



ST THOMAS MORE
CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

BEDFORD CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

SUMMER 2019

MORE NEWS

**SPOTLIGHT ON
PHOTOGRAPHY**

Page 5

**PUBLISHED
POETS!**
See page 9

**OUR NEW
EMMAUS**
See page 13

**NORFOLK FIELD
TRIP 2019**
See page 14-15

MORE INTRO



Welcome to our 'new look' **More News**. We have had a very busy and exciting year and here are just some of our many highlights.

As we approach the end of the year I can look back and pick out some moments that stand as testimony to the ethos of our school.

On my first day at St Thomas More, first thing in the morning, before the day had begun for students, all the staff gathered in prayer to mark the feast of the Epiphany and the start of the new year. As someone who has lived his whole life within the Catholic tradition, but never before worked at a Catholic school, it was very special for me and reinforced my belief that in joining St Thomas More I was embarking on a very unique journey in faith.

Another such moment was on St Thomas More Day, when the whole school celebrated mass together. The sense of community and shared purpose, within the warm embrace of the faith that we share, filled me with great optimism about who we are and what we, students and staff, can achieve together.

On numerous occasions I have felt this same sense in the small, but important encounters I have had with students, staff and parents where there has been a strong feeling of warmth, kindness and support. With these values at the heart of the relationships we build, I am sure this school community will continue to grow and we will build on the successes of the past.

There have been some times of sadness this year and, as is often the case, these occasions highlight the love and compassion that is so much a part of a strong community. I thank all parents, staff and students for the support and prayers that helped us through these sorrowful events.

This has been a busy term with exams, trips, shows, theme days and of course lots of teaching and learning. One of the developments that I have started is a review of our curriculum, with a special emphasis on Key Stage 3. I have challenged the teachers to consider deeply why we teach what we do? Is there enough stretch and challenge? Does it build on what has been previously learnt and does it link to what needs to come next? This process has led to some deep thinking and thoughtful articulation of what our subjects could and should achieve in the academic lives of our students. What has been very apparent through all of this work is how committed the teachers are and how very driven they are to give of their best for the benefit of the students.

As the summer break nears, I pray that we all have a happy and rewarding holiday and that we all return safely next year.

God bless you all,

Martin Bonner

Head - St Thomas More



◆ TERM DATES 2019-2020

TERM 1

INSET day	Monday 2nd September 2019
INSET day	Tuesday 3rd September 2019
School opens to Years 7, 8, 9, 12	Wednesday 4th September 2019
School opens to Years 10, 11, 13	Thursday 5th September 2019
Last day of term for students	Friday 18th October 2019

HALF TERM BREAK

School opens to students	Monday 28th October 2019
INSET day	Friday 22nd November 2019
Last day of term for students	Friday 20th December 2019

CHRISTMAS BREAK

TERM 2

INSET day	Friday 3rd January 2020
INSET day	Monday 6th January 2020
School opens to students	Tuesday 7th January 2020
Last day of term for students	Friday 14th February 2020

HALF TERM BREAK

School opens to students	Monday 24th February 2020
Last day of term for students	Friday 3rd April 2020

EASTER BREAK

TERM 3

School opens to students	Monday 20th April 2020
Bank holiday	Friday 8th May 2020
Last day of term for students	Friday 22nd May 2020

HALF TERM BREAK

School opens to students	Monday 1st June 2020
Last day of term for students	Friday 17th July 2020

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

As a school we place great importance on attendance and punctuality as these have a real impact on the attainment of all students. We are therefore asking for the continued support of all our parents and carers in working towards having no lateness to school each day and the lowest possible absence rate.

We acknowledge that the majority of our students have excellent records of attendance and punctuality. However, for a small minority this is not the case and so the following procedures have been put in place:

- Students falling below 92% attendance will be discussed with the Education Welfare Officer
- Students falling below 90% attendance will have an Attendance Plan
- The school will not sanction any holidays in school time as directed by the Department of Education
- Students who are late to school will have a phone call home
- Students with more than 3 lates will have an after school detention with their Progress Coordinator
- Failure to attend the after school detention or continued lateness will result in a Senior Management detention

There is a REWARDS system in place for those students who have good and improved attendance and punctuality. If you have any queries about attendance then please contact Mr. Hopkins, Assistant Headteacher

we have
been set a
school target of

97%

MORE NEWS

SUMMER 2019

CONTENTS

More Trips

Page 4

More Photography

Page 5

More Science

Pages 6-7

Summer Reads

See page 10-11

Our Kingswood Adventure

See page 12

Our New Emmaus

See page 13

Norfolk Field Trip 2019

See page 14-15

Inaugural Mass

See page 16

Farewell Y13

See page 17

More Info

See page 18

More Sport

See page 19

More Literacy

See page 20

Uniform Reminder

See page 21

More Services

See page 22

Farewell Y11

See page 23

Performing Arts Showcase

See page 24



PATHOLOGY DEPARTMENT VISIT BEDFORD HOSPITAL

Jess - It was a really fun and insightful day, there was so much to see and it was so interesting to see where all the tests are carried out. It helped us all to increase our understanding of the hospital environment and help decide if the medical world is for us.

“OUR DAY AT BEDFORD HOSPITAL WAS A GREAT LEARNING EXPERIENCE. WE SAW HOW THEY ANALYSE BLOOD TESTS AND HOW THEY SEE EVERY SINGLE LITTLE CELL IN AN ANALYSIS. OVERALL, IT WAS A GREAT DAY AND FULL OF GRUESOME AND HORRIBLE THINGS.”

Wassim

THE APPRENTICESHIP SHOW 2019

The March 2019 Apprenticeship Show saw the largest group of students attend from St Thomas More. The show had many new exhibitors but the most notable difference on previous years, was the range of opportunities companies now offer.

The show provided students with the chance to talk to apprentices who have chosen to look at alternative routes to University. In the last couple of years, students from the STM Sixth Form have gone on to work for companies exhibiting at the show.



LONDON INSTITUTE OF BANKING AND FINANCE

This spring, a small group of Year 12 students visited the London Institute of Banking & Finance. The trip was offered to business and finance students who would potentially consider having a career in banking and finance, both areas which LIBF specialise in - as they offer degrees or degree apprenticeships.



The day started off with a game of ping pong in the student basement followed by a short finance quiz. After this there was a taster lecture delivered by the Dean, exploring opportunities that the institution offers. He told us about the decisions he'd made up to the current point in his career and how he got involved in the financial sector, additionally giving students an insight into what career paths they could uptake

process and how we can stand out in the competitive financial industry. The trip provided a lot of information on the industry and got us all thinking about how we're going to shape our careers, as the important decisions essentially start now.

By Sian Gharu



After a brief lunch break, there was another talk provided by the Degree Programme Manager, giving students a detailed explanation of what each degree course entails. She gave information on entry requirements, societies that students could get involved in, tuition and accommodation. Following the degree part of the talk, a career and employment advisor outlined the recruitment





SPOTLIGHT ON PHOTOGRAPHY

In March 2018, (wow that year has gone quick!) our current Year 10 students were selecting their GCSE options. Students were excited to find that in addition to Art, Graphics and Textiles, they were able to select GCSE Photography too!

