

ST THOMAS MORE ROMAN CATHOLIC ACADEMY



**CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES REPORT
FOR GOVERNORS
2018 / 2019**



Curriculum Activities Report for Governors 2018 – 2019

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English Department 2018-2019

A Level

- Year 12 and 13 English language students went to a workshop delivered by leading linguist, David Crystal.
- All Year 12 English Language students will be going on a special university lecture day at Northumbria University on 3rd 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 students attended a creative writing workshop at the Lit and Phil Society in Newcastle.
- Year 13 English Lit trip to London to visit the Globe and see Sir Mark Rylance in 'Othello'.
- Revision sessions before exams.
- There are weekly English lessons for students resitting GCSE English.

GCSE

- There is a weekly book group for our most able Year 11 students, led by Claire Harland.
- Revision sessions before every exam.
- Three teachers ran Easter revision sessions during the holidays.
- Weekly after-school revision sessions ran for two months before the exams began.
- A large group of more than 60 Year 11 students went to Newcastle's Theatre Royal to watch an RSC performance of 'Romeo and Juliet', a text they have studied as part of their GCSE English Literature course.
- Judith Clughen and Laura Warland 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.
- Year 10 Study Skills group (boys selected by Head of Year) has focussed on revision strategies/techniques and deconstructing the GCSE exam papers.
- Year 11 Human Rights Ambassadors run termly actions in PSE lessons, lower school, and hold assemblies.

KS3

- As part of World Book Day, the department organised reading activities in KS3 lessons.
- All Year 7 and Year 8 students 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. From Year 9 screening only one student still requires a reader going into Key Stage 4, and three need scribes or ICT/spell check.
- Weekly Creative Writing Club for Year 7 and 8 students
- Creative Writing competition to run in last term inviting contributions from all key stages
- A writer from Lit and Phil Society ran creative writing workshops for Year 7 students. 15 KS3 students then entered a creative writing competition run by Lit and Phil. We had a runner up in the Fiction category (Jessica Pearson in Year 9).
- Year 9 students entered a Dystopian-themed creative writing competition run by Young Writers. 9 entries were selected to be printed in an anthology.

- Creative writing workshops at Live Theatre for 2 groups of Year 8 students to take place in final half term.
- Poetry writing workshop with visiting poet - Year 7. Students submitted poems for a competition run by Newcastle Centre for the Literary Arts.
- Amnesty International group meets weekly and runs a campaign.
- Harry Potter Club has had another extremely successful year; students wrote letters to Mr. Henderson for a new set of *The Chamber of Secrets* and our request was granted.
- Super-Awesome Girls' Club every Monday lunchtime, attended by low-attaining Year 7 girls.
- Drama Club after school on Mondays has explored many themes and genres, from silence to nature documentaries.
- World Book Day, whole school "Dress an Egg" contest for all students and staff produced some exciting entries.
- 2019 Reading Challenge has been underway since January, with Year 7 students challenged to read 19 books covering a range of specifications.

Mathematics Department 2018-2019

Competitions for students:

- Junior Maths Challenge (Year 7/8) - Awaiting results
- Intermediate Maths Challenge (Years 9/10/11) - 4 gold, 19 silver, 28 bronze (Katelyn Cummings Y9 qualified for Grey Kangaroo and achieved certificate of qualification. Daniel Borg, Alex Adderley and Elizabeth Adams (all Y11) qualified for Pink Kangaroo and achieved certificate of qualification)
- Senior Maths Challenge (Year 12/13) - 4 silver 13 bronze
- Year 10 Maths Feast competition - Abel Arnold, Charlie Goodacre, Neil Maromo and Jack Barnett came 7th in the competition which took place in February at KEVI in Morpeth against a number of other schools in the area.
- UKMT Team Maths Challenge - Sam Telford, Sirio Pozzi (Y9), Olivia Hearn and Tanushri Puthalapattu (Y8) came a very commendable 10th in the competition which took place in February.
- Sirio Pozzi was awarded a distinction in the 2019 Newcastle University Maths Challenge. Around 700 students took part over years 7-10 and only 18 achieved a distinction.
- Year 12/13 students took part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge.

Clubs/Activities/clinics for students:

- After-school revision sessions have been available for all students in Year 11 every Monday since October half term.
- Wednesday and Thursday morning Breakfast Maths for current Year 11 students who need intervention was taken by Mrs Douglas and Mr Nesbitt. This is Invitation only with one group for foundation and one for higher tier students.
- All KS5 teachers have been involved in running Maths clinics for Year 12 and 13.
- Mr Snedden has continued to facilitate a lunchtime Maths clinic for KS4, helping those who have any problems with their GCSE topics, this has been used by many in recent months for revision.
- Mr Joyce escorted a number of Year 10 students to a Maths Conference at Teesside University.
- Year 12 have supported a number of lessons throughout the year.
- Numeracy/My Money week will take place in June for Year 7-10. In Year 7 and 8 all Maths lessons will be focused around the maths in jobs and sports. For year 9 and 10, all lessons will be focused on banking, interest rates, savings, etc. There will also be a treasure hunt around School and to make it truly cross-curricular, all subjects will start lessons with numeracy starters.
- Mr Snedden is taking a 'going for grade 5' group every Wednesday after school for a select group of Year 10 students

Staff Activities

- Mr Snedden has mentored a student for both the long placement and the short diagnostic placement.
- Miss Cooper has been working with a number of other schools in her capacity as a Mastery Specialist for the Great North Maths Hub, delivering CPD and helping others develop as Mastery

teachers. This she has recruited TfM advocates from other schools and worked with them to develop teaching for mastery in their departments. Miss Cooper is currently involved with Marden Bridge Middle School and Kings Priory High School.

