

ELECTION FEVER GRIPS ST THOMAS MORE

Firstly, running to be a member of the School Council is one that requires great bravery, so well done to everyone who participated! Also a huge thank you to everyone who voted.

I feel this year the School Council Team is being taken a lot more seriously and they are beginning to have more say on what goes on in school. This year's

voting process was far more realistic to what is done during an actual election; we all had poll cards and attended an official polling station in the main hall to cast our votes.

This year the School Council will be focusing on a number of key issues including bullying, racism, and mental health. - Ellie Ozturk, Year 10

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A CHRISTMAS PRAYER FROM THE CHAPLAIN



"The power of this Child, Son of God and Son of Mary, is not the power of this world, based on might and wealth; it is the power of love." - Pope Francis, Christmas 2016

God Our Father, we patiently and attentively wait throughout this season of Advent so that we may gloriously adore the Christ-child this Christmas. We ask that you help us to recognise the power of God's love which is so great that he would send his only Son for us all. We pray for a happy and holy festive season filled with unending joy, humble peace and selfless love. Amen.

"A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO VOTED"

On the 7th November, my fellow ambassadors and I helped run the election for School Council members for Year 7 to 11 and Sixth Form. We set up tables and helped everyone vote for the Councillor they wanted for their year. They handed us their voting slip from their form teacher, we then crossed their name off our voter registration list, gave them their voting card, which they then used to vote for the candidate of their choice.



After all the votes were collected, we emptied the official voting boxes and counted all the votes. I felt this experience was great fun and educational, because we got to help everyone and got a feel for what a real election is like, including how they keep everything organised. The best bit was counting the votes, even though it took a while.

- Chrysta Lois, Year 9



STEBIN ABRAHAM went to Star of the Sea RC Primary. He loves all sport, particularly Basketball, and listening to all types of music.



BEN ANASTASI is a smart, sporty and understanding person who 'loves to talk!' He is loving the opportunity to support Year 7s.



AMELIA BEWICK has a twin brother who is one minute younger than her. She also has a stubborn ginger rabbit called Flopsy!



AMY BROWN-JOYCE plays for Whitley Bay Football Club. She also loves music from the '80s to now, including Fleetwood Mac.



SAM BYERLEY went to St Mary's RC Primary in Cullercoates. Outside of school he loves rugby, cricket and all types of music.



EMMA CHARLTON went to New York Primary School. She supports 7A on a Wednesday and Thursday morning, and during PSE on a Tuesday.

YEAR 11 AMBASSADORS



RACHAEL COOK was the only person to come to STM from Monkhouse Primary. She loves music & shopping with her friends.



DAN DRYDEN helps out in 7E with equipment and uniform checks. He loves playing rugby and listening to all kinds of music.



AMY HAMILTON loves singing, in the house and everywhere she goes. She is really enjoying helping out and interacting with 7M.



KATHERINE LOUGHNEY plans to continue to Sixth Form to study Chemistry. She also plays in a Jazz Band every Saturday.



ZANNAT MALIK is loving working closely with the Year 7 students. Her favourite subject is Art, and she enjoys listening to Music.



ALEX MODERATE is enjoying the opportunity of being an ambassador. She even helped out on the first day of term for Year 7.



JACK MORGAN likes answering any questions Year 7s might have. He loved it when 7O stood up to say 'Good Morning Sir' when he walked in!



JAMES PEART is finding it interesting to see STM through the eyes of Year 7 again. He enjoys football and cricket in his spare time.



CHARLOTTE REA loves talking, making her a great ambassador. She is a Performing Arts student, and also dances outside of school.



FREYA RIPPON joined STM in Year 8 when she moved here from London. She is enjoying reading with her Year 7 form class in the morning.



THOMAS SEAGRAVE-HINDMARSH loves playing and listening to music, it's all he does. He plans to attend STM Sixth Form.



ABBEY SHIPPEN is enjoying getting to know 7S and helping them settle into STM. She plays the piano and enjoys going to concerts.

