

## 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. 1325 – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2015

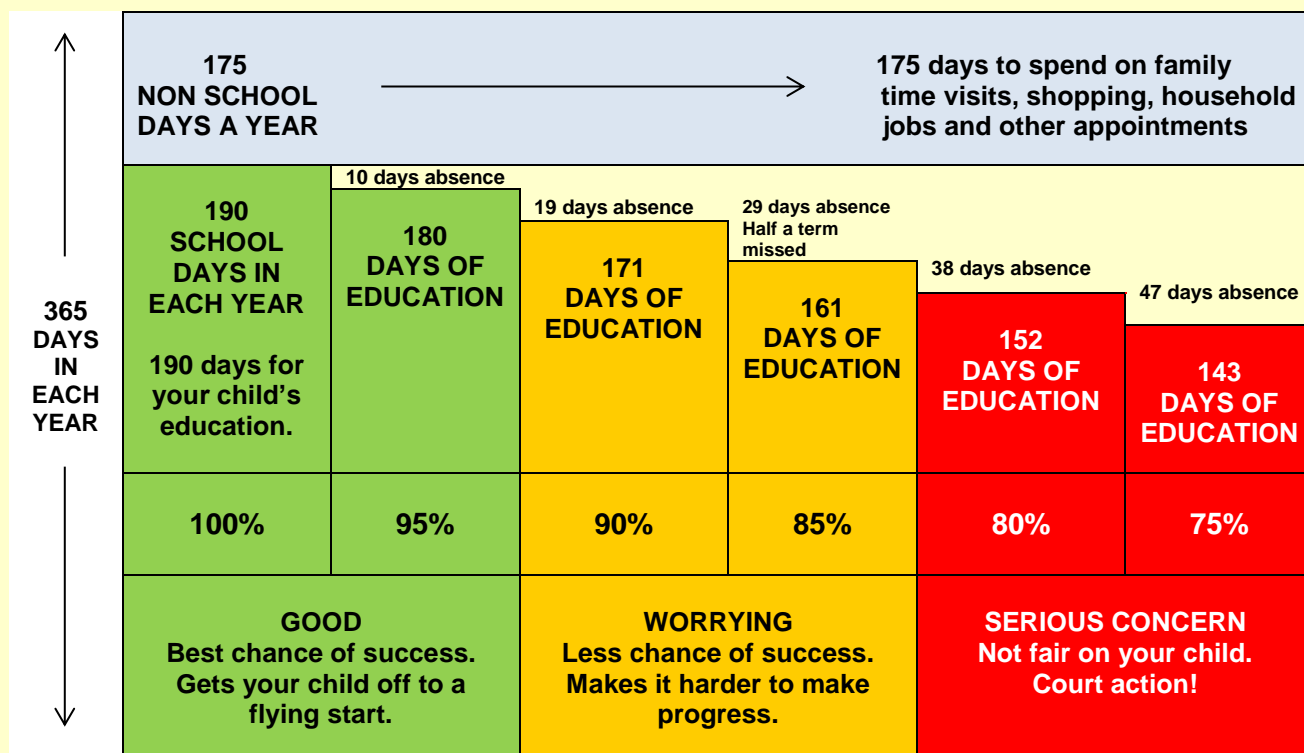
Dear Parents and Pupils,

**Headteacher Drop-In Surgery** -The next Headteacher drop-in surgery is 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015 from 3.45pm to 5pm. This is an opportunity for parents or carers to come and talk to Mrs Ackred or a member of the Senior Leadership Team about any issues or concerns you may have or any ideas you have e.g. fundraising, school activities, curriculum, etc. It is also an opportunity for you to ask for advice or information. There is no need to book an appointment, just come to reception.

**EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS** - We take absence very seriously. We target intervention with students whose attendance falls below target of 95%

Days off school add up to lost learning

- Please don't let your child miss out on the education they deserve
- Every school day counts



If your child does not attend school they will not achieve. We want all students to achieve high levels of attendance and give themselves the very best life chances and choices.

There are 175 non-school days per year for holidays, shopping and appointments. There should be little need, except in "exceptional" circumstances for your child to miss a day's education. 90% Attendance may look impressive but it means they miss 19 days of education in a year and risk dropping one grade in their GCSEs.

**5 C grades could become 5 D grades.** A reminder that parents can now monitor their child's attendance on the School Gateway.



