

## Aspire to be More

We are approaching the end of the Christmas term. After what has been an extremely busy and successful year for our school in incredibly challenging circumstances. It really is hard to describe all the challenges students have had to overcome during this year.

Our newsletter contains just a snapshot of all the different activities and opportunities that occur within St Thomas More Catholic Academy. Further details can be found on our Twitter feed, on Facebook and on our new website.

The student council is also continuing to develop and, as a result of their work, changes are continually being made in order to make the school more sustainable, including through the increased recycling and use of recyclable materials.

I am very grateful to the parents who have committed to work on the parent forum. We would welcome more parents to the group as it is a key forum in which to communicate and listen to our parental body.

Over the recent weeks, we have been preparing for Christmas through Advent; last Tuesday we held our Christmas Concert, which was a fantastic evening and the students' talents and effort shone through. In addition, on the last day of term we are having a Christmas jumper non-uniform day to raise funds for the Father Hudson charity. As you know we have been supporting Stoke-on-Trent foodbank through advent and putting our faith into action by bringing donations into school. A representative from the foodbank was in school on the last day of term to receive the donations. Thank you for your support.

The end of term sees Mrs Warren (English Teacher & Literacy Coordinator) leave the school. On behalf of us all at St Thomas More, I thank her for her hard work and wish her well for the future. I would like to thank the governing body for all their commitment this year and every year. Mr Rob Fello continues as Chair of the governing body, with Kathleen Harrison our new Vice Chair.

It is vital that students continue to complete their lateral tests twice a week over the Christmas break. In addition, the government have advised that schools will test students, using LFTs, on their return to school in January. I have sent details of these arrangements for Tuesday

I would like to wish you all a happy and holy Christmas. Thank you for your continued support.

Mr M Rayner  
Headteacher

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## Catholic Life

In November, all year 8 and year 10 students attended a reconciliation service where students had the opportunity to reflect on the things we would like forgiveness for, whether that be forgiveness from God or our friends and family. This was a brilliant opportunity for students to explore and appreciate the Catholic Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Your reconciliation service: **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November**

You all have the opportunity to reflect today. Complete your 'I am sorry for...' card and add it to our class box.

For example:

*I am sorry for being unkind to...*  
*I am sorry for not taking time to pray each day...*  
*I am sorry for not always believing in myself...*

**This will be brought forward to Fr David during our reconciliation service.**

**We will have a class representative to bring our reconciliation up during the service.**



**DON'T BE AFRAID TO GO TO THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION. WHERE YOU WILL MEET JESUS WHO FORGIVES YOU.**  
 Pope Francis



**November 2021: Month of the Holy Souls**

♥♥ A time to pause, reflect and pray ♥♥

*Eternal rest GRANT UNTO THEM. O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. MAY THEY REST IN PEACE. Amen.*

The month of November is dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. The Church commemorates all her faithful children who have departed from this life, but have not yet attained the joys of heaven. **St. Paul** warns us that we must not be ignorant concerning the dead, nor sorrowful, "even as others who have no hope ... For the Lord Himself shall come down from heaven ... and the dead who are in Christ shall rise."

*Please pray for...*

**All students must be silent and reverent in the Chapel to show respect to staff and students who are praying for our loved ones**

Throughout November, the Month of the Holy Souls, all students have had the opportunity to visit the chapel to pray for those who have gone before us. This has provided a lovely opportunity for reflection where students modelled our values of faith and respect through their reverence.

### Vocations

In year 8 we have been exploring the meaning and importance of vocations and evangelism in the Catholic Church, with a focus on our calling to be stewards through Catholic Social Teaching and our calling to be charitable. Year 8 have enjoyed having the opportunity to creatively express their learning through artwork this half term.



### MAC Mission Meeting



In November, students from across the ASCC joined together for the MAC Mission meeting. It was wonderful to gather and discuss COP26 and our pledges, focusing on how we can be more environmentally friendly within our schools.

