

Newsletter

July 2026



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Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of another successful academic year at St Thomas More Catholic Academy, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to reflect on what has been an exceptional year for our school community.

This has been a year filled with achievement. From outstanding examination outcomes and academic progress to sporting success, performing arts, concerts, productions, Duke of Edinburgh, charity fundraising, leadership opportunities and enrichment activities, our pupils have continued to flourish. They have represented our Academy with pride, compassion and determination, living out our mission and Gospel values each day. Many of these successes are celebrated throughout this newsletter, and I hope you enjoy reading about all that has been accomplished.

We conclude the academic year with our annual Mass of Thanksgiving at St Gregory's Church. This is always one of the highlights of the school year as we gather together as a Catholic community to give thanks for the many blessings we have received and to celebrate another year of learning, growth and service. I would like to thank Father David for his continued support of our school and everyone who has contributed to making this such a special celebration.

As another academic year comes to a close, we also say farewell to a number of valued colleagues who have made an enormous contribution to the life of St Thomas More Catholic Academy. We wish a long and happy retirement to Mr Halliday, who concludes an outstanding 40 years of dedicated service, and to Mrs Crawford and Mrs Martin, who both retire after more than 20 years of committed service to young people and our school community. We also congratulate Mrs Bradbury, who leaves us to take up a well-deserved promotion as a Deputy Headteacher. Alongside them, we thank Mrs Maher, Mr Ahmad, Mr Pate, Mr Jones, Miss Mason-Jeffries and Mrs Asif as they begin new chapters in their careers. Each has made a valued contribution to our Academy, and we thank them sincerely for their dedication and commitment. They leave with our gratitude, prayers and very best wishes for the future.

I would also like to thank every member of staff for their unwavering commitment throughout the year. As we begin the summer holidays, I hope that every family has the opportunity to rest, spend time together and create many happy memories. The holidays provide an important opportunity to recharge before another exciting year begins.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with our Year 11 and Year 13 students as they await their examination results. We look forward to celebrating their achievements on results days and supporting them as they move on to the next stage of their education, employment or training. I am particularly looking forward to welcoming many of our Year 11 pupils back into our growing Sixth Form in September.

Finally, I look forward to welcoming all of our pupils back to the Academy, especially our new Year 7 students, in September, ready for another year of learning, faith, friendship and success.

On behalf of everyone at St Thomas More Catholic Academy, thank you once again for your continued support throughout the year.

I wish you and your family a happy, peaceful and blessed summer.

Mr M Rayner
Headteacher

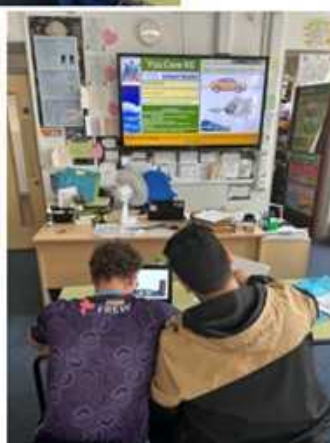
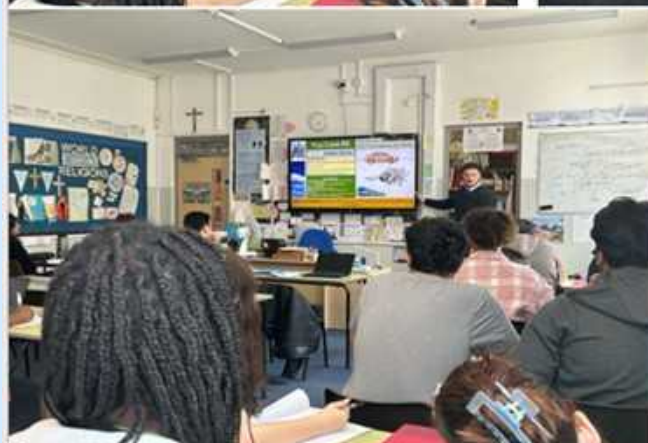
Holy Hands Craft Club



Crafters have continued to build their skills in things such as hand sewing, crochet and bracelet making this Summer term.

Students also created gratitude charms for chosen staff members and others, as a symbol of appreciation for their contribution to the students' learning.

We begin our next project in September, creating poppies for remembrance in conjunction with our local churches.



Year 12 Core RE has provided students with opportunities to explore Catholic beliefs alongside contemporary issues, including social justice, care for creation, prayer, and the life and teachings of Jesus. Students have developed their understanding of how faith continues to shape individuals, communities, and society.

KS3 Creative Activities



In this Summer Term, our KS3 students have studied the Holy Spirit and the work of the Holy Spirit in the world around us, the importance of the Last Supper the story of Pentecost and the importance of this event as the Birth of the Church and the beginning of the fulfilment of the Great Commission. In addition, Y9 have creatively explored the Jewish festival of Passover by creating their own Sedar plates.



Y9 Jewish Food Experience

A GROUP OF OUR Y9 STUDENTS TOOK PART IN OUR SECOND JEWISH FOOD EXPERIENCE AT STMCA! THE STUDENTS BAKED THEIR OWN CHALLAH BREAD AND DISCUSSED JEWISH ARTIFACTS AND OTHER SYMBOLISM IN THE JEWISH FAITH THROUGH FOOD! THIS WAS A JOINT ENRICHMENT EXPERIENCE BETWEEN OUR RS AND FOOD AND NUTRITION DEPARTMENT. WELL DONE TO OUR OF OUR STUDENTS WHO TOOK PART!



Institute of Philosophy



Two year twelve students have graduated from their philosophy workshop run with the Institute of Philosophy over a number of weeks after school. Each student received their own philosophy book and a certificate to evidence their participation. This is an excellent demonstration of our students engaging in critical thinking as a part of our enrichment provision.

ART



SARAH GRAHAM

KNOWLEDGE NOTE

Key facts about this contemporary artist:

- British, born in 1972
- Professional painter
- Consists of the paintings of animals and other things from her childhood
- Most of them described as 'kawaii'
- Paintings are joyful, vibrant and fun

Context - How does context for work, the artist in which the work belongs.

- Tells us a bit of the artist's life, wants to paint
- Photographs the stuff they have different angles and create in a scene
- Uses photos as a guide to paint and the composition from her childhood
- Paints a lot of her in acrylic paint
- Paints over the first layer with oil paint

Analysing (asking: What Sarah Graham's Work, the artist and specific information)

- Describe what you see: Talk about the subject matter (what is it all about?) Talk about the composition (how is the work set out?) Talk about the materials, processes & visual elements you see used.
- Describe the impact of the work: How does the painting make you feel and explain why? (How about emotions and attitudes it might provoke)
- What are your opinions of Sarah Graham's work? Explain why you think this, justify the reasons for your opinion

Sarah Graham's inspirations:
This comes from her own childhood experiences, particularly the feeling of winning a toy store or parking rewards.

Year 8 used clay making techniques and processes when they created gargoyles in the autumn term. This was followed by Mixed Media artwork inspired by artists Yellana James and Erica Johnson. They learnt how to layer a variety of materials to create a lively piece of work with a focus on sea creatures.

