

12th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 9 Feast Day for St Maximilian Kolbe – Wednesday 8th January 2025

I am delighted to share that our Year 9 pupils continue to uphold exemplary standards and embody the St Thomas More values of "Aspire not to have more but be more." It has been a pleasure supporting Year 9 this academic year as their Head of Learning, and I have every confidence that this positive attitude will continue throughout their time at STM.

As part of our Catholic Social Teaching programme, each year group has adopted a Saint to learn from and emulate. For Year 9, we have chosen St Maximilian Kolbe, who, during his time as a prisoner of war, made the ultimate sacrifice by giving his life to save another. His selflessness serves as a profound example of courage, compassion, and faith.

To honour St Maximilian Kolbe, we invite Year 9 pupils to celebrate his Feast Day on Wednesday 8th January. Pupils may wear non-uniform on this day for a voluntary donation of £1. In addition, the Year 9 cohort will raise funds through sponsored sporting activities during lunchtime. Highlights will include a penalty shootout against members of staff, including myself, Mrs Brown, Miss Turner, Mrs Dodd, and Mr Richardson, as well as an eagerly anticipated dodgeball match between the Year 9 team and Year 9 pupils.

During Period 1, we will be walking up to St Anne's Church on Terrace Road for a Liturgy. This will take place during the school day and so alternative transportation to and from school does not need to be arranged.

Outlined below is the schedule for the day:

- **Registration and Personal Development**
- **Period 1:** A visit to St Anne's Church, Buxton for a short liturgy.
- **Period 2:** Lessons as normal.
- **Period 3:** Disability Sports and early lunch.
- **Lunch:** Sponsored penalty shootout.
- **Period 4:** Lessons as normal.
- **Period 5:** A celebration in the school hall at 2:45 pm, including cake and reflections on St Maximilian Kolbe.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Doherty-Perkins
Head of Learning for Year 9 and 10