



# More News

## St Thomas More Day 2012 – an Olympic Style Occasion

It was a delight for the school community to welcome Bishop Peter to our Mass at St Philip and St James Church. The Church was filled with a strong sense of prayer and celebration. Bishop Peter spoke of the need to keep



connected within our communities and to communicate with each other at a deep level. The Mass was inspirational and was a joyous occasion where each member of the school celebrated being called and blessed by God. The community was enriched by the presence of concelebrating priests as well as Frances Topa and

representatives from St Gregory's School, Mrs Sumpter from St Joseph's School and Dr Alan Lee, Executive Principal. Together we joined in the spirit of the Olympians as a Prayer Baton was passed to the front containing all of the prayers of the school. The flags of the countries were waved as Bishop Peter entered; this was a fitting tribute to his guidance of our Diocese.



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## A message from the Head Teacher

Welcome to this final edition of More News for the academic year 2011-12. It has been another eventful and successful year in the life of the school and this edition is a celebration of many of the events that have provided highlights and energy to our work as a community.

Schools are increasingly regarded as business organisations with targets, performance and organisation taking the place of words such as love, care and nurture. In his recent visit to the school to join our celebration of St Thomas More Day, Bishop Peter reflected during the celebration mass that we need to keep our focus on the connections that exist within our community. Schools that place targets, performance and organisation ahead of love, care and nurture will not sustain performance in the long term and this is something we recognise at St Thomas More. We understand that schools must be places of high ambition in terms of targets, performance and organisation and this is reflected in our drive to be the best that is possible, but we believe that this can only be achieved where there is a culture of love, care and nurture. At the end of June the school was assessed against the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM). The IQM assesses the extent to which the school brings together both culture and ambition through the connections that Bishop Peter highlighted as so important to all communities. I am delighted to inform you that this assessment was successful and we gained the Inclusion Quality Mark.

In this edition of More News you will find many examples that were used to highlight our quality as a community. In sharing these examples we celebrate and give thanks for the work of our students, our staff and our parents who work tirelessly to create the environment in which students are able to be the best they can be. We also thank our governors, PTA and community partners who offer so much as volunteers to our school community.

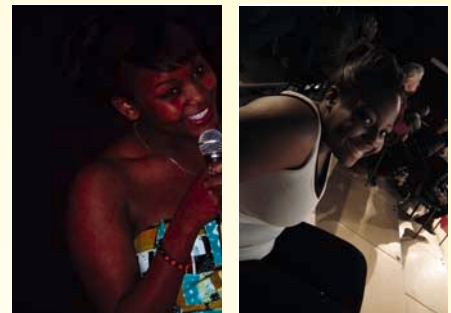
I wish you a peaceful and joyful summer holiday.

Mr J Richardson  
Headteacher

## Year 11 Cultural Evening

Year 11 students were stunning in voice, ability and costume as they entertained visitors and students alike at the Cultural Evening. Representatives of different ethnic minority groups sang native songs and celebrated with flamboyant and beautiful costumes.

Families, friends and staff packed the Performance Hall to appreciate the diverse cultures represented in the school. Polish students sang, Caribbean students modelled carnival dress, African students danced and the Irish contingent sang and played accordion. Well done to Miss Millar!



After the celebrations the year group enjoyed African-Caribbean Heritage food which was a feast of delights such as Jerk Chicken, Plantains and Peas and Rice as well as Italian and Polish contributions. The food was shared by students and prepared by Kathleen Mc Evoy in the School Kitchen as well as lots of offerings from staff and students. Everyone revelled in the delicious tastes.

Thanks go to Mrs Gillies, Miss Jameison and Mrs Briggs for facilitating a wonderful celebration of talent. A massive thank you and well done to the students who led this initiative.....we have amongst us some exceptional leaders!

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# More News...