MIXED MEDIA ARTIST – ERIKA JOHNSON

ART AI

MIXED MEDIA ARTIST – YELLANA JAMES

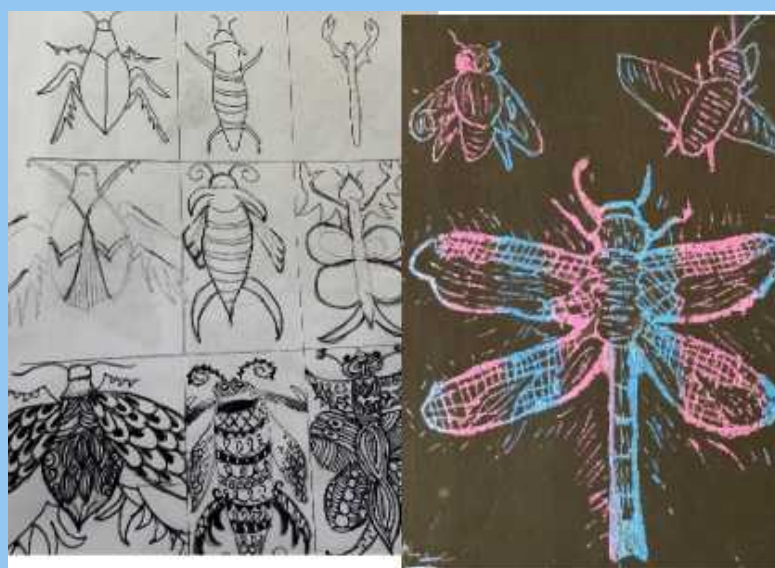
ART



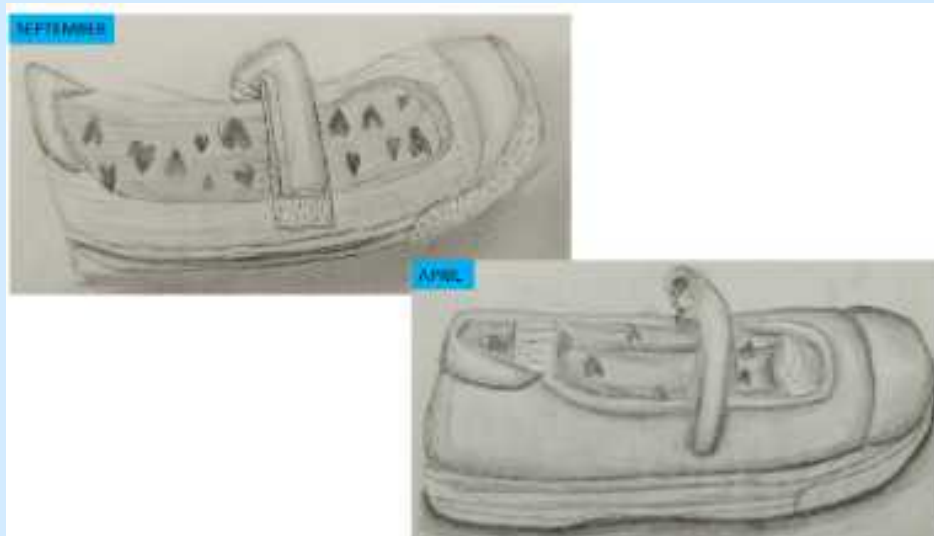
They have completed the year by studying features of portrait. They have explored measured and grid drawing techniques to start with followed by investigating Pop art Ben Day dots and the work of artist Marion Bolagnesi and the way she manipulates paint into portraits to create studies of eyes.



Year 9 Have studied architecture and created card sculptures this year influenced by the work of Ian Murphy and Antoni Gaudi. Next they investigated the world of creepy crawlies and bugs, finding out about a wide variety of artists including Abby Diamond, a watercolour painter, zentangles, the sgraffito technique, pen drawing skills and the work of Christopher Marley. We have discussed ideas around what art actually is and what makes a piece of art, art.



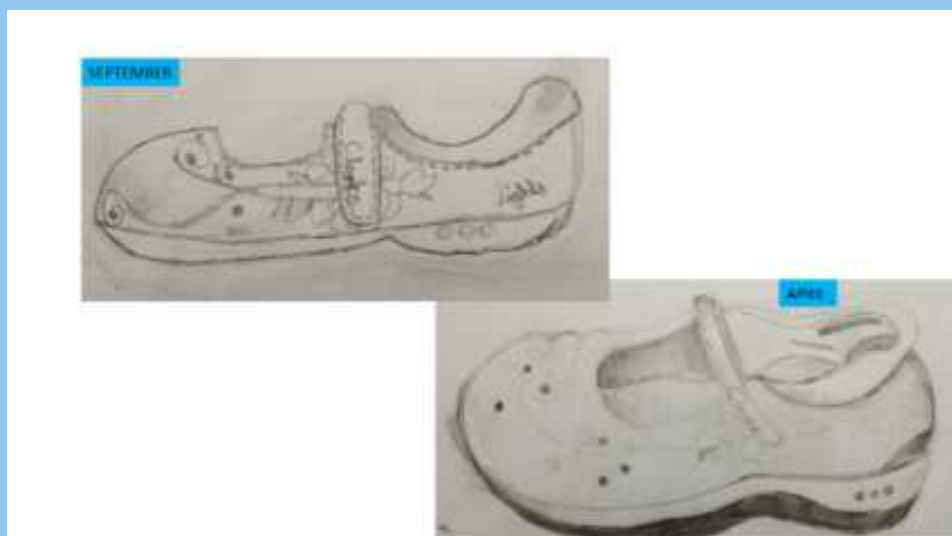
ART



It's been another outstanding year in the art department. We're delighted to share with you all some examples of the fantastic work that students from all years have made.

Year 7 have been exploring the visual elements of art, line, tone, shape, colour, texture, pattern, form. This has culminated in them making amazing pencil tone shoe drawings, when they focussed on the elements of Line, Shape, Tone, texture and form.

They have completed the year by looking at the fantastic hyper realistic work of artist Sarah Graham. Students spent time learning all about control with colour, colour mixing and colour theory.



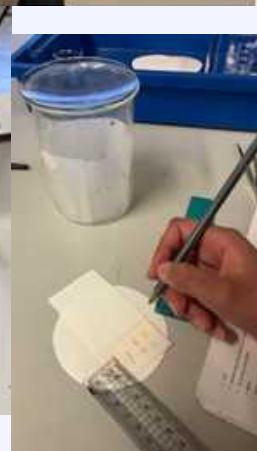
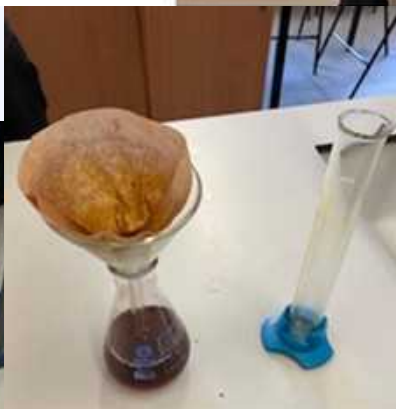
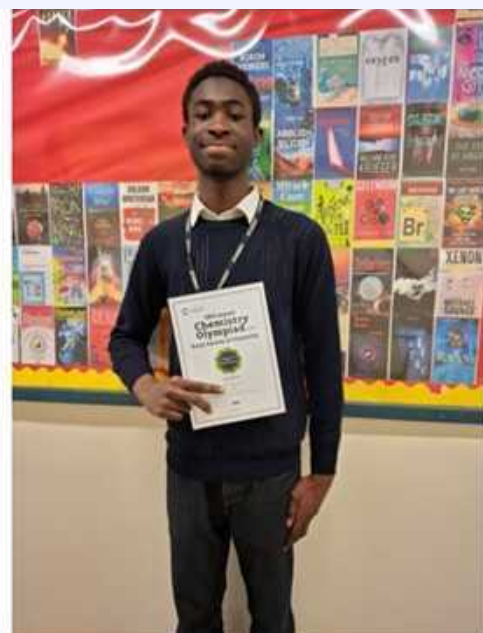
Science Sixth Form

Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad

The Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad is a unique opportunity for students to push themselves further and excel in the Chemistry field. The Olympiad is the leading chemistry competition for secondary students across the British Isles. Budding chemists develop critical problem-solving skills, learn to think more creatively and get a chance to test their knowledge in new, real-world situations as they compete to represent the UK at the prestigious International Chemistry Olympiad.

There were 17,241 entries across the UK and two of our students from Year 13 took part.

Gerald achieved a certificate of participation while Hamza achieved a bronze award, putting him in the top 70 % of entrants. We are incredibly proud of the achievements of both students in one of the toughest Chemistry challenges.



Schools' Analyst Competition

Year 12 Chemistry students have taken part in the Royal Society of Chemistry Schools' Analyst Competition this term. Teams of students worked together, competing against their peers at other regional schools in the national competition.

They assisted the police, with an investigation into the cause of a mysterious illness that had befallen a person working in a local pharmacy. Through a combination of forensic, cosmetic, and analytical science, they worked to help determine if foul play might have been involved in the pharmacist becoming unwell.

- A back titration was performed to determine the amount of caffeine in a coffee sachet to identify whether it had been tampered with.
- Thin layer chromatography was carried out to find out if any lipsticks found in the break room at the pharmacy matched a smudge on the victim's shirt.
- Finally gravimetric analysis was done to see if a tube of unlabelled cream matched any hand creams in the pharmacy.