Our photographers quickly learnt how to use the brand new SLR cameras, creating a huge range of exciting pieces, from light painting to double exposure pieces on Adobe Photoshop.

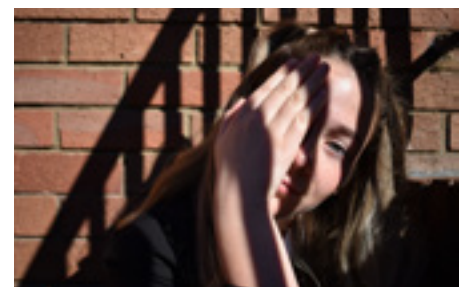
It has been fantastic to see students arriving to lessons with enthusiasm and passion, quite often bringing along artists or techniques that are new to all of us!

Miss Hammond, Head of Art

"In photography I haven't had a single lesson that I haven't enjoyed. Every lesson I either learn a new technique or a new style and I love incorporating that into my work... I cannot wait to see what else I learn."

"I chose photography as it was one of my favourite hobbies and I am so glad I chose it!"

"So far, my favourite project has been 'Conceal and Reveal' as it was a chance to explore our own ideas... I could choose whatever I liked."



"ALTHOUGH PHOTOGRAPHY IS A GCSE, TO ME IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE IT, IT IS JUST SOMETHING I ENJOY AND LOOK FORWARD TO EVERY LESSON"

THE BIG BANG FAIR 2019

Our Year 8 students enjoyed visiting The Big Bang Fair in Birmingham earlier this term. The fair brought science, technology, engineering and maths to life for our budding young scientists, giving them the opportunity to take part in activities, workshops, as well as watch shows and talk to scientists and engineers from all over the UK. There was also lots of freebies and goodies available for them to take away!

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

SCIENCE FAIR

Date: Friday, 5th July, 2019
 Time: 10:30-3:00
 Venue: St Thomas More Catholic Secondary School
 Kennet Rise off Tyne Crescent
 Bedford, MK41 7UL

What is Science Fair?
 Science Fair is a multipart project where students (12-13 year olds) complete a science journal, research paper, display board and undertake presentations during the fair. The topics have been selected independently by the year 8 students themselves and they have shown great passion and zeal in preparing for it.

This will give students a chance to think and act like a scientist through independent exploration and discovery on a chosen scientific topic with teachers acting as safety officers and guides.

Who are the Judges?
 External Judges from industry (scientists)
 Community (Public officials)
 Current and Past Students Judges
 Education Professionals and Governors

This trip was the forerunner to our very own Year 8 science project 'Science Fair'.

The Science Fair is a multipart project where students complete a science journal, research paper, display board and undertake a presentation during the fair day. This gives students the opportunity to think and act like a scientist and to create and discover their very own science project.

Look out in the next edition of More News to see how they got on.



YEAR 7 THINK TANK TRIP

Meanwhile, our Year 7 students also had the opportunity to travel up to Birmingham for Think Tank 2019. Here they had the chance to see Mrs Belcher take part in some demonstrations, as well as explore the museum for themselves. This was a fantastic learning opportunity where science was brought to life and everyone had a great time.

A BIG THANK YOU GOES TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED ORGANISE THE TRIPS AND RUN THE EVENTS.





BODY WORLD MUSEUM

In February, the Year 13 Biology students visited the Body Worlds Museum in London.

Body Worlds is an original exhibition of real human bodies created by world leading anatomists Dr Gunther von Hagens and Dr Angelina Whalley. The museum contains over 200 anatomical specimens showing the mysteries that lie beneath the skin.

Whilst at the museum, the students were able to review their understanding of the work covered on nerves and muscles as well as the respiratory system and cardiovascular systems ahead of their upcoming exams.

The day concluded with a video showing the plastination process which involves extracting all bodily fluids and setting them with resin to allow the specimens to be preserved permanently.



SHEPRETH WILDLIFE PARK

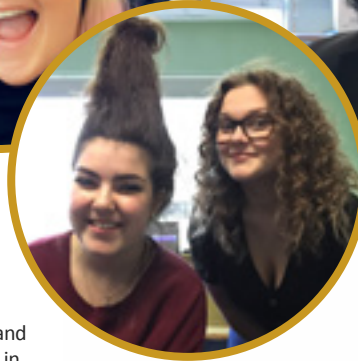
Year 10 students had the opportunity to visit Shepreth Wildlife Park to explore possible careers in the wildlife industry and see the work being done to conserve animal species within the park itself. They attended a talk looking at the wide variety of careers in the wildlife and conservation sector, from animal nutrition, to sustainable fashion and even zoo keeper. The students were also advised of all the possible ways to gain valuable work experience and the benefit of it for future employment.

The rest of the day was spent observing the animals in the park and discovering the work being done in the UK and abroad to protect and conserve these species. The students braved the bat cave, saw the tigers being fed and got the opportunity to touch a boa constrictor. The baby otters were a firm favourite with most!





**£227
RAISED!**



CRAZY HAIR

On Friday 5th April 2019, Students and Staff took part in a Crazy Hair Day to raise money for those affected by Cyclone Idai, which hit south-eastern Africa on 14th and 15th of March, and reported to be possibly the worst ever disaster to strike the southern hemisphere. The devastating Cyclone swept through Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, destroying almost everything in its path, with more than 2.3 million people affected across the three countries.

While students and staff were encouraged to take part and wear their hair in a wacky way for the day, a total of £272.78 was raised and donated to Cafod to aid their work in helping those affected in the region.

Thank you to everyone who took part!

SPOTLIGHT ON POLITICS

Sixth form students at St Thomas More are not just interested in broadening their minds through studying A levels...

At the start of May, we ran a breakfast session with the MP Alistair Burt and his wife Eve. The students were keen to talk about current issues including Brexit but also topics of concern including the number of homeless people on the streets of

Bedford. The MP talked about the different jobs he has had including being the Minister of State for the Middle East at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Minister of State at the Department for International Development. Our next breakfast meeting is with Jake Sampson, a former student, who went on to study politics after gaining his A levels and the Mayor of Bedford Dave Hodgson.



YEAR 10 CELEBRATE SUCCESS

In June, we held a celebratory lunch for 20 Year 10 students who either produced the highest mock exam results or have made the most progress – in both instances, a fantastic achievement!

Students were treated to a full hot and cold buffet lunch, complete with doughnuts, and enjoyed being able to relax with their peers over very full plates!

Mr Kennard, Head of Year 10 said:

“All Year 10 students have shown commitment and dedication to their studies this year, however, some have pushed themselves above and beyond what is expected and have achieved outstanding results at this stage of their GCSE’s. I look forward to celebrating the achievements and successes of all students moving into Year 11”

- Karolina Lucas
- Ethan Horsman
- Alex Ventrone
- Olivia Marsh
- Dalu Alozie
- Habiba Elbadry
- Keren Nzazi
- Habib Onibudo
- Briancia Mullings
- Keith Chagonda
- Caitlin Wintle
- Dustin Paciorkowski
- Morgan Jenkins
- Sam Barnes
- Patrick Enoch-Arthur
- Trin Haines
- Imogen Jones
- Fatima Begum
- Pelumi Adekunle
- Schilo Nzembela

“CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU AND TO ALL OF YEAR 10 WHO HAVE WORKED SO HARD THIS YEAR – WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU BACK AS YEAR 11 IN SEPTEMBER BUT FOR NOW – ENJOY YOUR HOLIDAYS!”

