



October 2018

Dear Parents / Carers,

This half term, whilst very busy, has been extremely positive and successful. Students have settled well into their new year groups including our new Year Seven students who have made a very good start to their life at St Thomas More Catholic Academy.

There is a real sense of aspiration and enthusiasm within our school community at the moment. This is reflected in our admission numbers for both Year 7 and into the Sixth Form. In 2018 we were very oversubscribed, despite increasing our intake to 210 places for Year 7 students.

Open Evening and Coffee Mornings for prospective parents have been very well attended and we expect to be oversubscribed next year again.

This term has seen the completion of our MAC Mission Week, which not only included St Thomas More, but also our MAC primary schools who all visited us for a Retreat morning. Students engaged in a variety of activities, including designing the prayer cards for the MAC Mission Week.

The Youth Chaplaincy Team (YCT) have also had a busy start to the academic term, and have attended Chaplaincy Commissioning Mass by Bishop David McGough at St Chad's in Birmingham. As a school we have also taken part in the Combined School Mass, held at St Gregory's Church, which involved students from all the Catholic Schools across Staffordshire, coming together. This was a lovely evening and well represented by the school. Thank you to all those who took part.

All our Year 7 students had a Retreat session focusing on the month of Mary and Mission, including a Year 7 performance of 'The Parable of the Talents'. They also had a workshop about Father Hudson's Care, their nominated year group charity for which they will be raising money.





## Enrichment

There is now a full programme of extra-curricular and enrichment activities available to our students, as detailed in a poster which has been sent home. This is also on the website and displayed around school. This half term highlights include:

- Duke of Edinburgh Silver Practice Expedition
- Science & Crest Club
- Year 7 & 9 Fire Service Talk from Staffordshire Fire Service
- Author McKenzie Keeble visit
- Visit to Staffordshire University
- World Mental Health Day Assemblies
- Regent Theatre visit to see Blood Brothers
- Young Engineer of the Year – KMF Challenge Launched
- Outward Bounds Residential Trip
- Various sporting events and fixtures

## 3G Pitch

The floodlit 3G pitch will be ready to use when we return after half term. We are looking forward to utilising the facilities through the curriculum, in extracurricular activities and through the local community.

## Student Leadership

The beginning of this academic year has seen the re-launch of our Student Council. The Student Council aims to strengthen further the impact of student leadership within school as well as further enhancing the Catholic life of our school community. The Student Council clearly plays a vital role in the student voice of our school community by expressing the opinions of our student body, as well as feeding back to their peers on topics discussed at termly year group meetings. There have been over 75 applications and interviews for various Student Leadership positions and for the YCT. Well done to all those that were successful in the interview process.

This year the Student Leaders will be broken up into different areas; please see below for the table outlining the roles of each successful applicant.





Longton Hall Road, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent. ST3 2NJ  
 Tel: 01782 882900 | Email: office@stmca.org.uk | www.stmca.org.uk | @StThomasMoreCA  
 Headteacher: Mr M Rayner BA(Hons) NPQH

	FAITH	EXCELLENCE	RESPECT
KS5	<p><b>Student Spiritual Director</b> Charlotte Parry</p>	<p><b>Head Boy &amp; Head Girl</b> Roshni Haque and Charlie Daws</p> <p><b>Deputy Head Boy &amp; Deputy Head Girl</b>  Wiktorina Fudala and Thomas Gallimore-Barker</p> <p><b>Academic Mentor</b> Shazia Iqbal, Carlha Cabie, Tabassum Alom Kushbu, Hassan Hashmi</p>	<p><b>Senior Prefect</b> Carlha Cabie, Natasha Ahmed, Tabassum Alom Kushbu, Hassan Hashmi</p>
KS4	<p><b>Youth Chaplaincy Team</b> Kyle King, Troy Gerrard, Hayden Peake, John Henry</p> <p><b>Charity &amp; Community Ambassador</b> Olivia McDonnell, Chelsey Whittaker, Aimee Johnson, Richmond Addai, Hollie Bentley</p>	<p><b>Senior Prefect</b> Joyce Makabayi, Molly-Anne Cooper, Charlotte Taberner, Anet Pauly, Ellie-Amber Knights, Prosper Kadiki</p> <p><b>Sports Ambassador</b> Cameron Birks, Daniel Holdcroft</p> <p><b>Literacy Ambassadors</b> Amira Khan, Prosper Kadiki, Courtney Locker</p> <p><b>Numeracy Ambassador</b> Courtney Pennington, Megan Taylor</p> <p><b>Academic Mentors</b> Ghopichristika Kanthansamy, Jessica Hull, Anet Pauly, Megan Dale</p>	<p><b>Primary Ambassador</b> Chelsey Whittaker</p> <p><b>Peer Mentors</b> Joyce Makabayi, Maia Alexander, Leah Forkin</p> <p><b>Student Council</b> Kyle King</p>
KS3	<p><b>Youth Chaplaincy Team</b> Samuel O'Reilly-Smith, Owen Macaulley, Cody Jones, Megan Walklate, Teigan Eveson, Lexie Tomlinson</p> <p><b>Charity &amp; Community Ambassador</b> Daniel Lawrence, Ewan Henry, Izabel Littleton, Katelyn O'Reilly-Smith, Rebecca Cole, Abigail Tonks</p>	<p><b>Senior Prefect</b> Anna Vijee, Mitchell Wright, Hajrah Ahmed, Nura Bakari, Millie-Mae Cash, Faiza Hashmi, Rahbot Wolde-Michael</p> <p><b>Sports Ambassador</b> Lewis Milburn, Lakiेशia Hodgkiss, Libby Filkin, Jayden Chow, Ben Ford, Isobell Martin</p> <p><b>Literacy Ambassador</b> Mitchell Wright, Victoria Wojciechowska</p> <p><b>Numeracy Ambassador</b> Katelyn O'Reilly-Smith, Abiha Fatima</p>	<p><b>Primary Ambassador</b> Anna Vijee, Hajrah Ahmed, Victoria Wojciechowska Freyja Jones, Amber James</p> <p><b>Peer Mentors</b> Brianna Bentley, Asia Burgess, Charlotte White</p> <p><b>Student Council</b> Angel Cabral, Keiran Goodall, Jasmine Harborow, Isabella Harborow, Dylan Byrne, Zane Dawson, Aliyah Hussain</p>





