

ST THOMAS MORE ROMAN CATHOLIC ACADEMY



**CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES REPORT  
FOR GOVERNORS  
2017 / 2018**



## Curriculum Activities Report for Governors 2017 – 2018

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## English Department 2017-2018

### A Level

- Lecturer Graham Hall from Northumbria University came into school to deliver a special lecture to Year 13 English Language students on 'World Englishes', one of their exam topics.
- All Year 12 English Language students will be going on a special university lecture day at Northumbria University on 4<sup>th</sup> July. This will include three separate sessions as an introduction to their Year 13 units: Child Language Acquisition; World Englishes; and being a language detective (for their coursework unit).
- Year 12 English Language students went on a trip around the local area as inspiration for their creative writing coursework.
- A-level Literature went on a trip to London where they saw a production at The Globe Theatre, and went to a lecture day where the speakers included Pat Barker, author of their exam text, 'Regeneration'.
- A-level literature went to the Jam Jar cinema in Whitley Bay for a screening of 'Journey's End' to support their WW1 literature studies.
- Year 12 students attended a creative writing workshop at the Lit and Phil Society in Newcastle.
- Students entered the Lit and Phil Young Writer's Awards. Across our KS4 and KS5 students we had 1 winner, two runners up, and a special recognition award.
- Revision sessions before exams.
- There are weekly English lessons for students resitting GCSE English.
- Staff attended and participated in feedback on the A-level exams led by AQA. CPD time was then used to disseminate this information to the rest of the department.

### GCSE

- A theatre company came into school to deliver a performance of 'A Christmas Carol' (one of the set GCSE literature texts) to all of Year 11.
- There is a weekly book group for our most able Year 10 students, led by Claire Harland.
- Revision sessions before each exam.
- An intensive revision day for all Year 11 students the day before their first GCSE exam.
- Weekly after-school revision sessions ran for two months before the exams started.
- 1:1 weekly after-school tutoring for one Year 11 PP plus student.
- Weekly lunchtime English clinic for Year 11 students in the library, run by Clare Feeney and Laura Warland.
- A group of Year 11 students went to Sunderland's Empire Theatre to watch a performance of 'Blood Brothers', a text they have studied as part of their GCSE English Literature course.
- Students entered the Lit and Phil Young Writer's Awards. Across our KS4 and KS5 students we had 1 winner, two runners up, and a special recognition award.
- Staff attended GCSE feedback days led by AQA for both GCSE literature and GCSE language. CPD time was then used to disseminate this information to the rest of the department.
- Several members of the department participated in evening AQA webinars aiming for grades 8-9 in both GCSE language and literature.

### KS3

- Years 7-9 will each participate in a year group Spelling Bee in June. Those achieving full marks in each class will face each other in an upcoming American-style Spelling Bee to crown the champion speller in each year group.
- There has been a KS3 boys' intervention group run by Claire McHugh and Linda Heron every Wednesday lunchtime. This targets underachieving boys and helps them with their spelling,

punctuation and grammar. This focused on Year 7 boys in the first term, Year 8 in the second, and Year 9 boys in the final term.

- Helen Robinson has led a Year 8 journalism club who took part in the BBC School Report Day. They have also been on a tour of the BBC studios in Newcastle.
- Year 7 students entered the BBC Radio 2 '500 words' short story competition.
- There is a Year 8 creative writing club every Wednesday lunchtime run by Martin Billany. This is a very able cohort and they have been writing in a variety of genres including scripts, different types of poems, descriptions and short stories. They are currently working on a piece imagining that Harry Potter never received his Hogwarts letter.
- Claire Harland and Claire McHugh attended CPD delivered by Pie Corbett on 'Talk for Writing'. They then delivered a CPD session for the rest of the department, and his ideas and strategies have now been incorporated into the KS3 curriculum.
- As part of World Book Day, the department organised reading activities in KS3 lessons.
- All Year 7 students and several groups in Year 8, have been following the Accelerated Reader programme. It has been very successful and there have been significant increases in the reading ages of many of our students.
- Supplementary literacy classes continue to be very effective. The Year 7 groups have sometimes spent whole lessons in the library doing nothing but reading and competing to see which team can score the most points, read the most books, etc. Some of our most reluctant readers have loved these lessons.
- 1:1 weekly after-school tutoring for two KS3 PP plus students.

### **Staff activities**

- Claire McHugh and Sheetal Patel run a whole-school Year 7 homework club for Pupil Premium boys.
- Helen Bell runs Culture Club every Tuesday lunchtime for anyone in KS3. They practised and performed a Tagalog song at the Christmas assembly. They have had students come in to teach the group their home languages and are making a display 'Languages of Our School'. There are 12 regular students and a mixture of EAL and monolingual students.
- Clare Feeney is to deliver a staff CPD session on metacognition in the summer term.
- Laura Warland has led a whole school initiative on KS4 'coasting boys' (boys who are underachieving as they never work to the best of their ability). This has included leading an evening session for the students and their parents; 1:1 interviews; data analysis; collecting and disseminating information with the wider staff. A small group of Year 10 students will also be participating in an outward bounds activity day at Kirkley Hall in July.
- In her role as whole-school literacy co-ordinator, Claire Harland has led whole-school CPD on literacy across the curriculum.

## Mathematics Department 2017-2018

### Competitions/clubs for students:

- Students from all year groups took the UKMT Maths Challenge:
  - Senior Challenge (Year 12/13)  
Silver: 6  
Bronze 11
  - Intermediate Challenge (Year 9/10/11)  
Gold: 4  
Silver: 11  
Bronze: 14
  - Junior Challenge (Year 7/8)  
Results not yet available
  - UKMT Team Challenge – Two Year 8 and two Year 9 students represented the School, finishing 10<sup>th</sup> out of 23 teams.
- Crypto club (National Cipher Challenge)– Mr Craigen and Mr Henshaw ran this club for Year 10 which involved deciphering codes sent by Southampton University each week – 100% achieved and joint top in the country.
- After-school revision sessions have been available for all students in Year 11 every Wednesday. Before Christmas this was timetabled and delivered by certain staff and since Christmas it has involved most of the department.
- Wednesday and Thursday morning PP Maths Mentors for current Year 11 PP students who need intervention was taken by Mrs Douglas, Mrs Szoltysek and Mrs Caton. This is Invitation only with one group for foundation and one for higher.
- Year 10 conference at Newcastle University with set 1 and 2 – encourages students to take Maths to KS5 and beyond.
- Phil Ansell from the University also visited the School to encourage future uptake with Year 9, set 1 and 2.
- Eight Year 10 students visited KEVI in Morpeth to take part in the annual Mathsfeast competition against other schools in the area (finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>).
- Miss Jellema took four students to the Senior Maths Challenge at Teesside University.
- Mr Joyce and Miss Jellema took a number of KS3 students to STEMtastic where over 200 students from different schools took part in a number of interactive workshops.
- Miss Jellema also organised a STEM day for girls to RAF Leeming for Year 9.
- All KS5 teachers have been involved in running Maths clinics for Year 12 and 13.
- Mrs Snedden has continued to facilitate a lunchtime Maths clinic for KS4, helping those who have any problems with their GCSE topics.
- Mrs Szoltysek has also run a KS3 Maths club giving students help with homework.
- Year 12 have supported a number of lessons throughout the year.
- My Money week will take place in June for KS3 students. Through this students learn about currency, debt, borrowing and credit. The department will be transformed into a bank for a week.
- GCSE Maths clinic is extremely popular every Wednesday evening which is run by most KS4 teachers.

