



CONTACT

No. 1404 – Friday 20th October 2017



Dear Parents and Pupils,

I can't quite believe that we break up for the **half-term** holiday at **3.30pm today**. This first half term has been an eventful one and we are delighted with how well our new students have settled into life at St Thomas More. We wish you all a happy and safe break. However, it would be foolish to not do any reading, revision or re-drafting of work completed this half term, especially if you have exams after the break. **We return at 8.40am on Monday 30th October (Timetable Week 2)**. This week I spent a busy Wednesday with parents of our Year 7 and 8 students, visiting classrooms and experiencing for themselves our working day. We were really impressed with the engagement and learning observed in the classrooms and very much enjoyed learning with the boys in some lessons! We have also opened our doors on Thursday and Friday to welcome parents of Year 6 pupils to visit us during the school day in advance of the closing date for secondary applications September 2018. As always the Year 7 tour guides and Prefects hosted with pride and maturity. I would like to thank all those students, Mr Mason and Mrs Saunders who worked hard to ensure the day ran smoothly and in particular my thanks to those students who took time to speak to parents about their school and the great number of opportunities the staff here provide for students.

Feast of All Saints November 1st - On this holy day of obligation, Mass will be held in school for staff and students in Years 7-11. As a result of limited space, on this occasion we would ask that members of the Sixth Form make their own arrangements to attend Mass in their parishes and attend their usual timetabled lessons during period 3. For any student who is unable to attend mass in their Parish, we ask that they let their Form Tutor know on Monday morning so that we can prepare for them to attend in school.



St Thomas More Mass for the Deceased Thursday 16th November at 7pm - We plan to hold a Mass for the dearly departed during November, the month of the Holy Souls, to pray for the deceased relatives and friends of members of our school community. If you plan to attend and would like the name of a loved one added to the list of those we pray for at the Mass, please send name/s to Mrs Davies via email LDAVIES@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk before Friday 10th November.

Year 10 Study Skills Evening – 2nd November at 6pm – An early warning for the Year 10 Study Skills evening – please put the date in your diary – more information to follow.

Year 9 Study Skills Evening – 15th November at 6pm – An early warning for the Year 9 Study Skills evening – please put the date in your diary – more information to follow.

Weekly Prayer

*Lord God, thank you for inviting me to a fulfilling and satisfying life
where I can grow to know you more and love you better.*

Help me to see more clearly that living for you means being happy.

Help me to show that happiness to others.

Amen.

Weekly Mass - Thank you to Father Jeff Woolnough who was in school on Thursday to celebrate our weekly Mass and for members of 11G who were in attendance and prepared the readings and prayers.

House Assemblies - Thank you to House Captains in Year 13 who have led their Houses in assemblies this week.

House Debating Competition - Today's competition took place with St Patrick's House proposing and St Sebastian's opposing the motion: *This House would hold a second EU referendum*. The two teams with the most points following their first two debates will meet in the Grand Final taking place on Friday 3rd November.

Public Speaking and Debating opportunities - Mrs Webb is currently putting together teams of students to take part in the English Speaking Union Mace Debating Competition and the English Speaking Union Public Speaking Competition. Students in Years 12-13 are eligible to take part in the debating competition and students in Years 10-11 are eligible to compete in the public speaking competition. Any student wishing to be considered for inter-schools competition should make themselves known either in person or via email CWEBB@st-thomsmore.southend.sch.uk as soon as possible.

Liturgical Choir - Please note that there will be rehearsals for Lit choir taking place on Monday 30th and Tuesday 31st October in preparation for All Saints Day. Rehearsals will take place in RE4 at 1335. Everyone is welcome.

Morning Prayer - A reminder to all that Morning Prayer takes place in the Chapel every day at 11:15. We pray a decade of the Rosary followed by a short reflection on scripture. Everyone is welcome and it has been good that a number of students have been taking part over recent weeks. As we return from half term, why not make it part of your daily routine, or perhaps commit to coming along once a week?

Science Department Request - If any parent has an electric baby bottle warmer (see below) which they no longer require can they please send it in with their son after half term for the science department. They are very useful as mini water baths which can be used in practical work all through the school. Thank you.



