



The Global Noticeboard and the Pound a Month campaign

Context

- St Thomas More will be the first school in the country to adopt the Global Noticeboard (GNB), an online giving platform which aims to bring people together to share and exchange resources across local communities and eventually across the globe.
- The platform is being developed by the Global Noticeboard team and supported by Brentwood Diocesan homelessness charity, Caritas Anchor House.
- St Thomas More will soon be followed by other schools in the diocese who wish to engage with the Global Noticeboard. The platform is also being piloted by a parish in the diocese to explore how it might eventually help parishes to reach out more effectively to the local community.

What is The Global Noticeboard?

- The Global Noticeboard (GNB) is a new online platform which aims to connect people in need with those who are able to give. It aims to connect people from across local communities, regions and nations so that we can share resources and learn from each other.
- We may for example offer and request material goods and resources, such as computers, books or washing machines, or they might be other goods such as an offer of time for voluntary work, knowledge, sponsorship, skills and expertise.
- The simple premise behind the Global Noticeboard is that if you were aware of someone else's need in your school, parish or community, and you were able to, why wouldn't you try to help them?
- The Global Noticeboard aims is to inspire and enable us to 'make a difference', by making it easier to for communities, schools, organisations, companies, parish churches to be aware of each other's needs and to help enable them to meet those needs by calling on the resources of a bigger, global community.
- One of the easiest ways of becoming involved in the Global Noticeboard is through the 'Pound a Month' campaign, which our school, St Thomas More, launch during the half term week.

What is the Pound a Month campaign?

- The big vision behind the Pound a Month campaign is: 'invest a small amount, make a big difference'. Can you imagine if 100 million people across the world gave £1 per month – what a big difference that could make to people's lives?
- The way the Pound a Month campaign works is that our donations will form part of a global 'Humanity Fund' which supports charitable causes, local, regional or global, in their work with vulnerable and marginalised groups, and each year, the school will be able to nominate the cause it wishes to support.
- 100% of all donations are received by the nominated charity.

The challenge

- To kick start the Pound a Month campaign in our school, this half-term we have set our pupils a big challenge. We are asking them each to sign 5 people up to donate just £1 per month, or £12 per year. If each pupil can do this, we estimate that we can raise a staggering £60,000 during the year!
- Our student council nominated the first beneficiaries of the Pound and Month campaign to be Caritas Anchor House, a residential and life skills centre in Canning Town.

The process

- On the last day of term each pupil will take home 5 standing order forms with the challenge of finding 5 individuals to sign up to the Pound a Month campaign. If we achieve this target, that means that 5,000 people will have signed up to the campaign, creating an initial humanity fund of £60,000.
- As with other enrichment activities at the school, the Pound a Month campaign will be administered through the school's House System. This is to encourage involvement, friendship and a healthy sense of competition
- There will be opportunities throughout the remainder of the Autumn term for the pupils to find out more about this year's beneficiary charity, Caritas Anchor House, and an awards ceremony is planned to take place towards the end of term.

About this year's beneficiary charity

- Caritas Anchor House is a social action charity, supporting people affected by homelessness, drug & alcohol misuse, mental health, domestic violence and crime.
- Annually it serves over 200 people in the London Borough of Newham by providing accommodation, education and training and emotional support to some of the most vulnerable and marginalised people in the local area.
- It was founded by the Diocese of Brentwood, initially to provide accommodation for seafarers, and at its core is a strong Catholic ethos based on principles of compassion, human dignity, solidarity and the belief that all people, regardless of faith, race or nationality, are unique and valuable in themselves.
- Caritas Anchor House's web site is www.caritasanchorhouse.org.uk