



# More News

## Awards Evening 2012

**A very big thank you to everyone who joined us for the evening to celebrate the successes of the students at St Thomas More Catholic Teaching School.**

It was a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the work of our extremely talented and gifted students and to recognise the great achievements of our Award Winners.

We were extremely pleased to welcome to present the awards, Commonwealth double Silver Medalist, member of the victorious 2012 Gymnastics team that won Gold in the European Championships in Montpelier and the 2012 Olympic double Bronze Medalist - Max Whitlock.

*Congratulations and well done to you all.*



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## Head Teacher's Message



As you read this we will be well in to the period of Advent, our time of waiting. In this Year of Faith, it brings an opportunity to review how we are living the gospel, how we are making a difference to the world, to the Church and to others. At St Thomas More Teaching School the students have definitely proved their commitment to helping others. The reception area, as I write this piece, is bulging with shoe boxes waiting to be dispatched; Children in Need was sent a cheque recently after a Mufti day to raise money; the Sixth Form have had their annual Fun Run to raise money for St Vincent de Paul charities, and are now collecting hampers to donate to needy families, and one Year 10 girl is raising money by shaving her head to raise money for Cancer Research. The list is endless. The selflessness of the students is refreshing to see, particularly in what is a time of hardship for many.

Academically, whilst we were hit by the English fiasco of the summer, our results still rose in all Key Stages when long awaited exam results arrived. Many happy students were seen on GCSE and A Level Day clutching a whole raft of positive exam results. Standards were commended in a letter from the new Chief Education Officer as a staggering 89% 5+A\*-C was achieved. We are indeed very proud of the Exam year groups – their commitment and diligence was justly rewarded. No pressure of course on the next year groups rolling through!

In our Teaching School capacity, we have been supporting many schools across the Borough and Diocese. Here the excellent practices of St Thomas More staff have been used to take lesson observations in these schools and then give guidance on how to improve, Heads of Department have steered other Heads of Department in how to raise standards, and several training courses have been led by our staff (Middle Leaders Development Programme, Outstanding Facilitators Course, The Improving Teachers and Outstanding Teachers course, Governor training, SMSC courses to name a few.) Again, the hard work and sheer hours inputted by staff in these areas is astonishingly large. Well done to all.

Student Voice within the school is as strong as ever – having compiled their own Improvement Plan which they very articulately presented to governors, they certainly haven't been 'waiting around'. They have rolled out assemblies for a new Year 9 cohort to advertise themselves and set up elections for the new entrants to the school, they have presented new plans to the leadership team, have taken assemblies on Anti –Bullying and been pro-active in PSHE sessions too.

In all this hustle and bustle we never forget to take a minute or two for quiet reflection. This week's assemblies have revolved around 'light' and the sense of hope and encouragement that light symbolises to us in whichever faith we follow. As we light each of the candles of our advent wreathes let us remember the joy we find in Belief, the hope that is instilled in us through that Belief, and find a sense of peace and community within this advent time.



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# More News...

St Thomas More Catholic Teaching School...

## ... PTA needs you!



Can you volunteer some time and energy to the School's PTA?

We are currently seeking new members to join the PTA to help organise events to raise funds for a variety of extracurricular activities run through the school. For example we have recently funded places at the Kingswood activity centre in Norfolk; to ensure a variety of students can participate in outdoor activities. We are planning to host a summer ball next year and are keen to hear from people who have dedication and can commit some time to help out, to make it a success so that we can go on funding and supporting our students at school.

If you are interested, please contact Mrs S Combe or Mrs P Brazier via the school office or email [SCombe@stm.beds.sch.uk](mailto:SCombe@stm.beds.sch.uk) / [PBrazier@stm.beds.sch.uk](mailto:PBrazier@stm.beds.sch.uk) for more information...

We really look forward to hearing from you!

**Our next meeting is Thursday 17th January at 7.30pm at the Pheasant pub.**

## Town Hall visit

In November, Shruti and I took part in the Children's Commissioners' Corporate Takeover day at Bedford Borough County Hall. Takeover Day gives children and young people the chance to work with adults for the day and be involved in decision making. Here, children can experience the world of work and make their voices heard.



First of all we attended the Chief Executive and Directors' management meeting which we observed for 2 hours. After the meeting we had to feed back to the rest of the group on how they communicated with each other. We noticed how organised and well prepared they were. They were all engaged in an active discussion and made eye contact and hand gestures when speaking.

