

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. 1328 – Friday 6th November 2015

Dear Parents and Pupils,



Remembrance Day Service – On Sunday, Mr Mason and I, along with students Henry Ince, Jacob Cullen, Matthew Norris, Amob Dingis, Kieran Laking-Morris and Niamh Moggan shall be representing St Thomas More High School by laying a wreath at the Remembrance Day Service at the Cliffs Cenotaph. We will hold our Remembrance Day Service in school on the 11th November.

Year 10 Study Skills Evening – A reminder that we are holding our Year 10 Study Skills Evening at 6pm on Wednesday 11th November. This Study Skills evening is designed to support your son in developing the skills that he will need and answer many of the questions that you and your son will have regarding your son's preparation for external assessments.



SPOTLIGHT – Well done to Year 9 student, Ewan Russell, who has been selected to represent St Thomas More High School in the English Schools' Swimming Association regional diving trials this Saturday – good luck Ewan! Ewan has also been selected and is competing at the Irish National Open Diving Championships in Dublin 12-15th November and the Luton Diving Challenge Invitational Competition 27th-29th November.

Highlight of the Week

Whole School Mass All Saints and All Souls - On Tuesday Mass was celebrated for the whole school community. It was a wonderful opportunity to pray together, marking the feast of All Saints, whilst also remembering the deceased loved ones in our families and school community during this month of the Holy Souls. We are grateful to our Dean, Father Eamonn Power who was our main celebrant and to Father Gerry Drummond and Father Jeff Woolnough who concelebrated the Mass. All students had the opportunity to submit the names of loved ones which were presented at the altar at Tuesday's Mass and which will lay on the altar in our school Chapel for the month of November.



Thank you to Mr Riches and the musicians and singers who led the congregation, to our team of servers, trained and supervised by our MC Keoni D'Souza, to our readers and student ushers together with those students who presented the offertory and Mrs Webb for all her hard work in making all these elements come together so successfully once again. A word of thanks too to Mr Seaby and his team who prepared the hall and managed to provide seats for everyone!

Weekly Prayer

Lord God,

even though I am sometimes poor in spirit, you never desert or forget me.

*Stay with me in all my struggles and remind me that, in the end,
the beauty of knowing you will wipe every tear and solve every crisis.*

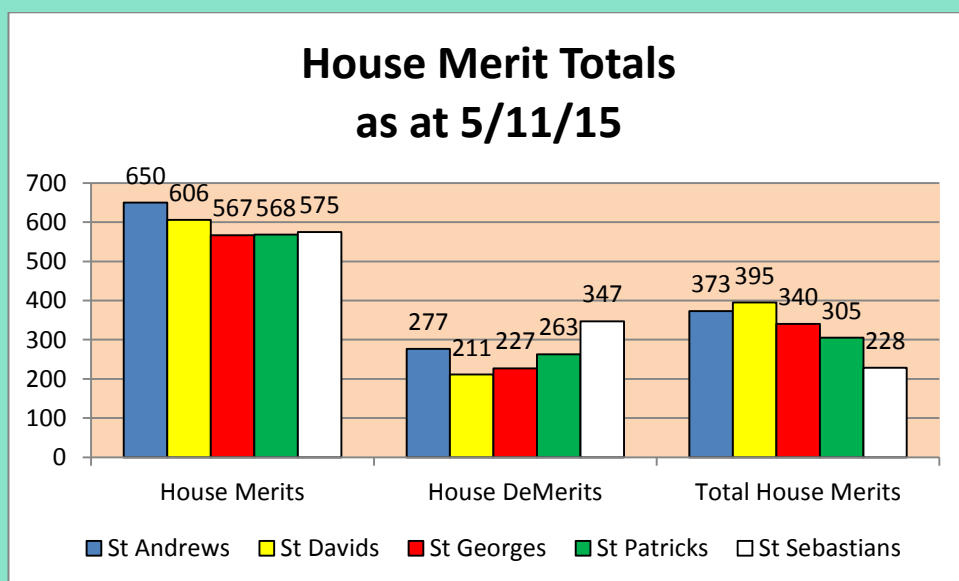
Amen.

Weekly Mass - We were pleased to welcome Father Gerry for the second time this week when he came to celebrate Mass for Form 11G on Thursday. Thank you to the Form group for their attendance and their conscientious preparation and practice for our celebration along with their participation in the singing of our Communion hymn.

School Council News - This week saw the meeting of key stage councils in preparation for next Tuesday's full student council meeting. Thank you to our Heads of School who chaired these meetings and to Form Leaders for their attendance.



