



# More News



October 2014

## St. Thomas More Thinks Pink!



Our annual fundraising event for Breast Cancer Campaign took place last Friday. Sixth form students all paid to spend the day dressed in pink, and there really were some weird and wonderful sights! In addition to this there were quizzes and a pink party photo booth, in which staff and students could dress up and have their photograph taken. A great success was the 'Great British Booby Bake Off' where students made enormous cakes that were then purchased by departments. This was in addition to the three cake stalls held as usual at break and lunchtimes. It was a fantastic day and the grand total raised was a fantastic £1208!

## Sixth Form Amnesty Group Highlight a Key Issue

Students from the Sixth Form Amnesty Group took part in a photo campaign run by Amnesty International in support of Women's Rights in Afghanistan, along with members of staff. They wore high visibility jackets to highlight the danger that women face in Afghanistan if they go out to work. If you're a woman in Afghanistan, being a teacher, doctor or lawyer can put you and your family at risk. As NATO troops pull out Amnesty International is asking the government to take action to help support and protect women in Afghanistan.



## Success for Yr11 Students

Ten students in Year 11 were recently presented with certificates for having successfully completed their Bronze Asdan award. As well as activities such as organising the annual Macmillan coffee morning and spending a day at the Murton Equestrian Centre, the students had to give presentations to members of the Leadership Team and complete a portfolio of work.



# Celebrating our Stars



On Thursday 11 September 54 students from St Thomas More RC Academy were recognised for their outstanding achievement in the summer 2014 examinations. Students who had achieved outstanding results at GCSE, AS and A-level exams were presented with certificates and a gift voucher by the Headteacher Diane Donkin.



The John Bassett Award for Outstanding Achievement in Mathematics was awarded to Sarah Cassidy who is going to Cambridge to read mathematics. John Bassett was Head of Maths and then an Assistant Headteacher at the school for many years.



## Yr12 Biology Day



Our A-level Biology students have certainly been out and about. The students recently carried out their fieldwork at Newcastle University as part of their teacher assessed unit for the course. They have also visited the Newcastle Institute of Genetic Medicine Open day where they developed their practical skills and took part in an ethical debate.



## Vindolandia



Thirty of our Year 7 students recently visited the Roman fort at Vindolanda. As well as investigating the Roman Fort to decide whether life was better as a Roman soldier or a Civilian, they enjoyed a lively talk from an archaeologist and found out lots of grizzly details they wouldn't have known before.





## Auf Wiedersehen Pet!



Our students have just returned from the German exchange return trip to Oer-Erkenschwick, which is North Tyneside's partner town in Germany. The German students had already visited us and now it was time for 28 students from St Thomas More to stay with their partner and their family. A full programme of events and trips included a climb to the top of Cologne cathedral, a visit to a chocolate museum, a trip to Schalke football stadium, and a chance to do shopping in the big CentrO shopping centre. Students also spent a morning at the Willy-Brandt Gymnasium to experience a German school and had an official welcome at the town hall. As usual the German families made their visitors feel very welcome and all were sad to say 'Auf Wiedersehen'.



## Parlez vous Japanese?

Ten students from Year 8 travelled to St John's School in Bishop Auckland with Mrs McAlborn to attend a Diocesan Languages Day. They experienced a number of sessions, including one in which they learnt to speak Japanese. They also had a lesson in Hindi, learnt about heroes and mythology in Greek, and had a session on French fairy tales. All students thoroughly enjoyed the day, and Jemma Rowell was awarded a dictionary for excellent participation.



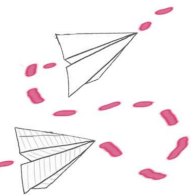
# The BIG Draw



At the beginning of October a group of talented artists from Year 9 spent a day at the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art taking part in the Big Draw Day. Marie Arquintillo, James Conroy, Nathan Chong, Billy Fitzpatrick, James Harris, Eira Hegerty, Maisie Hire and Ben Potter were based in a room at the Baltic which must have the best view of Newcastle, overlooking the bridges, the Quayside and the Baltic square. The students were asked to produce drawings on coloured acetate inspired by the work of Daniel Buren that is currently a key exhibit at the gallery. They worked collaboratively with another school on this and it may have been the largest drawing they have ever been asked to do. Other activities included drawing each other's portrait whilst blindfolded and drawing each other through transparencies. Students also had the opportunity to look around the galleries and respond to the artwork they saw. It was an amazing day with wonderful students!



## Yr 10 High-Flyers



A group of our Year 10 students who study PE GCSE recently took part in a trip that was at High Adventure Outdoor Activity centre in Skipton, North Yorkshire.

Students took part in many activities including an underground maze, high ropes course, low ropes team building, rafting, hill walking, archery and sumo suit wrestling. They were an outstanding year group to take away and many of the students overcame some of their fears - especially with heights, small spaces and water!

