



# More News



May 2015

## Lourdes Pilgrimage 2015



Twenty six of our sixth formers, accompanied by two younger students and Mr Merchant, Mr Murray, Mrs Hallam, Mrs Merchant and Mrs Robson, spent a week in Lourdes over the Easter holidays. The students organised the Biscuit Ball, held raffles and cake sales, and managed to raise an amazing £8000 which paid for six children to be a part of the pilgrimage. Highlights included leading the torchlight procession for 5000 people, and the HCPT mass involving over 7000!



## Le Spelling Bee?



The North East regional final of the Foreign Language Spelling Bee took place on Wednesday 29th April at Newcastle University. This is a competition for students in Year 7 to practise and improve their vocabulary, spelling and memory skills in a foreign language. Abbie Herron, Caitlin Sewell, Elizabeth Adamson and Anna Reay competed against schools across the North East and successfully managed to spell a wide range of French words in one minute. Their efforts were impressive but unfortunately they didn't make it to the final, despite support from Kate Barnett, Annie Johnson and Molly Rudd.

The Hexham & Newcastle Catholic Partnership

### A Celebration of Music

Tuesday 30th June, 2015 - 7.00pm

Sage Gateshead, NE8 2JR

Tickets - £7 available from the Sage Box Office [www.sagegateshead.com](http://www.sagegateshead.com)

Tickets available directly from the Sage.

## Leadership Week-end

40 students showed off their leadership skills recently whilst taking part in a wide range of activities at the High Borrans Activity Centre in the Lake District. Mrs McCabe, Mrs Ireland, Mr Rayson and Miss Edwards took students from Years 8, 9 and 10. Students had to teach each other to carry out activities including canoeing, abseiling and orienteering.





## Our Geographers have been out and about:

Students in Year 13 spent a Geography revision weekend in the Lake District, staying at Ambleside YHA. As well as working hard they went to Go Ape in Grizedale forest and took a boat trip from Glenridding to Howtown across Ullswater. A good weekend was had by all!



### Year 7

Year 7 students all spent a day on the quayside and enjoyed some lovely sunny spring weather. They were investigating the urban landscape as part of the Settlement topic and produced field sketches recording land use and carried out traffic counts.

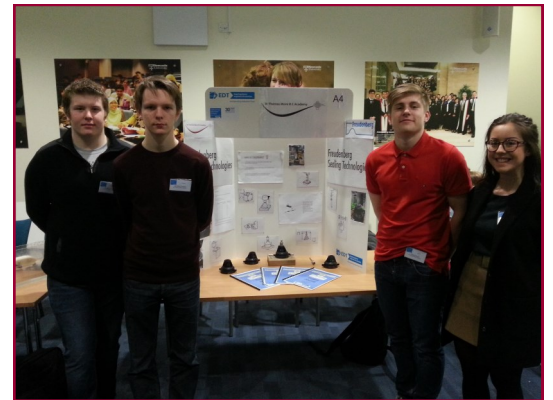


### Year 10

Unfortunately, the Yr10 GCSE classes were not so lucky in Seahouses! They spent a very wet day completing field work for their controlled assessment looking at the impact of tourism. Students filled in questionnaires to find out where visitors had come from, and assessed the environmental impact, including traffic counts. The students will now spend time in lessons presenting their findings.

## Sixth Form Engineers

Four sixth formers had to man a stand recently as part of their Engineering Education Scheme assessment day. This was held at Newcastle University.



Anna Andrushkova, Bradley Calvert, Ciaran Bound and Jonathan Coulson won the Alan Dixon Memorial trophy for displaying the best teamwork throughout the project. The students have been designing a test to measure the wear on electric power steering seals in cars and have all been awarded a gold CREST award.

## Year 8 Maths Stars!

Ten students in Year 8 took part in the Diocesan puzzle day at St Bedes in Lanchester where they played lots of maths logic games.

Year 8 students also took part in the Diocesan Maths competition involving 17 teams altogether. Ben Patrick, John Hogg, Caitlin, Amy Brown came fourth.

## It's magic!



Year 11 student Leah Devine has recently become the first female winner of the Young Magician of the year. In fact, Leah was only the ninth female to have made the Young Magician final since the contest began in 1961. The competition, which is open to 14-18-year-olds, did not even allow girls to enter until 1981.

Leah took part in the final in London, competing against six boys, where she allowed herself to be “cut in half” by her younger sister, Sara Jade, who is in Year 9.