## SIXTH FORM NEWS

On Wednesday 23rd May Year 13 students and the Sixth Form team gathered in the dining hall to share one last meal together in the form of a breakfast. The kitchen staff prepared a rather yummy full English breakfast for all. All Year 13 students attended and left the breakfast fully prepared for the day ahead which ended with a moving reflection in the Performance Hall led by Mrs Gillinder. The Year book was available to buy and was the result of much hard work by each tutor group. A special word of thanks goes to Shania Hall who designed the front cover.



Then the final day arrived - Thursday the 24th May. Lots of tears were shed, photos were taken and memories were shared which ended with an emotional final assembly. Tutors spoke fondly of their forms and members of each tutor group paid tribute to the help and support they received from their tutors over the last two years. Photos from Year 9 to 13 were displayed prompting much laughter and tears.

Mrs Soraghan and the Sixth Form team are very proud of all Year 13 students and wish them all the best for the future. We all wait in anticipation of the outstanding results that will no doubt come in August. We are also looking forward to the Sixth Form Ball to be held in the Swan Hotel on Wednesday 27th June.

## St Thomas More Upper School Photography Competition

Summer 2012 sees the launch of the St Thomas More Photography Competition 2012. Students (not staff!) are invited to enter this inaugural competition and show off their photography skills. Photographs have to be taken by the students between 1st July and 30th September 2012.



Entries are to be supplied in JPEG format and in a resolution suitable for printing A3 size. No post-production enhancements to be applied (stay away from Photoshop etc!!)

Prizes will be awarded for winners and runners-up in each year group. A selection of the best entries will be displayed in the school. Judges' decision are final.

Closing date is 30th September 2012. Entries eligible from students attending St Thomas More Catholic Teaching School, Bedford only. Maximum of 3 photograph entries per student.

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# More News...

## St Thomas More Media and Film Studies Department Oscars!

The Media and Film department celebrated the hard work that the Year 13 students have completed over the last two years by holding our own end of year Oscar's ceremony. The awards celebrated different aspects of their productions.

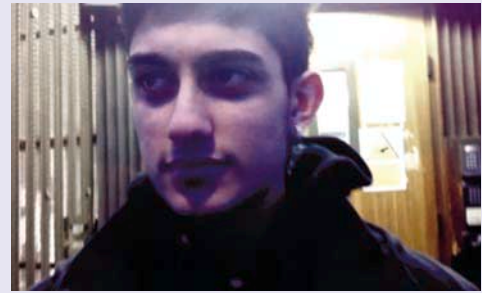
Our winners were:

Best Mise en Scene:	Melissa Hernandez Brown
Best Editing:	Jessica Nuccio and Francesco Pendino
Best Special Effects:	Yolanda Taylor
Best Narrative:	Kirstin Nicole and Roisin Wren
Best Actress:	Klaudia Karpeta
Best Actor:	Kurran Mehroke
Hardest Working Student:	Virginia Chuna

And the most coveted awards went to:

Best Film:	Lucy and Emma Burgess
Best Music Video:	Kurran Mehroke

The Media and Film department would like to congratulate them on all of their hard work in producing such high quality work. Why not visit our YouTube Channel and watch some of the videos yourself at [www.youtube.com/users/stmmediaandfilm](http://www.youtube.com/users/stmmediaandfilm)



## Year 10/11 Media trip to London

In April a group of 30 media students embarked on a trip to London for an educational, informative and fun trip for the upcoming Media exams. The trip included a sneak preview of Disney's John Carter and a workshop at the London Film Academy. The Media students travelled by bus to the heart of London and watched one of the first showings at the IMAX theatre; one of the largest 3-D screens in Britain. Once finished the group got back on the bus and shortly arrived at the London Film Academy offices where a 3 hour workshop was carried out, full of useful information on the film industry that could be applied to the exams that all the students would soon take. After the workshop the group returned home from an enlightening day out in London. The trip was both fun and educational and a very enjoyable experience.

