



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

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

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# ***CONTACT***

***No. 1321 – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2015***

Dear Parents and Pupils,

**KS3 Evening** – This week, it was lovely to see so many parents of pupils in Year 7, 8 and 9 attend our 'Back to School Evening'. I have been able to spending some time visiting form time and lessons and I am happy to report that all of our students but Year 7 in particular are all settling in very well. Their enthusiasm for learning new subjects in a new environment is clear and they have already made many new friends. I look forward to seeing our Year 7 pupils with their parents and families at the Mass and Social evening later this month.

**Year 7 Mass and Social Evening** – A reminder to our Year 7 parents that there is to be a Mass and Social Evening on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm. A letter will be sent home shortly with more information. Please could you complete and return the reply slip as soon as you receive the letter so that we can be sure of numbers. I very much look forward to meeting you all

**Highlight of the Week** **DEAR Time** – This academic year, the whole school, including all staff, will take part in **DEAR Time** (Drop Everything And Read) every Tuesday morning between 08:50 and 09:10am. Research has shown that reading for pleasure is positively linked with a range of literacy benefits including increased reading attainment and writing ability, increased comprehension and grammar skills and breadth of vocabulary.

There is also evidence that reading for pleasure has a positive impact on general knowledge, knowledge about other cultures and community participation. These are obviously all skills which we would wish to develop in our students. This twenty minutes on Tuesday morning was an absolute delight! I've had wonderful time talking with both staff and students about the books they have chosen to read. During this time, no phone calls will be answered, no work will be carried out, and we aim for complete silence around the whole school for those twenty minutes.

**House Badges** – A reminder that all students in Years 7-11 should now have their House Badges sewn onto their blazers (under the School Badge) Uniform checks are to be held during Form Time on Monday.



**John Pridmore visit** - On Monday this week we were pleased to welcome into school John Pridmore, a well renowned and inspiring Roman Catholic evangelist. Years 10 and 11 listened attentively as John shared his story of conversion from life as an East End gangster. We are grateful to Fr Eamonn Power, our Dean, for making this visit possible as part of Our Lady of Canvey's Parish Mission taking place this week

## *Weekly Prayer*

*Lord God,  
your grace and love can heal any wound,  
and bring so much joy to a broken world.  
I ask you today to bring that love to the places where it's needed most,  
and help me to be somebody who brings healing.  
Amen*

**Thursday Mass** - The first Mass of the term was celebrated by Fr Jeff on Thursday. Thank you to Form 11A who prepared the readings and prayers and to Keoni D'Souza and Charlie Rumm who served.

**Prayer opportunities** - Morning prayer takes place in the Chapel every day at 1120. Our prayer time is a lovely oasis of quiet within the business of the school day and involves a short extract from Scripture with a reflection and prayers led by students. Why not come along? Another prayer opportunity on offer is to meet with others to say the Rosary on Fridays at 1.35pm in the Chapel. If you don't have your own rosary beads we can supply.

**Calling Altar Servers** - If students would like to be part of a team of altar servers who serve weekly Mass in rotation and serve at whole school Masses they should give their names to their Form Teachers or see Mrs Webb directly. Whether you serve in your parish or you have not served Mass before, please feel welcome to join this team. Training will be given from our more experienced senior servers.

**Justice and Peace** - The Justice and Peace group met this week and planned collections throughout the school for the Refugee Crisis in Europe. Details of the appeal can be found by following this link <http://stmtimes.com/index.php/2015/09/09/cafod-emergency-refugee-appeal/>

**Pilgrimage to Lourdes** – St Helen's Westcliff on Sea are organising a pilgrimage to Lourdes and visiting the birthplace of St Vincent De Paul by air. 28<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016. This pilgrimage will be under the spiritual direction of Fr Joseph Whisstock. The cost is £549 per person base on 2 sharing. The hotel is the 4 Star Grand Hotel Moderne. Full Board en-suite facilities. To pre-register an interest and for further details, please contact Su Baillie on: 07979 746 707 or 02825821690

**Inter House Debating Competition** = Niamh Moggan and Kieran Laking Morris will be leading an inter house Debating Competition this term as part of their responsibilities as Deputy Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy. The details of the competition are as follows:

- Each House will play a team of three speakers (chosen from Years 10- 13)
- There will be two debates against other Houses during the Autumn Term but speakers are encouraged to attend all debates
- Each debate will be judged and points earned for Houses
- Motions for debate will be released at the end of the previous debate
- There will be a Grand Final held between the two House teams with the highest scores

If you would like to be a team member, let your House Captain know. Otherwise you may wish to come along and take part as a member of the floor. The first debate will take place on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September. Look out around the school and in next week's Contact for more details.

**Tommy More Times** – Please [click here](#) for a link to the Tommy More Times where you can find more details of the collection for the Refugee Appeal led by the Justice and Peace Group.

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**School Photos** – The individual school photographs took place on Wednesday of this week. Unfortunately, Forms 9P and 9S did not have their photos taken as time ran out. They will have their pictures taken on our 'catch-up' day on 5<sup>th</sup> October. The packs of proofs are currently being distributed to all students. If families wish to place an order you can do so online by following the instructions on the proof sheet or by completing your details and putting it and payment (cheque or card details) in the envelope. This can be returned to school by next Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September and taken to the office. Payment is **NOT** made to the school. Cheques should be made payable to **Tempest School Photography** (as detailed on the proof sheet). Any cheques made payable to the school will **not** be processed. A reminder that School Gateway **will not** work for ordering photographs. Mr Maxfield, Deputy Headteacher.

