



SIXTH FORM STUDENTS SUPPORT AFGHAN REFUGEES

At St Thomas More Catholic High School we are committed to and passionate about helping our neighbours, whether they are local to us or part of our global community.

Following recent events in Afghanistan, with the help of staff in school as well as many local businesses, our Sixth Formers organised a fundraising event to raise money for all those who have had to flee their homes and take refuge with us here in the UK. The event took the form of a 'Pop up shop' and 'Luxury tombola' in the Events Suite at Whitley Bay Ice Rink; it was a real community

effort, with students past and present coming together, all to raise money for a cause close to the hearts of so many.

The overwhelming success of the day raised a total of £1879.24. This money has now been donated to helprefugees.org, with all remaining clothing parcelled up after the event and donated to St Vincent's Centre Newcastle, who also help refugees. The success of the day wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of so many local businesses, some of which are owned by ex-students, and of course our wonderful Sixth Formers.

Results 2021

02

Welcoming Year 6 for Open Evening

03

The Music Academy, recruiting now

06

Ex-Pupil live on an erupting volcano

08

"I'M INCREDIBLY PROUD OF WHAT YOU'RE ACHIEVING HERE"

'A City by the Sea', who very generously donated a huge amount of stock to be sold in the pop up shop, advertised the event on their social media account and received the following message from local serving RAF crewman Dan (shown in the background of the photo below):

I was part of RAF crews involved in the evacuation. We saw some truly humbling and warming scenes through a time of fear and terror for these people. Just want to send a huge thank you to everyone involved in this including yourselves for extending this warmth. These people deserve safe shelter and a new start. As a fellow north easterner I'm incredibly proud of what you're achieving here. Thank you!



DONATE NOW
helprefugees.org

CHOOSE
LOVE

RESULTS 2021



We are hugely proud of the amazing results of this year's students, despite all the challenges that they have had to face since starting their time at Sixth Form. Below is a selection of their achievements:

Three of our students were successful in their applications to Oxbridge universities. Our hugely successful Languages department are once again proud that two of their students have secured their place at Oxford. Niamh Scott will read French and Beginner's Italian whilst Reicela Reinkopa will read German and Beginner's Czech (with Slovak), also at Oxford. Alexander Adderley achieved 4A*s in Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Further Maths and will read Natural Sciences at Cambridge.

Three students are about to embark on Medical degrees. Shruthi Sathish and Annie Johnson will study Medicine and Surgery at Newcastle and Lancaster respectively. Dana Buendia is heading

to Manchester to read Medicine. These girls were also responsible for setting up St Thomas More's first ever Medical Society this year, with the primary goal of helping younger peers apply for Medicine. Shruthi, with 3A*s, also achieved one of the highest scores in the country in her BMAT Admissions test. Three further students, Thomas Ferguson, Lucas Robinson and Melvin Cherian, hope to start their Medical degrees next year.

One of our highest performing students Daniel Borg, with 4A*s in Chemistry, Physics, Maths and Further Maths plus an A* in his EPQ, is looking forward to starting his degree apprenticeship with Johnson Matthey, Teesside. Eve Stanners, who achieved 3As, has secured an apprenticeship with the NHS. Nathan Lee is delighted to have successfully obtained an Events and Booking apprenticeship with Tynebank Brewery, having achieved a Distinction* in Music Performance.



Our Btec students have had another incredibly successful year, with Hannah Blackburn securing two Distinction*s in Health and Social Care and another in Sport. Thomas Griffin and Jack Savage both secured three Distinction* s in Btec Sport. All students have been accepted into their first choice of Northumbria University.

Overall we are absolutely delighted for all of our wonderful A Level and Btec students. They are an exceptional group of young people who continued to work hard and stay committed to their studies despite the pandemic. Their tenacity and talent has afforded them this success and a bright future - and they thoroughly deserve it.