PUBLISHED POETS!

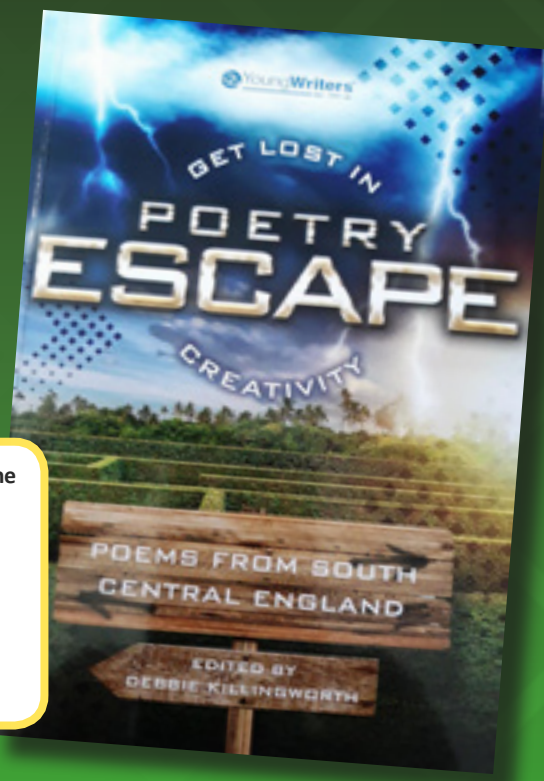
Back in October, some students from Year 7 and 8 had their work entered into the Young Writers Poetry Escape Competition for 11-18 year olds. This is the Young Writers 27th annual competition and over there were over 8000 entries from schools across the UK.

There were no set criteria however the publishers take into consideration: perception, imagination, and creativity as well as expression, originality and use of language and we are delighted to announce that the following students, were all selected to have their work published.

Should you wish to purchase your own copy, here are the details:

Poetry Escape – Poems From South Central
By: Killingworth, Debbie
Publisher - Young Writers
Isbn ISBN 978-1-78988-200-1
retail £15.99

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Kate Maynard | Autumn Theakstone |
| Naveen Prem | Elliott Tempest |
| Ciara Delaney | Kiera Stringer |
| Satasha Kumari | Justin Lau |
| Sandra Kulovic | Selina Borelli |
| Aimee Williams | Temiloluwa Ajao |
| Marco Catania | |



**£127
RAISED!**

In May, Elijah, Junior, and Natasha from Year 11 went head to head with Miss Millar, Mr Newman and Mr Aquino in a Bushtucker style eating challenge – to raise money for the Year 11 Prom.

In front of a packed school hall, they bravely battled it out by eating delicacies including extra hot mixed pickle, huge scoops of horseradish and whole scotch bonnet chilli peppers!

As you can see from the photos – their reactions were mixed to say the least!

They raised an impressive £127 - Well done to everyone who took part.



JUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE 2019

On the 30th April, students from Years 7 and 8 participated in the UK Junior Maths Challenge. The UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) is a registered charity whose aim is to advance the education of children and young people in mathematics. The UKMT organises national mathematics competitions and other mathematical enrichment activities for 11-18 year old UK school pupils.

Well done to all the students involved, with a big congratulations to Karl, Sienna, Julius, Gabriela, Penelope, Faith, Jaeden, Joanna and Keira for receiving the Bronze certificate; Darlia, Asi, Sam, Esther and Elliot for receiving the Silver and Kate who received the Gold certificate and has been invited to take part in the Kangaroo Maths challenge.

MATHS FAIR

During the Maths Fair Week, the Maths department ran a number of activities to promote numeracy awareness across the whole school. All other departments were challenged with coming up with a subject oriented activity that shows how Maths is linked to that subject.

The rationale for the Maths week is also to encourage collaboration among departments and sharing new ideas. Among some of the activities that happened during the week were bingo, problem solving tasks, Maths quizzes and Maths jokes.



A	B	C
+ B	C	A
.....		
C	D	E

GIVEN:
E IS EVEN
C IS ODD

WHAT IS B?



The Knife of Never Letting Go

Patrick Ness

The first of an amazing science-fiction trilogy. You will be swept up in Todd and Viola's whirlwind struggle against a man who uses his powers to conquer and control. Unputdownable!



Barakamon 1

Satsuki Yoshino

A young man from the city uproots to live on a small island in Japan. He has much to learn about rural life. Luckily he finds a good teacher—a boy called Naru. A very popular Manga series.

GRAPHIC NOVEL



The Recruit

Robert Muchamore

The first of the famous 'Cherub' stories. Specially trained teenagers are sent on perilous undercover missions to battle criminals and make the world a safer place! Very exciting!



Moonhead and the Music Machine

Andrew Rae

A stylish graphic novel about school, music making, being different and friendship.

GRAPHIC NOVEL



Trash

Andy Mulligan

Raphael, Gardo and Rat live on a rubbish heap and make a living sifting trash. One day they find something valuable which contains a secret. From that moment they are hunted mercilessly. They will need a miracle to save their lives! Action!



Skeleton Creek

Patrick Carman

A seriously scary story with online videos to add to the terror. Think 'Blair Witch Project' and you will get the idea! A multimedia story experience! Visit www.patrickcarman.com/books/skeleton-creek/



The Set-Up

Sophie MacKenzie

The first in a fabulous sci-fi series. Four teenagers with psychic abilities are brought together to become a secret crime-fighting force. A brilliant page turner!



The Maze Runner

James Dashner

Waking up in the Glade, and only remembering his first name, Thomas is surrounded by boys. Together they must work out how their strange and sinister world works and who is controlling it. Full of danger, suspense and mystery.



I'd Tell You I Love You, But Then I'd Have To Kill You

Ally Carter

Gallagher Academy might claim to be a school for geniuses – but it's really a school for spies. Cammie Morgan is fluent in fourteen languages and capable of killing a man in seven different ways (three of which involve a piece of uncooked spaghetti). But the one thing the Gallagher Academy hasn't prepared her for is what to do when she falls for an ordinary boy who thinks she's an ordinary girl.



Look into My Eyes

Lauren Child

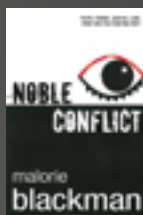
Ruby is a code-cracker and daring detective. She has gadgets to help her on her dangerous missions and a sidekick called Hitch, who poses as the family butler. A thrilling, all-out action adventure!



Nobody's Girl

Sarra Manning

A great summer read for girls. A girlie holiday in Spain turns into a nightmare, forcing Bea to go off in search of her mysterious French father. Along the way she meets new friends and heads to Paris: will the city of love work its magic on her too?



Noble Conflict

Malorie Blackman

Kaspar has grown up in peace and harmony but rebels threaten to destroy this and Kaspar joins the Guardians. When he meets the beautiful Rhea, one of the rebels, Kaspar starts to realise that he has never been told the truth, either about what the rebels want or about the dark forces at work in his society. A dystopian thriller for sci-fi fans.



