

WINTER 2012 - ISSUE 9

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 Montpellier and the 2012 Olympic double Bronze Medalist - Max Whitlock.

Congratulations and well done to you all.

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St Thomas More Catholic Teaching School

More News...

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 Multi Day to raise money. The Staff from here had their annual Fun Run to raise money for St Vincent de Paul charities, and are now collecting hamper 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 wait by the English faros 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 97% SAT % 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 practice 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 needed other Heads of Department in how to raise standards, and several training courses have been led by our staff (Middle Leaders Developement Programme, Outstanding 19 modules 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. We I'd 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 survey lists 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 responsibility on April - all being well and been pro active in PSHE, 2012 too.

In all this hustle and bustle we never forget to take a minute or two for quiet reflection. This week's assemblies have evoked a sense of hope and the sense of hope of encouragement that I hope symbolises to us in whatever faith we follow. As we light each of the candles of our advent wreaths let us remember the joy we find in belief, the hope that we need and as we light these candles, and in a sense of peace will community, reflect the joy we see.

Think about Fostering!

Check out from a child or teenager?
Do you have more room?
Do you have more time?
Do you have more energy?
Do you have more love?
Do you have more space?
Do you have more patience?
Do you have more understanding?
Do you have more compassion?
Do you have more kindness?
Do you have more love?
Do you have more patience?
Do you have more understanding?
Do you have more compassion?
Do you have more kindness?

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...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 Kingwood 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@tms.beds.sch.uk / PBrazier@tms.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, Shuti and I took part in the Children's Commissioner's 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 voice heard.

First of all we attended the Chief Executive and Director's 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 Shuti 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 table made of gold and silver worth £250,000 which we held! Shuti and I both enjoyed Takeover Day and learnt so much... we would love to take part in it again!

Claudia Sharp

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St Thomas More Catholic Teaching School

YOUR SCHOOL MAGAZINE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

The school magazine focuses on the achievements of the school, its pupils and the outstanding work of the St Thomas More School staff. It provides enormous encouragement for the pupils and staff and is a vital communication tool for parents.

1,000 copies of this Glossy Magazine are produced and distributed **free of charge** to all parents, governors, staff and other local community organisations three times a year by Mags4schools.com. This is only possible with the generous support of local companies in and around the Bedford area.

If you run a business we appeal to you to consider sponsoring a space or using this as a platform to advertise your business or profession to the parents of the school and the wider Bedford community.

Please contact us URGENTLY for inclusion in the next issue
email: sales@mags4schools.com
or telephone 01480 455123