## RE at STMCA

### Exploring the Church

In year 10 RE we have been learning all about the Church, exploring the meaning and importance of the Church, as well as the architecture and features of a Catholic Church. We really enjoyed getting creative with year 10 and building our own Churches which reveal many of the important features which we have been learning about in class. To help to prepare for this, we visited our chapel to explore the features in there.



### Debate Club



Every Thursday, we meet in RE and run the KS4 Debate Club where we debate relevant ethical and philosophical topics related to the curriculum in RE and beyond. This helps us to develop our critical thinking skills as well as our listening and speaking skills, developing the confidence to argue, analyse and evaluate.

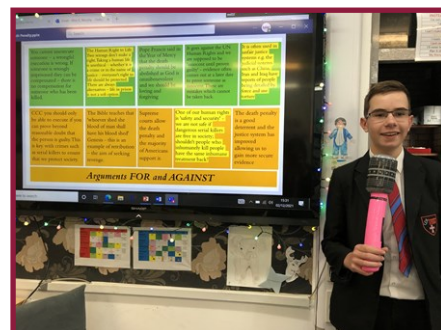
*"I enjoy the structure of debate club and exploring*

*the wide range of points which we have to consider" - Y10 student*

*"We enjoy spending time with our friends after school, building our confidence and improving our exam skills" - Y10 student*

*The Death Penalty Music and Religion Faith and Heaven*

**The Trolley Problem The Lifeboat Scenario Are all people equal?**



### Year 7 Mass

On Friday 8th October year 7 visited St Gregory's RC Church, Longton. Father David told students all about the important features of the church as well as answering the many wonderful questions year 7 had. We ended the day by celebrating Mass together





## Maths

Within the Maths department this year we have had many amazing opportunities for students as well as brilliant results from competitions and enrichment clubs.

Throughout years 7 to 9, Times Tables Rock Stars has been ongoing and students have been busy! The leader board so far is as follows for year 7 to 9:

### Year 7

Demi-Sue with a whopping 4987 correct answers, Mohammed coming close after with 4565 and Jan, Hareer and Adrian coming in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> spot.

### Year 8

Ivan is way in the lead with 8232 answered. Special mentions to Saimanas, Mason, Selina and Ismah.

### Year 9

Congratulations to Shaina with a brilliant 3114 correct answers. Special mentions to Mohammad, Tia, Samayyah, Archie.



## Numeracy

Year 7-9 students complete Numeracy Ninjas during form time to test both their numerical skill, and time management. Each year group currently has a different set of questions, over the 3 years, with a wide variety of numeracy skills tested and, over time, their scores should improve, allowing them to achieve higher coloured belts in their Ninja programme.

## Honours

The maths department have been busy creating a brilliant honours programme for the after-school honours master classes. Mr Moss has delivered a 'Making Money With Maths,' as well as Mr Moore who introduced students to 'Ciphers and Code,' which will introduce students to real world maths and allow them to see mathematics as an exciting career pathway.

## Hegarty Heroes

Here are the Hegarty Heroes for each year so far this half term. Well done for continuing to exceed out of school within home learning – your efforts will pay off!

### Yr 7 Hegarty Heroes

Malaika (3547)  
 Hareer (1014)  
 Usman (911)  
 Mahommed (818)  
 Teagan (734)

### Yr 8 Hegarty Heroes

Zuzanna (2161)  
 Alishba (872)  
 Siraj (609)  
 Hassnain (531)  
 Lucy (524)

### Yr 9 Hegarty Heroes

Zahi (3021)  
 Shaina (1878)  
 Zhwan (936)  
 Abel (414)  
 Misha (406)

### Yr 10 Hegarty Heroes

Shayan (1439)  
 Elle (747)  
 Sahil (363)  
 Andreea (322)  
 Millie (313)

### Yr 11 Hegarty Heroes

Zara (1024)  
 Bilal (542)  
 Haseeb (506)  
 Amaan (490)  
 Mahnoor (484)

### Whole School Heroes

1. Malaika (3547)
2. Zahi (3012)
3. Zuzanna (2161)

# Maths

## Maths Challenge

On Wednesday 10th November Sixth Form students competed in the UK Mathematics Trust's Senior Maths Challenge. A huge well done to all students who took part, especially Saqib and Megan who achieved a bronze certificate and Ismeil, Parsa and Thanush who achieved silver. A special mention to Hayden who not only achieved a silver certificate but also scored Best in School!

