



Friday 13th December 2023

### Head Teacher's Weekly Update

Dear Families,

Thank you for the Christmas wishes and messages received in school, they are much appreciated. This is always a busy term in school and I am sure, like me, you are looking forward to the holidays. However, we have a fantastic final week ahead of us still. It is a privilege being in school during Advent. The Catholic Faith we have as a Church Community is celebrated in many ways in school and we will end the term with Advent Masses for every member of school. I would like to thank our parish priests for their support with this, and indeed with celebrating weekly Mass in school with us all year.

### Prayer Theme

***"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." Mark 1: 1- 8***

- We have prayed together as a community:

**Dear God; We know that you expect us to make the path to us straight. This is not always easy and we ask for the strength to accomplish this before the end of the season of advent.**  
**Amen.**

### Carol Service

- You are all very welcome to join our Christmas Carol Service this **Monday 18th December at 6.30pm at St Joseph's RC church, Blaydon.**
- We would love to have the church full to the rafters in fine voice!



### Christmas Week Arrangements

- A reminder of our plans for the final week of term

<b>Monday / Tuesday</b>	Lessons as normal
<b>Wednesday</b>	Festive Themed Non Uniform Day (Please bring a £1 cash donation)  AM - Year 7&8 Quiz  Lunchtime - Christmas Dinner

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL,  
CROFTDALE ROAD,  
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	PM - Year 9&10 Quiz
Thursday	AM - Cinema Trip (£9 payment to be made via Parentpay) PM - Yr11 & 6th Form Quiz
Friday	End of Term Masses Pupils will depart at 1.05pm

- School reopens for all on Monday January 8th 2024

#### Year 12 Work Experience: Monday January 28th - Friday 2nd February 2024

- As part of our Key Stage 5 careers key concept and provision, all of Year 12 undertake a week's work experience in the Spring Term.
- This process was launched in October with pupils and they have been asked by our careers coordinator, Miss Erin Phillips, to upload their work experience placement details onto Unifrog by December 22nd.
- Please find attached a letter explaining more:  
[W Yr12 Work experience letter.docx](#)
- If you do have any queries please do not hesitate to contact our careers coordinator via our [info@stthomasmore.org.uk](mailto:info@stthomasmore.org.uk) email address, or our sixth form team via [s\\_6frmqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk](mailto:s_6frmqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk)

#### January Assessment Weeks

- Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12 will be sitting their mid-year formal assessments in the weeks commencing Monday 8th January and Monday 15th January.
- Pupils have been given revision materials and details of their assessments.
- Please encourage and support your child to devote time to revision and preparation for these.
- They are an excellent opportunity for pupils to demonstrate the progress they have made in their subjects from both a crucial learning and skills perspective.

#### Sixth Form Open Evening reminder - 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

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- Visit departments
  - Meet teachers and current students
- [Sixth Form Open Evening Letter](#)

### 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