- Mr Joyce continues to develop excellent relations with feeder schools, delivering lessons on every Wednesday afternoon.
- Staff have attended external CPD courses on various aspects of Mathematical teaching. These have included: Mrs Robinson has taken a course by the AMSP focusing on 'Confidence with reasoning/fluency/problem solving which was followed up by her Presenting in departmental CPD; To continue our commitment to developing KS5 teaching, Mr Craigen is completing the Teaching A Level Maths course and Mrs Coates is completing Teaching Mechanics at A Level, both delivered by MEI; Mr Joyce attended 'Using ICT in the classroom';
- Mr Snedden has presented alongside Newcastle University at British Educational Research Association Annual Conference (Sept '18)
- 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 at Newcastle University.
- Mr Snedden and Mrs Douglas are both NCETM Accredited Professional Development Leads.
- Mrs Douglas has attended LEA Heads of Department meetings.
- Miss Jellema and Mr Joyce have been leading the NECOP (North East Collaborative Outreach Programme/Future Me) in School. This is an initiative which targets certain students who, demographically are less likely to go to university and develops the student with university trips, workshops, talks and intervention.
- Mr Nesbitt has attended a number of NQT events throughout the course of the year.

STEM and Science Collaboration

- There has been continued collaboration with the Science department this year, led by our Director of STEM, Dr Powell. Both Dr Powell and Mr Coulson from Science attended a Maths in Science course which is helping align the syllabi, attended LEA meetings.
- Dr Powell has also developed clubs which are well-attended. These are: STEM club; Coding club; Board games and chess.
- Dr Powell has delivered a Super-Learning Day for Year 9 (BBC Microbits) aimed at encouraging them to take up computing at GCSE. He will also be delivering STEM day for Year 7 and Year 9 Knex day.

Science Department 2018-2019

- **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 one Bronze medal winner. This student has 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 Physics Cern trip for the St Thomas More Feast Day celebration at St Columba's Church. Staff and students explained what they had learned during their visit.

- **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 is provided in a bespoke manner to suit the individual needs of the student.

- **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 will have a day trip to Kirkley Hall Zoo, Ponteland at the end of the summer term. They will be given a guided tour by Education Officers and will attend 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.

- **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.

- **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.

- **STEM workshops**

Science staff collaboratively planned and delivered STEM activities with the maths department. These consisted of a carousel of experiments and demonstrations to engage, enthuse and inspire Year 7 students.

- **Great North Children's Hospital Research Trust Conference**

Eight of our Year 13 Biology students attended this conference to hear a range of renowned speakers discussing their current research projects.

Religious Education Department

September

Staff INSET / Mass – The first day of INSET began with a short time of prayer led by Michael. On the second day, Mgr Andrew Faley celebrated Mass with staff on the second day of INSET at the beginning of term.

Year 7 Welcome Liturgy – On their first day of school at St. Thomas More, Year 7 students came together at the end of the day to participate in a Welcome Liturgy themed on “I know the plans I have for you...” (Jeremiah 29:11). The students explored the story of St. Paul’s conversion and reflected on their own fears and worries about starting school. Candles were lit for each form class and, as a year group, we prayed for each one.

Catholic Life of the School – Andy and Michael delivered a session with this year’s NQTs and this term’s ITT placement students on the Catholic Life of the School. We talked about the Catholic ethos/mission statement, the practical routine and rhythm of the school and the role of the chaplaincy.

Diocesan Youth Council – Rebecca Price has continued to grow in her role on the Diocesan Youth Council. Michael delivered an assembly to Year 10 about the council and hopes to have some new members in time for the Youth Council Residential early next year,.

Weekly Year Group Masses – Weekly Masses have continued as usual in the School Chapel each Tuesday morning. Mass prep sessions continue to shape the theme and structure of the Mass in Years 7-10. The prep sessions this year have been more successful than ever with students reading, writing bidding prayers, designing posters on the theme and decorating the chapel, leading music (either choosing songs or singing themselves) and acting drama based on the Gospel.

St. Oswald’s Hospice - Junior Great North Run – Around 20 students ran the Junior Great North Run 2018 to help raise funds for St Oswald’s Hospice in Gosforth which provides valuable support for terminally ill children/teenagers and adults. In addition to this, there were around 5 students who signed up for the run independently and ran for their own charities.

October

Adoremus – The term began with a visit to Liverpool to attend the Young Peoples’ Adoremus Conference which ran alongside the National Eucharistic Congress at the Liverpool ECHO Arena. Ann Oshegbu and Rebecca Mould joined students from across the Catholic schools in our Diocese.

“The congress brought young people from around the UK together in faith and taught of the importance of the celebration of the Eucharist. We were blessed to be given the opportunity to go to Adoremus; to be given the chance to grow in faith with other people our age was so valuable and we came away feeling inspired and loved. Now bring on Flame 2019!” – Rebecca, Year 13

November

Poppy Appeal – As usual, poppies were sold on behalf of the Royal British Legion. Students in Year 9 and Year 11 took part in selling them around school.

Youth Village Residential Retreat – After the retreats in March 2018 were cancelled due to bad weather, they were re-arranged to November 2018. 210 Year 9 students have attended the retreat which was themed on “Choices”. The theme explored the story of Desmond Doss who was a pacifist during WW2 and the choices he made.

The retreat was a relaxing one and it was felt that students were truly given the opportunity to relax and recharge. They were encouraged to think about the world around them

The Year 8 retreat at the Youth Village, which traditionally is themed on “Voices” (who are the positive and negative voices we listen to) will take place in March 2019.

The retreats are a huge priority for St. Thomas More, and they are a valuable experience for many young people who may never otherwise be given an opportunity to attend an overnight trip.

St. Oscar Romero Art – Pieces from last year’s Romero GCSE artwork was exhibited at St. Mary’s Cathedral last month as part of the celebrations of the canonisation of Oscar Romero.

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.