Next we separated into two groups. One group interviewed the Economic Development Manager, whilst the group that Shruti and I were in interviewed the Head of Service for Business Support on young people's health groups. We asked her many questions such as 'how much do you spend a year in total on services for young people's health?' She told us that Bedford spend £1.7 million on health services per year.

To finish off the day, we walked over to the Town Hall where we visited the Mayor's Parlour. In the parlour, the Mayor's Sergeant of Arms, Barry, gave us a tour of the parlour and told us some of the history of Bedford. He showed us a mace made of gold and silver worth £250,000 which we held! Shruti and I both enjoyed Takeover Day and learnt so much... we would love to take part in it again!

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## Paris 2012



Last July a group of Year 10 GCSE French students went to Paris on a four-day visit. We met at Luton airport at 4am on the Monday morning and flew over to Charles-De-Gaulle airport. We had enough time to land, travel to the hostel and drop off our cases and then we were off. The students had been told there was a lot of walking to do and this was definitely the case. We spent four days of criss-crossing Paris, trying to cram in as many sights as possible in such a short stay.

Each year we change the trip so that students are never sure what to expect beyond the main attractions. Hopefully we'll get access to the 'Catacombes' when we go next July! This will be the fourteenth year of this trip running and we still intend doing as much as possible to expose students to the sights and culture of Paris in just four action-packed days.

### Here are some samples of the feedback from the students:

*"I felt that I learnt some more French and had a good experience"* – Daniel

*"We were educated in French culture and we got to put our French into practice...it was a great experience"* – Amy

*"The thing I enjoyed most was the Eiffel Tower – beautiful view"* – Holly

*"I enjoyed splitting into groups and being able to explore places"* – Sandra

*"I had an opportunity to see how other people live and that was a great feeling"* – Marcin

*"I got to learn a lot about French culture and see places that I hadn't been to before"* – Helen

*"I did a lot of things that I wouldn't have done if I'd gone without the school"* – Connor

*"I enjoyed all of it but going to the Arc de Triomphe at night was really beautiful"* – Anisah

*"It was good to be more independent than on previous trips"* – Amy

### And some suggestions for future visits:

- Make the trip longer
- Walk less
- Eat more snails and frogs' legs



## YEAR 10 CHARITY UPDATE

The Year 10s decided that they would continue to support the Samaritans and Operation Christmas Child again this year. Operation Christmas Child is the UK's largest children's Christmas appeal and has been running for over 20 years. Thanks to a huge army of volunteers who give their time to help make this Christmas 'miracle' come to life, they are able to deliver gift-filled shoeboxes to children in Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Each tutor group had to find empty shoeboxes into which they would put gifts for either boys or girls. The gifts brought in by pupils included teddy bears, pens, bubble bath, books and much more.



The shoe boxes were collected and taken to the Operation Christmas Child Headquarters. The boxes will then be sent abroad to children who are less fortunate so they can unwrap a present at Christmas.

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# More News...

## Bedford Uni Inspires Year 12

On the 28th of September, the Year 12 Health & Social class had the privilege of visiting the University of Bedfordshire for an inspirational talk on careers in the future. The day consisted of discussions, workshops and a drama performance from two members of the University. The event was constructed to help, guide and motivate us to make decisions for our future careers. We were informed of the many different careers included within Health & Social Care from workshops with mental health professionals to feet specialists, called podiatrists. We found out that there are over 250 careers in Health & Social care and the NHS employ a staggering 1.3 million people! The NHS is constantly employing new workers and is looking to the future as new jobs are created.

Therefore, it is important to open up our minds and realise that there are many different career paths to suit each individual.



The workshops we attended included in-depth definitions of different jobs within the NHS and examples

of how to use equipment – even allowing us to have a go and try for ourselves! We also had the opportunity to use a specialised piece of equipment used to measure pulse rates by the podiatrist. It was during this session, we learned several members of our class, including the teacher, who took one for the team by volunteering to take her shoes off, are healthy! At the end of our time at The University of Bedfordshire, the lecturers summarised the workshops for us.

Overall, the day was very interesting and informative and opened us all up to the many different careers on offer both now and in the future.



Natalie Braham Y12

## St Thomas More School at the Diocesan Mass

A selection of students from all year groups, along with Miss Clark (Head of Year 10) and Mrs Wilshaw (Head Teacher) visited St Mary's Catholic Church in Dunstable, in October, to join in the annual Schools' Mass. Bishop Peter was present and led the gospel, but the lovely thing about the rest of the service was that it was student led all the way through, with lots of students from Year 1 through to Year 13 taking part in the readings; drama presentations or singing solos.

