



CONTACT

No. 1420 – Friday 16th March 2018

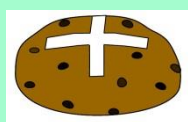


Dear Parents and Pupils,



Lenten Service - On Monday 26th March at 7pm our Lenten Service takes place. This is a time of reflection to help us to prepare for Easter. The service uses word, image, music and movement to present the history of salvation and our Lord's Passion and Death. Please take this opportunity to join us as part of your Lenten observance. We particularly encourage students who have joined our school community this year to attend. There will be refreshments to follow.

The service will be repeated for the whole school community on Maundy Thursday as term ends and families mark the Easter Triduum in their own parishes. We wish you all a Happy and Blessed Easter.



Hot Cross Buns – Please could I ask our wonderful parents and carers to donate packets of Hot Cross Buns to offer as refreshments after our Lenten Service on 26th March? The buns can be delivered via your sons/daughters to the school reception. Many thanks once again for your support.

Parent Survey - Over the last week we have been conducting a pupil survey which will help to collect information about student attitudes to school, their learning, and opportunities that are given to them in St Thomas More High School. This information will be helpful in future planning. As part of this we are also conducting a parent survey. This survey will ask some similar questions to the student survey about parental attitudes towards the school and how we operate. This is an annual survey and was conducted at this time last year. This survey will continue to help inform planning within the school.

If you wish to take part in this survey please follow this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/stmparentsurvey18>

This will be sent out by email early next week again as a reminder.

Year 8 Options Reminders - Please remember that the DEADLINE FOR HANDING IN OPTIONS CHOICES FORM is MONDAY 19th MARCH. All forms must be returned to the DATA OFFICE by 3.30pm on this date.

If you have any last minute questions regarding the process, you can email me:

(ahardiman@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk). Mrs A. Hardiman

Mini Bus Service – A reminder that there will be no **after school** mini bus service to the station until further notice.

Weekly Prayer



Lord God,

*I want to become the person you want me to be but I need your help.
Show me when I need to put myself last so that you can be first in my life.*

AMEN

Weekly Mass - This Thursday students from St. Patrick's House came together in the Chapel for their House Mass. We are grateful to Father Joseph Whisstock, who celebrated Mass. Thank you to the Form Leaders and Captains from Year 13 for the readings and Chaplaincy Leaders from Years 7 – 12 for the bidding prayers and to Adam Hennessey for altar serving. The Mass was offered up for the repose of the soul of Nina Clarke, one of our

students, who passed away suddenly on 16th March 2016. Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her, may she rest in peace. Amen

Sacrament of Reconciliation - This was held in School on Tuesday 13th/Wednesday 14th/Thursday 15th and Friday 16th March 2018. Students had the opportunity to see one of the visiting Priests during this week and it was a great success. My thanks to Fr. Brett, Fr. Jeff, Fr. Joseph and Fr. Graham for giving up their time to offer this Sacrament to our students.

Stations of the Cross – students and staff are invited to the Chapel for Stations of the Cross at 1.40 pm – 2.00 p.m. on: **Monday 19th March 2018, Friday 23rd March 2018 and Monday 26th March.** I have also put up Stations of the Cross along the RE Corridor – so please take a look, stop for a while and look at the pictures, reading and reflection.

Reframe – Coming to the Diocese of Brentwood – It's tough when you're asked about a controversial issue.... Reframe is an inspiring and practical experience of applying wisdom and genius of the heart of the Gospel to 'hot-button' and relevant topics. Engaging and well-trained speakers want to share the experience of Catholic voices sharing the Church's story in the media and help ordinary Catholics to change controversy into an opportunity to share the Church's story in your conversations at work and home.

Saturday 28th April 10:00am – 3:00pm at St John Payne School, Chelmsford. <https://doodle.com/poll/xcatfin63p9e57d4> and

Saturday 2nd June 10:00am to 3:00pm at The Champion School, Hornchurch. <https://doodle.com/poll/zhmvgkyfyvi8shc5>

Catholic History Walks; The King's Good Servant:

Sunday 18th March, 3pm. The heroic story of brave St Thomas More, who died defending the faith during the turbulences of Henry V111's reign – as we walk around his Chelsea Estate. Meet at the Church of Our Most Holy Redeemer and St Thomas More, Cheyne Row, SW3 5HS. Nearest Tube: South Kensington.

The West End: Friday 23rd March, 2pm. As we walk around the West End, we'll see the history of London as it expanded – becoming ever more overcrowded, varied, fascinating, but also poor and difficult. Yet it was here that the Church did some of its most impressive work with the poor and needy. Meet at St Patrick; Soho Square, W1D 4NR. Nearest Tube: Tottenham Court Road.