Remembrance Day Service – November 9th was Remembrance Day in school. The day started with a time of prayer for staff in the chapel with readings and music. Emily Whiting and Steph Potts provided beautiful singing with the song “I Vow To Thee My Country.

At 11:00am, a reflection was played across the whole school (in all lessons and in the training suite for those who weren’t in classrooms) and a two-minute silence was observed. In the Training Suite, we had a Remembrance Day wreath which had photographs of family members of students and staff who either served in the armed forces during the war, or were currently serving.

December

Advent Mass – On December 18th, 2018 around 450 students from across the year groups at school gathered for the End of Term Advent Mass celebrated for us by Fr Chris Hughes. It was a hugely successful event which had to be relocated to the Sports Hall at short notice due to the numbers. Members of the Y7 and 8 Culture Club sang “Leise rieselt der Schnee”, artwork from Y9 Mass prep and music led by a mixture of students were the stand out highlights.

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.

2019

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.

February

Youth Friday Celebration – On Wednesday, February 6th, Michael took two Year 7 students – Max Godfrey and Ashlea Seymour – to St. Mary’s Cathedral in Newcastle for the celebration of the work of YMT. We listened to the story of William Wilberforce and reflected further on the theme of ‘JOY’. Rebecca Price in Year 11 was also present as our Diocesan Youth Council representative.

March

Flame 2019 –

On March 2nd, 2019, 51 of our young people, 2 former students, 4 members of staff and one parishioner joined the Hexham & Newcastle Delegation to the national Flame Congress 2019 at Wembley in London. The day – whose theme was #SIGNIFICANCE – was hugely successful and students heard from inspirational speakers such as Jean-Vanier, Robert Madu, David Wells, Archbishop Eamonn Martin, Guvna B and GirlGotFaith. Music was led by Tim Hughes. The day, which has beautiful worship spread in between the input on stage, ended with Eucharistic Adoration led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols. It was a powerful moment when the Blessed Sacrament was exposed and 8000 people fell silent to pray. We took the biggest group yet from St. Thomas More, and everybody came back filled with the joy of the Gospel and the important message of “I AM GOD’S MASTERPIECE”.

Youth Village Residential Retreat – 270 of our Year 8 pupils attended our annual Retreat at the Emmaus Youth Village between March 11th and March 15th. As always, it is focused around “Voices”.

Bishop Robert Byrne Diocesan Schools Event – Two students from St. Thomas More as well as David Watson, Andy Merchant and our school chaplain attended the event at St. Mary’s Cathedral on March 25th to celebrate the installation of the 14th Bishop of Hexham & Newcastle, the Rt. Rev. Robert Byrne. To commemorate this, every school has contributed a page to a book to welcome Bishop Robert. Our page was designed by Caoimhe Stewart in Year 10.

John Paul II Award – 10 students received the John Paul II Award on March 14th, 2019. They are:

Indion Chhina	Gold
Amber Cunningham Parker	Silver
Jessica Edwards	Bronze
Sophia Fortes	Silver
Rebecca Mould	Gold
Ann Oshegbu	Silver
Steph Potts	Gold
Josh Stewart	Silver
Alannah Sweeney	Bronze
Emily Whiting	Gold

Steph Potts featured on stage at the Awards Ceremony, being interviewed by Andrew Barron on the award – especially for her involvement on the Lourdes Easter Pilgrimage.

April

Lourdes Pilgrimage

Nearly 50 students, former 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.

May

June/July

Summer Festival

A group of Year 9 and Year 11 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.

St. Thomas Feast Day

The usual celebration of the Feast Day of St. Thomas More will take place on the 19th June at St.Columbas

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 2018-2019

School trips: -

Yr 7 Full day curriculum trip to Newcastle's Quayside: 1st – 4th July 2019.

Students will visit Ouseburn farm, the Baltic, Sage & learn how to use a number of geographical skills in an enquiry based approach. Land use mapping / bi-polar survey / environmental impact assessment / risk assessment / traffic survey / detailed annotated photos & sketches etc. Follow up including GCSE presentation of data & AFL task.

Yr 8 – 1st year we won't have run an entitlement trip for this year group. A real shame as supported & helped develop subject knowledge / enquiry based skills key for GCSE / as well as student enjoyment & relationships. Sacrificed so our other trips can continue to run.

Yr 9 Residential trip to Holy Island: Fri 12th – 14th July 2019

60 Year 9 students will join us for a wonderful, enriching weekend in a very special place. Boat trip / Mass celebrated on the island / a special time.

Yr 10 International trip to Iceland: 21st – 24th Nov 2018

Fourth 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... Attainment in Natural Hazards topic really fantastic with students reflecting on their own experiences & showing a real understanding of the physical processes.

Yr 11 Residential trip to Grinton Lodge: 15th – 16th March 2019

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

Yr 12 also experienced half day trips to Druridge Bay & Newcastle in preparation for their Independent Enquiry (various dates throughout Nov & Dec 2018). Both NEW trips for this year.

Additional activities undertaken by staff: -

All Geography Staff

All staff have been extremely busy improving schemes of work at KS4 & 5 as outlined in my DIP. All staff with open door policy & working tirelessly often 1-1 with students across all key stages (in-particularly KS5) to challenge & support.

LCM

Once again leading residential trip to Lourdes for 15 Yr12 students as part of my Youth Group: 20th - 27th April 2019. 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 (Biscuit Ball & Tynemouth music gig). 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, Feast Day Mass & Year 9 Confirmation Course.

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.

Planned & lead Year 7 Lenten charity work. Mary's Meals. Please see attached article which will appear in our summer newsletter & in the Northern Cross.

DSR

Obviously very busy & working very much hands on in his role as HoY.
Been supporting LCM with A Level Independent Enquiries.
Planned & led superbly our Year 10 Iceland Fieldtrip that ran Nov 2018.