- Mrs Hallam, Head of Sixth Form



WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL, YEAR 6

On Tuesday 5th October, it was fantastic to welcome Year 6 students back into the school for their Open Evening, after being unable to run the event as planned last year. Whilst we still had certain restrictions in place, parents reported that it was lovely to see around the school, particularly the range of subjects available to their children. Some parents with older siblings even commented that the strict route and schedule that they had to follow, supported by our wonderful Year 11 Ambassadors, meant that they got to see a greater range of subjects than they had seen when attending Open Evenings in the past.



Subject staff provided a range of exciting opportunities for the young students, from language games and a photo booth in MFL to a dance performance from Performing Arts; from being tested on their sums in Maths to learning about an ongoing volcanic eruption in Geography.

We hope that all Year 6 students who attended enjoyed their evening, and are looking forward to putting in their application to start with us next September. If anyone has any further questions about applications, please refer to our website at www.stmacademy.org.uk or e-mail info@stmacademy.org.uk.



St Thomas More
Catholic Sixth Form

A Catholic Sixth Form serving the young people of North Tyneside

SIXTH FORM
OPEN EVENING
Tuesday 16th November 5-7pm



stmacademy.org.uk/sixth-form

Lynn Road, North Shields, Tyne and Wear, NE29 8LF

ALL WELCOME



We hope that when students leave our Sixth Form they are content, confident and courageous young citizens ready to embrace their own bright future, with a real sense of duty and responsibility to enable others to have one too. I would encourage you to come along and meet us.

- Mrs Hallam, Head of Sixth Form



ELECTION FEVER HITS STM

On Tuesday 5th October, students from across main school and Sixth Form gathered to have their say on who they wanted to represent their year group on the St Thomas More Student Council! Prior to this, each form group voted for two Form Representatives to lead their form group. These pupils were added to the ballot paper, and 122 pupils from Year 7 to Year 13 led professional and engaging campaigns to secure as many votes as they could. On the day it was exciting to see so many pupils turn out to enthusiastically cast their vote! Big thank you to North Tyneside Council's Electoral Services for setting up our Main Hall for an authentic voting experience.



Ten of our Year 9 Ambassadors supported the day, signing pupils in, handing out ballot papers and answering any questions. Ben Donoghue, Year 9 Ambassador and Year 9 candidate said 'The day was excellent. It was really good to see everyone come vote for who they wanted to be on the Student Council and also have a voting experience. Everyone felt like they were doing something worthwhile to ensure the student voice is well represented'.

The Student Council has a strong record of influencing positive change and improvement for students at St Thomas More and no doubt the fourteen new members of the Student Council will carry on its impressive legacy!

- Mr O'Connor

The following students are duly elected to the STM Student Council:

- Year 7 Liam Johnson
Ava McAnulty
- Year 8 Reuben Reilly
Stephanie Lowther
- Year 9 Matthew Briggs
Zipi Ojiako
- Year 10 Max Godfrey
Clarisse Cruz
- Year 11 Charles McManus
Brooke Pyle
- Year 12 Zoe Parkin
William Beattie
- Year 13 Adam Graham
Daniella Onions



Millie
ADDISON



Asitha
ANIL



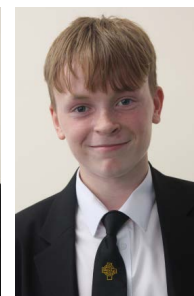
Amy
BAINBRIDGE



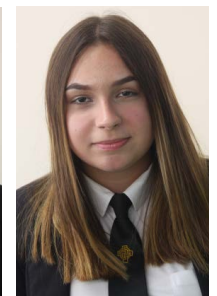
Millie
BARTON



Billy
BLOOMFIELD



Daniel
CAMPBELL



Kinga
CISZEK

YEAR 11 AMBASSADORS 2021/22

This year's Year 11 Ambassadors, already visible around school with their black ties, have been selected to support and represent the school in various capacities. Their first duties were at the recent Year 6 Open Evening where, despite the pouring rain, they kept smiling as they guided parents and younger students around the different departments. Congratulations to all of you and thank you for representing the best of what St Thomas More students can be.



