



NIAMH AND ANNA REACH FOR THE HIGHEST HEIGHTS

After a busy term of completing UCAS University applications, St Thomas More are pleased that 119 students (over 85% of our cohort) have successfully applied to university, with the remaining students well on their way with applications to apprenticeships and employment. As in previous years, students

have applied and been accepted at universities and colleges right across the country from Aberdeen to Plymouth, including Oxford and Cambridge. This year Anna Jones has been offered a place to read French and German at Oxford, while Niamh Waters plans to read English at Cambridge.

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AN EASTER PRAYER FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

"Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and Alleluia is our song." - Pope Saint John Paul II
God our Father, we praise you and we thank you for the hope of Easter, which shows that light will always overcome darkness and hope will defeat despair. Help us to live out the Easter story so that we realise no matter what we go through in our lives, they can always be transformed and made new again. This is the optimistic hope of our faith... and with your support we can achieve great things and truly live our lives to the full. Amen.

'I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER! Niamh Waters

The two girls are delighted with their achievements. 'Although it was hard work applying early', said Niamh, 'it has been worth it to get to this stage. Also, the fact that I am one of the first people in my family to go to University makes the offer even more rewarding. I couldn't be happier!'

Anna said, 'I'm so excited but shocked to have received an offer!' 'I'm glad that all the hard work was worth it in the end, especially since the offer is from the college that my grandad also studied at.'

Mrs Hallam, Head of Sixth Form, said 'We are immensely proud of Anna and Niamh and are delighted that their ability and talent have been recognised by such prestigious universities. Their excellent offers are thoroughly deserved and are a positive and promising end to a very rigorous application process.'

Everyone at St Thomas More wishes these two girls, and all our other applicants, all the best in their summer exams and their future successes.

