



CONTACT

No. 1428 – Friday 25th May 2018



Dear Parents and Pupils,

The half-term holiday begins this evening. We wish all of our readers a relaxing and enjoyable break. This is a particularly busy time for those preparing for their examinations so please use this time to revise. Please note that the new half term begins on Monday 4th June at 8.40am and it will be timetable Week 1.

Primary School Visits – Our round of Year 5 primary school visits to prepare the boys for open evening continues after the half term break. Visits are a great opportunity for parents to ask questions about St Thomas More High School. Please see time and date of visits to Catholic feeder schools, below. More details about visits to some of our other local and further afield schools to follow.

| School | Date | Time |
|--------------|---------------------------------|--------|
| St George's | Monday 4 th June | 3.30pm |
| St Teresa's | Monday 18 th June | 3.30pm |
| St Joseph's | Tuesday 19 th June | 3.30pm |
| Sacred Heart | Wednesday 20 th June | 3.30pm |
| Holy Family | Tuesday 21 st June | 3.30pm |
| OLOL | Monday 25 th June | 3pm |

Weekly Prayer

*Come, Holy Spirit, lead me in the truth Jesus came to bring.
Help me to grasp with my mind, treasure in my heart
and carry out in my actions the teachings of the Bible,
which lead to salvation.*

AMEN

Weekly Mass – Form 7P gathered in the Chapel to celebrate their Form Mass at lunchtime. We were pleased to welcome Father Basil Pearson. My thanks to all the students who led us in prayer and proclaimed the readings.

Praying a Decade of the Rosary during May - Our final decade of the Rosary took place today at lunchtime with Year 10 Chaplaincy Leaders and Staff. My thanks to all those who supported this event during May. I hope to run this again during the month of October, asking all Leaders to get involved from Year 7 – 13. Mrs Maxfield, Chaplaincy Co-ordinator

Year 13 Valedictory Mass – Year 13 students, Parents and Staff gathered in the Assembly Hall to celebrate the Year 13 Leavers' Mass. We were pleased to welcome Fr. Gerry Drummond. All the leavers were received a blessed Crucifix and Prayer Card (Cross in my pocket) from Ms. Corr and Mrs. Hudson and all celebrated with a breakfast afterwards in the Headteacher's Garden. This Mass was their last Mass in School as a Year group and for most, marked the end of a seven-year relationship between the school and the families.



Student Leadership - This week the interviews have taken place for positions of student leadership for Year 12 students. Thank you to all those who made applications. The outcomes will be announced following the half term break. At assembly on Wednesday, the process of election for positions of leadership in Forms 7-10 was launched. There have been some changes made to the structure of the School Council and students are encouraged to consider putting themselves forward as year group representatives. Details of all positions and timetables for application can be found on the VLE, or by clicking [here](#)

Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela - This half term I will be completing the great pilgrimage walk to the shrine of St James in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. For hundreds of years, pilgrims have walked the famous way of St James in devotion to the great saint. While many braver people than me have walked from as far as England, I will be completely the last 100 km of this famous journey. I will be with a group who are walking to raise money for the charity CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young), who aim to increase the number of heart screenings for children in order to detect previously unknown heart conditions. If you would like to find out more about why we are walking, or would like to donate to our Just Giving page, please follow the link:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?userUrl=CaminoForIssy2018&pageUrl=1>

I will keep all students, parents and staff in my prayers as I complete this pilgrimage, and ask that you do the same for me! Mr Tisi

Year 12 opportunity with CAFOD - Following on from our very successful Year 12 trip with CAFOD to London, there is another opportunities for students to get involved with their Connect Weekend. The weekend, taking place between 13 – 15th July, will bring young people from across the country together in London to discuss and share ideas about how to make our world a more sustainable and peaceful place. This weekend is open to all in Year 12 and would be a fantastic opportunity to get involved with CAFOD, meet new people and have some fantastic experience for university or work application. For more information, please speak to myself or Mrs Webb, or click on the link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/connect-weekend-tickets-43702607676>

READING CLUB REVIEW: WONDER - August Pullman is your average 10-year-old boy; he likes playing Xbox, riding his bike and eating lots and lots of ice cream. However, something is different about him. August was born with a disfigurement on his face. People run from him whenever they see him. People stare and glare at him. Will August be a 'lamb to the slaughter' (as his father thinks) when he goes to middle school?

