



Friday 25th October 2024

Head Teacher's Weekly Update

Dear Families,

I am so pleased to be writing to you at the end of a really enjoyable and successful half term. I am very proud of all of our pupils and staff who have worked so hard to ensure we all reach our full potential. I hope you all have a restful half term break and I would like to take this opportunity to ask that you keep our Year 11 and 13 pupils in your prayers as they prepare for their first set of formal mock examinations after half term. I have included the relevant letters once more as a reminder. We look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on Monday 4th November.

Prayer Theme

“Whosoever will be greater, shall be your minister and whosoever will be first among you, shall be the servant of all.” Mark 10 : 35 - 45

- We have prayed together as a community:

Dear God,






We thank you for the examples of Jesus and the clear guidance he gave to the disciples about what it means to be truly great in your eyes.

We ask for strength to fulfil the message of serving others in our day to day lives.

Amen

Character Shields

- This week our school assembly was written by pupils across all year groups in St Catherine Laboure House and they prepared a reflection on the Gospel message above with the service of Dr Barnado.
- Our ‘Kindness and Compassion’ character shield is named after Dr Barnado.
- Pupils are being encouraged to work towards achieving a ‘Character Award’ over the year linked to an area of good character.

STM Character Shields - 'Celebrating the gospel values in our students'				
<p>Love, Goodness, & Community</p>  <p>The Father Donnelly Shield</p> <p>The Father Donnelly Shield for community recognises young people who do their best to bring a community together in love and goodness. Recipients may befriend the lonely, be inclusive in nature or invest in others beyond their friendship group.</p> <p>Father Donnelly - Founder of the pioneering Youth Ministry Team in the diocese of Hexham and Newcastle that gathers thousands of young people together in community.</p>	<p>Courage & Integrity</p>  <p>The Irena Sendler Shield</p> <p>The Irena Sendler Shield for courage & integrity recognises the everyday bravery of our students. Recipients will have overcome personal barriers and hardships or shown acts of courage or integrity even when it is not popular.</p> <p>Irena Sendler was a Polish nurse in WWII who helped thousands of children escape the horrors of the Holocaust. This could have cost her life, but she wanted to stand up for what was right.</p>	<p>Peace & Gentleness & Dignity</p>  <p>The Oscar Romero Shield</p> <p>The Oscar Romero Shield for peace & dignity recognises students who bring a calm and gentle presence to the school. Recipients are known for speaking the best of others & carrying themselves with a quiet dignity.</p> <p>As the Archbishop of San Salvador, Oscar Romero embraced a simple quiet life and became a voice for the voiceless during the rising conflict and violence in El Salvador. He was nominated for a Nobel peace prize in 1980 but was shot during Mass whilst preaching about peace.</p>	<p>Patience & faithfulness.</p>  <p>The Wilma Rudolph Shield</p> <p>The Wilma Rudolph Shield for patience & faithfulness recognises students that persevere and show resilience in school. Recipients may have overcome educational barriers, succeeded after setbacks or not given up regardless of circumstances.</p> <p>Wilma Rudolph was paralysed by polio, and contracted both scarlet fever and pneumonia. Doctors felt she would never walk again, yet she always believed otherwise. By the time she was 22, she had worked hard to regain her ability to walk and took up athletics. Eight years later she was an Olympic champion.</p>	<p>Kindness</p>  <p>The Barnardo Shield</p> <p>The Barnardo Shield for kindness & compassion recognises students who show kindness & compassion to others around them. Recipients have a character of helpfulness and care. They support others around them & try to put others first.</p> <p>Thomas John Barnardo was known for his kindness and philanthropy. He was the founder and director of homes for poor and deprived children. Barnardo died on the date of his own death, nearly 100 years old. He had been taken in and supported through his work.</p>

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Fundraising Walk - Friday 25th October

- What a great way to end the term today and it stayed dry!
- Thank you for your support with this and we will use some of the funds raised to pay for the delivery/postage costs of the shoe box appeal pupils are currently organising.



Free things to do in Newcastle and Gateshead

- Keeping families happy during the holidays can sometimes be a challenge and expensive
- Here are some ideas of things to do and places to go over the week that are free and come recommended!
[33 free things to do in Newcastle Gateshead](#)

Helping your child prepare for Mock examinations [Year 11 and 13]

- Our Year 11 and 13 have their mock examinations starting the first Monday back after half term, Monday 4th November
- Please see details in the letters below and a parents guide to supporting young people during exam times

[YR 11 Mock Examinations Letter - October 2024](#)

[YR 13 Mock Examinations Letter - October 2024](#)

[Exam Time & Exam Stress | Parents Guide To Support | YoungMinds](#)

Please follow us on social media (**Facebook and Twitter STM_CS_Blaydon**) where we share regular updates from our school community.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs J Turner
Head Teacher

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