work. I was very privileged last Friday to visit the Christie Cancer Hospital with Margot K and Paul K to see the Therapy Dogs Team and meet Luna and Lilo, the dogs at the heart of the scheme. I am pleased to say that the school's fundraising this year is going directly to support this fantastic canine initiative. It was very humbling to see the positive impact and joy that the Therapy Dogs brought to some of the young cancer patients that we met on our visit and I am so proud that St Thomas More RC College is helping to fund such an excellent project.

Careers Fair

Thank you to Mr Wright and all the staff who helped organise a very successful careers fair on Wednesday of this week. We had lots representatives and ambassadors from a wide array of providers ranging from the NHS to the UK Civil Service, including many post-16 providers/colleges/vocational settings.

All our guests to school provided incredible feedback on the conduct of the students and their mature and intelligent approach to post-16 information.

One representative wrote

"There is something truly special about the culture at St Thomas More."

and another visitor said

"the event was well organised and the students were exemplary as usual"

Year 11 IMPORTANT Reminder

GCSE Summer 2026 Exams:

MFL (Speaking) & Art – 20th April 2025 to 2nd May 2025

GCSE Written Exams begins -- 5th May 2025 to 15th June 2025

There are only 5 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 2025 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 for all students' 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 7 Parents Evening 19th March

Further to the letter you have already received Year 7 Parents Evening is on Thursday 19th March starting at 3:30pm.

The letter Year 7 parents/carers have already received gives details on how to book appointments through the online system but if you are having any issues don't hesitate to contact school at admin@stmcollege.org.uk

Year 7 Cross Curricular Day: International Women's Day

On Monday Year 7 celebrated International Women's Day with the help of the RE, CPSHE, Music and Humanities depts. The year 7 learnt about Women rights, Women in music and also took part in some stewardship activities linking their tasks to the role of the Women's Land Army - well done all involved and thank you to the staff who planned and delivered sessions on the day.

Student Spotlights

Well done to Caitlin in Year 7 who has been recognised for her brilliant reading through the Tameside Reader Award Initiative, Caitlin has been reading Sinbin Island by Doug Naylor.

Well done to Carragan, Brooke, Isabelle and Erin who supported the year 7 Cross Curricular day - they helped pupils with RE and Stewardship tasks on the day - well done all!

Catholic Life of the School: Willow Wood Enterprise Challenge

We were very proud to host the Willow Wood Enterprise Challenge Award Ceremony in school yesterday evening and it was a great honour to welcome a number of visitors and students from other schools and special guests including the Tameside Mayor.

We are also really proud to announce that for the second year in a row the Faith in Action Team won the overall prize of the Enterprise Challenge Winners, we are so proud of the Faith in Action Team and the considerable good they have done for the whole community with their successful projects.

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.

Note: The book sale is cash only!

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 5160	Lily E 4880	Inioluwa A 5140	Dora C 5030	Billy W 5870	Qasim IB 3950
Year 8 Total					
Mikayla C 5090	Isabelle C 4280	Ella FO 4450	Maya L 4250	Daisy T 4570	Isabelle D 3950
Year 9 Total					
Charlotte H 3580	Abbie H 4690	Aiden F 3970	Charlotte L 4660	Eleanor L 3870	Erin L 4080
Year 10 Total					
Lucy M 5360	Christopher M 4270	Lucy W 4300	Finlay D 3910	Carragan M 4730	Erica S 4660
Year 11 Total					
Olivia K 4290	Oliver H 3240	Dominik C 4550	Elizabeth O 4100	Harry C 5420	Cody S 3950

Weekly Winners

T	H	O	M	A	S
Year 7 Weekly Total					
Joseph M 140	Taylor C 180	Bella H Inioluwa A 220	Margot K 190	Billy W 200	Qasim IB 110
Year 8 Weekly Total					
Valentina FN 230	Erin K 180	Evie K Ella FO Anna M Poppie P 140	Denver S Heidi K 150	Mieszko J Gospel O Holly P 110	Darcie K 250
Year 9 Weekly Total					
Charlotte H 140	Zuzanna F 200	Aiden F 130	Ellis P 250	Jacob B 130	Isabelle P 160
Year 10 Weekly Total					
Lucy M Brooke D 170	Jacob E Harry D 100	Emily G 210	Finlay D Eliza M 90	Poppy S Carragan M 160	Joshua F 180
Year 11 Weekly Total					

Saskia T Thomas H 110	Joshua A 200	Valerie I 130	Elizabeth O Skye A Faye H 150	Harry C 180	Amelie S 160
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St Thomas More RC College Fantasy Football League.

No games last week due to the FA Cup so the league remains the same

The current overall school leader is still 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

Glorious God,

we give you thanks for glimpses of grace,

for your abundant generosity and for the strength of your love.

May we reflect your glory as we walk in your way.

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
Wednesday 25 th March 4.30pm	PGL trip parent meeting
Friday 27 th March	School Closes for Easter Holiday

Monday 13 th April	School Opens for Summer Term
Wednesday 15 th to Friday 17 th April	PGL trip
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 9 th July to Saturday 11 th July	Year 10 London Trip
Friday 17 th July	School Closes for Summer 12:15