The atmosphere was calm and prayerful. The singing from one young student who joined all the parts of the service together was heavenly and all students truly cherished the opportunity to take part in this Mass.



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# More News...

## STUDENT VOICE

Welcome back St. Thomas More students. The Student Voice has got a vast amount of exciting upcoming events for not only our newly elected candidates but for YOU, the students too!

Recently in your assemblies, you've experienced a select few members of your year stand up in front of you all and present to you why they felt they deserved a place in Student Voice Council. The aim is to represent each and everyone's voice within the school ensuring each voice is recognised and heard. We have counted up the votes and are proud to congratulate 11 new members onto the council...

### Year 9

Chris Howes      Charles Mbanje  
Inderpal Rahi      Phelin Morgan      Sam Hollands

### Year 10

Jake Sampson      Claudia Sharp      Gwendoline Muzuke

### Year 11

Alfie Santaniello - *Chair of the Student Voice*  
Chanel Quigley      Lynne Njoroge      Jack Elsley  
Edem Kelman      Daniel Hubbard

### Year 12

Julie Gikami

### Year 13

Faridullah Dorani

At the suggestion of our new members, we have decided to come together and celebrate the 'Year of Faith' in a similar way to how the Queen's Jubilee Day was successfully celebrated last year; which was also organised by Student Voice Council. As you may know, Pope Benedict XVI has called the whole Church to joyfully proclaim a Year of Faith from October 11, 2012 to November 23, 2013. It is the hope and prayer of our Holy Father that this special time will help all Catholics rediscover and renew their faith, to quite literally draw us back to, or into, a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. As a multi-faith school, representing our saint 'Thomas More,' we have decided to be a part of this celebration within the Catholic Church and would like to know what your ideas are on how we can pursue a similar big event for our students!



Additionally, as you are aware, Anti-Bullying week took place between the 19th – 23rd of November. Anti-Bullying week is something we as a school respect for many reasons. If you are being bullied or know anyone who is being bullied, bullying is not your fault. It is always wrong and you do not have to put up with it! The best way to stop bullying is to let someone know what is happening as soon as possible. Subsequently talk things through with a friend, your family, your teacher, or student voice! We are also students and as such we are here to represent, support and work with you as equals. Throughout the year a selected few from the council will be chosen to attend 'Call to Action', a specialised workshop on bullying/ buddy care. The workshop content covers each type of bullying from Cyber bullying, Indirect bullying, Verbal bullying and Physical bullying. Just because you cannot see the bullying happening, doesn't mean it isn't around you. The goal Student Voice have carefully selected is to ensure that our school has a clear set of principles for tackling bullying that are agreed by all members of the school community. A design for our school pledge, in poster form, will be displayed in the school and added to our school information (VLE / Web / Newsletter / Anti-Bullying Policy, School Improvement Plan etc.) to alert every pupil that bullying isn't taken or looked at lightly and isn't acceptable in any shape or form within our school! We're better without bullying.

Our suggestion box is still up and active in the canteen, so if you've got an opinion on anything mentioned or anything you're aware of around the school and don't know who to tell, TELL THE BOX. We are your voice, let it be heard!

*Chanel Quigley Year 11 - Student Voice Council*

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### ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC TEACHING SCHOOL HITS THE AIR WAVES



This year, St Thomas More Teaching School has broken into the media world with the opening of their brand new radio station, run and led by the students, spanning across all departments within the school. The station is a brand new, exciting and thrilling experience for the students, enabling them to record and broadcast to the entire school. Students from Years 9-13 are able to use the radio station in order to advertise their activities, voice their feelings on any current issues happening within the school, talk about their subjects and, also, give advice to younger students.

The radio station intends on giving the able, gifted and talented students from St Thomas More the opportunity to express their feelings and also help them develop their independent working skills. Furthermore, the students running the radio station are learning how to collaborate on projects and work alongside other people, a skill which they will carry through into the workplace.

St Thomas More School's "Student Voice" and the editorial team of the radio station will work together in order to advertise Student Voice more efficiently and frequently around the school. The radio station is a new idea being rolled out by Head of Media, Miss Yadav, which will allow all students within the school the opportunity to experience how to use and operate a radio station and give everybody an insight into how the media works.



### ST JOHN RIGBY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



It has been a really exciting time for everyone at St John Rigby recently, as we have taken our first step from Lower to Primary School!

