

CONTACT

No. 1696 – Friday 4th July 2025



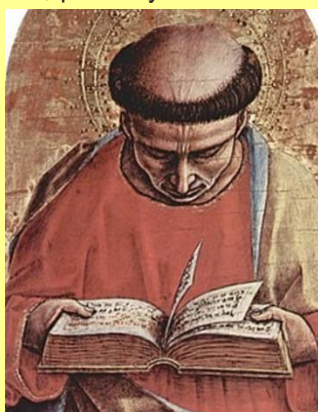
Dear Students, Parents and Staff,

Year 6 Transition Week: Our comprehensive transition process continued this week with our Transition Information evenings for parents and our new Year 7 students and our Induction Day today. It was lovely to meet our new students and their families this week, as they were able to be others in their new forms, Form Tutors and lots of other staff who are involved in the day-to-day support for Year 7. Students and families also learnt about the expectations of uniform, PE Kit, clubs and activities to help prepare over the summer for their September start. Today, over 180 Year 6 pupils joined St Thomas More enjoying a range of activities, and all have left happy and smiling at the end. We look forward to welcoming them properly in September or at our summer school Tuesday 19th – Thursday 21st August 2025 [school gateway](#)

One parent commented,

'I know often parents only contact schools to complain rather than compliment, so I hope this finds you well. I just wanted to say your Transition processes are really comprehensive and high quality. The personalised and nurturing approach, with the level of supporting information and comms, really sets it apart. I'm really pleased my son chose to join. Thanks for all the hard work of staff.'

Charity fundraiser – Giving the Chaplain a tonsure: To raise money for Southend Hospital Special Care Baby Unit our lay Chaplain, Max, will undergo a haircut – a tonsure, probably more often referred as the 'monk hair cut'. He will keep this haircut for a length of time depending on the amount of money raised. **We have currently raised £199**, meaning we are just under the two-day mark. This haircut has profound meaning, showing outwardly a focus toward God and how you practice your faith. It was worn by many prominent saints, including the patron of our school MAT – St Francis of Assisi. If the idea of Max having this haircut over a weekend and until the end of the school term is one you want to support to help our local hospital care for infants who need it most, please donate. Donations can be made on the [school gateway](#). Donations will remain open until Max removes the tonsure, so there is still time to hit the £1000 goal!



HOW LONG WILL MAX KEEP THIS HAIRCUT?

Date	Price for the day	Accumulative amount that must be raised
07/07/2025	£100	£100
08/07/2025	£100	£200
09/07/2025	£100	£300
10/07/2025	£100	£400
11/07/2025	£100	£500
From 11 th to end of term	(for whole week) £500	£1000

Early Closure - A reminder that the school will **close at 1:30pm on Thursday 10th July** in preparation for the Open Evening, a letter has been emailed home giving details of the early closure arrangements for those students who use the contract buses.

Prayer of the Week

For strength in our faith.

O Lord, strengthen our belief in Your Presence.

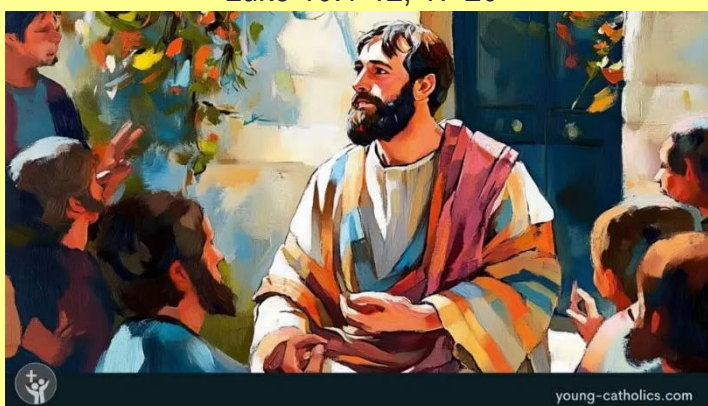
Help us to proclaim "My Lord and my God" with conviction
and to live our lives in accordance with your teachings.

Help us to place our complete trust in your love and mercy.

Amen

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 10:1-12, 17-20



This week we hear from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke, in this reading our Lord, Jesus Christ, sends out seventy-two of his followers two by two. He tells them to travel lightly, trust in God's provision, and share the message of peace and hope wherever they go. This sending out isn't just for these disciples then and there, it's for us too. With summer just around the corner and school nearly finished, it's a perfect moment to remember that like those first followers, we are also sent out. Whether you're off on holiday, visiting family, or simply spending time with friends, you carry Lord Jesus' message with you. It's a call to be kind, to bring peace, and to trust that God is with you in every situation.

