

St. Thomas More High School

An Academy Trust in the Diocese of Brentwood (Reg No: 7696989)

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CONTACT

No. 1331 – Friday 27th November 2015

Dear Parents and Pupils,

Christmas Fayre – A reminder about the Christmas Fayre tomorrow which opens at 11:00am. Please come along if you can, it looks as though it is going to be an amazing day! A reminder that the raffle ticket stubs, money, and any unsold tickets are to be returned to Reception please.

Weekly Prayer

*Lord God, as we celebrate the feast of Christ the King,
help us to make room for you in our hearts.*

May you reign in my heart, and may nothing ever take your place.

Amen

Weekly Mass - We were pleased to welcome Fr Jeff Woolnough to school on Thursday to celebrate Mass offered for Saint Andrew's House in anticipation of their House feast on Monday. Thank you to the students and staff members from Saint Andrew's House who came along. Particular thanks are due to Keoni D'Souza, Chaplaincy Captain, who organised the liturgy.

Advent Carol Service - As the season of Advent begins this weekend 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.

Advent Angels - During this holy season we are also taking part in an Advent Angel activity. Each student will draw out the name of someone in their Form for whom they will act as an Advent Angel. Without revealing their identity, they will find ways to do good for that person, to help and support that person during the weeks of Advent, by praying for their needs, performing secret acts of kindness and just generally looking out for them. Behind this custom lies the awesome reality, that God sent the Angel Gabriel to announce the coming of good on a cosmic scale. The angel of the Annunciation brought the message to Mary that she was to be part of God's wondrous plan to save the human race by becoming one of us in Jesus. We will celebrate this Good News at Christmas and prepare for this during the weeks of Advent.