Linked

Imogen Howson

With plot twists and turns this book takes you to unexpected places! Twins rediscover each other in awful circumstances. They must leave everything and go on the run from the agents who hunt them mercilessly. If allowed to escape the girls will unwittingly expose a dark and terrible truth.

13+



The Mysterious Benedict Society

Four children, each with different talents, are brought together by the mysterious Mr Benedict in order to find out what is causing "the Emergency", and who is transmitting the voices that only Mr Benedict can hear on his specially designed equipment. The first of a series. Funny!



Gone

Michael Grant

The first of a very popular series. The adults in a Californian town suddenly disappear. The young people who remain must work out how to survive. Some start to develop supernatural powers; gangs spring up and sides are taken. 'Lord of the Flies' with superpowers!



The One Dollar Horse

Lauren St John

Fifteen year old Casey Blue lives in East London's grimmest tower block and volunteers at a local riding school. She rescues a starving, half-wild horse, and is convinced that she will be able to gain his trust and compete at the Badminton Horse Trials. Obviously one for horse lovers!

SUMMER READS

Stuck for something to do this summer? Here are some fantastic KS3 reads...

Pop into the Hub to find what you are looking for!



Itch

Simon Mayo

Meet Itch – an accidental, accident-prone hero. Science is his weapon. Elements are his gadgets. All-action adventure perfect for fans of Alex Rider and Young Bond.



Spy Camp

Stuart Gibbs

Ben Ripley is spending the summer at Spy Camp, the top secret outdoor education facility of Ben's school, the Academy of Espionage. But any hopes he has for a relaxing break are quickly dashed when SPYDER resurfaces – and this time, the evil organization is targeting Ben himself. Ben soon finds himself on the run in the wilderness? Can he survive their fiendish plot? A funny book!



Rail Head

Philip Reeve

The Great Network is a place of drones and androids, Hive Monks and Station Angels. The place of the thousand gates, where sentient trains criss-cross the galaxy in a heartbeat. It is also a place of great dangers – especially for someone who rides the rails and rides his luck the way Zen Starling does. Once Zen was just a petty thief, stealing to support his family and living by his wits. Now everything has changed. Zen is still a thief – but what else is he?



Northern Lights

Philip Pullman

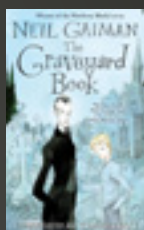
Lyra Belacqua and her animal daemon live half-wild and carefree among scholars of Jordan College, Oxford. The destiny that awaits her will take her to the frozen lands of the Arctic, where witch-clans reign and ice-bears fight. Her extraordinary journey will have immeasurable consequences far beyond her own world... A not to be missed classic.



A Boy and a Bear in a Boat

Dave Shelton

A boy and a bear go to sea, equipped with a suitcase, a comic book and a ukulele. They are only travelling a short distance and it really shouldn't take long. But their journey doesn't quite go to plan... A gently humorous yet small scale epic adventure.



The Graveyard Book

Neil Gaiman

Nobody Owens, known as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be completely normal if he didn't live in a graveyard, being raised by ghosts, with a guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor the dead. There are dangers and adventures for Bod in the graveyard. But it's in the land of the living that the real danger lurks, for it is there that the man Jack lives, and he has already killed Bod's family.

GRAPHIC NOVEL



The Letter for the King

Tonke Dragt

During his vigil before he is knighted, Tiuri is persuaded by a mysterious old servant to carry a vital message to the Black Knight with the White Shield. The Knight is murdered by the treacherous Red Riders. It falls to Tiuri to carry the message over the Great Mountains to the King. The story recounts the setbacks and triumphs he encounters on his quest. Fabulous!



Fly By Night

Frances Hardinge

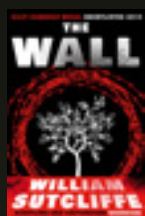
A breath-taking fantasy adventure. Mosca's realm struggles to maintain an uneasy peace after years of civil war and tyranny. A twelve-year-old orphan and her loyal companion, a grumpy goose, are about to become the unlikely heroes of a radical revolution. Mosca Mye is on the run and heading for the city of Mandelion.



Soldier Dog

Sam Angus

Angry with his father, Stanley runs away to train as a messenger dog handler, and he's soon heading to France with a Great Dane called Bones by his side. As Stanley experiences the horrors of the First World War, he comes to realise that the loyalty of his dog is the one thing he can rely on.



The Wall

William Sutcliffe

Joshua lives with his mother and stepfather in a divided city, where a wall and soldiers separate two communities, and the rubble-strewn residue of their broken world gives hints of the old life before the wall was built. Joshua discovers a manhole, which leads in pitch darkness under the wall and across to the other side. Forbidden territory, dangerous territory, violent territory, which a boy like him – visibly different – shouldn't stray into.



Wonder

R J Palacio

Auggie has a severe facial deformity and has always been home-schooled. Now it is time to join the other kids at school and he is dreading it. He just wants to be accepted and to fit in. He must convince his classmates that, underneath it all, he is just like them. A tale of courage.

MORE TRIPS



OUR KINGSWOOD ADVENTURE

Staff perspective:

Emmaus staff and a group of students from Years 9 and 10 were all excited about our weekend at Kingswood - a few days away to bond, learn new skills, to get to know each other better, challenge ourselves and each other as well as boost confidence. Starting our trip with Mass in Walsingham was made extra special as it was said by the Bishop of East Anglia, Bishop Alan. He asked who we were and wished us a pleasant trip.

At first there were a few nerves! Making beds was the first challenge, and from there we all, both staff and students, took part in a whole array of activities that all posed very different challenges – emotional, physical, and mental. We worked as a team to make it through the 'night line' activity, working our way through an obstacle course blindfolded! Laughter (and screaming) from Mrs Claxton and Ms Clark could be heard for miles! We faced our fears on the 'High Ropes', and, in true competitive spirit, Mr Quinn and Mr Andrews had a close race up them (Mr Andrews won, of course).

Then we would spend our evenings together first sitting around the long knights' table reflecting on our day and giving out points for good effort or tidy rooms! Then we had time to relax where we all had a chance to laugh, talk, and play some intense table football matches.

Our students were the real stars, always happy to step up to support each other with care and kindness. They developed new friendships and learned a lot about themselves as well as valuing each other and how important it is to be yourself! Everyone, staff and students alike, came home richer for the experience.

Mrs Claxton's final words ... Kingswood was an amazing weekend for all of us but would not have been possible without the amazing generosity of the staff who gave up their weekend, I am very grateful to Mr Andrews, Ms Clark, Miss Jones, Mrs Lock and Mr Quinn. Same time next year?

Student views:

Earlier this year, students from Years 9 and 10 were chosen to go on a trip to Kingswood. I was excited to find out that I was invited. On the way to Kingswood, we stopped at Walsingham for Mass and afterwards we sat outside for a picnic. The minibus that Mrs Claxton was driving had singing all the way! We had everything from a Million Dreams to the Wheels on the Bus! We all joined in especially when we thought we were half way there so sang Living on a Prayer.

