

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. 1332 – Friday 4th December 2015

Dear Parents and Pupils

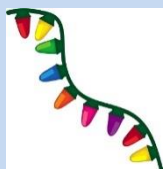
The Parents and Staff Association Christmas Fayre held last Saturday was a huge success! A massive well done to the PSA for organising the event and for being such great supporters of our school. The total amount raised was **£1,161.59**. Thank you to the site team for setting up and to the prefects who gave up their day to help out, namely Matthew Norris, Daniel Mann, Jack Poole, Lucas Phillips, Oscar Waller, Daniel Luo, Mark Jackson, Tiago Gomes, Amob Dingis and Daniel Catling. Thank you also to the school choir who sang to our visitors. And finally, a special thank you to pupils Thomas Mann and Elijah Clancey, who spent their Friday evening putting up bunting, decorating the hall and Christmas tree, and then spent Saturday selling raffle tickets and manning the PSA stall.



Advent Carol Service - As we move onto the Second Sunday of Advent our thoughts turn to preparations for Christmas. As part of our spiritual preparation students and staff have begun to prepare a service of reflection for us all to share. This Advent Carol Service will take place on Thursday 17th December in the Main Hall at 7pm and all families and friends of the school are welcome to attend. Please join us for this time of prayer and reflection in preparation for the Christmas Season. A reminder that all Year 7 students are expected to attend. The service will be repeated on Friday 18th for the school community.

End of Term – A reminder that the school term finishes on Friday 18th December at 1:35pm. ***Please note that, to date, Stephenson's buses and the Amber Coaches have informed us that they will be departing from our school at the usual time of 3:30pm*** If your son travels on these buses he will shortly be bringing home a letter to inform us how he will be getting home on this day.

Christmas Tree Donation – A big thank you to Mrs Bolt, parent of Year 8 pupil Joseph, and owner of Wheatley Farm Garden Centre who has donated a large Christmas tree to our school for the second year. We are looking forward to delivery of the beautiful tree which will look spectacular in our assembly hall and will be enjoyed by the pupils from Kingsdown Special School, Lancaster Special School and St Christopher's Special School at the Christmas parties we host for them every year; as well as our own pupils, staff and visitors alike. Parents will also be able to see this beautiful tree in all its glory at our Advent Carol Service on the evening of 17th December.



Christmas Lights for Charity – For the last couple of years, former student, Edward Lynch, has been decorating his bungalow in Poyning Avenue, Southchurch, with over 6,000 LED Christmas lights to raise money for YMCA Southend who help the most disadvantaged and vulnerable young people in around our local area. To see pictures and a video of his effort and to support this worthy cause please visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/Edward-Lynch> thank you.

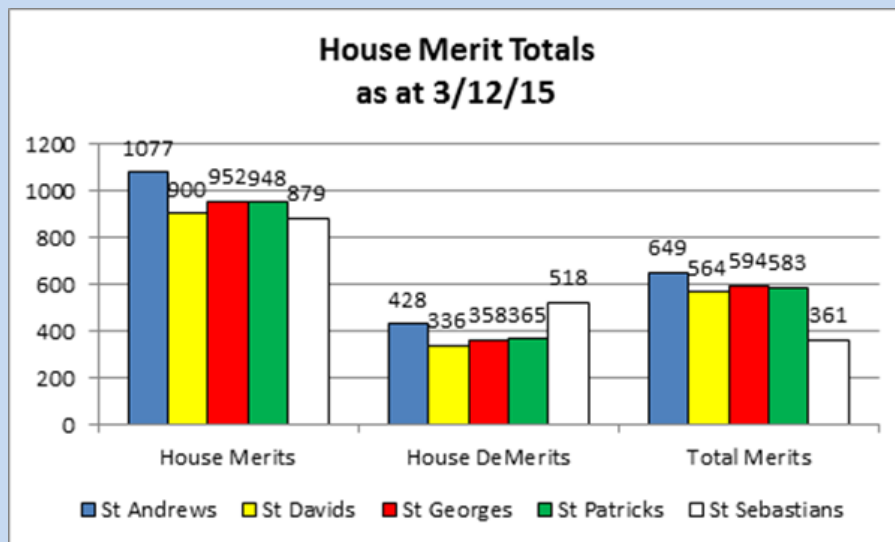
Weekly Prayer

*Lord God,
you give us times like this to make sure we're ready for what lies ahead.
Help me to use Advent wisely so that I am prepared to welcome you again.
Amen*

Weekly Mass - We were pleased to welcome Father Basil into school on Thursday for our weekly celebration of Mass. Thank you to Form 10P who were in attendance and prepared the readings, prayers and sang so well.

Student Council Assembly - Thank you to members of the Student Council who led assembly on Thursday for years 7-9. They shared news of their successful initiatives achieved this term. The next Council Meeting will take place next Tuesday 8th December at 1.35pm in the LRC.

Year 8 Retreats - Today parents of Year 8 students will receive information about the Year 8 retreats which will take place in January. Students in Year 8 were prepared for this with an assembly about Walsingham House, the youth retreat centre on Canvey Island where the retreats are to be held. Mrs Webb is happy to answer any queries about this event. We request that parents respond promptly with reply slips and payment asap.