We're having fun  
getting serious about acting

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## St Thomas More Racing Team Update



On Sunday the 17th June 2012 our school racing team went along to Bedford Autodrome for the Schools Grand prix. We raced both our school cars and finished positions 4 and 5. The day started with setting up the garage with all the equipment and food that we would be need during the day. Also we had to get the cars through the careful scrutinising procedure, which Daniel Dunkley and Daniella Simpson did successfully. After all the checks had been made we knew for sure that we were legal to dive. Two Drivers Sam Blanken and Damion Jobling had to go out on to the track and qualify, to see what place we would get on the starting grid - we achieved 2nd and 3rd, a really good result.

The team members who took part in the day were - Connor Rogers, Connor Greenhalgh, Ben Pallister, Tuquar Gay, Sean Patrick Tobin,

Jamie Tookey, James Howlett, Hannah Farr, Giovanna, Sam Blanken, Achilles, Deepak Dosanjh, Daniel Dunkley, Matthew Davies, Damion Jobling, James Conniff, Daniella Simpson, Allister Simmonds, James Marstoson, Josiah Maddock, Connor Adkins and Louise Bates.

At the end of the race the whole team went out onto the track for photos taken by the press. A BBC camera crew were also there for News Round, which means we are going to be on national television in a couple of weeks' time. Our piece will be shown on the television and an extra-long version will be hosted on the website which will be very pleasing news for us all.

This year St Thomas More won the award for best 'Best pit stop' mainly because we had the best pit crew and fastest pit stop time.



Next month on Monday the 16th July we are taking the new car to the regional races at Rockingham, to see if we can qualify for the national finals at Goodwood. Last year's car is going to be taken to the Bedford Autodrome in September, to see if it can qualify for the Goodwood final in October.

We want to say a big thank you to Mr Prudden, because without you, none of this would be possible.

*Written by Daniella Simpson*

**The St Thomas More Racing team continues to perform very well in races but we want to do better. If anyone is interested in sponsoring the team to allow it to further improve the cars, please get in contact with Mr Prudden at the school.**

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## Cranfield Challenge Review

First of all, the Cranfield challenge was a brilliant experience as it gave me an insight of what it really feels like to run a business. As we entered the room where the challenge was located, there were 14 other teams and for the first 25 minutes we had to complete an ice breaker. The ice breaker was a small challenge which got our brains working as it was a very tricky challenge. The 15 teams were split into three sectors to make 5 teams per sector, the 5 teams in each sector then had to go against each other and the team to make the highest profit won the challenge.

I really enjoyed the Cranfield Business challenge because it was very competitive and in order to do well the team needed to bond well and work well as a team; which our team did. Before the challenge, our team decided to share out roles, for instance I took care of all of the mathematical calculations and the finance in the business, another person took care of filling out all of our decision sheets. In our market we came second. I really enjoyed the challenge and it definitely has increased my interest for business overall.



By David Obazuaye

### Year 9 It's A Knockout

On St Thomas More Day, in the afternoon, Year 9 took part in their penultimate Inter-Form of the year - Its A Knockout!



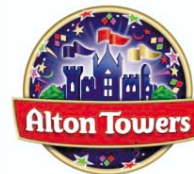
Each tutor group became a country for the day, to celebrate the forth coming London 2012 Olympics and battled against other tutor groups to win the events.

Events included a pillow fight, obstacle course, madness relay, 3 legged race and clockwork tennis.



With some excellent team spirit shown from all the tutor groups and some exciting, tightly fought races, the gold medal went to St Francis Of Assisi (Australia).

Well done to everyone who took part and represented their tutor groups on the day!



### Year 9 Alton Towers Trip

During Activities week, 90 Year 9 students and 10 staff spent the day at Alton Towers. With a choice of big thrill rides such as 'Nemesis', 'Oblivion', 'Air' and the new ride 'Th13teen' or perhaps the less scary rides, there was something for everyone! It was an excellent day out!

