



Hands. Face. Space
Protect the NHS and save lives

Headteacher Article

I hope you are all well as I write to you at the start of your last week of being a home teacher. Every member of staff I have spoken to over the last few days has expressed how much they are looking forward to the pupils and students coming back and there are now only a few days to go. Educating pupils is what we are here for and we are looking forward to seeing the children back at Thomas More next week.

Here are the plans for the return. As I said last week, it has to be a staggered return to allow time for everyone to be tested. Please can pupils turn up at the time allocated to help us with the logistics. I would like to minimise waiting time and pupils will not be allowed on to the site until their allocated slot.

Pupils will be lined up with socially distanced gaps from the school gate to the reception area and wait their turn to go into the Main Hall for the testing which will be supervised by a group of trained staff but the pupils do the nasal swab themselves.

Once a year group has been tested, the pupils can go straight to class and their day will finish at the normal time.

Anyone who has not consented to testing should not come in on their testing day, but should come in on the day following the test day.





Headteacher Article

Wearing of Face Coverings

The most significant change to the measures of control introduced by the government is that all students and staff are strongly recommended to wear a face covering in all classrooms as well as in corridors throughout the school day. This may bring some extra challenges, but it will play a vital part in us combatting COVID and reducing the risk of it entering and spreading throughout the school.

Please ensure that new face coverings are provided each day or that they are cleaned daily. I would also recommend that students bring a spare face covering each day just in case one is lost. This is proposed to last until Easter and I hope that everyone will do it as their duty to help other people feel reassured as well as to keep themselves safe for the next few short weeks.

Some staff will find teaching less effective and less possible with a face covering on but they will be distanced from the class and ventilation is being promoted throughout each lesson.

If you are looking for a mask with even greater protection, you are welcome to use a FFP2 or N95 mask. These are easily found online and are the type often used by people doing construction work. This may give some parents even more reassurance.



To Care. To Learn. To Achieve

TMI Other School News

Testimonials from parent/ carer survey

We ask parents and carers to provide some feedback on the school's provision of online learning. On the final question we allowed parents to add any further comments. Here is a small snippet of some of the comments that we received.

"I am very pleased on how our school has managed to keep learning going through this hard times! The teachers have been amazing, calling and offering their support wherever it may be needed."

"I'm really pleased that the daily format is following as close to the 'normal' school day and their timetable as possible. I think this gives the children structure to their learning. I also appreciate the feedback coming back from teachers on completed offline work and assessments. You are all doing a fantastic job in challenging circumstances! Thank you."

"Great job by all the teachers for all the extra work they put into each class."

Thank you to all parents for taking time to complete the survey. All of the feedback from parents is welcomed, and as a leadership team we will endeavour to address all areas of concern.

Hold Still - Hold Still (npg.org.uk)

With only 1.5 days left - I would like to invite as many of you as possible to take part in a little project to capture the experiences we have all had during this time of home learning. I am inviting students and all staff to take a photo that sums up their experience of lock-down learning and I will be displaying these photos at school. This project mimics the 'Hold Still' exhibition that was curated last year [Hold Still - Hold Still \(npg.org.uk\)](http://npg.org.uk)

Please email photo entries to Mrs Garcia-Brooks - aga@tmore.org.uk

Quizlet

Did you know that 90% of pupils who use Quizlet report receiving higher marks? Broaden your range of vocabulary with the help of Quizlet and watch your confidence grow in Spanish and French. Just follow this link or scan the QR code to take you to the site - you can even make your own account! It's free and you can download the Quizlet app, so you can learn wherever you are.

<https://quizlet.com/gb/topic/languages/>

Quizlet



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TMI Other School News

The Scholars Programme

12 pupils from Years 8 and 9 embarked on The Scholars Programme this year. They have completed a number of sessions with a PhD tutor revolving around the question, 'Why was there a French Revolution?' They have worked steadily towards completing a 1500-word essay on this topic graded in university fashion.

Congratulations to all students who participated

We are delighted for the following students who achieved a 1st this year, congratulations!

- Aiyana L (Year 8)
- Sharon C (Year 8)
- Elijah G (Year 9)
- Syed R (Year 9)

About the Scholars Programme

The Scholars Programme provides pupils the opportunity to work with a PhD researcher to experience university-style learning. It helps them to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to secure a place at a highly-selective university. It supports pupils, to make an informed choice at 18 but also to ensure they develop the skills needed to excel in their next phase of education.

