



# More News



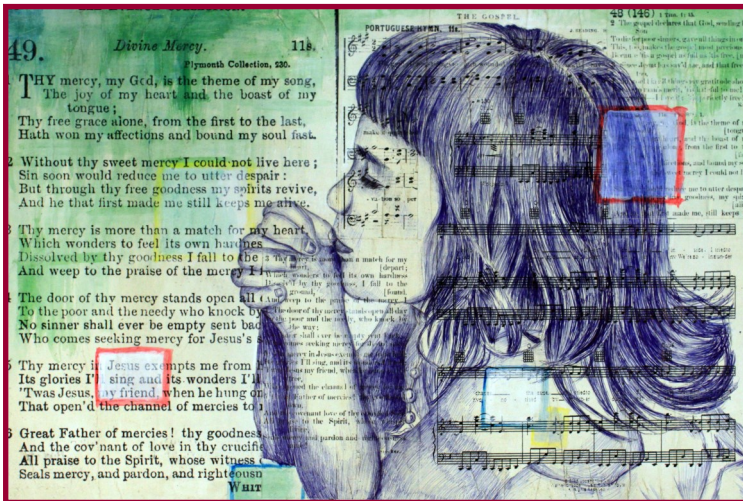
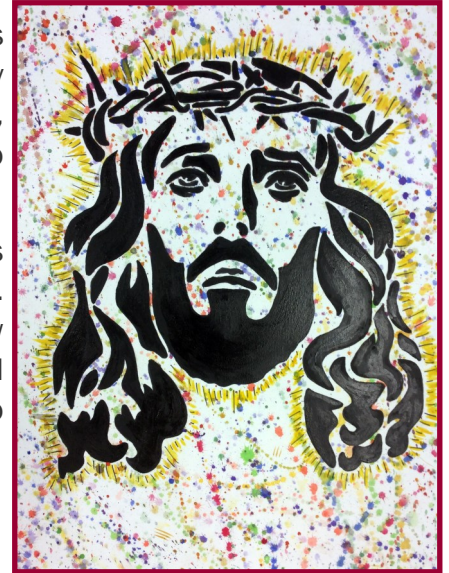
## Year of Mercy

February 2016



This year is the year of Mercy, as Pope Francis hopes that, “we will find in this Jubilee Year the joy to rediscover and render fruitful the mercy of God, with which we are called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time.”

“God's mercy is for all people and he wants everyone to come to him with trust and confidence. The mercy of Jesus is kind and understanding; now is the time; it is never too late; he forgives all things. Let his gentle healing put your worries to rest.” *Bishop Séamus Cunningham*



To coincide with the Jubilee Year of Mercy, 29 Year 10 students represented St Thomas More in the Hexham and Newcastle Catholic Partnership Art Exhibition at Durham Cathedral.

Inspired by the theme 'Mercy' students exhibited their exciting artwork, showing their skill in various artistic media, such as those shown here by Sophie Blackett, Niamh Hughes, and Pinzhe Xu.

## Going for a Song



It most certainly was not, “Nul Points” when we sent 14 year 8 students to compete in the Christmas Eurovision song Contest at Carmel College. This is an annual diocesan event, and the students themselves translated into German, choreographed a routine and performed the Carol “12 days of Christmas”. They finished first runners up!

## Young Carers Crew

The Young Carers Crew who meet regularly throughout the term enjoyed a day out in December at Top Gear Go-Karting in Durham. It was a lovely day and there was quite a competition for the fastest times. Mr Ramsay who came along to help, managed to get the fastest time overall for the whole day including other groups who had been before us. It was great opportunity for the students to have some time away from other commitments.



## Children & the Chocolate Factory

Year 9 and 10 students made the trip to Slattery's Chocolate Factory in Manchester. Students were able to make specialist chocolate products—yum!



## Music News



There was a highly successful Christmas concert in December and more recently, the department took several students to Edinburgh to see the Sound of Music as inspiration for our very own version this year. We are also preparing our students for ABRSM exams.

## Year 11

Leavers hoodies and yearbooks will be available to order by Year 11 from after half-term until the end of term. Prices are £20 for yearbooks and from £18 to £25 for hoodies based on style and extras. Please see Mr Ballard for further information.

## 6th Form Study Skills Day



All Year 12 students took part in a study skills day at the Great North Museum organised and led by Newcastle University.

Students had sessions such as how to complete academic research, learning styles, citing references, and making bibliographies, as well as an opportunity to join the University Library.

They also had an hour where academics from each department came to meet with them, and they were able to ask them questions about how best to learn in their subject, and a few enterprising individuals even managed to ask about entry requirements to courses!

This day extends the Sixth Form's partnership with the University, which began with the 'Faculty Futures Day' organised by Ms Kilkenny in school last Summer, championed by Suzanne Cholerton, Newcastle's Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Teaching and Learning and attended by many of our Department Heads and A-Level teachers.

We now have several academics willing and eager to help students and staff with transition and difference in learning between school and university and who also have been linked to departments.