AL

TLR for producing school news letter 'More News' & with responsibility for running the school website.

Mary's Meals

Lent is our time to come together for the world's poorest children. So for our Lenten charity this year the students of Year 7 at St Thomas More RC Academy, North Shields worked to support the wonderful charity which is Mary's Meals. Their vision is that **every child should be able to receive a daily meal in their place of education.**

Mary's Meals is a charity born from humble beginnings. Their founder Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow grew up in Argyll, Scotland. In 1983, a pilgrimage to the Marian shrine of Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina renewed his family's Catholic faith and led Magnus' parents to convert their guesthouse into a retreat centre or 'Family House of Prayer.' The charity is now a global movement. It is in their founder's own words '**a series of little acts of love.**'

The student's efforts all began by being introduced to the story of Mary's Meals; emphasising with their needs; watching 'Child 31' and being led by Mr Murray in the various ways they could make a difference with selfless acts of love and kindness. The response from all our students was simply overwhelming. Over the course of the following few weeks the students themselves bought and filled **40 rucksacks** with all the essential items children need to succeed at school - from pens, pencils and notepads, to clothing, sandals and toiletries. To achieve this wonderful feat they fundraised over £1200.

In addition we enjoyed a 'film night' at school. Students paid £1 entrance then bought hot dogs, soft drinks and sweets whilst socialising with their friends. Individuals made and sold cakes; one form class even completed a marathon round the school fields. Together they raised a further £850.

Now it costs £13.90 to feed a child for a whole year! So that is 62 children who will receive Mary's Meals for a whole year. Well done Year 7.

To recognise all of the students amazing efforts we ended the term in the best possible way by celebrating Mass. Mass was offered in thanks for our student's acts of love and for all those children less fortunate than ourselves. Students read, sang and were an absolute credit to the school and themselves.

ICT / Business Studies Department 2018-2019

KS5

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.

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.

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 10 DIT 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.

Yr7 Virgin Make £5 Grow:

As small group of Year 7 students successfully completed an after school club to introduce business studies. They worked in teams of 4 to turn a £5 note into a profit by creating their own business and corporate identity. They attended St Cuthbert's primary school Christmas Fair and raised £65 for charity.

Staffing

ABM

- Has support the North east area with a CPD sessions (morning) at STM for the new BTEC DIT course.
- Lead the Family group for HCPT Lourdes Group at Easter.

- Lead assessment CPD for the faculty.
- Has continued as Quality nominee for BTEC courses whole school.
- Ran Easter sessions for GCSE.

JJN

- Delivered revision sessions prior to GCSE exams for Business.
- Attended introduction to NCFE course training.

JBE

- Attended CPD in relation to NCFE.
- Delivered additional support sessions for GBTEC on a lunch time.

MVW

- Delivered CPD for Python Programming for the Faculty.

SJ

- Delivered additional support sessions for BTEC level 3 on a lunch time.

LMR

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

Modern Foreign Languages Department

In 2018-19, the department continued in its aim to take as many opportunities as possible to bring the French and German languages to life. However, extra-curricular activities for Y7 and Y8 were somewhat curtailed by St Thomas More Academy's withdrawal from the Catholic Partnership. Nevertheless, trips and exchanges continued as normal.

Year 7

The department welcomed Julie Hall from Ponteland High School to lead CPD sessions to help us launch a Speak Up campaign with Y7 French students. Classes have thoroughly enjoyed spending more time in lessons practising their speaking skills. Our Y7 student voice as well as Julie Hall's written report following observations confirm that the project has been a success.

Her final comment was: "there was a real sense of joy in French lessons in the department".

Years 8 and 9

Following their success at the St Thomas More Feast Day celebrations last summer, a small group of Y8 pupils have once again been invited to act as roving quizmasters asking our guests questions about France and Germany with prizes for all correct answers.

Our Y8 pupils eagerly await their German exchange partners' visit to Newcastle in September 2019 led by Mrs Wakeman.

Year 10 and Year 11

In September, our 20 year - plus friendship with our German partner school continued with our return visit of 24 pupils to Oer-Erkenschwick, North Tyneside's twin town.

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

Year 12

In June, ten Y12 German students will be taking part in a study trip to Berlin organised by Mrs Wakeman accompanied by Mr Young from the PE department.

Last but not least, our links with Germany continue to provide enriching opportunities for our students. This year, we have had an extra linguist working in the department. Lisanne Wadel from the university of Münster in Germany has lived with Mrs Wakeman and shadowed her in school. She has spent invaluable hours giving sixth form students one-to-one speaking practice in the run-up to their A-level exams as well as being a hit with Miss Talbot's Y11 French class.

MFL were granted £450 to buy in expertise and advice from Julie Hall at Ponteland High School to boost the effectiveness of the department

Performance Management objective of improving pupil use of the target language. Please see below a copy of her final report.

MFL Dept - Target Language Training Report

April 2019

School: St Thomas More RC Academy, North Shields
Head of Dept: Christine Talbot
Observers: Christine Talbot, Julie Hall

Context

The department wanted to incorporate more TL use in their lessons, particularly focussing on students using the TL more independently. They wanted to encourage students to use the TL more spontaneously, leading to greater motivation in language learning, and improved mastery of the language they study.

Training

The department had a training session in November to introduce effective strategies to develop their practice with this focus in mind, and then another session one month later to discuss successes and pitfalls with the strategies they had adopted, and create a plan for the year ahead. As consistency across the team, and in lessons is key for this development in practice to become embedded, the team decided to focus solely on year 7 French for this year, then roll out the most effective practices over the next few years.

Review Day

The department had a review day in April 2019, where the teachers were observed with year 7 French classes, to look at progress made in embedding these strategies across the department, and plan future improvements.