“CITIZENSHIP IS THE CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE PLACE WHERE YOU BELONG” - Charles Handy

Citizens UK is an organisation that brings communities together to fight for power, social justice and the common good. This is a campaign which St Thomas More is proud to be part of. On Tuesday 7th November, Tyne and Wear Citizens had their official launch assembly at the Tyne Theatre and Opera House in the city centre.



Three main issues were discussed during the assembly:

- Poverty (with a particular focus on free school meals)
- Keeping Safe (with a focus on hate crime on public transport)
- Mental Health

Many local faith groups, businesses and political leaders attended the event along with around one thousand members of our community. The event also provided the opportunity for people to share their experiences or ideas on stage, including one of our own students, Jack Morgan in Year 11, who spoke on behalf of his friends about their experience of mental health facilities in our area. Overall the event was very successful, with local leaders pledging to make changes to our community.

- Livia Gregor, Year 10

JPII CANDIDATES 'BIN' THE STEREOTYPES



On Wednesday 15th October, our Pope John Paul II group travelled to Whitley Bay beach, as we felt the amount of litter there was increasing. Our aim was to split up and cover as much as we could in the time we had. Not only was it a beautiful day, but a beautiful destination that is regularly flooded with people of all ages, so it was a shame to see the amount of rubbish we did. However, we all felt rewarded that we could make this small change. Along the way, people came over as we were collecting rubbish, and thanked us. Seeing people being thankful for our actions, and applauding us for them, made this experience more fulfilling than we expected.

- Elise Downs, Year 12

ALMOST £1500 RAISED FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

I helped to set up the Children in Need evening, which was also great experience towards my Music BTEC. This involved the stage, lights, sound desk and the chairs. Set up was hard work, but once it was done we were able to concentrate on preparing for the performance. I spent my time in the music rooms running through the song I had to do, which was A Day In The Life by the Beatles. I think everyone was nervous, but we all knew it was for a good cause. Two hours before the performance I was asked to do another two songs, so had to rush to learn what I needed. It all went well on the night and, added to the non-uniform day total, we raised £1493.40!

- Thomas Seagrave-Hindmarsh, Year 11



YEAR 7 SWIM THE CHANNEL

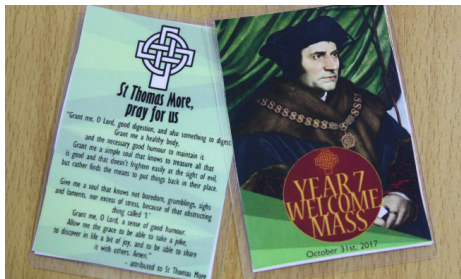


A few weeks ago in Assembly we were asked 'What are we capable of doing?' We were set the challenge of swimming the width of the English Channel, a distance of 22 miles. We, along with fifty other Year 7 pupils, took part in the Aspire Swim at Tynemouth Pool on a Monday morning in October. In the space of 3 hours we completed 1,758 lengths, a total of over 27 miles. We raised an amazing £708 for Aspire, a charity that provides support for people with spinal cord injuries. As physically fit young people we thought it was our duty to use our abilities and talents to help others less fortunate than ourselves.

- Jessica Dickson, Isabelle Goodwin, Lottie Gray and Eve Rudd, Year 7



A BUSY HALF-TERM



YEAR 7 MASS OF WELCOME

On 31st October 2017, Father Martin Stempczyk joined us for our welcome mass. The bidding prayers encouraged us to think about conflict in the world, allowing us to reflect upon what we have to be thankful for. To enhance the gospel, students from 7E delivered a creative performance bringing to life the details of the gospel message. This welcome mass gave us the chance to reflect on our transition from our various primary schools.

- Olivia Clarke, Year 7

A LEVEL BIOLOGISTS VISIT THE CENTRE FOR LIFE

As part of our A-level Biology course, we attended a Newcastle University workshop at the Centre for Life. We carried out an experiment analysing our own DNA, looking for a gene which allows some of us to taste a bitter chemical called PTC (commonly found in some vegetables including sprouts). The interactive nature of the practical helped our understanding of the topic and showed us real world scenarios.