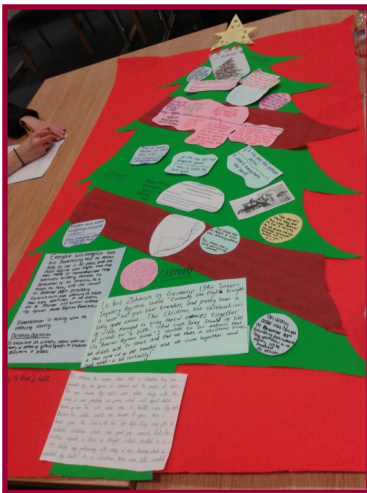
# Careers Day

Year groups 9–12 enjoyed the Careers Day in January where over 18 organisations and employers came to talk about skills, opportunities, and entry into their field of work. Some of the North East's largest employers such as Santander, Nissan, the Royal Navy, and NHS were among some of our visitors.

Each year group was able to spend an hour with the employers who had set up stands in the hall, to gather information and chat about prospects.



## Year 9 History



12 students attended a workshop at Durham University where they worked with Gifted and Talented students from three different schools. They looked at the Christmas Day Truce in 1914, completing a variety of tasks including translating original source material, source evaluation and research. At the end they had to answer the question,

"Did Everyone want a Christmas Day Truce?"

## Year 11 Open Evening

We had a fantastic turn out for the Year 11 open evening for those wishing to get more information about studying here in September 2016 from St Thomas More and other schools in the area.

A number of our current 6th formers stayed to talk about the subjects they are studying to prospective students and their parents, and to show them around the 6th form block. They were amazing ambassadors and we are very proud to have such kind and friendly students.

Induction day for Year 11, with sample lessons and form time will be held on Wednesday 6th July.

# Yr11 Food Bank



Staff from the Bay Foodbank sent a 'thank you' to all pupils and staff for the wonderful donations. Since April 2015 they have helped to feed over 2640 adults, 1050 children and 95 babies, so this demonstrates just how vital and welcome the donations were.

## Get into Health



Y12 Health and Social Care students attended a day at Sunderland University. This included a tour and a free lunch - although some of them turned it down to go to the on-campus Greggs! They had a talk from a lecturer in Public Health who told them about the course requirements, the course content and what they might do with a degree in Public Health. This was an eye opener as some students had never heard of Public Health before and are now considering studying it as a degree.

## Council Corner

The Young Mayor for North Tyneside 2015-16 is Abbie Armstrong in Year 8, and we are supporting Robbie Loughney and Ruby Stephenson who are running for 2016-17, and Tom King and Louis Walton who are running for the youth Council.



The Student Council are also planning some events with Michael the Chaplain for Fairtrade fortnight (29th Feb 13 March) and they have a meeting with Mr Gollings about improving areas around the school.



# The Back Page

## Football

Our male year 7 students represented the school in the North Tyneside 5-A-side football tournament. They played exceptionally well. One team made it into the semi-final just losing out by an odd goal, whilst our other team made it to the final (just losing out to John Spence 4-3). The team spirit and camaraderie were fantastic.



The year 7 girls finished runners up in the Northumberland 5 a side tournament. They won 3 games and drew 2 losing only on goal difference. Goals were scored by Lois Greenslade 3, Anna Littlewood 1 Stella Pozzi 1. Lois Greenslade was player of the tournament for St Thomas More. The squad was: Lois Greenslade, Amelia Patterson, Anna Littlewood, Stella Pozzi, Ruth Clark, Jenna Higgs and Uchi Ojiako.

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## Badminton

St Thomas More students from year 8 and 9 made the regional finals of the school games badminton competition. The boys went on to win the county badminton finals which is a massive achievement.



The next round is the North of England final in Thornaby. The team is; Melvin Cherian, Christian Sharp, Will Wigham, and Ollie Thompson.

## Rugby

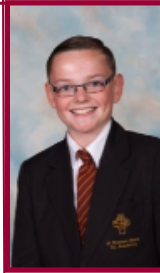


Our year 7 and 8 teams both won the Festivals at Bullocksteads Rugby ground in January. The Year 7s won all their games.



The Year 8s won four and lost one, but both teams were overall winners!

## Table Tennis



Adam Webster year 9 is ranked 200th in the country at table tennis, and beat a champion to gain this position!

## This Girl

To fit in with the national campaign developed by Sport England to celebrate active women up and down the country, the PE department are challenging key stage



3 girls to attend at least one extra curricular club this term. On offer is Netball, Badminton, Football and Running. New this term are the Pink Ball club and Clubbercise (with Glo Sticks!). The only things you need are trainers and enthusiasm.

## Dance Festival

The North Shields Dance Festival at The Parks on Monday 29th Feb, Tues 1st March and Wed 2nd March. Title is 'A Tale to Tell' and all the pieces are based around literacy.

Year 10, 11 and Sixth Form Performing arts classes, a Year 7&8 Extra Curricular Group from STM and groups from our feeder schools will all be performing across the 3 nights.

Tickets are available from The Parks and go on sale Monday 15th Feb (£4 adults / £2 children). Photographs in the next newsletter.

Remember that you can see all the latest PE news on Twitter: @STM\_PE

