

MORELIFE



Newsletter of St Thomas More RC Academy, North Shields

AUTUMN 2018



RESULTS 2018

Congratulations to our Year 11 and Year 13 students on their fantastic GCSE and A Level results. In the new, much more demanding, GCSE exams over 25% achieved one of the top three grades and well over 80% achieved grade 4 (old grade C) and above. 20 students achieved at least 8 A*/A equivalent grades. After receiving their results, more students than ever waited patiently to sign up to stay on at St Thomas More Sixth Form.

At Year 13, there was a 99.2 % pass rate, with 27% of all grades at A*-A and 82% of all grades at A*-C. We wish them all the best for their exciting futures. Sixth Form Open Evening for current Year 11 students will be on Tuesday 20th November 2018.

Year 6
Open Evening

02

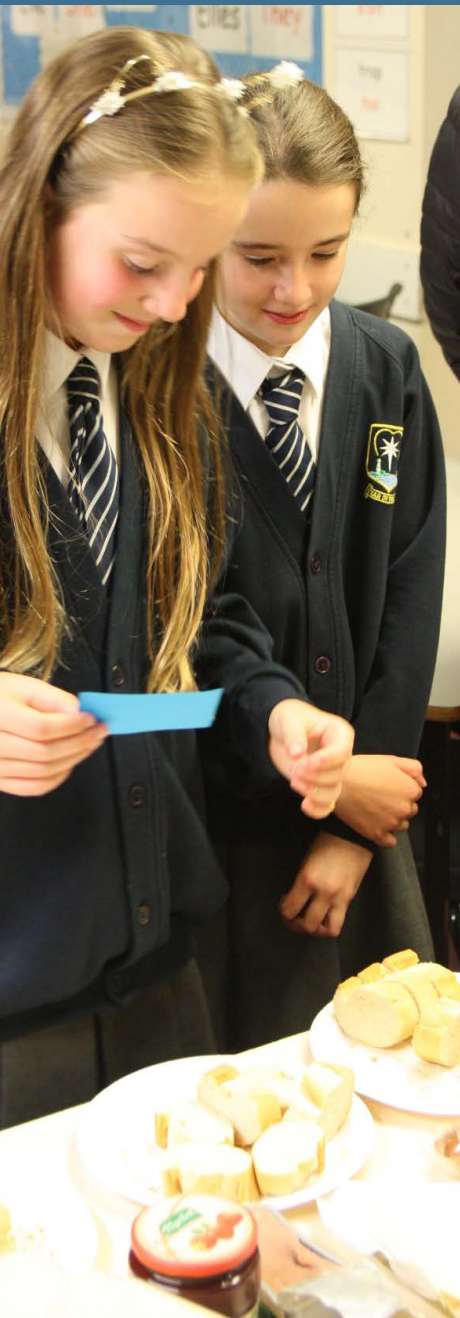
Summer
Trips

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Meet our Year 11
Ambassadors

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ST THOMAS MORE OPEN FOR APPLICANTS



Last month's Open Evening saw young people from across the region experience all that St Thomas More RC Academy has to offer. For more information about applying for a place at St Thomas More please contact info@stmacademy.org.uk



Photography by Holly Watson, Year 11

CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT EVENING



On Thursday 13th September we once again welcomed our outstanding Year 11 and Year 13 students to our Celebration of Achievement Evening. However, this year students in Year 10 and Year 12 were also nominated for subject awards by teachers.

Our high-achieving Year 13 students are shown above:

Back row (left to right): Joshua Caroline (leaves us to read Combined Honours at Newcastle), Joe Connor (Psychology at Newcastle), Danny Jones (Neuroscience at Leeds), James Parkin (Politics & History at Newcastle), Thomas Stappenbeck (Chemistry at Manchester), Lewis Millen (Sport Coaching at Northumbria), Joseph Dorr (Mathematics at Sheffield)

Front row (left to right): Sara Lowden (as yet undecided), David McLean (Economics & Business Management at Newcastle), Mairona McGarvie (Psychology at Durham), Darcy Nathan (English Literature at Newcastle), Anna Jones (French & German at Oxford), Emily Wade (Adult Nursing at Leeds), Jessica Mohon (Occupational Therapy at Northumbria), Eloise Wallace (as yet undecided).

Students unable to attend: Liam Banks (Sport Coaching at Northumbria), Taylor Bradshaw (Mental Health Nursing at Northumbria), Sam Garfoot (Applied Sport & Exercise Science at Northumbria), Fay Staker (English Literature & History at Edinburgh), Ann Sunil (Social Work at Northumbria), Niamh Waters (English at Cambridge)



The St Oswin's Award for outstanding achievement in RE was presented to Ethan Johnson, Year 11, who has returned to St Thomas More Sixth Form.



