



Friday 23rd October 2026

Head Teacher's Weekly Update

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of our first half term, it is hard to believe how much has been achieved in just eight weeks. The start of a new academic year always brings excitement, opportunity and new challenges, and I could not be prouder of the way our pupils have embraced every aspect of school life. From their commitment in lessons and participation in extracurricular activities to the kindness and respect they show one another, our young people have demonstrated the values that make St Thomas More such a special community.

A particular mention must go to our Year 7 pupils, who have made an outstanding start to their journey at St Thomas More. Over the past eight weeks, they have settled seamlessly into secondary school life, approached new experiences with confidence and enthusiasm, and quickly become valued members of our school family. Their positive attitude and willingness to get involved have been a pleasure to see.

As we break for half term, I would like to thank all pupils, staff and families for their continued hard work, support and commitment throughout what has been an incredibly successful start to the year. I hope that everyone enjoys a well-deserved opportunity to rest, recharge and spend time with family and friends, and I look forward to welcoming pupils back for another exciting and productive half term.

Prayer Theme:

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.'

Matthew 5:8

We have prayed together as a community:

Dear Lord,

Jesus tells us, *"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."* Help us to live with hearts that are filled with goodness, honesty and love. Guide us to choose what is right, to treat others with kindness and respect, and to be faithful in all that we do. When distractions or challenges come our way, help us to keep our eyes fixed on You and to seek Your presence in our daily lives. May our thoughts, words and actions reflect Your love, and may our school community be a place where faith, compassion and integrity flourish

Amen



Annual STM Fundraising Walk

- We were naturally disappointed to have to postpone our **Annual STM Fundraising Walk** today. The safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff must always be our priority, and unfortunately the conditions meant that the event could not go ahead as planned.
- The fundraising walk is always a highlight of the school calendar and we know many pupils were looking forward to taking part. We are therefore hoping to reschedule the event for after half term and will share further details with families as soon as a new date has been confirmed.
- Thank you for your understanding and continued support. We look forward to bringing our school community together for this important event later in the term.



Year 12 Celebration Mass

- We are delighted to invite the families of our Year 12 students to join us for a **Year 12 Celebration Service** on **Friday 6 November**, from **9:00am to 9:30am**, in the **Sixth Form Centre**.
- This special occasion will provide an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the fantastic start that our Year 12 students have made to Sixth Form life. Over the past half term, they have embraced the increased independence and challenge of post-16 study with maturity, commitment and determination, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved so far.
- We look forward to welcoming families as we come together to give thanks for their success and celebrate this important milestone in their Sixth Form journey.



Year 11 and Year 13 Mock Assessments

- Following half term, our Year 11 and Year 13 students will begin their first mock assessment period of the academic year. These assessments provide an important opportunity for pupils to demonstrate what they have learned so far, identify areas of strength and highlight any topics that may require further focus as they continue their studies.
- The mock examinations will also allow pupils to evaluate the effectiveness of their revision strategies and preparation during our Raising Achievement Plan (RAP) period. We are confident that the hard work, commitment and dedication shown by students in recent weeks will place them in a strong position. We encourage families to continue supporting positive revision routines at home and wish all of our students the very best as they prepare for this important milestone in the academic year.

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-stjfqueries@stm.bwcet.com	STM-sttqueries@stm.bwcet.com	STM-SixthFormQueries@stm.bwcet.com

Please follow us on social media **[Facebook and Instagram]** where we share regular updates from our school community.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Turner

Head Teacher