

MORELIFE

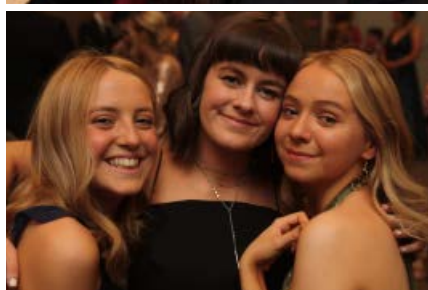
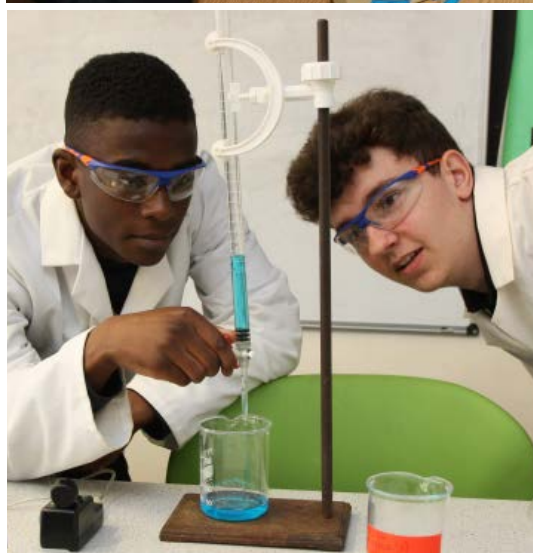


Newsletter of St Thomas More RC Academy, North Shields

SUMMER 2019



SUMMER CELEBRATION EDITION



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STM FEAST DAY

On the evening of Wednesday 19th June we celebrated together the life of our STM community for the Feast Day of St. Thomas More. The event draws together students from right across the student body and is a real celebration of everything we are about.

The celebrations began with a mass given by Father Chris Hughes. Parent Julia Devine described the mass as "peaceful and touching". Hymns were sung by the choir, made up of many of our talented students, and there was a dance performed. One of our choir members, Charlotte, enjoyed taking part as she felt "part of the wider school community", describing it as a "celebration of the our achievements and talents".

After mass, there was a BBQ, ice cream van, bouncy castle and various games! There were also individual stalls showcasing many of the students' achievements, such as the Tyne and Wear citizens' mayoral assembly and the Mental Health Action Team. As a Sixth Form student, I loved showing my subject teachers some of my achievements, such as the mayoral assembly, which I co-chaired and which many of our students spoke at. Ex-student Madeline said, "it was lovely to see all of my teachers in an informal setting and have a well deserved catch-up!"

This is our third Feast Day and it's safe to say it has become a firm fixture in the school calendar, with around five hundred of our local community attending to show their continued support for their school! - Jennifer Devine, Year 12



On Tuesday 30th April, the Tyne and Wear Citizens from St Thomas More were at the Tyne Theatre to persuade three of the five North of Tyne mayoral candidates to pledge to tend to some of the most important issues in the North East. The candidates who chose to join us on the night were Jamie Driscoll (Labour), John McCabe (Independent) and John Appleby (Liberal Democrats). Our wish was for every school in the North East to have a school counsellor, and we read testimonies from children who had struggled to access a counsellor in the past. This was the first time that I had spoken to a large audience; it was very nerve-racking but we all managed to do it. All three candidates accepted the challenge. Since the assembly, Jamie Driscoll (Labour) has won the election to become North of Tyne Mayor. We look forward to seeing Mr Driscoll follow through on the pledges he made on the night. - Alfie Littlewood, Year 8



TYNE & WEAR CITIZENS PUT CANDIDATES ON THE SPOT

YEAR 7's "LITTLE ACTS OF LOVE" FOR MARY'S MEALS



Lent is our time to come together for the world's poorest children. So for their Lenten charity this year the students in Year 7 worked to support the wonderful work of Mary's Meals, whose vision is that every child should receive a daily meal in their place of education. The charity, born from humble beginnings in Argyll, Scotland in the 1980s, has grown to be a global movement. It is, in their founder's own words, "a series of little acts of love".