Our fantastic new building, which houses six classrooms and a new sports hall, was completed in September 2012, and we now have our first cohort of Y5 children. September 2013 will see our first cohort of Y6 children, and in September 2014 the children will move into Y7 at St Thomas More.

It is a fantastic time – we welcome our new children and staff, and look forward to the future in our new role!

A very big 'thank you' goes to the Catholic Diocese of Northampton for funding the project, to our governors, staff, parents and children for their support, and to our neighbours for their support and patience during the 'build'.



### CELEBRATIONS AT ST GREGORY'S CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL!



Staff and pupils at St Gregory's are celebrating the best Key Stage 2 results in the school's history, making us one of the top performers in Bedford Borough. Pictured are the pupils who achieved the highest results in the school including the prestigious Level 6 for Maths. Assistant Head teacher Mrs Langley complimented all pupils on their tremendous successes which were the result of hard work and a great determination to achieve the best possible outcomes.

It has been a remarkable start to the academic year as St Gregory's has achieved a further three major awards. We have been accredited with the International School Award, the Silver Eco Award and the Silver Sports Kite Mark. It is further external accreditation for our vibrant learning community and a reflection of the wonderful opportunities on offer.

We were delighted to welcome former pupil and 2012 Paralympian Jessica Frezza who was a member of the Women's Sitting Volleyball team. Jessica spoke in Assembly about her Olympic experiences and then led pupils in a Sitting Volleyball lesson. Jessica paid a warm tribute to both Mr. Millie and Mrs. Clarke (pictured) for the encouragement and inspiration that they had given during her time at St Gregory's.



### ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC LOWER SCHOOL



ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC LOWER SCHOOL welcomes children from Nursery up to Year 4. The school is situated in a quiet part of Queens Park with spacious, well cared-for buildings and extensive outdoor learning space. Our teaching focuses on the important skills of reading, writing and mathematics.

Supporting these subjects we offer a rich curriculum. This includes swimming in the Summer and Autumn Term, many educational visits and excellent Religious Education. Our distinctive curriculum helps to give our children a strong moral understanding as well as tolerance and compassion for others.

Children join the Early Years Foundation Stage... grow in confidence, engage enthusiastically in learning and communicate well with each other and with adults because of the good teaching and well-planned activities.

Ofsted 2012 (Sec 5)

Early Years and School Open Afternoon

We would like to invite parents with children who will be 4 years old before September 2013 or children who will soon be 3 years old to come to our Early Years Open Afternoon on Thursday November 15th between 1:30 and 3:00 pm. Please telephone the school (01234 352062) to arrange to book a slot at 1:30, 2:00 or 2:30pm. A short presentation and tour of the school setting will take place with an opportunity to ask any questions prior to applying for your child's place.



## HARRY POTTER STUDIO TOUR

When people had previously told me that the Harry Potter studio tour was the greatest place on earth, I was a little sceptical but after my visit, I have honestly never been to a place quite like it!



If, like me, you are a massive Harry Potter fan, it is a place you must definitely visit. To start, we were given our Harry Potter passports which double as a souvenir booklet that you can get stamped from one of the many located stamp machines around the studio. Not only that but you are also given a challenge to find as many Golden Snitches as possible throughout the tour.

After being greeted by two opening videos about Harry Potter and the movies, your excitement can only increase. As soon as the screen lifted and the doors to the Great Hall were shown, I'm sure everybody was waiting with anticipation to enter the room that followed. As soon as you enter, you are exposed to pretty much the most important room in the whole film - the Great Hall. Filled with the actual tiling from the movies and all

the props such as chalices, plates and even cutlery, you most definitely felt like a 'first year' walking into the Great Hall for the first time and waiting for the moment the 'Sorting Hat' would place you into your 'House'. It was Brilliant! Even the back of the room contained the outfits and costumes actually worn by all of the characters in the film. From Dumbledore to Harry, Draco to Flitwick, you had a real feel of the real deal.

Once you then left the Great Hall, the gigantic film stage was revealed. Every element of every Harry Potter movie was brought to real life and for people like me, it was completely mesmerising. The Gryffindor common room, Dumbledore's office, the Ministry of Magic and Umbridge's office were only a few of my favourite sets shown. We also viewed cases displaying all of the horcruxes, the ever so famous wands and the notorious props we are all too familiar with such as the Philosophers Stone and the Tri Wizard Cup. Not only that but you are even shown how Quidditch was made possible and got to test it out yourself! Now, if you've ever wanted to know what it's like to fly on a broomstick, I guess the Harry Potter studio tour is where you want to be. With its very own Quidditch experience you are able to feel first-hand what it was like for the actors during the Quidditch scenes and you even get to take a picture home of your journey. Fantastic!