The challenge offered students the chance to apply their chemistry knowledge in a fun and rewarding way, with students needing to work together to solve the challenges, and answer tough questions.

Whilst we did not win the regional competition we received feedback on the high quality of our entries.

The winning team from St Thomas More was Adam, Esther and Jaden – well done!

Y4 Forensics

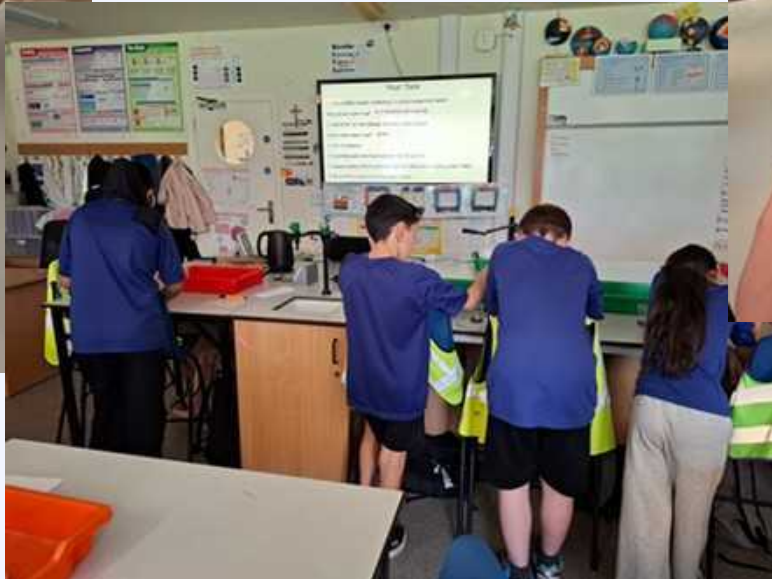
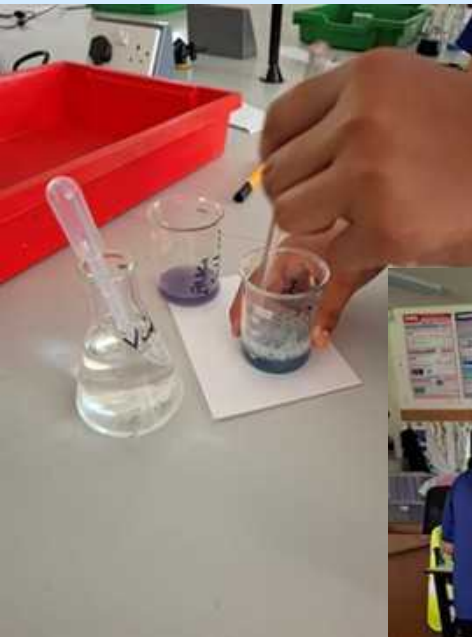
Students from St. Augustine's and Our Lady's visited our labs to take part in a Forensic Science workshop.

Students learned about blood groups and DNA then carried out practical activities including footprint analysis and microscopic analysis to solve a crime.



Y5 Fab in the Lab

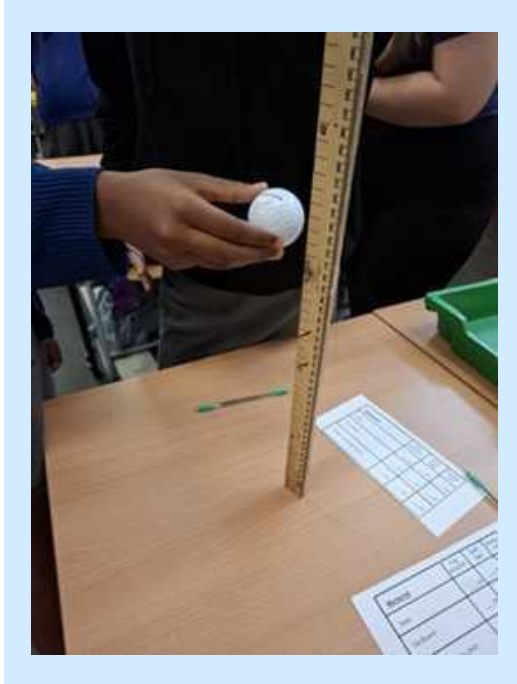
Throughout the year, students from Year 5 at our MAC Primary Schools have taken part in fortnightly online science sessions delivered by the Science department at St Thomas More. During the summer term, the project concluded with a visit to our labs. Students completed a practical investigation to determine the most effective indigestion remedy.



Science Visits and Transitions Days

Y6 Transition Day

On our June Y6 transition days, the Science Department ran lessons on elastic collisions. Which surface absorbed the most energy and therefore didn't allow the ball to bounce? The students had a great time finding out!



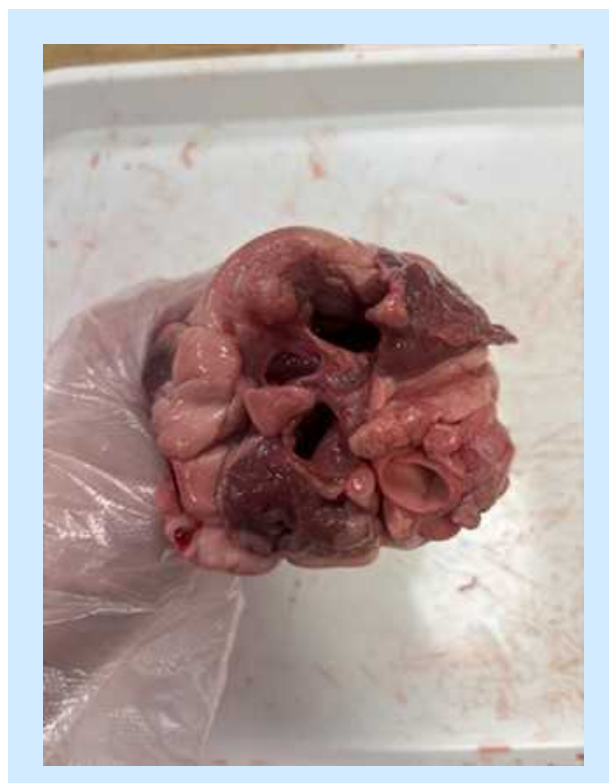
Y11 Transition Days

On our June Y11 transition days, the Science Department ran A level Biology, Chemistry and Physics sessions.

In Biology, the students did a heart dissection.

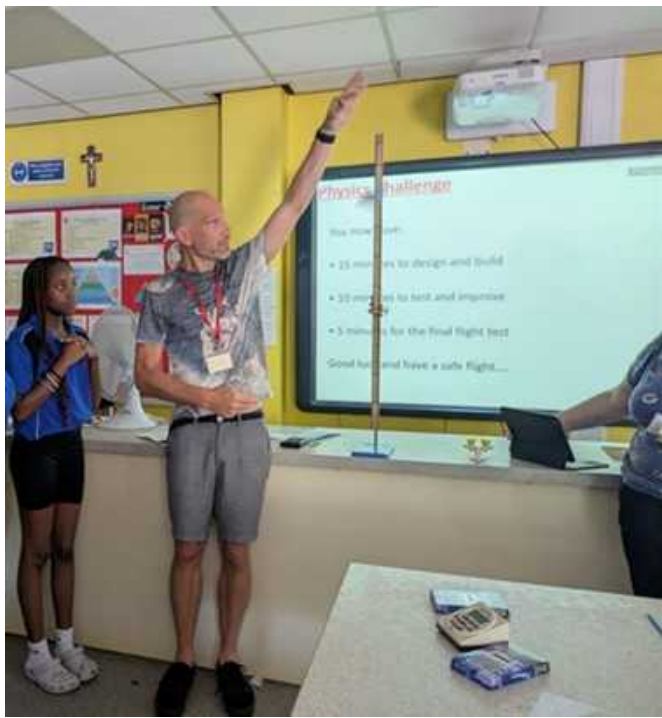
In Chemistry, the students did an iron table titration to determine the amount of iron in an iron tablet.

In Physics, the students looked at light diffraction.



