



St. Thomas More High School

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

CONTACT

No. 1293 – 5th December 2014

Dear Parents and Pupils

Christmas Fayre – Our PSA Christmas Fayre was a huge success last week. The 'Narnia' themed forest, an idea created by staff member, Miss Smith, led the way to Santa's grotto and proved very popular with the visiting children. My thanks go to all the students who assisted Miss Smith and the PSA on the day, especially Joao Pereira, John Jenkins, Jess Lelliott, Alfie Bavin, Ella Clark and Keoni



D'Souza.

My thanks also to the many local primary

schools and

nurseries who made the recycled Christmas trees. The Mayor of Southend presented certificates to the creators of the Christmas trees and all money donated went to the Avenue Child Collect Centre and homeless charity, Harp. The amount raised on the day will be reported in next week's *Contact*. A huge thank to our wonderful Parents and Staff Association who work so hard for our



school.

Colder Weather - A reminder that as the weather is turning colder, students should be wearing warm, waterproof coats (not hoodies) to and from school, that are preferably of a light colour and easily seen during the darker mornings and darker evenings.

Cycling to and from school - Could students who cycle to and from school ensure they have lights on the front and back of their bikes and are wearing something reflective as well as wearing a cycle helmet. Also, if for any reason you miss your bus, or you are left waiting for a lift in the dark, please return to the school and wait in reception until you need to leave.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY! Pupils are invited to wear a Christmas themed jumper to school on Wednesday 17th December. To take part, pupils are requested to make a minimum donation of £1 for our Advent Charities, **CAFOD**, **The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS)** and **the Make a Wish Foundation**. If your son does not have a Christmas jumper, he can wear other Christmas accessories if he so wishes.



Christmas Lunch: All Parents should now have received a letter inviting their son or daughter to have Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 17th December. Please ensure you return the reply slip to Reception and make payment via Parent Pay. *There is no charge to pupils who receive free school meals, but they should fill in and return the reply slip.*



SPOTLIGHT

Well done - Ryan Hayes, Form 8P Who recently won The Price Family Shield for unaccompanied solo (any age) & The Junior Woodwind Challenge Cup for woodwind solo age 10-12. He also won a gold medals for Woodwind Intermediate Solo age 12-16 and Piano solo Set Piece (age 12).

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School Nursing Team – I received a letter from Jane Carroll, Integrated Locality Manager at Valkyrie Road PCC informing me of the following:

‘.....in order to manage referrals from education staff and optimise the appointments available to offer parents, we have set up a school nurse led clinic every Wednesday. Appointments will be available to any parent/child for a range of minor health concerns that may impact on them at school such as, emotional and well-being needs, dietary issues, growth and hearing checks, review health assessments will also be undertaken as required. The school nurse led clinic will be held at Valkyrie Road PCC, 50 Valkyrie Road, Westcliff. Parents will be contacted by post or telephone with an appointment date and time’

BCCS Advent Appeal – Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas and a time for reflection and thinking of others. In this spirit, we are inviting you to help us make a difference by supporting our 2014 Advent Appeal and making a donation to ensure we are here to support those children and families who turn to us for help at this time of year – thank you. To donate, text BCCS01£10 to 70070

Mrs G Ackred
Headteacher



Weekly Prayer

Lord God,

help us to remember all the ways in which you love us:

that you are always ready to forgive those who turn to you;

and that you are always willing to help us to make positive changes in our lives.

Amen.

Thursday Mass - We were pleased to welcome Fr Basil into school on Thursday for the celebration of Mass. Thank you to Form 11P and their Form Teacher Mr O'Connell who were in attendance and prepared the readings and prayers for our celebration.

Debating News - We are pleased to report that St Thomas More students have had opportunities recently to represent their school in national schools debating competitions. Last week Luis Nastili and Jessica Lelliott competed in the English Speaking Union Schools Mace Competition and opposed a motion about the funding of homeopathic medicines. On Thursday this week Kieran Laking-Morris, Jacob Woods, Niamh Moggan, George Morton, Brendan Whitehead and Christopher



Burkette competed in the Cambridge Union Schools Debating Competition. This competition involved a pre-prepared motion on the question of allowing prisoners to raise their children behind bars, followed by a short (15 minute) preparation debate on topics of Nationalism and the teaching of History, and the abolition of Oxbridge. All those who competed did extremely well indeed. It was particularly encouraging that two of the St Thomas More teams including Kieran, Jacob, Niamh and George were amongst just 4 teams out of the 16 teams competing to be put through by the judges to the next round of the competition which will take place in the New Year. Congratulations to all speakers. Let's hope this is the beginning of further success for St Thomas More Debating. Pictured are our winning teams.