The John Bassett Award for outstanding achievement in Maths was presented to Joseph Dorr, Year 13, who leaves us to read Maths at Sheffield University.

ACHIEVEMENT OF A DIFFERENT KIND

On the 21st of July 2018, three of us (Hal Dixon, Nathan Chong and Simon Rogers) set out to conquer Hadrian's Wall, aiming to walk it in four days to raise money for the Red Cross' efforts with Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

On Day 1, we began walking from Bowness at 8am, covering the 21 miles to Bleatarn Farm by 6pm. Day 2 saw us encounter roadblocks of militant cows, steep inclines and a fearsome night hike along Hadrian's Wall's highest points. Simon's feet took a battering, but we covered a distance of 22 miles, establishing a wild camping spot near Steel Rigg. Day 3 proved to be much of the same, with more steep hills but fewer militant cows along our 23 miles. The final day saw us speeding towards the finish, breaking into a spontaneous sprint as we reached Segedunum. Upon arrival in Tynemouth we were met by Luke Haughey, who presented us with the Red Cross cheque for £1121.25.



TRIPS AND EVENTS



'BUMBERSHOOTISM'

Back in July, Northumbria University hosted Lynne Murphy, an America linguist living in the UK, who discussed 'The Complicated Relationship between American and British English'. Most memorably, she dispelled many misconceptions, proposing her theory of 'bumbershootism', which follows from the American belief that the British word for 'umbrella' is 'bumbershoot'. It also turns out we do say 'sorry' four times more often than Americans. - Lucy Hundrup, Year 13

BRITISH BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD AWARDS

In July, I attended the awards ceremony in London for the British Biology Olympiad. The key note speaker was Dr Jonathan Copley, an Associate Professor in Ocean Exploration at the University of Southampton. His presentation explained the work he had done with the BBC when filming sections of Blue Planet 2 in the Antarctic. He was even part of the first dives by human-occupied vehicles to 1 km deep when he was there! - Jessica Bouron, Alumnus



YEAR 7 HISTORIANS AT ALNWICK CASTLE

At the end of Year 7, a group of Historians visited Alnwick Castle. The first thing we did was to watch Niamh Hobson get dressed as a knight. We learnt a lot as she was dressed into a woollen coat then protective chainmail. One of the helmets she tried was even shaped to deflect a sword away from the head and shoulders. Later we recreated a battle between the Scots and the English. - by Sophie Potter, Alfie Littlewood, Jorjia Armstrong, Matthew Lynch and Eldho Bobby, now in Year 8

LE PLUS GRAND PÂTISSIER (BAKE OFF)

As a final French challenge of the year, our class was asked to combine research skills and baking prowess to create a show-stopping French bake. Holly made the famous croque-monsieur (ham and cheese), while Rosie, Grace and Luke made macarons. We judged each other's bakes on authenticity, taste, presentation and difficulty. The challenge was won by Anna Fitzpatrick and Issie Ritchie for their exquisite selection of bread. - by Luke Skeats, Holly Grieveson, Rosie Hundrup and Jude Harrison, Year 9



Photo credit YMT

SUMMER FESTIVAL

On Wednesday 27th June, ten St Thomas More students attended the Summer Festival at the Youth Village in Consett. We arrived about mid-afternoon to sunshine and a very positive attitude, and started to unpack and put up our tents. Later that evening everyone was called to the Big tent where we all sang and danced to the lively music. On the final day Scarlett Moffat came and talked about her faith, answering our many questions. - by James Sharp, Year 10

NORTH TYNESIDE SWIMMING GALA

St Thomas More recently attended a swimming gala in Sunderland. Many other schools competed, including many with competitive swimmers and some private schools with their own swimming pools for training. Despite all of this, St Thomas More came out with four bronze medals. It was a great accomplishment to achieve what we did, setting school records and personal bests. Congratulations to everyone who competed, you were all fantastic. - by Sam Blakey, Year 9





YEAR 10 AND 11 TRIP TO PARIS

What an incredible trip! Paris was amazing and by far the best trip I have been on. We visited Notre Dame, the Arc de Triomphe, Sacré-Cœur, the Louvre and of course the Eiffel Tower. My favourite part of the trip was probably EuroDisney. We were able to go on several rides and even meet some characters! One of the other highlights was our visit to the Louvre gallery, which was fantastic. It was great to see the Mona Lisa in person and the art work was phenomenal. Every day we had a picnic for lunch where we were able to relax in the sun and socialise. I personally think we bonded well and finished the trip like family!

Throughout the trip we were given free time where we were able to get a taste of the French culture. It was good speaking practice as we were encouraged to order our food in French. Most of us found that we would start a sentence in French but finish it in English! As the trip went on we learnt many more words and phrases. I would recommend this trip to anyone! Merci Beaucoup!