Sometimes, being sent out can feel scary or uncertain, it likely did for the disciples as well. But our Lord reminds us not to worry about what to say because the Spirit will guide us. Our Lord also encourages us to celebrate the victories, big or small, and stay humble, remembering that true joy comes from knowing we are God's children.

So, as summer begins, think of yourself as one of those sent out by Jesus. Take this time to be a light to others, to be courageous in faith, and to trust that God walks with you every step of the way.

- Max Morris, Lay Chaplain

Chaplaincy News

Adoration: Our weekly Holy Hour and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continues every Thursday after school in our Chapel, with opportunities for Benediction advertised as and when they are available. Come for as long as you're able, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament starts from 15:40.

Leadership Conference: This week we attended the Diocesan leadership conference for school leaders. We were well represented by a few of our Senior prefects and the Head of Prefects. It was a fantastic day featuring multiple sessions linking things such as; being a leader in a Catholic school, how to integrate our faith into school events, and how to build up others. All of this under the theme 'Christus Vivit' - Christ is alive. The day ended for us with our schools leaders drafting a mission statement on what they hope to achieve whilst they are prefects, and what they want to leave for the next wave of prefects. We look forward to watching them implement the skills they learnt.



BYCS Youth Mass: This month we took a number of students to the monthly youth mass at Brentwood cathedral. This month we decided to focus the invite to our students in years 9 and 10 who have recently been Confirmed, it was a great way to celebrate. We would like to extend a thank you to all students and staff who attended, with a special thank you to Mr Heaton who drove the minibus to and from the cathedral.



Our Assisi Catholic Trust Family

Schools	Parishes
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary school and nursery	Our Lady of Lourdes and St Joseph Msgr Kevin Hale https://lourdesleigh.org/
St George's Catholic Primary School	St. George and The English Martyrs Fr. Brett http://www.saintgeorgeschurch.co.uk/
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary school and nursery	Sacred Heart of Jesus Fr. Graham Sacred Heart and John Fisher – the Catholic Parish of Southend-on-Sea and Prittlewell
St. Helen's Catholic Primary School	Our Lady Help of Christians and Saint Helen Fr. Alex Saint Helen's Catholic Church Westcliff Southend-on-sea
St Joseph's Catholic Primary school	Our Lady of Canvey and English Martyrs Fr. Eamonn http://www.ourladyofcanvey.org/
Holy Family Catholic Primary School	Holy Family and St Thomas More Fr. Eduard Home (holymfamily-church.uk)
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Primary School	Our Lady of Ransom Fr Paul Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church
St Teresa's Catholic Primary school	Catholic Church of St. Teresa and the Child Jesus Fr. Gerry Home - St Teresa of the Child Jesus, Rochford
St Thomas More High School	St. Peter's Fr. Jeff https://stpetereastwood.org/

Vacancies:

Assisi Catholic Trust: Digital Marketing Apprentice – closing date Friday 11th July

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeship/VAC1000327147>

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School: Level 3 Early Years Practitioner - [St Joseph's Catholic Primary School - A Good Catholic School - Vacancies](#)

Parent Reminders and Student Information

Changes to Contact Details: Please remember you can make these changes via your child's [School Gateway](#) account.

Student Medical Conditions: Please ensure school is made aware of any updates regarding student's medical conditions, particularly if they can potentially have an impact on their time in school and require support. Please contact Mrs Walford mwalford@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk if you wish to discuss your case in detail.

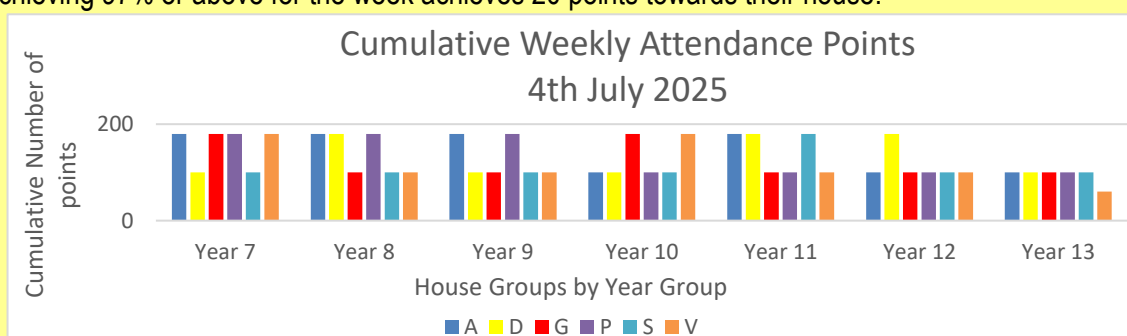
Money for Travel: Just a reminder that students should ensure they have sufficient money with them to cover their transport costs to and from school each day as we are unable to provide this from school.