Key Strengths

The quality of TL use in lessons by students and teachers showed the department had made much progress with this over the year, with some aspects of outstanding practice observed. Where teaching was most effective the following aspects were identified:

- High engagement and enjoyment from students! Motivation and a buzz in lessons
- The quality of teacher delivery in the target language was a strong feature, with teachers carefully choosing the vocabulary they use to ensure students can follow easily eg. use of cognates and familiar language, and very simple, short and clear instructions.
- Teachers using lesson routines such as reading time and giving out equipment to establish TL routines to build students' confidence in understanding and producing TL independently eg. 'tu as un livre?', 'je peux distribuer les stylos roses?'
- Teachers not being in a hurry to get on with other lesson content, but giving time to speaking at the beginning of the lesson. Students need time to process, select, and then produce language, so giving them thinking time, and building the class' listening skills is essential.
- The use of 'Comment dit-on' so that students can ask for vocabulary *they want*, and communicate something which is important to them, not just what the teacher wants them to say. Where this

was observed, it led to genuine and spontaneous discussions, for example about students' plans for next weekend, where students even had the confidence to include the observers in their discussion.

- The use of 'aujourd'hui j'ai parlé en français _____ fois'. Where this strategy was adopted students took great pleasure in annotating their books with tally marks to show how much they had spoken, and when asked, they expressed how proud they were of this, when they looked back over time at the amount of French they had spoken. This was most effective where routine use of TL at the start of the lesson meant even weaker students were able to produce lots of language so could join in and feel proud (eg. counting in class, classroom greetings, say as many things as you can to your partner in French).
- The SOW had been adapted or at least slowed down to allow opportunities for reinforcement of high frequency classroom language, and other routine TL.
- On entering the classroom the students began to speak only in the TL and were excited about using it – shows clear expectations had been established around TL use.
- Student pronunciation was very good, verging on authentic at times. The department have clearly done a lot of work to help students see the difference between the spoken and the written word in French by producing vocabulary sheets with phonetic versions of words to enable them to work accurately in pairs without needing teacher support for pronunciation.
- Where students had opportunities to think on their own, practise with a partner, and then share with the class – this ensures all students have to work in the lesson, then get the confidence to participate by trying with a partner first, before sharing with the class.

To secure improvement:

- ❖ Ensure all teachers are using TL routines with reading time, giving out equipment, and starting the lesson with a small conversation to reinforce previous learning (retrieval practice) which may or may not lead to a spontaneous conversation depending on time/confidence of the teacher. Deciding on specific language for the whole team to adopt will work best to ensure consistency across the team, and then teachers can build on this as they see fit.
- ❖ All teachers to use the 'aujourd'hui j'ai parlé fois' approach. This is an excellent strategy which motivates students, reflects the importance of participation, and shows progress in speaking in their books. This will also help teachers informally track whether they are giving students enough opportunities to speak, particularly at KS4.
- ❖ For the department to introduce peer observation with a focus on encouraging independent speaking. This will help all teachers learn from each other, and see best practice in the department. Lesson Study would be an ideal approach to this. Could this be built in as part of your appraisal targets for next year?
- ❖ Ensure teachers encourage answers from a wide range of students in the class, rather than relying on answers from the most confident, or the same students every time.
- ❖ Something to reflect on – whilst the phonetically spelled words are helping students to pronounce accurately, what impact are these having on their ability to spell words accurately? Also, are students learning the rules of how to pronounce certain groups of

letters alongside this, so that they can, in time, work it out for themselves, or are they relying entirely on the helpsheets?

Student Voice

Throughout the day, I spoke with students in every class to see what they thought of the TL strategies. Here are some of their thoughts (verbatim):

- It's so fun to speak French!
- When the teacher speaks in the TL sometimes it is difficult to follow, and I don't get everything, but it does make me listen and try, and probably stops me talking more.
- I like it because I am starting to learn how to say more things by myself.
- I am proud that I have spoken so much French – look back through my book, one lesson I even said 100 things!
- I like coming in to the lesson and trying out the French I can remember, and asking to give out equipment in French.
- I want to be able to speak fluent French now, I love it.
- I sometimes find the games hard to understand, but once I get it I like to do the speaking activities. I would like to use the same activities instead of different ones all the time, because then I would know what I was doing quicker.
- I like sitting next to someone I am happy to try speaking with instead of someone I don't like really.
- It makes the lessons more interesting, and more goes in.

In Summary

The department have clearly worked hard this year to develop new strategies and build speaking activities into lessons with year 7 French, with some teachers becoming very adept at encouraging students to use the TL independently and creatively, for real purpose. The students in many classes really WANT to communicate in the TL now, rather than just having to as part of the lesson, and there was a real sense of joy in French lessons in the department.

I hope that you will continue to build on the great work you have started, incorporating the points for improvement mentioned above, and learning from each other through shared resources and successes, and effective peer observation. I thoroughly enjoyed working with the department, and having the opportunity to visit lessons and see the development of some excellent practice.

Julie Hall
Ponteland High School
Pele Trust
20 April 2019



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 11 currently on roll)

Food and Textiles Department

- After school coursework clubs have been held weekly 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 A Level Textiles students to make progress on the practical coursework.
- GCSE Food students completed their 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 Wednesday lunchtime from January to May. This enabled students to discuss topics covered in year 10 and practice exam style questions.
- Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition students completed the first 8 hour written (in class time) exam for their Unit 3 coursework. Fantastic skills demonstrated by the students.
- Year 11 have been offered a revision day in the May half term holiday to help with their impending exam.