## Chess Competition and Maths Club

We have the brilliant opportunity for all years to participate in a Chess Club with Mr Brown as well as years 7 and 8 to be with Mrs Plant on Tuesdays afterschool to enjoy maths for another whole hour! More on this in the enrichment section!



## What is upcoming in the Maths Department?

## AMSP 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> December

The Advanced Mathematics Support Programme is a government-funded initiative. It aims to increase participation in Core Maths, AS/A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics, and improve the teaching of these level 3 maths qualifications.

The programme provides national support for teachers and students in state-funded schools and colleges in England. Additional support is offered in areas of low social mobility so that, whatever their gender, background or location, students can choose their best post-16 maths pathway and have access to high quality teaching.

## 'Employability skills within the curriculum' project

Maths have had the opportunity to work to create an Employability Skills Programme that aims to ***'Construct connections between classroom learning and careers'***. We are excited to embark on this project, alongside Mrs Kerr, to create some lessons to share across the city.

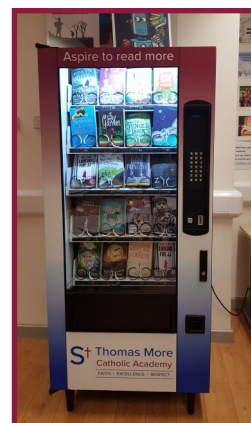


## English Update

### 'Read More Be More Bot'

Thank you to Higher Horizons for funding our new book vending machine here in the library at St Thomas More Catholic Academy. This is an amazing incentive for pupils in year 7&8 who will be rewarded for improvements shown in their Bedrock Vocabulary. One student from each class has already received a golden coin and chosen their own book to take home to keep.

We also held a competition to name the machine and Hareer S in year seven was chosen with the 'Read More Be More Bot'. Hopefully this will continue to inspire our students to carry on with their love of reading some amazing books.



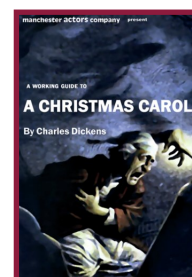
### Dynamic Debate



On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October, the whole of year 7 took part in a topical debate. The motion was directly linked to Treasure Island, the transition unit which they have studied since September. The debate was led by Miss Warren and Ms Powell's groups however, all students were provided with the opportunity to contribute. The debate was an enormous success with the students demonstrating exceptional oracy skills. They were articulate and resilient throughout, presenting a varied range of ideas with maturity and diligence. As a department, we are confident that this will be the first of many debates, and are incredibly proud of the whole year group for their participation, passion and enthusiasm.

### A Christmas Carol

The theatre troupe MANACTCO returned to our school on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, to treat our students to an outstanding production of A Christmas Carol. This provided the students with a spectacular live theatre experience. Moreover, it also helped to secure pupils' understanding of the plot of the novella, developing their knowledge of key themes and characters. Pupils participated in a question and answer session following the performance, helping to consolidate their understanding of this important GCSE text.



### Read for Good

Congratulations to our year 7 and 8 students who participated in the Readathon event, we have raised over £500 for Read for Good - which is a record for this event! Read for Good are a charity who supply reading material and readers for children in hospital, so we are thrilled to have been able to support them. Well done to all who contributed.





## English Update

### **Higher Horizons: White Water Writers Project**

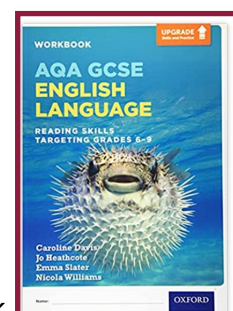
'You can make anything by writing' C S Lewis.

