



Friday 12th January 2024

Head Teacher's Weekly Update

Dear Families,

I hope you all had a wonderful festive season and family time over the holidays. It has been great to welcome pupils and staff back this week at the start of the New Year and our Spring Term. We have another busy and fulfilling term ahead and we are excited to get going!

At the start of the new year, I believe it is important to reshare our Mission Statement and School Motto with you all. Pupils have been reflecting on these in school this week in assemblies, pastoral time and as part of our Personal Development 'Pop up'. I firmly believe that every child has the right and must have the opportunity to fulfil their potential in school and in life. This is complemented by our behaviour curriculum where pupils are taught the importance of doing the right thing, for the right reason. Our pupils' character development is at the forefront of our mission statement with Christ at the centre of all we do.

'We do the right thing, for the right reason.'



Prayer Theme

"Where is he who was born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and we have come to adore him." - Matthew 2: 1 - 12

- We have prayed together as a community:

Dear God,

We thank you for the courage that the Magi showed when they trusted in your words. We ask for your encouragement and help to encompass this in our own life. We want to have the strong faith that proves anything is possible with your blessing.

Amen

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL,
CROFTDALE ROAD,
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0191 499 0111
info@stthomasmore.org.uk
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Train to Teach School Experience Day

- Are you considering a career in secondary teaching?
- You would be very welcome to attend our School Experience Day to find out more.
- Please register your interest by 15th January with Ms Caffull, via email scaffull@stthomasmore.org.uk



St Thomas More Catholic School

Train to Teach School Experience Day
31st January 2024

REGISTER BY 15TH JANUARY

Contact scaffull@stthomasmore.org.uk if you are interested in attending.

Featuring:

- Observations of lessons in your specialist subject across a range of Key Stages.

Sessions On:

- "What is it like to be a secondary school teacher?"
- Our values as a Training School
- Guidance on the UCAS Application process
- Guidance for interviews
- The opportunity to meet and ask questions of our Professional Tutor, Teaching & Learning Lead and current ITT students.

KS4 Options evening [parents/carers of pupils in Year 9]

- Next week we are holding our annual KS4 Options Evening for parents/carers who have a child in Year 9.
- This is an important opportunity to familiarise yourself with the options process, so that you can support your pupil at home with their KS4 choices for September 2024.
- Wednesday 15th January 5pm in the Main Hall.
- [Options Evening Letter](#)

Sixth Form Open Evening

- Thank you for attending our sixth form open evening last night if you were able to.
- It was lovely to welcome you and to have the opportunity to showcase our sixth form provision, which we are very proud of.
- If you were not able to attend or you have any queries then please contact a member of our sixth form team via email: s_6frmqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk

Assessments: Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12

- Pupils in these year groups are currently completing mid year assessments.
- Thank you for supporting your child with their revision and preparation for these.
- Pupils are conducting themselves with maturing and focus, which is great to see.

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.

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- 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

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