

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a great start to the Year and it has been so nice for all the staff to welcome back our students and also help the new Year 7 Students settle in.

As always, I have spoken to all year groups in assembly at the start of this week about the importance of maintaining our very sensible standards and expectations in all aspects of school life including learning in lessons and uniform, it is our insistence on students making good choices and doing the right thing that allows them to achieve so highly and perform so well in school in a calm, polite and respectful culture. I did remind the students in assembly on the first day that the entire school site is now mobile phone free, and that Smart Phones, Electronic Devices (including cameras), Smart Watches and Headphones will be confiscated for a period of 4 weeks and only returned to a parent/carer if they are seen or heard on the school site, the school policy is really clear and has been well communicated. Please remember that should you wish; you can purchase a school approved non-smart phone including the Nokia 105 for a student to use on the journey home then you may do so providing the non-smart school approved phone is kept switched off inside your child's school bag during the day. If you need any further details then please consult the school's behaviour policy on the school website.

The school has always had significant restrictions on mobile phone use on the school site but even in the first two days of our evolved policy we are noticing that students are much more focused in lessons which we believe is because they are not waiting or wondering if they need to check their phone for a notification or new message, we are hopeful that the policy will further support the opportunity that our students have to excel in their studies.

Thank you for your support in ensuring that your sons and daughters have returned to school well prepared for the year ahead.

Congratulations to Year 11 Leavers

Very well done to our Year 11 Leavers who received fantastic exam results during the Summer holidays with an impressive 74% of Students gaining a grade 9-4 in both Maths and English GCSE.

81% of students gained a 9-4 grade in Maths and 83% gained a grade 9-4 in English.

These results are a testament to the hard work of the students and the dedication of their teachers. These figures are once again above national averages across the country and continue our position as one of the leading schools in Tameside and region, and adds to our proud record of high academic achievement that is based on our culture of excellence, fantastic behaviour, and our highly challenging curriculum.

Congratulations class of 2025! I am so proud of the whole community, our talented teachers and of course the hardworking students who deserved this high level of success.

Open Evening: Early Finish

Our Open Evening for prospective parents/carers and students will take place on **Thursday 24th September 5.00pm to 7.00pm.**

As is usual practice school will close early on the day of Open Evening (24th September) at 12:15 to facilitate the organisation that is required to open the school to many hundreds of parents/carers and their children.

Further information will be provided about buses that are available for students to travel home in on the day in due course

New Staff

Welcome to the following new teaching staff who have joined us this September:

Mrs Linnecor – Teacher of Maths

Ms McCormack – Teacher of RE

Due to the excellent reputation of our school we are always fortunate to be able to attract highly qualified professional staff and I wish our new colleagues a very warm welcome and every success in their new roles.

Pre-Loved Uniform

Thank you for the kindness of all the families who donated items of uniform for our pre-loved uniform events so that uniform that was no longer needed could be redistributed to other families.

The distribution event over the Summer Holidays were a great success and as a result our community has been able to support families needing items of uniform but it has also had great benefits for the environment, by re-using good quality uniform we have protected valuable natural resources and stopped perfectly good items going to landfill.

Thank you for your support! We are still taking donations of good quality uniform for future pre-loved events and please be aware that you can contact the school office at any time during the remainder of the school year if you would like to access any of the pre-loved items we have in stock.

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

New Academic Year Prayer used at Assembly on Thursday

Lord Jesus, we ask for your help at the start of this new school year.

Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.

Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our studies and the courage to accept new opportunities.

Help us to use our unique gifts and talents to reach our full potential.

Jesus, inspire us to do our best this year!

Amen