A group of Year 9 students have participated in the White Water Writers project, which provided the opportunity for them to collaboratively write and publish a full length novel in just one week of intensive teamwork and creative writing activity.

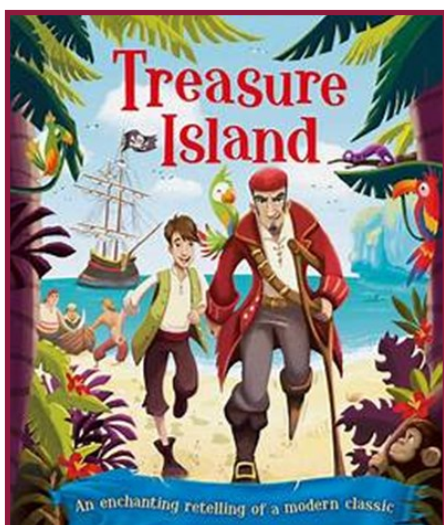
At a later date, the school will be hosting a book signing event, which will be attended by the friends and families of our published authors, celebrating this incredible achievement. Research conducted by King's College London and Keele University, evidences that the project has a demonstratable positive impact on writers' self esteem, feelings of control and the development of interpersonal skills. This is in addition to helping students to become better and more motivated writers.

### **English Language Examiner Masterclasses**

A group of Year 11 students have had the fantastic opportunity to work closely with Caroline Davis (Senior AQA Examiner for GCSE English Language and Literature), in a sequence of Masterclasses. In addition to her work with the exam board, Caroline has also co-written a series of workbooks, utilising her examiner expertise. The sessions were specifically designed to support students in their preparation for the mock examinations. Caroline, who works with schools across the country, applauded our pupils' dedication to their studies and their mature approach towards learning.



### **Treasure Island: English Excellence Project**



As part of the English Excellence Project, Stoke on Trent schools have joined the initiative to improve transition for Year 7 pupils across the city. This has been extremely successful and the students are thoroughly enjoying the scheme of work and exploring this classic adventure novel.

At the start of the school year, several members of staff at St Thomas More Catholic Academy were filmed whilst teaching their Treasure Island lessons. This was to further ensure the smooth transition and to share good practice across other Stoke on Trent schools. The students were amazing during the filming, showing fantastic progress and knowledge of the text, but also representing our school values of Faith, Excellence and Respect.

## Computing

### The National Museum of Computing

In October, Year 8 and 9 Honours and Rising Stars students, visited The National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park. Students received a guided tour of the museum and participated in workshops to learn about the history of computing and develop their computational thinking beyond the classroom. The students were a credit to the Academy.



### Download Your Free Microsoft Office Programs

Did you know all students at STMCA can download a range of Microsoft Office Programs for **free** on their home digital device? To access your free Microsoft Office programs please following the below instructions:

1. Via the STMCA student landing page, access the Office 365 log-in page.
2. Enter your full email address (username@stmca.org.uk) and your account password (same password as your IT user login)
3. Click Install Office and follow the step-by-step installation guide. Make sure you use your full student email address when activating your account.



### Microsoft Teams & OneNote

Students across all key stages continue to utilise Microsoft Teams in all of their computing lessons. KS3 students have shown great resilience in adapting to a shift to Microsoft OneNote (a digital class notebook) to evidence their computing learning journey. Students can access these learning resources remotely and we encourage all students to showcase their Class Notebook with their parents / carers.





## Computing

### **IT Suites – Homework Club**

All students are welcome to use our IT learning suite in 344 / 345 on Tuesday to Friday from 3:10pm to 4:10pm. Students have access to over 60 computers and will be supported by department staff in the completion of homework tasks.



## Business and Enterprise

### **Staffordshire's Young Enterprise Challenge**

Year 10 Enterprise and Marketing students; Adam, James, Elle, Isabel, Melissa and Sahil were busy this term developing their entrepreneurial skills in preparation for delivering a business pitch to a panel of 'Dragons' from businesses across the region at Michelin, Stoke on Trent. Students presented their LIT (Learning Interactive Toy) business idea to the Dragons, who were particularly impressed with their unique selling point of using eco-friendly and sustainable materials. The next phase of the initiative will see students attend a trade fair to showcase a prototype of their business idea.