Attendance

Absence: If your child is unwell and unable to attend, please notify the school of the reason for the absence on the first day of an unplanned absence by 9am or as soon as practically possible by calling the school and selecting attendance or by emailing attendance@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk. If the absence lasts more than one day, please update the school daily.

House Attendance Points: The form with the highest attendance in the year group gets 100 points each week and every form achieving 97% or above for the week achieves 20 points towards their house.



Spotlight on Wellbeing and Keeping Safe

Please don't forget that staff are here for you and your children, and you can get in touch with Mrs Walford via welfare@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk if you need some support. Parental factsheets on various topics are available on our website under the Safeguarding section, [Parent Fact Sheets \(st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk\)](https://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/parent-fact-sheets)

Departmental News

Music Department Ensembles: Information can be found [here](#) for Choir, Folk Band, Liturgy Band & Orchestra.



Our [Amazon Wishlist](#)! Friends, family and alumni can donate directly to the school library. We still accept preloved copies from home you may wish to donate, but student and departmental requests for library stock can be found here. The book wish list is chosen and updated by the Library team as texts that benefit the student's reading comprehension, engagement with the curriculum and foster an interest in reading. If students have overdue library books, you should have received an overdue notice and may be charged an overdue fee per book via Gateway. To have the overdue notice removed, students can return the book, pay the fee, or replace the missing book with a new copy.

The library is also now accepting board game donations. A huge thank you to Daniela Baker & family for donating to the Library from our Amazon Wishlist. Already our students are enjoying her generous gift 😊

Winners of the Judge A Book By Its Cover Competition are listed below.

- 1st: Emmanuel N (8S)
- 2nd: Alex M (7V)
- 3rd: Daniel B (8V)
- Chrysolite U (8S) received an Honorary Mention.

A big congratulations to our winners! Library loans for this School Year have now closed as of the 30th June. Students will not be able to take out any new books from the library as we now approach three weeks from the end of term, however day loans will still be allowed. Please could all overdue books be returned to the library before the end of the year. Overdue fines can be found on Gateway.

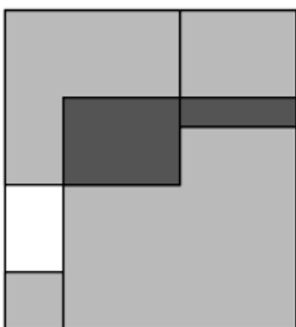


Cooking at home: Don't forget to send your photos of cooking at home to me for your extended learning challenge certificate and merit before the end of the year (smnapper@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk)



The diagram shows four shaded glass squares, with areas 1 cm^2 , 4 cm^2 , 9 cm^2 and 16 cm^2 , placed in the corners of a rectangle. The largest square overlaps two others. The area of the region inside the rectangle but not covered by any square (shown unshaded) is 1.5 cm^2 .

What is the area of the region where squares overlap (shown dark grey)?



Maths Problem of the Week:

Answer to last weeks problem: Ration was 5:9

MFL Department's Word and Idiomatic Expression of the Week:

Estar hasta las narices

Literal translation in English: To be up the noses

When do we use it?: Cuando estas harto de algo
(when you are fed up of something)

Example: Estoy hasta las narices de tus quejas constantes.
(I am fed up of your constant complaining)

Fregadero

(freh-gah-deh-roh)

Masculine Noun

In English: Kitchen basin/sink

Example: Hay muchos platos en el fregadero
(There are a lot of plates in the sink)



The July Celebrity Linguist Spotlight:



Name: Arsène Wenger, OBE

Career: Former professional footballer and manager. Current FIFA's Chief of Global Football Development.

Languages spoken: English, French, German, Spanish, Italian & Japanese (6 languages)

"Being voted Britain's first ever public language champion is an incredible honour."

— Arsène Wenger, April 2013

Science Department



A New Alloy is Enabling Ultra-Stable Structures Needed for Exoplanet Discovery.

Interesting read here on Nasa's website [HERE](#).



Science Clubs

Lab Rats

Become the scientists of the future, today.

- Mr Jackson - Lab 1
- **Monday (3.30 – 4.30) – Year 7 & 8**

Astronomy

Study the cosmos and go supernova as you grow knowledge and skills. You could even gain an extra GCSE.

- Mr Vitone - Ma6
- **Wednesday Lunch Time – Year 10**

This week at St Thomas More Science Dept:

If you are interested in quick revision and want to remind yourself or recap your Science Lessons.

