

St. Thomas More High School

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

Headteacher: Mrs G. Ackred

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CONTACT

No. 1324 – Friday 2nd October 2015

Dear Parents and Pupils,

Year 11 Parent and Student Study Skills and Information Evening 14th October at 6pm - The Study Skills evening is designed to answer many of the questions that you and your son will have regarding your son's preparation for his forthcoming examinations in May and June, as well as the mocks in November. It is often the case that parents are unaware of the amount of work and effort that we expect our students to put in to succeed in these very important examinations. We also hear from parents that they do not know how to help or support their sons during this busy and often stressful time. For the students this will also be a valuable opportunity for them to pick up advice and guidance on how to prepare for this intensive period of examinations. We look forward to seeing you on the evening.

Year 10 Study Skills Evening –11th November at 6pm – An early warning for the Year 10 Study Skills evening – please put the date in your diary – more information to follow.



Non-Uniform Day– On Friday 9th October we will be having a **'wear it bright'** non-uniform day in aid of CAFOD Harvest Fast Day. The arrangements and rules for this fundraising day are given below. Pupils are allowed to come to school in their ordinary clothes, (the brighter, the better!) rather than school uniform, provided they pay **at least £1** into the charity fund here at school. **The money should be paid via School Gateway by 8th**

October, or alternatively, can be given to your son's/daughter's form teacher. We do have very strict rules and expectations about what pupils may wear on non-uniform days and these are summarised here for you:-

Smart casual clothing should be worn: no boots or ripped jeans, no jackets or other clothing with offensive messages or pictures on them, no earrings or other jewellery other than watches, no clothes which are bound to be seen as disreputable or offensive. If hats are worn they must be removed on entering the school.

I reserve the right to send home any pupil or student who does not conform to these requirements. If pupils have P.E. lessons on the non-uniform day, they must bring their normal school P.E. kit with them.

Highlight of the Week

At my meetings with Governors this week, I was delighted to report to them the details of the success of our students and staff in the summer exams. Following numerous requests for remarks, our overall GCSE figure is 73% A*- C including English & Maths, with a significant improvement in many subjects. May I take this opportunity to pass on their congratulations to these students and staff for their hard work and combined effort.

Weekly Prayer

*Lord God,
help me to grow closer to you every day.
Help me to try my best and not to give up when things go wrong.
Amen*

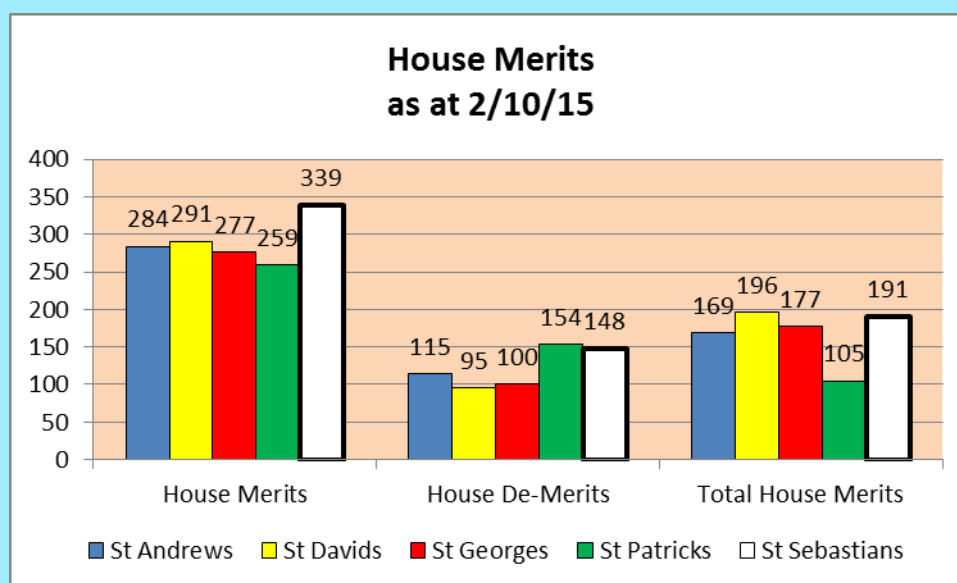
Weekly Mass - We were pleased to welcome Father Basil into school on Thursday when he celebrated our lunchtime Mass. Form 11D was in attendance and participated fully in the celebration through reading, singing (particularly well) and preparing the bidding prayers. It is encouraging to note our Chaplaincy leaders taking responsibility for the preparation of the liturgy, ably supported by their Form and Sports Leaders.

Cafod Harvest Fast Day - Mrs Ackred's assembly focused upon the CAFOD Harvest Appeal this week. Students are asked to "Brighten up this Harvest" with a non-uniform day to be held on Friday 9th October. By paying £1 each, donations this Harvest will enable Cafod partners to work with people across the world helping them to have access to tools and training, and empower them to become self-sufficient despite living in the most difficult of conditions. Additionally, our donations this Fast Day will be used to fund Cafod partners work in Europe and the Middle East to support those affected by the refugee crisis.

School Council - This week the three Key Stage Councils have taken place. Form Leaders across the school have been presenting the ideas of their peers through our revised forum for student voice. We are grateful to the 30 Form Leaders and 5 House Captains who have taken part under the leadership of the Heads of School. Each Key Stage Council will present priority items at the meeting of the full School Council next Tuesday. The full council of 16 includes representatives from each key stage council, the Head and Deputy Heads of Prefects and the Heads of School. A representative staff member of the Strategic Leadership Team will be in attendance to observe and advise only. In due course we hope to publish some of the outcomes from the work of the Council.