Olivia
CLARKE



Rachel
CONWAY



Joseph
CUNNINGHAM



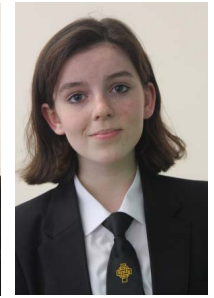
Melania
DIMEO



Ellie
DONOGHUE



Marina
FAYEZ



Josie
GAUKRODGER



Meg
GILES



Sophie
GITTINGS



Robbie
GOULDING



Olivia
HEARN



Niamh
HOBSON



Christy
JAYME



Patrick
JURIC



Ben
LOWTHER



Matthew
LYNCH



Ethan
MABAISA



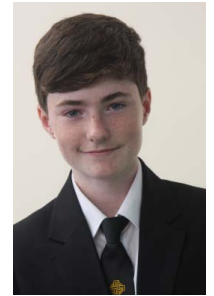
Finley
MALLET



James
MAW



Izzy
MAY



Tommy
McANULTY



Amy
McCOY



Daniel
McMULLEN



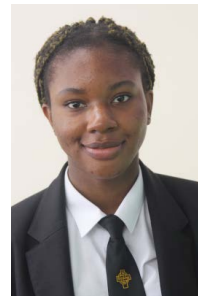
Isla
MORRIN



Tyler
MURPHY



Alisha
NELSON



Aliya
OJIAKO



Tanushri
PUTHALAPATTU



Brooke
PYLE



Jack
RAFFERTY



Bethany
STANLEY



Lauren
STEPHENSON



Daniel
SWABEY



Caitlin
WILKINSON



Hannah
WORRALL



THE MUSIC ACADEMY

Extra Curricular Music Programme at STM

After a year of silence from our music classrooms, we are thrilled to have sounds ringing through the music corridors once again. The music department has started its instrumental taster session in Year 7.

Mrs. Gleeson's students are beginning on violin, viola, and cello. The students start with "pizzicato" only (plucking the string), then after a lecture on how bows are not swords, we move to playing "arco" or "with the bow."

Mr. Jones' students are learning trumpet and ukulele. Both instruments require the students to develop their hand eye coordination and playing technique for each instruments. Class performances happen every lesson in a variety of styles which also gives students the opportunity to play as part of an ensemble and develop their timing.

Ms. Hodgson's students are learning to play the clarinet. The students have

had to spend a lot of time just learning how to get a note out the instrument which can be tricky. However, perseverance has paid off and they are able to make a pleasant sound!

Our extra curricular timetable (rebranded 'The Music Academy') has resumed and we are delighted at the number of students who have committed themselves to a group. However, there is always room for more! Details of our extra curricular programme has been shared in school and more information can be found in the music department.



YEAR 13 GEOGRAPHERS BRAVE THE RAIN IN THE LAKES

On Monday 27th September, we headed off to the Lake District to discover how Keswick is a Changing Place, which links with our human topic of the same name. It was an early start as we left school at 7am in order to get to Go Ape for 11am. Go Ape was a lot of fun as it included zip wires along with tree-top obstacles! After lunch, we headed to Keswick, the main



reason for our trip; we discovered how Keswick has a real mix of independent and chain shops. After this, we arrived at our hostel where we were allowed to chill for a little bit before heading back into Keswick for a bite to eat. Back at the hostel later on we were joined virtually by Rosie Rice (see back page) who is in La Palma discovering the current volcanic eruption!

After a good night's sleep, and despite the weather, Tuesday was an action packed day! We headed across Ullswater on the Ullswater Steamer which dropped us off in Howtown to start our 6.5-mile walk, affording us a great view of the local area which made for great pictures!

- Isabel Hines, Year 13

FUTURE RADUCANUS

Beverley Park Lawn Tennis Club is a fun and enjoyable place to learn and play tennis, as well as being one of the oldest clubs in the North East. Winning the under 12s doubles competition at their annual championship was a great achievement and the first trophy we have won as partners, as we have only been playing together for a few months. We also competed in the under 12s singles competition, where we played each other in the final; in the end Sophie took the win and Eloïse came a close second. We learnt a lot from each other and from our opponents, proving that if you have faith and enough enthusiasm you will succeed. We finished our winning Saturday by watching Emma Raducanu win the US Open Championships, which has inspired us to continue playing tennis.