Stoke STEM Championship

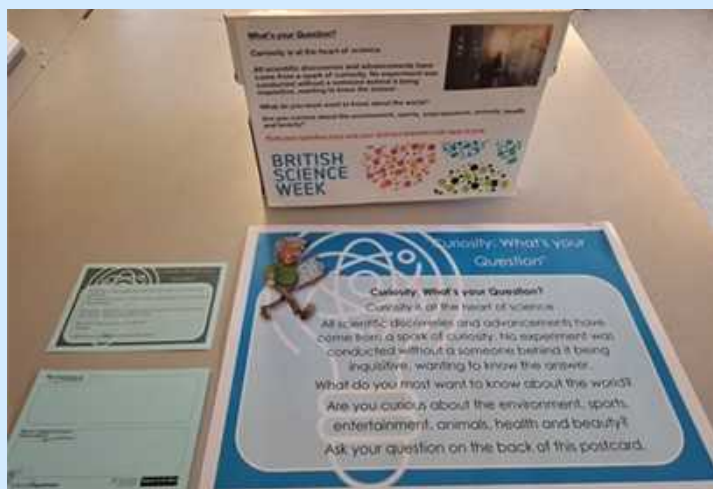
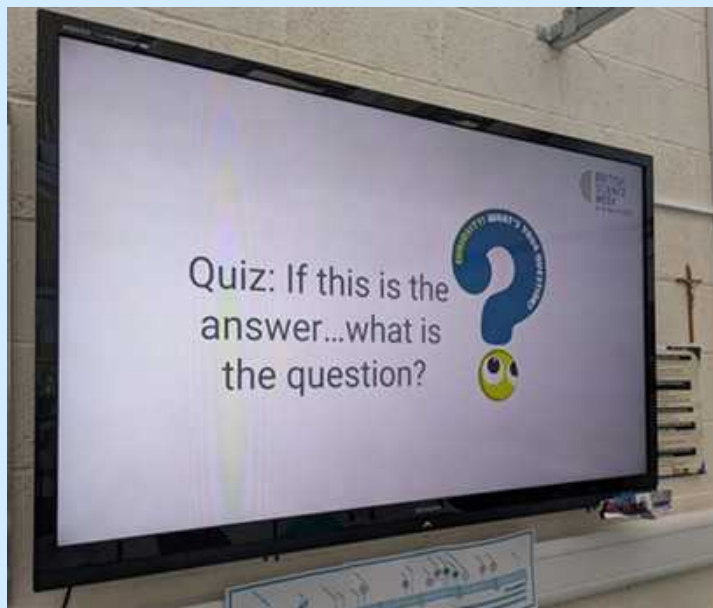
Miss Bartley took four Y10 students to St. Margaret Ward to take part in the Stoke STEM Championships. Students spent the day solving Science activities and tasks and came third overall! Well done!



Y4 Forensics Workshop OLCA Students



British Science Week – Curiosity: what's your question? The week started with the Great Big Quiz of the Year!



British Science Week – Curiosity: what's your question?

British Science Week 2026 took place from 6th–15th March, with the theme "Curiosity: What's Your Question?"

We celebrated throughout the week with a number of activities and throughout the year we've had our 'Curiosity Boxes' in each Science lab where students are invited to post their curious questions. Their teachers reply to all questions with a monthly PRIZE for the most interesting question.

So far we've answered questions such as:

How could there be a heaven if the
Universe goes on forever?

Is time travel possible?

What is the weakest bone in the body?

Is football Science?

What do enzymes look like?

British Science Week – Curiosity: what's your question? – Why are oceans acidic?

Y7 students explored the effect of carbon dioxide on our oceans with Miss Law and Miss Shufflebotham. They used an effervescent vitamin C tablet to produce carbon dioxide gas that they allowed to escape into a cup containing water and a chemical indicator that is blue in neutral conditions but turns green and then yellow in acidic conditions. The more yellow the indicator is, the more acidic the solution is.

When carbon dioxide dissolved in the water we observed the indicator turning green and then yellow, modelling what is happening to our oceans as carbon dioxide levels rise.



Asvitha and Hajrah in Year 7 setting up their investigation

British Science Week – **Curiosity: What's your question? – What is DNA?**

Mutations can cause changes to DNA and sometimes these changes can help plants and animals to thrive in different habitats. DNA holds all the instructions to make an organism and it's found in the nucleus of all cells. Students extracted the DNA from strawberries.



Medpath

We were delighted to welcome six medical students from Keele University Medical School to deliver the Medpath programme to a group of students from Years 9, 10 and 11.

Y9 and 10 students were provided with an insight into life as a medical student and now have a greater understanding of the application process and the requirements to study medicine.

Y11 students enjoyed a problem based learning session where they were taught in the same way that undergraduate medical students are taught.

They reviewed a case study and worked through what they would do in order to diagnose a patient with depression.

We look forward to having more Medpath sessions next year!





Congratulations to all of our Year 7 students, who successfully completed their English Speaking Board assessment this term.

Throughout the year, students worked hard during their English lessons to develop their speaking, performance and communication skills in preparation for this nationally recognised qualification. We were incredibly proud of the confidence, resilience and enthusiasm they demonstrated during their assessments.

External assessors visited the school to assess students as they completed three challenging speaking tasks:

Personal Interest Talk – Students delivered engaging presentations on environmental topics of their choice, using a range of creative visual aids to support their ideas.

Speaking by Heart – Students confidently introduced and performed a self-selected piece from memory, including poems, prose extracts and dramatic performances.

Reading to Listeners – Students introduced their chosen book, explained how their selected extract fitted into the story and read aloud to the assessor with clarity and expression.

The ESB qualification provided a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase not only their speaking and listening skills, but also their creativity, preparation and growing self-confidence.

We are immensely proud of every Year 7 student for embracing this challenge and representing the school so well. We look forward to celebrating their achievements when the results are received.

Keele University Masterclass

Earlier this half term, 14 of our top set Year 10 English students attended an English Masterclass at Keele University. Throughout the day, they took part in three engaging masterclasses delivered by Keele University English lecturers.

These included sessions on close reading and approaching unseen texts, the significance of young adult fiction through *The Hunger Games*, and the ways in which traditional fairy tales are reimagined for modern audiences.

Our students demonstrated excellent engagement, enthusiasm, and maturity throughout the day, asking thoughtful questions and participating confidently in discussions. They also enjoyed a tour of the Keele University campus, giving them an insight into university life and inspiring them to think about their future academic pathways. It was a fantastic opportunity, and the students represented the school exceptionally well.

SASCAL 25-26

Year 8 and 9 students recently took part in the prestigious SASCAL Speaking Competition, where 10 schools from across Stoke-on-Trent delivered debate speeches on topics of interest.

Each team consisted of a Chairperson, a Key Speaker, and a Vote of Thanks, and St Thomas More Catholic Academy was proudly represented by three students

This year's topics covered a wide range of issues, including How Toxic Masculinity is Moulding a Flawed Society and How to Tackle Glossophobia. There was also considerable debate surrounding the proposed social media ban, with students demonstrating a real passion for current affairs and the issues affecting society today.

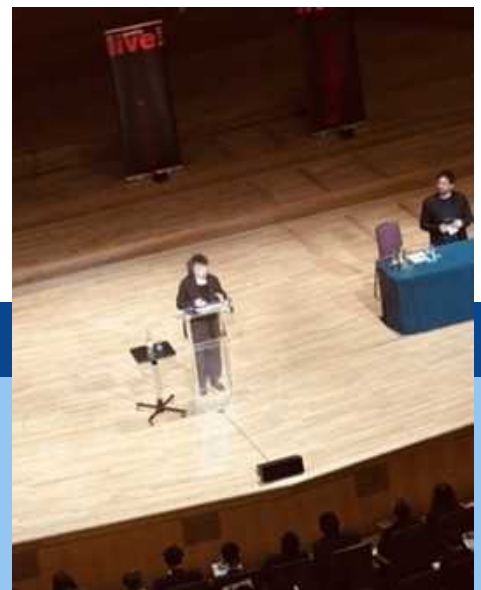
Our team presented their views on the negative impact of online trends, TikTok, and short-form videos, explaining how they can affect young people's ability to concentrate and maintain focus in their daily lives.

We were blown away by our students' confidence and outstanding public speaking skills as they delivered their speeches. They represented our school brilliantly, and we are incredibly proud of their hard work and effort. Well done to everyone involved!



STM visit from Mr Bruff!