Kingswood was an amazing experience that pushed everyone to achieve some incredible goals. We slept in big rooms with bunk beds and one of the rooms had a beautiful picture on the wall. Some of the boys didn't even know how to put a duvet on and Mr Quinn was really tough on the room inspection.

Across four days, we completed a range of activities from Buggy Building to High Ropes. We also did activities such as archery, bouldering and abseiling. Ms Clark and Miss Jones had a go at Aeroball and we didn't think Ms Clark was ever coming out of it! The last thing we did on Monday morning was have a go on the leap of faith – if we wanted to. It seemed really high from on the ground but seemed much higher from the top! We all shouted at the person doing it to encourage them and we couldn't believe how many people did it! Hannah was our group's instructor and she was a bit mad – but in a great way! She was super loud and made us sing or shout before every different activity, the girls were much better at the singing – so Hannah said.

In the evenings we did different things, we had to tell jokes to get materials for building water rockets – Nafis was really good at that! We had a quiz another evening but the best bit was the campfire! It took ages for the fire to light so we had to sing silly songs! When it got going we toasted marshmallows to have with our hot chocolate.

When it was time to go we stopped at Cromer Pier on the way home for chips and to do some crabbing – but that didn't go too well!



“KINGSWOOD WAS AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE THAT PUSHED EVERYONE TO ACHIEVE SOME INCREDIBLE GOALS”



RESULTS DAYS
 A Level results day is 15th August
 GCSE results day is 22nd August



OUR NEW EMMAUS

The current Emmaus came into being in September 2006 when the special needs department moved in to join with the behaviour and pastoral support team to create a one stop shop for all additional needs. Students would now have one place to go to for any additional help be it provided by school staff or visiting services. Through the last 13 years we have become victims of our own success and have outgrown our current home.

If you have been to the school site in the last term you will not have been able to miss the building work taking place. In April 2018 we were able to secure funding to build our new Emmaus and create a purpose built facility that has been designed to meet the needs of our current and future students, families and staff.

We have been lucky to work with an amazing architect called Mark Ellerby who has planned the building specifically for our unique needs, every detail has been carefully planned and we are confident that the final result will be an environment welcoming, practical and one ready to meet the diverse needs of our school community.

The single story building being constructed by local firm Richardson and Peat will have small rooms for individual work, small group work as well as a larger classroom. The building will also have a kitchen to practise life skills – we even have adaptable sinks! The same facilities of mentoring and homework support will be in place as will the careers advice and the visits from the school nurse. Emmaus will continue to be a place where everyone is welcome to seek support, advice or just to have a chat about the day. There will also be purpose built facilities for isolation and seclusion which will allow for independent work as well as reflection time.

The most exciting new feature for me will be a large open plan space that will allow for social gatherings with students in an area that leads out into the garden. This will allow for breakfast club to be in a lovely space and lunch in Emmaus could even be a picnic at times. Lunchtime games club will have room to expand whilst still having space. It will also allow our students who do not go outside to have a proper social space – at the moment we are limited to one sofa and two soft chairs.

How can people help? Like any building project money is always an issue and of course we would like a little more!! The garden project is where we are particularly struggling financially, ideally we would like a wooden fence all around the building with raised beds and picnic benches inside so if anyone knows any fencing or landscaping companies that might be able to help with offcuts going spare please get in touch. That said we are open to any donations as the wish list for new furniture and fittings is quite long!

If you would like to learn any more about the new Emmaus Centre or are able to help then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mechelle Claxton

Individual Needs Co-ordinator



“COME TO ME ALL YOU WHO ARE WEARY AND BURDENED AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST”



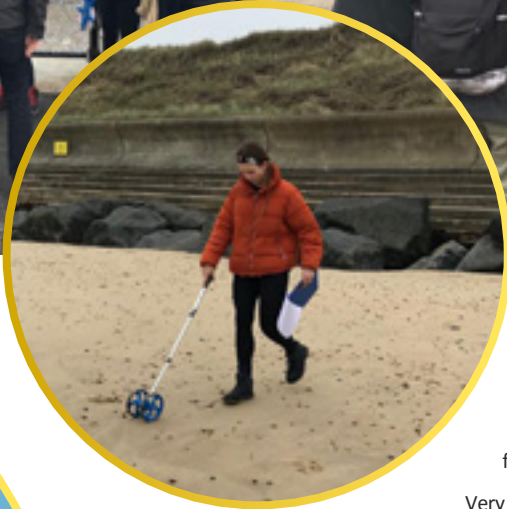
NORFOLK FIELD TRIP 2019

Over the course of four days within North Norfolk, 12 of us completed the compulsory fieldwork element of our Geography A-Level, with our time evenly split between locations detailing both physical and human data, with some even eliciting the possibility for both. The locations were Happisburgh; Sea Palling; Cromer; Overstrand; Norwich and Sheringham- in which we were based within the YHA, which was admittedly better than it sounds.

In essence, the purpose of the trip was to gather primary data for our project which could either be humanistic geography or physical geography, i.e., how people perceive places and why this differs and the various influences on their perception. As there was an even split between the two groups, this meant that when the people doing human fieldwork were at, say, Happisburgh, they had to help whoever was doing physical and vice versa. I have to concede that it was more fun than it sounds, with the weather definitely aiding that cause to the point where I managed to get sunburnt!

“GEOGRAPHY IS A GREAT SUBJECT TO STUDY AT GCSE - YOU GET TO DO AMAZING THINGS BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM”





When we were in Norwich, data collection methods ranged from questionnaires, environmental quality surveys, general observations and interviews. In terms of physical data collection, it varied from measuring groynes, sea wall height to beach width and wave count, all of which were fairly simple but very time consuming.

Very little time was wasted, with Mr Millard having booked a classroom for us to work in as soon as we had finished dinner. Here we mainly worked on collating our data and responses, or revising: we were all very productive!



“THE TRIP WAS GENUINELY WORTHWHILE. OBVIOUSLY, WITHOUT IT, WE WOULD FAIL OUR A-LEVELS BEFORE EVEN TAKING THEM, BUT SPENDING TIME WITH EVERYONE AND DOING WHAT SEEMED LIKE ENDLESS WORK DEFINITELY BENEFITTED US. WE BECAME SO WELL ACQUAINTED WITH NORWICH THAT EVENTUALLY WE DIDN'T NEED MAPS!”



A TASTE OF CHAPLAINCY AT ST THOMAS MORE 2018-2019

Another exciting school year has passed. The Chaplaincy team have built on previous achievements whilst welcoming new opportunities working across the curriculum and across denominations.

OUR PRAYER LIFE

Since completing the Year of Prayer and Vocation in December 2018 our commitment to prayer has continued to develop. As a staff we have formed a Chaplaincy hub group. This has provided an opportunity to reflect on and explore our prayer life through professional dialogue and the generation of new ideas. A rhythm of prayer continues in school, before during and at the end of the day. We continue to welcome our Priests and Deacon Quinlan on a Wednesday morning for Mass or a Service of the Word and Communion. We also have regular Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament most Tuesdays. A new development, Lent prayer buddies, praying across our Trust schools was also particularly exciting this year.

