



CONTACT

No. 1411 – Friday 15th December 2017



Dear Parents and Pupils,

As I write Contact this week, I am very much looking forward to our Prize Giving Ceremony this evening as we hope to welcome back many of our students who return to receive certificates and prizes after their first term at university. We look forward to catching up on all that has happened since we last saw them in the summer on results day and we are delighted that Professor Dominic Micklewright joins us as our guest of honour to distribute prizes and awards. As we approach the third Sunday of Advent and our final week of term there are many events that take place that bring our school community together. However, these work because students continue to work in lessons and behave well around school in unstructured time. I am always grateful for your support at home with this message.



Advent Service - Wednesday 20th December, 7pm start – We look forward to seeing you all at our Advent Service. Our liturgical choir is working hard in preparation and we look forward to welcoming the pupils of Year 7 and their parents, other students and their families, staff, governors and friends of the school to share this evening of word and music. The service will be repeated on Thursday 21st December for the whole school community. Thank you to Mrs Webb and all students who have volunteered as readers. Donations of mince pies and other Christmas goodies would be appreciated for after the service; these can be taken to reception. Thank you for your support.



Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Non-Uniform Day - A reminder for that it is our Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper/Non-Uniform Day on Tuesday 19th December. If you haven't purchased a lunch for your son/daughter via School Gateway (those who have free school meals do not have to pay) please remember that there will be no other food on offer at lunchtime that day and they will have to bring a packed lunch in to school with them.

End of Term – An early warning that the school term finishes on **Thursday 21st December at 1:35pm**. Please note that Stephenson's buses and the Amber Coaches have informed us that they will be departing from our school at the usual time. If your son travels on these buses he will shortly be bringing home a letter for you to inform us how he will be getting home on this day.



Christmas Tree Donation – Our thanks yet again to Mr and Mrs Bolt, parents of Year 10 student, Joe Bolt, who have kindly donated an enormous Christmas tree from their garden centre, Wheatley Farm Nursery, Rayleigh. It was enjoyed yesterday and today by our visitors from Kingsdown and Lancaster Schools and will be enjoyed again at this evening's Prize-giving Ceremony, at the St Christopher's School Christmas Party, and our two Advent Services next week.

Brentwood Cathedral Service – In order to help prepare for Christmas you may be able to attend the annual Service of Nine Lessons & Carols held this forthcoming Sunday 17th December at 4pm in Brentwood Cathedral. The service is sung by the Cathedral Choir directed by Andrew Wright and Stephen King playing the organ. Please arrive early so that you are seated by the time the Service begins. Mince pies and mulled wine will be provided afterwards in the Cathedral Parish Hall.

Weekly Prayer

*Lord God, thank you for the Advent wreath
which is a reminder of the need to prepare for Christmas through prayer,
making sacrifices and helping others.*

*In this second week of Advent,
help me to prepare by being on good terms with others.*

AMEN

Mass - We were pleased to welcome Father Gerry Drummond to school yesterday to celebrate our weekly Mass. Thank you to Form 11S who were in attendance and prepared the readings and prayers.



Reporting Student Absences – A reminder to all parents that absence needs to be reported either via SchoolComms or using the main school number (01702 344933) and choosing 'Option 1'. Request for absences for holidays or any other activity in school time, please ask your son/daughter to collect a pink absence form from the school reception.

Chess Team - The Junior Chess Team went to Westcliffe High School for Boys on the evening of December 13th, 2017. They played a team much older than them and gave a good effort; three of the six games were very close. The boys had a good learning experience and will be stronger in the new year for new tournaments. Good effort boys. Mr Vitone.



Year 12 Gology Trip to the Lake District - On Tuesday 5th December, Miss Main, Mr Hardiman and Mrs Smith met 28 very tired Year 12 Geologists outside school at 4:30 in the morning to travel to the Lake District. After a very peaceful journey, we arrived at Blencathra Field Studies Centre in the early afternoon and travelled straight to our first field location which students experienced an introduction into field techniques such as sketches and rock descriptions. After a good night's sleep, all students were re-energised for ea second day of fieldwork involving some geological mapping. Unfortunately the weather was not on our side, so we got to experience the 'real' conditions that fieldwork sometimes has

to be carried out in. Despite a long day in the rain, hail and strong winds, all students were enthusiastic in the evening lessons that were held by the field centre staff. Our final full day of fieldwork on Thursday was much more enjoyable as the sun finally appeared whilst students were investigating how past climates affect the type and composition of rocks that are formed. On Thursday evening we got the surprise of some heavy snowfall! On Friday morning, there was some time to play in the snow whilst we walked back to the coach across some fields where the biggest challenge was navigating styles! Once on the coach, we travelled to our final field location at Shap Granite Quarry where we were able to put into practice all of the skills we had gained across the trip whilst applying it to content recently learnt in lessons. Before we left, students were able to collect their own rock specimen of the granite as a souvenir of the trip!





All students worked incredibly hard throughout the entire trip, in some really difficult weather conditions. We were complimented numerous times about the students' behaviour, their attitude to the fieldwork and their geological knowledge. The tutors couldn't believe that the students have only been studying Geology for three months!

"The trip was very worthwhile as we were able to apply our knowledge from our first few months of studying Geology to the real world. We also fulfilled some of our objectives in our CPAC statements which is a key part of our A Level. The accommodation was a very good standard with large rooms, good food and many specialists in Geology to lead the fieldwork."

Miss B Main.