## Act, Sing and Dance at Stagecoach

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## THE FEDERATION OF BEDFORD CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

### ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC TEACHING SCHOOL DISTRICT CUP FINAL CHAMPIONS

St Thomas More's Year 10 fabulous football team capped off a fine season with a tremendous Cup Final victory against local rivals Mark Rutherford.

Having been made to wait 2 weeks since beating Sam Whitbread in the semi-final, the boys were full of excitement going into the final in front of a good sized crowd of parents, friends and staff. STM started on the front foot, creating a few good opportunities but despite our bright start it was Mark Rutherford who made the breakthrough with an unmarked man capitalising on a ball spilled by our goalkeeper, and finished to make it 1-0. The familiar STM fighting spirit was required and indeed it was pulled out and we levelled the score successfully before half time.

Our boys were ecstatic when the next great goal was also scored and celebrated with a huge pile-up before retreating back into their own half.

The final fabulous win was secured when Justin dribbled his way around 4 or 5 defenders and finished superbly well to make it 3-1. The boys on the side-line could barely contain their joy. It should be noted that the STM boys carried themselves in excellent fashion, accepting all decisions made by the referee graciously. Captain Dan Mattin walked forward to collect the trophy and celebrate becoming District Cup Champions 2012.

Team: Lodry, Sam, Edem, Daniel, Pasquale, Michael, Kain, Donni, Harlem, Justin, Dom.  
Subs: Marcus, Marco, Aldo, Ciaran  
Joint Men of the Match: Sam & Justin



### ST GREGORY'S CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL

Our thriving community has much to celebrate this term. Achieving the Quality Mark for Inclusion reflects the real strengths of the school which the Assessor identified in his report.



'Developing each pupil's positive self-image and raising their self-esteem is embedded in all that the school does. There is a clear focus on celebrating the achievements of each and every pupil. Leadership is excellent and the Head teacher and her staff are accessible, approachable, encouraging and actively listen to the pupils.

Staff know the pupils very well and throughout the school pupils make good progress including pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities' (March 2012)

Our success continues as Sporting School of the Year with both Year 6 and Year 7 boys' teams being crowned as District Football Champions. 33 pupils also ran with the Kenyan athletes in Bedford Park, completing their own personal marathons.

The remarkable achievements really do show what can be achieved with focus, determination and commitment. The excellence of PE at St Gregory's is just one dimension of the excellence that permeates all aspects of life at the school.



### ST JOHN RIGBY CATHOLIC LOWER SCHOOL

Our children and staff have been very busy recently!

In February we celebrated our second 'Multicultural Festival', with food, music and dance from many cultures. It was a great success, and fun was had by all.

In March, two of our Yr4 school councillors went to St Gregory's for a joint School Council Meeting across the four Federation Schools. They contributed some wonderful ideas about how we, as a close family of schools, could celebrate the 'Year of Faith' beginning in October 2012.

In April the school held its annual 'Healthy Self Day'. It was a day of fun, exercise and education for all. Children took part in activities such as fruit kebab making, yoga, reflection, keeping safe, basket ball and the very popular kick boxing! The day supports the delivery of the national curriculum in ensuring that children have an understanding of how to keep a healthy mind, body, spirit and soul. Children from all year groups moved round the school beautifully which contributed to making it a successful day for all involved. We also have to thank all the adults involved for their hard work in preparing for and running the day.



### ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC LOWER SCHOOL

As a school in a uniquely diverse ethnic community we strive to learn more about each other; allowing all members to grow and develop through the love and support of others. We regularly celebrate our differences and constantly recognise what we share as one family in our federation of schools.

This term we joined our partner lower school, St John Rigby, at a multicultural festival where our choir performed a selection of African songs in native tongues and a pair of talented dancers performed Indian dances (see picture).

We will have an opportunity whilst celebrating Pentecost this term of sharing food from a range of our 56 countries of origin; whilst some of our children and staff share songs and games demonstrating their cultural roots.