OUR FAITH AMBASSADORS

Our Sixth Form Faith Ambassadors have been an inspiration this year. They have grown in confidence and commitment. Highlights include the Remembrance services, the opening of the Marian Building, the recent Easter celebration evening and Life Path Bunyan. Looking ahead they will help with St Thomas More day and take part in the transition activity 'It's your Move' with our primary schools.

OUR COMMUNITY

In August 2018 Mrs Burgess was able to attend the World Meeting of Families in Dublin. One of our subsequent goals was to share something of this experience through a parent workshop on the theme of family life. Consequently we invited Neil Roseman our Diocesan Director of Youth ministry to talk about the recent Synod on Youth and Vocational discernment. Good News Books, a Catholic Christian bookshop were also present.

We continue to meet with parents and carers every half term for Coffee and Prayers. This is an informal time of prayer over a cup of coffee. It is an opportunity to talk about significant issues and pray. A warm welcome awaits you we always like to meet new families. Maybe you could come along?

OUR HERITAGE OF FAITH

One of our most memorable encounters this year was a visit to Turvey Abbey in January with the 6th Form Alpha group for their retreat. This rich heritage of faith formed a firm foundation to our day coupled with the conversations we shared with Brother John and Brother Herbert. We were all inspired by our visit and the journey the Alpha programme has taken us on this year.

INAUGURAL MASS

On the evening of January 14th we gathered as a community to celebrate Mass with Mr Martin Bonner and formally welcome him as our new Head Teacher. It was a beautiful occasion attended by family and friends of our community. Monsignor McGinnell concelebrated the Mass with Canon Seamus and Father Malcolm. Deacon Crispin Walking-Lea was also able to join us. The specially formed, 'St Thomas More Staff choir' led our singing and did a fantastic job with the help of Mrs Jane Trott. During the evening we reflected on the readings for the Feast of St Thomas More. The prayers of the faithful were led by one of our 6th Form Faith Ambassadors.

During the Mass a number of symbols were presented to Mr Bonner including our mission statement by a Year 9 student, a Bible by a member of the STM staff, a candle by a representative of the Diocesan office for Religious Education, NOREs and a Youth Catechism by a representative of the Diocesan Youth team, NYMO. The symbols represented elements of our faith and the support we receive from the wider church family across the Diocese. The evening ended with some delicious refreshments carefully created by the STM catering team.



COFFEE & PRAYERS 2019/20

Wednesdays 9.15 -10.15am. An informal time of prayer over a cup of coffee. All welcome!

18th September	15th January	13th May
13th November	18th March	8th July





FAREWELL YEAR 13!

Shortly you will be moving on to the next exciting step in life but that doesn't mean you have to lose touch. The word Alumni means former students and we invite you to sign up to the BCS Alumni Community.

- It would really mean a lot to us, if you could keep in touch and let us know how you are doing!
- Boost your CV and return to school as a volunteer (careers advice/ workshops/ work experience)
- Keep updated with the latest news from St Thomas More and the Bedford Catholic Schools
- In years to come, opportunities to share stories and reunite with your school mates.
- Get connected to other Alumni who are in your field of work/ study for mentoring or work experience opportunities
- We wish you all the very best and look forward to welcoming you to the Alumni Community.

Website: www.bedfordcatholicschools.org/Alumni-Community

Twitter: @BedsCatholicEd Facebook: Bedford Catholic Schools

**LEAVING
SCHOOL THIS
SUMMER?**

**KEEP
CONNECTED**

[bedfordcatholicschools.org/
Alumni-Community](http://bedfordcatholicschools.org/Alumni-Community)

NEW PTA MEMBERS WANTED

If you'd like to:

- help organise fund-raising events and social evenings to financially support school projects
- get more involved in the life of the school
- be part of a small, friendly team of parents and school staff working together to enhance your child's education

Contact mclaxton@stm.beds.sch.uk for more information.

Are your children entitled to Free School Meals?

To find out if you qualify, talk to
the Free School Meals Department
at Bedford Borough Council



Don't Delay, apply today...

01234 228948

www.bedford.gov.uk



WHICH SYSTEM IS USED FOR WHAT?

Improving the efficiency of our communication by reducing our use of postal mail and increasing our use of email is one of our key aims.

Benefits include reducing the schools carbon footprint, saving money and being able to communicate quickly and effectively. To do this, it is vital that the school holds accurate contact details for parents and carers.

You can update your contact information by contacting the school office directly or by logging on to your MyChildatSchool (MCAS) account – you will find the link on the school website.

SYSTEM	WHAT IT'S USED FOR	
<p>FIREFLY</p> <p>The school's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). This can be accessed via school website or via App.</p>	<p>This is a learning platform offering access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • homework tasks • learning resources • extra challenge activities 	<p>There is also other information for parents and students regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer Room • Learning Resource Centre • Careers • Internal examination information
<p>MCAS</p> <p>This is accessed via their website or an App. This is our parent information portal.</p>	<p>Sharing information regarding your child's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attendance • parents evening bookings • updating contact details • assessment and reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exam timetables • school timetables • teaching staff • Receiving texts and emails
<p>EMAILS</p> <p>Accessed both via MCAS & personal email accounts. This is a Web and App based communication tool.</p>	<p>Communicating information with parents and carers. The types of information shared using email includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general information, updates and opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information about sanctions and consequences
<p>SMS</p> <p>Text messages sent directly to your mobile phone. Method of sharing information with parents and carers.</p>	<p>Communicating information with parents and carers. The types of information shared using SMS message includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general information and reminders • lateness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uniform • behaviour, including praise

MOBILE PHONES

We understand that some students may have mobile phones in their possession for emergency contact with parents / carers and for travel purposes. However they are not allowed to be seen or heard anywhere on the school premises. This includes speakers and headphones.
Please see the school website for Mobile Device full policy information.

HALL FOR HIRE

Our school facilities are available for hire outside of school hours. For any help regarding your booking enquiries. Please contact the school office on,
Phone : 01234 400222
Email : central.finance@stm.beds.sch.uk

MORE SPORT



YEAR 8 ATHLETICS LEAGUE

The squad of both girls and boys were involved in weekly matches versus two other Schools where points would be awarded depending on placings in their individual event. These would either be a track or field event and also the relay. For some of the squad they had never experienced the league type system, so Week 1 was a bit of a learning curve for them although both the boys and girls combined scores were very high and encouraging.

Week 2 continued in very much the same vein, and it was clear that the teams were keen to build on the previous weeks score. Onto Week 3 and two tough opposing Schools arrived, which only seemed to spur on the squad. Who again scored extremely heavily and only confirmed how well they were all performing. Week 4 was no different to the previous weeks and if anything the highest scoring totals of all. A short wait and it was confirmed that both squads had made it through to finals night, both being in the top 8 Schools in the County.

On a typical British summers evening, where it rained, the teams found it tough going but with every single one of them performing to their best against some good opposition.

Final standings:- the Girls finished 7th and the Boys finished 6th overall.

GIRLS

Aimee Williams	Deirdra White
Darlia Alemanji	Niamh Finkenrath
Izzy Mututala Sambu	Tia Layne
Gizelle Moffor	Evie Pearce
Eva Baana	Ornela Mongoue
Patrycja Teresinska	

BOYS

Filip Markiewicz	Kamarni Bedward
Daniel Domfeh	Lukasz Wodecki
Senen Ametume	Alteo Marqeshi
Andy Kamga	Godefroid Mikajo
Tatenda Zisengwe	Shea Gleeson Smith

To all staff who organised, supported and attended every sporting activity... thank you!

