

Dear Parents/Carers

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

Growth: ‘A Sower went out to sow.’

– **Last Sunday’s Gospel** - Matthew 13: 1 -25

In my final letter of this school year, I would like to thank all the students, staff and families who make our school community so special.

We have had an exceptionally successful year in school because of our Catholic Ethos, our calm, polite, purposeful and respectful culture, our high standards and expectations, and the hard work of everyone within our community to make the school the best place it can be. It means students have the opportunity to be happy, safe and secure in school and to perform to the highest possible standards through our academic and challenging curriculum.

Well done and congratulations to everyone for your successes during academic year 2025/2026, I hope everyone linked to our school community has a lovely summer and takes the opportunity to have a well-deserved rest.

Well done to all the students who thoroughly enjoyed their day out at Blackpool Pleasure Beach for the annual celebration trip, the students behaved superbly I am told and thank you to all the staff who organised and supervised the event.

Year 10 Work Experience

Congratulations to Year 10 students who have completed a very successful week of work experience this week in a wide variety of aspirational careers, we have already had lots of the student’s employers contacting us with messages to say how well the students have represented themselves and the school during the week

Keeping Safe Around Water Letter Tameside Council

Please see the Headteachers letters section of the school website for an important message about water safety over the Summer period.

Essentially the key message is

*To stay safe **never jump into open water**. Even on a hot day, the water can be dangerously cold and cause cold water shock. There may also be hidden hazards beneath the surface.*

The Big Future Survey -- Children’s Commissioner for England

Dame Rachel de Souza has written to all schools and colleges asking students to complete a national survey about their thoughts and views covering the things they enjoy, the challenges they face, the changes they would like to see in their communities, and what they believe a good childhood should look like today.

The Survey is called “The Big Future” and can be found online at:

<http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>

Please ask your child to log onto a computer over the holidays to complete the survey.

Free School Meals: Message to all Parents/Carers (including those not currently receiving free school meals)

You may be aware that the entitlement criteria for free school meals is changing from September 2026 and many families will become eligible for the first time under the expanded FSM criteria.

Children from households in receipt of Universal Credit, with annual household earnings exceeding £7,400 will qualify – the previous £7,400 earnings limit no longer applies.

Children from households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less (the existing threshold for FSM prior to the expansion), will be eligible for targeted FSM. In addition to receiving free meals, pupils eligible for targeted FSM will attract pupil premium and other disadvantage funding for their schools.

If the above criteria applies to you we encourage you to apply using the link below:

<https://www.stmcollege.org.uk/parents/free-school-meals-entitlement>

If you are currently receiving free school meals for your child, you will have received an additional email from school.

Reminder: Uniform (pre-loved) Event

If any Parents/Carers would like to secure some items of preloved uniform then the school will be open on Tuesday 11th August between 9:30am and 12 noon so that items of donated uniform can be collected. The event will take place in the school hall.

Reminder:

Students at our school who wear their uniform with pride look incredibly smart and this helps to contribute to our high standards that lead to our fantastic outcomes.

We are aware that the cost of school uniform can be a significant consideration for parents/carers so over the last three years we have reviewed our school uniform policy with affordability in mind, the uniform policy is available on the school website policy documents page.

*For parents/carers who are finding purchasing uniform challenging we can on occasion offer financial support, but each year we go further and seek to provide good quality second hand uniform for **free** or for a small voluntary donation if the recipient wishes.*

If you do have any unwanted uniform at home that is in good condition then please do consider donating it to school for redistribution, we are especially interested in blazers, jumpers, ties and school PE Kit.

Any items for donation can be brought to the school office and over the summer we will arrange a pre-owned uniform collection event for families who wish to use the service to obtain uniform for their sons/daughters.

Thank you to everyone who donates items of uniform.

Advance Notice of Key Dates

Students return to school on Thursday 3rd September 2026.

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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Prayer to celebrate the Year

Dear Lord,

Thank you for blessing us with another year together in our community.

We are grateful for the opportunities that we had together in school.

We recognise the talents of our students and the support that they have received from family,
friends, loved ones and staff.

Bless and support each person associated with our school community both now and in the future.

Amen.