Friday 13th November 2026

Head Teacher's Weekly Update

Dear Families,

It has been another busy and rewarding week at St Thomas More, and I would like to begin by recognising the tremendous efforts of our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils throughout their mock examinations. We have been incredibly impressed by the maturity, determination and resilience they have demonstrated, approaching their assessments with a positive attitude and a real commitment to doing their very best. We are extremely proud of their efforts and have every confidence that they will continue to do themselves, their families and our school proud as they approach their final assessments.

This week has also provided a number of valuable opportunities to welcome families into school, including our Year 12 Parents' Evening, Year 9 Pastoral Drop-In and today's Year 7 Literacy and Numeracy session. As a school, we place enormous value on the strong relationships we share with our families, and we are always grateful for the opportunity to meet with you, celebrate pupils' successes and work together to support their progress and development. Thank you to everyone who has joined us at these events and for your continued engagement and support. As a Christian community, relationships are at the heart of our school, and it is through this close partnership between home and school that we can provide the very best opportunities for our young people.

Prayer Theme:

"Well done, good and faithful servant."

Matthew 25:21

We have prayed together as a community:

Heavenly Father,

Help us to remember that true success is not measured simply by our achievements, but by the effort, kindness and faithfulness we show along the way. Give us the courage to persevere when things are difficult, the humility to learn from our mistakes and the determination to use our gifts and talents to the best of our ability. May we always strive to make You proud through our words, actions and the way we treat others.

Amen.

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Virtual Parental Event: The Rise of the Manosphere

- We would like to invite all parents and carers to join us for an online information session on Wednesday 18th November, from 5.00–5.30pm, focusing on the growing influence of harmful online content on young people's attitudes and behaviours.
- Recent research has raised concerns about increasingly traditional attitudes towards gender roles among some young people, while Louis Theroux's recent documentary has highlighted how social media influencers can promote misogynistic attitudes for financial gain. Other studies have demonstrated just how quickly young people can be exposed to harmful content online, often without actively seeking it out.
- Our session will explore the risks posed by harmful online influencers and, most importantly, provide practical advice on how to have open, supportive and constructive conversations with your child, whether male or female. We hope that as many families as possible will join us as we work together to help our young people navigate the online world safely, critically and respectfully.

Sixth Form Open Evening

- We are delighted to invite all Year 11 pupils and their families to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 19th November, from 5.00–6.30pm. This is a fantastic opportunity for pupils considering their next steps after GCSEs to explore everything our Sixth Form has to offer.

- Throughout the evening, pupils and families will have the opportunity to meet our dedicated Sixth Form pastoral team and school leaders, learn more about the wide range of subjects and courses available, and explore our excellent facilities. It is also a valuable opportunity to ask questions and discover more about the academic, pastoral and wider opportunities available to our Sixth Form students.

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KS3 Raising Achievement Plan & Assessments

- Pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 will complete their Key Stage 3 assessments between Monday 30th November and Friday 11th December. These assessments provide an important opportunity for pupils to demonstrate their understanding of the knowledge and skills they have developed throughout the term, whilst allowing teachers to identify areas of strength and where further support may be needed. Subject teachers will share information about the content of assessments, alongside key revision materials and resources to help pupils prepare effectively.
- The coming weeks also provide an excellent opportunity for pupils to develop good revision habits and become increasingly independent and confident learners. We encourage families to support their children by establishing regular, manageable revision routines, checking Google Classroom for resources and encouraging short, focused revision sessions rather than last-minute cramming. Developing these important study skills early in secondary school will help pupils build strong foundations for future assessments and examinations. Thank you, as always, for your continued support in helping your child achieve their very best.



Advanced Notice: School Inset Day Friday 27th November

- A reminder to all families that school will be closed to pupils on Friday 27th November for a staff INSET Day.

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

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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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