



# St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

1st May 2020

## INTRODUCTION

This week we piloted online lessons for Year 12. The lessons have been well attended. Timetables are being issued to students every Friday and subject teachers are contacting their classes with the log in codes. We are obviously encouraging as many Year 12 pupils as possible to participate if they are able.

All pupils continue to receive work through Show My Homework from their teachers. It is important that they log on to the site with their own account details so they can submit their work to their teachers. We would ask parents to support their children's progress by checking that they are continuing their studies. We realise it is far from ideal that the pupils are not in school, in normal lessons, but we must all do as much as possible to ensure that pupils do not fall too far behind.

This week teachers have submitted the names of pupils who they have judged to be doing very good work into our new weekly draw. There will be 15 pupils selected at random to win an Amazon voucher every week. Please encourage your child to work hard and they will have the chance to win.

Staff continue to do all they can to help the pupils. Many are phoning home to talk to parents and pupils to 'check in' to ensure pupils have been able to access and do their work and check all is ok. Please remember that if you have any difficulties with log ins, work being set, or if you feel a call to your child from school would be helpful please contact us via email to [parents@stthomasmoreschool.org.uk](mailto:parents@stthomasmoreschool.org.uk). Please also let us know if the children or families are having any particular difficulties with illness or other problems. We will always try to contact you back within 24 hours.

There is still no detail of when schools will start to open although the Prime Minister announced yesterday (Thursday) that the government will be publishing their proposed exit from lockdown procedure next week, which should include when and how schools will reopen. We hope you all stay safe and well and although it is difficult it most important we all stay at home unless really necessary.

Mark Rowland  
Head of School

## AMAZON VOUCHER WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of £10 Amazon vouchers for this week: **Year 7:** Stacey Herald, Isaiah Scott, Makagbeh Kromah; **Year 8:** Milik Thompson, Maja Grzyzybek, Saoirse Hourigan; **Year 9:** Francisco De Freitas, Naylah McClean-Jhinoo, Wudase Fekade, Reanna Moore; **Year 10:** Adefah Gorases; **Year 11:** Mannab Berhanu, Shaydon Johnson; **Year 12:** Chairra Cabus, Marilyn Gomes

Please ensure your email/contact details are correct as vouchers will be sent out by email.

Well done to all the nominees.

## LIFE IN LOCKDOWN

For the past six weeks I have woken up every day to the sound of quietness. No loud purrs of engines, no screams of excited children. The only sound that fills the room is the distant ticking of the clock or the faint snoring from up above. Getting dressed every day but with nowhere to go, it seems as if there is no point to get all dressed up, just swinging on ragged jeans and t-shirt I think to myself, that's me all done. No need for skirts or shirts, not even for a tie. Don't even need to worry about my hair as there are no teachers nearby.

Once that's all done, I don't hop on a bus, don't even go for a short walk, just a quick 20-minute exercise with Joe helps me feel wide awake. At first my feet were dragging, it felt as if I was going to explode, I missed my normal PE routine where we did netball instead of burpees and mountain climbers. But now the pain is all gone, now I feel that I won't collapse but instead that I could do it all again. The weirdest part of my day is when I sit down in my room and do my work online. Instead of doing maths equations on the board, millions of us are all doing it on a screen. But with too much screen time comes migraines and a soft ringing in your ears. That means it's time for lunch. There's no queuing up for hours, sometimes in the rain – all we need to do is wait a couple of moments and a warm meal is put in front of us.

The hardest part of all is not seeing anyone, zoom calls and messages just don't make up for what normally goes on. Family members are missed and after six weeks you wish that you could go over and knock on their doors and spend a couple of hours just talking indoors, being able to hug instead of that social distancing barrier between you and the person you love.

Not meeting up with friends, not going to their houses is definitely a struggle that everyone faces. Only being able to message a couple of times or only able to call once or twice a day, sometimes it's an effort; nobody is to blame. But the only dilemma is that you begin to worry that they may start to fade away, that once this is all over you may forget about each other. Worrying every single second of the day, why won't they call or at least say hey. But one thing that I've learned because of this problem, is that at the end of the day we are all in this together and that at every single tunnel has an ending at the end, even if it is too far away to see it yet. For, every single problem we can all face and every single challenge we can all overcome: we all have worries but together it seems as if we have none.