**The London Institute  
of Banking & Finance**

### **Financial Education Scholarship**

We are delighted that former Trinity Sixth Form student Megan, has been awarded a £500 scholarship by The London Institute for Banking and Finance. This is in recognition of Megan's achieving a Grade A in the completion of the Level 3 Certificate in Financial Studies. We wish Megan all the best in her future endeavours.

### **The Duke of York Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award**

From January 2022 we are excited to launch The Duke of York Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award (iDEA). This award-winning enrichment programme will help students to develop their digital, enterprise and employability skills by completing a series of online challenge. To express an interest in this enrichment activity then please see Mr Growcott in 345



## PE

### Football

The STM girls football teams have been in action this term competing in city schools competition. The girls have been successful in a range of age groups including the U14 girls team finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in a city Futsal competition and the U16 girls finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in their 5-a-side football competition. Well done to all of the girls who participated.



The U14, U15 and U16 STM football teams have been in action this term. The

U16 team have been in league action and the U14 and U15 have been in league and county cup action where both the U14 and U15 teams have now progressed to the quarter finals of the county cup! Well done to all the boys who are participating.



### Cross Country

The STM boys and girls have both been involved in cross country meetings at different venues this term. Several students finished in the top 20 in their respective races.

Most notably in the U12s Rose finished 22<sup>nd</sup> and in the U14s Maddison finished 15<sup>th</sup> and Noorin 16<sup>th</sup>.



In the boys events, the U12 Enrique finished 25<sup>th</sup> and Adrian finished 26<sup>th</sup>. In the U14s Godwill finished 6<sup>th</sup> and in the U16s Owen finished 5<sup>th</sup>, Shae 11<sup>th</sup> and Nikodem finished 15<sup>th</sup>. Well done to all of the runners who participated.



## PE

### Netball



The girls have been back in action in the city netball competitions, with many of our students attending the after school netball clubs ran by Mrs Staton, Miss Matthews and Miss Sproston.



### Athletics

It has been great to see the city sports hall athletics competitions back on at Fenton Manor this year. We have had lots of successful performances in the different events where students have won medals and out STM teams have finished in the Top 3 schools in the city. For example the Y9/10 team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the city competition. Well done to all who participated.



### Partnership Games

The partnership games is a great opportunity for students to be involved in different types of sports activity where participation is the winner. We were proud as a school to take students from different age ranges to the events held at Fenton Manor. Well done to all who participated.





## Enrichment

### **Basketball Club**

Our extra-curricular programme of afterschool clubs has been in full swing this term. Mr Riley our basketball coach has been working extremely hard running two different sessions this term, one on a Tuesday night for Y7-9 students and another session on a Thursday night for Y10-11 students. The PE department are looking forward to the competitive fixtures for City Basketball competitions beginning in January.



### **Dance Club**

It has been great to see the Michelle Moss dance academy run an afterschool club at STM this year. The club is on a Tuesday after school and there has been a very positive turn out. A special thanks must go to our Y10 student Olivia who is a member of the dance academy outside of school and has been leading sessions with staff in the club. A great role model to have at STM.



### **Badminton Club**

There has been a great turn out for badminton club for all year groups on a Friday after school. It is really great to see so many students ending each week with some sport and physical activity.



### **Fitness Suite**

The fitness suite has been open after school on a Friday for Y9-11 students and the response from the students to attending has been brilliant.

### **Table Tennis Club**

Our table tennis club has been up and

running again this term for all year groups on a Friday after school and on a Wednesday after school for 6<sup>th</sup> form students.

Mr Halliday has been coaching a range of students. Here we can see Mr Halliday has been working with our Y7 student Waleed. Great work!



