



Friday 8th December 2023

Head Teacher's Weekly Update

Dear Families,

We have embraced the season of Advent in school this week and we are holding the whole school community in our prayers, focused on this week's theme of Hope. We can have hope in the certainty that faith in Christ brings us. We only have two weeks remaining this term and I have included some key dates and events in this letter. I would like to reiterate the importance of full attendance until Friday 22nd December. We have a lot of important curriculum time and crucial learning for all year groups to be delivered during this time. In addition to celebrating achievement and joining together at Mass on our last day.

Prayer Theme

*"So too, you also must be prepared,
for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." - Matthew 24: 37 - 44*

- We have prayed together as a community:

**Dear God; As we enter this season of Advent may we be focused on the preparation for Jesus' arrival. We wish to have as strong faith and hope as those in the Old Testament when they heard about the coming of the saviour. This week may we be prepared in everything that we do.
Amen.**

Year 7 Theatre Trip

- Our Year 7 pupils are going to see Cinderella - a Fairytale on Tuesday 12th December.
- We hope they have a fabulous festive time and enjoy the Theatre experience.



Year 8 Careers in the NHS event

- Careers provision and guidance begins when pupils are in Year 7.
- This year we are fortunate to have a Theatre Company visiting school on Tuesday 12th December to deliver a session to the whole of Year 8 linked to career pathways in the NHS.
- This will complement year 8's recent Careers Key Concept learning in their Wider Curriculum lessons.

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Iceland Trip

- We would like to wish a safe journey to our staff and 42 sixth form pupils who are going to Iceland on Wednesday 13th December.
- We know they will have an amazing time and can't wait to hear all about it!

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.

Year 13 Parents Evening

- Thank you to all of the parents who were able to attend our Parents Evening.
- If you have any queries please contact us via Sixth Form Queries s_6frmqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk

Deadline for Cinema consent forms and payments - Friday 15th December

- A reminder that if you have not already completed your child's concern form or made a payment, if required, then the deadline for this is Friday 15th December.

End of Term

- Term will finish on Friday 22nd December.
- We will celebrate Mass in the morning and present awards.
- The school buses will arrive at 1pm.

Sixth Form Open Evening - Thursday 11th January

- We would like to invite parents of Year 11 pupils to school at 5pm on Thursday 11th January 2024.
 - This event will provide an opportunity to:
 - Learn about our Sixth Form curriculum offer
 - Learn about life as a Sixth Form student
 - Learn about our application process and entry requirements
 - Visit departments
 - Meet teachers and current students
- [Sixth Form Open Evening Letter](#)

Advent Resources Reminder

- 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](#)



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.

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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