House News!



Inter House Debating Competition - Last Friday saw the first debate with St Andrew's proposing and St George's opposing the motion: 'This House believes the UK should welcome refugees'. A good sized floor was treated to a

strong first debate with each speaker making their case skilfully and fielding counter points from the opposing teams. Our competition convenors, Niamh Moggan and Kieran Laking-Morris kept the house in order through their efficient chairing and time keeping and there were some notable floor contributions from staff and students. The issues surrounding the welcoming of refugees were given a good airing. Congratulations to our speakers for St Andrew's; Julius Manikas, John Jenkins and Jess Lelliott and for St George's; Hanley Spence, William Blackstone Whines and Bonny Kintu. The motion was unanimously carried and St Andrew's team were judged to be the winners. This Friday's debate will take place between St David's and St Patrick's and the motion for debate is: 'This House believes that all abortion should be illegal'.

Youth St Vincent de Paul - Harvest appeal 2015 - It is around this time of year that Christians celebrate the Harvest festival. Harvest Festival reminds Christians of all the good things God has given us. As such, we try to share what we have with others who are not so fortunate. This year, St Thomas More are collecting on behalf of Southend's homeless charity, Harp. Your donations will enable Harp to provide hot meals at The Bradbury Centre and other local hostels. Harp will also provide rough sleepers with night parcels and food parcels. You can help by donating food items. Non-perishable goods are mostly desired (Tinned vegetables, fruits, meat, sauces, soups etc...). A full list of desired items can be found on www.harpsouthend.org . If you would like to donate please send your items in with your son/daughter on, or before Tuesday 6th October. Mr F McCague, YSVP co-ordinator

House Badges – By Monday 5th October, **ALL** students in Years 7 -11 should have their House badges sewn on to their blazers, there should now be no excuses. If any students are seen without their badges, they will be spoken to by their Pupil Support Mentor and sanctions will be put in place.



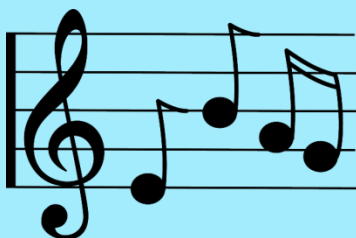
School Shoes– Some students were found to be wearing Nike trainer-style shoes at the beginning of term. These boys were told that they are not permitted in school. Can parents please ensure that these are exchanged for proper regulation school shoes. Thank you in advance for your support.

Cycle to School – Any student who chooses to cycle to school should have a signed 'permission to cycle' letter returned to Mr Mason. A reminder also that at the end of the school day, students should not cycle out of gate and along the path as it is dangerous for the large number of pedestrians who use the paths at this busy time. They should push their bicycle along path until there is a safe and appropriate place to cycle. Safety helmets should also be worn. Mr Mason, Director of Learning i/c pupil behaviour and safety.

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](#).



The History Club: Are you interested in the past? Movies about the past? Fancy playing ancient board games? Hearing about amusing deaths in history? Well then, the History Club is for you. A great way to learn and enjoy the past for all ages, from Yr7 to A Level. If you are interested in joining, see Mr Shearman in H2 Monday lunchtime.



Instrumental Lessons - All Instrumental lessons have now all started and students have been given a copy of their timetable. A big thank you to everyone who supported and attended the 'Come and try Evening'. A direct result of this has seen over 20 new students start learning an instrument from scratch. Over 50 students are now receiving instrumental lessons within school. If you have missed out for this term, bookings will open at half term to start lessons in January 2016. Mr Riches – Music Department

Cleaners Required - Morning or evenings (2.5 hours per day). Please contact Mrs Newman on 01702 344933 for further details and an application form.



Parent and Staff Association - It was a pleasure to welcome new members at our meeting on Tuesday. We understand that it is not possible for all to attend and we will keep you posted via email. If you are not included on our list and would like to be, please email: suearif@blueyonder.co.uk
Do you shop online? If so, you can raise money for the school each time you make a purchase. It will not cost you anything and full details explaining how to set up easyfundraising can be found by

[clicking here.](#)

Many thanks for your support, Your Parent Staff Association.

SPORT FIXTURES

DATE	FIXTURE	TIME
05/10/2015	Year 8 Essex Cup Football v Woodlands (AWAY) Year 9 National Football v Howard (AWAY) Cross Country Practice	3.30-4.30pm
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 TBC	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)	
09/10/2015	Year 8 Rugby v Belfairs (HOME)	4pm

DATE	FIXTURE	TIME
12/10/2015	Year 8 Rugby v Gateway Academy (HOME) Cross Country Practice	4pm 3:30 – 4:30pm
13/10/2015	Year 8 Rugby v Brentwood County High (HOME) Year 7 Football v Belfairs (HOME)	4pm 4pm
14/10/2015	1st XI Football v Southend (HOME) Year 10/11 Indoor Athletics @ Lee Valley	2pm 1:30pm
15/10/2015	Primary G&T Basketball @ STM tbc Year 7 Rugby v Cecil Jones (AWAY) tbc Year 10 Football v Chase (AWAY)	4pm
16/10/2015	Under 17 Football v Plume (HOME)	
17/10/2015	Year 7,8,9 & 10 Rugby v KEGS (AWAY)	