- Sophie Cairns and Eloïse Chandler, Year 7



TRIATHLON CHAMPION

On Saturday 11th September I competed in the British Triathlon Inter Regional Championships at Mallory Park, Leicester. Triathlon is where you swim, bike and run, with transitions in between as part of one race. As I'm in the younger age group we did an Aquathlon which is a swim/run. We had to do heats and finals of a 300 metre open water (lake) swim and 1.2 kilometre road run.

The top 10 finishers from each heat made it to the A final, and I finished 3rd. After a short rest we raced again in the finals. I came out of the swim in 4th place but had a good transition and set off 1st in the run. A few girls tried to catch me but I ran well and held them off to win the A final making me GB champion for 11-12 year olds. It takes a lot of training and work to compete so I'm very happy with the result.

- Katy Otterson, Year 7

SPORTING SUCCESSES

SKI TEAM REGIONAL QUALIFIER

On Sunday 19th September 2021, six students represented St Thomas More at the schools regional qualifier ski race. Our girls team and boys team were a mix of experienced racers and recreational skiers. We were allowed a few practice runs to get used to the course round full sized racing gates. The competition involved each school team skiing one after the other. Each run was timed electronically, with the fastest three times added together to make the team time. It was a hot afternoon, yet the atmosphere was friendly and supportive. Similar qualifying events were held all over England this weekend. The teams with the fastest times will be selected for the national finals in October. We hope we've done enough to make it! Thanks to Mrs Plummer for organising the teams and Mrs Mole for organising the race on the day.

- Gregor MacFarlane and Gethin Hegarty, Year 10

Students pictured: Scarlett Reilly, Eloise Chandler, Gregor Macfarlane, Tom Mole, Gethin Hegarty, Amelia Whitehouse



EX-PUPIL SUCCESSES

We are proud to share stories from a couple 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 as early as the Christmas issue of More Life.

ANDREW COLLINS 2009 - 2016

After leaving St Thomas More, I took a year out to train to be a ski instructor in Austria. This involved three months working in Sankt Johann, where the school go every year for their annual ski trip; I spent many hours practising my skiing and had to pass a written exam in German (I was allowed a dictionary!) I spent one season working in Sankt Johann, taking individuals, families and small groups for skiing lessons. It was the experience of a lifetime. After returning, I attended Liverpool University, studying English Literature, and am currently completing a Masters in Medieval Literature, also in Liverpool. I am hoping to spend another season in Sankt Johann in the not too distant future.



ROSIE RICE 2012 - 2019



Rosie Rice is currently studying Geography at Cambridge University. This summer she took part in an internship with GeoTenerife. During her time on Tenerife, one of the other Canary Islands, La Palma, started erupting. Rosie was lucky enough to be given access to this volcano, working with the local teams to report live on Instagram and through Social Media.

On Monday 27th September, our Year 13 Geographers, at the time doing their own fieldwork in the Lake District with Mr Murray and Mrs Law, were lucky enough to catch up with Rosie live from Mirador El Time, a viewpoint overlooking the Cumbre Viejo volcanic eruption, and were able to put their questions directly to Rosie about her experience of the volcano and the impacts that she has seen. Later the same week, this opportunity was opened up to students further down the school to ask their own questions. See www.stmacademy.org.uk for more.

Rosie is in the preliminary research stage of her undergraduate dissertation, which was going to be on an historical eruption of a volcano in North Korea. However, in the days she spent on La Palma, she changed her title to study the changing risk perception of the people of La Palma, based on the interviews she conducted with local people. Rosie has now returned to Cambridge to continue her undergraduate degree.



NEXT ISSUE CHRISTMAS 2021

Address: Lynn Rd, North Shields, Tyne and Wear, NE29 8LF

Phone: 0191 258 8340

Email: info@stmacademy.org.uk

Newsletter: alogie@stmacademy.org.uk

If your circumstances change and you need support: familysupport@stmacademy.org.uk



stmacademy.org.uk