This book can bring an array of emotions: joy, relief and anger at different times of the book. This is an excellent book, which reminds the reader we are all the same regardless of our outward differences.

The reading club would give Wonder by R.J. Palacio a 4/5 rating. Review by Ugonna Lemeh in 8A.



Science end of year exams – Year 7, 8 and 9

Years 7 and 8 – 20th June- see letter sent out before half term.

Year 9 double award classes - 25th June – see letter sent out before half term.

2 exam papers:

- Chemistry topics 1 to 5 (see revision guide)
- Biology topics 1 to 4 (see revision guide)

Mr Clunn.

English Department News - Y7/Y8 English Booster Class in RE4, 3.30pm-4.30pm Monday 4 June 2018. ALL Y7/Y8 students are welcome to attend.

English Drop-In Surgery in BS3, every Monday and Tuesday breaktime

Y7 Read For Good Readathon continues over the half-term holiday. Please make sure that your sons in Year Seven have set their targets and filled up their sponsor cards! Happy reading!
Mrs Kadwill and Mr Robinson.



Spanish Club - All KS3 pupils welcome!

Wednesday 13.40-14.05 Spanish Club Mrs Terry and Mrs Foster

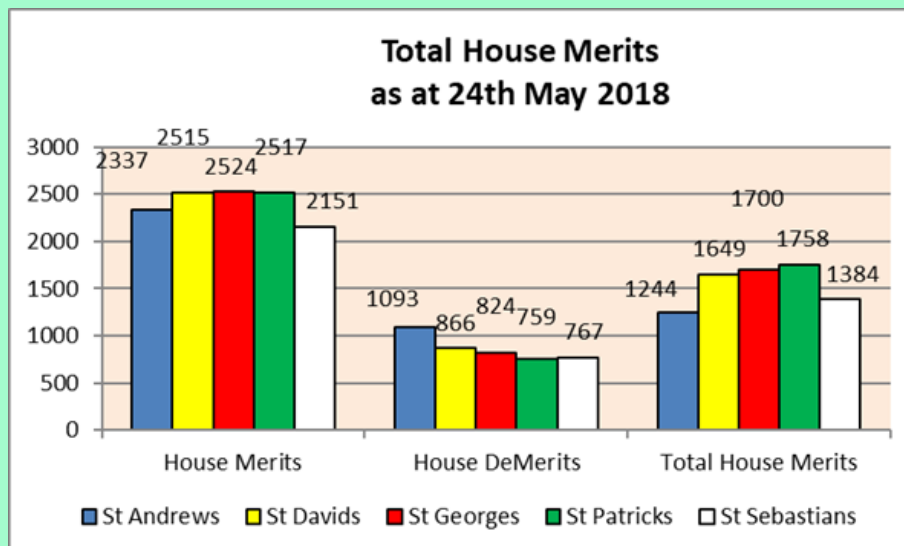
Spanish Club will have fun videos. Come and enjoy Spanish more!
¡Hasta luego! Also, would you like to practise your Spanish in a friendly and relaxed way? Come & join Señora Terry and Mari-Carmen in MFL2 first half of lunch on Wednesday.

Lunchtime Piano Duo Recital Wednesday 6 June at 1pm Brentwood Cathedral - We should like to invite you to a very special Lunchtime PIANO Duo Recital on Wednesday 6 June at 1pm – 1.40pm to be given by Joanna SMITH and Roderick ELMS. The programme will include some of the following pieces:-

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| BACH arr. ELMS | Back to Bach |
| York BOWEN | Suite Op. 52 for Piano Duet |
| Roderick ELMS | Four by Four – Four vocal classics arranged for piano duet: |
| | A nightingale sang |
| | Someone to watch over me |
| | We'll gather lilacs |
| | With a song in my heart |

Joanna Smith as well as accompanying and duo work, loves playing as a chamber and orchestral pianist, working for the Aurora Ensemble, BBC Concert Orchestra and RPO amongst others. Roderick Elms is one of England's foremost orchestral keyboard players who has acquired a considerable reputation for his versatility. Very much in demand as a chamber musician, he is the official pianist for the BBC Radio 2 Young Musician Competition and, since 1986, he has worked regularly as pianist to the legendary cellist Mstislav Rostropovich.

