



Advent Charities Update



All year groups choose a charity to focus on during advent, and huge amounts of money was raised for some very good causes. All students in Years 7, 8 and 9 raised money to buy CAFOD world gifts with Year 7 raising £73.7, Year 8 raising £96.04, and Y9 raising £78.02. Items purchased included two donkeys, a goat, some queen bees and some squirming worms!

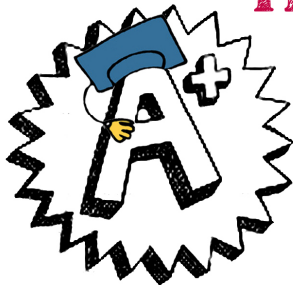
Students in Year 10 collected warm clothing and non perishable food for a local charity called Making Winter Warmer. This was delivered to a shop in Whitley Bay where it was bagged up and is then delivered every Thursday in the winter to homeless people.

Year 11 students donated items for the Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal organised by the Chaplain Steve Gunby. The school sent off a total of 148 shoeboxes to children in Eastern Europe plus £147 to help with the postage.

In addition to this, over £450 was raised when the sixth form contributed to the raw materials and raffle prizes for the Lourdes group Christmas afternoon tea. Year 7 designed and produced personalised mugs in ICT which raised a further £360 for Lourdes, and students also held tuck shops and cake sales. Altogether, over the festive season the school raised enough to pay for a child to travel to Lourdes at Easter on Pilgrimage.



The Lord Glenamara Memorial Prize



We are very proud to announce that Year 12 pupil Declan Pang has been awarded with the Lord Glenamara Memorial Prize. This is a scheme set up in 2012 to recognise outstanding academic and civic achievements of young people in the North East of England.

Declan, who is studying maths, chemistry, biology and music A levels was chosen by a panel of judges for the award for his range of achievements in and out of school.

Education Secretary Nicky Morgan will present Declan with the award at a ceremony at University College London this month.



Awe and Wonder



The annual Catholic Partnership art exhibition was held in The Galilee Chapel, in Durham Cathedral between the dates of 20th January and 12th February. The exhibition was titled 'Awe and Wonder' and 25 of our Year 10 students exhibited their work in relation to the theme. The exhibition opening night was a great success, with over 500 hundred people attending.



Engineering Experts

At the end of last term four students from Year 12 took part in the Engineering Education Scheme. They spent 3 days at Newcastle University carrying out practical work to solve a real life problem set by Freudenberg Technical Products.

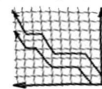
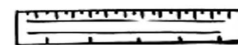
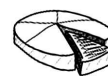
Anna Andrushkova, Bradley Calvert, Ciaran Bound and Jonathan Coulson used the University's equipment to design a test to measure wear on electric power steering seals in cars.



Festival of Maths



Year 9 students spent the day at the Centre for Life participating in the Festival of Maths. They took part in a session on astronavigation, did lots of Maths games and puzzles, built their own mazes and even got to go on the 4D animated ride!



London Calling

The A level English Trip took place last weekend in London. We saw 'Ghost Stories' at the Arts Theatre in Covent Garden which is a Gothic delight! The Globe theatre trip was excellent and Cally Bolam volunteered to be dressed as Ophelia.

Students had time at Camden Market on Sunday afternoon and a good night out at Pizza Express near Tower Bridge. The trip ended with a visit to all the important sights around Westminster and a tour of Westminster Abbey which ended up, fittingly, at Poets' Corner.



Year 10 Careers Day



On Wednesday 28 January, a number of visitors from careers such as the RAF and Royal Navy, Nissan, and Tyne and Wear Museums came in to talk to our Year 10 students. As well as finding out about possible jobs they could do, students were given the chance to think about future qualifications and writing a CV.



History and Languages Conference

Ten Year Nine students took part in a History and Languages conference about the Christmas Day Truce. They took part in a variety of workshops, which stretched their skills and knowledge. They learnt about the Western Front in 1914 and had to analyse and cross-reference sources to answer an 'A' Level standard question.



Sporty Students in a League of Their Own.

This half term has seen more sporting success for our very talented students and we at St. Thomas More are very proud of them.

Our Under-16 girls football team are unbeaten so far this season, recently beating Churchill 1 - 0 and John Spence by a whopping 7 - 0!



Four boys from Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in the regional Sainsbury's School Games where they came second overall in badminton.

Students from all year groups who recently took part in the North Tyneside rowing competition have got through to the second round so well done!

Emily Gibson recently travelled to Holland where she represented Great Britain in the novice category for figure skating. Watch this space - we'll keep you updated with her progress.

All 7 of our feeder primary schools recently came to St Thomas More to take part in the High Five sports event which included individual and team skipping events. Our Year 12 sports leaders and a group of Year 9 girls helped to supervise the activities, and Star of the Sea won.

