



Friday 24th November 2023

### Head Teacher's Weekly Update

Dear Families,

I hope you are all keeping well and once again thank you for your support and contributions to our school community. We have received some lovely compliments this week from the community following our fundraising walk, commenting on the polite, mature and civilised behaviour of our pupils on the walk.

This Sunday, on the Feast of Christ the King, the Church marks World Youth Sunday and I would invite you to pray for our young people that they may experience the love of Christ in all that they do. Our pupils are valued, loved and precious members of our community. Pope Francis addressed all young people in Lisbon in August when he said: **"Jesus never closes the door, never, but invites you to enter: Come and See."** In school all pupils are invited to experience the love of Christ in their lives.



### Prayer Theme

***'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.'* - Matthew 25: 14 - 30.**

- We have prayed together as a community:

Dear God; we thank you for all of the God given talents and abilities you have given us. We know that they are a sign of your love for us. Please help us to not be afraid to use them and demonstrate them to other people. Help us to use your gifts for the good of the world.

Amen

### Foundation Governor

- We are looking to expand our Governing body with additional Foundation Governors.
- A Foundation Governor is a practising Catholic who represents the interest of the Catholic community in their role as Governor.
- Governors meet formally once a term and participate in more regular activities that look at a range of development across the school.
- If you would be interested in supporting the school please contact us via the House emails.

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### Keeping Safe and Well

- In pastoral this week pupils have been learning about the dangers and risks of knife crime.
- Pupils have learnt how to report a concern and how to stay safe. Safeguarding pupils is a crucial part of our Personal Development and pastoral programme.
- Northumbria Police have launched campaigns to highlight the devastating consequences of carrying a knife, as well as pointing people to support and advice.

### Year 7 Transition Survey Results

- Thank you to all pupils and parents/carers who completed our Transition survey. We use the results to monitor our provision and ensure pupils are supported in their transition from primary to secondary school, which can be daunting for some.
- I would like to share just a few highlights with you. The results were overwhelmingly positive, thank you.
- Pupils state they love:
  - *learning new things*
  - *being challenged*
  - *making new friends*
  - *having fun on the yard and whilst learning*
  - *working independently*
  - *being more independent*
  - *teachers being helpful*
  - *chances to do lot of different things in lessons and outside of lessons*
  - *how big the school is*
  - *sporting activities*
  - *extracurricular activities*
  - *love choosing their own food from a range of options*
- Of the parents that completed the questionnaire 97.3% said they know who their child can talk to if they are worried. If you do not please contact us as we have really strong routines in place to support pupils and families.
- Some pupils and parents found the shift to having homework in a greater range of subjects a challenge. *We will continue to focus on this in the wider curriculum programme in Half term 1 for pupils.*
- Finding their way around a large school can be difficult for some of our pupils - I can relate to that! *Staff stand on the threshold of their classrooms every lesson and we have pupils and staff helping pupils get to where they need to be to help alleviate this worry.*



- Please do not hesitate to contact us via the House email addresses if you have any queries.

### Mock Examination Results Day

- Year 11 and Year 13 pupils will be attending their results assembly on Monday 27th November.
- This will be a good indication of the progress they have made so far and will highlight any gaps in learning that need closing before their next set of assessments.
- I would ask that you continue to support your child in their learning at home and encourage them to adopt good study practices.
- Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any queries about how best to support your child with their studies.

### Year 13 Reports

- Year 13 reports will be posted on MCAS [My child at school] on Friday 1st December.
- Please see instructions below regarding MCAS, if you are having any issues with it.

### Winter Concert

- It would be great to welcome as many of you as possible to our annual Winter Concert held in our Main Hall on Monday 4th December.
- Tickets are available to purchase on ParentPay.



### 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.

### 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.**

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- 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>

Yours sincerely,



Mrs J Turner  
**Head Teacher**

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