GCSE Geography Revision Classes every Monday 3:45 – 4:45 in G1, G2 and G3:

Monday 30 th October	Living World: Tropical Rainforests
Monday 6 th November	Living World: Hot Deserts
Monday 13 th November	<i>Geographical Skills and Fieldwork</i>
Monday 20 th November	Urban Issues and Challenges: Rio
Monday 27 th November	Urban Issues and Challenges: Bristol
Monday 4 th December	<i>Geographical Skills and Fieldwork</i>
Monday 11 th December	The Changing Economic World: Nigeria
Monday 18 th December	The Changing Economic World: UK

MFL Department News

French Speaking Practice - Year 11 French speaking practice is Monday lunchtime (1st half) and **Spanish** Year 11 Spanish speaking practice Wednesday lunchtime (1st half) in MFL2 with Mrs Terry.



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 11 Revision sessions – Please [click here](#) to see a full timetable of revision sessions for Year 11 students.

Reading Club book review by Rohan Jose - *A Song for Ella Grey* is a novel set in the North of England, a retelling of the ancient Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice. The novel is narrated by Claire; the best friend of Ella Grey. The story focuses on her as she watches her friend fall in love with Orpheus, despite her own personal feelings.

For me, this story was not to my taste, much like *Skelling* (another of the author's novels). While the language may have been enchanting and poetic for some, for me it was confusing and detracted from the main story. I spent as much time trying to understand what was occurring in the story as I was actually reading the book.

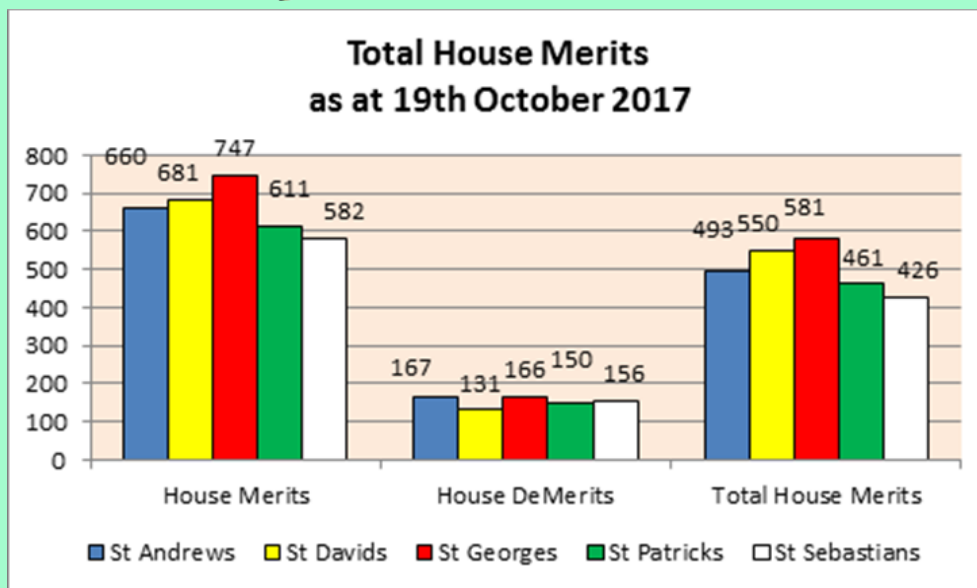
Another sticking point was the overall ambiguity of the story. Again people will say this is a positive feature as it allows readers to draw their own conclusions, but for me it left many questions unanswered that really annoyed me.

And finally the characters, dearie me, the characters! Ella is a self-absorbed fool who falls in love and marries a man after two or three meetings (and I thought that only happened in *Romeo and Juliet*). We don't know anything about Orpheus apart from he's homeless and he plays music, very well. This may sound odd but I was relieved when Ella died as it was the only time the characters behaved in a way that allowed me to show them sympathy.

The Reading Club gave the book an average rating of 3/5.



House News!