### Staff Activities

- Miss Jellema and Mr Joyce both mentored students in short diagnostic and long placements.

- Mr Joyce continues to develop excellent relations with feeder schools, delivering lessons on every Friday afternoon. Staff will also deliver lessons in the summer term to Year 6 students in feeder schools.
- Staff have attended external CPD courses on various aspects of Mathematical teaching. These have included: Miss Cooper becoming a lead on secondary teaching using Mastery approaches, Mr Henshaw in support attending meetings; Mr Henshaw and Miss Younger have been involved with 'Every Child Counts – Success at Arithmetic' aimed at those who are not secondary ready to start being taught this summer to existing Year 7 and then ready for Year 7 in September 2018; Mr Craigen and Mrs McIlduff have been involved with, and delivered CPD regarding the new Maths GCSE and Mathematical Thinking (project led); Mr Joyce has attended and fed back on 'Engagement of Lower ability pupils; Mr Wild has attended 'Teaching A level Maths' throughout the year feeding back to KS5 teachers and 'Underground Maths' attended at Carmel College by Mrs Szoltyzek and Miss Jellema.
- Mr Snedden has completed his Med which included his dissertation using TAs to support pupil premium students.
- The department continues to run bronze and silver level Duke of Edinburgh.
- The department continues to work with Newcastle University FASMED team, co-authoring journal articles and extending its work to include Primary Schools. A Workshop will be presented by Mr Snedden at BERA Annual Conference 2018.
- Dr Borwick is involved in meetings with other schools developing pedagogy for the new A level syllabus and has continued to attend Post-16 network meetings a Newcastle University.
- Mr Snedden and Mrs Douglas are both NCETM Accredited Professional Development Leads.
- Mrs Douglas has attended LEA Heads of Department meetings.

## **Science Department 2017-2018**

- **Year 12 and Year 13 Biology Olympiad**

Students were given the opportunity to enter a Biology Olympiad which is an annual national competition run by the Royal Society of Biology.

Year 13 students completed two online exams which were assessed externally. This year all those who entered received a certificate to commend their efforts. In addition, we have had two Bronze medal winners. These students have been invited to an awards ceremony at the Royal Society in London.

Year 12 students will complete their competition in the summer term.

- **St Thomas More Feast Day celebration**

The science department produced an interactive display about the Biology Olympiad for the St Thomas More Feast Day celebration at St Columba's Church. Staff and one of our Bronze medal winners explained what was involved in the competition and showed sample questions.

- **Year 12/13 Physics trip to Geneva**

A group of students will be visiting the Large Hadron Collider at Cern at the end of the summer term.

- **Year 7 Science Club (as part of STEM)**

This is a club aimed at Year 7 students with particular interest in Science. Activities have included:

Gas tests and explosive chemistry

Building snowmen with Ublek

Grass heads and seed germination

Microscopes and pondlife

Paper planes and aerodynamics

Water rockets

We have also had visitors in to run workshops on:

Making and using a spectrometer

Germ and disease (Newcastle University)

- **Year 12 and 13 Biology/Chemistry/Physics Clinics**

These lunchtime weekly sessions allow students to drop-in, when needed to assist with their studies. Advice on subject content, coursework and exam technique can be provided in a bespoke manner to suit the individual need of the student.

- **STEM events**

A group of girls attended the "onwards to A level" event through the Northern STEM network. They were able to explore different careers in STEM and then had a "speed dating" session with successful women in STEM careers already.

A group of 15 high ability Year 11 students participated in a problem solving class at Newcastle University. This involved them breaking down problems in to the fundamental maths and physics before solving it themselves.

Two of our students won a School Physicist of the Year award.

A group of year 10's attended the 'Festive lecture' at Newcastle University (sports science themed)

A group of year 9's attended a Medicine and Dentistry taster day at Newcastle University.

- **Year 12 Biology Field Trip**  
Year 12 students will attend a local field trip focused on an introduction to sampling techniques and statistics needed for A2 modules. Students will collect data from the Rocky Shore (Tynemouth) and a freshwater environment (Plessey Woods).
- **Year 12 Biology Trip to Edinburgh Zoo**  
All AS Biology students enjoyed a day out at Edinburgh Zoo. They also were given a guided tour by Education Officers and attended a session aimed at raising awareness of the role of the zoo in worldwide conservation.
- **Year 13 Biology workshop at the Centre for Life**  
All A2 Biology students participated in a DNA workshop to gain experience using advanced equipment to produce DNA profiles using PCR and electrophoresis. The students sampled their own DNA from cheek cells and studied their genotype and phenotype.
- **Institute of Genetic Medicine (IGM)**  
Year 12 students who are interested in a career in Medicine will attend a series of workshops and mini seminars on “Research at IGM” and “The future of patient diagnosis” at the Institute of Genetic Medicine based at the Centre for Life.
- **Revision sessions**  
Revision sessions before and after school were offered to all exam classes throughout the academic year. These have been particularly well attended and classrooms were often full.
- **Holocaust memorial day**  
The science department deliver a workshop on health, nutrition and conditions within concentration camps.
- **Year 13 Science of Disease workshops**  
Year 13 Biologists were given the opportunity to attend workshops on “The Immune System in Human Disease”, “Biochemistry of Clinical Diagnostics”, “The effect of drugs on enzyme activity” and “Pregnancy and delivery” at the Faculty of Medical Science at Newcastle University.
- **Key stage 4 & 5 revision guides and workbooks**  
Revision guides and workbooks have been made available for all students to purchase in order to prepare them for linear exams.
- **Open evening activities**  
Science staff ran workshops and live demonstrations during the STM Open evening. This allowed visitors to participate in experiments such as extracting DNA from fruit and staining cells to view under the microscope. There were also several exciting “Whizz bang” demonstrations throughout the evening.



## **Religious Education Department**

### **September**

#### **Richard Moore Visit**

One of our students explain the visit in their own words..

When Richard Moore came to speak to our we were told he was there to teach us about forgiveness, but as he stood at the front of the class and explained his story I realised he would educate us not only on forgiveness, but on perspective. Richard Moore is from the city of Derry in Northern Ireland. At the age of 10, in the midst of the Northern Ireland troubles, Richard was shot with a rubber bullet by a British soldier. As a result of this accident he lost his right eye and the sight in his left eye, leaving him completely blind.

Richard always told himself that the person who shot him must have been an 18 year old soldier who didn't know what he was doing, yet 33 years later Richard discovered the identity of his shooter, a 32 year old captain with a wealth of military experience.

Despite what this man had done to him, Richard wanted to meet the soldier, and chose to forgive him. Richard described to us his thoughts on the futility of anger towards other people, and that being angry at someone else was like drinking a cup of acid and expecting the other person to die. In an event that would have left most people bitter and resentful at what they had lost, it is clear that Richard does not believe he has lost at all. In the years since his incident he has lived a full and happy life; he has a family and a purpose and even a friendship with the Dalai Lama.

What Richard showed us is that no matter the obstacles you face, no matter how easy it would be to take the low road and fixate on those who have caused you suffering, by stepping above it and adapting to your situation with a smile on your face you can achieve anything you set your mind to. It must have taken massive strength for Richard to forgive the man who took his sight and he is a source of both inspiration and wisdom to every one of us who struggles to remember the value of forgiveness in our daily lives.