Bishop Alan Goes #Silent! For 12 hours, from 8am to 8pm on Tuesday 27th March, The Tuesday of Holy Week, Bishop Alan will be completely silent (except for the occasional communication with his cat, Delia). This is part of a national initiative, 'Million Minutes', adopted this year by the BCYS, to encourage tranquillity and value of silence; within the stillness, God speaks. Every minute of silence can also be sponsored, raising money for projects led by young people in our Diocese. For more details and all the resources, look at www.millionminutes.org/Brentwood To sponsor Bishop Alan, go to <https://be.wonderful.org/bishop.alan/2018/staysilent> To find out more about all our opportunities for young people, go to www.bycs.net



Former Student Meets the Pope! – Former student, Colin Ekers, (class of 2000) got in touch this week and sent us this photograph of his meeting with the Pope through a work conference.

Colin wrote, *'it was a very touching moment for me and my family and I am very lucky to have had the opportunity to have such a spiritual experience.I am very grateful for all of the early support you, the school and all of the teachers gave me and my family.*

You will be pleased to know that there is a core of us lads from the class of 2000' doing well, still in touch and enjoying ourselves....'

Take Your Son To Work Day - Year 8 and 9 - Just a reminder of the up and coming deadline (Friday 23rd March) for the forms to be completed and returned to the main office.

This is an excellent opportunity for your son to get a glimpse of "the world of work" therefore it is our hope that all students to be out of school on this day. To ensure pupils have equality of opportunity we would suggest asking relatives, friends or colleagues if they would be able to accommodate pupils who are not able to accompany a parent or carer. If a suitable placement is still not available students will need to be in school following normal lessons or other activities. Mrs S. Napper (Enrichment Coordinator).

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition (Year 11)

Assessed practical dates:

- Wednesday 21st March
- Monday 26th March
- Tuesday 27th March

Students will be off timetable for the morning of their assessment to complete the 3 hour practical element of the course and allow the time needed to gather resources as well as prepare, cook and present the dishes for photographing in accordance with exam board guidelines. They will also collect the results for the sensory analysis part of the evaluation.

All students must make sure they have all of their ingredients accurately weighed for their practical assessment and bring in any specific plates/bowls for the presentation of the 3 dishes if they want something different to those in school. They must also have a clean apron and their completed time plan to follow. Any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. Mrs S Napper (Food teacher).



St Thomas More History twitter account is now up and running and will have videos, pictures, exam tips, exemplar work by students, and much more. Follow @STMHISTORIANS for all the latest news.

English Department News

Year Eight English Booster Class in RE4, 3.30pm-4.30pm on Monday 19 March. Open to all Y8 students.

Y7 and Y8 English Drop-In Surgery in BS3 every Monday and Tuesday during break. Open to all Y7 or Y8 students.

Please see Mr Robinson or Mrs Caten for further details.



Spanish Club - All KS3 pupils welcome!

Wednesday 13.40-14.05 Spanish Club Mrs Terry and Mrs Foster

Videos/songs/films plus help with Speaking and Writing.

¡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.



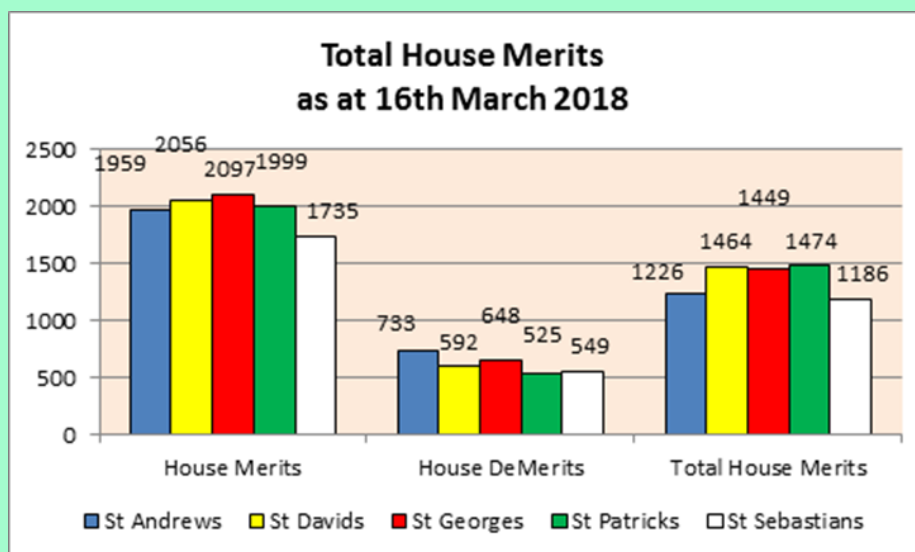
Year 7 practice for Spanish Spelling Bee – please come to improve and be entered for the competition against other schools later this month.