Currently we have achieved the Silver Award as part of the International Schools programme and continue to collect evidence to demonstrate we are truly an International School – an award we expect to attain this July.



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# More News...



## Diamond Jubilee Celebrations brought to you by Student Voice Council

A spectacular day was had by all as we celebrated The Diamond Jubilee - St Thomas More came alive. Student Voice Council arranged different activities for Years 9, 10 and 12 throughout the day, including Tommy's Got Talent, Arts & Crafts, Face Painting, Balloon Modelling, The Great British Quiz, The Great British Bake off and the completion of a Time Capsule to mark this special day. To end the day students were entertained by budding Year 10 singer Chloe Entwistle, guest appearances from Tommy's Got Talent, Year 9 Tia Shaw sung with her powerful voice and Dan Dunkley displayed his talents on the drums. Sean Williams wowed everyone with his beat boxing and James Marsterson showed off his skills with a Diablo. Finally students were treated to some songs from our very own school band and special guest band 'The Jebbs!' What a day; the atmosphere was electric!



A reflection from the Student Voice Council was how well the students really worked with each other, for example choosing what to bury in the Time Capsule; taking part in the Great British quiz - which challenged knowledge of the Royal family, and also when playing good old British games like British Bull Dog! Brilliant .... The Council are so proud of what they have achieved and hope that this will encourage other students to get involved.

Of course a fantastic event such as this had lots of help and support; the Council would love to say a big thank you to everyone who helped, our 'Queens' Annalise Charles and Karolina Gajosz for carrying out their Royal duties so well all day; staff in Resources, Katherine, Linda and the canteen staff, Miss Vehvilainen, the Art department, Mr Lovesey, the Drama Department, a really big big thank you to Mrs Smith for organising the school band for us, Mrs Bunting, Year 12 for filming all day and the Librarians for all their help.

Mr Richardson said "What pleased me most about the celebration of the jubilee is that it was the students themselves who drove the day. The students planned it, they delivered it and they made it the success that it was. In particular I would like to praise the work of the Student Voice Council - they are truly fantastic and a credit to the school."



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# More News...

Want to get involved? Student Voice Council is developing fast and we need your help to make this happen. We need more volunteers to get involved to help run future events. We want a logo designing; created by the students to represent the students. We would also like help in creating our own mission statement; we want this to come from YOU! To become a Student Voice Council member all you need to do is demonstrate good leadership skills, come up with good ideas and be passionate about what you believe in! Why not make a difference to your school community? To get involved see one of our Student Voice Representatives or pop your name into the ideas box .....

## Comment avons-nous fêté le Jubilé de Diamant de la Reine à St Thomas More?



C'était une occasion pour faire des choses un peu différentes.



Nous étions les Reines pendant toute la journée !



Et là je commence à apprendre un nouveau talent.



C'était à nous de commencer le spectacle final.



Au concert final on a eu des spectacles différents – même ceux qui chantent à l'horizontal.



On a même essayé d'améliorer nos apparences !

*Les interviews menés par Joel, Ritchie, Elliot, Karen et Lidia. Merci !*



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## *An Inspector Calls Theatre Trip*



Just days before the English Literature exam, students from Year 10 and 11 enjoyed a performance of J.B. Priestley's morality play *An Inspector Calls* at the Derngate Theatre in Northampton. Inspector Goole (pun intended) is the ghostly visitor who acts as a catalyst for the members of the wealthy Birling family to reveal their part in the 'chain of events' that lead to the death of a working-class woman, Eva Smith. Each character either selfishly justifies their part in her death; or accepts responsibility for abusing their influence, or taking advantage of Eva's poverty and desperation. Set in 1912, Priestley invites the audience to judge the characters' capitalist greed, realise the disparity in the class divide and promote social responsibility. Inspector Goole's last speech foreshadows the tragedy of two world wars when he warns the audience, 'if men will not learn that lesson [we are responsible for each other] then they will be taught it in fire and blood and anguish'. Evelyn Doherty, Year 10 commented, 'It made you think about how your own actions can indirectly affect others and the impact it can have on their lives.' Priestley used the play, first performed in 1945, to

promote socialism and a fairer distribution of wealth, which led to the creation of the welfare state.