## Enrichment

### Crest Club

Our students have been busy researching, making and testing products. This year the Bronze group have chosen to make jelly soap, rock candy, lipgloss and red bathbombs. The Silver students will be making facemasks, shoe polish, lipgloss and perfume. The students will receive a certificate from the British Science Association.



### Word For You Club

This daily lunchtime club is open to all students. We listen to some biblical wisdom from the 'Word for You' daily teaching. There are fun science demonstrations, such as density and making your own compass with a needle (all pointing to God's creation). Other activities include colouring the Psalms and knitting. There is a daily bible verse too, such as 'their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love'. Colossians 2:2

### Current Enrichment Clubs On Offer

Girls Football Club  
 Geography at the Movies  
 More Creativity  
 Dance  
 French Cartoon Club  
 Maths Club  
 Photography  
 British Ceramics Biennial  
 Enterprise  
 Broadcasting  
 Speaking Science  
 RE Speaks  
 Fitness Suite

Word for You  
 Pokemon club  
 Basketball  
 Boy's rugby  
 Choir  
 Book Club  
 Classics Club  
 LAMDA  
 Arts Award  
 Knitting  
 Computer Program  
 Science in the Real World  
 Table Tennis

Chess  
 Eureka Club  
 Badminton  
 CREST  
 Band  
 Mindful Colouring  
 Fitness Suite  
 Debate  
 6th Form Council  
 Netball  
 Fashion Design  
 Philosophy Club

Find out the full schedule @ <https://www.stmca.org.uk/student-success/enrichment/>

## Wellbeing

It has been a busy term with lots of wellbeing interventions across the school which have been very well received by students, with excellent feedback from students and visitors alike.

Our year 7 students have transitioned well with some additional support in place for students via our pastoral team with Miss Warren and Mrs Britton. Additional intervention groups have included our Year 7 AIM provision where students have done PSHE, emotional literacy and extra transition activities, all of which have received excellent feedback from the students who have participated so far. We have also been fortunate to be able to offer drawing and talking emotional literacy interventions delivered by our Education Mental Health Practitioner. Students have engaged extremely well and it is wonderful to hear what a credit the students have been to the school.

A group of year 8 students were selected to take part in the Diamond Families building resilience and self-empowerment session. Students got to meet Scruffy the dog and George the rabbit. The two sessions were brilliant and delivered in a way that the students forgot that they were in an intervention session and learning, yet learnt so much! It was a delight to watch the young people engage and their feedback has been brilliant including 10/10 from most students and a billion out of 10 from the one! Students reported, 'the best lessons in my life', 'taking the message of kindness, resilience and remembering that when you need help to talk' and 'I gained confidence that I will take into my school and home life.'



We have recently teamed up with Changes and are offering small group interventions around: Anger Management; Managing Worry; Understanding Sadness; Helpful vs Unhelpful Thinking; Positive Self-image and Healthy Relationships. Initial feedback from students and staff supporting in the sessions has been fantastic and we look forward to being able to offer more sessions in the New Year.

Year 11 students are about to partake in an Exam Stress Workshop with North Staffs Mind. This workshop is interactive and led by the students. It will include:-

- ⇒ Identifying causes of exam stress
- ⇒ Myths and facts about exam stress
- ⇒ Practical exam hints and tips
- ⇒ Recognising different strategies/techniques work for different people
- ⇒ The importance of time off/and time out from revision
- ⇒ Useful distraction techniques
- ⇒ Where to access additional support



## Wellbeing

It has been a challenging time for all students, especially for our GCSE students, so we have welcomed all additional support that we can offer our students.

As a school we work with a number of external agencies to ensure we are able to meet the mental health and wellbeing needs of all of our students.

The school nurse is in school every blue week Thursday lunch time. The school nurse team are introducing Virtual Chat Clinics for Young People starting from Monday 29th November 2021. The virtual clinics will run every Monday afternoon 3-4.30pm and students/school staff can book an appointment to have a telephone consultation. They will be using an app "One Consultation" which allows the health team to video call the student safely and securely. Appointments will need to be made via our School Nursing Hub Tel 0300 404 2993, students or school staff can make these appointments. Students can also text our CHAT health Service on 07520615723 to book a telephone appointment. Practitioners will then send the student a link via text message on the day of their appointment and call the student to discuss their worries.

