

St. Thomas More High School

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

Headteacher: Mrs G. Ackred

Kenilworth Gardens, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 0BW

Telephone 01702 344933

Email: office@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk

Website: www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk

CONTACT

No. 1323 – Friday 25th September 2015

Dear Parents and Pupils,

Year 7 Mass and Social Evening – Thank you to Fr Basil Pearson for celebrating the Welcome Mass held on Thursday evening for Year 7 students and their families and teachers. A particular word of thanks to those students who played an active role in the celebration by singing or playing, reading, serving, or by taking part in the offertory procession. It is very encouraging seeing how many members of the Year group volunteered for these roles. They should be encouraged to continue to volunteer to make such an active contribution to their new school community. Well done Year 7. My thanks both to Mrs Webb and Mr Riches for organising such an uplifting evening for so many parents and staff.

11+Examination – Last Saturday, a large number of Year 6 pupils sat the 11+ examination in our school hall. I would like to thank the staff involved and the following students who helped to welcome candidates to our school and for their invaluable assistance on such a busy day; Matt Norris, Oscar Waller, John Jenkins, Jack Poole, Mark Jackson, Daniel Mann, Niall Blowers, Amob Dingis and Lucas Phillips. Thank you also to the Parents' and Staff Association who provided the refreshments for the pupils and the invigilators

Highlight of the Week

Former Student Success - I was delighted to hear earlier this week that former student, Christopher Little, has graduated from Hertfordshire University with a First Class Honours Degree in Law. Mrs Little thanked the staff for their support in what she called a 'joint effort' in his success. We are always thrilled to hear of how our former students are getting on and we wish Christopher all the very best for his future career.

Clubs and Activities – Our booklet with details of all the extracurricular clubs and activities on offer before, during and after school is now available on the School website or by [clicking here](#).

Weekly Prayer

*Lord God, you came down to earth from heaven,
leaving paradise to serve, to teach,
and to love those you had created.*

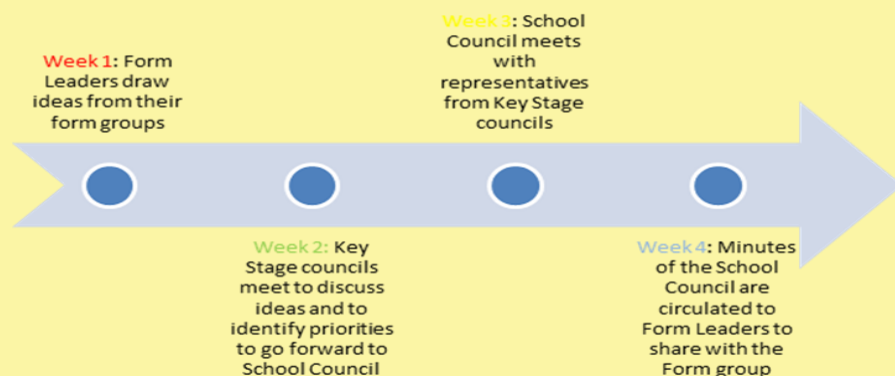
*Help me to show that same generosity and love
by always putting others before myself.*

Amen.