**6<sup>th</sup> Form Bursary Applications** - the Sixth Form Bursary application form for 2015-16 will now be available on the website. Here are just a few details the full information pack and application can be downloaded and returned to Mrs Hudson. The 16-19 Bursary Fund is a scheme to help young people facing financial hardship to stay on in full time education after Year 11.

**Students can apply for a bursary of £1,200.00 pa if they meet one of the following criteria:**

- In care;
- Lives independently having left Local Authority care;
- Students receiving Income Support;
- Disabled young people, receiving both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance.

Students can apply for a bursary of up to £800.00 pa if they receive free school meals.

**Discretionary Bursary Awards**

Any outstanding funds can be used for:

- Transport to and from school (up to £400.00 pa);
- Books/equipment/materials;
- Field trips and visits related to courses;
- Exam retakes/UCAS fees;
- Travel expenses for up to 3 Higher Educational visits.

Until the grant allocation has been used.

**Former Students' Visit** - It is always lovely to see past students and this week Harry Pallet and Gemma Vanhinsbergh came to see some of their old teachers in the Geology department.

Gemma is studying Geology at Southampton University and will be starting her 3<sup>rd</sup> year. She has just come back from six weeks in Menorca completing her mapping module and will be going to Tenerife to study Mount Teide.

Harry is also studying Geology but at University of South Wales also starting his 3<sup>rd</sup> year. He has just returned from spending his summer holidays studying the volcanoes in Iceland.

Both Gemma and Harry are enjoying their studies and are looking forward to their final year. Mrs Hudson, 6<sup>th</sup> Form Pupil Support Mentor.

## **SOUTHEND SCITT**

### **Teacher Training Opportunities in Southend**

If you are a graduate with a 2:2 or above and are interested in training as a secondary school teacher, Southend SCITT has developed a programme which provides QTS (qualified teacher status) as well as a PGCE with Masters credits available that is validated by Canterbury Christ Church University. A range of secondary subjects are available.

An information evening is being held at Southend High School for Girls on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September from 6.00pm – 7.30pm. As well as an information presentation there will be teachers involved in delivering the programme and a student from last year's cohort available to answer your questions,

For more information please contact James Hollingsworth at St Thomas More

[jhollingsworth@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk](mailto:jhollingsworth@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk) or visit [www.southendscitt.org](http://www.southendscitt.org)



### **Come and Try Evening - Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 4 - 7 in the Music Department**

An opportunity for parents and students from years 7-9 to drop in and try a variety of instruments that they may wish to consider learning whilst at St Thomas More. Along with the chance to meet some of the instrumental tutors. Please note that existing instrumental lesson students need not attend as this is not an opportunity for you to meet with their teacher.

**Extra-Curricular** - All Music extra-curricular activities start next week, see the timetable for what you can get involved in. Practise Rooms will be available to book For more information on anything please see Mr Riches

### Music Department Extra-Curricular Timetable

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime	<b>Bassoon</b> <i>By invitation only</i>	<b>Choir</b>	<b>Guitar Ensemble</b> <i>Student Led</i>	<b>Brass and Wind Ensemble</b> <i>Student Led</i>	<b>Year 7 Choir</b>
Afterschool	<b>Band</b>	<b>Concert Band</b> <i>By invitation only</i>			<b>GCSE assistance</b>

**Spanish Practice** - KS3 Spanish practice to begin Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> September in MFL2 with a native Spanish speaker, Mari-Carmen and Señora Terry.



**Southend Judo Club** at St Thomas More will hold its first training session of the new academic year on Monday 14 September at 7.00pm in the Sports Hall. All are welcome – pupils and parents/carers - and for beginners the first lesson is free! Please see Mr Robinson in E5 if you require any further details

### SPORT FIXTURES

DATE	FIXTURE	TIME
13/09/2015	No fixtures	
14/09/2015	Year 7 Football v Southend (a,b,c,d teams) (AWAY)	4pm
15/09/2015	Year 10 Football v Southend (HOME)	4pm
16/09/2015	Year 8, 9 & 11 Football v Southend (HOME)	4pm

DATE	FIXTURE	TIME
21/09/2015	No fixtures	
22/09/2015	No fixtures	
23/09/2015	1st XI Football v Appleton (HOME) Lee Valley Cross	Leave at 1:30pm
24/09/2015	No fixtures	
25/09/2015	Year 7 Football v King John (HOME) 3.45pm	3:45pm

### STM sport back with a bang!

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

Please see the PE Department Extra-Curricular timetable, below.

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8am-8:30am	Senior Squad (Year 11 & 6 <sup>th</sup> form) Basketball (GL/NSP)  Mentor Meeting (SP/RO)	Year 7 and 8 basketball (EJK/SB)	Senior Squad (10/11/6 <sup>th</sup> form) Basketball (GL)  Cross Country Training Squad (SP)	Year 9 and 10 basketball (SP/RO)	PE Department meeting  GCSE weight lifting (SBR)
1:30-2:30pm	Junior Basketball – Squad only  (SB/EK/SP)	Junior Racket Sports (RO/SP/SB)	Sixth Form Academy (GL)	Gifted and Talented Basketball session – <u>Invite only</u>  (GL/NSP)	Senior Racket Sports  (NSP/RO)
3:30-5pm Sports Hall	Staff meetings  Senior Basketball  GCSE weight lifting (SBR)		Senior Basketball fixtures  GCSE weight lifting (SBR)	Basketball Training (various year groups) GL	Badminton Club
3:30pm-5pm Outside	Football training		Staff meetings	Junior Rugby training/trials	Staff Football