Dear Parents/Carers

Salford Diocese Theme of the Week for Schools
MISSION *'Render to Caesar the things that are Caeser's and to God the things that are God's.'*
Sunday's Gospel *Matthew 22: 15-21*

This week assemblies have been delivered by Police Constable Lawton with information shared that is designed to prevent and raise awareness of issues related to Violence against Women and Girls. Topics covered included misogyny, harassment, staying safe online, and the laws designed to protect us and our communities. The students were superbly behaved as usual in assembly and the PC Lawton was very impressed with each year group. Thank you to PC Lawton and the Police Service for providing such a fantastic learning experience for our community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff in school for their hard work this half term which has all been for the benefit of the students who are such valued members of our community. Well done also to all the students who have demonstrated excellent attitudes to their learning over the past eight weeks. I hope all members of our community enjoy a restful half term holiday next week when school breaks up today on Friday 23rd October. A reminder that school resumes on Monday 2nd November.

Student Spotlights

Well done to Erin K, Deputy GIFT team leader who last week did a superb presentation for the school about her journey through acting and the performing arts. Fantastic!

Thank you and congratulations to Leo and Max in Year 7 who had their designs selected to be the new praise postcards for the maths department. Their exciting creations are a fitting celebration of hard work and great attitude to learning in Maths.

Willow Wood Enterprise Challenge

Well done to the students who ran the fundraising activities last week for Willow Wood Hospice. Your commitment to the Catholic Social Teaching Values of Charity and Compassion set a superb example for all of us.

Whitby and York Trip

Thank you to the staff who have organised and are supervising the Year 8 Residential Trip to Whitby and York. The large number of residential trips that we do in school are a fantastic opportunity for the students but they are a significant undertaking for the staff involved so I am very grateful to colleagues who are willing to get involved. The photographs on the school news pages look like the students are having a wonderful time with activities including: The Dracula Experience, Abbey Visit, Ghost Tour, York Walking Tour, Clifford's Tower Visit and Go Karting.

I am told that the students are behaving superbly and are fantastic ambassadors for the school, well done all!

Year 11 Parents Evening

Year 11 Parents Evening will be held in school on Thursday 5th November 3:30pm to 6:30pm for all Year 11 Parents and Carers. The event is an invaluable opportunity to gain really important information about your child's progress during their GCSE and vocational studies.

The link to the online booking system is as follows but you will need the login information from the separate letter that has been sent home to access the system to book your appointments:

https://stmcollege.schoolcloud.co.uk/

Please contact school if you have any issues booking appointments

Year 10 Work Experience

The year 10 work experience programme has launched. Coordinated by Our Futures, year 10 students will undertake work experience in the week commencing Monday 12th July 2027.

Work experience provides students with a valuable opportunity to experience the world of work, develop important skills such as communication, teamwork and problem-solving, and to gain a better understanding of the responsibilities and expectations that careers demand. It also enables students to explore potential career paths, build confidence and make more informed decisions about their future education and employment.

Students have received a set of three letters in tutor time, and they are:

A letter addressed to the student outlines the programme and how they can access this.
A second letter to parents/carers that requires consent to be given to undertake work experience.
The final letter is addressed to a prospective work experience placement provider and should be given to the organisation that your child wishes to undertake their placement with. The placement will have to submit the necessary Employers' Liability Insurance so that Our Futures can conduct the relevant health and safety checks to approve the placement.

Key work experience deadlines:
Parent/carer consent to be completed by Friday 27th November 2026
Final deadline for work experience placement documentation is Friday 22nd January 2027.

Year 10 students can access support at the weekly Careers Cafe with Mr Wright in room 42 from 3pm each Tuesday.

PE Update – Shin Pads for Football

When your child is taking part in football during lessons during the school day, if possible, it is recommended that they bring shin pads with them to school to wear when taking part in competitive elements of the lesson.

For students taking part in football after school (either recreationally or competitively), shin pads are compulsory. Students who do not wear shin pads will not be able to take part. This is in line with FA guidance, which requires shin pads to be worn when competing.

The PE department only has a limited number of spare shin pads available that can be lent to students when necessary for after school sessions. We therefore ask that all students bring their own shin pads whenever they are playing football in sessions after school and were possible in PE lessons.