Our year 11 students had the fantastic opportunity to work with Mr Bruff - a renowned English GCSE specialist. Mr Bruff was in school for 2 days providing tailored workshops to our year 11 students on GCSE English Language and Literature.



Our KS4 students enjoyed an inspiring trip to **Poetry Live** in Manchester, where they heard powerful live readings from poets including Carol Ann Duffy, Simon Armitage and Imtiaz Dharker. The poets shared insights into their GCSE anthology poems and the intentions behind their writing, while a GCSE examiner offered helpful advice on approaching poetry in exams. A highlight of the day was the incredible reception for John Agard - the whole room seemed to light up when he took to the stage. It was a fantastic and memorable experience that brought the anthology poems to life.



On Thursday 5th March, we celebrated World Book Day with a range of exciting activities designed to inspire a love of reading across the school. Students had the opportunity to take part in activities that encouraged them to explore a variety of books, from well-loved classics to newly released titles.

As part of the celebrations, our top Bedrock and Mapper students were invited to a special event in the library during break and lunch. Here, they had the chance to win book prizes, discover new titles, and celebrate their enthusiasm for reading together. It was a wonderful opportunity to recognise their achievements while continuing to nurture a passion for reading within our school community.



Year 7 & 8 Students Shine with Bedrock Learning!

At St Thomas More Catholic Academy we are proud to champion the power of literacy, and one of the key tools aiding us with this is Bedrock Learning. This digital platform supports students in building their vocabulary, grammar, and reading comprehension through engaging and personalised learning.

We are thrilled to announce the Top 5 Bedrock Learners in Year 7 and Year 8, based on the number of Bedrock Points earned. The following students have shown incredible dedication and enthusiasm:

A Reward for Our Top Bedrock Learners: To celebrate their effort and dedication we are delighted to offer each of the students a free book from our Book Vending Machine!

Come to the school library at break or lunchtime to collect your vending machine token, which you can use to choose a book of your own — a well-earned reward for your commitment to improving your literacy skills.

Well done — we are so proud of you!

Name	Class	Points
Francisca I	7Y4/En, Year 7, 9 DB, 7TL/En	2398
Zain A	7Y2/En, Year 7, 9 DB, 7TL/En	1928
Olivier K	Year 8, Y11-253, Educated Off-Site, ...	1139
Zain K	7 TC, 7TC/En, Educated Off-Site, Ye...	1043

Top Scoring Y7 Bedrock

Top Scoring Y8 Bedrock

Denna	Year 8, 8JB/En, 8X3/En, 8JB/Re	2550
Selby	Year 8, 8VP/En, 8X4/En, 8VP/Re	2087
Deona	Year 8, 8JB/En, 8X3/En, 8JB/Re	1772
Luca D	Year 8, 8DB/En, 8X3/En, 8DB/Re	1602
Nazrin	Year 8, 8X2/En, 8VP/En, 8VP/Re	1601

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Well done — we are so proud of you!

Latest work



MFL and History trip to Berlin 2026



Staff and Students have been busy preparing for the upcoming Berlin trip which will take place in October 2026.

Following on from the great success of last year's visit, students will have the opportunity to gain cultural capital, practise their language skills and engage with the rich history that Berlin has to offer.

Numeracy Ninjas

Numeracy Ninjas has returned to St Thomas More for Key Stage 3 pupils, with a clear focus on developing mental strategies, times tables and overall fluency in key skills.

There are additional stretch and challenge section is provided, featuring two more question to further extend their learning.

Each Friday, pupils complete 30-32 questions within a five-minute time frame, promoting both accuracy and speed. The programme has already had a very positive impact, with many pupils progressing through multiple belt levels within a single term.

CoachBright

The CoachBright Programme is an exciting opportunity that our school has been selected to take part in, and we are thrilled to be involved. This 12-week initiative brings together pupils from across year groups, with Year 10 participants paired with a Year 7 pupil to provide support and coaching in mathematics.

A key feature of the programme is that each one-to-one session is carefully planned and delivered by the Year 10 pupils themselves. This not only helps to build their confidence and leadership skills, but also contributes towards their portfolio for the SSAT Student Leadership Accreditation, recognising their commitment and development throughout the process. The programme will conclude with a celebratory graduation event, where all pupils' achievements and contributions will be acknowledged.

In addition, the programme forms part of a wider national research project. Data collected throughout will contribute to Department for Education (DfE) research, supported by RAND and the University of Leeds, helping to inform future educational practice in relation to peer mentoring.

We have been particularly impressed by the outstanding engagement shown in every session so far. Pupils from both year groups have demonstrated enthusiasm, dedication and a genuine eagerness to participate each week, making the programme a rewarding experience for all involved.



$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$

Mocks

During January, Year 11 pupils completed their mock examinations, providing teachers with valuable insight to inform planning for the remainder of the academic year. This enables the delivery of tailored and targeted lessons and revision sessions designed to address individual areas for development.

Following this, at parents' evening, pupils received not only their mock grades but also a detailed question-level analysis highlighting key areas for improvement. In addition, they were provided with a comprehensive revision pack, including revision cards, mock examination papers tailored to foundation or higher tier, and a curated list of 'golden topics'—commonly assessed areas. Together, these resources equip pupils with the tools needed to succeed both in and beyond the classroom.



Keele Trip

Year 11 pupils recently had the opportunity to visit Keele University for a dedicated Mathematics enrichment and revision day. This experience allowed pupils to engage with a range of interactive workshops designed to strengthen their understanding of key topics and develop effective problem-solving strategies in preparation for their final examinations.

Throughout the day, pupils worked alongside university staff and experienced educators, gaining valuable insight into how mathematical concepts are applied beyond the classroom. The sessions also focused on exam technique, helping pupils to approach questions with greater confidence and precision.

This visit not only supported pupils in consolidating their knowledge but also provided an inspiring glimpse into university life, encouraging them to consider future pathways in education and careers involving mathematics.

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$



United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust

UK Maths Challenge

Year 9 and Year 10 pupils recently took part in the UK Mathematics Challenge, an annual competition designed to test problem-solving skills and mathematical reasoning beyond the standard curriculum. This national challenge encourages pupils to think creatively, tackle unfamiliar problems, and apply their knowledge in new ways.

Participants engaged with a series of challenging multiple-choice and reasoning questions, promoting both accuracy and strategic thinking under timed conditions. The competition provides an excellent opportunity for pupils to develop perseverance, logical reasoning, and confidence in their mathematical abilities.

We are incredibly proud of all pupils who took part, demonstrating determination, focus, and a genuine enthusiasm for mathematics. Special congratulations go to those who achieved Bronze, Silver, or Gold certificates—an outstanding recognition of their hard work and exceptional problem-solving skills. Their success not only reflects individual achievement but also highlights the school's commitment to fostering a culture of curiosity and excellence in the subject.

Well done to Wiktor who completed the next stage - Grey Kanagroo, we are still awaiting his results.

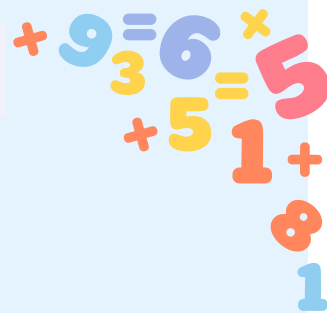


$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$

Junior Mathematical Challenge



UK Maths Trust



This term, our Year 7 and Year 8 students took part in the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Junior Mathematical Challenge, a national competition designed to develop mathematical reasoning, problem-solving and logical thinking through a series of engaging and challenging questions.

The competition encourages students to think creatively, apply their mathematical knowledge in unfamiliar contexts and justify their reasoning. It is an excellent opportunity for students to extend their mathematical skills beyond the classroom.

Congratulations to everyone who took part and represented the school so positively. We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of all students, and the award winners are listed below. Well done to everyone involved!

