



Friday 17th October 2025

### Head Teacher's Weekly Update

Dear Families,

I hope this message finds you well. As we move through a busy and vibrant term, I wanted to take a moment to share some of the wonderful events and achievements from the past week here at school.

We have one final week of this half term ahead, breaking up next Friday 24th October for the half term holiday. We are looking forward to ending in our traditional way with our whole; school charity walk or readathon. Hopefully the weather remains kind! Thank you in advance for your support with this event and everything we do in school.



### Prayer Theme

**“Jesus said, “Were not ten healed? Where are the nine? Can none be found to come back and give glory to God except this outsider?” Then he said to him, “Get up. On your way. Your faith has healed and saved you.”**

We have prayed together as a community:

**Dear Jesus,**

***Thank you for all the blessings in our lives for our friends, our family, our school, and the opportunities we have each day. Help us to notice the good around us and to stop for a moment to say “thank you.” Give us hearts that are grateful, not just when things go our way, but always. Help us to show our thanks through our actions, kindness, and faith. Like the one leper who returned, may we always remember to praise You and trust in Your love. Amen***

### Year 13 Retreat

- We were delighted to see our Year 13 students embark on their retreat to Ford Castle, a truly enriching experience led by our Chaplain, Becca, alongside the fantastic PGL staff.
- The retreat offered our students a chance to reflect, bond, and grow in confidence as they prepare for their final year with us.
- Thank you to all staff involved in organising it and accompanying Year 13.
- Staff at Ford Castle said they were so impressed by the attitude and engagement of our pupils, which is so lovely to hear.

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## Year 12 trip to Parliament

- Year 12 students had the exciting opportunity to visit Parliament, where they engaged with the workings of government and explored the importance of civic participation.
- It was a proud moment to see our students asking thoughtful questions and representing our school with maturity and curiosity.
- They also met with our local MP Liz Twist whilst there.
- Pupils who attended are studying Politics, Sociology and Philosophy at A-Level, and such experiences only enhance their understanding and studies.

## Spotlight on LS Youth Club

- We are so pleased our new Youth Club for pupils with SEND has made such a strong start.
- It has already begun to foster a real sense of community, creativity, and fun.
- It's a space where every child is celebrated and supported, and we're thrilled to see it thriving.



## Bonfire Safety

- In preparation for the season ahead, our students took part in a Bonfire Safety Assembly, learning important messages about staying safe during celebrations.
- We're grateful to our local fire service for their engaging and informative presentation.
- Please speak to your children at home about the importance of staying safe.
- Peer pressure can be a real challenge to navigate for our young people, our visitor from the fire service suggested children could have a 'safe word' to indicate to their parents or carer if they needed to come home.

## How to stop the Ripple Effect

- Go to an organised display
- **Say no to peer pressure!**
  - Make an excuse and leave
  - Distract them and suggest doing something else
  - Ask them to stop
  - Have a code word with a family member that lets them know you're uncomfortable

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service  
Creating the Safest Community



ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL,  
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National Teaching School  
designated by  
National College for  
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**STM Reading Canon and supporting your child with Reading**

- Looking ahead, we warmly invite all parents and carers to join us for an online parental engagement event next Wednesday at 5.30pm, focused on supporting your child with literacy.
- This session will offer practical strategies and insights to help you nurture your child’s reading at home.
- We will share what we do in school, and why, alongside further information about our STM Reading canon
- Please look out for the link to join that will be shared with you
- Parental Engagement Opportunities 2025 - 2026 [Family].pdf



St Bernadette	St Catherine Laboure	St John Fisher	St Therese	Sixth Form
<a href="mailto:STM-StBQueries@stm.bwcet.com">STM-StBQueries@stm.bwcet.com</a>	<a href="mailto:STM-StCLQueries@stm.bwcet.com">STM-StCLQueries@stm.bwcet.com</a>	<a href="mailto:STM-stjfqueries@stm.bwcet.com">STM-stjfqueries@stm.bwcet.com</a>	<a href="mailto:STM-sttqueries@stm.bwcet.com">STM-sttqueries@stm.bwcet.com</a>	<a href="mailto:STM-SixthFormQueries@stm.bwcet.com">STM-SixthFormQueries@stm.bwcet.com</a>

Please follow us on social media (**Facebook, Instagram 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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