Over the course of the following few weeks the students 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 to the resources collected, students raised a further £850 from a film night at school. It currently costs £13.90 to feed a child for a whole year in the countries Mary's Meals works in, so our donation will ensure that 62 children will be fed for a whole year. Well done Year 7!



Helping children to grow into confident, open, resourceful young people with a sense of responsibility and of service.

LOURDES

This year's Lourdes group were as fabulous as ever, and impressed everyone they met. On our website you can see a letter from the HCPT Pilgrimage Trust, praising our students for the 'wonderful contribution' they made to the pilgrimage. In the words of the students themselves:

"Putting smiles on other people's faces & being able to contribute to people's happiness has definitely been the highlight of the whole week." - Gemma

"Lourdes has meant so much to me personally, as a place of not just holiness, but a place of peace to escape from society's judgement. A change has occurred in me, and I'm not the same person I was before this trip." - Bethany



FLAME 2019

The day began by waking up at 4am; despite being extremely early in the morning, it was all part of the Flame experience. When we arrived at Wembley Arena, we proceeded immediately into Morning Prayer. It was a fantastic thought that the whole Church is united in prayer and praising God with one voice.

The day was an eye-opening experience as we heard music from Guvna B, a UK-based urban contemporary Gospel rap artist, a far cry from the sometimes 'dull'

hymns at church. We also listened to a YouTuber called Girl Got Faith. Being a teenager and a Catholic is difficult; she showed us our true value, and that in God we can find our true significance.

For us, Flame was a very powerful experience. We felt inspired and we know that everyone in attendance was proud to be part of such an event and such a family with God. - Renee Tapon & Will Wilson, Year 11 - Photo credit: 'Catholic Church England and Wales'



WE GO TOGETHER LIKE...



On the evenings of 26th, 27th and 28th March, talented students from every year group put on a spectacular performance of the school's annual show, which this year was Grease! With Jake Fitzpatrick as male lead Danny and Amy Tullock as female lead Sandy, they put on a show-stopping performance for parents, friends and teachers alike. Students worked hard all year round under the amazing direction of Mrs Roberts, with the help of Mr Burr and Michael the chaplain. Mrs Hodgson's amazing photography captured the fun, colourful spirit of the whole experience. The time and effort dancers, cast, chorus, and backstage crew put in showed through clearly in the extremely high quality of the performance. This is an experience that will stay with students and staff forever. The utmost thanks to Mrs Roberts, who took on the challenge and put on this legendary show. - Sarah Tunmore, Year 11

Mrs Roberts, Director and Choreographer, added "the audition process started in September, when we auditioned over 140 students for 16 main parts!!! Students have given

up so much time to rehearse, including their half term holiday. It has been an extremely fun experience for all involved and was made even more rewarding by the fact that each night was a sell out with a lot of people being left disappointed that they couldn't get tickets - some people came to see it on all 3 nights!!!"

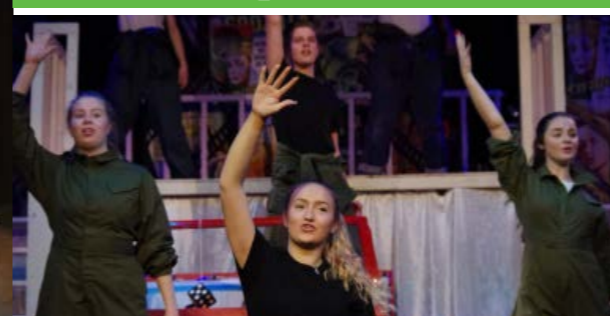
"The students were very professional throughout and it was an absolute pleasure for me to work with such dedicated, hard working and talented pupils, who made the job of being director and choreographer so much easier. Mr Teoh had a fantastic group of students in the band who performed superbly and Mr Burr and his team of backstage crew were incredible, helping to put on a slick and polished performance.

