



## ***St. Thomas More High School***

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

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# ***CONTACT***

***No. 1322 – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2015***

Dear Parents and Pupils,

**Deanery Mass at St Bernard's** - On Monday after school, a number of our staff attended St Bernard's Catholic High School to celebrate Mass with the staff and priests of our Deanery Catholic Schools and Parishes. It was a lovely occasion, which was celebrated by Bishop Alan Williams and a wonderful way for all involved in Catholic education to start the new academic year. Our thanks go to Mrs Allen and her staff for making us so welcome.

## **Highlight of the Week**

**Feast of the Holy Cross Mass at Sacred Heart** – On Wednesday of this week I attended a Mass at Sacred Heart School, Southend for the Feast of the Cross. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Alan Williams, Fr Lee Bennett and Fr Tom Saunders. I was accompanied by former pupils of Sacred Heart, Aiden Reynolds and James Casey, who served at the uplifting Mass, which was filled with beautiful music and singing.

**Year 7 Mass and Social Evening** – A reminder to parents of our new Year 7 pupils that there is a Mass, Social and Information evening being held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm. Please come along if you can as this is a lovely opportunity for parents to meet some of our staff and other parents in a relaxed atmosphere. Our Parents' and Staff Association will be providing refreshments after the Mass.

**11+Examination** – This Saturday many Year 6 pupils will be taking the 11+ examination. We shall have a large number of pupils sitting the exam in our school hall. Parents have been requested to arrive between 8.30 and 8.45am. My thanks go to our Parents' Association who will be providing refreshments.

**School Car Park** - I would like to remind parents that the school car parks are not to be used by parents for dropping off or picking up their sons or daughters at the beginning and end of the school day. The closest collection point for cars is behind the fire station and I would ask parents to make use of this and not the school car park. The cars that are being driven in for this purpose are causing congestion and are a hazard. Please remember that this exit is also the main pedestrian exit from the school.

## ***Weekly Prayer***

*Lord God,*

*may I always be grateful for what you went through for me  
and may I always be willing to make sacrifices for you.*

*Amen*

**Weekly Mass** - Thank you to Father Basil who celebrated Mass on Thursday and to members of Form 10A who prepared the readings and prayers.

**Refugee Appeal** - Today saw the conclusion of the Justice and Peace Group's appeal for contributions to the Refugee appeal. Thank you to the group for initiating and promoting the appeal and to Chaplaincy leaders who collected in their Form groups and assemblies. We will publish the final figure in next week's Contact.

**Inter House Debating Competition** - Following a training workshop today for speakers, the first competition debate will take place next Friday at 1.35pm in RE4 between St Andrew's House and St George's House. Everyone welcome to come along and take part in the floor debate. The motion for next week's debate is: "This House believes that the UK should welcome refugees"

**Message from Fr Gerry – St Teresa's Church, Rochford** - If you are in Year 9 or above and would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation please email me at [frgerry@talktalk.net](mailto:frgerry@talktalk.net) expressing your wish to be confirmed. Our first meeting will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> September after 10.30 Mass.

## English Booster Sessions-Half Term 1

Please see the schedule below for KS4/5 booster sessions for English this half term.

- **Year 10**-Thursday Lunchtime-E3-1.30-2pm
- **Year 11**-Higher-Monday-E3-3.30-4.30pm-Mr Keenan
- **Year 11**-Foundation-Tuesday-E3-3.30-4.30pm-Mr Keenan
- **Year 13**-Tuesday-MS2- -13.30-2pm- Mrs Cotgrove

If you require any further details about booster sessions, please feel free to email me at [TKEENAN@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk](mailto:TKEENAN@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk) Further sessions are being finalised for KS3 and will be advertised in due course.

Although all are welcome, I will shortly be contacting parents or carers of boys who we feel should be attending on a regular basis. I will also be sending out details of Holiday revision sessions, starting in October for Year 11 pupils, as well as an information document for Year 10 students explaining the new GCSE course. Mr Keenan, Head of English.

**History Revision Sessions** - The History Department will be running revision sessions for GCSE students in H2 3.35-4.30 each Thursday. All are welcome. For Yr12 and Yr13 students, appointments can be made to see Mr Shearman and/or Mrs Statovci simply by popping in and arranging an appointment in person. Mr Shearman, Head of History.

**November – Month of the Holy Souls** - Every Friday during November at 7.30 p.m. in the Narthex of St Peter's Church. Gentle and relaxed conversation for the bereaved with our clergy and bereavement counsellors (and most importantly tea!). Whether you are recently or long term bereaved, it matters not, all are most welcome. Our annual Mass for the Bereaved will take place on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00 p.m

## Parents and Staff Association News

Dear Parents/Carers

Our next meeting is on Tuesday September 29th at 7.30pm. It will be in the Learning Resource Centre at the back of the school. There is plenty of parking available in the rear car park. The meeting will probably last around one hour and you are most welcome to come along and find out a little more about us or share any fundraising ideas that you may have. The aim of the Parent Staff Association is to fund raise for the school and support the staff by serving refreshments at various events.

Many members cannot always attend the meetings but are happy to offer their help at some events when they are able to do so. Most of our members work and do not have masses of spare time, so they commit to two hours per term. This way, we are able to achieve our goals with many members sharing the duties in a very manageable way.

We would be delighted to welcome you on the 29th but if this is not convenient and you would like to ask a question or offer your services on the refreshment rota, please feel free to email me: [suerobertson100@aol.com](mailto:suerobertson100@aol.com).

I joined the PSA a few years ago to be nosey and find out what really goes on at the school! I have thoroughly enjoyed working with staff and members. We are always looking for new input and ideas, so if you can bring anything to the table, please put this date in your diary.

Kind regards Sue Turner.

## SPORTS NEWS



**Year 7 Rugby Trials are being held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September after school. Come and give it a go!**

Please [click here](#) for more sporting news and photos.

### SPORTS FIXTURES

DATE	FIXTURE
21/09/2015	Year 7 Football v Belfairs (HOME)
22/09/2015	No fixtures
23/09/2015	1st XI Football v King John (HOME) Lee Valley Cross Country (leave at 1.30pm)
24/09/2015	Year 7 Rugby Trials
25/09/2015	Year 7 Football v King John (HOME) 3.45pm

### EARLY WARNINGS

DATE	FIXTURE
28/09/2015	No fixtures
29/09/2015	No fixtures
30/09/2015	Year 11 SEE Cup Football v Cecil Jones (AWAY) Year 9 SEE Football v Chase (HOME) 4pm
01/10/2015	Year 8 Rugby v Gateway Academy (HOME) 4pm Year 10 Essex Cup Football v Harris Academy (HOME) 3.45pm
02/10/2015	No fixtures