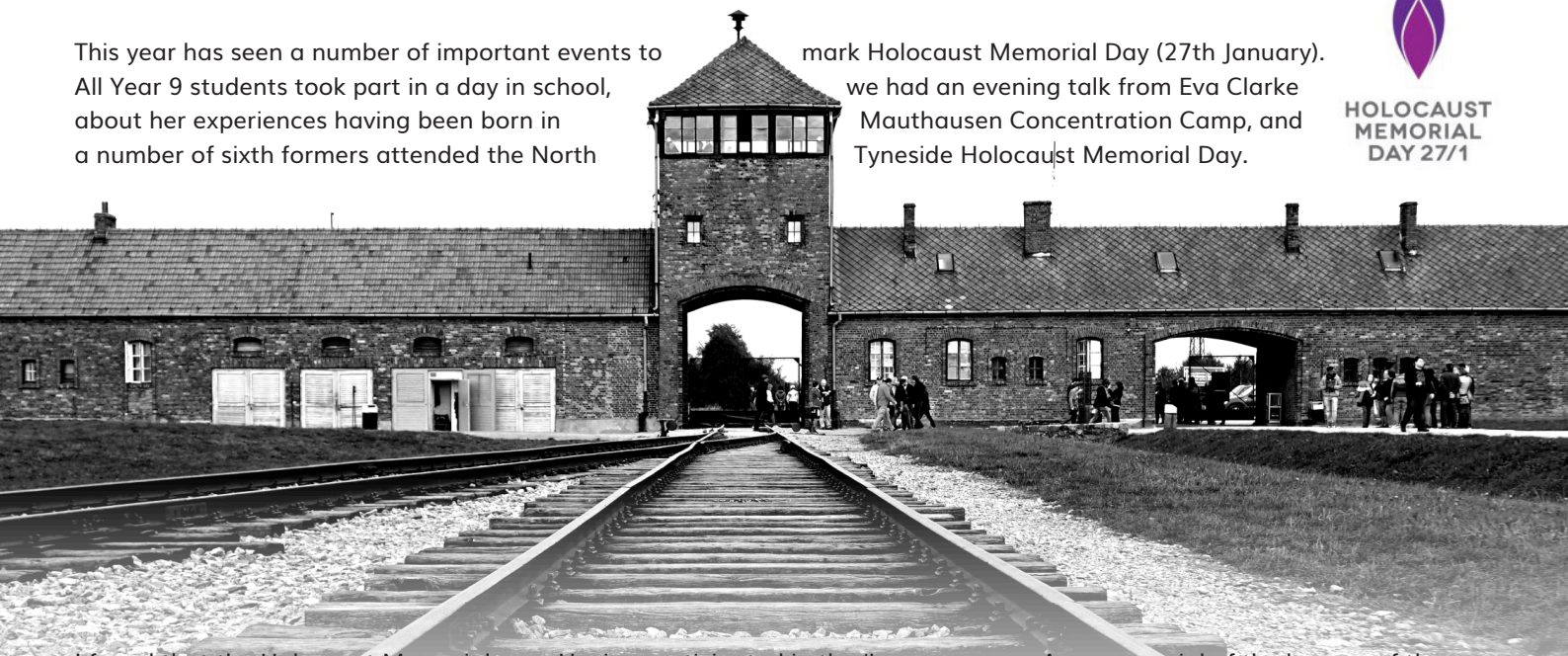
- Mr Logie

At present, Francesco Bello (graduated STM 2017) is reading Natural Sciences at Cambridge, while Declan Pang and Rebecca McLean (both 2016 graduates) are reading Medicine and History respectively at Oxford.

COMMEMORATING THE HOLOCAUST

This year has seen a number of important events to All Year 9 students took part in a day in school, about her experiences having been born in a number of sixth formers attended the North

mark Holocaust Memorial Day (27th January). we had an evening talk from Eva Clarke Mauthausen Concentration Camp, and Tyneside Holocaust Memorial Day.



I found that the Holocaust Memorial Day in school further expanded our knowledge of the cruelty and horrors encountered during the Holocaust. Throughout the day, we had chances to pay our respects through a range of activities, such as creating posters and hand-crafting felt butterflies. I believe it is extremely important for everyone to be educated about the Holocaust because the horrors that were endured during such a painful period of time deserve to be acknowledged and the heartbreak understood. All the victims and their ordeals deserve to be remembered.

- Aleksandra Szymczak, Year 9

Having participated in the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' programme, we were asked to share our experiences with guests at North Tyneside's Holocaust Memorial Day. This was a thoroughly moving event, especially when Arek Hersch gave his account of being sent to a concentration camp aged eleven. When we hear survivors' stories we are amazed at how resilient these people are and it makes us all the more grateful for the life we have today. The day also made us realise that there is still work to be done if we are to become a truly tolerant nation based on values of democracy and justice.

- Emily-Louise Cain, Mairona McGarvie and Fay Staker, Year 13

As a memorial of the horrors of the Holocaust, we were honoured to hear the touching story of Eva Clarke, who was born in Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria. Eva captivated the attention and the hearts of every person in the audience as a reminder of the heart-breaking hardships that so many were forced to endure during the Second World War. She brought humanity to the facts that many students learn and added another dimension to the stories of Jewish people, giving both students and adults an unimaginable insight into life at the time. The evening served as an intimate way to both learn and remember.

- Hannah Baldwin, Year 12

Photo © Dennis Jarvis 2016

YOUNG WRITERS' AWARD 2018

On Wednesday 7th March, a group of students from Years 10 and 12 attended an awards ceremony at the Literary and Philosophical Society for the Young Writers' Awards 2018. There were a number of entries from both year groups, which had the theme of 'Journey' and covered the categories of Fiction, Non-Fiction and Poetry. Earlier in the year, we were lucky enough to attend two inspirational workshops from Jessica Wortley, who is working on a PhD in Creative Writing. The evening was highly successful for St Thomas More, with one of our Year 10 students, Reicela Reinkopa (pictured, right), winning the Poetry award: her winning entry will be published in The Journal. Olivia Smith in Year 10 was also runner up in this category. Two students received further special recognition and runner up awards in the Fiction category: Niamh Scott in Year 10 and Lucy Hundrup in Year 12 (pictured, left). We were all very proud of the success of our fellow students.

- Stephanie Potts, Year 12





ABIGAIL STEPHENSON loves reading books and dancing.



ALANNAH DALY attends Air Cadets twice weekly, and also likes playing video games.



ANNA LITTLEWOOD enjoys listening to music, particularly the Courtenears.



CAMERON McVEIGH is very enthusiastic about rugby and plays for the County.



CHRYSTA LOIS loves to compete in dance competitions and help out with younger children at her dance school.



EVAN NATHAN plays central midfield alongside Jonny Worrall. He also loves computer games.



FAITH JOHNSON enjoys baking and ice skating, but most of all acting and surfing.

YEAR 9 AMBASSADORS

Meet our Year 9 Ambassadors! They were appointed at the beginning of the year and have been an amazing addition to our school. So far they have completed training on LGBT, mental health and racism. In conjunction with the School Council they are using their knowledge of these subjects to run a campaign in school to help raise awareness of the issues facing young people. Miss Edwards is also looking forward to their help in running the library this half term!

- Ms Hagan



GABBY DONNISON likes going out with her friends and listening to music. She also loves dogs.



JACK HENNEBELLE plays ice hockey but loves all sports. He also likes listening to music.