Health and Social Care Department 2018-2019

- 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.
- Results in 6th form exams are improving. Every single pupil in Year 12 has at least passed the exams done so far this year. This is the first Y12 cohort to achieve this since we started 3 years ago.
- Numbers in Year 10 and Y11 and Y12/13 continue to be healthy with similar numbers predicted for next year.
- Year 12 pupils have been to visit Sunderland University for a "get into health" event. They had a tour of the campus, did a finance activity and had a 2 taster sessions: 1 session in Nursing in the new interactive hospital ward and 1 session in 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. This was an enjoyable and informative session that the pupils got a lot from.
- Year 12s have had: A Nurse, a Paramedic, Operating Theatre Technician and a Social Worker come in to school from Teesside University. The visiting speakers spoke to them about their job and what relevant university courses would be like.
- Y12 students have had a visit from a lecturer in Health and Social Care from Sunderland University to explain about university courses and careers
- 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 2018:

The Big Draw

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

November 2018:

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 2018:

University Advice

Tutors from 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.

May 2019:

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.

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.

Art and 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. Also provision of artistic principles to develop students' appreciation for art process on a weekly basis.

Physical Education Department

(visit us @stm_pe our successful Twitter account where you can view great photos of our teams)

Our 21st Century facilities continue to enable 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 including football, netball, basketball, rugby, cricket, athletics and rounders who all have teams across all age groups.

However highlights have occurred in girls rugby & football, year 8 Boys football.

In addition last year I wrote:

"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)."

So

The new fenced in MUGA has been a tremendous addition to our now excellent facilities and is being used to good effect for hockey, cricket, football and tennis. The equipment grant has also been spent on portable tennis nets and other essential items needed to teach on this fantastic facility. Our thanks to the Governors and A. Gollings for the work on the funding for this.

I will now definitely leave the cricket wicket, running track and swimming pool to the next generation - Good luck Miss Flynn with that!

Many NGBs continue to fund work in our school including The Northumberland Cricket Association, North Tyneside Badminton, 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 Northumberland Rugby in conjunction with North Shields Rugby Club this has generated a much needed funding boost for the department allowing for cover teachers and transport to be paid for. Well done to Mr Knowles for all his efforts both with the rugby teams but also with the securing of this funding. Here is an extract from last months newsletter providing more detail of this great opportunity:

"In recognition of consistent commitment and success in rugby fixtures and festivals over the past two years, St Thomas More has been selected by the RFU (Rugby Football Union) to receive a £10,000 grant towards further developing Rugby at STM. Working in partnership with North Shields Rugby Club, the grant will be used to support staff and student training with experienced coaches and transport costs to festivals and fixtures. It also includes a full Canterbury squad kit that we will design with them, with additional team kits in the coming years" Easter Newsletter 2019

It is envisaged that this money will help mitigate against the loss of time and Alan Young from the department providing much needed cash for supply cover.

Leadership lessons and work with our primary schools continue to be inspirational and our VI form and year 9 & 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 3rd July is proving to be a great stepping stone for many students – over 100 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!!

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

Governors are cordially invited to attend Sports Day 3rd July Monkton Stadium Jarrow

Trips

Skiing Austria – 69 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. Students and staff were privileged to ski on the world famous Kitzbuhel slopes.

All the beginners were skiing by the end of the third day and the skiers were flying all over the mountain – our VI formers once again stepped up to the plate and were fantastic role models for the younger students and a great help to the staff .

Thanks to Mr Knowles, Mrs Plummer, Mrs Johnson, Mr Towns, Mrs Robertson, Miss Fairlamb and Miss Limon for their efforts. Interest in the trip continues to grow with students collecting a seemingly never ending supply of letters at the time of writing.

Wimbledon – Tickets have been allocated to STM and we have been able to accept them. Eight year 9s will attend mid week games of the first week. Mr Knowles and Miss Limon are the lucky staff!

The Open – no tickets this year due to the distance from the competition but this will hopefully return in 2021 however 15 Year 9 girls visited Close House for a Get into Golf session with a PGA professional. Close House hosted the British Masters with Lee Westwood and is our best course in the area. The girls had an amazing time and the coach said how well behaved and enthusiastic they were.

Our gifted and talented student numbers are also increasing and we have county, regional and international representation in a number of sports (see articles at the end of this report). The OAA for potential GCSE and A level candidate's trip to Hexham Dukeswood House is already organised for June. We have 44 students from year 9 going this year on the 14th June Thanks to Mr Knowles, Mr Towns and Miss Limon for their work in this area.

Most significant achievements 2019

Boys Football:

This year our school teams have once again had lots of amazing success.

Year 8 boys - Won league (Second year running), County cup semi finalists and league cup finals to be played.

Year 10 boys - In top 3 of the league, awaiting final games to see if we can win it. Cup semi final.

Girls Football

A very successful season for girls football at St Thomas More.

In 9 a side competitions the under 13 girls team (made up of mostly year 7s) reached the semi final of the county cup and were closely beaten 4-3 by Cramlington.

The under 15 team also reached the semi final but lost 3-1 to KEVI Morpeth.

Our 7 football team were North Tyneside Tyne and Wear youth games champions at 5 a side. They represented North Tyneside in the whole Tyne and Wear youth games finals and lost on penalties in the final.

They were also Northumberland schools FA champions in 5 a side and went on to represent Northumberland in the North of England round (the round before the national finals). They finished level on points with eventual winners and only missed out on getting to the national finals on goal difference. In 7 a side the under 14 team have qualified for the county finals which will take place next week.

One girl (Year 10) got to the last 22 of England trials but just missed out on the final squad.

At Under 15 level we have 6 North Tyneside representatives and 2 girls were selected to represent Northumberland.

At Under 13 level 6 girls were selected for the North Tyneside team.

Thanks to Mr Anderson for all his work in this.

In total nearly 50 girls have represented the school football team this year in years 7 -11. These girls have represented the school in over 30 different fixtures and tournaments across the course of the year. Making girls football one of the clubs with the most amount of representation in the entire school

Rugby

Boys

County Rugby 7's -

Year 8's - played well and won the County Plate

Year 7's - were amazing, won the County Vase

Rugby County cups.