House News!



Confirmation Programme - On Wednesday we welcomed Father Brett Adams into school in order for him to meet with students in year 10 and above from the parish of St George's and the English Martyrs, who may be eligible to begin their preparations for the Sacrament of Confirmation. If there is any student wishing to join the preparation programme they should contact Father Brett as the programme begins this weekend.

Debating Society - Today sees the penultimate inter-house debating competition where St Patrick's will propose and St Sebastian's oppose the motion: This House would do away with the grammar school. Following today's debate the results will be collated and the two teams with the highest judged score will compete in the final next Friday 13th November. The motion for the final will be released on Monday.

ATTENDANCE and PUNCTUALITY – We review our register regularly and, together with the Local Authority Attendance Officer, identify those whose attendance is below our expected level of 95% and whose punctuality is poor. Sometimes, as parents and/or guardians, we do not realise how being out of school can quickly bring down a pupils' percentage attendance. At the start of each half term a letter is sent to the parents or guardians of those pupils identified, to alert them and to encourage discussion aimed at improving attendance and punctuality. This is even

more important to those in KS4 & KS5 who are preparing to move on the Further Education or the workplace. The current overall attendance for St Thomas More High School pupils is 96.9%. Please help us maintain this high level by avoiding unnecessary absences and ensuring good organisation in the mornings to arrive in school and, if you do receive an "alert" letter, please feel free to contact myself or your son's Pupil Support Mentor to seek advice and strategies on how to improve attendance or punctuality. Thank you for your continued support!! Mrs M Lewis – Pupil Support Coordinator.



Lest We Forget.

Poppies are on sale in the school now – please remind your son/daughter to donate to this great cause and wear their poppies with pride.

History Literacy Day 2015 - Today in Mr Shearman's History class Yr8 took part in History Literacy Day. Students were given a choice of History magazines and articles to read from the Department library. The students could choose from BBC History Magazine, to GCSE and A Level magazines up to History Today. The idea behind History Literacy Day was to challenge and help students in their understanding and love of History. The wide range of questions, swapping of magazines and all-round enthusiasm of the boys made the lesson a great success. Well done all! Mr Shearman.



Spanish Club is held on Wednesday at lunchtime with Mrs Terry in MFL2.. All KS3 and Year 10 students of Spanish are welcome for songs, videos, practice and support in Spanish. ¡Hasta entonces!

GCSE Hospitality catch up sessions will be starting for year 11 from Monday 9th November in the Food room 3.30-4.30pm. A register will be taken.

Apprenticeship Open Evening – Ipeco Holdings are having an Apprentice Open Evening on Thursday 26th November. Ipeco are specialists in the design, test, manufacture and supply of aircraft crew seats, executive passenger seats, power management products and machined components for the defence electronics and engineering industries. The apprenticeship is a 4 year programme with the benefits of having first class company training facilities, a progressive, structured training package, Level 2 and 3 qualifications, including City and Guilds and excellent rates of pay. Please call Clare Brooks on 01702 209715, or write to Ipeco Group Training Centre, Ipeco Holdings, Aviation Way, Southend on Sea, Essex SS2 6WA, or email cbrooks@ipeco.co.uk

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Tom Gammer Essex Rugby - We are proud to say that Tom Gammer, got through the county selection process and played his first game for the Essex Rugby team at scrum half position last week. Huge congratulations to Tom on this fantastic achievement. PE department.

SPORT FIXTURES

Date	Fixture	Time
09/11/2015	Cross Country Practice	3.30 - 4.30pm
10/11/2015	KS4 Badminton tournament @ SHSB	4pm
11/11/2015	Borough Cross Country 1st XI Football v Palmers (HOME) Sixth Form Basketball v Chelmsford (HOME)	Am 2pm 2:30pm
12/11/2015	U14 Essex Basketball v St Martin's (HOME)	4pm
13/11/2015	Year 7 National Cup Football v Valley Park (HOME)	2:30pm

All welcome to come along to our

Christmas Craft and Vintage Fayre

Free Entry

&

Free Parking

On Saturday 28th November 11am-3pm

St Thomas More High School

Kenilworth Gardens,

Westcliff-On-Sea, Essex SSO OBW

80 stalls offering handmade crafts and
unique Christmas gifts including;
jewellery, toiletries, tree decorations,
vintage clothing, chutneys and jams and
many more.....

Traditional vintage tea room plus other
refreshments and a seated café area.

Singing and live music by St Thomas
More boys!