- Jessica Bouron, Bethany Thompson and Kate Taylor, Year 13



CROSS COUNTRY NEWS

St Thomas More have had an amazing start to the Cross Country season. Fifty students from Year 7-13 took part in the North Tyneside Championships at Churchill Playing Fields on 17th November. There were some fantastic individual and team performances with 16 students qualifying to the next round. The Intermediate Boys (Years 10 and 11) also won first team. Well done athletes!

- Mrs Plummer, PE Dept



SEWING UP HISTORY

On Monday 16th October, the A level Fashion students visited The Hearth Art Centre, Horsley, to see Mandy Pattullo at her studio. Mandy Pattullo is a textiles artist, who uses vintage fabrics and recycles them into her own work. Pattullo commonly uses items which show a great deal of history, and have evidence of previous needlework visible in her fabrics. She told us how the history of the fabric influences the way she creates her own designs.

- Jessica Edwards, Year 12



NORTH TYNESIDE TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONS

On 16th November, I took part in a Table Tennis competition at Churchill Community College. The games were all very competitive against equally talented and skilled players. We played well in the qualifying rounds and in the final tournament we became the North Tyneside champions!

- Ethan Haines, Year 8

STOP PRESS: On 5th December, the team won the Tyne & Wear championships, so go on to compete for Tyne & Wear at the Nationals in Cumbria next year!

LOCHNAGAR PROJECT

Next year, 2018, will mark the one hundredth anniversary of the end of the First World War, which left over 8.5 million soldiers dead. We have been participating in the Lochnagar Project, which aims to remember those killed by creating a virtual cemetery. We were proud to be part of this project as these brave men should never be forgotten. In the words of Laurence Binyon, "we will remember them".

- Faye Campbell, Joe Chidlow, Holly Jones, Marvin Kigongo and Josiel Martin, Year 10





CREATIVE WRITING AT THE LIT & PHIL

On Monday 27th November, the Year 12 English Language students visited the Literary and Philosophical Society for a creative writing workshop. As soon as we sat down, we were asked to simply write for 5 minutes; we were to write whatever came to mind, the only rule was that we weren't allowed to stop. This was a brilliant exercise to get us in the right frame of mind for the day. We look forward to our future creative writing adventures! - Amber Cunningham-Parker, Year 12

WORLD RECORD HOLDER ADAM PEATY PRESENTS...

On Sunday 26th November, Lola Morales and Sam Blakey, both Year 8, captained Tynemouth Swimming Club against 200 UK teams in the National Inter League Final. This is an amazing achievement, the first time in the club's long history that they have made it to the final. They battled hard coming seventh overall, and Lola received the best 12 year-old girl award for her phenomenal swims in the final. They were presented with the team's award by World Record Holder Adam Peaty.



BOMMEL GROUP LIGHTS UP THE SAGE

On Monday 27th November, a concert featuring the Bommel Musical Theatre group and a massed choir of over 400 primary school voices (many from our feeder primaries) was held at Sage Gateshead. Although the group has performed in London, Paris and New York, one of the main benefits is the chance to perform more locally - on stage at Sage in front of a packed auditorium. Congratulations to everyone for their hard work! - Lucy Penhall, Year 12

OUR FIRST WORD MILLIONAIRE

We started our Accelerated Reader scheme with Year 7 in October. Students choose books suitable for their ability and do an online quiz when they have finished. Matthew is our first "Word Millionaire" having topped a million words in just a few weeks! "I am the first word millionaire this year. I love reading books, talking about them and testing my knowledge. The library is a great place for your education. I recommend going there every day!" - Matthew Blackburn, Year 7



A TASTE OF SPORT AT NORTHUMBRIA UNIVERSITY

Informative, influential and engaging is how I would describe my day at Northumbria University's Sport Central. The boxing ring awaited us for one of our challenges, as an amateur boxer eyed up the fresh-faced competition. At lunchtime we watched the University Badminton team in action against a rival university, before an afternoon learning about essential nutrition for athletes. This day gave me a great insight into University Sport. - Cameron Hales-Owen, Year 9

