

St. Thomas More High School
An Academy Trust in the Diocese of Brentwood (Reg No: 7696989)
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CONTACT

No. 1335 – Friday 8th January 2016

Dear Parents and Pupils

Welcome back to all of our staff and students. I hope that you and your families have had a wonderful Christmas and I wish you all a blessed, happy and peace filled New Year.

Epiphany Assembly – Our new year began on Monday with our whole school community gathering for our assembly to celebrate the Epiphany. The assembly was accompanied with music and singing by our choir and superb soloists Vincent Hudson and Jude King. Thank you to Mrs Webb and Mr Riches for their help in preparing such a reflective celebration of this Feast.

Charity Funds – The total amount of money raised for our Advent Charity, MIND, was **£1345.48**. Thank you to everybody who contributed to this impressive total.

Highlight of the Week

My highlight this week was seeing an email from former student, Wayne Bannister to Mr Hardiman, Director of Learning, i/c Pupil Progress. Wayne was a student at St Thomas More between 2003 and 2008. Wayne has led a busy life since leaving St Thomas more including study at Exeter College, Devon, then on to Loughborough University. He is shortly to leave the UK to begin a four year PhD at the National University of Singapore, studying lakes in the Philippines. It is always nice to hear from former students of the school. For more news and events on St Thomas More Alumni, please visit the website: www.stmalumni.co.uk

Weekly Mass - We were pleased to welcome Father Basil Pearson into school on Thursday for the celebration of the weekly Mass. Form 10S prepared the readings and prayers of intercession. Father Basil is a regular visitor in school and we are always pleased to have his friendly and supportive presence amongst us. Next week Mass will be said for the intentions of St Sebastian's House in proximity to the House Feast.

Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2016 - This year's Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place in August. It is a wonderful opportunity during this Year of Mercy to make pilgrimage and the BCYS (Brentwood Catholic Youth Service) invites applications from any school student in Year 10 or above to join the BCYS as part of the wider Diocesan pilgrimage. Last year a number of St Thomas More students took part and it would be great to extend this experience to others. The link to the form is <http://bcys.net/event/summer-lourdes-2016/>

"Open your heart to God's Mercy" - Month 1 Year of Mercy - Our Holy Father has called for a year celebrating the Jubilee Year of Mercy which started in December, 2015 and ends in November, 2016.

In line with the Holy Father's call to the Great jubilee we are embarking on a programme based on the Corporal and Spiritual Acts of Mercy. This will include pilgrimages to the Holy Doors in our Cathedrals and Churches over the year. We begin our work of mercy with the call to Feed the Hungry in January 2016.

Feed the Hungry

- At the end of your weekly shop, look at what you have bought and put back an item that might seem the most extravagant and give the value of this item to a suitable charity.
- Arrange on a Sunday in your parish a collection of just tins that can go to a local food bank or homeless charity.
- Make an effort not to throw food away, use what we buy.
- One weekend put up a display in your church to educate people on world hunger.

Weekly Prayer

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.
(Howard Thurman)*

Parents' Evening - On Wednesday 13th January we are holding our Year 11 Parents' Evening. A letter was sent home at the end of last term inviting you to attend. Your son has also now received an appointment sheet allowing him to book appointments with each of his teachers. The evening provides a valuable opportunity to discuss your son's progress in his subjects and to address any concerns that you may have. We look forward to seeing you then. Mr Hardiman, Director of Learning i/c Pupil Achievement.

Science GCSE Mocks JANUARY 2016

Year 10 sets 10s1 to 10s3	19 th Jan C1	22 nd Jan P1 mock
Year 11 sets 11s1 to 11s4	25 th Jan B2	27 th Jan P2 mock

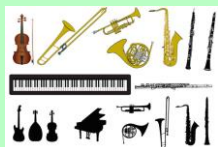
For all other groups, mocks will be run as and when those groups complete a particular module. Teachers will inform parents by email as to when they are so pupils can prepare fully for them.