- by Emily Davey, Year 12

HOLY ISLAND WAS AMAZING!

On the 13th July, forty students set off on a Geography trip to Holy Island, to celebrate all the hard work that we have done over the past year. We barely spent any time in our dorms at the camp because we were exploring. We did so many different things but first we had to take the boat past the Farne Islands, where we saw seals, puffins and other sea birds.

On the Friday evening, we had a competition on the beach to see who could build the highest stone tower, before walking back, singing songs and playing games. On Saturday morning we were woken by Mr Murray at 7.50am for a quick work-out before breakfast. After breakfast we climbed 'Dead Man's Drop', the highest dune on the island, where we raced up and down the dune before 'ironing' the dune to make it smooth when we had finished.

When we all got home it was strange, having spent the whole weekend with all your friends then when you get home they aren't there! Holy island was amazing! If you get the chance go take it! -by Gabbie Donnison & Hannah Deagle, Year 10



OXBRIDGE TASTER TRIP

From the 2nd to the 3rd of July, five Year 10 students were given the amazing experience of visiting Jesus College, Cambridge. We travelled to Cambridge by coach early on Monday, and when we arrived the weather was wonderful. We spent the day touring the college and taking part in interesting talks and lectures that gave us an important insight into University life, as well as sessions on some subjects that we are interested in. We stayed overnight in real student accommodation, and ate in the dining hall where undergraduates eat. The college has really beautiful buildings, and the gardens were very pretty.

I found it really helpful and reassuring to learn about education after High School, especially from such a respected University. On the second day, we took a tour of Cambridge, and found out about all of the other colleges and more about how we could work towards getting into Cambridge. The University has lots to offer, with different colleges accommodating all types of subjects and topics.

- by Jake Fitzpatrick, Year 11





ELIZABETH ADAMSON likes watching movies and socialising with new people.



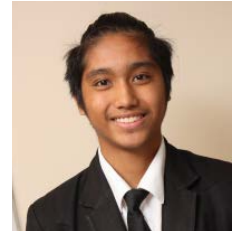
ALEX ADDERLY plays football on Saturdays and Sundays, and is always happy to help with anything.



ABBIE ARMSTRONG loves writing and playing music. She does lots of volunteering when she can.



BROOKE ARMSTRONG loves Art and Music, and is interested in a career in childcare.



MARK ARQUINTILLO loves the Japanese cartoons of manga and anime, but also loves football.



KATE BARNETT is approachable and happy to help anyone out. She was nominated for her kind nature.



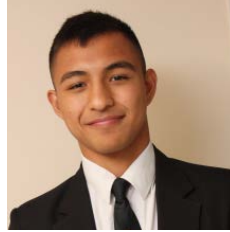
SALLY BRANDON enjoys music and dancing, and is very excited to work with the Year 8s.



DANA BUENDIA would like to do Biology, Chemistry and Maths at Sixth Form then go on to study Medicine.



ERIN CAULFIELD loves History and Art. She enjoys playing sports including netball and rounders.



ALAN CLAYTON-ALSOP loves rugby and believes he will be the best Ambassador! Feel free to talk to him.



GUS CLEARY enjoys watching and playing sports, particularly football. He built his own computer.



MEGAN CLEMENTS is passionate about music and the ocean. She loves to help other people.

YEAR 11 AMBASSADORS 2018/19



JESSICA EMAMI enjoys PE and extra-curricular activities. She would like to be a medical scientist.



BEN FENWICK is happy to help anyone feeling anxious about school. He loves music and acting.



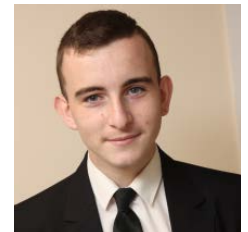
JAKE FITZPATRICK enjoys English and French, but he loves musical theatre!



HAFSA GHAFFAR is Form Ambassador for 8T and her favourite subject is Art.



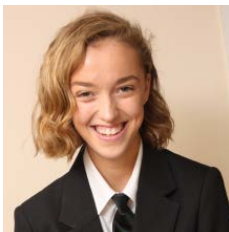
OSIAN HEGARTY loves all sports. He is a pretty happy person but also quite competitive, so watch out!



LEE HENDERSON enjoys PE. In the future he'd like to own his own business or do a sport-based job.



ABIGAIL HERRON feels honoured to be an Ambassador and to help younger students get a great start.



ANNIE JOHNSON loves Biology. Outside school she rides horses and is currently training to be a lifeguard.



ANNA MCCUSKER loves to act, and her dream is to study Drama after leaving school.



REBECCA MOTT or Becca is one of three ambassadors for 7M. She loves German and Art.