The most striking feature of the production is the set. Todd Vines, Year 10, noted that, 'the house played with perspective, as it was smaller than it appeared and was tilted.' The Birling family is initially cocooned inside what appears to be a doll's house, lavishly celebrating an engagement: cut off from the audience as they were from the poor. The audience could only passively listen to their self-satisfied laughter and the clinking of champagne glasses. In contrast, the street outside the house represents the dark and bleak landscape of all the Eva Smiths in the world, unprotected by legislation or a social conscience. However, once the Inspector arrives, to 'inspect' the conscience of the inhabitants of the house, the front of the doll's house is opened up to expose the hypocrisy and selfishness within. They are each lured onto the street in turn, to cross that hidden barrier into Eva Smith's world. The set finally collapses, as the family unity and arrogance is destroyed.

*Mrs Waterhouse*



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## Visit to Queen Mary University London

After an early start we met at Bedford Station at 8am and began our journey to Queen Mary University London. The introductory lecture gave a lot of information about the University and the History courses. We then went to our chosen seminar; some were given reading to do in preparation. "It was a really useful taste of University life and learning."



"I found the day really useful as it showed the difference in the style and amount of work expected of you at University in comparison to A levels."

After lunch a lecture was given by the Head of the History school Professor Julian Jackson. He spoke about the nature of French resistance during World War Two. Students then went to the second seminar. "I think the most useful part of the trip was experiencing what seminars and lectures were like as it's clear that both can be good at University, if there is a good lecturer or tutor. Additionally, they become a lot more engaging if background reading and research has been done, so you can contribute to the discussion."



*Felix, Flora, Matthew, Althea, Amelia, Gemma*

*Felix, Flora, Matthew, Althea, Amelia, Gemma*

## Geographers in the field!

On Wednesday 27th June 53 Year 10 Geographers went to Ely as part of their GCSE Controlled Assessment task. The students worked in small groups to collect a range of primary data to use back in class over the coming weeks. The task itself will be worth 25% of their overall grade.

Daniel and Jack were the first to ask questionnaires to the people of Ely, one of whom complimented them and said "they were a credit to the school". Callum and Shaan attempted their first field sketch by the beautiful Marina; learning how to record land use. Then we all departed to complete a systematic transect, counting pieces of litter along the way. Students also carried out surveys to assess the environmental quality, the range of shops and services available to the public and made an assessment as to whether Ely is a clone town. Students ultimately will have to choose which data that they collected will help them to prove if the urban area contains a mix of the 'good, the bad and the ugly'.



The students reflected on the day, commenting how they had enjoyed being allowed to organise and control their own data collection whilst having some time to explore a new city! (No fieldtrip is complete without a bag of chips or an ice cream - especially since we had some reasonably nice weather!)

The students worked really hard, with an excellent attitude that showed commitment towards their studies. Well done to Year 10 Geographers and Mr Lovesey for organising the event.

*Mrs Brazier & Mr Howe*



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# Physical Education

## WIMBLEDON 2012

On Wednesday 4th July 8 GCSE PE students, Miss Clark and Miss Yadav went to Wimbledon to watch this year's Championships. On Men's quarter finals day we had tickets for Court Number 2 so we were guaranteed to see some excellent tennis! A great day was had by all at the Championships.



## Tennis Championships 2012

On Thursday 5th July 40 students from Years 9 and 10 held their annual tennis championships at the Riverside Tennis Club in Bedford.



The day was very successful and some excellent tennis was played. Thanks again to Riverside Tennis Club for the use of their wonderful facilities.