PSA News - Following on from the success of the Quiz Night held a couple of weeks ago, the PSA are putting on an **Evening Dinner Fundraising Event**. We are raising important funds for the school mini bus. Keep **8th November** free, book your table and seats for your party by sending an email to psa@st-thomasmore.couthend.sch.uk A night of wonderful food with fun, friends and fundraising. See attached flyer for all the details. Any queries please do not hesitate to contact me. Gabriella Twine.



SPORTS NEWS



Year 9 rugby match vs Belfairs – Tuesday 17th October = **STM 41 – 15 Belfairs** - Year 9 came away with a dominant and impressive win over Belfairs School on Tuesday night. Having only played one previous fixture this year, Year 9 were looking to get their first win of the season against Belfairs. They started the game at a fast tempo

and some strong running by Rio Ablorh and Nathaniel Phillips soon saw St Thomas More in control. The platform set by the forwards was continued in the backline, where Captain Aidan Reynolds put in a fierce display both in defence and attack. At the half, St Thomas More were 22-5 ahead.

After the break, St Thomas More carried on where they left off. More strong running from David Ohemeng and man of the match Ryan Benson-Smith saw Tommies extend their lead even further. Some defensive frailties allowed Belfairs to grab two late consolation tries, but a show of strong running rugby allowed St Thomas More to leave with a comfortable victory. There is plenty to work on after half term, but lots of positives will be taken from this game. Mr Tisi.

Year 7 A & B Rugby - Monday saw the opening of the year 7 rugby season with a fixture against Sweyne Park School. Approximately 30 boys were selected for the first match and plenty of rotations allowed sufficient game time for all involved. Sweyne Park obviously were not shy of tackling and the STM teams done fantastically well to secure possession for much of the game and starve Sweyne of any real attacking opportunities. The variety of boys who scored just shows how much of a team effort the afternoon was, with some fantastic passing and decision-making being on display. 4 15 minute quarters were played and STM triumphed unanimously, with our defence proving solid and only conceding 2 tries through the matches. Mr Binstead.

Year 11 Essex Cup Rugby - On Wednesday, 16 Year 11 boys travelled to Anglo European School in Ingatestone for their cup draw. After a sluggish start and some organisational problems due to some missing personnel, St Thomas More kicked into gear and started playing some good phases and kept the ball well. After a tiring defensive effort, the back line broke out of our 22 and Kwabena Koomson scored a great try in the corner, with an excellent conversion to follow. The boys went in down by 5 at half-time but without seeing much possession, this was promising and shaping up to be a good fixture in the next half. Again, huge tackles were being made from 1-15 and a phenomenal couple of tackles from Sam Wheatley, Raphael Sossou and countless forwards kept Anglo European out from our line. The opposition scored a quick couple of tries due to a lapse in concentration from STM and Anglo European smartly capitalised. STM scored a fantastically worked try late into the second half, with some excellent forward phases and a chip from Kwabena allowed Teejay Chiororo to gather and score, but time was against us and the boys come up short against probably the deserving winner when looking at the big picture. With some extra training, the Year 11 team is looking a great squad to take forward through this year. Mr Binstead.

STM vs Notley High - National Cup 9-0 win - After two disheartening defeats last week the boys looked to bounce back against a Notley High team who had been scoring goals recently. After some tactical tinkering the boys put in a stylish performance of energetic, attacking football. In a first half demolition we found ourselves 3-0 up after sensational strikes from Jude and Zolani - if I had one criticism at half time it was that we weren't winning by a greater margin. In the second half the team showed their ruthless side putting Notley to the sword with pace, power and precision. What pleased the team the most is that our goals came from all over the park including one sensational solo effort from Dominic O'Kane and a rare goal for Ciaran Burke. We look forward to the next round of games after an impressive start to the season. Mr. Wiltshire

SPORTS FIXTURES

DATE	FIXTURE	TIME
30/10/2017	1st XI Football National Cup v Thurston College (HOME)	2:15 K/O
31/10/2017		
01/11/2017	House Cross Country	09:10 - 11:10
02/11/2017	Year 7 Rugby v Belfairs (HOME) Year 9 Football v Beauchamps (HOME)	3:45 3:45 K/O
03/11/2017		

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