Y7: Vincent (Silver), Arabella (Silver), Elena (Bronze), Yousaf (Bronze), Ayaan (Bronze), San (Bronze), Satyam (Bronze), Amarrah (Bronze), Zoya (Bronze), Asvitha (Bronze), Helen (Bronze), Hollie (Bronze), Lacey (Bronze)

Y8: Ifeoluwa (Silver), Saa'im (Silver), Julia (Silver), Sophie (Silver), Saniyah (Silver), Emil (Silver), Lyla-Rai (Silver), Felicity (Silver), Amelia (Bronze), Alina (Bronze), Hasan (Bronze), Aderiyike (Bronze), Noah (Bronze), Yousif (Bronze), Abigail (Bronze), Evvy (Bronze), Faith (Bronze), Luca (Bronze), Ellie-Mai (Bronze)



Selected students in Years 7 and 8 had the opportunity to attend a special Magical Maths session with mathematician Ben Sparks where they explored the surprising links between maths, puzzles and magic through a series of engaging demonstrations and challenges.

Well done to all students in 2025-2026

Finally, we would like to congratulate all students on another great year at STM. You have given it your all in the end of year data point and finished the academic year strong, despite the very warm temperatures! See you all in September

What is happening in the Maths Department?

- Looking forward to more trips and visitors next academic year!
- Results day (Y13) 13th August, (Y11) 20th August

Maths

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$

$$\begin{array}{r} + 9 = 6 \times \\ 3 6 = 5 \\ + 5 1 + \\ 8 1 \end{array}$$

Within the Maths department at St Thomas More this year we have had some great opportunities across all year groups. We have ended the school year with KS3 Data Point 2 Assessments done in exam conditions as well as Year 10 having their mock exams before starting preparations for their GCSE's.

Best wishes to all Year 11's and Year 13's for results day in August!



Here are the Sparx Superstars for each year group for this year! Well done for continuing to exceed out of school within home learning – amazing work!

Year 7 - Layla – 282,145 XP

Year 8 – Alina– 52,667 XP

Year 9 – Neha– 42,947 XP

Year 10 – Maria– 44,038 XP

See our table on the next page!



Year 11 pizza evening before their last exam

Over 90 Year 11 students attended the revision session before their final GCSE Maths examination.

Their hard work, commitment and positive attitude throughout the exam season have been fantastic.

Everyone in the Maths Department would like to wish them the very best of luck for Results Day in August!

Well done to this years Year 11 students – we are so proud of you all!

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$



Here are our Sparx Superstars for each year group so far this year. A huge congratulations to all pupils for their exceptional dedication to home learning. This is a truly impressive achievement—collectively, the school has answered over 800,000 questions, completed more than 8,000 hours of study, and supported over 250 pupils in improving their times tables.

Year 7

Student	Compulsory XP	Boost & target XP	Independent learning XP	Total XP earned
Ruqaya Fatima	380	1532	0	1912
Layla Joseph	736	672	300	1708
Faisal Noor	1325	334	0	1659

Year 8

Student	Compulsory XP	Boost & target XP	Independent learning XP	Total XP earned
Affie Mansell Cooper	2801	0	0	2801
Aline Lin	545	1077	420	2042
Felix Justin	968	945	0	1913

Year 9

Student	Compulsory XP	Boost & target XP	Independent learning XP	Total XP earned
Fahmy Bailey	2657	0	0	2657
Layton Howie	545	1344	0	1789
Victory Anyiam	1601	101	0	1702

Year 10

Student	Compulsory XP	Boost & target XP	Independent learning XP	Total XP earned
Leon Jalson	143	2563	0	2703
Daisy Mansell Cooper	2382	0	0	2382
Adam Matuseczek	880	674	0	1554





We are delighted to celebrate the achievement of our fantastic Year 7 coachees and Year 10 coaches. A group of our Year 10 students who recently graduated from the CoachBright Coaching programme where they coached a group of our Year 7 students.

CoachBright is a national social mobility charity that supports young people to become more confident, independent and resilient through structured coaching and mentoring. During the programme, our students worked with trained coaches who helped them develop their study skills, build confidence, set goals and raise aspirations for their future education and careers. Following the submission and moderation of their SSAT leadership portfolios, we anticipate students will gain an impressive 10 Gold Awards, 2 Silver Awards and 3 Bronze Awards. We attended Staffordshire University for a day of celebrations - **Well done all!**



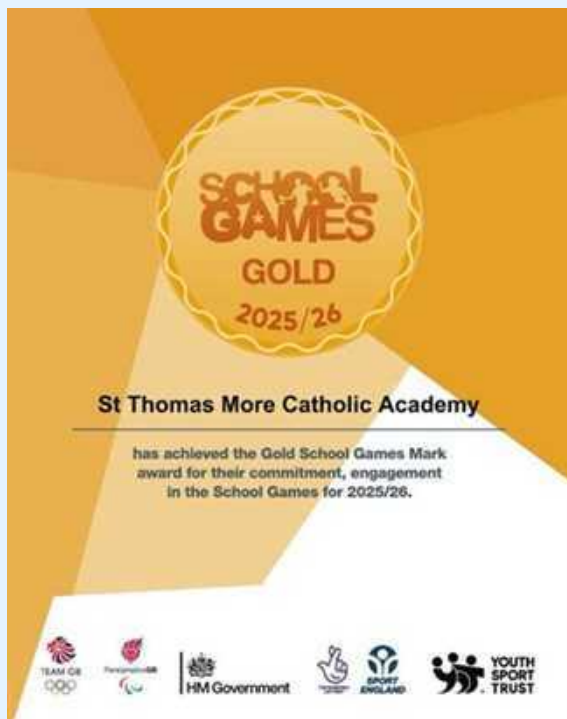
End of Year Celebration Awards Evening
We had the honour to give out over 42 awards at the awards ceremony held on the 6th of July. We also had the very prestigious Sarah Green Cup to give out to Kyle He who has been an outstanding Mathematician throughout this year. Well done Kyle.

Y6 Transition Day 1st July

The Mathematics Department had the opportunity to welcome the new Y7 cohort for September by delivering taster sessions for the day. We gave all the students the opportunity to work with scientific calculators and explore the different processes that can be done on these calculators.

They thoroughly enjoyed the day and we can't wait to have you next year in our lessons!





We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the School Games Gold Level Mark Award for the 2025/26 academic year.

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.



The U13 girls football team were in action in a home fixture against Haywood Academy.

The girls put in a spirited and resilient performance earning a 1-1 draw.

The team was as follows:

Zara Whalley
 Nelly Sorocina
 Zahraa Kausar
 Summer Cooper
 Emily-Rose Ashbolt
 Deborah Nmajiogu
 Eliza Stevenson
 Chloe Musoko
 Ella-Ray Butcher
 Lana-Rae Simpson



On Tuesday, the STM U15 Boys Athletics Team were crowned City School's Athletics Champions!

The boys were consistently placing in the top 3 places in their respective events, which included the 100m, 200m, 800m, 1500m, relay, long jump, triple jump, high jump, javelin, shot put and discus. Well done to Paisley, Maxim, Malaki, Leo, Guilio and Brendan!

A HUGE well done to team STM!



U15 and U17 boys and girls athletics squad attending the city schools athletics championships on Tuesday 12th May.

Well done to all who participated in a great event.



U14 Netball

showed excellent skill and resilience in their City Netball Tournament, coming up against some challenging opponents, they rose to the occasion. Standing (left to right): Holy Cabral, Tolu Olaiya, Neha Shandrakumar, Zipporah Acquah, Khadija Sonko.

Kneeling (left to right): Luwam Aregay, Raiyana Umar, Mary Tedros, Saffron Alazar



Girls U16 football team

The team played a range of fixtures this year where they have displayed commitment and hard work to their performances.

The team was as follows:

Sofia Hand
Nyima Sillah
Sofia Solovjova
Chloe Lockett
Hollie Norcup
Mary Tedros
Megan Lucas
Yasmine Johnson



U14 Basketball

Back row: left to right:

Leo Peach,
Brendan Uzoke,
Ignatios Bordah-Toh

Front row: left to right: Miraaj

Hussain, Suleman Khan,
David Omuemu.



The U14 Girls Football Team

The team played a fixture against a local school showing an excellent work ethic chasing down every ball until the final whistle.

The team was as follows:

Hollie Norcup
Sofia Solovjova
Troian Bowers
Lacie Allen
Mary Tedros
Summer Cooper
Megan Lucas

Y7 Football team



Back row left to right- Olamikunbi Akande, Anas Abdelrahman, Elijah Belgrave, Yusuf Aigbokhaode, Nathaneal Bonsu, Xavier Kowalski.