**School Nurse**  
**0-19 Service**  
**Telephone chat**

**Confidential**  
 advice and  
 support

**Worried about**  
 your health?

**NHS**  
 Midlands Partnership  
 NHS Foundation Trust  
 A Keele University Teaching Trust

**Virtual chat appointments**

Call or text to book your 20 minute appointment with one of our 0-19  
 Children, young people and families practitioners:  
 Call the Our Health 5-19 Hub: 0300 404 2993  
 Text our Chat Health: 07520615723

Advice and support  
 on sexting, online  
 grooming and CSE

Are body  
 changes  
 worrying you?

Support for  
 Sexual Health,  
 Relationships and  
 Sexuality

Feeling unhappy,  
 stressed or  
 anxious?

Being  
 bullied?

**Every Monday**  
**15:00—16:30**

## Careers



Quality Careers Provision continues to develop and have positive impacts on our students, giving real focus to their aspirations as they are supported in planning their career pathways.

Before term even started in August, the NCS Summer programme saw year 11 Students take part in a three- week summer programme, developing work ready skills, creating blogs, experiencing outdoor activities and undertaking a community project of their own design to help the local community.

Returning to school we saw the launch of our new Careers Platform Unifrog in Careers Assemblies for all year groups: every student was sent an email with details to access the Unifrog Careers Platform. This ensures that all students have access to personalised Careers information and guidance at all times and can work towards being independent researchers and applicants for jobs apprenticeships, universities college courses, BTECs, taking ownership of planning their career pathways.

Careers discussions at the face to face parents evenings ensured that Careers guidance was available all evening for year 11 and year 7 students and parents. This was followed a week later by a TEAMS employability session for parents and students, delivering Careers information, Post-16 options and careers planning support.

Our World of Work Week took place on 18<sup>th</sup> October – 22<sup>nd</sup> October: CPO Chris Smith of the Royal Navy gave a Careers talk to Year 9, Year 8 explored NHS jobs during their Careers competition launch, and Year 11 were given vital post-16 options information during a special assembly prior to their visit from a team of qualified independent careers advisors providing 1-1 appointments for year 11 students.

The BBC Bitesize Careers Innovations Live Tour came into school for all of Year 7,8,9 and 10 and all received an employer encounter with a film producer, film director, welder and Newsround presenter. The students heard all these creative employees of the BBC interviewed and then had the opportunity to ask questions. We had a great day broadening our career aspirations and expectations.



## Career Ready

Career Ready Graduation Ceremony was an enjoyable evening welcoming year 13 students and their families and mentors from local businesses to celebrate the culmination of 18 months of 1-1 mentoring, internship and masterclasses. The Career Ready programme builds employability skills and gives students real work experience and a mentor from a local business designed to help them to explore and prepare for the World of Work. Gary Curzon, Keith Nicholls from KMF Engineering, Caroline Emery from Career Ready and Ms Kerr all spoke to Congratulate the students on a fabulous achievement in an unprecedented time.

Career Ready Interviews for year 12 applicants took place at the end of November, with local employers from Stoke Council, KMF Engineering, Business Process Improvement Managers, Accountants and year 13 Career ready graduates. This was great interview experience for year 12 and 13s, and we had an amazing 20 successful applicants to move on to the next cohort of STMCA Career Ready Students.



## Stanley Head—Music Retreat

A group of 29 students attended Stanley Head outdoor centre on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November and Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November. The weather was beautiful enough for a lovely long walk in the countryside with lots of mud and stiles and cows!

The pupils spent their time practising lots of songs and carols in preparation for the Christmas Concert. There was time to play clarinets and recorders, and some of the students played drama games and worked on some dramatic pieces for the concert. Food was lots of pizza and muffins. A thoroughly enjoyable event for all.