ANGELA PASCUA would like to be a human rights lawyer as she wants to support oppressed groups.



BETH RIDDLER loves drawing, cooking and playing the ukulele. She can also clap with one hand!



ANDREW ROBERTS likes Maths and Physics, and wants to help people with any problems.



KATIE ROBSON enjoys musicals and many genres of music. She loves going to concerts.



MOLLY RUDD is interested in all types of sport, and plays the flute.



HELENA SADEQHI enjoys Maths, Science and French. She would love to attend medical school.



SHRUTHI SATHISH tutors in Maths, English & Tamil! She wants you all to be proud to be an STM pupil.



OLIVIA SMITH has been a dancer since the age of two. She loves acting, reading and writing.



AARON SPEIRS loves drama and music. He is very friendly and very tall!



EVE STANNERS is friendly and helpful. She is also a dancer and loves to perform.



RENEE TAPON does ballet and piano, and wants to be a Paediatric Dentist.



KARLY WALKER is friendly and easy to talk to. If you have any problems please talk to her.



WILLIAM WALKER enjoys playing football, and wants to become a game designer.



HOLLY WATSON would like to go to Art School and become an artist or photographer.



WILLIAM WILSON loves volunteering and helping out. He enjoys Maths and Physics.

SPORTS DAY RECORDS TUMBLE

Back on a sunny day in July (remember those days!), St Thomas More made their annual trip through the tunnel to Monkton Stadium for another action-packed Sports Day. This year was a particularly successful year for record-breaking, with Susan Folorunso breaking the Girls 100m and long jump records, which had stood for nine and eight years respectively.



New school records set in 2018:

- CASEY STUBBS - Girls 80m hurdles in 12.19 seconds
- SUSAN FOLORUNSO - Girls 100m in 12.87 seconds
- ABEL ARNOLD - Boys 1500m in 4 mins 50 seconds
- GRACIE DAVIES - Girls 1500m in 5 mins 27 seconds
- ANNA FITZPATRICK - Girls High Jump cleared 1.38m
- SUSAN FOLORUNSO - Girls Long Jump jumped 4.41m
- 9H - Mixed Relay in 54.68 seconds
- 8C - Girls Relay in 59.06 seconds

Congratulations to all our new record holders.





ADAM WALLS

TYNE TEES AND WEAR CHAMPION & NATIONAL SCHOOLS SEMI FINALIST

I have been Boxing for the past three years; I have competed in ten fights, winning seven of them. Back in July I travelled to Ireland to compete in the Monkstown International Box Cup, Europe's biggest boxing tournament for school boys/girls, juniors and under-18s, where I won a silver medal in the 60kg division. More recently, I fought in the TTW (Tyne Tees & Wear) championships, which I won, so I am the 2018 TTW 62kg class B champion. I am also the 2018 National Schools Championship 62kg semi finalist. I train three days a week at Howdon Boxing Academy, and on the days I don't train I go out running to keep up my fitness. I love the fitness element of Boxing but mainly the challenge of the fight in the hope of winning a competition.

EX-PUPIL SUCCESSES

We are proud to share a few successes from some of our ex-pupils. If you or a member of your family are a former student of St Thomas More and have a story to tell, please let us know at alogie@stmacademy.org.uk and you may feature in a future issue of More Life.



DANNIELLE MCKENNA

2007 - 2015

Before leaving Sixth Form, I have to admit I struggled to choose a degree that would be right for me. At the last minute I applied for Psychology and haven't looked back. I am currently studying at Newcastle University, and last year completed a professional placement, where I conducted research around the demographics of people in police custody. My placement involved me presenting research at NHS conferences, shadowing a clinical psychologist on a psychiatric ward one day per week, and I am now proud to be a published author in the British Journal of Psychiatry at the age of 22.

MEGAN STOREY

2008 - 2015

After leaving St Thomas More I studied Fashion Communication at Liverpool John Moores University. Whilst there I interned at a series of fashion and lifestyle publications, as well as freelancing at menswear brand The Rake. At Graduate Fashion Week I was awarded runner up for the Fashion Marketing and Fashion New Media awards and, since graduating in July, I have moved to London to work as a Marketing and Content Intern at womenswear brand, Hush.



JOSEPH ILEY

2006 - 2012

Since leaving STM back in 2012 I've served my five years as an apprentice technician at Nissan, now working in the bodyshop, where car chassis are welded together by robots. The shifts may be twelve hours long and involve working nights, but you are paid for the full five years and are guaranteed a job at the end of the apprenticeship. My job has allowed me to fulfill the adult life, I got married, bought a house and bought cars. What people need to realise is that there are always more ways to go at the end of Year 11, not just Sixth Form and University.

NEXT ISSUE CHRISTMAS 2018

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