Practise your Spanish – Writing and Speaking skills Years 9, 10 & 11. Do you need help with some grammatical structures? Come & join Señora Williams in MFL1 after school on Wednesday.

¡Nos vemos!



House News!





SPORTS NEWS



PE Dept Twitter - Keep up-to-date with all the latest news, results, fixtures and photos by following the PE Department's Twitter account - @PEDeptSTM

PE Student of the Week - Our winner this week is Nathaniel Rising of Year 12 for his fantastic result in his external Unit 1 exam in BTEC Sport. All the hard work he has put in to his studies has paid off! Well done Nathaniel.



Year 8 Essex Cup Quarter Final Vs St. Martins Lost 5-2 - An excellent cup run came to a premature end on Monday with a below par performance away at St. Martins. In the first half an early setback did not seem to have knocked us, we were easily the better team putting all the pressure on the opposition and in particular down their right hand side we were getting a lot of joy. This first half was undermined by a sub-standard performance in the second that the boys were visibly disappointed with. After we went 2-1 down we lost that fight and edge that served us so well in the first and collapsed. Despite Ciaran Burke's best efforts to galvanise those around him we ultimately succumbed to our heaviest defeat. We have a cup semi-final at home on Shoebury which we are all motivated to win. Mr. Wiltshire.

Y11 Football v FitzWimarc School (Rayleigh) SEE (South East Essex Cup Quarter Final) - Well done to all the team for beating Fitz on Wednesday evening. It went to extra time then penalties! Special congratulations to goalkeeper and winning penalty taker Henry Petty-Mayor!

The Semi will take place sometime next week, date to be confirmed! S. Griffin.

Year 8 Rugby v WHSB - STM 15 – 45 WHSB - Having already been rearranged, this much anticipated fixture had a slow start with both teams missing a number of boys due to the U13 Essex trials. STM started well with some good attacking phases but an unforced knock-on landed at the feet of WHSB's winger who had enough gas (and more!) to get around the outside of our disorganised defence. This set the tone for much of the next 5-10 minutes for STM, with some heads dropping and poor skill execution, WHSB stormed into the lead and went into half-time with a secure lead. A half-time motivational speech was needed to boost our boys, and with some confidence being shown in our own ability from some of our experienced players (Adam, Ciaran and Korede), STM finally got the try they deserved. New additions into the side Michael OG and Gerald started knocking some Westcliff boys backwards in the tackle and the confidence grew with each passing minute. Unfortunately, a sloppy first half-performance was too much to make up for the squad, but a second half performance certainly made things interesting and showed the true quality and depth within this team.

Year 10 v Eastwood – Borough Cup Semi-Final - A solid performance from Year 10 saw us through to the borough final as 3-2 winners. A boggy pitch didn't help us play to our best but a new formation with five in midfield helped nullify Eastwood's threat through the middle. A goal from Taylor Banks from a corner saw us go in at the break 1-0 up. Although Eastwood started the second half strongly, two well taken goals from Liam Barry and Tomi Abere, both set up by Tommy Salter, saw us go 3-0 up. We conceded two sloppy goals to allow them back in to the game but we held firm to reach the final where we will play Southend High for the third time in four years.



In the inaugural year of the Junior NBA league in the UK, the STM year 7 side, representing Indiana Pacers, played their first two matches this week against the Milwaukee Bucks (Shoebury) and the Chicago Bulls (Woodlands). Despite two narrow defeats the team got off to a great start, playing unselfish team basketball which was exciting to watch for all in attendance. With the team growing in confidence by the minute this promises to be an excellent campaign in this high profile national competition. Watch this space. Mr Lettieri.

SPORTS FIXTURES

DATE	FIXTURE	TIME
19/03/2018	Year 7 Rugby v Chase (HOME) Year 8 Football v Shoebury (HOME) Year 10 Essex Plate Rugby v Trinity (HOME) Year 11 Football v Shoebury (HOME)	3:45 k/o 4:00 k/o 2:15 k/o 4:00 k/o
20/03/2018	GCSE Athletics Assessment @ Garons Year 8 Basketball Essex Cup v Westcliff (AWAY)	4:00pm 4:00 tip off
21/03/2018	1st XI v Gable Hall (AWAY) Year 7 Football v Belfairs (Home) Year 10 Football v SHSB (AWAY)	2:00 k/o 4:00 k/o 4:00 k/o
22/03/2018	Year 7 Football v Eastwood (HOME)	4:00 k/o tbc
23/03/2018	NO FIXTURES	
24/03/2018	Southend Schools Football Finals	09:30 k/o