



Friday 19th January 2024

### Head Teacher's Weekly Update

Dear Families,

It has been another lovely week in school, and a cold one weather wise! The UK Health Security Agency has published some advice on keeping children healthy during winter: [UKHSA reminds parents of back-to-school advice - GOV.UK](#). There is usually a rise in winter bugs at this time of year that can impact on a pupil's education. If your child is feeling under the weather then please still send them into school with plenty to drink and a warm coat. If they are unable to attend due to being very unwell then please inform us asap via our attendance line 0191 499 0111 option 1, ideally before 8 am. [Reporting Absence](#)

### Prayer Theme

***"And as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God."***  
***John 1:35-42***

- We have prayed together as a community:

**Dear God,**

**We thank you for sending the Messiah to our world to demonstrate the love you have for us. We ask for the courage to have such strong faith in you like the first disciples did when they instantly believed. This week we ask for your guidance and courage.**

**Amen**

### Extracurricular spotlight

- *Climbing club for all*
- Climbing club is a long established and popular extracurricular club and it is open to all pupils.
- All equipment and instruction is provided.
- Pupils just need to wear their PE kit and come to the Sports Hall after school on a Tuesday.
- If pupils have any questions then can see Mr Shield or one of our sixth form leaders in the climbing club.



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### Book of the month

- Each month we recommend a book for pupils in KS3, 4 and 5 [and for staff!] Look out for these on our social media.
- Our pop up libraries and Literacy room offer a place for pupils to read in school too.
- Reading for pleasure is such an important aspect of pupils' academic and personal development.
- Every pupil is read to by their pastoral tutor each week, with the sixth form having a book club style approach. These have proved to be really great opportunities to build relationships, knowledge and enthusiasm!



### Year 11 Mock Examinations - Monday 29th January until Friday 9th February 2024

- Year 11 have been preparing for their second and final series of mock examinations prior to their public examinations in the Spring/Summer.
- Pupils have engaged very positively with their preparations as part of a series of interventions, masterclasses and revision - both independently and with their teachers.
- Please read the letter below which explains the process and expectations, in addition to a link to the mock examination timetable.
- [Yr 11 mock examinations letter - January 2024](#)

### Year 13 Mock Examinations - Monday 29th January until Friday 2nd February 2024

- Year 13 have also been preparing for their second and final series of mock examinations prior to their public examinations in the Spring/Summer.
- I continue to be extremely proud of our Year 13 pupils and would like to reiterate the vital importance of good attendance in school so that they can all reach their full potential.
- Please read the letter below which explains the process and expectations, in addition to a link to the mock examination timetable.
- [Y13 Mock Examinations - January 2024.docx.pdf](#)

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

- Thank you for your attendance at our options evening on Wednesday.
- It is always lovely to welcome families into school.
- If you were not able to attend or if you have any queries regarding options moving forward then please contact us via the relevant House Email address.

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

- Well done to all pupils in these year groups who have now completed mid year assessments.
- Thank you once again for supporting your child with their revision and preparation for these.

**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](mailto:info@stthomasmore.org.uk) email address, or our sixth form team via [s\\_6frmqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk](mailto: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
<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