LITERATURE IN LONDON

From 9th-11th November, Year 13 Literature students visited London. The visit consisted of talks on the Friday from four speakers, one of whom was Pat Barker, the author of our novel 'Regeneration'. The talks gave a deeper insight into the thoughts of men and women during the war, a key theme of our A Level. Later on we attended the Globe to watch the musical 'Romantics Anonymous', which included the right balance of cringe and warm romance. - Peter O'Neill, Year 13



EMPOWERING GIRLS

by IONA SCANLAN



Photo by Charlotte Jackson, Year 13

"Empowerment of and investment in girls are key in breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and in promoting and protecting the full and effective enjoyment of their human rights" - United Nations Resolution 66/170

October 11th marked the International Day of the Girl. The United Nations first marked this day in 2011, thus making it an important day for the 1.1 billion girls across the globe. Its mission is "to help galvanize worldwide enthusiasm for goals to better girls' lives, providing an opportunity for them to show leadership and reach their full potential." It is a day when activist groups come together with the same goal 'to highlight, discuss, and take action to advance rights and opportunities for girls everywhere'.

This year focussed on the theme of 'Empower Girls: before, during and after conflict', as adolescent girls in conflict zones are 90% more likely to be out of school when compared to girls in conflict-free countries, compromising their future prospects for work and financial status as adults.

Back in 2015, Beyoncé shared a video in which she teamed up with the campaign 'Chime with Change', looking to raise funds and awareness for girls and women around the globe. The powerful video has resonated with men and women across the globe on social media, due to the shocking figures and statistics around the issues young girls face daily. The figures include: one girl dies from violence every five minutes, one in four girls is married as a child, 71% of human trafficking victims are girls, sixty-three million girls have undergone female genital mutilation, one hundred and thirty million girls are out of school and females are twice as likely to be infected with HIV. In the video, these figures fell on the backdrop of young girls from countries across the world dancing and miming to Beyoncé's song 'Freedom', from her latest album 'Lemonade'. Having one of the biggest stars in the world involved in a campaign creates a buzz around the issues, bringing them to the centre of attention.

Director of both 2016's video of the Spice Girls classic 'Wannabe'

and this year's video MJ Delaney said "Everyone's angry now, and our girls this year, in contrast to the playfulness of last year, are harnessing that anger and making it purposeful. Demanding change." Although the UK has less of an equality gap compared to countries such as Saudi Arabia and Honduras, videos like these, spread via the power of social media, can inspire both young and old women to fight, not just for themselves and their rights in their own country, but also to come together to fight for the women who cannot, because of the laws and social expectations they are held under.

This campaign is a huge step forward. Even just talking about the problems makes campaigns such as this one a force to be reckoned with. Talking about the problems means we can start to talk about solutions; this is what we want put into action across the world. Although there have been many advances in equality for women and girls across the globe, there is still so much more to be said and done.

THIS
GIRL
CAN



PHYSICS FOR GIRLS

On the 15th of November, we travelled to the mining institute in Newcastle for an afternoon of talks aimed at inspiring girls in Physics and other STEM subjects. The afternoon commenced with a personality quiz which gave us inspiration for jobs that suited our personality. The last part of the afternoon included 'speed dating' physicists, gaining insight into their daily lives and their role as pioneering women in science. We all left feeling inspired with new ideas of aiming for careers within STEM. - Rosie Rice, Year 12

After being inspired by the 'Physics for Girls' trip, I applied and have been accepted for a week's work experience at Northumbria University. I'm really looking forward to it as I will be working alongside post-graduate students to help with their research. By the end of the week, I will present what I have found to peers, staff and students. Along with gaining skills in research, problem solving and collaborative work, it will help me towards deciding what I would like to do in the future.