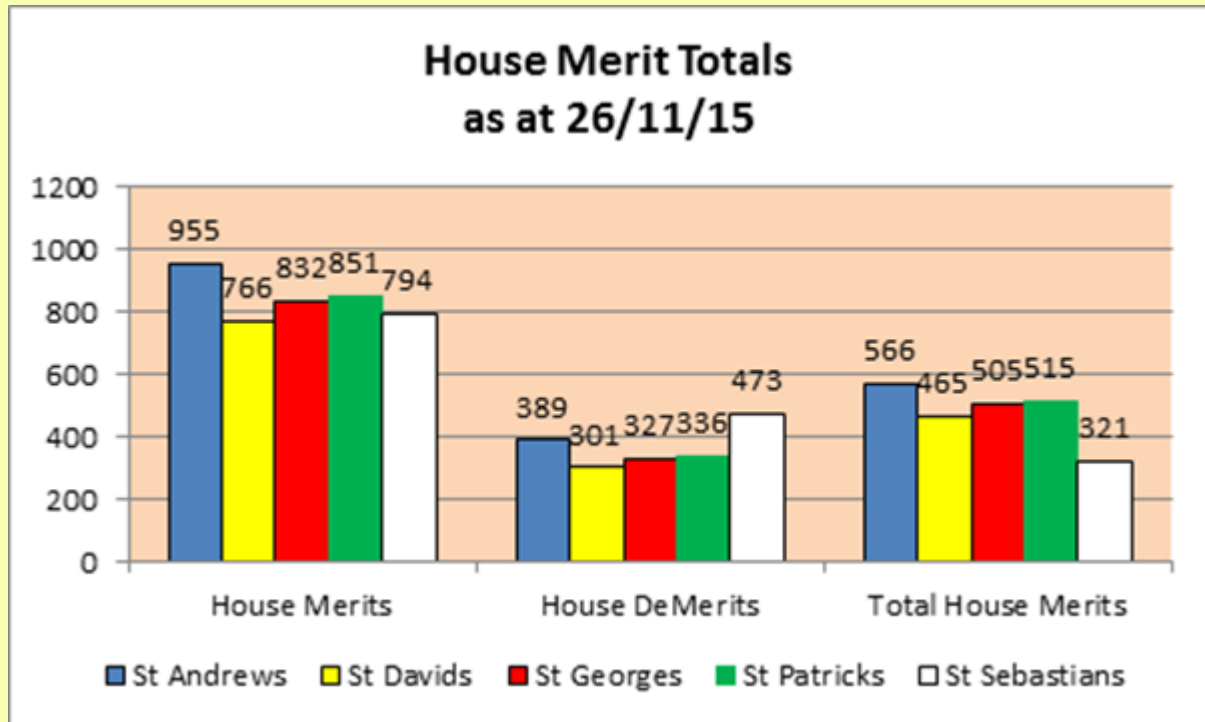


Student Council - Next week the Key Stage Council meetings will take place. Having now completed two cycles of our process the ideas and innovations of students are beginning to emerge around the school. Our Student Council will be reporting back on progress during assemblies over the next two weeks.

ESU Mace Debating Competition - Two of our Sixth Form students participated in the first round of the English Speaking Union Mace Debating Competition on Wednesday. St Thomas More High School proposed the motion: This House would only imprison violent offenders and would give all non-violent offenders non-custodial sentences. Well done to Hanley Spence and William Blackstone Whines who represented St Thomas More, making a credible case against one of the winning schools, Bishop Stortford High School.



House News!



The Rotary Young Chef Competition 2015

On Wednesday 25th November three students from year 9 (Edward Asaman, Yameen Chowdhury and Panashe Masina) represented the school by taking part for the first time in The Rotary Young Chef competition. This National Young Chef Competition is a well-established and successful competition promoted by Rotary International in Britain and Ireland (RIBI) and sponsored by Filippo Berio. It is a four-stage National competition to support and encourage development of cookery skills.

The aim of the competition is to encourage young people to:

- To cook a healthy meal
- Develop food presentation skills
- Consider food hygiene issues
- Develop their organisational and planning skills
- Develop their ability to cope in a demanding situation



The winning dishes – Caribbean toastie cups, Salmon en croute and Molten chocolate cake

The students are given 2 hours to prepare and serve a healthy 3 course meal for two at staggered times to the judges. I am very pleased to announce that the winner was Edward Asaman from 9G. The 3 judges, who were members of the local Rotary club, commended all of the students on their hard work.

Ed will now go forward to the next round in January which will see him compete against other students in from the local area. We wish him every success. Mrs Napper (Teacher of Food Technology/Hospitality).

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

Southend Music Festival

Well done to all who took part, a special congratulations to the following students for placing in their categories

- David Young Year 10 – 2nd place in Piano Solo 15 and Under
- Ryan Hayes year 9 – 1st place in Piano Classic 13 and Under
- Eliot De Florinier Year 7 – 1st place Harp

Well done – Mr Riches

Instrumental Lessons - If you are interested in starting lessons in January please come and see Mr Riches

The following school instruments are still available to hire from the school on a free trial basis:

- ✚ Clarinet
- ✚ Flute
- ✚ Tenor Horn
- ✚ Euphonium / Baritone Horn
- ✚ Double Bass
- ✚ Cello

Music Rehearsals and Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Instrumental Lessons</u>	<u>Event</u>	
		<u>Lunchtime</u>	<u>After School</u>
Monday 30 th November	Brass (Mr Sludden) AM –Last lesson of this term Piano (Mrs Rothwell) AM- Last lesson of this term Guitar (Mr Liberty) AM	Bassoon	Band – <i>Advent</i>
Tuesday 1 st December	Guitar (Mr Liberty) AM Composition and Woodwind (Mr Chapman P1-3) - Last lesson of this term	Choir – <i>Advent and Prize Giving</i>	Concert Band – <i>Prize Giving</i>
Wednesday 2 nd December	Violin and Piano (Ms Coleman) P2-3	Guitar Ensemble Individual Music Help - <i>Advent</i>	GCSE – <i>Composition Assistance</i>
Thursday 3 rd December	Drums (Mr Woodham) P1-4	Brass Ensemble - <i>Carols</i> <u>Practise Rooms CLOSED</u>	GCSE – <i>Composition Assistance</i>
Friday 4 th December		Choir – <i>Advent</i> <u>Practise Rooms CLOSED</u>	

YEAR 11 REVISION SESSIONS

Please find below a list of revision classes which are currently available for Year 11 students. More than likely, extra sessions will be added as the year goes on. I would appreciate if you could strongly encourage your son to attend these sessions if they are applicable to him.

