Friday 6th November 2026

Head Teacher's Weekly Update

Dear Families,

I hope that all of our pupils and families enjoyed a restful and enjoyable half term break and had the opportunity to spend quality time together. It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to school this week and to see pupils so quickly re-establish the excellent routines, habits and high standards that characterise life at St Thomas More. Across the school, pupils have returned with enthusiasm and purpose, demonstrating a positive attitude to their learning, taking pride in their work and continuing to be active and engaged learners in the classroom.

This week, we were also delighted to celebrate our Year 12 students during their Celebration Service. It was a fitting opportunity to recognise the fantastic start they have made to Sixth Form life. They have embraced the increased challenge and independence of post-16 study with maturity, commitment and determination, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved so far.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our Year 11 and Year 13 students. Over recent weeks, they have shown tremendous commitment to their studies and have made excellent use of the support available to them as they prepare for their mock examinations, which begin next week. We know they have worked exceptionally hard and are confident that their efforts will be rewarded. We wish them every success and look forward to seeing them demonstrate the knowledge, skills and resilience they have developed throughout the term.

Prayer Theme: *Living the Beatitudes in Our Daily Lives*

We have prayed together as a community:

Loving God,

We thank You for the gift of the Beatitudes and the way they show us how to live as followers of Jesus. Help us to be poor in spirit, trusting in You above all things. Help us to be gentle and merciful, showing kindness to everyone we meet. Give us the courage to stand for what is right, to be peacemakers in our school, our families, and our community. When life is difficult, help us to remember that You are always with us and that Your kingdom belongs to those who follow Your way. May we live the Beatitudes each day through our words, our actions, and our love for others.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL,
CROFTDALE ROAD,
BLAYDON,
TYNE & WEAR,
NE21 4BQ

☎ 0191 499 0111
✉ info@stm.bwcet.com
🌐 www.stthomasmore.org.uk

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Remembrance Day



- Next week, our school community will come together to mark Remembrance Day, taking time to remember and pray for all those who have been affected by conflict, both past and present. Through a special Remembrance Service, pupils and staff will have the opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made by members of the armed forces and to remember all those whose lives have been impacted by war and violence.
- Our Pop Up provision will also be dedicated to Remembrance Day, providing pupils with opportunities to learn more about its significance, reflect on the importance of peace and reconciliation, and consider how we can each play our part in building a more just and compassionate world. As a Catholic school community, we will pause to give thanks for those who have served others with courage and selflessness, while praying for lasting peace throughout the world.

Year 12 Parents' Evening

- On Thursday 12th November, we look forward to welcoming the families of our Year 12 students to our Year 12 Parents' Evening, which will take place in school from 3:45pm to 6:15pm.
- This face-to-face event provides an excellent opportunity for families to meet with subject teachers, discuss the progress their child has made during the first term of Sixth Form and gain valuable insight into how they are adapting to the demands of post-16 study. Parents and carers will also have the opportunity to discuss the support available to students as they continue to develop the knowledge, study skills and independence required for success in Sixth Form.
- We strongly encourage families to attend and look forward to working together to ensure that every Year 12 student continues to thrive and make the most of the opportunities available to them.

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Year 7 Literacy and Numeracy Event

- On Friday 13th November between 0830 and 0930, we will be welcoming the families of a number of our Year 7 pupils to a Literacy and Numeracy Support Morning. The session will be led by Mr Brooks, Whole School Numeracy Lead, and Ms Paczynski, Whole School Literacy Lead.

- This event has been specifically designed for the families of pupils who did not meet the expected standard in English and/or Mathematics in their Key Stage 2 SATs. During the session, families will learn more about the targeted support their child is receiving in school and the strategies being used to help them make strong progress in these key areas.

- The morning will also provide practical advice and guidance on how families can support their child's literacy and numeracy development at home. By working together, we can ensure that pupils receive consistent support both in school and beyond the classroom, enabling them to develop the skills and confidence they need to thrive. We look forward to welcoming families and sharing how we can continue to work in partnership to support every child's success.

Transcription Launch

- As part of our ongoing commitment to improving literacy across the curriculum, we will be launching our Transcription Initiative with pupils during pastoral sessions this week. Effective written communication is a vital life skill, and through this initiative we aim to help pupils understand the importance of clear, accurate and fluent handwriting and written presentation. Strong transcription skills support success across all subject areas and help pupils communicate their ideas with confidence and precision.

- To support this work, we are also pleased to offer a Virtual Family Support Session on Wednesday 25 November, from 4:30pm to 5:00pm. The session will provide families with an overview of the initiative, explain why transcription skills remain important in an increasingly digital world, and offer practical advice on how parents and carers can support the development of handwriting and written communication at home. We look forward to working in partnership with families as we continue to develop these important skills in our young people.

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Scholastic Book Fair

- We are delighted to be welcoming the Scholastic Book Fair to St Thomas More next week. The Book Fair provides pupils with an excellent opportunity to browse and purchase a wide range of books at discounted prices, helping to encourage a love of reading and support literacy development.
- In addition to opportunities for pupils to visit during the school day, we will be holding a Book Fair Drop-In Session on Monday 9 November from 3:20pm to 5:00pm. Families are invited to attend with their child, explore the selection of books available and enjoy choosing new titles together. For those who are unable to attend in person, or who would prefer to browse from home, books can also be purchased online by scanning the QR code provided.
- We hope that many families will take advantage of this opportunity and join us in celebrating the joy of reading and encouraging a lifelong love of books.

SCHOLASTIC Book Fairs

Scan the QR code to pay for your books online or visit bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay

Year 9 Pastoral Drop-In Event

- As part of our ongoing commitment to working closely with families, we are pleased to invite the families of our Year 9 pupils to a Family Drop-In Morning on Monday between 8:30am and 10:00am.
- This informal event provides an opportunity to meet members of our pastoral team, including our Heads of House, Pastoral Senior Leaders, SEND Team and Designated Safeguarding Lead, and discuss any aspect of your child's school experience. Whether you have a specific concern, would like advice and guidance, or simply wish to learn more about the support available, staff will be on hand throughout the morning to help.
- Families are welcome to attend at any point during the session, and tea and coffee will be available. We hope that many of our Year 9 families will be able to join us as we continue to strengthen the partnership between home and school.
- If you are unable to attend, please remember that our Pastoral Team remains available via our House email addresses and will be

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

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happy to support you. Whilst this event is specifically for the families of Year 9 pupils, similar drop-in mornings will take place throughout the year for families in other year groups.

- We look forward to welcoming you on Monday.

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

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