

Dear Parents/Carers

Salford Diocese Theme of the Week for Schools

INVITATION *'Invite to the wedding feast as many as you can find.'*

Sunday's Gospel Matthew 22: 1-14

This week assemblies have focused on the importance of resilience and looking after our own Mental Health so that we can be happy and successful and engaged in our futures. World Mental Health Day was celebrated on 10 October 2026, with the theme of "Lived experiences heard: real voices, real change" so the topic of the assembly was selected specifically to tie in to this important annual event that gives us the opportunity to reflect on how we can support each other to be the best we can be.

School Performance Tables: High Performing School

Thursday marked the release of the School Performance Tables for GCSE results for Schools in England and Wales I am proud to say that the data for the school shows that 75% of St Thomas More RC College students gained a grade 9-4 in both Maths and English GCSE which places our school as one of the leading schools in Tameside and the North West in terms of GCSE performance.

It is a fantastic achievement with 81% of students gaining a 9-4 grade in Maths and 83% gaining a grade 9-4 in English.

It will be wonderful to hear from our past Year 11 students in a few weeks when we celebrate Presentation Evening as they will be able to describe the amazing opportunities their hard work and excellent GCSE results have afforded them as they have started their aspirational careers and further education opportunities after leaving our school community.

Achievement Points League

Well done to all the students who have continued the year so brilliantly and are collecting so many achievement points 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					
Ziv 1330	Eva 1460	Malcolm 1120	Max 1070	Emmelinn 1060	Daisy 1190
Year 8 Total					
Esme 1360	Lily 1360	Nancy 1590	Margot 1330	Billy 1490	Shaun 1000
Year 9 Total					
Mikayla	Isabelle	Ella	Heidi	Daisy	Darcie K

1246	1400	1060	1130	1200	103
Year 10 Total					
Charlotte 1230	Millie 1200	Steven Eva 1300	Milena 1700	Josh 1110	Isabelle 1490
Year 11 Total					
Alex 1530	Archie Willow 1260	Lucas 1470	Finlay 1370	Carragan 1250	Ole 1410

Weekly Winners

T	H	O	M	A	S
Year 7 Weekly Total					
Emma 310	Noah 230	Anabelle 180	Mia McL 170	Billy 320	Daisy 180
Year 8 Weekly Total					
Ayda 200	Charlie G 210	Nancy L 250	Margot 250	Billy W 170	Emmet Bella 150
Year 9 Weekly Total					
Mikayla C 211	Isabelle C 290	Ella FO 180	Heidi 220	Esmee 180	Antonia 170
Year 10 Weekly Total					
Reuben Thomas 160	Abbie H 170	Mitchelle 200	Milena R 250	Jacob 210	Erin 250
Year 11 Weekly Total					
Lucy 270	Katie 180	Lucie 250	Evie 190	Carragan 180	Lillia 250

Year 11 - Speakers of other languages.

If you can speak and can write in a different language, please could you let your Form Tutor know or come and speak to Mrs Laycock (R29B) as soon as possible? You may be able to sit a GCSE in your own language, which will support your applications for college, apprenticeships or future employment.

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

Reminder: Smart Phone Free School

As you will be aware St Thomas More RC College is a Smart Phone Free Site since September, Students are not allowed to bring Smart Phones onto the school site.

Students are permitted to bring into school an Approved Non-Smart Basic Phone for their journey to and from school should parents/carers wish them to, (Nokia 105, Nokia 106, HMD 105), but these approved phones must remain switched off in a student's bag for the duration of the school day until students have exited the outer green gate.

As a school, we firmly believe that our policy is overwhelmingly in the best interests of children in the lives they lead and the progress that they are able to make in school.

We recognise that Smart Devices with access to cameras, social media and the internet, have some very limited benefits, but we believe overall Smart Devices are very harmful to students and to the school environment due to their addictive nature, potential for distraction and the unsuitable content that can potentially be accessed. This view is increasingly supported by policy makers and a large and growing number of parents and carers and is further supported by scientific research.

We are hopeful that our approach to Smart Phones can support students to reduce the time spent on Smart Phones and empower parents/carers of students joining St Thomas More RC College in future years to delay the purchase of a Smart Phone for their son/daughter if they wish.

Some of the benefits of Smart Phone Free School Environments include:

- GCSE results 1–2 grades higher at schools with an effective smartphone ban.
- In-class phone bans improve academic outcomes, especially for vulnerable student groups.
- School mobile phone bans increased test scores by 6.4%, with the greatest gains among low-achieving students.
- PISA 2022 shows students distracted by digital devices in class scored 15 points lower in maths - almost three-quarters of a year's learning.

Some of the risks of Smart Phones for young people are explained at:

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/resource/are-smartphones-really-that-bad-for-kids>

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 of Invitation

Dear Lord,

Guide us in the journey of life –

let us say yes to the good, positive and kind
and help us to be open to the support that you will always invite us to share in.

Stay with us on our journey.

Amen