

Dear Parents/Carers

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

MISSION *“God will give justice to his elect, who cry to Him’*

– Last Sunday’s Gospel - Luke 18:1-8

Assemblies this week focused on the importance being resilient and being able to recover and move on from setbacks that are a normal part of life for everyone. We all know that life isn’t always plain sailing and there will be times when things go wrong, this is completely normal, so it is really important that young people know that they need to develop their own strategies so that they can be resilient and continue on their path even during times when it is hard.

Examples of resilience in school were discussed such as:

Persevering after a setback – *Working harder after a disappointing result.*

Overcoming nerves or fear – *Speaking, performing, or competing despite feeling anxious.*

Staying positive through change – *Coping well with new teachers, routines, or friendships.*

Managing challenges at home – *Still doing your best despite difficulties outside school.*

Well done to all the students and staff on a really successful half-term full of fantastic achievements and great learning, I have been highly impressed with the students over the last 8 weeks and this has been one of the best starts to a school year I can remember in terms of excellent behaviour and great progress. Bravo to all!

Half term Holiday

School breaks up for the half term holiday today and I hope all our students, staff and families have a well-earned rest.

A reminder that school re-opens on Monday 3rd November.

Careers: Year 11 Mock Interview Day

Thank you to Mr Wright and the Year 11 team for organising a superb Year 11 Mock Interview Day to help prepare the students for their next steps beyond school. I am also so grateful to the external employers who visited school to interview the students, we have had some amazing feedback from our guests and I am very proud to share some of their comments with you.

“It was so lovely to visit yesterday. I was really impressed by how well the students articulated themselves. They were all willing to answer every question asked and were able to use past experience/events to back up their answers which was great. It really was a pleasure to meet everyone and the students were a credit to the school. The event was incredibly well organised. Thank you for all you did to make this day run as smoothly as it did.”

“The mock interview event was really well organised as it always is. The students I interviewed were a credit to the school they all came across really well during the interviews. It was good to see so many of them have a clear idea about their future careers and where they want to be.”

“Great to meet your pupils today. I was amazed at how well they all did in answering the questions they were all a real credit to your school.”

“I thought all the students did really well and were a credit to themselves and the school.”

Careers Information

There are lots of interesting activities related to careers coming up in school over the next few weeks students can see Mr Wright or visit the Careers café in room 42 each Tuesday after school for more information. School Careers advisor is Ms J Gibson: Email – jennifergibson@positive-steps.org.uk

The activities include:

Tuesday 21st October Year 11 Mock interviews

Year 10 Work Experience Placement Planning: Parent Consent Deadline Friday 24th October

Sunday 19th October Xaverian College Open Day

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 1790	Enya K 1680	Nancy L 1600	Margot K 1700	Billy W 1860	Izzy N 1320
Year 8 Total					
Valentina FN 1720	Isabelle C 1280	Mikayla C 1670	Maya L 1210	Daisy T 1440	Stemilly O 1350
Year 9 Total					
Darcey D 1180	Abbie H 1710	Aiden F 1540	Charlotte L 1590	Eleanor L 1250	Erin L Charlie M 1290
Year 10 Total					
Lucy M 1910	Chris M Doreen A 1360	Emily G 1680	Iris L 1520	Carragan M 1460	Ole M 1590
Year 11 Total					
Olivia K 1300	Oliver H 11300	Adnana M Valerie I 1420	Elizabeth O 1460	Harry C 1530	Reve MM 1510

Weekly Winners

T	H	O	M	A	S
Year 7 Weekly Total					
Joseph M Esme L	Noah D 180	Nancy L 170	Olivia B 180	Rosie B 220	Efe O 150

Molly F Olly A 180					
Year 8 Weekly Total					
Valentina FN 310	Isabelle C 240	Mikayla C 230	Heidi K 180	Holly P Miesko J 210	Connor M 150
Year 9 Weekly Total					
Reuben F 180	Albie N 200	Alfie D Isla P Ravin R 170	Charlotte L Winter L 180	Eleanor L 160	Jon C 190
Year 10 Weekly Total					
Alex S 220	Alex R 105	Emily G 220	Finlay D 200	Olivia G Poppy S 130	Cheryl O Erica S Seyi S Chloe T 220
Year 11 Weekly Total					
Saskia T Olivia K Paul K Georgie A 100	Oliver H 100	Pelumi A 160	Elizabeth O 180	Harry C Theo F 170	Reve MM 170

Student Spotlight

Lyla Jo W 8A

Well done to Lyla Jo who has successfully completed a trial at the Football Emerging Talent Centre at Salford City FC. Lyla did so well in the trial that she has been invited to play with the age group above. Lyla is a fantastic footballer and also represents Denton Youth Girls U13s. Superb achievement!