Year 8's - Finalists at Kingston Park

Year 9's - County Cup runners up

Girls rugby continues to go 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

Year 9/10 - very successful - won County Vase

Year 7/8 - Very successful - also won County Vase

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 join local clubs and County selection. This is a sport we will definitely be building on next year with the amazing financial, coaching and competition help from North Shields Rugby Club, the Falcons and the Northumberland RFU.

Thanks to Mr Knowles for his time and efforts in this area

Netball

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

Year 8 Netball-excellent results in the friendly league. Really positive season with high numbers at practice and two teams entered into the NT league and NT tournament.

Year 8 A team gave a fantastic performance and won the North Tyneside tournament beating John Spence in the final. Great season and lots of players now in local clubs too!

Year 9- played all matches. The turnout for training has been fantastic this year with over 30 girls most weeks. This year 3rd place was the best we could do.

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.

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 We had 9 students qualify for county and then 3 Y7 students through to regionals at Loughborough

Of the 5 intermediate athletes who entered all 5 made it through to the next round.

Athletics

The minor competition is still under way. We over 60 student's attend the first athletics practice the weather didn't help! All those at practice hoping to earn a place in the Tynemouth team and represent their form on Sports Day

Tynemouth competition will be held on our field this year.

Badminton:

All year groups from Year 7,8,9,10,11 have access to practice

All 8 teams qualified through round 1 and 2 into round 3.

Under 16 boys and Under 14 brilliantly girls qualified for regional rounds and Under 14 girls finished runners up in the regional finals.

Badminton numbers are once again on the rise, with more and girls 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 one Evening of Dance in early December this year in our fantastic new Upper Studio – there will be another opportunity to see our work in this summer term.

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. STM Boys were represented at the Festival this year as the Korean free movement dance group gave an amazing display of this highly specialised form of dance. Thanks to Mrs Johnson, Mrs Henderson and Mrs Roberts for all their efforts.

This year we had the privilege of witnessing our Dance students making a magnificent contribution to this year's production of Grease – it was truly an uplifting experience – our students are second to none. Thanks to Mrs Roberts for her un-ending efforts with this.

On the 9th of May all the Performing Arts students will be attending Mathew Bourne's production of Swan Lake.

There will be a summer term celebration of dance to complete a very successful and enjoyable year. Thanks to Mrs Roberts, Mrs Johnson and Mrs Henderson for all their efforts in this area.

GREASE – School production

In March 2019, 85 students from across all year groups were involved in putting on an amazing production of Grease at The Royal Grammar School's fabulous theatre.

The audition process started in September 2018 when over 120 pupils auditioned for the 15 main parts. Laura Roberts, the director and choreographer, alongside David Burr, stage manager, Michael Thompson, show chaplain, Ian Teoh, musical director and Alyson Hodgson, PR, held second and third auditions to, finally, get the main cast. There were over 20 pupils in the chorus, plus the year 10 and 11 BTec Performing Arts students and a dance troupe, as well as the sixth form band and a fantastic backstage crew involved too.

Rehearsals started in October with the students being completely professional throughout and a pleasure to work with. They even came in over February half term to rehearse.

Steve Keys, from the science department, was in charge of sound and made sure our superbly talented students could be heard when belting out classics such as 'Hopelessly Devoted to you' and 'Greased Lightning'. Adam Knowles (PE) and Simon Rayson (Maths) also took to the stage and performed brilliantly.

Our incredible students were able to show case their singing, acting and dancing abilities in a professional setting and performed to packed out audiences every night, with some people coming back a second and third time to watch.

The feedback from parents, family members, friends, staff and students was incredible, as was the support of all the staff who helped out, including Karen Gammack who was in charge of front of house. It really was a fabulous team effort.

All of the students involved should be very proud of themselves, I know I was to direct and work alongside such hard working and skilled performers.

Table Tennis

The year 7 & 8s competed in the North Tyneside table tennis championship at Churchill Community School coming 2nd out of 12 other schools.

The squad who then went onto represent North Tyneside @ the Beacon of light in Sunderland 4th December competed against other areas such as Washington, Newcastle, Sunderland & Gateshead coming second only narrowly missing out on first place.

The students were fantastic regarding behaviour, attitude & effort. A lot of comments were made by other members of staff saying how well mannered, and what a delight to see great sportsmanship within the squad.

Thanks to Mr Young for all his efforts in this area. Hopefully he will be allowed to continue providing these amazing opportunities to the students of STM

Basketball has continued to be successful at STM with real interest and uptake in KS4 which has also been aided by its inclusion on curriculum at Year 11.

The school entered NT central venue league with 1 team at U12 who were up against strong competition mainly from middle schools who had well established teams. They performed well and have the basis from which to build good team in future to possibly challenge to be best in LA.

At U16 STM entered 2 teams both highly successful against very strong individuals in other teams from the LA (some Newcastle Eagle academy players) however, STM always delivered the best team performances and worked hard for each other in defence showing patience and commitment. Highly successful in the tournaments but fell short of winning overall.

Thanks to P Flynn for his efforts with this.

New activities

Introduced this year include hand ball and volleyball.

The U14 boys won their volleyball league and the U16 girls came second.

Girls Active

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

This year we recruited 6 new Y8 Girls Active leaders and they have joined the 10 current Y9 leaders. We also recruited 2 new Y9 leaders to join the team. The leaders have made a brilliant contribution to girls physical activity levels within our school and also feeder primary schools. This includes a 6-week after school sports club at St Columbus Primary School as well as an ongoing after-school sports club at St Bernadette's Primary School which began in January. Both schools have attendance rates of approximately 30 students each week. The girls have suggested targeting another feeder school, St Mary's for the summer term.

The Y8 leaders have also set up a lunch time "Pinkball" club for Y7 and Y8 girls where they have given out prize incentives for continued attendance to the club. This incentive idea was introduced by the Y9 leaders.

