



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

No. 1275 – 13th June 2014

Dear Parents and Pupils

Confirmations - As we celebrated the feast of Pentecost on Sunday, our thoughts and prayers are with our students who made their Confirmation. Yesterday, we held a special Mass in the Chapel for all of those who have been Confirmed recently to celebrate this important step in their faith.

Primary School Visits – Our round of primary school visits are continuing. This week, Mr Mason and Mrs Saunders, along with some of our Year 7 pupils and Year 10 prefects, visited Sacred Heart Primary School and Nursery. Thank you to Mrs Nutman and her staff for their warm welcome. Please see times and dates of future visits, below.

Date	Time	School
Tuesday 17 June	2.00pm	St Joseph's
Wednesday 18 June	3.30pm	St Teresa's
Wednesday 2 July	3.00pm	St George's
Monday 7 July	2.00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes

Parent View Survey – As promised, please see below the results of the Parent View Survey. We received 107 responses from parents. We are currently reviewing these figures and once this review has been completed, we shall report in more detail next week. Thank you very much to the parents who took the time to complete and return the survey.

Questions	Strongly Agree	Agree	=	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
My child is happy at this school	59 (55%)	47 (44%)	99%	1	0	0
My child feels safe at this school	61 (57%)	44 (41%)	98%	1	0	1
My child makes good progress at school	44 (41%)	58 (54%)	95%	3	1	1
My child is well looked after at this school	56 (52%)	49 (46%)	98%	2	0	0
My child is taught well at this school	38 (35%)	61 (57%)	92%	6	0	2
My child receives appropriate homework for their age	30 (28%)	55 (51%)	79%	18	2	2
This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	47 (44%)	53 (50%)	94%	7	0	0
This school deals effectively with bullying	30 (28%)	48 (45%)	73%	4	0	25
This school is well led and managed	46 (43%)	53 (50%)	93%	2	0	6
This school responds well to any concerns I raise	42 (39%)	49 (46%)	85%	6	0	10
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	49 (46%)	46 (43%)	89%	8	0	0
Would you recommend this school to another parent?	YES:	NO:				
	104 (97%)	3				

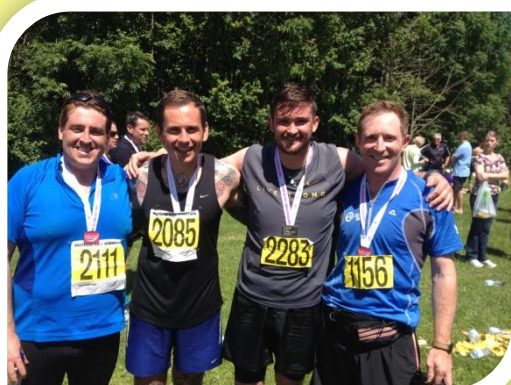


SPOTLIGHT – Congratulations to Year 10 student, Michael Hodges, who ran in a 3km BTK fun run which

ran alongside the half marathon held in Southend on Sunday. Michael came first, completing the course in a very impressive 9 minutes and 54 seconds. Well done Michael, a fantastic achievement.

Our thoughts and prayers must also go to the family of the gentleman who tragically passed away at the end of the marathon.

Well done - A 'well done' must also go to four of our teaching staff who took part in Sunday's half marathon in aid of Fair Havens and Little Havens Hospices. From left to right: Mr McCague, Mr Griffin, Mr Dooley and Mr McDonnell. All for a great cause - congratulations!



Grandparents' Pilgrimage in Aylesford – 12th July 2014 - A day of faith and fun for all the family! Have a look at this short video on YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8m9D-zdg43A>

National Grandparents' Pilgrimage to Walsingham – 26th July 2014 - Join with grandparents and families from all over the country at the national Shrine to Our Lady.

For more information about both of these events, please email Phil Butcher via phil@catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

Merit Marks

St Andrew's	St David's	St George's	St Patrick's	St Sebastian's
2445	2461	2539	2083	2338



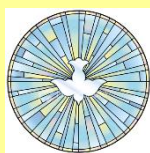
Weekly Prayer

*Lord God, you act in different ways at different times
but you always act with great love for us
and you always act to bring us to you.*

*As we go through life,
may our faith in you grow even stronger
and may our understanding of you grow wiser.*

Amen

Choir - Choir rehearsals for our St Thomas More Feast Day celebrations continue. The next rehearsal will take place on Monday at 08:40.