**By Delia Sanz Borbely Year 7**



## RE

Week Beginning 4th May 2020

Fourth Sunday of Easter Year A

Gospel Reading: (John 10: 2, 5 9-11)

The Good Shepherd

Jesus tells us in today's gospel that he is the Good Shepherd. A good shepherd, like Jesus, knows his sheep and his sheep know him. Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd because like the shepherd, Jesus will stay with us always. He knows all of us by name and calls us to follow him. He will lead us along the right path to heaven and will protect us from harm along the way.

**Prayer:**

The Lord is my shepherd, he gives me everything I need. He leads me to lie down in green meadows and to drink beside cool, deep pools. He is my strength and protection and guides me along the right path. Even in times of darkness and trouble, I will not be afraid, for he is always beside me and will protect me from harm. I know that his goodness and love will stay with me all the days of my life. Amen.

'A God who speaks' 'The year of the word'

**John Chapter 14: Verse 23**

Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

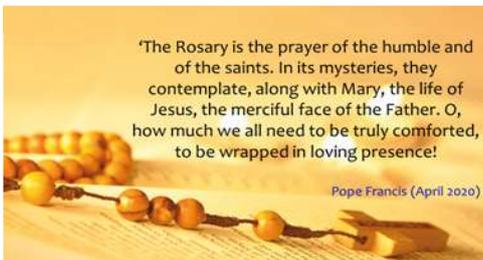
**Luke Chapter 10: Verse 27**

And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself."

**May 3rd 2020 World Day of Prayer for Vocations:**

**Prayer:**

Dear friends, on this day in particular, but also in the ordinary pastoral life of our communities, I ask the Church to continue to promote vocations. May he touch the hearts of the faithful and enable each of them to discover with gratitude God's call in their lives, to find the courage to say "yes" to God, to overcome all weariness through faith in Christ, and to make of their lives a song of praise for God, for their brothers and sisters, and for the whole world. May the Virgin Mary accompany us and intercede for us. **Pope Francis, World Day of Prayer for Vocations, 2020.**



## Thought for the Week

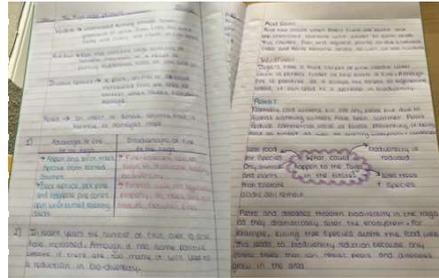
Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom. Don't gain the world and lose your soul; wisdom is better than silver or gold. Knowledge is of no value unless you put it into practice. To acquire knowledge, one must study; but to acquire wisdom, one must observe.

## BBC YOUNG COMPOSER COMPETITION

The BBC have released their BBC Young Composer 2020 competition which is open to all students aged 12-18. More details can be found at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4mY3MbsJ5G2LvSbzZPbc85G/bbc-young-composer-2020>

Additionally, the BBC have also released a new **30 Second Composition Challenge**. For more information, please contact our Head of Music, Mr Gaughran (parents@stthomasmoreschool.org.uk).

## PUPILS' WORK



Victoria Skubik, 10DX1



Alyssa Parry 7EFAD1

## MINECRAFT EDUCATION

Minecraft has set up a new category of educational worlds and an education edition. The education collection has worlds which can be visited by families and pupils. Go to: <https://education.minecraft.net/>

## ONLINE SUPPORT

Want to talk to someone who will understand you? Are you looking for advice to help a friend? Kooth is here for you. Through Kooth you can get free, safe and anonymous online counselling and support. Go to [www.Kooth.com](http://www.Kooth.com)



## Words of the Week

**Monday- Resolute - (Adjective)** - Admirably purposeful, determined, and unwavering.

**Tuesday- Reciprocal - (Adjective)** - Given, felt, or done in return; (of an agreement or obligation) bearing on or binding each of two parties equally.

**Wednesday- Blatant - (Adjective)** - (of bad behaviour) done openly and unashamedly; completely lacking in subtlety; very obvious.

**Thursday- Gracious - (Adjective)** - Courteous, kind, and pleasant, especially towards someone of lower social status.