Front Left to right Logan Stokes, Zayn Lowe, Charlie Harrison, Cardrie Regalado, George Squire, Mason Morrell-Machin.

The year 7 football team played together for the first time this year against 3 tough opponents. They showed great teamwork and togetherness during all 3 with some good results. They all played some great football which at times was brilliant to watch.

U16 & U16 Badminton squad

Left to right: Zain Ishfaq, Anthony Ehimen, Mary Jains, Yolanda Jephin, Elaina Jince, Jewel Jibi, Leon Lijo, Alvin Santhosh, Ryan Vipin, Liya Binoj, Coco Huang, Leyka Kowalczyk.





It was fantastic to see the **STM U15 Cricket team** in action on Friday 3rd July in the city school cricket competition at Moddershall Cricket club.

The students performed superbly well winning taking the competition down to the final game and finishing 2nd.

The **Y9 and Y10 STM doubles tennis** recently entered the city schools doubles tennis competition with the Y9 team finishing 3rd and the Y10 team finishing 4th respectively. Well done to all who participated.



Well done to the **U14 STM athletics** squad for a brilliant performance at the city schools athletics competition. The collective outcome of all individuals performing in their running, throwing and jumping events resulted in the Y8 team finishing 5th out of 14 schools.

A proud tradition of Mr Stonier is to enter the **STM Y10 and Y8 tennis teams** into the Staffordshire schools tennis league where students have the opportunity to play singles and doubles matches against schools across the county. Although the weather has disrupted some fixtures, our teams have managed to fulfil most of the league fixtures.



Well done to Emily and Lacey have recently joined Miss Jones competition team at her Dance school. They absolutely smashed it!

Street dance team - 1st Place
Lyrical team - 3rd Place

Everyone at STM is extremely proud of your performances in this competition.



U15 Boys City Athletics Champions

The STM U15 boys athletic squad were crowned city schools athletics champions on Tuesday 11th May. The boys were consistently placing in the top 3 places in their respective events, which included the 100m, 200m, 800m, 1500m, Relay, Long jump, triple jump, high jump, Javelin, shot put and discus.

The squad is as follows from left to right: Paisley Bailey, Maxim Mirza, Malaki Ikue, Leo Peach, Giulio Addai and Brendan Uzoka.

The following students in this team finished in the top two of their respective events and have now qualified to represent the city of stoke school athletics squad at the county championships:

Giulio Addai - 200m

Maxim Mirza - Triple Jump

Brendan Uzoka - Shot Put and Discus



The same event also included the girls U15 Athletics team with the girls. Finishing 9th out of 16 schools.

The U13s Netball Team

The team performed incredibly at their City Netball Tournament, after being placed in a challenging group, they demonstrated outstanding teamwork and skill. They secured a number of wins and narrowly missed out on the final.

Standing (left to right): Faith Gerrard, Lyla Rai Dyer, Nelly Sorocina, Alina Lin, Abigail Covu.

Kneeling (left to right): Sophie Lomas, Mary Tedros, Senara Welisarage



U12s Netball Team

They attended their City Netball Tournament and showed excellent teamwork, communication and versatility. They learnt a lot during their matches and came away from the tournament with lots of positives.

Standing (left to right): Fortune Ajayi, Premika Shandrakumar, Ivy Bowers, Kyras Brownfield.

Kneeling (left to right): Nithya Kotapothula, Chloe Mangayi, Hanasa Sulieman.



U13 Football Team

Back row (left to right) - Alvin Santosh, Alfie Mansell-Cooper, Charlie Price, Melvin Uduchukwu, Yousif Mustafa, Kallam De Costa Ibraimo, Sebastian Duzda.

Front row (left to right) - Warrikk Twigg, Oscar Poxon, Adyan Ahmed, Sime Hussain, Marcus Skirkanic, Edward Twum.

During some tough games, all boys showed great resilience and perseverance to overcome situations. Some amazing football was played especially in their entertaining 5-4 win.





U16 Basketball Squad

Back row: left to right: Emmanuel Koyi, Anthony Ehimen, Deon Binoj, Emmanuel Taivavashe, Jesse Solani

Front row: left to right: Jordan Rowley, Nazar Adams, Rion Mammen, Destiny Ekhatator.



Stoke School Partnership Dance Festival - The Victoria Hall

Well done to all our talented dancers who performed at the Victoria Hall as part of the South Schools Dance Festival. Your hard work, energy, and commitment truly shone on stage, and you represented the school with pride and professionalism.

It was a fantastic achievement, and we are incredibly proud of every one of you!

Dancers:

Amber Scott-Hope
Ava Cadence Morrey
Deborah Nmajiogu
Emily Shenton
Georgia Cain
Lacey Smith
Laila Hussain
Lizzie Adams
Maisie Bates
Maureen Osei
Scarlett Hand
Skye Irving
Violet Dudley
Wiktora Narewska



Progress



TOP HATS is our enrichment programme for the school's most academic students. This year, the top 22 students in each year group have taken part in the programme. Some of the activities completed during the programme have included a lively Skills Race, an intriguing WHODUNNIT investigation, and a thought-provoking Ethical Committee debate. These sessions see students across the year groups working together to debate, discuss and sometimes even design ideas. Each session is carefully designed to spark critical and creative thinking, while building wider transferable skills that support students far beyond the classroom.

Many students are eager to be part of TOP HATS, and the programme has quickly become a source of real excitement across the school. Its reputation for challenge, creativity and high-level thinking has inspired students to give their very best in assessments, motivating them to secure their place within this prestigious enrichment opportunity.



Our Rising Stars programme continued to empower students in Years 7–10 to not only reach their potential but, in many cases, exceed it. Over eight weeks, students took part in morning Core subject sessions alongside two Progress Group workshops centred on wellbeing, careers and independent learning. The impact has been clear: students are growing in confidence, developing stronger study habits and showing a renewed belief in what they can achieve. One student even progressed all the way from Rising Stars to TOP HATS (Top 22 in the year group), a fantastic example of how dedication and the right support can open doors to new opportunities.

BASICS Battleground

Securing strong foundations for success. Our BASICS Battleground intervention provides Year 11 students with focused, small-group support in English and Mathematics, helping them secure the essential knowledge and confidence needed for a strong pass at GCSE. These weekly sessions create a collaborative environment where students work together to bridge gaps in understanding, strengthen core skills and build belief in their abilities. The programme runs simultaneously with the wider BASICS form time programme, which ensures every Year 11 student receives additional Maths and English input in the crucial lead-up to examinations. Together, these initiatives form a cohesive, highly targeted approach that supports students in laying the strongest possible foundations for success.

Progress

Scholars Programme

Delivered in partnership with The Brilliant Club, fourteen Key Stage 3 students have embarked on an inspiring academic journey through our Scholars Programme. Guided by a PhD tutor in Economics, students experienced university-style learning that stretched their thinking, deepened their curiosity and nurtured independence. Across the programme, students completed seven academic tutorials, produced an independent final assignment whereby they created their own currency for a hypothetical society. They celebrated their achievements at a graduation ceremony held at the University of Manchester. Through this experience, students strengthened their critical thinking and academic writing skills while gaining valuable exposure to Higher Education. Many finished the programme with a 2:1 and even some Firsts. As a result, many had raised aspirations and a newfound confidence in their ability to progress to some of the country's most prestigious universities



Mindfulness

Our Mindfulness programme offers Year 7 students a calm, nurturing space to settle confidently into secondary school life. Working closely with the Year 7 Student Support Officer, a select group of students have had the opportunity to explore practical strategies for managing emotions and building resilience.



Sessions have focussed on themes such as learning from mistakes and emotional resilience, delivered in student-friendly, interactive ways that make these ideas easy to understand and apply. One highlight has been the Backpack Activity, where students explore the small worries they carry with them each day — the things that may upset them or make their day feel more difficult. In a symbolic and empowering moment, students are encouraged to “throw away” these troubles, reminding them that they don’t have to let everyday challenges dictate their mood or mindset. Each activity is designed to strengthen self-regulation and wellbeing, helping students develop the skills they need for a successful and positive transition to high school.

Progress

Coach Bright

This year, we had the opportunity to work with CoachBright who offered a truly exciting opportunity for our students to learn from one another. As part of a research trial with the Education Endowment Foundation, fifteen of our Year 7 students were paired with a committed Year 10 coach for a ten-week programme of structured, peer-led coaching.