Once the studio tour is finished, you are then brought to an outside lot where you are confronted with the big Purple Knight bus and get to visit number 4 Privet Drive. Don't go knocking for Harry though, he's not in!!

As we began to reach the end of the tour, I couldn't help but feel sad. With one stop left I knew it would be the best place yet... and I wasn't mistaken. Setting my eyes on the gigantic real sized model of Hogwarts School not only made me unbelievably overwhelmed but honestly the most shocked I'd been in a while. Setting eyes on the real life Hogwarts used in all established shots of pretty much every Harry Potter movie was enchanting and one of the greatest things I had seen in all my life. There is no way I could believe someone wasn't astonished by the looks of it.



### YEAR 10 END OF TERM TRIP

On Wednesday 19th December, a coach full of Year 10 pupils travelled to the theatre in Milton Keynes to watch the pantomime Cinderella for their end of term trip. With a great cast headed by Louis Spence from 'Dancing on Ice' it was a great evening and enjoyed by all!

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# More News...

## STM Racing Update – Bedford Regional Greenpower Race



Only four days after the summer holidays had finished, the school racing team was competing again! On Sunday the 9th of September 2012, eight members of the school racing team, together with

Mr Prudden, took STM 002 to Bedford Autodrome for the Eastern Regional heats. We arrived at school for 7:15am for the start of a very long day! Firstly, team member Daniella went through 'Scrutineering' – a process which ensures the car is legal to drive and we passed. Then all drivers had to complete two practice laps so they could get a feel for the track while lots of other cars were out there with them. The team members who attended the event were Daniella S, Damion, Matthew D, Connor R, Connor G, Ben, James M and James C. The race went really well and ran smoothly but a shortage of 'pit crew' members meant that drivers had to pitch in and help out. Working really well as a team they completed all the tasks up to the team's normal high standards, if not better!

There were 32 cars competing in the race and we finished in 14th place, which was a great achievement by everyone involved.

Overall this season, STM 002 finished 84/188 and STM 003 finished 76/188.

For the STM Car Team, September is also the time where we have to say goodbye to some of our team members and welcome new ones. Interviews went really well and we now have some lovely new team members to take over from those who have left us.

Overall, we have had a brilliant racing season and hope we have many more to come.

*By Daniella Simpson, Yr. 11*

## More Racing Impresses on Open Evening

During our October open evening, the STM racing team put on a very impressive display with both cars on show. For STM002, this would be its last public appearance before undergoing a face lift during the winter months. The team, in a bid to raise funds for the 2013 season, had on offer a range of signed postcards & art work produced by Connor Adkins & Matthew Davies and in total raised £25 during the evening.



### STM002 Face Lift

During the winter months, STM002 will undergo a well-earned face lift. Given that this car has completed almost 500 miles, it is not surprising it's starting to show its age a little! The team came up with a number of improvements that they wanted to make to STM002 over the coming months but first, the car needs to be completely stripped back to see what repair work, if any, will be required before any improvements are made.

### Get Well Mr Reed

Since the last More News update the team have learnt that Mr Reed, who has been the racing team's chief engineer from the very beginning, is not very well. The team has greatly missed his assistance and wish him all the best and hope he gets well soon.

### Fundraising

To enable the team to take part in the 2013 racing season, it has already begun to raise funds. Our team currently has a range of signed post cards on offer and for the Christmas season, the team intends to produce a range of Christmas Cards as well as some exclusive key rings. Please remember that every penny raised will go towards helping the team take part in the 2013 race season so please look out for our racing goodies! Lastly, if anyone would like to, or knows someone who would be interested in sponsoring the team, please get in contact with Mr Prudden.



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# More News...

## UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD – OPEN DAY

A group of ten Year 11 students were recently invited to an Open Day at Oxford University. The aim was to give them a glimpse of University life and of the requirements for those wanting to enter highly competitive Universities such as Oxford. The students had tours of various colleges and met with current undergraduates who spoke about life at Oxford. They also enjoyed sample lectures delivered by lecturers. The students, from their comments below, clearly felt the day to be of use. We are now hoping to invite more students on similar days to other Universities.