## Sixth Form

### **Higher Horizons:**

All students in Year 12 attended a session delivered by Higher Horizons about accessing Higher Education and the benefits that this has. The session was delivered as a stage performance intertwining life experience alongside comedy. The students that attended found the session to be incredibly inspiring and thought provoking as it not only reinforced previous information but also showcased to students the opportunities that are available to them.

The Higher Horizons session was further supported by an open day to Staffordshire University whereby students participated in group sessions, small seminar discussions and a tour of the campus.

### **#HelloYellow**

Students within our Sixth Form participated within the #helloyellow campaign to promote awareness of mental health and wellbeing. The students participated within this campaign to share positivity and optimism throughout our Sixth Form community.

### **University Interviews:**

As part of the university application process, a small group of students participated in mock interviews with a panel of interviewers. The afternoon was incredibly challenging with students being asked a range of ethical questions about how the study of medicine, chemistry and history can contribute to the wider world and development of society. The feedback was extremely positive with the students being praised for their appearance, aspirations and achievements.

### **David Campbell write up -**

On the 9<sup>th</sup> November, seven sixth form students set off for Liverpool with a dream in mind, to achieve a football coaching place for summer 2022 in either USA or Canada.

The sixth form is delighted to announce the success of all seven David Campbell Soccer students in completing their USA/Canada football coaching trials. Along with David Campbell soccer academy coaches, the students were also assessed by coaches from the Challenger sports agency, who are responsible for arranging opportunities for aspiring coaches in USA and Canada.



The day started early at 7:30am with a road trip up to Liverpool on quite a nervous school bus. The students were greeted in Liverpool by the Challenger coaches who went onto explain how the day would run. The students were to sign contracts and then take their turn coaching year 12 David Campbell Soccer students. The students from St Thomas More were greeted by young sports coaches from all over northern England, a number of those being assessed had travelled from as far as Carlisle.

The St Thomas More students were thrilled to find their coaching sessions had impressed the coaches. A sigh of relief fell across the sports centre boardroom as the students had been told their hard work had paid off, they had passed.

## Sixth Form

### Contd.

Now a long road of coaching lays ahead for the David Campbell students as they patiently wait for the cold winter to melt and give way for the warm hopeful summer months.

By Jacob Grattage (Y13 David Campbell Soccer Student)

### St Thomas More Trinity Sixth Form



Trinity Sixth Form offers a unique post-16 experience by working closely together, our three Catholic partner schools – St Thomas More, St John Fisher and St Margaret Ward. This offers you the best of both worlds; the benefits of studying in a small school sixth form where you are known, supported and cared for and the wide curriculum offer you might expect to find in a college or larger sixth form.

All year 11 students are eligible to apply to The Trinity Sixth Form, whether you're a year 11 student in one of the partner schools or you attend a different school and want to be part of this exciting sixth form opportunity.

Five reasons to study at Trinity Sixth Form according to our students:

- 1. Known and loved**
- 2. Belonging to a community**
- 3. Academic rigor**
- 4. Individualised support**
- 5. Study environment**



The Trinity Sixth Form experience really is great preparation for university life, Higher Level Apprenticeships, or the world of work. In addition to the subjects you study, you will experience a range of enrichment opportunities, including university visits, careers advice, work experience and many other exciting and enjoyable activities.

More information is available on our website or on the Y11 Sixth Form Open Evening Team. Call us now on 01782 882900

## Upcoming Dates

| Date          | Event                            |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 6th January   | Year 10 Parents Evening – Online |
| 7th January   | Year 11 MADE Revision            |
| 13th January  | Year 12 & 13 Parents Evening     |
| 19th January  | Student Council Meeting          |
| 20th January  | Year 9 Parents Evening - Online  |
| 27th January  | Year 11 Basics Revision Day      |
| 2nd February  | Parent Partnership Meeting       |
| 14th February | WOW Week                         |
| 17th February | Year 11 Parents Evening - Online |



Wishing you a happy & holy Christmas