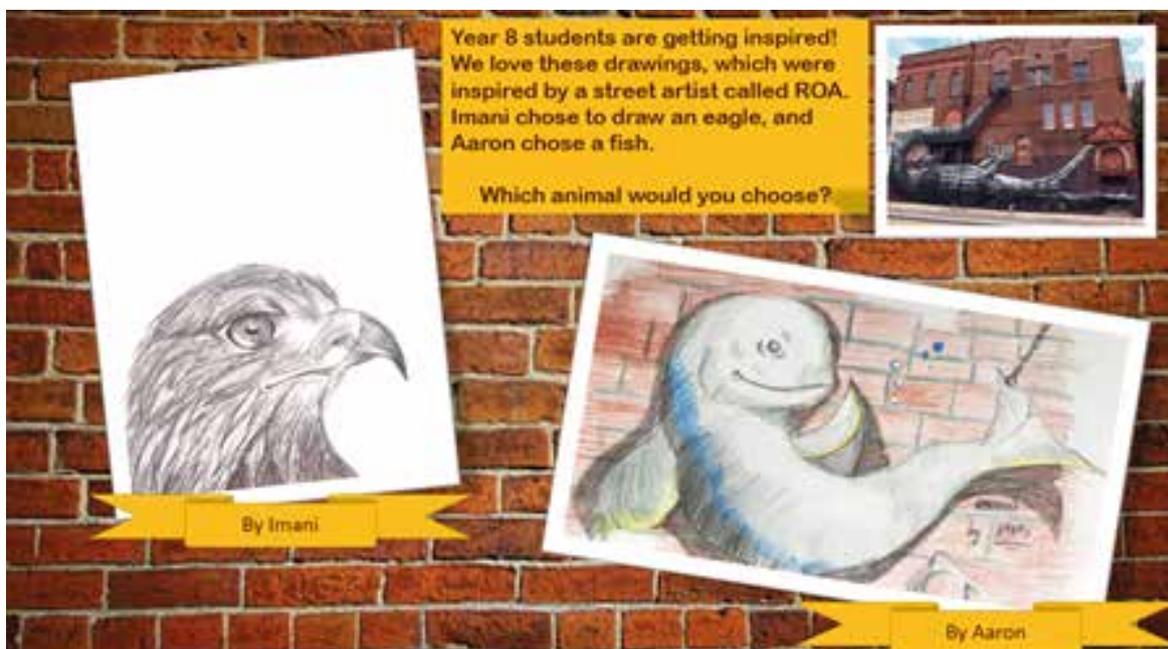
The Scholars Programme is run by The Brilliant Club.
For more info contact Miss Lawrance
www.thebrilliantclub.org/the-scholars-programme/



The
Brilliant
Club

Year 8 Street Art Drawings

We had some great drawings submitted this week take a look.



Creative

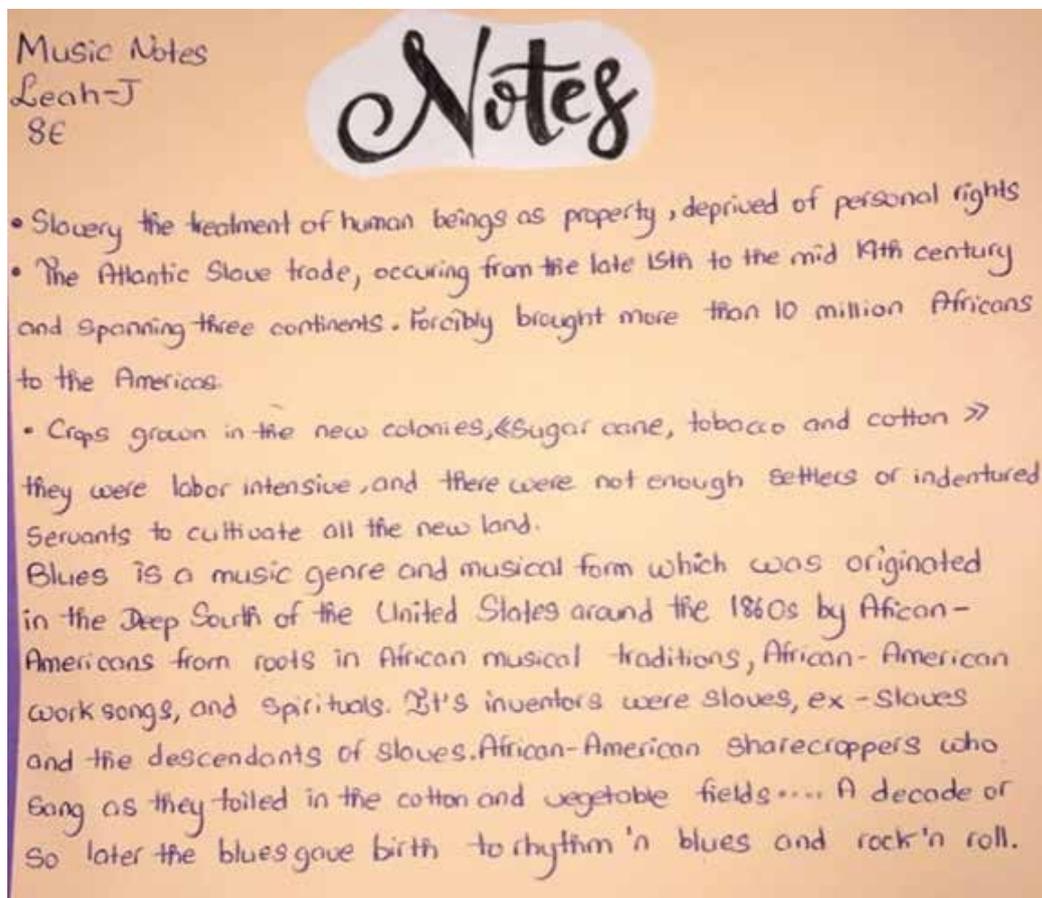
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TMI Other School News