CHAPLAINCY - We have been busy! On Friday, the 6th 15 boys who are regular attendees at our Morning Prayer held daily in the Chapel at 11:20 am "Five Minutes with God" attended a Deanery Mass at Brentwood Cathedral organised by the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service. Fr. James was the celebrant and there were many Catholic Schools from the Deanery there. Our own **Panashe Masina** read one of the Bidding Prayers and that was without any warning or preparation. He did very well indeed.

Yesterday, our Thursday Mass was celebrated in the school chapel by Fr. Basil for 40 of our Comfirmanti from Year 10 and some Year 9s. It was a lovely Mass followed by a light sandwich and cookie lunch in the Head Teacher's garden. Our congratulations to all the boys and their families. Mrs. McCurdy.



HEALTH WARNING - There is a rare sickness which has been identified as recurred approximately each four years, and affects mostly males. We are due for a possible outbreak over the next few weeks. Known to us as WCW (World Cup Weariness) I would like to assure you that it is not communicable by human contact but there is a risk from prolonged exposure to Television screens, particularly later at night. Please be aware of this and protect yourselves and your children. **WCW is not considered a valid reason for absence from school!!!**

Mrs M Lewis, Pupil support Coordinator.



Success for the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze groups - Last weekend was a successful one for the students in year 10 that were out completing the expedition section of their Duke of Edinburgh Award. The students had to camp, cook in the open and walk for 2 days. The first day we had a few scenic detours! However all made it back. On the Sunday day the students showed they made mastered map and compass skills and all where back perfectly on time. This meant that all were passed by the assessor. So a big well done to all of those students. And a big thank you to Mr and Mrs Spillett and Mr Driscoll for your help on the trip. Mrs Statovci.

Manga High Grassroots Maths Challenge 9-22 June - St Thomas More Maths department are participating in this year's Manga High competition which, for this year, is running for two weeks. As I write this we are currently 3rd in the country so can I please encourage you to use Manga High at home – every little helps! Don't forget that as well as the prize for the school that wins, there are also prizes for the best scores in our school! Ms E Clarke, Head of Mathematics.



Young Enterprise Business Programme - Please see flyer with information about the Young Enterprise programme that the Business Studies department of St Thomas More runs each year. I would be grateful if you could make your sons aware of the fact that we are now recruiting for next year, and we would like to encourage any boys remaining in St Thomas More for sixth form, should this be of interest to them to get an application form and apply before the 4th July to be shortlisted for interview the following week.

Young Enterprise is a very worthwhile programme and on reflection at the end of each year students always agree that they have gained loads of experience and acquired a lot of skills from being a part of it.

At the start of the year they will register and set up their own companies as a group effort and throughout the year will be able to attend trade fairs etc. and sell their products. It also runs as a competition, so should they win prizes throughout the year this will allow them to attend area and regional finals depending on their success. Ms McCague.

young enterprise
start something

DO YOU LIKE EXCITEMENT???

ARE YOU A RISK TAKER???

WANT TO EARN SOME CASH???

Well then....
Young Enterprise is
just the thing for you!!!!
We are now **RECRUITING**!

DETAILS:

- 10-12 positions available within the company
- Apply – ask for an application form from the school reception (applications must be in by Friday 4th July)
- Send – your applications to Miss McCague in the Business Department or leave them at the reception
- Selection – decided by your application form and interview
- Interviews – will take place 11th July 2014



Revision Sessions



Maths - Reminder that the Maths department are running a weekly 'Maths Clinic'. This is open to any pupil in Years 7-10 who needs help with any Maths work! The timetable for the next three weeks is::

Day	Date	Time	Teacher	Room
Wednesday	18/6/14	1-1.30pm	Mr O' Loughlin	Maths 3
Tuesday	24/6/14	12.30-1pm	Mr O'Connell	Maths 1
Wednesday	2/7/14	12.30-1pm	Ms Clarke	Maths 2

Assessment Dates

- Year 7 – Tuesday 17/6/14
- Year 8 – Wednesday 18/6/14
- Year 10 – Monday 7/7/14

Year 10 English, Maths and Science Revision Sessions - I would like to make you aware of the following revision sessions which are now available for your son. I would appreciate if you could encourage your son to attend. Please find the revision timetable below. Mr Quane, Year 10 Pupil Progress Mentor

Subject	Teacher	Time	Room
English	Mr. Dooley	12.30 – 1.00pm Mon & Tues 3.30 - 4.30pm Thursday	MS2
Maths	Mr. Heaphy	1.00 – 1.30pm Mon, Tues & Wed	M5
Science	Miss. Ryan	12.30 – 1.00pm Mon, Tues & Wed	Lab4



RECYCLE WEEK 2014

16-22 JUNE

The theme for Recycle Week this year is 'Recycling at Home and Away'.