Meeting weekly, the pair explored learning strategies, built confidence and developed positive study habits. The Year 10 coach took the lead in designing their sessions, guiding discussions, modelling effective learning behaviours and supporting their partner to set and achieve meaningful goals. Their work not only strengthened progress here in school but also helped shape wider understanding of how peer coaching can improve outcomes for young people.

We found that the Year 7 students developed stronger motivation, improved study routines and increased confidence and the Year 10 coaches grew as leaders, communicators and mentors.



Big Sisters

Our Big Sisters programme creates meaningful mentoring relationships across the school community. Female Sixth Form mentors were paired with a female KS3 student to provide weekly guidance and support, working through a seven-week programme focussed on resilience, wellbeing and confidence. The programme concluded with a celebratory group breakfast.

Next year this programme will expand to include a Big Brothers component and an Academic Coaching component, which will see our Sixth Form mentors coaching a Y11 student in English and/or maths in preparation for their GCSEs.

Chaplaincy

Our students have had a fantastic time on their residential trip to Alton Castle! Thank you to Mr Barnett, Miss Hughes and Miss Reynolds for leading the trip.

Over the their time there they threw themselves into a wide range of exciting activities, including low ropes, crate stacking, survival challenges, team games, and of course, a very competitive water fight! They also had the opportunity to come together for Mass, taking time to reflect, pray and celebrate their faith as a community.

Throughout the trip, our students have shown resilience, teamwork, encouragement and enthusiasm, making the most of every opportunity.

We are incredibly proud of every one of our students and hope they return with lots of memories.



Celebrations and Events



Our Celebration Evening on Monday 6th July was a tremendous success, bringing together students, families, staff, and guests to celebrate excellence, dedication, and achievement.

The evening featured addresses from our Headteacher and keynote speaker Abigail Horne, musical performances from the Music Department, a message from our Student President, and the presentation of certificates and recognitions to our deserving students.

Congratulations to all award recipients and thank you to everyone who helped make the evening such a memorable occasion. Together, we celebrated the hard work, resilience, and success of our school community.

Well done to all our students – your achievements make us proud!



Celebrations and events



We had a wonderful day celebrating the Feast of St Thomas More on Monday 22nd June 2026. With the sunshine shining down on us, our school community came together in faith, service and celebration through our staff Bags of Hope initiative, whole-school liturgy, lesson links to the life and witness of St Thomas More, student leadership announcements, performances on Angel's Walkway and of course, St Thomas S'mores.

Support



Keeping children
safe online

When Something Goes Wrong Online — A Simple Action Plan for Parents

1. Stay Calm First

If your child tells you something worrying:

- Thank them for telling you
- Avoid blaming or panicking
- Reassure them: "We'll deal with this together."

2. Keep the Evidence

- Take screenshots (include usernames and dates)
- Save messages
- Keep profile links



3. Use Official Reporting Routes

Grooming or exploitation – CEOP: www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre

Illegal images – Internet Watch Foundation: www.iwf.org.uk/report

Nude images shared (under 18s) – Report Remove: www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove

If in immediate danger, call 999.



scan the QR code with your
phone's camera for Parent
Guides on how to help keep
your children safe online

4. If You Feel Overwhelmed - Use Structured Support

You can use free ChatGPT to help structure next steps.  ChatGPT

Free access: <https://chat.openai.com> Example prompts:

- My child received inappropriate messages. What steps should I take in the UK?
- How do I report online grooming?
- What should I say to my child after cyberbullying?



5. Ongoing Protection at Home

- Keep regular, calm conversations
- Review privacy settings together
- Monitor gaming contacts
- Encourage early disclosure

Children will make mistakes online, just as they do offline.
Trust and communication protect them more than punishment.



**Online safety is when young people know who they can tell
if they feel upset by something that has happened online.**

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner
and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipssed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with:



Skips

www.skipssafetynet.org

Summer holidays – Parents guide to help keep children safe online

School's out for summer!

It's always best to be prepared

During the summer holidays, without the distraction of school, internet usage for many young people can increase all the way up to September. This guide is designed to help parents with a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games. Please click on each image below for more information.



A Parent's Guide to Social Media



A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures



A Parent's Guide to Gaming



A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming



A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers



A Parent's Guide to Fake News



A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school if you would like to attend a parents internet safety workshop or have any concerns.

Schools please [contact us](#) if you would like a SKIPS Safety Net session delivered to your parent groups or staff.

Skips Educational

Web: www.skipssafetynet.org

Email: info@skips.com

Tel: +44 121 227 1941

142 Newton Road

Great Barr

Birmingham B43 6BT

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Developed in partnership with



FREE BREAKFAST FOR SUMMER: MORRISONS AND KELLOGG'S TEAM UP TO FEED FAMILIES

- 'Breakfast Clubs' are back to help kids and grown-ups enjoy a free Kellogg's breakfast during the summer holidays at all Morrisons Cafés nationwide –
- Initiative aims to ease money worries during school holidays –
- New research reveals that parents will begin to feel the financial 'pinch' around week three of the summer break –

Morrisons and Kellogg's have announced the return of their school holiday 'Breakfast Clubs', offering free meals to families across the UK to help ease the financial pressure over the summer holidays. As schools close for the summer holidays, many parents face a financial pinch, with new research from Morrisons showing that more than half (54%) of parents feel the strain during the long summer period. In fact, "week three" of the school holidays is the critical tipping point where the financial impact is most acutely felt by households.

Almost half (48%) of parents also confessed they have been forced to skip meals entirely just to make ends meet and ensure their child does not go without – with breakfast being the number one thing cut from the menu. Families visiting their local Morrisons Café throughout the summer holidays can enjoy a free 'Kellogg's Breakfast', which includes a bowl of cereal and a portion of fruit. The best part, it's not just for kids, adults get to eat completely free too.

Both kids and adults can choose from much-loved favourites Corn Flakes or Rice Krispies, topped with their choice of dairy or non-dairy milk and a free apple or banana.



Tales in the Park

A free day out for all the family!

Go all in this summer at our storytelling festivals across Stoke. With activities including storytellers, crafts, bouncy castles, circus skills and a free book for every child!

Join us from 11am – 3pm at:

- **Tuesday 28 July** in Tunstall Park
- **Friday 31 July** in Hanley Park
- **Tuesday 4 August** in Yeaman Street Rec
- **Friday 7 August** in Fenton Park
- **Tuesday 11 August** in Longton Park
- **Friday 14 August** in Burslem Park



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Find out more: literacytrust.org.uk/stoke • fb.com/StokeLiteracyTrust

The National Literacy Trust is a registered charity no. 1116260 (England and Wales) and SC042944 (Scotland).

Sixth Form



STMCA ex-head girl, Aleena Vijee, returned to our Sixth Form today to introduce to Project Management Consultancy and working for RPS.

Aleena currently consults on numerous rail and transport links projects, after gaining a degree in English Literature at the University of Birmingham.

Aleena introduced us to Apprentice, Luke Wolfe, who explained the Plan B apprenticeship route and opportunities in the transport sector.

She wished all our Year 12s luck, and gave some tips on making the most of their work experience placements in a couple of weeks.



Three of our Sixth Form students took part in the pilgrimage to Lourdes, we reflected on how blessed we had been to share the prayers and intentions of the St Thomas More community with Our Lady in such a beautiful place.

From our work in the Accueil with the assisted pilgrims of the Diocese, the Torchlight Procession, International Mass, the Anointing of the Sick, meeting His Grace Archbishop Bernard, snow topped mountains, beautiful sunshine, good food, prayer and karaoke! Polly, Talitha and Sophie represented our community with humility and joy, creating memories and experiences that we hope they will treasure for a lifetime.

Sixth Form

A level Religious Studies University Experience Day: MMU

Our A level Religious Studies students visited Manchester Metropolitan University for a RS experience day with Mr Aston.

Students visited the City of Manchester, spent time in a lecture and seminar discussing Natural Moral Law, toured the University campus and heard about the importance of reading at higher education during a visit to the Library (students were also very grateful for the tote bag gift!).

A huge thank you once again to MMU for your hospitality and efforts in putting together this day. This was a great exposure for our Y12 and 13 students to higher education and supported revision on a crucial part our A level course.

