



Friday 20th October 2023

Head Teacher's Weekly Update

Dear Families,

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing this week of our deeply respected previous Head Teacher Mr Michael Zarraga. Many of you will be aware of the enormous contribution he made to our school over many years and will join me in praying for the repose of his soul and comfort for his family at this very sad time.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

I would like to wish you all a lovely holiday and thank you for your support and contributions to school life over this last half term. It has been a really great term with many reasons to be grateful and causes for celebration. Please hold our whole community in your prayers over the holiday as we extend our thoughts and prayers to you.

Prayer Theme

"Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit" - Matthew 21:33-43

- We have prayed together as a community:

Dear God;

We know it is often difficult to follow your instructions and listen to the messages you give us in daily life. We ask for your strength to always be able to produce the fruits of your land and share them with one another.

Amen

Year 10 - Supporting Your Learner Evening

- Thank you for your attendance at our Year 10 Parents' Information Evening on Wednesday 18th October.
- I am very proud of our Year 10 pupils and how well they are responding to their Key Stage 4 courses.
- As ever, if you have any queries regarding your child please contact us via the relevant House email address.

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL,
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Bonfire Safety

- We had a very informative assembly from the Tyne and Wear Fire Service and I would like to request that you speak to your children about the dangers of Fireworks and Bonfires.
- These appear to arrive earlier in Autumn each year, and as such it is important that our pupils follow the advice of the Fire Service:
 - Attend organised events that follow the Health and Safety recommendations.
 - Never purchase or handle Fireworks - they are explosives and cause serious harm.
 - Think carefully about what you are wearing - flammable clothes such as tracksuits and fancy dress should be avoided.

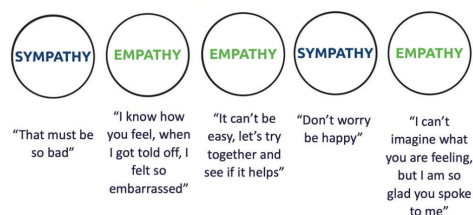
**Tyne and Wear Fire
and Rescue Service**
Creating the Safest Community



World Mental Health Day

- In our 'Keeping Safe and Well' pastoral sessions we have been reflecting on this year's 'World Mental Health Day' theme of 'Empathy'.
- Pupils responded so maturely to their paired activities exploring what empathy is and how they can develop their character to become more empathetic.
- Our pupils know that they can speak openly about mental health and they know who to talk to if they are worried.

EMPATHY OR SYMPATHY?



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ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL,
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National Teaching School
designated by
National College for
Teaching & Leadership



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Youth Ministry Team - Significance Grand Draw

- The Draw closes 17th November - tickets are available from parishes or calling the YMT.
- £5 per ticket and all proceeds go to Fr Donnelly's Significance charity.
- There are some incredible prizes



Fundraising Activities

- Due to the Met Office Weather Warning in place today, Friday 20th October, we were unable to complete our Fundraising walk and readathon. The safety of our pupils and staff is our absolute priority.
- We will reschedule this if we are able to.
- Thank you for your contributions and support.

Year 11 and 13 Mock Examinations

- Our Year 11 and 13 pupils will be sitting their Mock examinations after half term.
- Pupils have their own examination timetable commencing Monday 30th October until Friday 10th November.
- They have been working hard in school and have been provided with revision support from staff.
- I would strongly recommend that families discuss the revision preparations and materials pupils have so that they are fully prepared to undertake these mock examinations and experience success.

End of Term

- A reminder that we break up for half term on **Friday 20th October** and return to school on **Monday 30th October**.
- Over the half term it would be a lovely opportunity to attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation at any of our parish churches. They can be found using the link below under 'Partnership' C3 'Ovingham'.
- [Find a Church - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle](#)

Extra-Curricular

- Please find a link to this term's extra-curricular calendar:
- [Extra Curricular at St Thomas More](#)

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MCAS

- If you have not installed the My Child at School app [MCAS] can you please do so as this is a great way to stay connected with your child's data and progress.
- If you have any issues please email mcas@stthomasmore.org.uk

Punctuality

- A reminder of our updated punctuality procedures:
<https://www.stthomasmore.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Punctuality-Routines-September-2023.pdf>
- Please ensure that all pupils are on school site by 08.40am every day.

Please follow us on social media (**Facebook and Twitter STM_CS_Blaydon**) where we share regular updates from our school community.

As always if you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch using the pastoral email addresses below:

St Bernadette	St Catherine Laboure	St John Fisher	St Therese	Sixth Form
s_stbqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk	s_stclqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk	s_stjfqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk	s_sttqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk	s_6frmqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Turner
Head Teacher