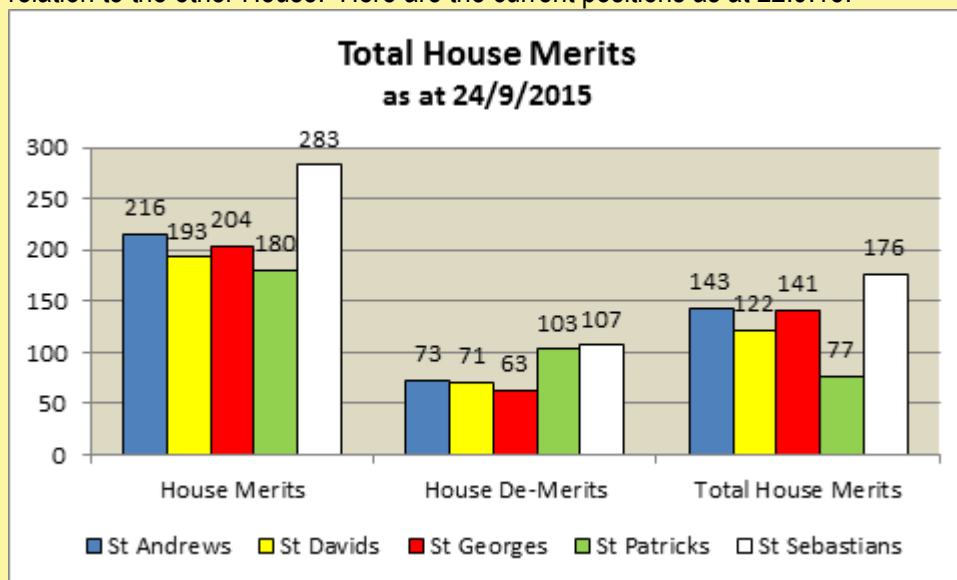


House News!

School Council - There is a revised structure for enabling students to represent their views and ideas in school. This week Form Leaders have asked for students' ideas and suggestions which will be represented at Key Stage Councils taking place next week. Some of these items will be taken forward to the full school council which will take place on Tuesday 6th October under the leadership of the Heads of School. Information will then be conveyed to Form groups by Form Leaders and the process of communication will continue following the same cycle. We look forward to seeing the appointed student leaders taking up this important role in school.



House Assemblies - House Assemblies took place this week across the school. Thank you to our Year 13 Captains for leading the House groups and for their words of encouragement to members of their Houses. Information about forthcoming House events was given and members of Year 7 and 12 welcomed to their House groups. The total number of House points earned minus House demerits was announced so that students can see where they stand in relation to the other House. Here are the current positions as at 22.9.15:



Inter House Debating Competition - The first of the Senior inter-house debates takes place on Friday 25th September between St Andrew's and St George's. The motion for debate is: This House believes that the UK should welcome refugees. The results will be detailed in next week's Contact. Next week's debate will be St David's vs St Patrick's.

Weekly Mass - We were pleased to welcome Fr Jeff Woolnough to school on Thursday to celebrate our weekly Mass. Thank you to members of Forms 12A and 13A for their participation and their preparation of the readings and prayers.

Cafod Refugee Appeal - Thank you to the Chaplaincy Leaders who have been making collections in their Forms for the Refugee Appeal. This week the Justice and Peace group have been gathering and counting contributions as pictured.



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MFL Group Speaking Sessions – Year 11 - Just a reminder that all year 11 MFL students (French and Spanish) have been allocated a group speaking session. It is imperative that they attend these sessions as they can really help with Controlled Assessment preparation. If there is a time which does not suit the student please see me so I can re-arrange. Mrs Lindsay

Business Studies – Year 12 and 13 Clinic - On Monday after school from 3.30 – 4.30 in BS1 with Mrs Lindsay.

CROSS COUNTRY TRAINING

Cross Country Training will take place on:

- **Mondays after school**
- **Wednesday before school**

All students in Year 7-9 who have achieved a silver or gold in PE lessons must aim to attend these sessions.



SPORT FIXTURES

DATE	FIXTURE	TIME
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) 1st XI Football V Greensward (AWAY)	4pm 2pm
01/10/2015	Year 8 Rugby v Gateway Academy (HOME) Year 10 Essex Cup Football v Harris Academy (HOME)	4pm 3.45pm
02/10/2015	Year 7 & 8 SEE Cup Football v Greensward (HOME) Year 9 Football v Futures (HOME)	4pm

DATE	FIXTURE	TIME
05/10/2015	Year 8 Essex Cup Football v Woodlands (AWAY) Year 9 National Football v Howard (AWAY)	
06/10/2015	Year 8 National Cup Football v Barking Abbey (HOME) Year 10 Football v Futures (AWAY) Year 7 - 10 Cross Country @ King John	4pm
07/10/2015	1st XI Football v Colne (AWAY) Year 10 Rugby v Westcliff Rugby Club (AWAY)	2pm
08/10/2015	Year 11 Essex Cup Football v Appleton (AWAY) Year 10 Football v Chase (AWAY)	
09/10/2015	Year 8 Rugby v Belfairs (HOME)	4pm