### **November**

#### **Ampleforth Abbey**

The Year 8 students went on a RE trip to Ampleforth Abbey to deal with the subject of love which they are studying in RE. Led by the inspirational Father Bede they focused on agape love through several seminars. They toured round the amazing grounds and researched the 'day to day life' of the Ampleforth monks. The students joined the monks in prayer during compline and prepared and attended mass with Father Bede.

### **December**

#### **First Leeds Trinity Trip**

Year 13 Philosophy and Ethics students went on a trip to Leeds to Trinity and All Saints College where they attended lectures on Philosophy and Ethics and got a taster for university life.

### **January**

#### **Lourdes Ball**

The Lourdes group organised a Charity Ball at the Biscuit Factory which raised over £10,000 for the HCPT Charity.

#### **Revision Clubs/Focus group**

The weekly GCSE-A-level RE revision clubs began in preparation for the Exam in May. The sessions targeted borderline and underachieving students. Mr Milne has taken a lead in these.

### **March**

### **Pre-Pilgrimage Mass**

Our Sixth Form attended and organised the HCPT Pre-Pilgrimage Mass at St. Aloysius. Father David Nixon celebrated the mass and all the groups from the HCPT North East region attended. It was an extremely moving occasion.

### **April**

#### **Lourdes Pilgrimage**

Nearly 40 students and staff supported the North Tyneside HCPT groups 36 and 714. They visited the grotto where Mary appeared to Bernadette and took an active part in the liturgies and masses that took place during the pilgrimage. They also cared for children with special requirements during the pilgrimage. The students were a credit to the school and were truly inspired by the Lourdes experience. Mr Murray and Mr Merchant led the work of the youth group who were a credit to the school. The students also fundraised significant funds towards the pilgrimage.

#### **Masses in Lourdes**

The students joined the music for the regional Mass in Lourdes and the fabulous Gavarnie Mass in the mountains.

### **May**

#### **Mental Health Commission**

As part of our school involvement with Tyne & Wear Citizens, at the start of May four of our students took part in a Citizens Commission on Mental Health. It was a grand affair at the Mining Institute in Newcastle, and the students got a chance to listen to testimonies who typified issues with mental health services in our area. The Commission had key public figures including Catherine McKinnell, MP on the panel and the audience was made up of important people in local politics and healthcare. It was a fantastic day!

### **June/July**

#### **Headteachers Mass**

Several students will lead the music during the Mass at the Conference for Diocesan Headteachers

#### **Summer Festival**

A group of Year 9 students will attend the diocesan summer festival. They will camp overnight and spend time learning about worship and exploring issues of the Catholic Faith.

#### **Confirmation Classes**

The confirmation programme will be led by chaplaincy and RE staff for the new partnership of parishes under forward together in hope. The school will host these.

## **History Department**

### **Key Stage 3**

Year 7

30 pupils visited Alnwick Castle in July.

Year 9

History and Music Departments organised a weekend visit to London, incorporating visits to The Imperial War Museum, the War Cabinet Rooms, Aladdin, the musical, and Warner Brothers' Harry Potter Experience.

All Y9 pupils involved in the Holocaust Memorial Day.

Holocaust Commemoration Evening; display of work produced by Y9 pupils and talks from sixth form students with the main presentation from Eva Clark, Holocaust survivor. The event was also attended by Waterstones Books to promote 'Born Survivors'.

### **Key Stage 4**

Year 11

Day visit to Beamish Museum to study Health and the People. Pupils participated in active role plays as well as research.

Drop in revision sessions at lunch time and after school for pupils.

### **Key Stage 5**

Four Y13 students were involved in the Holocaust Educational Trust's Lessons From Auschwitz programme which included a day visit to Poland.

As part of their Next Steps Project, they gave a presentation to a group of Y12 History students who then helped to deliver a PSE lesson to Y9 form groups in preparation for the Holocaust Memorial Day,

Three students spoke at North Tyneside's Holocaust Memorial Day.

Three students then led the Holocaust Commemoration Evening, at which Eva Clark (Holocaust survivor) was the keynote speaker.

Eva Clark gave a second presentation to all Y13 students the following day.

### **Staff / Department**

Worked with Beamish Museum on development of curriculum activities for the GCSE unit on Health and the People.

Three evening CPD webinars on A Level curriculum; one on Tudors, Germany and the Non Examined Unit.

## **Geography Department 2017/2018**

### **School trips: -**

Yr 7 Full day curriculum trip to Newcastle's Quayside: 23<sup>rd</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

This was once again an overwhelming success with students visiting Ouseburn farm, the Baltic, Sage & learning how to use a number of geographical skills in an enquiry based approach. Very positive feedback from students & staff. Follow up including GCSE presentation of data & AFL task.

Yr 8 Full day curriculum trips to Seaton Sluice: 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

Investigating rivers & coastal processes & landforms. As in Year 7 follow will include enquiry style presentation skilling students up ahead of GCSE challenges.

Yr 9 Residential trip to Holy Island: Fri 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> July 2018

70 Year 9 students will join us for a wonderful, enriching weekend in a very special place.

Yr 10 International trip to Iceland: 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Third time we've run this trip. A firm favourite amongst students & staff. 40 students enjoyed a once in a lifetime experience & are still buzzing... Already booked again for next year...

Yr 11 Residential trip to Grinton Lodge: 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Once again 45 Year 11 Geographers will I am sure enjoy a fantastic weekend in the Yorkshire Dales, with structured, quality revision ahead of their GCSE exams.

Yr 12 Residential Trip to Keswick YHA, Cumbria

25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017.

Inaugural trip for the department with 17 Year 12 students being guided through data collection, presentation & interpretation techniques in both urban & rural environments covering the module Changing Places in preparation for their A Level Independent Enquiry.

Yr 12 also experienced half day trips to North Shields, Ouseburn Valley & Druridge Bay (various dates throughout Oct & Nov 2017)

### **Additional activities undertaken by staff: -**

#### **All Geography Staff**

A series of additional ICT lessons after school during the 1<sup>st</sup> half term to support Yr11 students in completing their Controlled Assessment.

All staff also been extremely busy producing new schemes of work at KS4 & 5.

#### **LCM**

Led residential trip to Lourdes for 25 Yr12 students as part of my Youth Group: 31<sup>st</sup> - 7<sup>nd</sup> April 2018.

Planned & led numerous charity events in preparation for this trip, e.g. musical evening at local parish, cake sales; as well as supporting other staff in their charity events. Will forward student comments which tell you everything you need to know.

Been involved in planning & leading liturgies & Masses for both students & staff at STM both internally & externally, e.g. Youth Village, Year 9 Confirmation Course, Stations of the Cross etc.

Planned & led department residential trips to Lakes District & Holy Island.

Taken A Level students on numerous occasions to Geography lectures & seminars at both Newcastle & Northumbria Universities.

#### **DSR**

Obviously very busy & working very much hands on in his role as HoY.

Been supporting LCM with A Level Independent Enquiries.

Planning Year 10 Iceland Fieldtrip for Nov 2018.

**AL**

TLR for producing school news letter 'More News' & with responsibility for running the school website / heavily involved with working group to set up new website / supporting other departments setting up social media.

Attended 6<sup>th</sup> form Vienna trip.

**LAN**

Year 11 Monday revisions ran since Feb.

**BEL**

Mentoring PGCE student who has successfully gained full time employment from September back home in Swindon.

Additional after school revision classes for Year 11 students have been offered since after Christmas.