It is that time of year again where we need to reflect on our impact on the Earth. The Eco-committee within the school has been working with the students, encouraging them to recycle their paper and bottle waste into special recycle bins around the school. This coming week, it would be nice if the students were also encouraged to recycle at home. If your home currently does not recycle, maybe this would be an opportunity to start. When recycling for the first time it is best to start with one or two items and slowly add more items over time. This will prevent the feeling that recycling is an onerous task. Better still, why not try recycling at work also. Where this is not possible, perhaps make a conscious decision to bring home recyclables. Every little helps.



“What you take from the earth, you must give back. That's nature's way.”

— Chris d'Lacey, *The Fire Within*

Ms Ryan.

PSA NEWS

It was lovely to welcome Mr Perrotton, Head of PE, to our AGM last week. He came along to thank us for the money we donated to the PE department for a new rugby kit for our boys. He has also suggested a Sports Fun Day to include in house football and sponsored walks for all ages, so watch this space!

Our next meeting date will be on Wed 17th Sep in the Learning Resources Centre at the rear of the school. Please park on the playground if you wish to attend.

We also have plans for a Table Sales, a Quiz Night and Christmas Craft Fayre in the autumn.

For more details please call: Sue Arif on 0784 158 6046 or email suearif@blueyonder.co.uk

Don't forget to join up to:

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stthomasmoresouthend>

to support our school and raise funds. If you log into this each time you shop online, a percentage of what you spend will be donated to the school.

Our Lady of Lourdes Summer Fete - Saturday 28th June 12-3pm Entry £1.00 per adult children free

Mobile Zoo

Bouncy Castles

Wrecking Ball

BBQ

Pimms stall

Coconut Shy

Bouncy castles wristband £2.50 under 5s, £3.00 over 5s

Plant stall

Fancy goods stall

DJ

Face painting

Grand raffle

PE DEPARTMENT NEWS



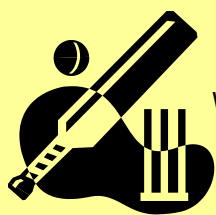
Regional Athletics Finals - After a fantastic day of athletics on Thursday at Lee Valley athletics stadium, I am proud to say that our junior athletics team scored a huge 434 point total in the competition (a 100 point increase on their first round score) and finished second place in the East Anglia section. They missed out on the top spot by 3 points! Their score ranks us as one of the best junior athletics school in the county/region. Well done boys. Full report to follow next week.





KEY REMINDERS:

1. **Borough Heats** will take place next **Wednesday 18th June** after school (4pm) at **Garons athletics track**. All boys in the sprint events 100/200/300/400 will be involved from Year 7-10 and all of the athletes for Year 10 will be involved in field events also.
2. **Borough Finals** take place on **Friday 20th June** at **Basildon Athletics track (9:30am start)**, the team sheet is now up outside the PE office and boys need to get a letter if they are selected from the PE department on Monday of next week.



Year 8 Cricket V Shoebury Thursday 12th June, Match WON: Shoebury: 78 all out off 18 Overs STM: 80 off 13 Overs.

Well done to all the team. Dylan O'Riordan Captained superbly. Great bowling from:

Max Saul: two wickets, Jack Macal, Dylan: FIVE wickets, Jacob Tanousis: one wicket, Marko Worricker: two wickets, Harry Jones: one wicket, Matthew Thomas and Louie Chandler.

Smashing batting from:

Jacob Tanousis and Harry Jones.

Superb fielding from the whole team especially:

Harrison Phillips, Joe O'Kane, Charlie Beresford and promising wicket keeping from Luke Barnes!

Well done everybody. Thank you to all the supporters and especially Mr Wiltshire. S. Griffin.

DIARY DATES

Date	Event	Time
Monday 16 th June	Athletics – Borough Team Practice	Lunchtime
Tuesday 17 th June	U14 Essex Plate cricket v Chadwell (HOME)	2.30pm
Wednesday 18 th June	Athletics – Borough Heats @ Garons	4-6.30pm
Thursday 19 th June	Year 9 Cricket v Shoebury (AWAY) Year 8 Cricket v Westcliff (HOME)	4pm 4pm
Friday 20 th June	Athletics – Borough Finals @ BASILDON	All day

EARLY WARNINGS

Date	Event	Time
Monday 23 rd June	Year 7 Cricket v Shoebury (TBC) Year 10 Cricket v Shoebury (TBC)	
Wednesday 25 th June	Year 10 Cricket v Southend (AWAY) Year 8 Cricket v Southend (HOME)	4pm 4pm