## Bedfordshire County Athletics Championships 2012

Following the success of the school team in the District Athletics events St Thomas More had 10 pupils this year representing the County in their events at the County Championships held at Bedford Athletics Stadium on Wednesday 13th June.



We had some excellent success from the pupils and several school records were beaten! Congratulations go to the whole team and in particular to Frankie Musonda (1500m) and Lynne Njoroge (Discus) who both won their events and are now County Champions!

## DISTRICT ATHLETICS 2012



On Wednesday 23rd May 30 pupils from Years 9 and 10 represented St Thomas More at this year's District Athletics Championships hosted at the Bedford International Athletics Stadium. With 20 Upper Schools from Bedfordshire participating, it was a fantastic day where many of our young athletes shone in their respective events.

Well done to all pupils who represented the school. Below are some of the best results that we achieved:

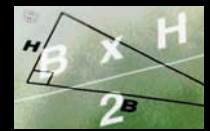
Yr 10 Boys 200m:	1st Place Luigi Reyes
Yr 10 Boys Triple Jump:	1st Place Justin Nwogu
Yr 10 Boys Shot-Put:	3rd Place Connor Rogers
Yr 10 Boys Relay:	3rd Place Overall
Yr 9 Boys 800m:	1st Place Slaine Caulfield
Yr 9 Boys 1500m:	1st Place Frankie Musonda
Yr 9 Boys 400m:	2nd Place Connor Archer
Yr 9 Boys Long Jump:	2nd Place Slaine Caulfield
Yr 9 Boys Relay Team:	2nd Place Overall
Yr 9 Boys 100m:	3rd Place Remel Ramsarran
Yr 9 Boys 200m:	3rd Place Daryl Geanga
Yr 9 Boys Discus:	3rd Place Jacob Ives
Yr 9 Boys Team:	2nd Place Overall
Yr 10 Girls Discus:	2nd Place Lynee Njoroge
Yr 10 Girls Javelin:	3rd Place Shanice Myrie
Yr 9 Girls 100m:	1st Place Tia Shaw
Yr 9 Girls Long Jump:	2nd Place Tia Shaw
Yr 9 Girls Relay:	3rd Place Overall
Yr 9 Girls Team:	4th Place Overall



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## AS Mathematics Core 2 Revision Day



In April, 29 Year 12 students took part in this year's AS core revision day at the University of Hertfordshire as part of the STM Mathematics Department and Further Mathematics Support Programme partnership. Our students joined other students from neighbouring schools for a whole day's intensive revision session covering the entire Core 2 module.

## Individual Needs

### College Success

The 14+Awards Evening for our students that attend Bedford College were held at the Corn Exchange Bedford on the 10th May 2012. All students had to go up on stage in front of a packed audience to collect their certificates of achievements.

In each class there was also a special award given for an exceptional student; they received a trophy and voucher. The following students from St Thomas More School I am delighted to say received these special awards:

Level 1	Hair and Beauty	Chelsea Clayton
Level 2	Hair and Beauty	Susan Hall
Level 1	Motor Vehicle	Adam Collier
Level 2	Childcare	Leanna Minshall



This means that one third of our students attending Bedford College in the last two years have been identified as outstanding students; this represents a phenomenal achievement. As the TA who looked after this group for the last two years it has been a pleasure to watch these students progress and achieve these outstanding results.

*Mrs Mc Closkey*

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# Individual Needs

## ASDAN Fund Raising Events

Earlier this year our Year 11 ASDAN groups carried out two fund raising events, the college group opted to support a school and orphanage in Tanzania; the construction group chose to support CAFOD;

Having researched different charities to raise money for and the different types of activities that they could conduct, the students met in their groups to discuss, plan and prepare their events. The students were able to demonstrate their listening and discussion skills in a very mature manner.

After releasing clouds of flour, clearing up sugar and splattered eggs the college group had baked their fingers to the bone. During break and lunch the students sold their products raising a massive £150. The construction group were very keen on having a mufti day and cake sale which raised £500 exactly.