Achievement Point 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 1560	Eva 1680	Malcolm 1270	Max 1210	Emmelinn 1200	Daisy 1510
Year 8 Total					
Esme 1580	Lily 1510	Nancy 1780	Dora 1610	Billy 1750	Shaun 1570
Year 9 Total					
Mikayla 1436	Isabelle 1400	Ella 1220	Heidi 1130	Daisy 1380	Darcie K 1190
Year 10 Total					
Charlotte 1460	Albie 1370	Eva 1530	Milena 1980	Josh 1330	Isabelle 1920
Year 11 Total					
Alex 1720	Archie 1450	Lucas 1680	Finlay 1540	Carragan 1450	Ole 1580

Weekly Winners

T	H	O	M	A	S
Year 7 Weekly Total					
Monet 240	Asim India 200	Esme 200	Darcy 300	Abel Ellie 120	Bella Daisy Georgia 280
Year 8 Weekly Total					
Mollie 200	Taylor 172	Hollie 330	Dora 290	Billy 220	Shaun 550
Year 9 Weekly Total					
Mikayla 190	Isabelle Ayomide	Dominic Isabelle	Maya 130	Esmee Gospel	Angel Solomon

	210	190		190	Lillie-May 140
Year 10 Weekly Total					
Jalodia 210	Albie 200	Mitchelle 230	Milena 230	Eleanor 230	Isabelle P 400
Year 11 Weekly Total					
Lucy 170	Katie 140	Isla 220	Finley 150	Isabella 190	Chloe 150

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
H Brophy

Prayer of Mission

Loving God,

You have called us as Your disciples to go forth into the world and tell the Good News.

Strengthened by Your grace and emboldened by the gifts of Your Holy Spirit,

we embrace the call to give of ourselves to others, especially those who are poor and vulnerable.

Help us to commit ourselves to share the love and joy that comes from the Gospel to every creature,

to go forth into our world at home and abroad and bring the saving message of Jesus Christ.

Guard missionaries throughout the world with your loving care and protection and help all those

they encounter to open their hearts to Your grace alive in them.

Enliven us all to recognize that we are sent forth into the world to bring about a culture of

life, justice, peace, kindness and love.

Amen

Upcoming Events (dates may be subject to change for unforeseen circumstances)

Wednesday 21st October	Whitby and York Residential
Thursday 5th November	Year 11 Parents Evening
Thursday 26th November	Presentation Evening
Monday 30th November – Friday 11th December	Year 11 Mock Exams
Sunday 29th November	Start of Advent
Tuesday 1st December	Tameside Cross Country
Tuesday 15th December	School Christmas Dinner Day
Thursday 17th December	School Closes 12:15pm (Christmas Holiday)
Wednesday 6th January	School opens for Students
Thursday 14th January	New Year Mass
Wednesday 20th January	Year 7 Anti Racism Workshop
Thursday 21st January	Year 10 Parents Evening
Wednesday 3rd February	Year 9 Buddhism Workshop
Friday 5th February	Year 7 Christianity Workshop
Tuesday 9th February	Year 9 Octagon Trip
Wednesday 10th February	Ash Wednesday Liturgies
Thursday 11th February	Start of Lent
Friday 12th February	School Closes 2:45 (half term holiday)
Monday 22nd February	School opens for Students
Monday 22nd February	Year 10 JD Sports Media Trip
Thursday 25th February	Year 9 Parents Evening
Friday 26th February	GIFT team visit to Manchester Cathedral
Thursday 4th March	World Book Day
Monday 8th March	Year 9 Pathways Information Released
Wednesday 10th March	Careers Fair
Wednesday 17th March	GCSE Drama Palace Theatre Trip
Thursday 18th March	Year 7 Parents Evening
Thursday 18th March	Mass for Lent
Thursday 21st March	Palm Sunday
Friday 26th March	Good Friday
Sunday 28th March	Easter Sunday
Thursday 25th March	School Closes 2:45pm (Easter Holiday)
Monday 12th April	School Opens for Students
Monday 12th April – Wednesday 14th April	Year 7 PGL Trip
Thursday 15th April	School Mass for Year 11 Success in Exams
Friday 16th April	Year 9 Holocaust Education Talk
Monday 19th April – Tuesday 20th April	GCSE Art Exam
Thursday 22nd April	Willow Wood Enterprise Challenge
Friday 23rd April	Silver Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition
Thursday 29th April	Year 8 Parents Evening
Monday 3rd May	Bank Holiday
Wednesday 5th May	GCSE Exams Begin
Wednesday 5th May	Year 10 Geography Fieldwork Residential
Friday 14th May – Sunday 16th May	Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition
Wednesday 19th May	National Numeracy Day
Friday 28th May	School Closes 2:45 (half term holiday)
Monday 7th June	School Opens for Students

Monday 7th June – Wednesday 9th June	Year 8 Mosque Visit
Wednesday 16th June	Year 9 Green Power Trip
Friday 18th June	GCSE Exams End
Monday 21st June – Tuesday 29th June	Year 10 Exam Series
Monday 28th June	Year 7-9 Reading Tests
Monday 28th June	Year 11 Prom
Wednesday 30th June	Year 9 and 10 Residential Poland Trip
Thursday 1st July	Year 6 Induction Day
Monday 5th July	Year 7 Spelling Bee
Tuesday 6th July	Year 8 Spelling Bee
Tuesday 6th July	Tameside Athletics
Thursday 8th July	Key Stage 3 Rewards Evening
Monday 12th July – Friday 16th July	Year 10 Work Experience Week
Thursday 15th July – Friday 16th July	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition
Wednesday 21st July	School Closes 12:15pm (Summer Holiday)