## **ICT / Business Studies Department 2017-2018**

### **KS5**

#### **CIPFA Challenge, Tyne Met College:**

Seven sixth form students visited the college to take part in the CIPFA challenge. Students worked with mentors from the accountancy industry in the public sector. Our team worked with the Financial Controller of the Tyne and Wear Metro. Six other sixth form colleges took part and students carried out various activities, including role-plays, writing reports and presenting findings to a panel of professionals. All of these challenges were created in a realistic environment with interruptions and tight deadlines, creating pressure for the students.

#### **Disney Computing and Business Conference:**

Twenty students visited Disneyland Paris in February to attend Business and Computing Live conference. During the visit the pupils attended 3 seminars delivered by entrepreneurs and gurus within the Business and ICT sector. Pupils were also given the opportunity to visit the park and experience the rides.

#### **Drop In AS/A2 Surgery – Business & IT**

During the year the A Level staff have hosted 1:1 drop-in surgery sessions with the Sixth form students. These have taken place during free lessons and lunch times. During the sessions staff worked 1:1 with students discussing structuring answers, types of questions and answers and general exam worries.

#### **BTEC IT – Super-Learning Session**

The Year 13 BTEC IT students attend a super learning day to raise their grades in BTEC IT for their Website Development unit. This involved working with the HOD over a 2 day period focusing on the course specification for the higher Merit and Distinction assessment criteria.

#### **Tiny Lives**

BTEC students were visited by Tiny Lives for their BTEC Business level 3 qualification. The session involved a presentation about the charity and a Q&A from the students to prepare them for their coursework assessment. Information gathered was then used in their assessment for Unit 1.

### **KS4**

#### **Coursework Catch Up:**

The HOD is providing assistance to year 11 ICT and year 11 Business Studies pupils with their GCSE coursework on a Thursday night after school and Friday lunch time. They are assisting Year 11 GCSE pupils to complete their CAB to the best of their ability. The sessions were run for all pupils to attend who study the GCSE. They also offered one to one support and extra guidance where required.

#### **Breakfast Club:**

This academic year the faculty offered a breakfast club for students which were not making sufficient progress in Business, IT and Computing. Students were invited and parents informed of the intervention. 85% of those invited attended for an hour before school each Friday in CP1. Breakfast was provided and support given for coursework and exam elements.

#### **Lunch Club – KS4**

This year the ICT room CP5 has been opened during upper school lunch on a Tuesday lunch time. The club has been used mostly by GCSE ICT students to complete additional revision sessions prior to their exam or for additional support for their CAB.

#### **Easter Coursework Session**

During the year the Easter break year 11 GCSE IT students were given the opportunity to attend a course work and exam prep day within the department. This was delivered by the HOD over 2 consecutive days.

This was well attended and give students the opportunity to complete outstanding coursework and prep for their forth coming exam.

### **KS3**

#### **Lunch Club – KS3**

This year the ICT rooms has been opened during lower school lunch on a Wednesday and Thursday lunch time. The club has seen a wide and varied amount of pupils use the facilities for a wide range of activities. The pupils have used the facilities to complete ICT work, use the e-mail facility, complete homework, research activities and other project work for other subjects. The club has been used greatly and the pupils regularly ask for more access on the days that the room is not available.

#### **£10 Challenge:**

This year the faculty has introduced Business Studies into the KS3 curriculum. Year 9 students successfully completed a £10 Challenge unit of work which involved the students becoming budding entrepreneurs. They worked in teams of 4 to turn a £10 note into a profit by creating their own business and corporate identity. The year group were absolutely fantastic and as a cohort raised just over £1700 for the schools Lourdes charity.

### **Staffing**

#### **ABM**

- Has support WBH with their implementation of BTEC Level 3 – this has involved working with the HOD in providing guidance for paper work, assessment and course content.
- Lead the Family group for HCPT Lourdes Group at Easter.
- Lead assessment CPD for the faculty.
- Attended introduction to OCR Technical Level 2 course for the anticipated launch in autumn 2018.
- Has continued as Quality nominee for BTEC courses whole school.
- Planned and attended the Business and Computing Live trip.
- Ran Easter sessions for GCSE.
- Delivered revision sessions prior to GCSE exams.

#### **JJN**

- Has support Burnside and Holy family Catholic School in London with the moderation of coursework for their current year 11 students.
- Has attended the local authority Middle Leader development course.
- Delivered revision sessions prior to GCSE exams for Business.
- Attended introduction to OCR Technical Level 2 course for the anticipated launch in autumn 2018
- Examiner for A Level Business Studies

#### **JFN**

- Has acted as a mentor for Northumbria University Computing student for their students as tutor's course.
- Attended introduction to OCR Technical Level 2 course for the anticipated launch in autumn 2018.
- Delivered revision sessions prior to GCSE exams for Computing.
- Has attended Computing HUBs/Networking sessions for CAS. (each Month).

#### **JBE**

- Attended CPD in relation to the delivery of Python at KS3.
- Attended introduction to OCR Technical Level 2 course for the anticipated launch in autumn 2018.
- Has attended a number of CAS (Computing at Schools) CPD sessions.
- Attended the Business and Computing Live trip.
- Delivered revision sessions prior to GCSE exams for Business.
- Delivered additional support sessions for GCSE on a lunch time.

**MVW**

- Delivered CPD for Python Programming for the Faculty.

**SJ**

- Delivered additional support sessions for GCSE on a lunch time.

**LMR**

- Attended introduction to OCR Technical Level 2 course for the anticipated launch in autumn 2018
- Is attending CPD in relation to being the mentor for SKITT in the academic year 2018-2019



## **Modern Foreign Languages Department**

In 2017-18, the department continued in its aim to take as many opportunities as possible to bring the French and German languages to life.

### **Year 7**

In March, all Year 7 pupils watched La Chanson Du Retour, a live performance by the renowned Hexham-based theatre company Théâtre Sans Frontières which was very well received by the audience. Students had done some preparation work and were able to sing along with some of the songs. Most felt that they understood enough of the vocabulary to understand the play and were enthusiastic about the follow up work. It was noted that some of the less motivated boys came up to sing in French and dance in front of one of the classes during the preparation period. Mrs McEwan, who organised the hosting of the show, was less enthusiastic about having to perform an impromptu dance with the cast in front of the whole year group.

### **Year 8**

In September, a small group of Year 9 pupils travelled to St John's School in Bishop Auckland with Miss Flood to attend the annual favourite diocesan partnership event The European Day of Languages. The pupils took part in activities which ranged from French story-telling to Greek dancing.

### **Year 9**

In September, our 20 year - plus friendship with our German partner school continued with the visit of 24 pupils from Oer-Erkenschwick, North Tyneside's twin town. Our pupils eagerly await their turn to visit Germany in September 2018 led by Mrs Wakeman and accompanied by Mr Snedden and Mrs Bell.

### **Year 10 and Year 11**

In July, 33 pupils will be heading to Germany to enjoy 5 days in the Rhineland with Miss Flood, Mrs Fisher, Mr Craigen and Miss Flynn.

33 pupils will be heading for a 5-day stay in the French capital led by Miss Trabichet's team of Mrs Sennitt-Woods, Mr Logie and our school chaplain, Michael.

### **Year 12**

Last October, Y12 Germanists attended a study day at the Tyneside Cinema to view and discuss "Goodbye Lenin" the film they are working on for their A-level exam with Mrs Fisher.