JADE BUGGLASS-BOYES enjoys trampolining and baking.



JOANNA MARCINIAK is Polish. She loves reading, particularly Harry Potter.



JOHN CAMPBELL likes playing badminton and listening to Eminem.



JONNY WORRALL plays football for Cullercoats and Whitley Bay. He also plays County Rugby.



MARNEY THOMPSON competes in figure skating and loves to help younger skaters at the rink.



MATTHEW MILLER loves to help others however he can. He also likes to play computer games.



MOLLY BRICKLEY likes shopping with friends and spending time with her family.



SAM COATES skates five times per week and has won a National Competition.



SOPHIE RITSON dances four times per week. She also loves to go skating with friends.



THOMAS RUMNEY loves running and listening to music. His favourite subjects are Science and PE.



WILL HALL attends Fire Cadets every Monday, and went to Star of the Sea RC Primary School.



SCHOOL TRIP ROUNDUP



CHRISTMAS CHARITY SPILLS INTO JANUARY

Throughout December, Form 9S collected food items to donate to the Bay Food Bank, planning to donate the food a few days before Christmas. However so much food was donated that we had to wait until January! The Bay Food Bank in North Shields has delivered over 170,000 meals since it was set up in 2012, and the food bank itself is a small warehouse, full of food. We didn't realise how much food we had collected until we came to deliver it. - Isabel Hines, Year 9

PAUL NASH EXHIBITION AT THE LAING ART GALLERY

Paul Nash (1889 – 1946) was a surrealist painter, originally gaining recognition during the 1910s for his World War One landscapes. One of his paintings, 'Menin Road', displays a turbulent scene in which soldiers are fleeing bombs falling from the sky. In my opinion, the trees are of great significance because they are bare and look fear-stricken. Even though the front line was ravaged terrain, nature was still present and was not defeated.

- Leah Reed-Evans, Year 10



FESTIVE LECTURE: THE SCIENCE OF SPORT

On the 7th December, eleven Separate Science and GCSE PE students went to the Centre for Life for a Sports Science lecture. Firstly, Professor Emma Stevenson used the example of Tom, a recreational athlete, to show us how they measure VO2max, one of the most common measurements of performance. Later, Dr Paul Catterson, club doctor at Newcastle United FC, explained how they use Sports Science to help their players achieve their best. - By Alex Adderley, Year 10

VIRGIN MONEY STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths)

On Thursday 25th January, we attended the Virgin Money STEM event. Activities included working out how to code/fix a broken website in Python (a coding language) and learning about colour-changing pads that respond to temperature. At the end of the day, I was lucky enough to win the main prize in the 'Bank of the Future' award we had been working towards all day, winning a mini computer called a 'Crumble Controller'.

- Alisina Hassani, Year 8

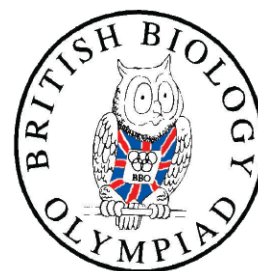


ICT AND BUSINESS VISIT DISNEYLAND PARIS

From 24th to 27th February, Business and ICT students in Year 12 were lucky enough to visit Disneyland Paris. We did get to spend some time in the park, but we were also there to attend a series of talks. The ICT students met with a police officer who dealt with fraud, followed by the website creator for Disneyland Paris. Finally we spoke with a woman who works with developing robotics. These talks gave us some great ICT careers advice. - Kay Henderson, Year 12

BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD SUCCESS

This year, I took part in the Biology Olympiad with four other students from my Year 13 Biology class. This national competition, run by the Royal Society of Biology, involves two exams covering a wide range of areas, including topics that extend beyond our syllabus. All of us were successful in gaining an award, with Rawan Aly and I achieving Bronze and being invited to the Institute of Engineering and Technology in London on 9th July. - Jessica Bouron, Year 13





YEAR 7 AMPLEFORTH TRIP

Our trip to Ampleforth was full of interesting and exciting activities. Father Bede gave us a tour of the monastery and told us about all their traditions. One of the things he explained to us was that it was St Andrew's Day on the day we were there, so the monks say 'Happy Feast Day' to each other when it is their feast day but not on their birthdays. Overall, we had a great educational experience that we will never forget.

- Olivia Hearn and Rachel Conway, Year 7

JOHN PAUL II AWARDS

After six months working in my local parish and volunteering within the community, I was awarded the John Paul II Gold award. It was very interesting partaking in different aspects of parish life. Working within the community was extremely rewarding, so much so that I am going to continue with it. I received my award from Bishop Cunningham at the Tyne Theatre, accompanied by Sr Patricia Bell, whom I worked with during the community aspect.