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## Rewards

During the Summer Term of 2018, Year 7 and Year 8 launched an Aspire to be More league table, which sees each form play against each other in order to earn points in various categories, including behaviour for learning, homework and attendance. Each week, every form has a new captain who is elected to keep the form group on track to earn as many points as possible. At the end of the term, the winning form group for Year 7 and Year 8 will have an afternoon off timetable to enjoy a cinema afternoon in the main hall including popcorn whilst the remainder of the forms will be in lesson. The students have engaged really well so far and we are looking forward to announcing the winners.

## Year 11 Mocks

We wish the Year 11 students good luck with their current mock examinations. It is imperative that they use their time to revise thoroughly for these exams. The mock exams are an indicator of where your child is at, as well as being preparation for the actual GCSE exams pending this summer. It allows students to have a real understanding of exam conditions and gives them a clear understanding of the revision that is required.

## Website and School Parent App

We are delighted to announce that the school website has been redesigned to make the information more accessible and the experience more user friendly as well as compatible with mobile phones. Alongside the website, we have now launched the school parent app. This app allows you to see your child's timetable, attendance, homework due and calendar dates, as well as receiving push notifications from the school. We also have sixth form students trialling the student app where they can see their timetables, homework due and upcoming calendar events relevant to their year group, plus they are also able to receive notifications. If you have not got the parent app yet, you can go to <https://id.sims.co.uk/registration/home/soscode> and you will need the activation code from the school (which you should have received to your email.) If you have not received it, please contact the school on 01782 882900 or by email to [office@stmca.org.uk](mailto:office@stmca.org.uk)







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## Sixth Form

Sixth Form have made a superb start to the year and we were particularly thrilled to welcome so many of our Year 11 students back into Sixth Form. We also welcomed students applying from Ormiston Sir Stanley Matthews Academy, Ormiston Meridian Academy, St Joseph's College, JCB Academy and Trentham High School.

The academic year started with a visit from Staffordshire University, who worked with all of our students to enable them to make a smooth and successful start to the year. Year 12 also visited Keele University where they were treated to inspiring lectures from world class academics, in addition to attending an information and guidance event which was organised just for them and attended by several different universities. At Keele we shared Mass together with our Trinity partner students from St John Fisher and St Margaret Ward.

Our pastoral event had a theme of 'resilience' and included guest speakers from The Staffordshire Crash Team presenting the dangers of using mobile phones whilst driving. This car safety awareness was most thought provoking. Birthdays celebrations have started for each student, celebrating every Friday with birthday cake and cards. We also have 'foodie Fridays' where we collectively order delivery food and share together. We have a social committee made up of Y12 and 13 students organising events for this term. We also held a pastoral day on career goals, and mental health; this included an inspirational workshop from Blesma, a charity supporting limbless veterans, exploring the theme resilience.

Year 13 are of course now well underway with their applications and the start of term allowed us some time to ensure that personal statements are ready to go as well as CVs for our budding apprentices of the future. Students applying for Medicine and Oxbridge entrance have already applied and await interview schedules. Students in Y12 have applied for the 'Steps to Medicine and Steps to Pharmacy' courses available at Keele University. Students have also applied for the highly competitive 'Career ready' programme and interviews will be held before half term.

We look forward to welcoming all of our Year 11 students and their parents to our information evening on Wednesday 21st November where students will have the opportunity to find out more about post-16 studies. This is an incredibly important event for all Year 11 students to research the various level 3 pathways available post-16, as well as also speak to representatives from several universities and our careers advisors.





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## Key Dates

Full list of calendar dates are available both from the school website and the school parent app

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Inset Day – School closed to Students
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 7 Parents Evening 1
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 9 Soli House Retreat Day
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Sixth Form Open Evening
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	Sixth Form Mass
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 11 Parents Evening 1
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 11 Retreat Day
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 10 Parents Evening1
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Community Christmas Party
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Prize Evening
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Concert / Advent Services
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Year 9 Reports
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	End of Term – Early Closure

Have a wonderful and restful half term. We look forward to welcoming you back to school on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Rayner  
Headteacher