The Y8 leaders have also set up a lunchtime "Just Dance" club to target less active Y7 girls by sending out club invites to those students who don't attend any other extra-curricular clubs. This club has grown in popularity seeing on average 35 students attend each week. Both clubs have received positive feedback from the girls who attend.

Gifted and Talented in Sport

Our termly Newsletter identifies G&T students who have competed at a very high level this year the following successes have been reported:

We have two students who have both been awarded a Bronze grant award which entitles them to £250 to help support their sporting successes. They were presented their award by the Lord Mayor of Newcastle.

Our **year 11 Trampolinist**, based at Apollo Trampoline Club has won a range of competitions. In two UK competitions he achieved gold and silver at level 8, he then went on to qualify for the British finals in 2017 and competed in the Alsheer cup in Amsterdam, where he was placed best for his age. In 2018 he won all three of his UK National competitions and represented England in Sweden, achieving a silver medal. He was part of the England junior team and has now confirmed his place in the national squad for the year ahead.

Our **year 8 gymnast**, based at the City of Newcastle Gymnastics Academy trains 23+ hours a week. In September's National Team Championship she helped her team finish in second place. During the National Challenge Cup, she finished second overall due to winning a gold in floor and silver on vault. This has guaranteed her a place at the British Championships. Her next aim is to be selected for the England Squad

Our **year 9 boxer** has been Boxing for the past three years he has competed in ten fights, winning seven of them. This year he has travelled to Ireland to compete in the Monkstown International Box Cup,

Europe's biggest boxing tournament for school boys/girls, juniors and under18s, where I won a silver medal. This year he has fought in the TTW (Tyne Tees & Wear) championships, which he won. He is also a 2018 National Schools Championship 62kg semi finalist.

Our **Year 8 girl** skater has competed in National Competitions, finishing second in Sheffield and first in Edinburgh. She trains four times a week, three of which are before school.

We have one **year 10 female** footballer who has attended trials for the U16 England squad – just missing out on gaining a place. She also plays and trains regularly with Sunderland FC.

Finally the crème de la crème – we have a **year 12 student** who has qualified for national representation in swimming.

He started this season in September training really hard followed by a competition in Belfast where he won gold for Ireland. In April he visited Dublin to compete for a spot on the European Junior Championships. He will now represent Ireland in Kazan Russia in July. The ultimate aim is Olympic representation for Ireland.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report, which as you all know will be my last one! I cannot express what a joy it has been to teach the students of St Thomas More over the last 30 + years and to have been able to work with the staff who show unending support for me and PE and without whose hard work, dedication and enthusiasm, this report would not be possible.

Mrs Collins on behalf of the Department.

SEN Department

Staff have had a busy year supporting students staff and families with a range of needs, supporting planning and provision across school and providing staff to support activities.

In the Autumn and Spring Terms our curriculum work has centred around Year 7 and Year 12 transition students. Monitoring feedback was very positive showing that our new students felt supported, had made and / or kept friendship groups and felt that staff were giving them the right level of support.

ICT equipment has been flying in and out of the workroom every day and has been well used across all the year groups by students with SEND and those with minor injuries. We have encouraged departments across school to help students develop their ICT skills and there has been a good response.

We have focused on student independence as a theme across a number of our activities this year. Three students successfully completed a Travel Training course in a first collaboration with Beacon Hill. This established links as our Travel Trainer will be leaving the team as part of the restructure. The course will have a significant impact as this will now enable them to travel independently and access future training and education placements as well as increase their social life. Homework, Reading and Spelling Clubs combined this year to be available five mornings a week. The impact so far is showing through the lowest (so far) number of Year 10 students requiring Exam Access Arrangements in KS4 and in KS3 Year 9 there is only one student identified in this year's screen as requiring follow – up assessment for a reader. The Social Skills groups supporting Language Communication Students to develop social and friendship skills was offered to two cohorts of students this year and has helped a number of students to manage their social interaction more successfully.

In the Summer Term we are looking to continue our support for Preparation for Adulthood. Staff have offered additional visits to Colleges and external providers such as Kirkley Hall for EHCP / K students needing extra visits and career support, collaborating with Connexions and the Learning Mentors and which has been well received by parents and students alike.

SEN Staff CPD sessions have been delivered on Dyslexia and Exam Access Arrangements to staff plus sessions with ITT students.

KS 2/3 Transition

Mrs Denham and Mr Briggs will attend primary reviews and plan transition activities. Primary visits are being planned and TAs will also visit to support our new students. In- year transition information is shared with staff. Summer term plans include a Treasure Hunt and supporting an activity morning with our primaries for vulnerable students to encourage friendships, self-confidence and reduce anxiety around transition to the Academy.

Key Stage 3

- Reading Club – 5 X mornings per week
- Spelling Club – 5 x mornings per week
- Morning Homework Club – 5 x mornings per week
- Lunchtime drop-in Club 4 x lunchtimes T1.
- Drop-in available pre-am registration / lunchtimes – SEND issues / Equipment / TLC in workroom.
- Travel Training
- Social Skills Group

Key Stage 4 /5

- Travel Training
- Study support for Exam revision 1-1 KS5.
- Accompanying students on visits to Colleges
- Additional Revision Session after school KS4 for EHCP students
- Assessments and applications for Exam Access Arrangements.

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, Ukulele group, with 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 and outcomes have continued to be very high.

The department was involved in the recent School production of 'Grease' where over 70 students were seen on the stage at 'Rydell High'. More able students performed each night in the Grease Band.

There have been two BTEC Charity events throughout the year, which have proved very successful. Additionally, the Winter concert proved very popular, with large numbers of students involved in performing - from beginners in Year 7 to more advanced students. The Soloists' Evening allowed a more formal, classical and personal performance narrative to be explored.