It was a real team effort and everybody involved played such an important role. Feedback from the audiences was overwhelmingly supportive and there was a real buzz around school. Well done and thanks to everyone involved!"

...Rama Lama Lama Ka Dinga Da Dinga Dong



...Wop Ba-Ba Lu-Bop And Wop Bam Boom!



SUMMER TRIPS & VISITS



YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY REVISION AT GRINTON LODGE

On Friday 15th March, forty Year 11 Geography students travelled to North Yorkshire for a revision weekend. The location itself was very picturesque; a great atmosphere to revise in. We worked through various strategies, including regular map work, which most of us find challenging. Quick-fire questions on Friday evening through a game of pass-the-parcel were definitely beneficial, and proved that there are so many ways to revise. - Abbie Herron & Angela Pascua, Year 11

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

On 19th March Year 9 commemorated those who lost their lives through the Holocaust. The first half of the day was spent doing workshops around school, including baking Jewish bread and learning poems by refugees. In the afternoon a Holocaust survivor, Joanna Millan (born Bela Rosenthal), came to talk to us about her experiences during this horrible time. It fascinated us how brave she was considering how young she was at the time. - Niamh Goodacre, Year 9



MATHS CHALLENGE

On Monday 25th March, we competed in the UKMT Team Maths Challenge. The competition combines communication and teamwork skills and helped us develop our knowledge of mathematics. There were 4 rounds; relay, shuttle, group and cross number. The questions definitely challenged us and forced our brains to think! At the end we came tenth out of twenty five schools but I really enjoyed the day and it was an amazing experience. - Tanushri Puthalappattu, Year 8

NAVY HELICOPTER VISITS SCHOOL

We are both interested in joining the Armed Forces when we are older, having had some experience through cadets. Therefore it was very exciting to see the Navy Wildcat when it came into school. This helicopter is used for rescue and supplies. It has quite a short range of only 250 miles, so is used for tactical support. The Wildcat was worth £13 million, with the thermal and laser guidance camera on the front being worth £2 million alone. - Jonny Worrall and Luke Middleton, Year 10

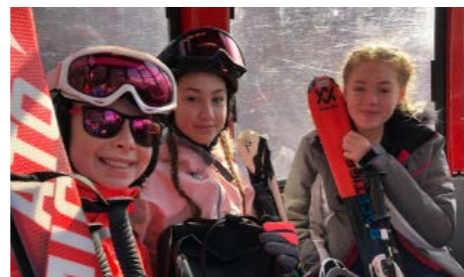


NETBALL CHAMPIONS

On Monday 18th March we competed at the North Tyneside Netball Competition. As we moved through the competition the matches started to get harder. Luckily, with the amazing resilience of my team, we kept on fighting back, making it to the final against John Spence. We knew we had to give 100% to have a chance. For a while it was close but we pulled through and won 3-1! We were really happy and we definitely want to defend our title next year! - Caitlin Wilkinson, Year 8

SKI TRIP 2019

The ski trip was one of the best trips I have ever been on. My highlight of the trip was learning how to ski in just one week! We were on the slopes for four and a half hours each day and I had a lot of tumbles and falls. My best fall was on a red slope when I face-planted the floor! The talent show was so much fun and entertaining. There were dances, magic, hidden talents and even kick boxing. My group did cheer dance and we came second. - Naomi Paolozzi, Year 8



5K RACE FOR LIFE

On Thursday 16th May, we took part in a 5k 'Race for Life' event at the Rising Sun, competing against girls from across North Tyneside. Altogether, the schools raised £535 for Cancer Research. Well done to everyone who took part, particularly Hannah Caroline and Megan Pattinson who placed second and third. At St Thomas More we understand the importance of charity work, and thank Miss Limon for encouraging us to get more involved. - Annabel Holliman and Amy Riddler, Year 9

WORLD BOOK DAY LOGO COMPETITION

To celebrate World Book Day, the library held a competition to design a logo for the prestigious event. The winner of the competition was Maessha Begum in 7C. Highly commended were also Nitya Singh 7E, Eve Keys 7H, Coral Jackson 7H and Elizabeth Johnson 7S. The logos are displayed outside the library. Congratulations to all those who entered and to the winners.