**SPOTLIGHT** – A huge well done to Year 8 student, Daniel Wylde, who took part in the Bear Grylls Survival Race on Saturday 3rd October 2015. Daniel ran a 2K obstacle course - Bear Grylls style - and came 4th out of approximately 50 11-13 year olds. Well done Daniel!



**6<sup>th</sup> Form Photographs** Tempest Photography are coming into school on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October to take a whole 6<sup>th</sup> form group photograph. Please ensure that your sons and daughters are smartly dressed and looking their best and that they arrive in school no later than 8:40am. Details about how you can order the photograph will be sent home after the picture has been taken. This will be a wonderful keep sake to remember this important part of their school life. Mr Maxfield, Deputy Headteacher.

*Weekly Prayer*  
*Lord God,*  
*when you created us,*  
*you wanted us to live in loving relationships with other people,*  
*and you wanted societies to be built on families.*  
*I ask you to be with families everywhere,*  
*especially those families going through difficult times.*  
*Amen*

**Morning Prayer** - During this month of October Morning prayer will begin at 11:15 with a decade of the Rosary

**Weekly Mass** - We were pleased to welcome Father Gerry Drummond into school on Thursday for the celebration our lunchtime Mass. He shared some interesting facts about St Osyth whose feast day we marked. Form 10D was in attendance and participated fully in the celebration through reading 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. The leaders chose a song as a post communion reflection and led their peers very well in the singing.



**Cafod Harvest Fast Day** - Mrs Ackred's assembly for Years 7-9 focused upon the CAFOD Harvest Appeal this week. Today students have "Brightened up this Harvest" with a non-uniform day. By paying £1, this Harvest

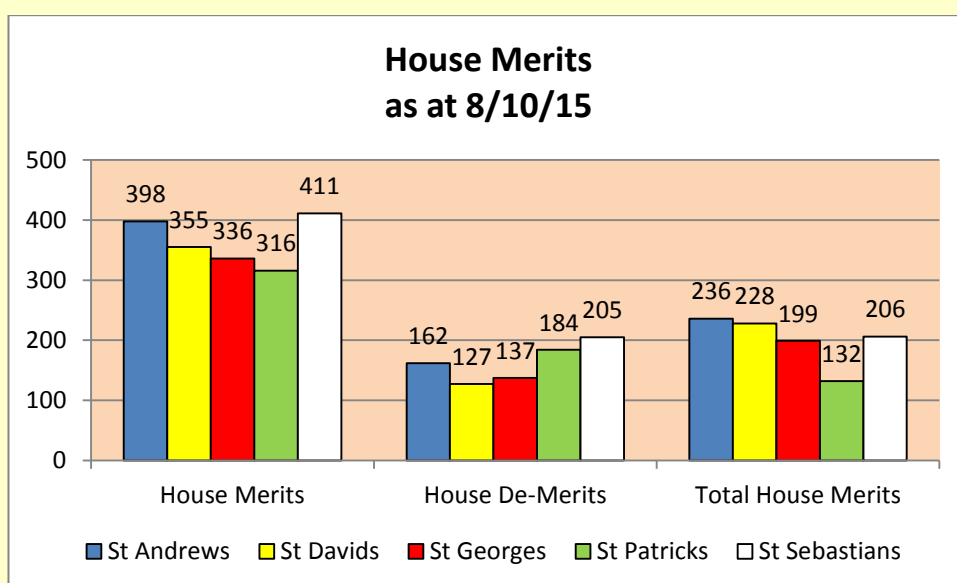
collection will enable Cafod partners to work with people across the world helping them to have access to tools and training, and empower them to become self-sufficient despite living in the most difficult of conditions. Additionally, our donations this Fast Day will be used to fund Cafod partners work in Europe and the Middle East to support those affected by the refugee crisis.



**School Council** - On Tuesday the full School Council met for the first time, addressing a full agenda compiled from the Key Stage Councils held last week. The full council of 16 includes representatives from each key stage council, the Head and Deputy Heads of Prefects and the Heads of School. Two members of the Strategic Leadership Team were in attendance to observe and advise. Outcomes of the meeting will be communicated to all form groups next week via Form Leaders. Thank you to Nina and Henry our Heads of School for their leadership and to all council members for their contributions. They are pictured here at their "working lunch".