In June, 10 Y12 German students will be taking part in a study trip to Berlin organised by Mrs Wakeman who has already booked various venues for viewing football matches in the evening after all the cultural work done during the day. Mr Metcalfe who is the male lead teacher will not have to miss out on the whole of the world cup.

### **Year 13**

We are delighted to report that Anna Jones has been offered a place at Oxford University to read French with German ab initio.

Last but not least, we have had two extra linguists working in the department this year. Amelia Powell, a former student of STM who is currently studying French and German at Newcastle University and Katie Murdoch, a qualified teacher. We have enjoyed the in-class support they have offered and in return both have gained valuable experience working with MFL staff supporting in a wide range of classes.

## **Design and Technology Department**

- Lunchtime sessions provided for KS4 students, popular across all subjects – Graphic Products, Resistant Materials and Electronic Products.
- After school drop in sessions set up for KS4 students – Graphic Products, Electronic Products and Resistant Materials.
- After school coursework session every Monday/ Thursday for KS4 Electronic Product students. Set up for students who are currently underachieving in their coursework as identified by Sisra.
- After school theory session every Monday for KS4 Graphic Product students. Set up for students who underachieved in Y10 examinations.
- Electronics club set up for KS3 students on a Thursday night (about 3 currently on roll)
- Design Technology show in conjunction with the Art Dept to showcase the KS4 and KS5 practical work

## **Food and Textiles Department**

- Super Learning days have again been held for students of Textiles Technology to enable students to have additional time and support in the completion of their controlled assessments. (GCSE Textiles)
- After school coursework clubs have been held each week throughout the year in Textiles. Students who have attended have received additional support from members of staff within the department and have been able to make use of the specialist equipment in the department.
- Coursework days have been held during February half term to allow GCSE Textiles students to make progress on the practical coursework.
- One day in February half term and 2 days in the Easter holiday were held for GCSE Food students in order for them to complete their NEA's.
- GCSE Food students completed the first 3 hour practical exam for their NEA2 coursework. This was held over two days, to enable all students to have individual access to sinks, work areas and ovens. Fantastic skills demonstrated by some students.
- Year 11 Food were offered revision sessions held on a Friday lunchtime from January to May. This enabled students to discuss topics covered in year 10 and practice exam style questions.
- In March, the Royal Navy came into a Year 10 lesson and did a practical demonstration / talk on careers in the Navy. They cooked a meal that the students tasted and evaluated. Some year 11 students also attended (but was held in a Maths period, therefore were given the option of attending their maths lesson).
- Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition students completed the first 3 hour practical exam for their Unit 1 coursework. Fantastic skills demonstrated by the students.
- Year 12 Textiles students visited Mary Portillo studio in preparation for their A level coursework. Students were able to talk to the designer and discuss samples of work on display.

## **Health and Social Care Department 2017-2018**

- Health and Social Care Super Learning Day enabled Year 11 students to do the practical element of their First Aid Unit. This was a very effective use of time and really helped the pupils achieve higher grades for this unit. St John's Ambulance delivered this day-long course.
- Claire Currie has been a great addition to the department. She has fitted in really well and having a subject specialist teaching HSC really makes a difference to HOD and pupils.
- Students in Year 13 are the first cohort to come to the end of the new Cambridge Technical qualification. There have been little/few teething problems and all pupils look like they will complete the course with good grades.
- There has been a big increase in numbers in Y10. Year 10 has 42 this year compared to 25 in Year 11. This is the largest cohort in HODs time here.
- There has been a bigger uptake of HSC at Year 12. There are 19 in the cohort this year – the biggest since HOD has been at the school. This is compared to 14 in Year 13.
- Year 12 pupils have been to visit Sunderland University for a “get into health” event and for workshops on Early Years Care, Nursing, Social Work and Health and Social Care.
- Year 12 pupils have also been to Safety Works interactive safety centre in Newcastle as part of one of their examined units.
- Year 12s have had: A Mental Health Nurse, a Physiotherapist and a Midwife come in to school to speak to them about their job and what relevant university courses would be like
- Some Year 12 pupils have been participating in a work related placement every Wednesday afternoon. This is no longer a requirement of the course

## **Art Department Activities:**

### **October 2017:**

#### **The Big Draw**

Year 9 students attended a drawing workshop lead by an artist at the Baltic. It was a creative exercise whereby students were challenged to think laterally about different approaches to drawing.

#### **KS4 and KS5 London Art Trip**

Year 11 and 12 students visited relevant galleries in London to develop their individual projects. The students were encouraged to analyse and discuss the artwork to develop an understanding of the themes that the artists are tackling in their work and how these could be relevant to their own individual art practices.

### **November 2017:**

#### **Creative Careers Day**

Year 13 students participated in the Baltic's Creative Careers Day. This event introduced the students to a variety of different pathways in the creative industries and gave the students valid advice on applications to university and the creation of individual portfolio's.

### **December 2017:**

#### **University Advice**

Tutors from Teesside and Sunderland University visited St Thomas More Academy to discuss progression within the subject to Year 12/13 students, they also critiqued the work of students and gave advice on future developments and applications.

### **January 2018:**

#### **Baltic and Side Gallery**

Year 12 photography enrichment group visited the Baltic and Side gallery to develop an appreciation of the work on display. Students were encouraged to analyse the work and make links to the processes that they have been experimenting with throughout the year.

### **February 2018:**

#### **Cleveland College of Art & Design**

Tutors from Cleveland College of Art & Design visited St Thomas More Academy to discuss progression within the subject to Year 12/13 students, they also critiqued the work of students and gave advice on future developments and applications.

### **May 2018:**

#### **GCSE and A Level Art exhibitions**

The achievements and outcomes of the GCSE and A level students were celebrated in two separate evening exhibitions where colleagues, parents and friends were invited to view the talents and diverse range of outcomes that have been created throughout the year. Both evenings were very successful and well attended. A selection of the work is available to be viewed on the school website.

#### **Year 12 Galleries visit**

Year 12 students visited relevant galleries in Newcastle to develop their individual projects. The students were encouraged to analyse and discuss the artwork to develop an understanding of the themes that the artists are tackling in their work and how these could be relevant to their own individual art practices.

### **June 2018:**

#### **Cleveland College of Art & Design**

Year 12 students will visit Cleveland College of Art & Design to participate in professional workshops to develop their understanding of working practices and develop knowledge of potential processes that can develop their own artistic enquiry further.

### **Extra Curricular Clubs and Support**

Coursework after school development:

The department has continued to provide assistance to year 10 and 11 pupils with their GCSE coursework on a Monday, Thursday and Friday evening. The sessions continue to be held for all pupils to develop their independent projects and encourage further exploration and experimentation of art making activities. One to one support and extra guidance is offered to all students during these successful sessions.

### **KS3 Art Club:**

Art 4 has held an extremely well subscribed after school club every Wednesday. The club has maintained a high attendance encouraging and providing opportunities for pupils to use the facilities for a wide range of activities. KS3 pupils are invited to develop their own work whilst experimenting with interesting and exciting art making approaches.

Photography Enrichment:

Year 12 weekly sessions have provided students with an option to experiment with photography exercises both manually and digitally. The students are encouraged to experiment in the dark room and form an understanding of photographic development processes. The department provides students with the opportunity to manipulate digital photographs and experiment with cyanotype techniques to produce diverse range of photographic outcomes.