- Lewis Hall, Year 13



KNITTING & STITCHING SHOW

On November 23rd we attended the largest exhibition of Textiles in the North of England, in Harrogate. It was an opportunity to take part in workshops, be inspired by the work of Textile artists and do some shopping for unusual materials to use in coursework. Myah Jarjoura and Peter Goodridge were even filmed by Look North taking part in a stitching workshop to make a piece for the Creativity in Schools project.

- Mrs Lacey, Textiles

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

On Thursday 1st February a group of Year 8 students went on a trip to The Hancock Museum. We participated in a number of activities including handling animals, circus skills and 'Blast from the Past', a play about the olden days. As well as all the activities we got to sleep at the museum itself. While there we had taster classes from University staff in subjects including Mathematics, Geography and Science. A highly recommended opportunity.

- Abi Cooper, Year 8



YEAR 8 AT SAFETY WORKS

During our first activity, we were investigating an accident involving a pedestrian, a cyclist and a driver. They were all injured, but no one knew why, therefore we had to figure out what happened. After our crash investigation, we learnt about various risks we might be taking in our lives and the consequences they could have. I think it is truly important for young people to be aware of the dangers they will encounter in the future.

- Alisina Hassani, Year 8

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE AT SAFETY WORKS

One of the most important things we learnt about was sexting. 80% of kids under eighteen have sent sexual photos to someone else, and once you have sent out an image you can't get it back. Don't do it because you feel pressured! If you are concerned about this, speak to someone you trust as soon as possible. During our day we also learnt about first aid, fire safety and the risks associated with trespassing.

- Kay Henderson, Year 12



ROUND, ROUND, GET AROUND...

YEAR 10 ICELAND

This March, I was lucky enough to be given the opportunity to go to Iceland with the Geography department. On the 8th March, we travelled from school to Edinburgh airport, then on to Keflavik airport in Iceland. When we arrived at the Hotel Ork we were greeted by friendly staff, excellent food, and fantastic facilities including a geothermally heated swimming pool.

The next few days were completely jam-packed. We saw unbelievable waterfalls, glaciers, volcanoes and tectonic plates, and we got some great pictures of them! Seeing these features, which you've learnt about in your Geography lessons, up close is a completely amazing experience and one that really makes you understand the power and wonder of nature! If you ever have the opportunity, I would highly recommend that you go to Iceland. You will create some brilliant memories, and it will be an experience you'll never forget.

- Renee Tapon, Year 10



YEAR 9 LONDON

From the 2nd to the 5th February, a group of Year 9 Music and History students visited London.

The trip started with a visit to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. We found it fascinating learning so much not only about his theatre, but about Shakespeare and his plays too. Next, we visited Churchill's War Cabinet Rooms; it was interesting to have a guided tour of all the rooms that were used after Winston Churchill's home was bombed during World War II. Following a meal at Planet Hollywood, we went to an evening performance of the West End show, "Aladdin!" The performance was amazing, we couldn't stop singing the songs that night as we made our way back to our hostel.

The following morning, we travelled to the Imperial War Museum. My friends and I decided to see the

memorial on the Holocaust as it was something we were all very interested in. The memorial was emotional but fascinating. Finally, we visited the Harry Potter Studios. This was possibly one of my favourite parts of the trip; I loved seeing all the props and rooms that were used during the production of the films!

- Ellen Davey, Year 9



YEAR 13 VIENNA

As part of our A Level Psychology course, we were given the opportunity to visit Vienna in order to tour the Freud Museum. This allowed us to learn more about leading psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud, in the place he and his family lived before being forced out by the Nazis.

Over the course of the three days we packed so much in; the trip was a great balance of thought-provoking educational tours and fun activities.

One of the most moving visits was to Mauthausen Concentration Camp, where hundreds of thousands of people were imprisoned and killed during World War II. Here we saw the 'Room of Names' displaying the names of over 80 000 people who were killed. It was difficult to comprehend the fact that we were walking around the place where these people had been imprisoned for years.



In contrast, other activities included ice skating, visiting the Schönbrunn Zoo, touring the underground crypts and visiting the Narrenturm. On the last day some of us even went to the Rapid Vienna v Austria Vienna football match.

Overall the trip was a great experience, one that we'd definitely recommend to other students with the chance to go.