- Rebecca Reynolds, Year 12

IRISH DANCING WORLDS

My name is Erin Anderson, I am in Year 10, and I train approximately ten hours a week for my Irish Dancing, competing all around the country every month. On the 12th of November I qualified for the World Championships, which will be held at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow in March. There will be over 14,500 dancers, 200 of them in my age category. I am currently ranked fourth in the North East of England for my age.

My aim is to recall at Worlds; only the top fifty in the world will achieve this.

NUFC WOMEN

Football is a hugely important aspect of my life, I started playing when I was six years old and began playing for North Shields Boys team because there wasn't a Girls team for that age category. I played for this team for four years before joining Newcastle Girls under 10's, working my way up to playing for the Northumberland County team. Unfortunately, I sustained a serious knee injury in 2015, which took me out of the game for seventeen months, the longest period since I was six that I didn't play football. I made a comeback in March 2017, playing for Blyth, where I successfully scored the winning goal in the Cup Final. At the end of July, I was asked by the team captain of Newcastle United Womens to join their team. To have received this offer after so many months of injury was a huge step in my football career. - Lauren Wilson, Year 12

KICKBOXING WORLDS

On 24th October, I travelled to Carrara, Italy to compete for England in the World Championships in Kickboxing, the fifth time I had attended this event. For the previous five weeks I had been in a knee brace due to an injury, so had been out of training. Despite this I competed in four categories and won gold in three of them. In the team fight my girls and I are usually in the 13-15 year category, but we had to compete in the 16-18 category and still won gold. - Milly Sansom, Year 11

GIRLS ACTIVE

We had a fantastic response from KS3 Girls applying to be Girls Active Leaders. Look out for all the sporting opportunities they have planned! - PE Dept





DOMINIC DIXON BOUNCES TO NEW HEIGHTS

On Sunday 5th November I competed in the NDP Qualifier Trampoline competition in Ashington. At the competition, I was hoping for a total score between my two routines of 46 or more, which would give me a place in the next competition in January. I completed my two routines to the best of my ability and earned a total score of 48, granting me a space in the next competition in January, a well earned first place and a celebratory McDonalds on the way home (other fast food restaurants are available). Earlier this term I also competed for my club, Park Elite, where I came third, and competed for our school in the North Tyneside Schools Competition and came first, helping to fill up my trophy cabinet.

EX-PUPIL SUCCESS

In this issue, Jasmin Ridgeway, Year 11, has caught up with ex-pupil Karley Richie to find out what she is up to now. 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.

KARLEY RICHIE 2002-2009

This month I had the pleasure of interviewing Karley Richie, an alumni student working at Rycroft Glenton Chartered Accountancy in Sandyford, Newcastle. Before the interview, I was incredibly nervous, but when I met Karley, her easy manner and willingness to talk to me put me at ease straight away.

Karley studied at St Thomas More from 2002-2009. As I am considering a career in finance, Karley kindly agreed to meet with me to discuss her job in payroll. I also took the opportunity to find out how her time at St Thomas More had influenced her and how her experiences at University gave her the skills she needed for the job market.

Karley talked about her experience at St Thomas More as being very influential towards her ability to go to University. "My experience at St Thomas More made me realise that if you want something you have to work hard...I had some fantastic support and help" The help she had allowed her to gain excellent A Levels; because of her hard work she then went on to Newcastle University and graduated with a degree in Law.

A typical working day for Karley starts at 8:30am working through to 5-6pm depending on how the day transpires and if she gets last-minute calls from clients. The most enjoyable part of her job is being part of a team and talking to clients on the telephone. Should you consider a role in finance she advises that you need to have great attention to detail and accuracy. Her Law degree has given her good English skills, which is also vital to interpreting and writing reports. In addition, to gain that first job, Karley's advice was to research the company you are applying for and adapt your application for that company. That will help to make you stand out from all the other applicants.

To get into finance you do not need certain qualifications but 'A' Levels are advisable, you do not need a degree, but Karley suggests go for it if you can. Karley's advice opened my eyes to realise that I do want to take my education further and go into the world of finance.

- Jasmin Ridgeway, Year 11



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