## **Physical Education Department**

**(visit us @stm\_pe our successful Twitter account where you can view great photos of our teams)**

We have had a full year in our 21<sup>st</sup> Century facilities enabling us and our external organisations, to offer a multitude of fantastic opportunities for the students of St Thomas More. The traditional and long standing sports continue to be represented football, netball, basketball, rugby, cricket, athletics and rounders have teams across all age groups. However highlights have occurred in girls rugby and badminton, table tennis and athletics.

Many NGBs continue to fund work in our school including The Northumberland Cricket Association, North Tyneside Badminton, North Shields Poly Athletics and Northumberland Rugby, and Newcastle Premier League for Sport funding and coaching has been for both girls and boys. Due to our successes and numbers attending clubs we have secured more funding and been classified as a lead school for younger students from the Youth Sports Trust – to be spent on encouraging our feeder school students to become Active leaders in Sport. The number of Non Participating girls has been greatly reduced with our own Active Leaders organising and encouraging girls to attend. This scheme has been extended to a small initiative directed at non participating boys.

– see Girls Active section further on.

Our gifted and talented student numbers are also increasing and we have county, regional and international representation in a number of sports. **The OAA for potential GCSE and A level** candidate's trip to Hexham Dukeswood House is already organised for June with 20 students already signed up. Thanks to Mr Knowles & Mr Towns for their work in this area.

**Leadership** lessons and work with our primary schools continue to be inspirational and our VI form and year 10 leaders have helped to run festivals in badminton, hockey, rounders, netball, skipping, athletics with huge numbers attending each event.

This is excellent and very positive transitional work – thanks to Mr Knowles for all his work in this area.

**Sports Day 6<sup>th</sup> July**) is proving to be a great stepping stone for many students – 175 of our students attended athletics practice in the first week – it is an amazing spectacle – thank goodness our field is still the largest space we have!! Mrs Plummer has secured three athletics coaches from local athletics clubs who have come along to help.

Leaders are again instrumental in the smooth running of this day.

## **Governors are cordially invited to attend Sports Day**

### **Trips**

**Skiing Austria** – 67 students enjoyed a fantastic Easter ski trip, numbers have gone back to normal for this trip. This year was much colder with lots of snow all over Europe.

We were all the beginners but all were skiing by the end of the third day. Thanks to Mrs Collins, Mrs Plummer, Mr Towns, Mrs Robertson, Mr Knowles and Mr Anderson for their efforts. Numbers for next years trip are looking much more healthy with 70 students ready to confirm places.

**Wimbledon** – Tickets have been allocated to STM but were for the day of Sports Day – we will be offering these tickets to one our primary school.

**The Open** – another fantastic opportunity for year 8 golfers with Mr Knowles and Mr Towns driving up to Carnoustie this year with 13 year 8's on Thursday 19th July this year.

### **Most significant achievements**

#### **Boys Football**

This year our school teams have once again had lots of amazing success. Firstly, our year 7 football team have had an amazing season, they are the County Champions. They are also in the final of the league cup so have an excellent chance of winning the treble this season.

Our year 8,9 and 10 teams have also all good season, all finishing in the top halves of their leagues.

The year 11 team once again had great success, winning the North Tyneside league for the second year running, and securing their place in the League cup final. They were unfortunately beaten in the county cup semi-final on penalties.

U19 Football team finished third in the top division of the Northumberland Leagues and reached the semi final of the County Cup.

#### **Girls Football**

Girls football continues to grow and develop as both a taught activity and extra curricular sport. The year 7 5 a side team were North Tyneside champions and represented the region at Northumberland championships.

At under 13 age group the girls performed well in their league and 6 girls went on to be selected to represent North Tyneside.- one of our girls is the captain.

The under 14 7 a side team qualified for the Northumberland county finals and finished a credible 3rd place.

At under 15 level the girls have qualified for the County Cup final which they are playing against John Spence next week.

Finally the under 16 team qualified for the 7 a side Northumberland championships as North Tyneside champions. Unfortunately due to the final being scheduled the night before an exam they couldn't play.

#### **Rugby – girls and boys**

Boys rugby at St Thomas More has once again been excellent with all year groups playing in many RFU and County competitions throughout the year.

Our year 8's were the shining team of the season, finishing joint first in the county in the 13 a side County Cup, only to lose out on the overall title on tries scored. An amazing achievement again from this successful team.

Girls rugby has gone from strength to strength at all age groups with over 70 girls now representing the school at some point throughout the year. Both Under 13 and Under 15 teams have entered Northumberland competitions (Finishing second and first respectively) which is a huge achievement for our school. The girls continue to perform exceptionally well against local teams and competing really well against some private schools. A number of girls have moved on to joint local clubs and County selection. This is a sport we will definitely be building on next year with the help of the Falcons and the Northumberland RFU. Thanks to Mr Knowles for his time and efforts.



## **Netball**

All age groups from Year 7 to Year 11 played fixtures and attended local tournaments

Year 8- played all matches and attended local league competitions

Year 9- played all matches. The turnout for training has been fantastic this year with over 30 girls most weeks.

**Year 10** Another fantastic season for the Year 10 netball team, this year we were able to take an A and B team to most matches giving lots of girls the chance to play competitive sport.

A group of our talented netballers from various year groups went to see the Superleague Netball match held at Northumbria yesterday. We have been lucky to have a Super Training day from an ex pupil who currently plays for Team Northumbria – all the girls thoroughly enjoyed this fantastic opportunity to learn new skills and benefit from a semi professionals experience.

## **Cross Country**

St Thomas More pupils have had a great cross county and athletics season this year! In Cross Country over 50 students competed in the North Tyneside Championships with twelve qualifying to represent North Tyneside at the County Championships. Two Sixth Form students qualified to represent Northumberland in the English Schools National Cross Country Championships.

## **Athletics**

In the Senior competition 30 travelled to Monkton Stadium to compete in the North Tyneside Championships. As a school we had the highest number of athletes competing. 20 of these students finished in the top three in their events and have qualified to represent NT at the Northumberland Championships. Although the season has just begun we expect at least 2 students to be selected for the English Nationals Athletics Finals in July.

The minor competition is still under way. We had 175 student's attend the first athletics practice and hoping to earn a place in the Tynemouth team.

## **NOTAN**

We are representing North Tyneside Schools n the NOTAN committee in a bid to save Churchill playing fields. In return NOTAN are helping us with coaching and club links for our students. A great opportunity.

## **Badminton:**

Badminton numbers are once again on the rise, with over 15 girls from year 8 attending Monday morning badminton club week in week out.

The teams have also once again done very well with both KS3 and KS4 boys progressing into the national competitions as North Tyneside champions

## **Dance**

We have organised a number of Dance Evenings' this year in our fantastic new Upper Studio in November and May – dances including BTEC students from year 10-year 13 and also dance pieces from core PE.

Access to the Rambert workshop & theatre trip, were excellent opportunities for our students to gain further insight into professional companies.

This years Dance festival 'the living world' theme incorporated dancers from year 8-13 involved, and St Thomas More were the most highly represented school.

Dance continues to be a massive strength, those of you who were able to attend the Dance Festival will have witnessed first hand the fantastic standard of work achieved by our students both in curriculum time and within examination dance through the Performing Arts courses. It was also pleasing to see most of our feeder schools involved this year.

Thanks to Mrs Roberts, Mrs Johnson and Mrs Henderson for all their efforts in this area.

### **Table Tennis**

At the North Tyneside School Table Tennis Championship held @ Churchill Community College year 7 and 8 Team became NT Champions.