- Bethany Thompson & Kate Taylor,
Year 13

... WE GET AROUND

YEAR 7 NORTH TYNESIDE CHAMPS



This term we took two teams to the North Tyneside 6-a-side competition at the Goals pitches in Gosforth. Both A and B teams played really well - the B team only lost one game but drew a few. The A team had a tremendous tournament winning all their games, always with a margin of at least 3 goals, and therefore winning the tournament. This team will now go on to represent North Tyneside in the regional finals. Well done to all the Year 7 Girls footballers!
- Mrs Collins

The finals of the Northumberland County Cup were held at Kingston Park Stadium, the home of the Newcastle Falcons, on the first team pitch. In a tough night of fixtures, the team achieved a win and a draw, ending the night first on points, but missing out on the title of 'County Champions' by one try. Although it may be a tough result to take,



our team still remain unbeaten in over eighteen months here at St Thomas More and, as a school, we are very proud of them all.
- Mr Knowles

U13s AT THE COUNTY CUP FINALS

YEAR 7 COUNTY CHAMPIONS

On Friday 17th of January, the Year 7 5-a-side football team competed in the County Championship. The team played well together throughout the day and never gave up. We performed well defensively, only conceding two goals in the whole tournament.



This, combined with our brilliant tally of 18 goals, resulted in a tournament win for the team on goal difference. St Thomas More Year 7 5-a-side Team are now the County Champions!

The team and I can't wait for Nationals where we hope to continue our success!
- Tommy McAnulty, Year 7

“Champions are made from something they have deep inside them - a desire, a dream, a vision. They have to have the skill, and the will. But the will must be stronger than the skill”

- Muhammad Ali

On Friday 9th February, we competed in the North Tyneside U15 Girls Indoor Cricket competition. We arrived full of excitement and adrenaline, shook off any pre-match nerves and played some amazing cricket. There were unbelievable batting skills present throughout the day and the fielding was consistently excellent! These skills allowed us to win all our matches and land us in the finals against John Spence A. The final was tough, but we left them

batting second and chasing our day's best score of 113! On the last over they fell short by sixteen runs, crowning us regional champions!
- Dana Buendia, Year 10



U15 CRICKET REGIONAL CHAMPIONS



NORTH SHIELDS DANCE FESTIVAL GOES AHEAD (mostly) DESPITE THE SNOW



On the 26th and 27th of February, students from Year 8 to Year 13 took part in an extraordinary display of dance at the Parks, all focusing on the theme 'The Living World.' We showed variations of the theme, including elements, seasons and the cycle of life. Each year performed with extravagance and showed how the theme could be interpreted in so many ways. Our Gifted and Talented students also performed a piece from the musical 'Cats.' Overall the festival was a great success, apart from the final day being cancelled because of the snow! Well done to all involved!

- Olivia Smith, Year 10

EX-PUPIL SUCCESSES

If you or a member of your family are a former student of St Thomas More and have a story to tell, please let us know at alogie@stmacademy.org.uk and we would love to feature you in a future issue of More Life.

MELISSA ATKINS 2007-2014



With the support and guidance of teachers at St Thomas More, I decided to go to Huddersfield University to study Child Nursing. University was a truly unforgettable experience, where I made friends who have remained extremely close despite me moving back to Newcastle. During my course we were given some weeks off to gain healthcare experience, so my friends and I took the plunge and went to Tanzania to nurse in one of the most underdeveloped hospitals in the country, working in a neonatal unit, children's burns unit and an oncology ward. This was an unforgettable experience and made me the person I am today. I am now working on a Cardio-Thoracic paediatric intensive care unit, which means I look after very sick children who have complex heart and lung conditions. This is a truly amazing and rewarding job. Looking back on my journey I feel that I would never be at this point if it wasn't for the amazing support and opportunities offered to me by St Thomas More and my University. One thing in particular that I remember is the belief that my amazing Maths teacher had in me. I got a D in my first ever Maths GCSE. My teacher supported me with extra lessons and told me that I could achieve anything if I worked hard and believed in myself. So I worked hard and believed in myself, I did the exam again and came out with an A. To this day, when I am faced with a difficult situation I think of this teacher and how much faith they had in me.

BILLY ATKINS 2008-2013

If university isn't for you, like it wasn't for my brother Billy, apprenticeships are also a great option. My brother loved his time at St Thomas More, but liked to be more hands-on. The school supported Billy in applying for his apprenticeship, and he is now a time-served engineer. He has done additional training to become a mental health first aider for his work, supporting his colleagues with mental health issues.

HELENA ATTWELL 2006-2013

Helena graduated in the summer with a first from Sunderland University in Applied Biomedical Sciences. She has been offered jobs at the RVI and the Freeman Hospital, but is shortly planning a move to Leeds (with another former student who has a job there).



NEXT ISSUE SUMMER 2018

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