Are you interested in a career in Investment Management, financial services or technology? Have you heard or read about the growth of FinTech? Want to find out more and understand how to secure a career in the most exciting and dynamic part of financial services? Investment2020 in partnership with Career Ready are running an insight experience and are looking for people keen to take part.

What is Investment 2020?

What does the programme offer?

Investment 2020 brings together Investment Management firms to offer young people unique insight and experience of the Investment Management profession.

During 2018 we are offering a programme of five industry insight sessions; they will provide insight the types of tech jobs within Investment Management. Over the five sessions you'll learn about;

- Software Development & Data Architecture
- Operational Change
- IT Infrastructure
- Innovation
- IT Security

You can find out more about Investment 2020 here - www.investment2020.org.uk.

There is a chance that work experience places may be available for the students with the host employers – this will be confirmed during the programme.

This is an outstanding opportunity to see inside some of the biggest businesses in the City of London and hear first-hand how to get started on this most exciting of careers. Places are strictly limited.

Who should apply?

- If you're interested in a career in Tech, Investment Management or Financial Services
- Can commit to traveling into the City of London on each of the five dates (sessions run from 3pm – 5pm)
- Must be available for the 1st session on Tuesday 23rd January 2018 between 3pm-5pm in Central London

Next steps

If you'd like to be considered please follow this link and answer two very short and simple questions via this link.....

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GRZRVDV>

Closing date for applications is Monday 15th January 2018. Successful students will receive confirmation from Career Ready on Tuesday 16th January 2018. The first session takes place on Tuesday 23rd January 2018.



MFL Department News



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

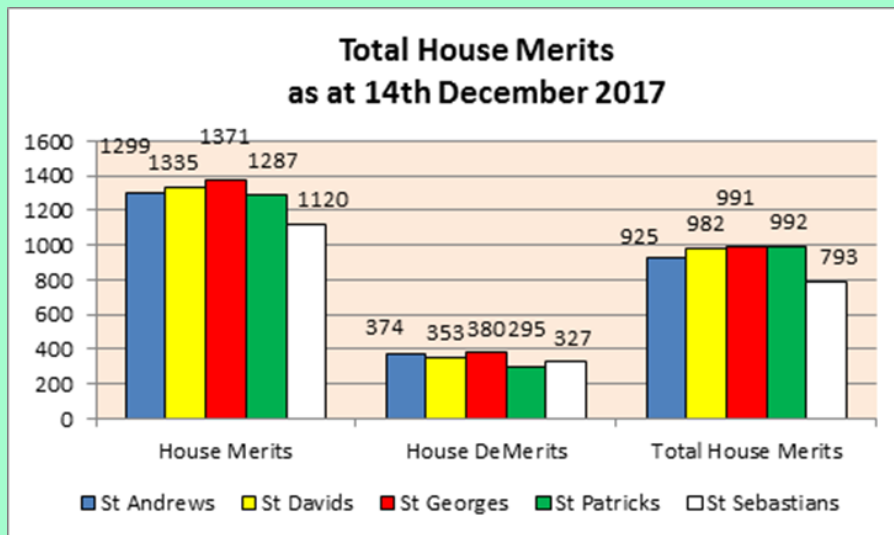
& join Señora Terry and Mari-Carmen in MFL2 first half of lunch on Wednesday.



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



A special mention to Adam Mhlaba and Tayla Cox for progressing into the next stage of the Essex Rugby squad, with future matches and trials leading into Eastern regional teams. The now approximately 30 man squad is an incredible stage to reach and we are very proud of their achievement. Looking forward to monitor their (and the whole squads) progress and hopefully the 2 STM boys are a step closer to winning a World Cup for England again!!



PE Students of the Week - We have two award winners this week with one being carried over from last week. Toby Fane of Year 10 has been recognised for his excellent attitude to his BTEC PE lessons. He is always willing to help others and also passed his recent Unit 1 exam. The second winner is Zak Miller of Year 12. Zak worked really well on the recent Level 3 BTEC trip to David Lloyd and also put in a great performance in the First XI National Cup fixture this week to help the team into the last 32 of the competition.



SPORTS FIXTURES

DATE	FIXTURE	STAFF
18/12/2017	Year 11 Basketball v Westcliff (AWAY)	4:00pm
19/12/2017	U13 Essex Basketball v Shoebury (AWAY)	4:00pm
20/12/2017	NO FIXTURES	
21/12/2017	NO FIXTURE – EARLY CLOSURE	
22/12/2017	SCHOOL CLOSED	

EXTRA CURRICULAR SPORTS TIMETABLE AUTUMN TERM 2017/18

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8.00 - 8.30am	PE DEPARTMENT MEETING	Cross Country (All years)	GCSE/A Level catch-up (TR6) Fitness / S & C (All Years)	Cross Country (All years) Short Tennis (All years)	Fitness Training (SAQ) (Sports Hall)
1.40 - 2.20pm	Year 7 Basketball Squad Training	Year 9 & 10 Futsal (Sports Hall) Year 8 & 10 Rugby Training	Sixth Form Basketball Year 7 Rugby Training	Year 9 & 10 Basketball Squad Training	Racket Sports 10/11 GCSE Table Tennis
3.30 - 5.00pm	Table Tennis Club (All years) Year 7 Rugby Training	Year 9 Rugby Training Gaelic Football Club (Years 8-10) Year 11 & Sixth Form Rugby Training	Year 7 & 8 Southend FC Football on Astro Sixth Form & Year 11 Basketball	Year 10 Rugby Training Year 8 Basketball Squad Training	Badminton Club (Week 1 - Years 10 & 11) (Week 2 - Years 7, 8 & 9) Year 8 Rugby Training