*"I enjoyed the lectures and talking to undergraduates reassured us that we don't have to be perfect to get in. The day made me think more seriously about my future and what I want to do" – Ewa*

*"It has really made me realise the importance of decisions I am going to make in the coming years. I now know to really consider what options I take after GCSEs" – Hannah*

*"The trip was useful for finding out what University life was like and what A levels are useful for specific courses" – Lucy*

*"Finding out what subjects are required for certain courses was very useful" – Manal*

*"This is a useful trip. It gives you an insight as to what is taught and shows you that most of the myths about Oxford are false" – Ben*

*"The taster lectures that we had were really interesting and I learnt a lot by talking to the undergraduates there" – Sam*

*"For me the trip was perfect. It wasn't what I expected but it was what I needed. It has invigorated me to attain the best grades possible" – Edem*



## SIXTH FORM TRIP TO WADHAM UNIVERSITY, OXFORD

On Tuesday 25th September Mrs Soraghan and Miss Chico took sixteen Year 12 and 13 students to Wadham University in Oxford. The building was beautiful and we had our first lecture on Conformity which included a walk around the beautifully maintained quad. We then had the choice of a Chemistry workshop or History workshop which involved visiting the Natural History Museum. In the afternoon we met some current Oxford students who really encouraged us to apply and gave us an insight into the varied and exciting lives of a university student. We attended a further workshop which gave us ideas on how to write a personal statement for our university applications next year. The day was a great success and really inspired many of us to make an application to Oxbridge next year.



Comment from Elliot Howard Spink, Year 13 student who has applied to study at Oxford -

*"I spent my morning at the University in a Chemistry workshop, working alongside PHD students. They showed us how to use a variety of sophisticated lab equipment, such as IR Spectroscopes and conducted an assortment of experiments with us, including chromatography practicals and anion flame tests. During the afternoon, we undertook a workshop on evolution in the University's own Natural History Museum, where Darwin's theory was explained to us using live cockroaches; a demonstration which was thought-provokingly bizarre!"*



## ACTIVITY HALL & THEATRE SPACE

Large well equipped hall and new theatre are now available for community hire.

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## Willy Russell's 'Blood Brothers'



On Tuesday 23rd October, 44 KS3 students travelled to the Phoenix Theatre in London to watch a performance of the longest running musical, Willy Russell's 'Blood Brothers.' Deemed "the greatest play of the decade; rich, detailed and a desperately moving piece of work", students were able to experience Russell's tale of two brothers separated at birth. The play, which

considers the themes of class, fate and destiny, childhood and superstition, is one of the most popular British musicals of all time. Seeing the play acted out enabled students to consolidate their learning and to evaluate the effectiveness of Russell's moral message. Students have thoroughly enjoyed studying the

play and relished the opportunity to see it in the theatre. The trip proved to be a great success with students expressing their excitement both before and after seeing the live performance. One student said after the show: "It was amazing, I even cried at the end!" Students were excellently behaved and represented the school in a very positive way; with both staff and members of the public commenting on the students' maturity and consideration of others.



### Celebrating GCSE success in English

A high number of GCSE students had reason to celebrate in the summer after receiving some boastful results in both English Literature and English Language. High achievers are defined as 'those who achieve a goal.' But surely there's more to it than that? Often people can forget the personal hard-work, dedication and self-motivation that is required of a student before that goal can be achieved. Therefore, the English department would like to offer their congratulations to those students who, not only achieved excellent grades in their GCSE English Literature and Language; but also worked meticulously throughout the two years to ensure they achieved them. Special mention goes to: Prue Baker A/A, Grace Coulton A/A, Jessica Di Monaco A/A\*, Lauren Doherty A/A, Annissa Dryden B/A\*, Rebecca Nebster A/A\*, Isobel Duxfield A\*/A\*, Antonio Luliano B/A\*, Tyrisha Lendor- Black, A/A, Ruth Lindley A\*/A, Luke Mason A/A, Lara Mongiardi A/A, Christina Pompa A\*/A\* and Ellie Richardson A/A.

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## Rising Stars!

Two fantastic A\* grades at A level this year for two hard working stars. Siobhan Coulter got A\* in History and is now studying medicine at Newcastle University, and Sara Viglione is now studying History at New Hall College, Cambridge. There were also some fantastic results at GCSE, particularly in the American West unit where 25 students of a cohort of 36 achieved an A/A\*.