## House News!



**Inter House Debating Competition** - Last Friday's debate took place between St David's and St Patrick's and the motion for debate was: 'This House believes that all abortion should be illegal'. The motion was defeated with 6 votes in favour and 10 votes against. The winning team was judged to be St David's. Well done to all speakers for St David's: Karina Lockowandt, Rory Henderson and Gabriel Higinio-Hoyos and for St Patrick's: Charlie Beresford, Patrick Crowley and a last minute sub from St Andrew's Jess Lelliott. Today's debate will address the motion: This House would never push the button, proposed by St Sebastian's and opposed by St Andrew's. A reminder that all debates take place in RE4 at 1.45pm and are open to all.

**YSVP update- Harvest Harp appeal** - Thank you to all who have donated towards the Harp Harvest appeal. Your generosity has been greatly received and will benefit those in need in our local community. Another reminder that Youth St Vincent de Paul takes place: every Wednesday in RE2 at 1.35pm. New members always welcome.

Mr. F McCague (YSVP co-ordinator)



Nicolo Burzotta and Dylan- Gearoid O'Sullivan (both YSVP members) helping to present the donations in front of the altar in the school chapel.

**The Sacrament of Confirmation** - If you are over 14 years of age, and have not been confirmed, you are invited to join the next confirmation course at St Helen's in the parish hall on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November - 6.30pm – 7.30pm** Just give your name, address, phone number and email address to the parish office, or email [westcliff@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:westcliff@dioceseofbrentwood.org) Fr Joseph Whisstock Our Lady Help of Christians & St Helens Church 27 Milton Road, Westcliff-on-Sea Essex SS0 7JP



**Spanish Club** - Spanish Club on Wednesday Lunch with Mrs Terry and Mari-Carmen Foster. All KS3 and KS4 students of Spanish are welcome for practice and support. ¡Hasta entonces!

**Car Parking** – If you are visiting the school, please can you ensure that you do not block staff cars in the car park. There are two designated visitors' bays at the front of the school, or occasionally, there may be some free spaces at the side of the school. A reminder also that parents should not be dropping off or collecting the children from the school car park.

**Pupil Absence** – We have a number of pupils absent from school at the moment due to sickness. Please be vigilant and remember to wash hands regularly to try and prevent any further outbreaks.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Form News

**Open Evening – Baker Tilly** - Baker Tilly, a leading provider of Accountancy and Business Advisory Services, will be holding an Open Evening in our Chelmsford office on the evening of Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November.

The event offers the chance to find out about Baker Tilly and the reality of being a modern day accountant (it's about people and relationships, not just balance sheets). There will also be the opportunity to meet current students and staff. To join us immediately after secondary education, applicants will need a good academic track record of 5 or more GCSEs at grade C or above, including B at Maths & English Language, plus a predicted 280 UCAS points, excluding General Studies. A 2:1 degree is required to join as a graduate, along with the qualifications noted above. Full information about Baker Tilly and our study programmes can be found at [www.bakertilly.co.uk](http://www.bakertilly.co.uk).

I do hope that will be able to attend our Open Evening on 12<sup>th</sup> November, where you'll hear more about Baker Tilly, and the world of accountancy, and get a chance to meet our current students. We aim to run sessions, by appointment only, from approximately 5pm to 8pm. To book a place, call 01245 354402.

**Westcliff High School for Boys proudly invites you to attend a stimulating evening of Engineering lectures and guidance.** We have three IT/Engineering Ambassadors presenting their pathway into careers within these key industries, as well as some of the exciting projects they have been involved with to date and in the near future. This event will take place on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015** at WHSB between **7.30-9pm**.

We anticipate that this will be a popular evening, so please book your tickets ASAP with Mrs Weller in the Careers Office to avoid disappointment. [wellern@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:wellern@whsb.essex.sch.uk)

## SPORT FIXTURES

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	All day
	Year 10 Football v Chase (AWAY)	4pm
	Year 7 Rugby v Cecil Jones (AWAY)	4pm
	Year 11 Football v Westcliff (HOME)	4pm
	Year 8 Football v Greensward (HOME)	4pm
16/10/2015	Under 17 Football v Plume (HOME)	3pm

17/10/2015	Year 7,8,9 & 10 Rugby v KEGS (AWAY)	TBC
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