Year 8 Music – Blues

Year 8 have just starting learning about the origins of Blues music. Understanding the importance of this style of music must be seen in context with its historical background of slavery and repression. Well done to Leah (Year 8) for her outstanding piece of research work.

Well done to all of our musicians who have completed the musical part of the lockdown challenge. There have been some great performances, these have included; Jerome, Upasana, Sherry, Jayden, and Aayan. We are looking forward to returning and preparing for our online recital concert at the end of this term.



Amazing!

Thomas More Charter Challenges

Thomas More 'Lockdown' Charter challenges continue to come in. So far, 78 pupils have submitted at least one challenge. Many have achieved their bronze certificate (5 completed) and the first pupil to have achieved her platinum certificate (20 completed) is Elfie M in Year 7. Congratulations! The deadline for all submissions is 22nd March so it not too late to submit your finished tasks to challenge@tmore.org.uk.

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TMI Other School News

Business Studies House Event Dragons' Den

House Events and the Business Department are running a Dragons' Den event to challenge all our young entrepreneurs.

It's simple

1. Form a group of 2-4 pupils
2. Build a product or service

Make sure the product is:

- Useful or
- Entertaining or
- Eco-friendly

Finally:

- Present your product or service in the Dragons' Den
- Best presentation wins a prize.

Get involved

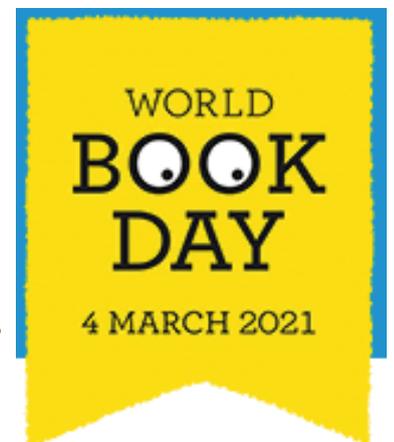


World Book Day (WBD) was celebrated this week on Thursday

<https://www.worldbookdaysocial.com/news/> At Thomas More, we launched a quiz for Year 7, 8 and 9. This is an Inter-House competition so if you wish to take part for your house, go to the SIMS InTouch app and the English department have put it up there. Submit your answers to the FLC via library@tmore.org.uk.

The deadline for all answers is Friday 12th March. There are food-related prizes up for grabs. Get quizzing! WBD tokens are also available and these will be handed out to tutors to give to you next week. In the meantime, check out this YouTube video rap for WBD:

<https://youtu.be/ZpTkjssrL4k>



See you soon.

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TMI Other School News

THOMAS MORE

Newsletter

@tmcspurley @tmcspurley



Maths Challenge

UK Maths Challenge

A big congratulations to pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11 who participated in the online Intermediate Maths Challenge last half term. This is a national competition that 'encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems!'

A special mention goes to the following students who achieved medals this competition!

Bronze

- Joshua S
- Photios Y
- Agash A
- Ramanvibisshan J
- Evlyn J
- Erron K
- Sophia O
- Kirthan S

Silver

- Vivian N
- Nathan M
- Pranavan R (Best in Year 9)
- Afra I (Best in Year 10)

Gold

- Nardos S (Best in the School)

FOUR LINES

CAN YOU GO
THROUGH ALL
9 DOTS WITH
JUST FOUR
LINES?

YOU CAN'T
TAKE YOUR
PEN OFF THE
PAGE!



Problem from Substant Maths 2004

Adobe Spark

CHALLENGE 6



United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust

Spirituality Corner

LAY CHAPLAIN



Salt and Light

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16