Esme L Year 7

Well done to Esme who won the English departments Mount Everest Project, Esme was so inspired by the project that she organised a Zoom call with Mountaineer Jay Whiting who has climbed to the summit of Mount Everest. What an amazing achievement and what a wonderful student well done Esme.

Congratulations as well to all the students who took part in the Mount Everest Project as the display of work in the English department is just incredible

MORE Moments

Thank you to the GIFT Team, The Faith in Action Team and the Stewards Team who have delivered a Dairy Milk Chocolate to as many school staff as possible to thank them for their hard work this half term on behalf of the students.

STM Talent Show

Thank you to Mrs Doran and Mrs Kirkman for organising last night's talent extravaganza, it was a brilliant show full of singing, dancing and highly talented students.

Thank you to all the students who took part in any way including performers, backstage crew, front of house and refreshment service. Thank you also to the school staff who volunteered their time to make the event possible.

A very successful and enjoyable night and thank you parents and carers for your support in attending.

Battlefields Trip 2025

There are some great pictures on the school social media page of the Year 8 students' residential trip to France that is taking place during this week. The students have travelled to Calais and visited a number of historical sites connected to the World Wars including the Arras War Memorial.

Thank you to the staff who have organised and attended the residential trip as it is a huge amount of work but so rewarding for the students to have this experience together. I am sure they have all had a brilliant time.

Key Stage 3 Student Newsletter

Well done to the Newsletter team who have produced a student Key Stage 3 Newsletter for the half-term with the support of our Literacy Lead Teacher Ms Kay. The newsletter is all the students own work and it is available now on the school website!

<https://www.stmcollege.org.uk/news/student-newsletter>

Wonderful work from all involved!!

Year 11 Enterprise and Marketing Students

Well done to all the students in Mrs Mellor's Enterprise and Marketing group for overcoming any nervousness to present you Dragon's Den style pitches about the business that they have created called "Class Designs". Mrs Mellor was very impressed with the way all the students approached this important assessment task.

Sport: Year 9 and Year 11 Catholic Football Cup

Well done to the Year 9 and 11 Boy's football teams who were victorious in their tightly contested cup ties against Rochdale school St Cuthbert's. Well done to every player and good luck in the next round.

Faith in Action Team and Stewards

The stewards pumpkin competition was a great success, and the winners Bella M-R and Charlotte L have won the pumpkins grown by the stewards team in the Prayer Garden area to take home as harvest festival decorations.

The Faith in Action team will once again this year be taking part in the Willow Wood Hospice Enterprise Challenge having won the event last year. We wish the team the best of luck and pray for lots of support for them so they can raise as much money as possible for this important cause.

REMINDER: Countdown to Year 11 December Mocks Examinations

Only 5 Weeks to the Year 11 December Mock Examinations

Key Messages before the Mock Exams Year 11:

- *The importance of the Mock Examinations can't be overstated, Students who do well in the Mocks go on to do well in the Summer GCSEs. Students must make the Mock Examinations a priority.*
- *Students have been given challenging/appropriate target grades to work towards for their Mock Exams, it is great to hear that some students have been requesting increased target grades!!*

- Revision outside of school is key, students have been provided with a revision timetable and booklet, students should be doing some revision most days (5/6 days out of 7 days) in the lead up to the Mocks and Summer exams. Revision for the Mocks should have started now.
- Getting enough sleep this year is vital so that students can concentrate well in class everyday.
- Consider how much screen time (mobile phones/consoles) is appropriate to leave enough time for revision, if screen time is too high it needs to be reduced to leave enough time to revise for exams.
- Work hard in every lesson without distraction and ensure attendance and punctuality is as good as it possibly can be.
- Attend as many revision classes as possible afterschool, some of these classes have already begun in subjects such as RE and Geography and they can be vital in supporting students to hit and exceed their targets

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/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 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.

A reminder for our fantasy football managers to make any changes today before 18:30 today as Leeds are playing West Ham at 8pm.

Well done to our current league leaders

The current overall school leader with 560 points is Bobby D.

Will H Year 10 was also the Game week winner with a massive 93 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.

Reminder: Exam Invigilator Vacancy

CASUAL POSTS: During exam periods only (2wks Dec; 8wks May & June)

Hours as required: 8.15am – 4.00pm

St Thomas More RC College is looking for Exam Invigilators, responsible for the supervision of external (GCSE) and internal examinations in the examination rooms in accordance with the rules and regulations of the respective examination boards and the school as instructed by the Exams Manager. If you interested and require any further information or an informal discussion about the post, please do not hesitate to contact our Exams Manager via: Email: r.mansoor@stmcollege.org.uk

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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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 of Mission

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you call us to be missionary disciples.
Guide and strengthen us to share your love with all we meet.
Give us courage to reach out to help others.
Give us wisdom to know how best to care.
And give us hope to believe we can make a difference.

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
Friday 17 th July	School Closes for Summer 12:15