



Friday 11th September 2026

Head Teacher's Weekly Update

Dear Families,

As we complete our first full week of lessons and settle back into our normal routines, I would like to take a moment to recognise the exceptional start our pupils have made to the new academic year. Across all year groups, pupils have demonstrated incredibly high standards in every aspect of school life. In lessons, they have approached their learning with enthusiasm, focus and determination, taking pride in their work and making the most of every opportunity to succeed.

Beyond the classroom, it has been wonderful to see so many pupils embracing the wider life of the school by signing up for clubs, teams and enrichment activities. Equally impressive has been the kindness and support pupils have shown towards one another, whether helping new students find their way around school, welcoming others into friendship groups or simply demonstrating the respect and consideration that are at the heart of our community.

The positive atmosphere around school this week has been a reflection of our pupils' character and commitment. Their excellent attitude, coupled with the support of our families and staff, has ensured that the academic year has begun with real purpose and optimism. We are incredibly proud of how our young people have conducted themselves and look forward to building on this strong foundation in the weeks and months ahead.

Prayer Theme

"Then Peter went up to Jesus and said, "Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?" Jesus answered, "Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times."

Matthew 18:21-22

We have prayed together as a community:

Dear Lord,

We thank You for the gift of forgiveness and for the example of love that Jesus gives us. As He taught us to forgive not just seven times, but seventy-seven times, help us to be patient, compassionate and understanding towards others. When we are hurt or disappointed, give us the strength to let go of resentment and the courage to offer forgiveness. Help us to build relationships rooted in kindness, mercy and respect, reflecting Your love in all that we do. May our school community be one where forgiveness brings healing, reconciliation and peace.

Amen



Education Sunday

- This Sunday marks Education Sunday, a time when we give thanks for all those involved in Catholic education and reflect on the vital role that our schools play in nurturing the minds, talents and faith of young people. We keep in our prayers all pupils, families, staff and governors across our school community, asking God to continue to guide and inspire us as we work together to help every child flourish.

Welcome Mass

- We are delighted to invite the families of our Year 7 pupils to our Year 7 Welcome Mass on Friday 18 September, from 9:00am to 10:30am.
- This special celebration gives us the opportunity to come together as a school community to celebrate the excellent start our newest pupils have made to life at St Thomas More. We have been incredibly impressed with the way our Year 7 students have embraced new routines, formed new friendships and settled so positively into secondary school life.
- We look forward to sharing this important occasion with families as we give thanks for our new cohort and pray for them as they begin their journey with us. Refreshments will be available after the Mass, providing an opportunity for families to meet with staff and other parents as we celebrate this milestone together.

Welcome Evenings

- We are looking forward to welcoming families to our **Welcome Evenings**, which will take place from **5:00pm to 6:30pm** on the dates below. These events provide a valuable opportunity to learn more about your child's curriculum for the year ahead, gain insight into how we support pupils both academically and pastorally, and understand how we can work together to help every child achieve their full potential.
- The evenings also offer the chance to meet your child's form tutor, along with other key members of staff who play an important role in supporting your child throughout their time at school.
- **Welcome Evening Dates (5:00pm to 6:30pm)**
 - **Tuesday 22 September** – Year 8 and Year 9
 - **Wednesday 23 September** – Year 10 and Year 11





- **Thursday 24 September** – Year 7, Year 12 and Year 13
- We strongly encourage families to attend and look forward to sharing our plans, expectations and priorities for the year ahead. Working in partnership with parents and carers is fundamental to ensuring the success, wellbeing and personal development of every young person in our school community.

A reminder to use our house email addresses if you have any queries.

St Bernadette	St Catherine Laboure	St John Fisher	St Therese	Sixth Form
STM-StBQueries@stm.bwcet.com	STM-StCLQueries@stm.bwcet.com	STM-stjqueries@stm.bwcet.com	STM-sttqueries@stm.bwcet.com	STM-SixthFormQueries@stm.bwcet.com

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