



# **St. Thomas More High School**

*An Academy Trust in the Diocese of Brentwood (Reg No: 7696989)*

## **CONTACT**

*No. 1290 – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014*

Dear Parents and Pupils,

**Remembrance Day Service Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November at the Cliffs Cenotaph** – On Sunday, Mr Mason, Head Boy Dan Boosey, Deputy Head Boy, Alfie Bavin, Head Girl, Audrey Tambanewako, Deputy Head Girl, Katie Bryan, Head of Prefects, Will Blackstone-Whines and Deputy Heads of Prefects, Michael O'Brien and Tom O'Kane, attended a moving ceremony at the Cliffs Cenotaph. It was a privilege to lay a wreath on behalf of our school community.



### **Remembrance Day Assembly, Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

On Tuesday, we held two special assemblies in honour of Remembrance Day. They were both very moving and thought provoking Services. The main service was in the assembly hall, organised by Mr Mason,



the second was in the Concourse and was headed up by Mrs Webb, Mr Hardiman and Mr Shearman. The main service in the hall reflected upon the great losses and sacrifice made by British Service men over the years. It was particularly poignant this year as we mark the Centenary anniversary of the outbreak of hostilities of the First World War and the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D Day landings which became the beginning of the liberation of Europe. We were pleased to welcome Governors Francis O'Brien and Frank Keenan. I would like to thank all of those involved in the organisation and smooth running of both services, including the colour party, site and sound teams and the readers.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We will remember them.  
We will remember them.*

**PSA Christmas Craft Fayre** – A reminder to parents that our Parents and Staff Association are hosting a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November between 11:30 and 3:00pm.

**Advent Service – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2014** – An early warning that we are holding our Advent Service on 18<sup>th</sup> December. Could parents please assist us by donating mince pies, stollen bites, etc. for refreshments after the service. They can be left at Reception. Thank you, as always, for your support.

## Highlight of the Week

Earlier this week, I was delighted to receive a letter from Mr Parascandolo, Headteacher of Our Lady of Ransom Primary School, thanking St Thomas More for allowing four of our students to referee at football matches at The Southend Deanery Football Competition held at their school last month. He wrote:

*'...they were super referees and were friendly and extremely enthusiastic throughout the afternoon. They were fabulous ambassadors for St Thomas More and their help was greatly appreciated.'*

I also received the following email from former Headteacher, Frank Keenan, who read a prayer at our Remembrance Day Service on Tuesday:

*'.....Just a note to thank you for inviting me to the service yesterday. I thought it was stunning, maybe the best I've seen at the school. I thought it was dignified, serious, respectful, spiritual and impressive. It was also very moving, and everyone I spoke to afterwards had had the same reaction. I thought it showed the school at its very best. As you know, it takes a lot to keep that number of pupils fully focussed for an hour, but they were completely engaged, it seemed to me. Well done, and thanks again, Frank.'*

Mrs G Ackred  
Headteacher



## Weekly Prayer

*Lord God, you give us love, forgiveness, grace and the Holy Spirit:  
really valuable stuff that we couldn't earn by ourselves.*

*Help us to be faithful and full of joy as we try to build up your kingdom on earth.  
Amen.*



**Weekly Mass** – On Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> November our weekly form mass was celebrated by Fr Jeff. This Mass was for forms 12G and 13G, who read the Mass scripture passages and wrote and read the Prayers of the Faithful. Our thanks to Fr Jeff and form tutors Mrs Lindsay, Mrs Reynolds and Mrs Turrell for the excellent attendance – 45 students showed their commitment the Catholic life of the School by giving up part of their lunch break to be there. Mrs. McCurdy.

## National Youth Sunday – 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2014

As National Youth Sunday approaches we are invited to reflect upon the question: “How happy are you”

The theme for this year, ‘How happy are you?’ knocks on the door of our heart and challenges us to look at what really brings happiness.

In response to this question and inspired by the beatitudes, Matt 5:3-10, we have been asked to reflect upon eight 'Be Attitudes'. These short statements help young people think about how their happiness is connected to the rest of the world.

**Be Humble**

*Let God work through you*

**Be Sorrowful**

*Grieving is ok, it shows your love*

**Be Gentle**

*It will get you further than you think*

**Be Just**

*The truth sets people free*

**Be Merciful**

*We all need forgiveness*

**Be Pure**

*Open you heart and you will see God*

**Be Peaceful**

*Everybody is a child of God*

**Be Courageous**

*Dare to do good so God can work through you*



**The Dora Love History Prize** – The entrants should be in H3 on Tuesday at 3.35pm to finalise details for their project. All are expected to be there. Mr Shearman.

## Departmental News

For lots of Departmental news, please click [here](#)

## PE DEPARTMENT AND SPORTS NEWS HEADLINES

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

### FIXTURES

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

### EARLY WARNINGS

| Date                                | Event   | Time   |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------|
| Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> November   | Year 11 Essex Cup Basketball v Bromfords (HOME) | 3.45pm |
|                                     | Year 7 Basketball v Eastwood (AWAY)             | 4.00pm |
| Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November | 1 <sup>st</sup> XI Football v Clacton (HOME)    | 2pm    |
|                                     | Year 10 Basketball v Eastwood (HOME)            | 4pm    |
|                                     | Sixth Form Rugby v Ormiston Rivers (AWAY)       | TBC    |
| Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> November  | Year 8 Basketball v Eastwood (HOME)             | 4pm    |