Youth Saint Vincent de Paul (YSVP)- Notice for Parents/Carers of Year 7 & 8 Boys - This Advent St Thomas More YSVP is hoping to help a local family have a better Christmas. Working in partnership with St Vincent de Paul society from St Helen's Parish, each form will aim to collect a few items that will go directly to a local family in need. The deadline for donations will be Friday 11th December. Chaplaincy Leaders have briefed their forms and some donations are already coming in. Thanks for those who have already donated!

Some suggested items that each from (in Year 7 & 8 only) will try to contribute are:

Hot Chocolate, Christmas puddings, mince/fruit pies, Sweets/candy sticks, mini cheddars, pringles/crisps. Box of family biscuits, twiglets, small cheese selections, crackers for cheese, 6 Christmas crackers, toys for children.....

This Advent let us prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ by opening our hearts to others in our local community.
Mr F McCague, (YSVP Coordinator)

Advent Charities – Advent Charity events start with earnest on Monday. Please remember to ensure that your sons/daughters have some loose change for entry to the various events being held around the school – all for a great cause! This year we are supporting MIND, the mental health charity. The school benefits from a MIND counsellor in school free of charge who has supported students through difficult times in their lives.



Talent Show!! - The school talent show is back for a third year! We are looking for all years and talents to audition next Monday 7th December in RE1 at lunchtime. The final is on Thursday 10th December with an entry fee of 40p for the Advent charities. The panel will include Mr Quane, Miss Ryan and Jess Lelliott. We hope to see you at the auditions on Monday! John Jenkins 11/A, Organiser.

Enrichment Talk - On Wednesday we welcomed back past student Kim Naidoo to the sixth form. Kim is an ambassador for Portsmouth University and she was here to promote the Engineering Geology and Geotechnics course offered at the university to students who are currently choosing their course/universities via UCAS.

Kim's talk was extremely informative all about her studies and the opportunities she has been given to gain from her studies at Portsmouth. The students I know found it very useful, and hopefully they will take inspiration from this and will help them with their up-coming decisions on where and what to study at university.

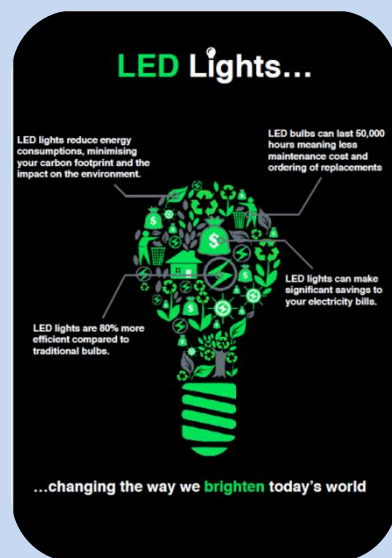
Sporting Achievement - Last night Jessica Lelliott, Year 13, competed in the final of the National Association of Boys' and Girls' Club National Boxing Final in Croydon. Jess has worked and trained extremely hard over many months to reach this event and was fighting an opponent who was older and more experienced than her.

Unfortunately Jess lost on points in a hard fought contest, but is still the silver medallist which is a great achievement. She is now working towards the English Championships in January and we wish her all the best with this competition.

GCSE Citizenship - As part of my Year 10 GCSE Citizenship, my group and I have decided to campaign for the change to Light-Emitting Diodes (LED). I would like to make parents aware of the benefits of changing to LED lights. First of all, LED lights can cut lighting bills by 90% and as a result save a substantial amount of money. They are also more efficient and can reduce your carbon footprint as well. If everyone can try to be as energy efficient as possible, we can reduce carbon emissions significantly. We hope you'll take these facts into consideration and also try to help the environment. Galvin Salvador-Regalado, Form 10P.



Spanish Club on Wednesday Lunch with Mrs Terry in MFL2, (1.35-2.05). All KS3 and KS4 students of Spanish are welcome for songs, videos, practice and support in Spanish. ¡Hasta entonces!



Business Drop In Sessions - If you would like any help with homework, topics or exam technique please feel free to drop in to the times below:

Monday	Year 13	A LEVEL	3.30 – 4.30	BS1	Mrs Lindsay
Tuesday	Year 12	A LEVEL	3.30 – 4.30	BS1	Mrs Lindsay
Thursday	Year 11	GCSE	3.30 – 4.30	BS1	Mrs Lindsay
Tuesday	Year 11	GCSE	3.30 – 4.30	BS2	Miss McCague
Tuesday	ALL	BTEC	3.30 – 4.30	BS3	Miss Ryan
Everyday	ALL	BTEC	1.35 – 2.30	BS4	Miss Myhill

SPORTS FIXTURES

DATE	FIXTURE	TIME
07/12/2015	1st XI Essex Cup Football v Caterham (AWAY) Year 8 Essex Cup Football v Colne (HOME) Year 7 & 8 Rugby v Belfairs (AWAY @ WRFC)	2pm departure 2pm
08/12/2015	Sixth Form Basketball v Southend (AWAY) Year 8 Basketball v Westcliff (AWAY)	4pm 4pm
09/12/2015	1st XI Football v Chelmsford (AWAY)	2pm
10/12/2015	Year 9 Basketball v Westcliff (HOME) Year 11 Basketball v Westcliff (AWAY)	4pm 4pm
11/12/2015	Year 10 Basketball v Westcliff (HOME)	4pm