CHEERLEADING

Under the excellent guidance of Miss Biggins and Miss Charles, the cheerleading squad have been training hard twice a week in preparation for their summer competition. The team which consists of girls from Year 7 to 9, are producing a superb routine which involves various lifts, pyramids, stunts, jumps and tumbles.

Good luck STM.

YEAR 9 AND 10 ATHLETICS

Thanks to Mr Allen, the Year 9 and 10 squad have gained some invaluable competitive experience by entering a 'friendly' league. This has given several students the opportunity to compete at Bedford track and prepare them for the challenge of the District event. To be expected this competition proved as always a very tough one indeed. With every pupil displaying a never say die attitude, there were however some standout performers. For the girls, Aminat Oyewo threw a PB (personal best) in the Discus, Briancia Mullings showed great speed in the 100 metres. Schilo Nzembela was excellent in the Triple Jump and Leeyane India powered her way in the Shot Putt.

For the boys, Chris Brodie ran superbly in the 1500m, Ache Atem was a very well deserved and impressive 2nd in the 800m, Kevin Ranada got some great flight in the discus and despite picking up an injury Mario Avilla battled through to make the 100 metre final.

The outright performance of the day must go to Hannah Brunning, who broke a long standing school record in the Javelin. With a couple of foul throws the pressure was really on and Hannah produced a mammoth distance of 32m 23cm to be crowned District champion.

From their impressive performances at the District tournament the following were selected to represent North Bedfordshire at the County Athletics Championships.

Mario Avilla, Kevin Ranada, Ache Atem, Leeyane India, Schilo Nzembela, Briancia Mullings, Aminat Oyewo, Hannah Brunning and Leonie Brunning. We wish them every success.



SHAKESPEARE DAY: ROMEO AND JULIET

28th June 2019

Back in June, the English Department, part funded by Aspire Higher, was delighted to have the opportunity to work with Splats Entertainment to explore one of the greatest works of Shakespeare with all of Year 9 and some of Year 7. The day began with a performance of Romeo and Juliet by the theatre company for all of Year 9. A selected group of students then spent the rest of the day preparing their own performance, including making props and scenery to fully immerse themselves in the life of the theatre. This was an excellent introduction to one of their GCSE English Literature texts as students move on to Key Stage 4. In addition, we were able to involve older students studying Art, Drama and photography to help support the day as well as student volunteers from the University of Bedfordshire's Aspire Higher programme.

In the afternoon, some of Year 7 were invited to watch the Year 9 performances, following on from their own Shakespeare studies earlier this year.

Thank you to Aspire Higher for their support - everyone had a fantastic day and we look forward to including students' reviews of their experiences in the next More News.



I said,
"I love you like the
stars above, I'll love you
till I die."
When are you going to realize
it was just the time
was wrong.

There is very little for those who wait,
Very little for those who are loved,
Very long for those who lament,
Very short for those who calculate,
but for those who love, time is
eternal.
-William Shakespeare

"
My bounty is as
boundless as the sea,
My love as deep;
the more I give to thee,
The more I have,
for both are
infinite."
"

*I love thee with a love
that shall not die,
till the sun grows cold
and the stars grow old.*
-WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE OUTREACH PROGRAMME

Aspire Higher

Aspire Higher is part of HEFCE's National Collaborative Outreach Programme which aims to increase the number of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in higher education by 2020.

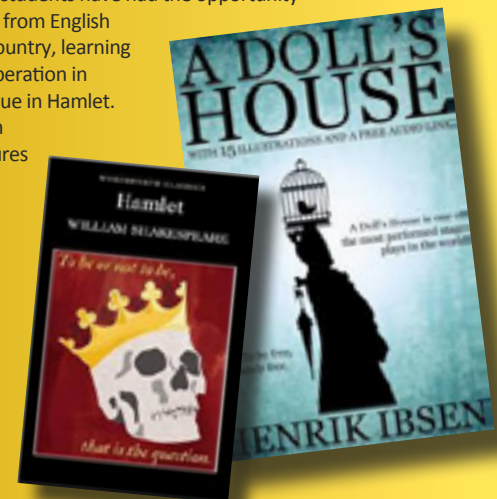
Aspire Higher is a collaborative network between the University of Bedfordshire and University of Hertfordshire and works with students from wards over Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.



SOMETHING FOR A-LEVEL

Over the year, A Level literature students have embarked on several journeys to London attending lectures for their set examination texts. During the conferences, students have had the opportunity to engage with lecturers from English professors around the country, learning about topics from self-liberation in The Dolls House to intrigue in Hamlet. Students commented on how wonderful the lectures were in allowing them to be able to delve into the more philosophical and ethical intentions of literature writers.

For information about the lectures or other English trips please speak to your English teacher.



UNIFORM REMINDER

PLEASE CAN WE REMIND YOU OF THE UNIFORM DRESS CODE

The majority of our students come to school each day in the correct uniform and look very smart. However, there are some students who either do not have their full uniform or choose to wear things that are not acceptable. As a school, we pride ourselves on high standards in all aspects and this includes uniform.

Students who do not comply with the code of dress risk being sent home or sent to Isolation in our Emmaus Centre. Many thanks for your continued support.

Required School Uniform: Our uniform can be obtained only from Your School Uniform – www.YourSchoolUniform.com

GIRLS

- Blazer with crest*
- Black STM school skirt with crest*
- Black school trousers (no stretchy or Jean style trousers, skinny fit or crop)
- White shirt
- School tie with crest*
- Black school crested jumper* (optional)
- Normal coloured tights/dark socks
- Sensible black shoes (no canvas or trainer style shoes, no boots)
- White polo shirt with crest* (summer wear only)
- Plain outdoor jacket or coat (no denim, no hooded or tracksuit tops)
- A protective apron; strong shoes (for workshop)

PE KIT

- White PE T-shirt with crest*
- Black shorts
- Trainers with white, clear or non-marking soles
- STM school rugby top crest*
- Black jogging suit (optional)
- Football boots
- Black socks
- Towel

BOYS

- Blazer with the school crest*
- Black school trousers (no stretchy or jean style trousers, skinny fit or crop)
- White shirt
- School tie with crest*
- Black school crested jumper* (optional)
- Sensible black shoes (no canvas or trainer style shoes, no boots)
- White polo shirt with crest* (summer wear only)
- Plain outdoor jacket or coat (no denim, no hooded or tracksuit style tops)
- A protective apron; strong shoes (for workshop)

PE KIT

- White PE T-shirt with crest*
- Black shorts
- Trainers with white, clear or non-marking soles
- Black fleece with crest*
- Black tracksuit bottoms (optional)
- Football boots
- Black socks
- Towel

***MUST BE BOUGHT FROM ONLINE SCHOOL SUPPLIER: WWW.YOURSCHOOLUNIFORM.COM**

JEWELLERY

- Studs only may be worn; one in each ear – small, plain gold or silver
- Neither nose studs nor any other form of body piercing is allowed
- Other than studs, earrings or valuable jewellery are not to be worn
- The school does not accept any responsibility for any jewellery lost or stolen

MAKE-UP

- Make-up is acceptable, providing it is discreet and reasonable
- No nail varnish

HAIR

- Extreme hairstyles (shaven patterns, extremely short etc.) are not acceptable only natural hair colours permitted.

