



Friday 22nd December 2023

Head Teacher's Weekly Update

Dear Families,

So we have come to the end of a wonderful Autumn term. I am pleased to be writing to you at the end of what has been a really special week with many celebrations and moments of reflection for us as a school community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support, which is very much appreciated, and to wish you and your families a Happy and peaceful Christmas and all the very best for 2024.

Prayer Theme

"I baptise with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."

John 1: 19 - 28

- We have prayed together as a community:

Dear God,

We ask that you help us to recognise you, this Advent, in others. We know that no one is comparable to you. Help us to share the message of your arrival with the world just as John the baptist did.

Amen

Carol Service

- Thank you so much to everybody who took part in our annual Carol Service on Monday evening.
- It was spectacular and a lovely way to begin our final week of term.
- A special thank you to our readers, musicians and all staff involved in preparing such a lovely service.



Inter-House Christmas Quiz Competition

- Our annual Inter-House Christmas Quiz took place this week, and it was another great occasion!
- Thank you to all of the staff involved in the organisation of the event and to all of the pupils who volunteered to represent their House.
- Huge congratulations to this year's winners, St John Fisher House!





Cinema

- We had a fantastic trip to the cinema on Thursday morning.
- Apparently Hunger Games was very popular, alongside the Grinch!
- Our pupils were wonderfully behaved and they had a great time.

Advent Masses

- We ended our Autumn term with some very special Advent Masses.
- Thank you once again to all members of the school community for their part in the Masses.
- A special thank you to our parish priests who celebrated Mass with us. We really appreciate their continued support in ensuring the Catholic life of our school is alive and well.

Return to School

- School reopens for all on Monday January 8th 2024.
- All pupils must be on site before 8.40am when the school gates are closed.
- Can I please remind you of our uniform expectations:
[School Uniform](#)

Year 12 Work Experience reminder: 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 email address, or our sixth form team via 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
 - Visit departments
 - Meet teachers and current students

[Sixth Form Open Evening Letter](#)

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

With every blessing for the festive period,

Mrs J Turner
 Head Teacher

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL,
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