Contact Details - We are in the process of ensuring our contact details for you are fully up-to-date. The school sends out various correspondences electronically it is extremely important we have your correct email address on our system, as we may also develop the system to send home school reports. We also need to ensure that you are able to be contacted in case of an emergency. Therefore, if you have changed you mobile, home or work number, please ensure that you keep us up-to-date. If you believe that any of your details have changed, please email jmarshall@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk with your updated details.

Year 11 Revision Sessions

Please find below Year 11 revision sessions which are currently available for your son to attend. Please encourage your son to avail of these sessions. Mr Quane, Year 11 Pupil Progress Mentor.

Subject	Teacher	Day	Time
English	Mr Dooley	Monday and Tuesday	1.35-2.05 in TR5
Chemistry and Physics - Higher	Mr Clunn	Thursday	1.35-2.05(C2) and 3.30-4.00 (P2) in Lab 7
Physics	Ms Summers	Thursday	1.35-2.30 in Lab 1
Maths	Mrs Clarke	Wednesday	1.35-2.05 in M2
Geography	Mr Pankhurst	Tuesday	1.35-2.30 in G1

History	Mr Shearman	Wednesday	3.30-4.30 in H3
History	Ms Statovci	Thursday	3.30-4.30 in H2 (Wk 1)
Citizenship	Ms Statovci	Thursday	3.30-4.30 in H2 (Wk 2)
D & T	Mr Young	Wednesday	3.30-4.30 in Tech 1
Music	Mr Riches	Monday - Friday	3.30-4.30
RE	Mrs Webb	Tuesday and Thursday	3.40-5.00 in RE 4
Art	Mr Kabarowski	Monday - Thursday	1.35-2.05
Art	Mrs Osborne	Tuesday	3.30-4.30
Media	Mrs Reynolds	Monday	3.30-4.30 in Media 1
ICT	Mrs Schell	Tuesday - Thursday	3.30-5.00 in CR4
Business Studies	Mrs Lindsey	Tuesday	1.35-2.15 in BS1
Business Studies	Ms McCague	Wednesday and Thursday	3.30-4.30 in BS3
Business Studies BTec	Mrs Lindsey	Monday	1.35-2.15 in BS3
Spanish	Ms Terry	Monday - Friday	1.35-2.05 in MFL 3
Spanish	Ms O'Neill	Monday - Friday	1.45-2.30 in MFL 2
French	Ms O'Neill	Monday - Friday	1.45-2.30 in MFL 2

Departmental News

Instrumental Lessons

Spaces are now available for next term if students wish to receive instrumental or vocal lessons

Lessons currently offered at the school by our visiting team of experienced and professional tutors are:

- Piano
- Keyboard
- Guitar – Classical / Electric / Bass
- Drums
- Strings – Violin / Cello
- Woodwind – Flute / Clarinet / Saxophone
- Singing

Lessons currently cost £75 per term this is for a series of 10, 15 minute lessons. Or with the agreement of the tutor and another student a shared lesson of 30mins.

Students would leave their normal curriculum lesson in order to go to their instrumental / vocal lesson. They would then return back to their curriculum lesson once their instrumental lesson has finished.

Wherever possible instrumental lessons are run on a carousel basis so that students will not always miss the same lesson or part of lesson.

Although prices are set down by Southend Music Hub as a school we offer free lessons for any students who would be eligible for free school meals.

There is also a further reduction of 50% for students with a form of special educational need.

In some cases the initial hire or loan of an instrument can be arranged for the first term.

Students already having instrumental lessons - Payment for next terms lessons is due by 12th December on Parent Pay. If it is not done by this date students will not be accepted for lessons next term. For further details speak to Mr Riches.

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](#)

DIARY DATES

Date	Event	Time
Tuesday 9 th December	U16 Essex Cup Basketball v Shenfield (HOME) Year 7 & 8 "mash up" football on astro (all welcome)	4pm 3.45-4pm
Wednesday 10 th December	Year 10 Basketball v Cecil Jones (HOME) Sixth Form Basketball v Palmers (AWAY) 1 st XI Football v Colchester Institute (HOME) Sixth Form Netball v King John	4pm 2pm 2pm 2.30pm
Thursday 11 th December	Year 8 Basketball v Cecil Jones (HOME)	4pm
Friday 12 th December	Sixth Form Netball v St Bernard's (AWAY)	3.50pm

EARLY WARNINGS

Date	Event	Time
Monday 15 th December	Year 7 Basketball v Futures (HOME) Year 10 Basketball v Futures (AWAY) Year 9 Rugby v Boswells (AWAY)	4pm 4.10pm
Tuesday 16 th December	Year 11 Basketball v Futures (HOME) Year 7 National Cup football – (AWAY) Opponent TBC	4pm 2pm
Wednesday 17 th December	Year 8 Basketball v Futures (AWAY) Year 9 Basketball v Futures (HOME) 1 st XI Football v Westcliff (AWAY)	4.10pm 4pm 2pm