YEAR 12 BERLIN TRIP

During our amazing 4-day trip to Berlin, we experienced a range of different cultures, museums, monuments and much more. Our personal tour guide, Kai, showed us around the city that he has called home for 21 years, allowing us a greater insight into the intriguing past and present of Berlin. Some of the best sights included the Brandenburg Gate, the Berlin Wall and the Olympiastadion, which held the infamous 1936 Olympic Games. In the end, wir sind alle Berliner! - Sophie Dixon, Year 12

BTEC MUSICAL SPRING SHOWCASE

The Spring Showcase for our BTEC Music students is an opportunity to perform in front of a live audience; this is something that many of them are quite accustomed to, but every year there are some for whom this is completely new. This year's performances didn't disappoint, and all students felt that they had gained something important from taking part in the event.



WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND GIVE US THEIR TIME

On Tuesday 18th June, a group of Year 10 students were visited by the Watches of Switzerland Group, as part of a programme aimed at inspiring young talent. Craig Bolton, Executive Director, said "it was great to be able to speak to, and hopefully inspire, the pupils at STM about the retail industry." Cameron Hales-Owen, Year 10, said "It was an inspirational presentation and showed me that you can go from the bottom to the top with hard work and determination."

YEAR 9 STEM DAY

On Friday 21st June we took part in a STEM day (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). We competed in various challenges and got points for teamwork, creativity and resilience. Challenges included a tower to hold a tin of spam and building a car that would move using elastic bands, which all required us to use our knowledge and imagination to make sturdy structures. This day gave us the opportunity to learn about STEM whilst having a good time. - Abbey Walker, Year 9





STM

This May, Art students studying GCSE and A Level had a taste of being professional artists, as their work was displayed in school for the Art Exhibitions. Parents and teachers were thrilled to see the work that has been done in lessons and in preparation for their exams, and students were proud to show this off to those who attended. Congratulations to all those involved.

Art Exhibition

PROM 2019



There have been sad times and really wonderful times, but through it all there has been a sense of family and community that is present within the heart of St Thomas More.

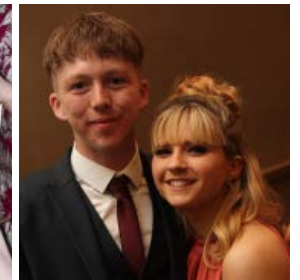
All your hard work will pay off now and you will move on to the next radiant chapter of your life, whatever that may be. Whether it is what you wished for, or perhaps not, take what



you have achieved and strive that little bit further.

Class of 2019, it has been delightful to be part of such a strong-minded yeargroup, with unforgettable teachers and irreplaceable experiences, not forgetting the highest quality of friends.

- Rebecca Crow, Prom Queen 2019



CDT RISES LIKE A PHOENIX FROM THE ASHES



Back in July 2018 a devastating accidental fire struck the CDT department at St Thomas More, leaving them in need of a whole new workshop. The remodel had to meet the restrictions of the insurance claim, but still had to provide a place of inspiration and education for students and teachers for years to come. It wasn't long before the department was back up and running and ready to inspire generations of makers. An array of newly installed machinery and a brand new extraction system line the walls throughout the whole workshop. Mr Dickinson talks about the impacts that this has had on staff and students in the department.

"The workshops now are amazing. They look modern, the new layouts that have been created are more considered and work better for all concerned".

The new workshop has provided the students with the ability to continue their passions and ensure that they are working in a safe, fully equipped workshop to aid their growth and develop their education.

WHAT DO THE STUDENTS THINK ABOUT IT?