## Chocks away!

History Club has returned this year with the theme of the Battle of Britain, organised and run by Phoebe Marley. Students have been making Airfix model Spitfires, getting to grips with camouflage colours and aerodynamic designs.

History Club runs on a Tuesday at 1:35 in Room 14. All welcome.

"Circulation" by Thomas Wright, past student of St Thomas More RC School wins the 2012 Wellcome Trust Book Prize. Circulation is set in late Renaissance London and explores Harvey's quest to understand the movement of blood. Was he inspired by the Medicine and Treatment unit of his GCSE history? Answers on a postcard please!



## Year 12 Geography trip to Wales

A wet, wild and windy weekend; that's what we were promised for our trip and as always, Wales didn't disappoint! As the weary Year 12 Geographers got off of the minibus at Blue Peris, rain lashed down providing a taster of what was in store over the next few days. Sure enough, the gale force winds and thrashing rain continued, but armed with callipers, measuring sticks and spurred on by Mr Juma's cries of "me like to party" we set off to measure the river. Now, you may think you have suffered rain storms but, let me assure you, until experiencing Wales in November you remain blissfully ignorant of horrendous weather conditions!

After what seemed like an eternity of calculating velocity, depth and gradient, the group was thoroughly soaked, few just escaping the torrents of water with their lives. We were ready to return for a shower, but not before getting utterly lost... let's hope that map reading skills doesn't come up in the exam!

The next day Mrs Brazier had a treat in store, we were off to measure coastal erosion. We arrived at the beach, raring for action and after poking around at a dead seal, the group began a morning of study. With all the data we needed it was back to Blue Peris for a well-earned rest. Then in the evening, a few went on an evening walk; looking down at the lake lit up by lights was a breath-taking view.

On Wednesday it was time to return home, but not before visiting Llanberis where what started as an urban study, ending with a raid on the local Spa! The HEP museum provided an interesting insight into the nearby hydrological plant creating renewable energy.

After an exhausting journey we were finally home; and what great timing it was, just 24 hours later Llanberis was flooded in water! Despite the weather conditions a great time was had by all; a big thank you to Mrs Brazier and Mr Juma.

*By Isobel Duxfield*



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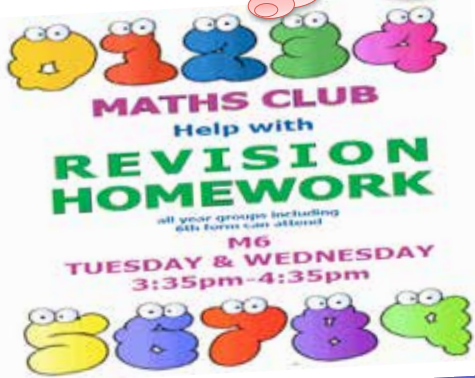


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# Music

## St Cecilia's Day concert

The Music department celebrated St Cecilia's Day, patron Saint of Music on 22nd November, with a concert showcasing musical talent from Year 10, 12 and 13. Year 12 BTEC level 3 students organised the event which proved to be a fantastic evening with everything from Beethoven to Metallica and The Jeps. Congratulations to all our wonderful musicians!



# Physical Education

## More Honours

Connor Delaney has been selected to represent Great Britain in the European Sprint Triathlon Championships in Turkey next year. Connor achieved this great honour by coming 3rd in a European qualifying competition in September. We hope and pray that Connor will continue to improve in his training and competing between now and when the championships take place and that he will stay injury free. Charlie Clark who played for the England U17 Handball team this year is at present attending the series of England trials for the U19 England team and we wish him all the very best.

### Football

The following boys have been selected for the **Bedfordshire County U16 team:** Donny Damiano, Edem Kelman, Justin Nwogo & Harlem Sambu.

In the **U14 County team** the selected players are - Ayman Darbouche, Muzamil, Muglu & Emersson Sambu.

In the **North Beds. U15 Team** the selected boys are – Slaine Caulfield & Levi Romain.

### Rugby

The following boys have been selected for the county – Jacob Ives U15 & Daniel Hubbard U16.

### Handball

The following boys all made the County U16 Handball squad – Marcin Dobrzynski, Jack Emsley, Daniel Tanti, William Bates, Josh Crook, Harry Keech & Jack Whittemore.

### Gymnastics

Alice Taylor won a Gold Medal at the Bedfordshire County Sports acrobatics competition held at the Salto gym. She will now be entering the preliminary rounds to qualify for the finals of the National competition.



### Golf

Bethany Healey came second in the Bedfordshire Schools Golf Tournament and will now go through to the National Schools competition.



