



Friday 17th November 2023

### Head Teacher's Weekly Update

Dear Families,

I previously wrote to share the sad news of the passing of Mr Michael Zarraga, a former Head Teacher of our school. His funeral was this morning and I would ask you all to continue to hold his family, friends and all impacted by his death in your prayers. May he rest in peace, Amen.

### Prayer Theme

***'Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.' Matthew 25: 1 - 13***

- We have prayed together as a community:

**Dear God; in life there are always unexpected events that we cannot prepare for. We ask with your grace that we can take it upon ourselves to always be ready for when you call us. Guide us in your name we pray  
Amen.**

### Family Catholic Life Survey

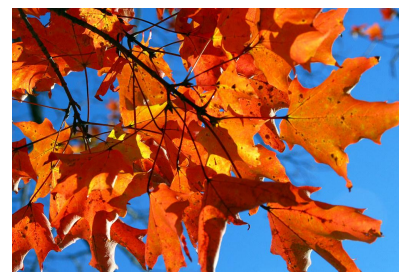
- Thank you if you have already completed our survey. We really value your feedback.
- The Catholic Life of our school is reflected in our mission statement and we would really appreciate as many views as possible.
- Please complete this survey by Friday 24th November.

[Catholic Life Survey](#)



### Fundraising Day

- Today was a great day!
- Pupils conducted themselves fantastically well on our Autumn walk, as did our pupils who remained in school for their fundraising day.
- Thank you so much for the donations received so far.
- Donations should be made via ParentPay.



ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL,  
CROFTDALE ROAD,  
BLAYDON,  
TYNE & WEAR,  
NE21 4BQ



0191 499 0111  
info@stthomasmore.org.uk  
www.stthomasmore.org.uk

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### Gateshead West Uniform Scheme Christmas Updates

- Gateshead West Uniform Scheme is holding a Christmas Fair on Saturday 26th November 11am-2pm at Ryton 1st Scout Hut.
- In addition to pre-loved uniforms they also have Christmas jumpers at their school uniform markets in November and December.
- Alongside lots of wellies, warm hats and winter coats to re-home.



### National Apprenticeship Show



- We have shared this information with pupils in school. There is an opportunity for pupils and family members to register for free to attend the show if they are interested in undertaking an apprenticeship qualification.
- When: Tuesday 21st November 3.30pm-6pm
- Where: Utilita Arena Newcastle
- Register for Free online <https://nationalapprenticeshipshow.org/north-east/>

### Feeding Families - Advent Appeal

- A reminder that we are accepting donations for Feeding Families.
- We are encouraging all pupils to be involved in putting their Faith into action by helping those in need.
- Our school assemblies this week focused on this appeal and we really appreciate donations received so far, for such a great cause.
- Any donation is welcome and is very appreciated.





## PromEd

- The Trust would like to invite you to visit Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust's for our next preloved prom wear shop event, "*PROM.ED*", which will re-open **ON SATURDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, from 9am-3pm.**
  - We have our usual wide range of stunning dresses and accessories on offer, all in excellent condition, which have been donated to our Trust and are FREE to borrow! **We are also delighted to announce that our stock of suits has been boosted recently!**
  - All we ask is that you return the outfits in a clean condition, ready for the next young person to wear.
  - The PROM. ED shop is located at Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education HQ, Barmston Court, Turbine Business Park, Nissan Way, Washington, SR5 3NY.
  - **To book an appointment, please email [promed@bwcet.com](mailto:promed@bwcet.com) stating your preferred time to attend.**
- Thank you.

## Extra-Curricular

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

## 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](mailto: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
<a href="mailto:s_stbqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk">s_stbqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk</a>	<a href="mailto:s_stclqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk">s_stclqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk</a>	<a href="mailto:s_stjfqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk">s_stjfqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk</a>	<a href="mailto:s_sttqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk">s_sttqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk</a>	<a href="mailto:s_6frmqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk">s_6frmqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk</a>

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Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Turner  
**Head Teacher**