"The new workshops health and safety is a lot more apparent. It has everything a student needs from KS3 to KS5 to do well in Design Technology." - Adam Johnson, Year 12

"I think the new workshop is very appealing to all students from Year 7 to Year 13. It has everything DT students need to succeed and achieve their goals when pursuing any form of career in the DT industry." - Nicholas Hayes, Year 12



"I think the new workshop is a great place to work; the new equipment makes things a lot more enjoyable and easier for everyone." - Alex Moderate, Year 12

"I prefer working in this new workshop as it is brighter and more spacious. The wide variety of equipment that we have access to means that this one of the best design and technology facilities for education in the area." - Ben Rutherford, Year 12





RECORDS TUMBLE ONCE MORE AT ANOTHER SCORCHING SPORTS DAY



On Wednesday 3rd July, we had another scorching Sports Day at Monkton Stadium. Records were broken and students enjoyed a fantastic day cheering on their peers.

Year 7 was won by 7M, with a score of 182 points, trailed in second by 7T with 172 and in third by 7A with 170. Year 8 was won by 8O with 173 points, followed by 8C in second with 168 and 8T/8E tied for third with 164. In Year 9, the day was won by 9M with a fantastic 197 points, followed by 9T in second with 184 and 9C in third with 169. Congratulations to these forms and to everyone else who took part.

The girls were clearly on fire during the day, with seven school records broken.

Girls 100m Amber Cramman 9M 12.62s.
Girls 200m Anna Fitzpatrick 9C 28.03s, breaking a record that had stood for eight years.
Girls 1500m Gracie Davies 9H 5min 26s, beating her own record by one second.
Girls Long Jump Ellen Moscrop 9T 4.45m.
Girls High Jump Anna Fitzpatrick 9C 1.40m, breaking her own record by 2cm.
Girls relay 9C 59.06s, beating their own record from last year by 0.25s.
Mixed relay 9M 58.81 sec.
On top of these there were also eight year group records broken.



SOME OF OUR TALENTED GIRLS ACHIEVING IN ALL FIELDS



LORD LIEUTENANT'S CADET REBECCA FINLAY

As well as attending Year 11 at STM, I am also a member of my local Sea Cadets. In Sea Cadets we do a range of activities both on and off the water. We can gain qualifications that are useful outside of the corps such as Duke of Edinburgh and RYA (Royal Yacht Association) instructor's awards. There are also many opportunities to go out to sea with the offshore fleet of power vessels, yachts and a square rigged sailing ship.

On Tuesday 5th February, we had our annual awards evening. This is a chance for cadets to be recognised for their efforts. I was awarded three trophies; the first two were the Smartest Cadet and the Sports Award, which recognises someone who has competed at the highest level. I have competed in Kayaking and Sailing at national level. The final award is Best Cadet, which is given to the cadet who does the most community events, the most competitions and gains the most qualifications as a whole.

I was also honoured to have been made the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for the coming year. The Lord Lieutenant is the Queen's representative in the county. She appoints a cadet from each of the cadet forces to assist her in her duties, so for the next year I will represent the Sea Cadets at royal visits and important business events.

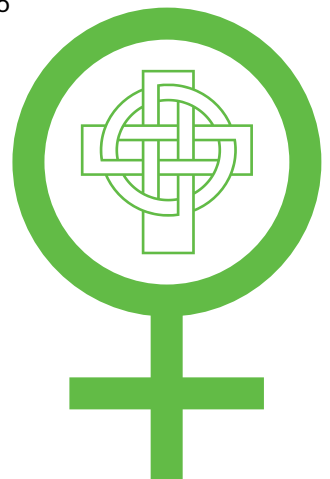


**AMELIA PETRIE
MUAY THAI FIGHTER**

As well as my school work in Year 10 at STM, I also compete in Muay Thai, a martial art originating from Thailand. Known as 'the art of eight limbs', we use our knees, legs, hands, and elbows, which is more suited to my style of fighting.