We do hope you can join us for what promises to be a wonderful Recital. Admission as always is free and refreshments will be provided in the Song School afterwards.





SPORTS NEWS

Year 7/8/9/10 Tennis vs Belfairs – Year 7/8 Lost - Year 9/10 won - All the school tennis teams were in action last week for their matches against Belfairs.

The year 7 and 8 team made up of Harry Williams, Chimezie Ogbonna and Olly Robinson unfortunately lost their singles matches with Daniel Elayaraja managing to win his. The others fought well but couldn't secure a victory. The doubles went the same way too in some close contest resulting in a loss overall.

The year 9 and 10 team with Patrick Milner, James Anderson, Vinnay Soares and Ed Collett (playing his first competitive tennis match) had more luck and managed to win overall. James and Vinnay secured wins in the singles and Patrick and James won their doubles match sending us to a shoot-out for the win. James again took the court this time with Vinnay and managed a 10-6 win in the 10 point tie break.

Well done to all involved. Mr Spillett.

Year 7 cricket – STM 50-6 (16 overs) Shoebury 53-4 (15 overs) - Playing their first competitive cricket match, the Year 7 side can be pleased with their efforts. After losing the toss and being put into bat, the batting line up made steady progress as the innings went on but couldn't find the boundaries to get the run rate over 4 an over. In the field, and with the ball there were excellent contributions from all of the bowlers, in particular William Edwards (2-6). Shoebury just managed to reach the target with an over to spare in what was a valuable learning curve for the boys. We look forward to the next fixture after the half term break.

House Football

- Year 8 – St Sebastian's
- Year 10 – St Sebastian's
- Year 12 – St Andrew's

An entertaining week of house football saw some great performances and great numbers turn out. St Sebastian's showed some pragmatic football winning four times 1-0 in the year 8 competition, to Mr Wiltshire's dismay who prefers a more gung-ho attitude. The sixth form competition was played in excellent spirit with great support from the whole year group. St Andrew's victorious in their first three games, only to be held 0-0 by the girls' netball team in their final game! Keep an eye out for the Year 7 and 9 competitions still to come after half term.

| DATE | FIXTURE | STAFF |
|------------|--|----------------------------|
| 04/06/2018 | | |
| 05/06/2018 | Year 7&8 Tennis v Brentwood (AWAY) Year 7 Cricket v SHSB (AWAY) Year 9 Cricket v SHSB (HOME) | 4:00pm 4:00pm 4:00pm |
| 06/06/2018 | Athletics @ Basildon vs Woodlands & Campion | 4:00pm |
| 07/06/2018 | Year 7 House Football Relay practice | 3:30 – 5:00pm |
| 08/06/2018 | | |

EXTRA CURRICULAR SPORTS TIMETABLE

| | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---------------|--|---|---|--|--|
| 8.00 - 8.30am | PE DEPARTMENT MEETING | Hurdles Training - All years (CB) Sprints - All years (SB/EK) | GCSE/A Level catch-up (TR6) Run-Bike-Run (SB/CB) | Long/Triple Jump - All years (JB/CB) | Athletics Throws - Year 7 & 8 (CB) Sprints & Middle Distance - All years (SB) |
| 1.40 - 2.20pm | Long/Triple Jump - All years (CB/TH) Hurdles - All years - 800/1500m (SB) Year 7 NBA Basketball Training (GL) | High Jump - All years (CB) Long/Triple Jump - All years (SB) | Sprints & Hurdles - All years (EK/TW/TH) | Indoor Cricket - Year 7 & 8 (EK) | Racket Sports (NS) Middle Distance - All Years - 800/1500m (JB) |
| 3.30 - 5.00pm | Run-Bike-Run (SB/MG) Athletics Throws - All years (CB/MT) | Cricket Training - Year 7 & 8 (EK/CB) Middle Distance - All years - 800/1500m (JB) | Athletics Throws - All years (GL/CB) Year 7 & 8 Southend FC Football on Astro | High Jump - All years (CB/TH) Cricket Training - Year 9 & 10 (MT/TW/JM) | Badminton Club - All years (JM/SG) |

Please note – After-school clubs are subject to change depending on fixtures and staff meetings. The Sports Hall will be out of use from 14th May due to Public Exams