As a school we are very proud of what all these pupils have achieved so far this year. We wish them all the very best for the future.

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## SPORTS LEADERS

As part of their Community Sports Leaders Award, this year's Sports Leaders group have been busy undertaking courses and helping to set up, organise and run a variety of activities.



On Monday 12th November, all the Lower Schools in the Bedford and Kempston School Sports Partnership, came up to St Thomas More where they took part in a multi skills sports event. The purpose of the day was to help improve and develop the children's multi skills. The day was overseen and run by our Sports Leaders. They did a fantastic job and all the children had a fun day.

On the 14th November, the group completed an Emergency First Aid Course. The course included Mouth to Mouth Resuscitation, CPR, bandaging and much more. They were all successful and can now use their qualification to help run children's activities in and out of school. Well done to the entire group!

Then on Wednesday 28th November, St Greg's arrived at STM with their Year 7 pupils for a transition day. Here, the Sports Leaders helped to run a Zumba class, Dodgeball, Handball and Gym session

A busy term for the Sports Leaders!!

## Year 10 Btec- Performing Arts at St Thomas More

Using Steven Berkoff's 'The House of Usher', our Year 10 students have been working very hard on their first assignment: 'Improvisation'. As part of their assessment, they performed to an audience of over 400 people at this year's Open Evening. The students experimented with face paint to create a gothic look and members of the public said how "professional" the performance was. We would like to congratulate all of the Year 10s for the dedicated attitude they have shown.

## Year 13 - Serious!

Our Year 13s have been excelling in performing arts and are rehearsing two very challenging plays; 'Antigone' and 'Road'. There will be a performance evening in January showcasing their amazing work. A special mention must be given to Claude Driver and Charlie Clark for their directing skills in the lessons.

We are very proud of Tom Grennan and Billy Johnson for the part they play in The Jebbs, a new band that is taking Bedford by storm. We also wish all of the Year 13 students good luck in their UCAS application process.

## Year 12- Theatre for Children

This year we have a very talented group of Year 12s who are directing their own play for primary school children. The plays are based around fairy tales and the meaning of Christmas. We are going to visit some of the local primary schools in the area so watch this space for pictures from their performances.

# Art

## A-Level Art Trip to Tate Modern and the Frieze Art Fair:

This term, the A-Level art students had a very successful trip to Tate Modern and the Frieze Fair, finding new artists and art works to inspire their coursework. They were exposed to the art world outside of a school context, which allowed them to experience art work first hand in the ritualised setting of the gallery as well as the market place of the Fair. Tate Modern is an internationally renowned institution with critically acclaimed art work that is considered to be some of the best in the world. It was great to watch how excited the students became when they experienced first hand original art work they had previously only seen on a computer screen or in a book. In contrast to the quiet rooms of Tate Modern, the Frieze Fair is a sprawling mass of contemporary art work which had been set up in a giant marque in Regents Park. The students experienced the very different world of artists, agents and art dealers and we even bumped into a few celebs while we were there! It was a long day but the students really enjoyed experiencing what the art world has to offer and were a credit to our school.



# Business Studies

## Business Trip to Cadbury World

A world full of mouth-watering chocolate, you may think that could only happen in your dreams! Well, this term the Year 10 Business students lived that dream surrounded by so much chocolate you just couldn't imagine!

As part of our Business GCSE studies, we took a trip to Cadbury World to learn about the serious side of all that chocolate. During our visit we took a detailed tour around the premises, saw how chocolate is manufactured, had animated photos taken and even went on a little car ride! Then we had an educational talk where we filled in a booklet that would help us with our course work. During the talk we found out that Cadbury World try their hardest to make their customers happy and they achieve this by training all their staff, including people in the offices, about how to communicate with customers in the best way possible. We were given loads of freebies and even had time to spend a little money in the shop! Overall the day was great – we learned a lot and we all enjoyed it.

*By Melisa Simpson*

## Fantastic Federation Fete!

On Sunday October 21st, the Year 13 A-level Business Students held a Federation Fete, open to students, parents and teachers alike. The 3-hour event offered a variety of stalls ranging from cake sales to raffles, Asian food to bowling, football and henna tattoos - there was something for everyone! It was a fun-filled day for all ages and it successfully brought together the students, parents and teachers from across the federation. In total a fantastic £353 was raised, with all proceeds going to two charities; CAFOD & a Tanzanian charity.

*Zuned Al Abdulla*

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