



Parent & Carer Bulletin

The Sixth Form Parent & Carer Bulletin provides you with key information to keep you up to date with what is going on in Sixth Form.

Issue No. 38 23rd October 2026

General Notices

Year 12 - This week's Wider Curriculum session for Year 12 focused on mortgages. Students began by exploring their existing knowledge before learning about the different types of mortgages available and the factors that can influence mortgage repayments. The session provided a practical introduction to mortgages and helped students develop their understanding of the factors that can affect borrowing and repayments. Our Year 12 Welcome Service will take place during the first week after half term. Further details can be found on page 3 of this bulletin.

Year 13 - Our Year 13 students have had a busy week preparing for their mock examinations, which begin on 9th November. Earlier this week, Mr Tait delivered a session outlining examination expectations and providing students with final guidance on how to ensure they are as prepared as possible.

In Wider Curriculum, students explored the topic of fake news, learning how misinformation can spread, how to identify unreliable sources, and the importance of fact-checking information before accepting or sharing it. This session encouraged students to think critically about the information they encounter online and in the media.

We wish all of our students and their families a restful and enjoyable half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 2nd November.

Key Upcoming Dates

- Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October - October Half Term
- Monday 2nd November - Return to school
- Friday 6th November - 9-9:30am - Y12 Welcome Service
- Monday 9th November - Tuesday 17th November - Year 13 Mock Examinations
- Friday 27th November - INSET Day

Contacts

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Absence reporting - STM-SixthFormQueries@stm.bwcet.com or
0191 499 0111 - option 1 and then option 2



St Thomas More Catholic School Sixth Form

Parent & Carer Bulletin



Opportunities next week

- Unifrog Webinars – [linked here](#) – coming up: *'Unifrog Virtual Skills Academy', 'From classroom to career: where could a degree in business management take you?', 'Nursing taster: how do nurses make life-changing decisions?', 'Is the UK's education system fair?', 'Is the UK's education system fair?', 'Can we really protect children from the modern internet?', 'Social sciences taster: why do people believe conspiracy theories?', 'Psychology taster: why do humans follow the crowd?', 'The Minecraft attack: how a holiday hack nearly broke the internet', 'Interactive session: think like a business analyst', 'Engineering taster: how do we create a more sustainable maritime industry?' and 'When does a mistake become murder? Exploring criminal responsibility'.*
- University of Cambridge events series – [linked here](#) – coming up: *'Subject Masterclass: Economics' and 'Subject Masterclass: History and Modern Languages', 'Subject Masterclass: Social Anthropology'.*
- University of Oxford events – [linked here](#) – coming up: *'Insight Into Humanities: Building an Anglo Saxon ship' and 'Crescendo Music Programme – Film Music'.*
- University of Sunderland – [linked here](#) – coming up: *'Law and Criminology Careers Fair' and 'A Toy Story Celebration: The Story Continues'.*
- University of Law – [linked here](#) – coming up: *'Criminal Investigation Day: One Punch'.*
- Channel Talent – [linked here](#) – coming up: *'Development Economics: Why Some Nations are Trapped in Poverty with Dr Paul Clist' and 'US Politics: Understanding the 2026 US Mid-Term Elections – Will a new Congress make a difference in Trump's America? with Dr Jenny Mathers'.*

St Thomas More Catholic School Sixth Form

Parent & Carer Bulletin



Opportunities for Parents & Carers

Unifrog Parent & Carer Session



Post 18 options: alternative routes to top careers

Students Parents Teachers Virtual

Want an exciting career without a traditional degree? Discover how PwC's Flying Start programme combines university study with paid placements, explore careers at sea through Carnival Cruises' cadetships, and hear from a Met Office legal team member about what it was like to do an apprenticeship with them and the surprising careers it can lead to. Stick around for the live Q&A at the end to ask our experts your questions and find your next step.

> Wed 4 Nov 18:30-19:15 UK time

Suitable for
students and
parents

[Linked
here](#)

Year 12 Welcome Service

We are delighted to invite Year 12 parents and carers to our Year 12 Welcome Service on Friday 6th November, from 9.00am to 9.30am, in the Sixth Form Centre.

Now that students have settled into Sixth Form life, this service marks their official welcome into the Sixth Form community. Rooted in our STM Gospel values, it is an opportunity to celebrate the gifts and potential of each young person as they begin this important stage of their journey. We look forward to welcoming you as we celebrate this special milestone together.

Apprenticeships



Discover
apprenticeships at the
BBC

04 Nov 26

16:00 – 17:00

Join us to discover exciting apprenticeship opportunities at the BBC in business, data and digital technology, engineering, journalism and production. This engaging session is designed for school leavers, career changers, or anyone curious about what it's like to work behind the scenes of the UK's leading public service broadcaster.

[Linked
here](#)



Parent & Carer Bulletin

Ongoing Opportunities

- UCAS Hub Live Sessions – [linked here](#) – UCAS run live sessions in the UCAS Hub to help those researching their next steps, and record them all. You can access them using the link above. The topics covered include universities, apprenticeships, interviews and auditions.
- Prospects – Future You webinars – [linked here](#) – Get inspiring advice and in-depth insights from employers, careers advisers, students and graduates by attending the Future You webinars from Prospects.
- Join the dots – [linked here](#) – Join the Dots is a university transition programme designed to support students facing the greatest challenges in making a successful transition to university.
- Year 13 – Pathways to Newcastle – [linked here](#) – Through our academic-led online programme, you could receive lower entry requirements to Newcastle University and develop the skills you need for success at university and beyond.
- Aspire Guide – [linked here](#) – Your essential guide to careers, further education and university.
- Amazing Apprenticeships – [linked here](#) – Amazing Apprenticeships is a leading organisation in the education sector. For over a decade we have been working to tackle misconceptions about apprenticeships and technical education, promote their benefits, and push the boundaries of what the sector can do.
- Channel Talent – [linked here](#) – Channel Talent is a live and interactive video conferencing / webinar service which links universities and businesses to schools. Channel Talent beams university lecturers, admissions personnel, university students and apprentices into the school classroom in addition to including individual students.

Useful Links

- University Open Days – [linked here](#)
- UCAS Apprenticeships – [linked here](#)
- UCAS – [linked here](#)
- Sixth Form Bursary – [linked here](#)
- Unifrog – [linked here](#) (all students have an account)
- University Taster Days – [linked here](#)
- Student Finance Guide – [linked here](#)