



St. Thomas More High School
An Academy Trust in the Diocese of Brentwood (Reg No: 7696989)

CONTACT

No. 1289 – 7th November 2014

Dear Parents and Pupils,

All Saints Whole School Mass – On Thursday we celebrated the first Mass of the term with a whole school Mass in the Sports Hall. Our Celebrant was Fr Kevin Hale, with Concelebrants, Fr Lee Bennett, Fr Jerry Drummond and Fr Jeff Woolnough. The scripture readings and prayers of the faithful were read by members of the Sixth Form; the Psalm was beautifully sung; and many lovely hymns enhanced our liturgy, led by our choir and accompanied by a small ensemble of dedicated musicians. The final hymn was a St Thomas More favourite, 'For All the Saints', which the boys sang with great gusto. We thank our Deanery priests for celebrating Mass and to all the participants, readers and ushers, singers and musicians, and last, but by no means the least, our excellent and loyal Altar Serving team for their hard work. Thank you also to staff and students who prepared the area for Mass with the arranging of chairs and facilitating technical support. Following Mass, Fr Kevin blessed for us the cross which stands outside our school. He was joined myself, Mr Griffin, William Blackstone-Whines and Christopher Burkett. We are grateful, as always, for the prayers, support and time spent with our Deanery Priests.



Remembrance Day Service – On Sunday, Mr Mason, and students Dan Boosey, Will Blackstone-Whines, Katie Bryan, Audrey Tambanewako, Michael O'Brien and Tom O'Kane shall be representing St Thomas More High School at the Remembrance Day Service at the Cliff Cenotaph.

Highlight of the Week

using your

My highlight this week came from our All Saints mass, as Mr Riches has, once again, discovered new talent amongst our students. Joshua Wallen supported two Year 7 boys, Rueben Slade-Johnson and Alfie Treacher, leading the sung responsorial psalm which beautifully lifted the whole liturgy. Thank you for stepping forward and talents for the benefit of the whole school community.

Date for your diaries - I am also delighted this year that our Advent Service to be held at 7pm on Thursday 18th December will involve **all our Year 7 students** and a number more and therefore remind you of the date and time and ask that you please ensure your son is able to make this very special evening in December. Our service invites everyone connected with our wider school community – so a reminder for your busy family diaries please!

VLE – A parental guide to the VLE can be found [here](#). You can also find all departmental news on the VLE by clicking [here](#)

**Mrs G Ackred
Headteacher**



Weekly Prayer

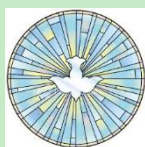
Lord God,

*you promised Saint Peter that the powers of darkness would never
overpower your Church*

and you promised to stay with your people until the end of time.

We thank you and praise you for this.

Amen



Morning Prayer - This ongoing prayer retreat seems to have become quite popular with our new Year 7s. The usual Year 9, Year 10 & Year 11 students continue to attend our 'Five minutes with God', but it is wonderful to see Year 7 enthusiastically supporting the religious life at St. Thomas More.

Faith In Form – we are planning to revive our 'Faith In Form' prayer meetings during registration. Since November is dedicated to prayers for departed loved ones, the students will have an opportunity to sign a remembrance book and offer special prayers for family and friends. Mrs. McCurdy.

RE Revision Classes - It was good to welcome Year 11 students to revision classes after school on Tuesday and Thursday this week in preparation for mock examinations later this month. Sessions will continue this week with 30 minutes on Tuesday 3.35pm focussing on Christianity Unit 3, Places of Worship and Thursday 3.35 – 5.00pm revising Unit 4 Worship. Students so far have found these extra sessions helpful in their preparation. All are welcome in RE4.

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Year 11 Parents' Evening - On Tuesday 11th November we are holding our Year 11 Parents Evening. This week your son would have brought home a letter inviting you to attend. Your son would have also received an appointment sheet allowing him to book appointments with each of his teachers. The evening provides a valuable opportunity to discuss your son's progress in his subjects and to address any concerns that you may have. We look forward to seeing you then. Mr Hardiman, Director of Learning i/c Pupil Progress.



Please click [here](#) for news on our workshops with the Royal Shakespeare Company this week.

Clubs and Study Sessions

Year 11 Business Studies revision sessions are being held after school on Wednesday and Thursday evenings for GCSE year 11 Business studies in BS3, on a drop in basis.

For information on **clubs and activities** please click [here](#)

For information about **revision** sessions, please click [here](#)

For more information and news on **Careers**, please click [here](#)

For information and news on **Business and Enterprise**, please click [here](#)

PE DEPARTMENT AND SPORTS NEWS HEADLINES

Football Tour to Holland – [please click here to see pictures and a report.](#)

For information and news on all the sports headlines and latest news, please click [here](#)

FIXTURES

Date	Event	Time
Monday 10 th November	Year 10 Basketball v Westcliff (AWAY) Junior Badminton tournament @ SHSB	4pm 4pm
Tuesday 11 th November	Year 7 Basketball v Westcliff (HOME)	4pm
Wednesday 12 th November	Borough Cross Country Sixth Form Basketball v Woodbridge (HOME) Year 9 Basketball v Westcliff (AWAY) 1 st XI Football (FIXTURE TO BE CONFIRMED) 2 nd XI Football v Havering (HOME)	10-12pm 4.30pm 4pm 2.25pm
Thursday 13 th November	Year 9 Rugby v Royal Liberty (AWAY) TBC	2pm
Friday 14 th November	Year 10 Rugby v Southend (AWAY) Gifted & Talented Basketball – Catholic Primary schools	Time TBC 9.30-2.30pm

EARLY WARNINGS

Date	Event	Time
Monday 17 th November	Year 9 Essex Cup Football v Brentwood (AWAY)	2.30pm
Tuesday 18 th November	U18 Essex Cup Basketball v Shoebury (HOME)	4pm
Wednesday 19 th November	Sixth Form Netball v Westcliff (AWAY) 1 st XI Football v Colchester (AWAY) Year 9 Rugby v Debden Park (HOME)	2.30pm 2pm Time TBC