All pupils should be regularly reviewing what they have learnt in class and identifying areas where they need further support. If any specific support is needed then pupils must speak to their teachers for help.

There are lots of past papers and other resources on the "[Year 10 & 11 Science](#)" VLE page. Pupils can also access them from the shared area from within the science folder; papers can be uploaded onto memory sticks and taken home for use.

For those groups who are completing a GCSE course this summer, support sessions will be made available and details will be soon placed on the "[Year 10 & 11 Science](#)" VLE page. As more become available then this will be updated.

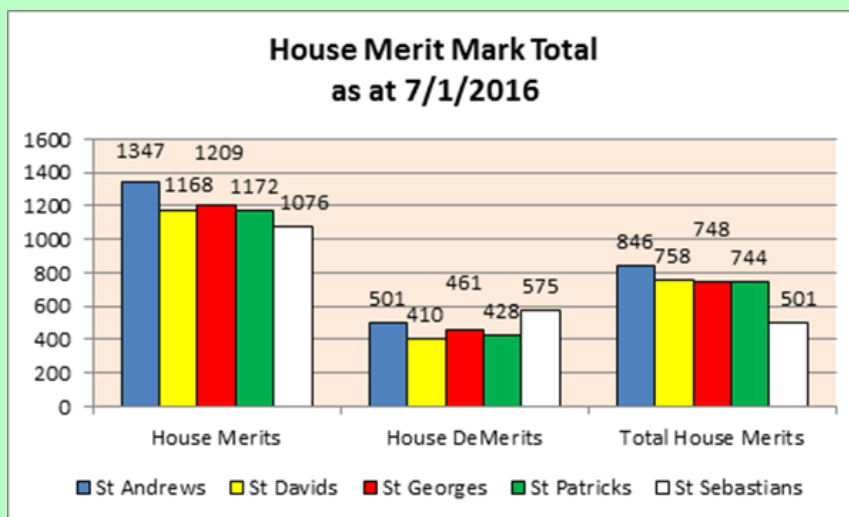
Typing [myGCSEscience](#) into the YouTube search engine will enable pupils to access video resources they should find useful. Mr Clunn Head of Science.



Instrumental lessons - All lessons begin next week, please see Mr Riches if you have lost or not received your new timetable.

Extra-Curricular - All ensembles start again next week, a reminder that 'Band' on a Monday afterschool is open to any Wind, Brass or String players of any standard.

Lost Property Tuesday 12th January - We have acquired a large amount of lost property. Please ensure that all items of clothing and equipment are marked with a full name (not just initials) and take care not to leave belongings behind in classes or the playground, etc. It is expensive and wasteful to replace items when they could easily be returned to their owner. There will be an opportunity for students to view the lost property at break and lunch time in the assembly hall on Tuesday 12th January.



FA Football Mash Up Year 7 - All students in Year 7 are welcome to attend football mash up training on Mondays after school. The first session will start next week; it will take place from 3:40pm-4:40pm on the school astro turf.

Hockey training - Year 7 Hockey training will take place on Tuesday after school.



Junior Rugby training - Year 7-9 students are all welcome to attend rugby training on Thursdays after school.

SPORTS FIXTURES

DATE	FIXTURE	TIME
11/01/2016	Year 7 Basketball v Eastwood (HOME) Year 10 Basketball v Eastwood (AWAY)	4pm 4pm
12/01/2016	Year 9 Basketball v Eastwood (HOME) Year 11 Basketball v Eastwood (AWAY)	4pm 4pm
13/01/2016	1st XI Football v King John (AWAY) Year 8 Basketball v Chase (HOME)	2pm 4pm
14/01/2016	Year 8 Basketball v Eastwood (HOME)	4pm
15/01/2016	Year 8 Essex Cup Football v Brampton Manor (HOME) Year 7 & 8 Rugby v Chase @ Westcliff Rugby club	2pm 4pm