This successful outcome meant they went onto represent North Tyneside in the area finals where they beat formidable opposition from Newcastle, Gateshead and Sunderland to become Tyne & Wear Champions. As T&W Champions they went on to represent the region in Carlisle.

Mr Young worked collaboratively with students from Ashington High School in order to ensure students from both schools made good progress and were assessed accurately.

We have a year 11 student who has had some outstanding results this year within the table tennis world, for example picking up a Premier League title playing for Cramlington. Two year 11 students have also used their volunteering experiences with table tennis club to help them achieve their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Thanks to Mr Young for his time and efforts with table tennis – gaining extra funding and coaching for our students.

**Basketball** – continues an ever increasing but effective group of boys who remain unbeaten at all Central Venue league matches – thanks to Mr Flynn.

### **Girls Active**

Girls Active uses girl leader to promote sport within groups of girls.

This year we have expanded the group and now have 18 leaders. They have been working very hard to increase attendance at extra curricular clubs running reward schemes, leading assemblies, producing displays and quotes for the changing rooms and being a friendly face around school.

The year 8 girls have set up a dance club which sees 40+ girls attend each Wednesday lunch time. This is something they have set up and run with minimal support from teaching staff. A great achievement.

We have recently attended a mentor day at St James where our leaders have been trained to work with some of our feeder primary schools. This has been a great success and we are now sending coaches to St Bernadette's, St Cuthbert's and St Columba's this half term. We hope to target out remaining 4 feeder schools after May and continue this in the new school year. We have received £800 to support this project.

As a result of Girls Active we have increased the amount and type of clubs offered over the past three years. This is to try and make extra curricular sport more inclusive. Reward systems are in place for students who regularly attend and this links with the Primary Schools too.

We are currently top of the North Tyneside leader board in terms of participation in all organised sports activities. This is due to the fact that there are very few opportunities that we do not enter when given the chance to.

### **Gifted and Talented in Sport**

We have 114 students from across the year groups who are registered by PE staff as GT in sport. The criteria being County level or above with significant training and competition commitments throughout the year. In year 7 for example we have 25 girls and boys representing at County level or above in the following sports: Football, Cricket, Kung Fu, Badminton, Rugby, Gymnastics, Cheer Dance, Swimming, Golf and Kick Boxing

### **Facilities Update**

The PE department are now comfortably located in all our new facilities. Despite some minor glitches and disappointments all in all the facilities are fantastic!

The Gym (Ball Hall) has been used to good effect for table tennis, gymnastics, basketball, and fitness throughout the year. Despite not being high enough for trampolining, it is a lovely space so much so we have lost it a couple of times for parents evenings!

The modern bright and up to date changing rooms remain so and are much appreciated by staff and students.

The 'piece de resistance' i.e. the new Upper Studio has been used for a multitude of activities – but mainly much appreciated for Performing Arts and curriculum dance. The raised seating has allowed us to produce dance performances to appreciative audiences throughout the year.

Boys have started to dance – we have some Korean free movement dance group practicing up their three times a week. They also performed at the Dance Festival and at one of our local primary schools as inspiration for boys' dance.

The Upper studio has also been used for Vi form assemblies and other gatherings where the tiered seating has been useful.

The PE office remains bright and modern and a real pleasure to work in although it is now not as spacious or as tidy! There is however a gremlin in the hot water system!

The new team kit and staff kit is now being worn and all teams now have new kit to wear to all competitions – it was a mammoth undertaking and we will see the fruition of this I am sure in next years' competitions and matches – Where we will look very, very smart!

As the Head of Department I feel I need to emphasise that all expenditure and support this has made a tremendous difference to staff morale and it has enabled students to show continued and increased appreciation and commitment to the department and sport in general and allowed our work to thrive and grow.

#### **From last year:**

*"I can almost retire happy – although **an all weather playing surface** would be the icing on a very large and delicious cake!! (Sounds like greed but it is what our brilliant students deserve)."*

**I am very excited and appreciative of the fact that this has come to fruition before it's time to retire and once again thank Anthony and the Governors for supporting the PE department bids and in all our ventures.**

**I think I might leave the cricket wicket, running track and swimming pool to the next generation!!**

## **SEN Department**

More to trial the new format which is being delivered Authority wide this summer The SEN team have continued to work with staff, students, families and outside agencies to further embed the new Code of practice and establish student centred planning and reviews. However, while embracing and embedding these new changes is good practice we also wanted to develop a plan going forward to see where we could further develop our team role and its contribution.

In this regard we have benefitted from the support of the Leadership Team and Governors, which enabled us to have the amazing opportunity for the London Leadership Review Strategy review SEND provision at St Thomas More last Summer Term. Their expertise and independent viewpoint has enabled us to be confident in looking at developing from what was already a strong team base to an even more cohesive school approach. From the review feedback, we are focusing on two key areas: developing closer links with the Pastoral provision for our SEMH students and empowering staff skills through CPD. The review also made Ofsted less scary – we were definitely prepared!

In the Autumn Term a SEND training day was delivered with David Bartram OBE delivering a keynote speech followed by four workshops led and run by the team. The response from staff was very positive and we would like to thank Mr Henderson for his support in arranging the day.

Follow-up CPD sessions have been delivered to staff on ASD / Dyslexia and SEMH to follow. We have also contributed to the Exam Arrangements CPD for staff supporting Access Arrangements. We have the largest number of students (45 students across Years 11-13) needing arrangements this year and are hoping that next year will be less demanding!

Senco was successful in achieving Practising Certificate which allows Access Arrangements to be signed off for JCQ Form 8 applications and evidence of need, saving costs to school and enabling Dyslexia screening and assessments to be offered to our students.

Within the Local Authority the Senco has contributed to the LA working group re-designing the EHCP review paperwork enabling St Thomas.

### **KS2 / 3 Transition**

Mrs Denham has attended transition reviews, still on-going for our Year 6 intake and liaising with the Pastoral Team. SEMH is a growing area of need. Primary visits are being planned and TAs will also visit to support our new students.

### **Key Stage 3**

- Reading Club – 3 x mornings per week + supported AR activities.
- Spelling Club – 2 x mornings per week
- Individual 1-1 spelling dyslexia programmes
- Homework Club / Lunchtime Club 5 x lunchtimes
- Drop-in is available pre-am registration / lunchtimes and on an ad-hoc basis as long as staff are available.
- Accompanying trips e.g Geography Quayside to assist with inclusion.
- Travel training programmes for KS3 students – summer term.
- Handwriting Programme.
- Dyslexia screening and programmes working with the Dyslexia Referral team.
- K and EHC Review meetings
- Regular on-going home school liaison / outside agencies.

#### **Key Stage 4 /5**

- Travel Training – summer term.- including visits to Colleges and post-16 placements.
- Exam revision – individual support.
- Lunchtime homework / study club
- Supporting Super Learning Days
- Assessments and applications for Exam Access Arrangements.
- K and EHC Review meetings.
- Attending Pastoral meetings KS4 including Looked After Child (LAC) and Early Help Assessment (EHA) meetings
- Regular home school liaison / outside agencies.

## **Music Department**

Extra curricular opportunities in Music continue to develop and improve in terms of quality and achievement. The department runs the following groups and ensembles on a regular weekly basis: School Orchestra, Chamber Choir, Crescendo Choir, Samba Band and separate ensembles for flute, brass and string groups. Music theory club operates for students who wish to take theory exams to compliment their practical work.