Mr Quane, Pupil Progress Mentor.

Subject	Teacher	Day	Time
English (Higher Tier)	Mr Dooley	Wednesdays	3.30-4.30 in E1
English (Foundation Tier)	Mr Dooley	Tuesdays	3.30-4.30 in E1
Maths	Mr O'Connell (Set 4 only)	Tuesdays and Thursdays	3.35- 5.00 in M1
Maths	Mrs Brudenell (Set 7 only)	Thursdays	1.45-2.15 in M5
Maths	Mr Mulligan (Set 2 only)	Every second Tuesday starting from the 8 th December	3.30-4.30 in M3
Core Science only	Mr Brady	Wednesdays	3.30-4.30 in Lab 5
Geography	Mr Pankhurst	Wednesdays	1.35-2.30 in G1
History and Citizenship	Ms Statovci	Tuesdays	3.30-4.30 in H1
History	Mr Shearman	Thursdays	3.30-4.30 in H2
D & T	Mr Griffin	Thursdays	3.30-4.30 in Tech 2
RE	Mr Griffin	Thursdays	3.30-4.30 in RE 3
Art	Mr Kabarowski	Monday to Friday	Lunchtime
Art	Mrs Osborne	Thursdays	3.30-4.30 in Art 3
Media	Mrs Cotgrove	Tuesdays and Thursdays	1.35-2.30 in MS1
Business Studies	Mrs Lindsey	Thursdays	3.30-4.30 in BS1
Business Studies	Ms McCague	Tuesdays	3.30-4.30 in BS2
Business Studies BTec	Ms Ryan	Tuesdays	3.30-4.30 in BS3
Business Studies BTec	Ms Myhill	Monday to Friday	Lunchtime in BS4
Hospitality Catch up/Revision	Ms Napper	Mondays	3.30-4.30pm in Food Tech



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

Sixth Form House Rounders Final - Wednesday afternoon saw the finals of the Sixth Form Inter House Rounders competition. Over the past few weeks as part of our enrichment programme the students have been learning the rules and practising to hone the skills with help of Mrs Talbot and Mr Spillett.

Although cold it was a hotly contended final with St George's triumphing in the end. The full results were:

- 1st – George's
- 2nd – Andrew's
- 3rd – Sebastian's
- 4th – Patrick's
- 5th – David's

Thank you for all the staff that helped with the sessions and the Sports Leaders for organising the teams. Mrs Hudson, KS5 Pupil Support Mentor.

Cold Weather – A reminder that 'Hoodies' are not permitted in school; students should have a suitable, warm, winter coat. A further reminder that, if your son/daughter cycles to school, the lights and brakes on their bikes are checked regularly.

SPORT FIXTURES

DATE	FIXTURE	Time
30/11/2015	Year 7 Basketball v Belfairs (HOME) U17 Football v Chase (AWAY)	3:45pm
01/12/2015	Year 7 National Cup Football v Dover (HOME) Year 7 Basketball v Chase (HOME) Year 11 Basketball v Chase (AWAY) Year 7 Hockey Practice	2pm 4pm 4pm 3:30 – 4:45pm
02/12/2015	1st XI Football v Colchester (HOME) Year 9 Basketball v Chase (HOME) Year 10 Basketball v Chase (AWAY)	2pm 4pm 4pm
03/12/2015	Year 8 Basketball v Chase (AWAY) U17 Football v Buckswood (HOME)	4pm 2pm
04/12/2015	Year 7 Basketball v Westcliff (AWAY) Year 10/11 Futsal tournament	4pm 08:30 – 2pm