Then look no further and Subscribe to Mr. Sykes Youtube Channel - Search [@LoveScience.educate](#)

Or click here:



Love Science

@LoveScience.educate • 109 subscribers • 16 videos

Welcome to Love Science — your go-to hub for exciting, accessible, and visually engaging ...more

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfg71C4ql2UX_BHPsvUbi9w?sub_confirmation=1



Alumnus of the Month: [July](#)



Aspire: online resources for all things careers/universities and apprenticeships, great for those not sure of the opportunities after GCSE's (POST 16) and A levels (POST 18). Click to find out more [The Aspire Guide - Flipbook - Page 1 \(paperturn-view.com\)](#)

INVESTIN: Information on weekend programmes in Law and Finance Careers can be found [here](#)

CAREERS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is a collation of all the opportunities we have heard about from employers and universities. Please use the links included to read more information and apply to anything you are interested in. Links are underlined.

Careers Newsletter can be found [here](#).

Year 7 Begin Their Careers Journey with Connexions Advisor Abbie Tisdall: This week, our Year 7 students took an exciting first step on their journey toward the world of work during a special assembly led by Connexions careers advisor, Abbie Tisdall. Abbie introduced herself as the school's dedicated careers advisor and gave our students their first real insight into how careers support works at school. She explained the purpose of 1:1 careers meetings — a safe, supportive space where students can explore their interests, ambitions, and potential pathways. Although these individual sessions are offered in later years, Abbie gave Year 7 a clear idea of what to expect and how these conversations can help them make informed decisions in the future. Students were also given a brief but valuable introduction to the range of options available to them after Year 11, often called “post-16” choices. Abbie touched on academic routes such as A-Levels, vocational pathways like BTECs, T-Levels, apprenticeships, and other training opportunities, highlighting that there are many different routes to success. This assembly marked the beginning of a planned careers journey that will grow and develop with students as they move through the school. It was inspiring to see so many young people begin to think about their futures and the opportunities that lie ahead. We thank Abbie for her engaging and informative session, and we look forward to welcoming her back for further careers activities throughout the year.



RAF Visit Inspires Year 7 during their Enrichment Day: Careers in the Royal Air Force: More than just flying!!!!

As part of their Enrichment Day, Year 7 students had the exciting opportunity to meet Corporal Michael Bates of the Royal Air Force (RAF), who visited the school to talk about the wide range of career opportunities available within one of the UK's most respected organisations. Cpl Bates gave an engaging and informative talk, breaking down common myths about the RAF and showing students that there's far more to the force than just flying planes. From engineering and cybersecurity to logistics, medical services, air traffic control, and even music, the RAF offers over 50 different career paths – many of which are available with GCSE-level qualifications. He explained the types of grades and qualifications



students should aim for depending on their areas of interest. For example, roles in technical trades may require strong passes in maths and science, while other paths, like logistics or catering, focus more on practical skills and vocational routes. Perhaps most exciting for the students were the perks of joining the RAF. Cpl Bates highlighted the benefits of a career in the force, including free or subsidised training and education, including opportunities to earn degrees without student debt, travel around the world for work and humanitarian missions,

excellent job security and competitive salaries, housing support, free healthcare, and gym access, a strong sense of teamwork, purpose, and adventure. Students had the chance to ask questions, and many left feeling inspired and curious about the future paths they could take, both in and outside of the armed forces. It was a memorable session that brought real-world insight into the classroom and showed our Year 7s how the choices they make now – including their effort in

school – can open doors to exciting possibilities later on. We thank Corporal Bates for his time and enthusiasm, and we look forward to welcoming him back in the future! Thank you Mrs Lindsay and Mrs Bradley

Year Post-16 Morning: Exploring Future Pathways: We were delighted to welcome students to our informative and inspiring Post-16 Morning, a key event in helping them make well-informed choices about their futures. The morning began with a visit from Abbie Tisdall of Connexions, who provided invaluable guidance on the various options available to students after Year 11. Her session covered everything from further education pathways to apprenticeships and employment, helping students gain clarity and confidence as they plan their next steps. Ms Corr, our Director of Sixth Form, gave a passionate and informative talk on the many excellent opportunities available within our own Sixth Form. She highlighted the strong academic support, vibrant community, and range of enrichment activities that make our Sixth Form an outstanding place to continue education. Throughout lesson 1, the students then had subject-specific presentations, offering a deeper insight into what life in Sixth Form study might look like. Sessions were held for



Sociology, Film Studies, English Language, Geography, Psychology, Religious Studies, and BTEC Sport — each one led by enthusiastic staff who showcased the exciting content and skills developed in their courses. A huge thank you to Abbie Tisdall, Ms Corr, and all the staff who delivered engaging sessions and supported students throughout the morning. Thank you also to Mrs Bradley for pulling it all together so beautifully. Your time and dedication made this event a great success and an important milestone in our students' journeys. Mrs Lindsay

Poetry Corner No.71

My Heart's in The Highlands

My heart's in the Highlands, my heart is not here,
My heart's in the Highlands, a-chasing the deer;
Chasing the wild-deer, and following the roe,
My heart's in the Highlands, wherever I go.