The BTEC Charity evenings throughout the year and the Christmas concert proved very popular with large numbers of students involved in performing - from beginners in Year 7 to more advanced students. Students in the School Orchestra will end the year performing in a joint 'family film music concert' in July.

Visits have included the joint Music / History trip to London to see the Globe Theatre, a West End show, as well as visiting the Imperial War Museum, Churchill War Rooms and 'The Making of Harry Potter' film set.

## Library

### **Use of the Library**

The Library opens at 8.15am each day. It is open each morning break and lunchtime both for Lower and Upper School. It is open until 4pm after school apart from on Friday. It is occasionally necessary to close the library at a social time if this clashes with a booked lesson.

### **Usage Statistics General Overview (as of May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018)**

#### **Issues -7020**

Items issued to Staff                      767

Predictably Year 7 borrow the most at 4280 issues.

### **Library Bookings**

310 lessons booked into the library.

### **Resources into Classrooms**

Book boxes containing books, folders, leaflets etc. are issued to staff for use in classrooms.

Over this year 30 have been issued.

This is a significant decrease from previous years.

Reasons include

1. Increased use of Ipads in lessons
2. Change in curriculum
3. Less current non fiction library stock for resource boxes.

### **What have Students been Researching in the Library?**

#### **English**

There is a “rolling” programme of classes in the library.

Year 7 – Library Induction and Accelerated Reader

Year 8 – Accelerated Reader and reading intervention

Year 9 – Reading Intervention

#### **Specific Classes**

#### **What have Students been researching in the Library?**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>English</b>	7	Shakespeare Biography, Victorian England (context for Dickens, Christmas Traditions, The Lady of Shallot (ballads), The Holocaust (context for the Boy in the Striped Pyjamas), World War 1 (Context for The Butterfly Lion), Characterisation in Fiction, Lindisfarne (Context for Island)
	8	Life In World War 1 (context for Private Peaceful), WW1 Propaganda, Frankenstein, Mary Shelley and the Gothic Novel,
	9	Youth Homelessness in the UK (Context for Stone Cold), Apartheid and Civil Rights, Animal Farm (politics and USSR History, Context for Christmas Carol, Context for Of Mice and Men (USA history),
	10	Context for An Inspector Calls ( General Strike, women’s rights, Welfare State) Context for Animal Farm
	11	Context for An Inspector Calls

Subject	Year Group	Topic
English	12	Context for The Great Gatsby, Characterisation for Wuthering Heights, Language Change and Gender Roles
History	7	Battle of Hastings, Medieval Warfare, Roman Trade and Technology, Medieval Monarchs, Castles, Medieval Life
	8	Tudor Monarchs, English Civil War, The Gunpowder Plot, St Thomas More & Henry, The Spanish Armada, The Plague, Tudor Rich and Poor, Tudor Food
	9	Industrial Revolution, Victorian Crime and Punishment, Holocaust Diaries Project, The Home Front Magazine Project, The Titanic, The Atomic Bomb- Hiroshima, The Cold War.
	12	USA – Civil Rights, Tudor Family Trees and Biographies, Cardinal Wolsey
	13	Henry VIII, Tudor Political Faction, USA – Civil Rights and Martin Luther King
Geography	7	Endangered Species – The Red List, Development of the Newcastle Quayside
	8	China – Population and the One Child Policy, Flooding Case Studies, Rivers of the World
	9	Volcanoes
	12	North Shields history and development
Science	7	Animal Classification, The Solar System, Acids and Alkalis, The Periodic Table, Climate Change
	9	Energy Resources, Alternative Energy
	12	Climate Change
RE	7	St Thomas More Biography, Mother Teresa
	9	World Religions
Textiles	7	Natural Fibres Project. The Secret Garden Project
	9	SMART Textiles
	10	Design Inspiration for Coursework and Exam Preparation
	12-13	Fashion Decades and Designers
Food	8	Healthy Eating
	9	Multicultural Foods, Food and Religion
Art	10-13	Research for Exam Preparation

## Other Support

### PSE

Each year 7 form class has access to drop in sessions in the library during PSE. This is used to check on progress in Accelerated Reader.

### Reading Club

The library hosts Reading Club for selected Yr 7 and 8 students on Thursday and Friday mornings from 8.15am onwards. There is a lovely positive atmosphere aided by SEN staff and reading buddies. Two special awards presentations have taken place for those students who have made the most progress and shown the most effort.



## **What's been happening in the Library?**

### **Reading Groups**

#### **1. Year 7 Girls (led by Miss Edwards)**

Twelve girls meet for lunch and activities. They have read and reviewed a collection of challenging fiction from the National Literacy Trust, interviewed staff members on their reading habits and helped organise and run World Book Day in the Library. They are currently organising a Shakespeare Fun Day to be held in the library in May.

#### **2. Year 7 Harry Potter Club ( led by Miss Edwards and Mr Billany)**

A group of year 7 students meet after school on Wednesdays for Harry Potter related activities and reading. This group comprises of largely Pupil Premium students. The group is currently is currently "having a break" but will be revived for after half term

#### **3. Year 9 Boys Friendship Group**

Six boys meet for lunch and activities. They have been reading challenging short stories.

#### **4. Year 7-9 Friday Club (led by Mr Billany)**

A group of students meet for lunch, board games, chess and a good chat!

### **World Book Day March 2018**

Sadly our wonderful day of activities in the library had to be postponed due to the snow! However we did try and capture some of the fun a week later with library helpers and sixth form students devising and supervising quizzes, treasure hunts and drawing competitions. Feedback from students was very positive. and it encouraged many students to come to the library who would not normally attend. A book sale raised £15 for the library prize fund.

### **Accelerated Reader**

A major development for this academic year for Accelerated Reader has been the implementation of "Book in a Bag". Every student in Yr7 and 8 are expected to have a book in their bag at all times. Most lessons will start with 10 minutes quiet reading. Feedback from HODs has been very positive for this initiative. Many feel that lesson starts have been improved as students are calmer and more focused. At time of writing students in Year 7 have undertaken two reading tests with the third planned for the end of June. The second test showed considerable progress for some students particularly those with the lowest and the highest reading ages.

### **September 2017 -Star Test 1**

No of Year 7 students with a Reading Age under 9 = **33**

No of Year 7 students with a Reading Age 14 and above = **20**

### **March 2018 – Star Test 2**

No of Year 7 students Reading Age under 9 = **20**

No of Year 7 students Reading Age 14 and above = **43**

On average the year group made approximately **+10** months progress per student in reading age from October to March.

There are however, some students who struggle with reading and for various reasons fail to engage with Accelerated Reader. We have been monitoring progress carefully and have held regular intervention sessions to help remove barriers to reading and increase motivation.

We have also been looking at those students who appear to be “coasting” and reading books that lack insufficient challenge. Suggesting different books, reading in pairs and rewarding “risk taking” usually does the trick!

A super awards ceremony was held at Christmas for those students who had read the most and who had shown the most positive attitude towards reading.

We currently have 23 Word Millionaires...students who have read over a million words since October!

This is an increase from 10 at the same time last year.

The Inter Form Accelerated Reader competition starts after half term, prizes will be awarded to the winning form and to individual students.

To date Yr 7 students have taken 3304 quizzes on books that they have read, passing 2,944 of them!

### **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)**

This course has been introduced into Year 12 this year. It involves students researching a topic of their choice and producing an extended essay, presentation and log book of research. Teaching includes higher level information skills. In all it represents 90 hours of work for the students. This programme has been delivered in the library by Mrs Feeney and myself.