



Friday 1st December 2023

Head Teacher's Weekly Update

Dear Families,

I hope this week's letter finds you well. I continue to be astounded by how quickly the weeks are passing and how amazing our pupils are doing. As a Church community we are about to enter into the very important season of Advent. In our School assemblies we have been reflecting on the joyful anticipation of the birth of Christ. We continue to focus on putting our Faith into Action, and this was demonstrated so wonderfully by the fantastic donations received for 'Feeding Families'. Thank you so much for your support, I know they are very much appreciated by the charity and all who will benefit. This week's Gospel message below calls us all to respond in a practical way to those in need.

Prayer Theme

'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in' Matthew 25: 31 - 46

- We have prayed together as a community:

Dear God; we ask for your strength and courage to carry out your work by helping people however, whenever we can. We know that everyone is made in your image and deserves to be treated with the same respect we would give to yourself. We ask that this week, you help us to give all we can.

Amen

Advent

- We will light the candles of our Advent Wreath each week in school, praying for Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.
- The Diocese have shared a set of Advent Reflections for each day of Advent beginning this Sunday 3rd December. We will use these in school and I would encourage you to do so at home.
[Liturgy & Prayer - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle](#)
- You can also register for a family Advent Pack
[Advent Resource for Families - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle](#)





The Lessons from Auschwitz Project

- In October two of our sixth form pupils, Ruby Robson and Nancy Sloan, travelled with the Holocaust Memorial Trust to visit the museums of Auschwitz 1 and Auschwitz Birkenau.
- They have written an article explaining the impact of their visit.
- We are very proud of their maturity and commitment to educating others about the destructive force of all forms of discrimination.

LFA Next Steps Article

Year 13 Parents Evening

- Parents Evening online Monday 4th December 4pm-6.30pm
- Please check your connection prior to your appointments.
- If you have any queries please contact us via Sixth Form Queries s_6frmqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk

Year 11 Parents Evening

- Parents evening online Thursday 14th December 4pm-6.30pm
- Please book appointments online [Parents Evenings and Reports](#)
- Any queries please contact us via the House emails.

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.

Winter Concert - last call!

- 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 at 6.30pm.
- Tickets are available to purchase on ParentPay.

PromEd Reminder

- 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, 2nd December, from 9am-3pm.**

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL,
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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 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

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

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