On Sunday 12th May I competed in a Muay Thai fight at Dunston Activity Centre. After three ninety second rounds I won by unanimous decision against a strong opponent. This was my sixth Muay Thai fight of my ever-growing fighting career.

I currently train at Factory Muay Thai in the West End of Newcastle, with head coach Jim Burn and world champion, Claire Clements. As well as my own fighting, I am also the Junior Coach for Factory Muay Thai, teaching classes and one-on-one sessions for kids who would like to learn from me. I enjoy pushing their training further in order for them to pursue careers in fighting.



**AIMEE McCLARENCE
BLACK BELT SWIMMER**

I've been swimming since the age of three, and have recently started swimming with the Aquajets team at Newcastle University. This has led me to many competitions in the surrounding area, including a recent 50m Butterfly first place.

As well as swimming, I began training at Burns School of Black Belts when I was five years old and I was quite shy. I still am shy and can often be quiet, but I train three times a week at BSBB, I'm self-motivated, and I always challenge myself to do the best that I can. I believe that training at BSBB has improved my confidence hugely. I recently entered a competition for Judo and Kick Boxing where I had to perform in front of 3 judges from the British competition team, achieving my black belt with a pass score of 82.4%.



EX-PUPIL SUCCESSES

We hope that the range of successes achieved by our ex-pupils inspire our current students, showing them the range of opportunities available to them. As always, if you would like to share the success of a former student, please contact alogie@stmacademy.org.uk and you could feature as early as the autumn issue of More Life.

LEANNE BOYD 2001 - 2006

When I left STM in 2006 I was a part of the disappointed group on results day. I put so much pressure on myself that I did worse than expected and, as a result, lost my place at medical school. I reverted to Plan B and began studying

Biomedical Sciences at Newcastle University. What I quickly realised was that I missed people. I wanted to be helpful, to feel useful, and so I turned to nursing.

I began studying Adult Nursing in 2007. I loved nursing. It wasn't perfect, but I was making a difference. After graduating I got a job as a Cardiothoracic scrub nurse and proceeded to aid doctors in lots of exciting surgeries, but I still felt that desire to be a doctor.

I had applied unsuccessfully for medical school again in 2009, but in 2011, I decided that I'd give it one more try. I gave it everything I had. I called in favours for the best references and studied like mad. In 2016, I graduated from St George's Medical School in London. When it came down to it, despite the advice of others who suggested I look for a vocation elsewhere, sheer stubbornness had gotten me to where I wanted to be.

I have spent the last two years working as a doctor. I love my job. But I'm writing this having spent the past few months travelling South America. I'm writing this sitting on a plane to Indonesia where I will patiently await my Australian work visa.

So here I am 12 years later, living the life I always wanted. I got here a bit later than I planned but looking back I wouldn't change anything. Each step was necessary to where I am now. So, if I could give my sixteen year old self advice, I wouldn't, I'd just cheer myself on. Because as my Mam always told me, things happen for a reason, and if you work hard enough (and are persistent enough) you can achieve your goals.



SAM CALLIGHAN 2008 - 2015

I studied Geography, Psychology, Ethics and Philosophy at STM, before studying for a BSc in Geography at Northumbria University, doing my dissertation in Mexico on the ecological conservation of large mammals. After this I went on to studying for an MSc in Renewable Energy, Enterprise and Management at Newcastle University, which is where I am now. Going forward I hope to gain a job in the sustainability sector, probably focussed on energy and environmental consultancy or renewable energy project management.



BEN BAXTER 2013 - 2018

While I was still at school, in January 2017, I started the process of applying for the Navy, which included interviews at HMS Calliope on the Gateshead Quayside as well as passing medical and fitness tests. After leaving STM I had to wait until

November to start my ten weeks of Initial Naval Training in Plymouth.

These ten weeks, split between Militarisation and Marination, were very rewarding as I feel as though I have matured a lot. I am currently in the next phase of my training and I believe that joining was the best decision of my life. I've already done things that most people wouldn't have the chance to do and there's plenty more still to come.



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