

St. Thomas More High School
An Academy Trust in the Diocese of Brentwood (Reg No: 7696989)
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No. 1334 – Friday 18th December 2015

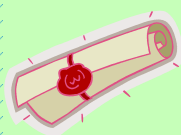
Dear Parents and Pupils

*On behalf of all the pupils, staff and governors of the School,
I would like to wish all of our readers a very merry Christmas
and a happy and peaceful New Year.*

*May the peace of Christ and the joy of the season be with you
and your families.*

Staff Farewells – Today we will say a fond farewell to Mrs Belcher and Mr Keenan who move on to pastures new. We wish them all the very best for the future.

Start of Term January 2015 – A reminder to parents that the school will re-open after the Christmas break on Monday 4th January 2016 at the usual time of 08:40am. It will be Timetable Week 2.



Presentations Assembly – This afternoon, we are to hold our presentations assembly. This is always a lovely occasion, during which we celebrate the outstanding achievements of our students. Congratulations to all those nominated.

Christmas Dinner – Grateful thanks to Mrs Potton, Catering Manager, and her team for producing a wonderful Christmas Dinner for our pupils and staff. It was, as usual, delicious.

Weekly Prayer

Lord God,

*You have opened your heart to me,
so help me now and always to open my heart honestly to you and others.*

Amen

Advent Carol Service - Thank you to all those students and staff who assisted in the preparation for this year's Advent Carol Service which enabled us to reflect upon the angelic encounters announcing Christ's birth in preparation for this holy season. Thank you to the students, who sang, played, signed, dramatized, read or supported technically. We are also grateful to Mr Riches for his leadership in producing such beautiful music. Thank you also to those who worked behind the scenes; to Mr Groome and Ms Vickery for their work on our lovely angel and to Mr Seaby and Mr Shorten and their teams for preparing the Hall. With Christmas blessings to all, Mrs Webb.

Advent Charity – So far, we have raised £1,261.20 for our chosen charity this year, MIND.

'Mini Vinnies' success!

I would like to offer a big thank you to all Forms in Year 7 & 8 who contributed so generously towards the Saint Vincent de Paul Advent appeal. Students, Parents and Form teachers really got into the giving spirit and as such I was extremely impressed with the final gathering. In particular, I would like to thank the Chaplaincy leaders- whom I entrusted with coordinating this task;

Ikubun Famose(7A), Elijah Clancey(7D), Matthew Manjaly(7G), David Ohemeng (7P) Alfie Williams (7S), Jacob Kwasnica (8A), Jose Biju (8D), Dylan O'Sullivan (8G), Tom Mason (8P) and Noyal Mathew (8S)



Hopefully our efforts will make some families' Christmas celebrations more joyous. Mr. F McCague (YSVP coordinator).

Thank you - A huge thank you and congratulations to everyone who performed as part of the events and services in preparation for Christmas. You all gave some brilliant performances and I look forward to working with you next term. Thank you also to former student Daniel Arif for assisting us with his technical abilities. Sharing with us and showing the boys some of the techniques he has learnt so far in his apprenticeship as a Sound Engineer at the Royal Opera House London. Mr Riches.

Instrumental lessons - Composition and Wind lessons will start the first Tuesday back after Christmas All other lessons will start the following week

'Two Tonnes in Ten' Challenge - The weightlifters took part in a challenge to lift 2 metric tonnes in 10 minutes as their contribution to the Charity fundraising. They succeeded, lifting 2,260 kg overhead thereby achieving the "2 tonnes in ten" challenge that I set for them. Mr Braxton.

Well done Term! - The Young Enterprise team attended the Trade Fayre in Southend on Wednesday. They did not receive any awards but were very close to second and did extremely well. Miss Ryan and Miss McCague are very proud of the team and all of their hard work to date





Gold Achievers' Lunch - We were pleased to invite 20 students to our termly achievers lunch, organised by Mr Harding in recognition of the number of merits achieved this term.

A special thank you to Mrs Potton for organising the food. Mr Mason.

Christmas Parties – This week, we were very pleased to welcome the staff and pupils of St Christopher's, Lancaster and Kingsdown schools for their annual Christmas party. The pupils enjoyed Carols by the school choir and orchestra followed by food

and party games organised by St Thomas More students. The pupils were given a Christmas card made by our students and a present as a memento of their visit to the school. The success of the three parties was reflected in the smiling faces of the visiting pupils. Their excitement could not



course all

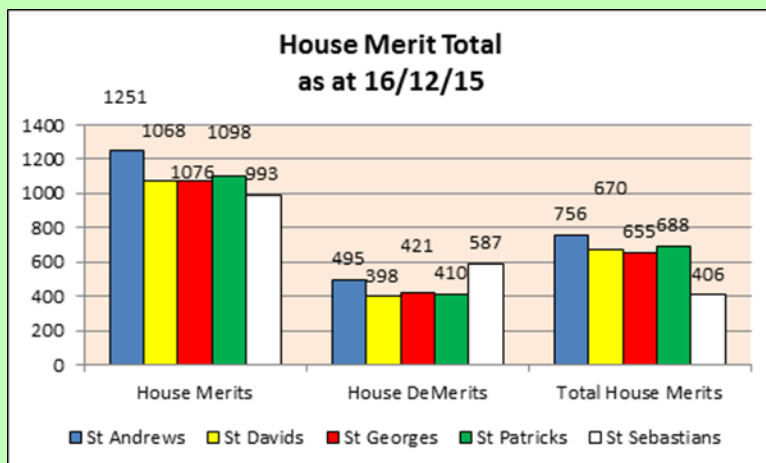
of the 20 students that helped on each of the party days. Mr Mason.

Parent Support Group – We will be running these popular 1 hour sessions for Parents/Carers starting THURSDAY 14TH JANUARY 2016 at 9.30am. Refreshments provided. Mrs Lewis.

Talking to Children about Terrorism and War - In today's world, parents are faced with the challenge of explaining violence, terrorism and war to children. Although difficult, these conversations are extremely important. They give parents an opportunity to help their children feel more secure and understand the world in which they live. We have an information sheet that you find useful when faced with these conversations. Some copies will be available on reception or, if you would like a copy sent via e mail, please contact the office@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk Mrs Lewis.



House News!



PARENTS' AND STAFF ASSOCIATION NEWS

We are pleased to announce the winners of the Grand Draw:

- £150.00 Mary Stone
- Panto Tickets - Charlie Jones
- Hampers - Elijah Clancey, Gordon Robertson, G.P. Sinclair
- Scape Leigh on Sea voucher - Joleigh Sharland
- Piccolo Restaurant voucher - Rachel King

Profits from the Grand Draw are £914.00 of which 10% will be donated to the Essex Deaf Children's Society.

Profits from the Christmas Fair are £1,161.59.

Thank you for all your support, we raised a whopping £1,984.19 to spend throughout the school departments.

Wishing you a lovely Christmas. Your Parent Staff Association.

SPORTS FIXTURES

DATE	FIXTURE	TIME
04/01/2016	NO FIXTURES	
05/01/2016	NO FIXTURES	
06/01/2016	1st XI Football v Colchester Institute (HOME) Sixth Form Basketball v Chelmsford (AWAY)	2:00PM TBC
07/01/2016	Year 9 Essex Cup Football v Emerson Park (AWAY)	12:30PM
08/01/2016	U17 National Cup Football v Ibstock Place (AWAY)	10:10AM