She also performed the “modern art” illusion which is “when someone’s head and body are removed from their legs”.

Leah won a trophy, free membership of the Magic Circle when she is 18, and trip a trip to Las Vegas where she will attend the Jeff McBride Magic School.

## GCSE Art Exhibition

The annual GCSE Art Exhibition took place on Thursday 7th May where work by all students was on display for students' relatives, peers and colleagues to celebrate their achievements over the past two years.

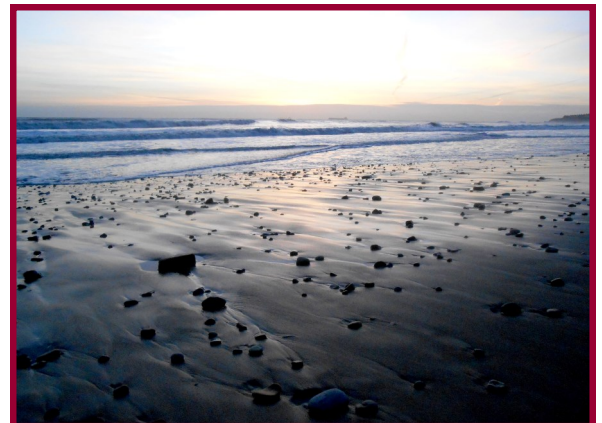


## KS3 Photography

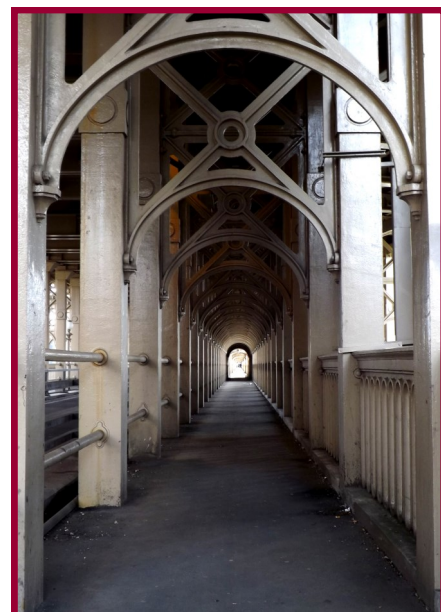
The Catholic Partnership KS3 photography exhibition was held on Tuesday 21st April at the National Glass Centre, Sunderland. Students were invited to respond to 12 categories, three of which were won by students from St Thomas More.



**FAITH**  
Maisie Ritchie



**LANDSCAPE**  
Wills Whiting-Adams



**STRUCTURES**  
Sally Worrall

# Sports Round Up

Our Under 16 Girls won the North Tyneside rounders tournament. A great way to end their five years at STM.

The final of the football County Cup was a tense battle with our Year 10 lads losing out to King Edward VI School, Morpeth on penalties. The final score was 13 - 12.

The Under 15 boys are currently defending their title in the Chance to Shine cricket competition that is taking place at Percy Main. We wish them luck!



There was a celebration of dance at St Thomas More recently. Students from all year groups performed at the Jade Harrison School of Dance and impressed the audience with their talents.



Congratulations to Year 10 student Tom Craig who represent Tyne and Wear in the UK school finals in Manchester. He was a silver medallist in the 8 lap paarlauf - which for those of you that don't know means "pair run". It is basically a relay which can be done with two or more people. The relay comprises of one of the team running whilst the others rest, before they get to go again. Tom is currently training for the English schools national hurdles competition in the summer.



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

# STM hits the slopes!

51 students in Years 8 and 12 travelled to St Johann in Austria to spend the first week of the Easter holidays ski-ing. Mrs Collins, Mr and Mrs Anderson, Mr Towns and Mr Logie accompanied the group, and a fabulous time was had by all!



# Diocesan History Project

Students in Year 9 recently took part in a collaborative History event where they worked alongside 7 other schools at the Palace Library in Durham to investigate the gas attacks on Ypres during World War One. They had to work in teams designing a prototype of a gas mask, which could be used by the soldiers during the war. They also had the opportunity to try on uniforms and even to fire a rifle. A town trail of Durham was organised, where students learnt a 1000 year history of Durham. Finally, students had to look at original source material to prepare a debate over the question "Was the war what everyone expected?"



# A date for your diary:

Our annual school production this year is Annie and will be held the week beginning **Monday 6 July**. If it is anything like previous year's it will be absolutely amazing so please do come along!

Tickets will be on sale after half term.