Please Note

- Shoes with stiletto heels will not be tolerated in school under any circumstances as they can cause damage to floors
- Trainers should be worn only outside for Games or PE. They are not allowed to be worn in the dining room
- Outdoor clothing should not be worn in classrooms or in the Library
- In all cases of school uniform, jewellery, make-up and hair, the school will determine what is reasonable and what is not

SIXTH FORM DRESS CODE

“HOW YOU PRESENT YOURSELF MAKES A DIFFERENCE”

The way that you dress is important - it reflects the respect that you have for yourself and the community in which you learn and work. As a Sixth Form student you should be dressed suitably as if going to a place of formal work.

We encourage you to be stylish yet “clean, smart and presentable”, supporting your status as a role model to the younger pupils in the school. We expect you to be able to make the right choices, however, the school will use its discretion to decide whether a student’s dress is appropriate.

Appropriate Dress

- Students should wear clothing of a modest nature suitable for a learning environment and should therefore not be revealing or too short
- Jump suits can be worn provided shoulders are covered and they are of a modest length
- Knee length shorts are allowed in hot weather
- Maxi dresses are allowed provided shoulders are covered
- Vest tops may be worn, providing they have a wide strap
- T-shirts or polo style shirts with non-offensive logos, slogans or statements are allowed
- Appropriate footwear must be worn - and heels should be of a reasonable height
- Sixth Formers will be expected to dress in business attire at different times throughout the year [e.g. Mass/Leadership Days] to show their leadership of the school community
- Leggings need to be worn with an appropriate length top

Inappropriate Dress:

- Miniskirts or hot pants (including denim hot pants/playsuits) / short non-tailored shorts are not allowed as they are inappropriate for a learning environment
- Clothing displaying offensive logos, slogans or statements are not acceptable
- Football / Team strips and shirts displaying specific team insignia are inappropriate
- Bare midriffs are not acceptable
- Tops with thin straps or strapless tops are not acceptable
- Ripped jeans and tights
- Dyed hair that is not a natural tone is not acceptable
- No hats, bandanas or caps may be worn inside buildings

Acceptable Jewellery

- Jewellery should be of a modest nature
- A modest approach would see simple single studs in each ear (maximum of two per ear)
- A single small, discrete nose stud is acceptable should you wish
- No other visible facial/body piercing, including nose rings will be allowed.



UNIFORM DONATION

Please don't throw away your perfectly good uniform! We would appreciate uniform items that are in good condition and have been freshly laundered. Please hand in your donations at reception.



Early Help Services

A Guide for Young People

What is Early Help?
Early Help means receiving help or speaking to someone about things that are important to you or that you are worried about before they become a bigger problem.

Why would I want Early Help?
There can be many reasons you might ask for Early Help. You might have some concerns about your health, education or your family and want to talk to someone who will listen.

Where can I get Early Help?
Early Help can be accessed in many ways. Through your schools or college, GP's and other children and young peoples services, and you can also get in touch with us directly using the Early Help contact details on this leaflet.

What will happen if I ask for Early Help?
You will be asked for more information about the difficulties that you are having. This will also include sharing what is going well for you and how we can build on that.

An Early Help Assessment (EHA) may be used to get a clearer picture of what is happening now and look at how we can move forward with agreed actions. This might include any other services that can help you to plan the future that you would like to work towards.



The Learning Hub

Clubs and Activities

Lunchtimes 1.35—2.15pm

Monday
YR10&11 Only



GCSE Revision & Quiet Study

Tuesday
YR7&8 Only

Games Club



Wednesday & Thursday
All Year Groups



Reading—Quiet Study

Friday
YR7&8 Only


Homework Club




YR7&8—Sign up Today—limited places available!

Pop into the Learning Hub during break and see Miss Jones or 4th Form Sage visitors.

ARE YOU LOGGED ON?



Step 1: Go to St Thomas More's web site

Step 2: Click on this icon, which states VLE when you hover over it 

Step 3: Click on the green box: "Logging in for the first time? Activate your account."

Step 4: Insert your email address here, the one that as a parent you have provided to the School Office. Then press "Activate account". You will then receive an email with a password to use. Your child/ren will have been active for the last couple of weeks so please ask them about the system; they can help you explore what is on offer.

Step 5: Should your email not work, or you have changed it. You will need to update the School's records to gain access to Firefly. Please email updatemydetails@stm.beds.sch.uk with the following information:

- Your first name and surname
- Your child/ren's first name(s) and surname(s), followed by the year group
- Your details will be updated as soon as possible by the office.

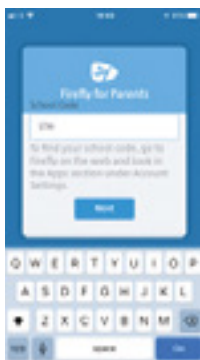
Should you not provide us with all of the information above, there will be a delay processing your update request.

Once logged on to Firefly, you can access your child's learning data including to help support your child's learning. This includes the homework your child has been set, what the task is and when it is due.

In addition, you will also find copies of school letters, school news, your child's timetable and the school calendar.

Parents
Download the Firefly Parent App from your phone or tablets app store.

Enter the School Code of **STM** and enter the login details you use to get into firefly.



Students
Download the Firefly Students App from your phone or tablets app store. Enter the School Code of **STM**, scroll down until you find Office 365 and enter the login details you use to get into firefly.



AMBASSADORS

ANTI-BULLYING
A PART OF THE CHAMBERLAIN



Our St Thomas More Anti-Bullying Pledge

Bullying behaviour is the abuse of power which repeatedly and intentionally causes emotional or physical harm to others

By wearing my uniform with pride and signing this pledge wall I agree that:

- I will make a commitment to value others and take a stand against bullying
- I will prize the diversity in our community treating others with respect and kindness
- I will have the compassion and courage to inspire, challenge and support others by not being a bystander
- It is my responsibility to help others being bullied and to report bullying

BE YOU. BE BRAVE. BE HEARD.

We can stop bullying together



FAREWELL YEAR 11!

LAUGHTER, TEARS, SONG, DANCE AND MASSIVE HUGS—WHAT MORE COULD YOU WANT FROM A LEAVERS ASSEMBLY!

YEAR 11—WE WISH YOU ALL GOOD LUCK FOR THE FUTURE. FROM EVERYONE AT STM





YEAR 10 PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE EVENING

Back in June, an epic evening showcasing the talents of the Year 10 Performing Arts students took place. Hosted by Hugh Blaney and Victor Itiose, parents and members of the community were audience to a range of incredible singing, dancing and highly talented acting and provided an opportunity for students to share the practical work they have been exploring during lessons throughout the year.

The evening was highly successful!

We are very proud of the talented students within the year group and look forward to seeing them blossom on and off stage as they go into Year 11 and beyond.

Well done! From Mrs Costello!