Both groups enjoyed their activities immensely; whilst developing their personal skills such as communication, working with others and numeracy in the process. Both events were successful, not just in raising a great deal of money for some good causes, but in allowing all the ASDAN students to gain their Certificates of Personal Effectiveness.

Each pupil played an important part, bringing their own unique qualities to the collaborative effort. Luke proved himself to be an amazingly hard worker - the man for any difficult job! Alfie showed great leadership and organisation in the construction of the tree benches. Derrick and Ben were full of contagious energy and enthusiasm, whilst Connor was always willing to help everyone and contribute to any job. Sam was a quiet worker

but one that completed every task to a very high standard and then looked for the next thing he could do to help. Josh was keen to continue working even after breaking a finger! Our design maestros were Remel and Fintan for the tiled cross in the Prayer Garden, and Lorenzo for his decoration of the mosaic.

## Groundworks Project

A group of Year 9 students got the opportunity to do something a bit different after Easter when they were given the challenge of improving some of the garden areas around the school.



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Working with the Groundworks team, who brought invaluable experience and know-how, our ten students transformed the bare and boring patches near the Prayer Room and Canteen into places that really brighten up the school environment.

Benches, flowerbeds and railings were made and turf was laid for the beautiful new Prayer Garden, which now provides a place for quiet and peaceful contemplation and reflection. The flowers were chosen, arranged and planted to add a splash of colour; visitors to the school are now greeted and welcomed with an intricate stone mosaic spelling out our school's name. All of this was achieved in only 4 days; this reflects their dedication, enthusiasm, teamwork and hard work.

The praise received from everyone who saw them working and the final results show that this project is something for both this group and the entire school to be very proud of. On Friday 18th May the Prayer Garden was blessed by Fr Malcolm Bull and then officially opened by Mr Richardson. Every member of the group spoke about what they had contributed and Graeme Endersby from Groundworks praised each one for their contribution.



# Individual Needs

## Kingswood - A Great Getaway

On 23rd March, 4 members of the Emmaus Team took 16 students from Year 9 and Year 10 on a residential trip to Kingwood Activities Centre, in Norfolk. The trip allowed students to step out of their comfort zone, and test themselves with new challenges and experiences.



The students participated in Archery, Problem Solving, Team Building, Fencing, the dreaded Leap of Faith and many more activities. It was a joy to see everyone get involved in these different opportunities and let students discover new skills and talents that they may never have otherwise discovered.

A lot of fun was had by all, but more than this the trip allowed all those involved to make new friends, grow in confidence and also left them with a confidence that is clearly visible now they are back at school. Plans are already underway for next year's trip!!

The students reflected that the trip allowed them to have the courage to try new things and meet people that they would not have had the opportunity to meet at school. They recognised that even when things seem very difficult, there are always people around who will offer support and encouragement.

As staff we realised that the few days away could very well be life changing for a number of students, we had seen everyone grow in confidence and friendships blossom. The trip was followed by a fantastic presentation evening where Mr Richardson presented the group with their ASDAN AKRAA awards in front of their family and friends.

## Sailing

The Year 9 sailors of 2012 have put in a fine performance. They have battled against light winds for several sessions which made learning how to sail really difficult. However, they all rose to the challenge. As a group they managed to stay in their boats more than any other group so far; except when demonstrating their skills at capsizing, with a few managing to learn to do a dry capsize.



They offered each other help, support and encouragement and were a pleasure to be with on the water. Most of the group completed the course and achieved an RYA adult level one qualification.



## Year 11 Study Skills Workshop

The Study Skills Workshops took place in March over two days for our Year 11's. The aims of the workshops were to enhance revision techniques and exam preparation for their forthcoming examinations. The days were a resounding success and the students felt the techniques that they had learnt were useful and practical. The students are to be commended on their approach and hard work over the two days. Well Done!

*Miss Hughes  
Learning Mentor*



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