Farewell to the Highlands, farewell to the North,
The birth-place of Valour, the country of Worth ;
Wherever I wander, wherever I rove,
The hills of the Highlands for ever I love.

Farewell to the mountains, high-cover'd with snow,
Farewell to the straths and green vallies below;
Farewell to the forests and wild-hanging woods,
Farewell to the torrents and loud-pouring floods.

My heart's in the Highlands, my heart is not here,
My heart's in the Highlands, a-chasing the deer;
Chasing the wild-deer, and following the roe,
My heart's in the Highlands, wherever I go.

My Heart's in the Highlands (Arvo Pärt)
The life of Robert Burns | National Trust for Scotland

Sports News

Year 9 Cricket vs Eastwood – STM 89/4, Eastwood 87/7: The year 9 cricket team beat Eastwood with an impressive display both with the bat and the ball. Eastwood won the toss and elected to bat first. STM kept the score down in the early exchanges, limiting Eastwood to just 39/2 after 8 overs. Eastwoods opener then got going, hitting several boundaries to up the run rate and help them set a total of 87/7. Notable mention to captain Luke S who took 3 wickets for just 9 runs, and Luis C who took 2 wickets for 8 runs. STM needing 88 to win started cautiously, yet an impressive 24 from opener James N sent them on the way to reaching the target. Eastwood limited STM to just 14 runs in overs 5-9 to regain momentum in the game, yet impressive stints from Charles (16), Luke S (10 N/O) and Oliver M (7 N/O) helped STM to secure a well deserved victory. Well done to all boys involved.



House Cricket: This week saw exciting indoor house cricket competitions for Years 7, 9 and 10, with fast-paced 8-over matches and thrilling finals. Sebastians (Year 7), Patricks (Year 9 - Pictured) and Vincents (Year 10) emerged victorious. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to develop cricketing skills, build team spirit, and enjoy competitive interhouse sport—many experiencing it for the first time!

Year 10 House Football: This week also saw the Year 10 House Football tournament take place in a competitive 7-a-side round-robin format. There was excellent football and teamwork on display throughout, with several

tightly contested matches. Patricks emerged as overall winners, with Davids and Sebastians finishing joint second. Andrews, Georges and Vincents shared third place in what was a closely fought competition. Notable mention to Mr Harding and Mr Pitcher and a big thank you for giving up their time to help referee.



Fixtures

DATE	FIXTURE
07/07/2025	Year 9 Cricket v WHSB (AWAY) Leave 3.30pm Return 6pm
08/07/2025	Year 12 House Football - P5
09/07/2025	Year 8 House Cricket
10/07/2025	No Fixtures
11/07/2025	No Fixtures
14/07/2025	PE BBQ
15/07/2025	No Fixtures
16/07/2025	No Fixtures
17/07/2025	No Fixtures
18/07/2025	No Fixtures

PE Extracurricular Timetable

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7.45 - 8.30 am	S&C Training (Gym) Year 7 & 8 (JEN) MDR & EST Track 8am (AAC)	Year 8 & 9 Gym (JES) Darts Club - All years (SB)	Year 10 & 11 Gym (LSH) All Years Astro (AP)	Year 9 & 10 Gym (SB)	Yrs7-10 Athletics High Jump (AAC) Year 9-13 Gym (EK)
1.35 - 2.25pm	Year 8 Cricket (JEN) Athletics - LJ/TJ (AAC) Darts Club - All years (SB)	Athletics - Throws (AAC) Year 9/10 Cricket (LSH) Year 8 Astro (JTB)	Athletics - Throws (AAC) Athletics - Sprints (EK) Year 7 Astro (JES)	Athletics - LJ/TJ (AAC) Year 9 Astro (NSP)	Year 10 Astro (TH) Athletics - Track/Relay (SB) Athletics - LJ/TJ (LSH) BTEC Sport catch up (EK)
3.30 - 4.45pm	Tennis Club - All years (RHE/NSP) Athletics (SB)	Year 7 Cricket (JTB)	Tennis Club - All years (RHE/NSP)		Year 8 Football Training (MH/AH)