

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

No. 1337 – Friday 22nd January 2016

Dear Parents and Pupils

Prefect Application – Next week during my assembly I will speak to the Year 10 students about the Prefect application process which will open next week. I will visit form group early next week to give the students full details of the process. These details can be found on our website early next week. Those wishing to be considered for the position of Prefect and therefore take part in the trial period later in February, must submit their application electronically and by the deadline of **3.30pm 11th February 2016**.

Links to our Website – A reminder that sports news, department news, information on revision sessions and after school events, trip news, including payments that are due, can all be accessed by clicking [here](#)

Exam Countdown – Click the picture below to see a live countdown of when public exams start on the 16th May 2016.

It's almost **Exam Time**

113 days **21** hours **55** minutes **52** seconds 557

Year 9 Options Information Evening - By now, all year 9 students should have received a letter via email inviting them to their 'Options Information Evening' from 6 – 7.30pm on **Wednesday 3rd February**. We look forward to seeing you on this very important evening and would be grateful if you could ensure that the reply slip attached to this letter is returned to school by **Thursday 28th January**. Mrs A. Hardiman.

School Car Park – Once again, I would remind parents that the school car-parks are not to be used by parents for picking up, in their cars, their sons or daughters at the end of the school day. The closest collection point is behind the fire station and I would ask parents to make use of this rather than the school grounds. I regret that we do not have the room in the car parks. The cars that are being driven in at the end of the day for this purpose are causing congestion and are a hazard. Please remember that this exit is also the main pedestrian exit from the school.

Weekly Prayer

Lord God,

at Cana your Son revealed his power in a beautiful way.

*Help me to live a life which shows other people how amazing you are
and how much your Son can do for them.*

Amen.

Debating/Public Speaking News A report by John Jenkins 11A - On Saturday 16th January Kieran Laking-Morris, Hanley Spence, George Morton, Jacob Woods, William Blackstone Whines and I visited The National College of the Humanities in Bedford Square for the Cambridge Debate Competition. It was a fantastic experience in the heart of London and we were up against many private schools and grammar schools. Despite this, we came out with good results as William Blackstone-Whines and I won our debate with the topic of adoption. I would like to thank Mrs Webb for the fantastic experience and I'm sure that opportunities like this will arise again if you want to get involved. John Jenkins 11/A.

Public Speaking Opportunity - We have been invited once again to take part in the ROTARY DISTRICT 1240 YOUTH SPEAKS COMPETITIONS 2016. The competition is open to teams of three comprising a chairperson, a main speaker and a proposer of the vote of thanks. There are two categories; an intermediate category for students aged 11-13 and a senior competition for students aged 14-17. The District Final will be held at the Essex County Council Chambers in Chelmsford on the evening of Wednesday 9th March (Intermediates) and Wednesday 16th March (Seniors). I invite teams of three to put themselves forward by attending a meeting in RE4 at 1.35pm on Monday 25th January. If there are more than one team applying there will be a preliminary round held at St Thomas More in order to decide who will represent us. Mrs Webb.

Year 8 Retreats - I was pleased to attend Form 8A's retreat on Monday and to see how well the boys responded to this opportunity for reflection, fun and prayer at Walsingham House, our Diocesan Youth Retreat Centre. All students in Year 8 have now had their retreat and the staff accompanying the students have reported full engagement and good standards of behaviour from all. Well done Year 8. Mrs Webb.

Brentwood Cathedral Mass - Sunday February 14th 6:30pm

"The Jubilee Door of Mercy is open"

"The community at Brentwood Cathedral, the mother church of the diocese, invites the stranger, the wounded and all those who may be searching for spiritual sanctuary, to cross the threshold of mercy and to join us in the presence of our all compassionate God."

Brentwood Cathedral will be holding a special Mass "Welcoming all refugees, those enslaved by all forms of human trafficking and those who help and care for them". More information about services held can be found here – www.cathedral-brentwood.org

The logo for Schoolgateway, featuring the word "Schoolgateway" in a blue, sans-serif font. The "S" is larger and more stylized, and the "y" has a long tail that curves under the "way".

87% of Parents are registered on the Gateway, join today! - School Gateway is the fastest and easiest way to keep up to date with school information, pay for school trips and dinner money and get notifications about pupil attendance and behaviour. Accessible from any device with an internet

connection and available for free download as an app for iPhone and Android phones. Join 87% of parents who are already registered on the School Gateway. All you need to do is enter your email address and mobile number by [clicking here](#) (or downloading the app via your app store) you will then receive a PIN number which you will use to login to the system.

Any issues or queries pertaining to the gateway please email Mr Marshall - jmarshall@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk

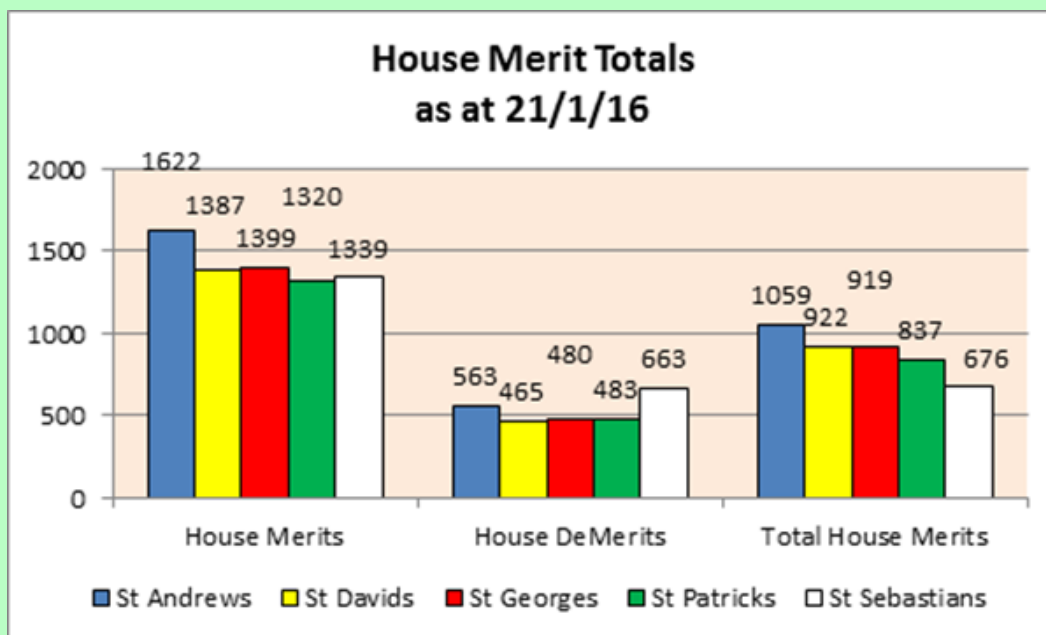
Banking/Finance Event 10th February 2016 - Westcliff High School for Boys Main Hall - Invitations are extended to students in every year from Year 7 to Year 13 and their parents; There will be four speakers from the banking/finance sector who will have a 30 minute slot. There will be a brief Q&A session afterwards. Tickets are free of charge and can be booked via <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk>.

St Thomas More PSA Facebook Page - St Thomas More PSA have launched a closed Facebook group which they welcome ALL parents to join. It may be found here: www.facebook.com/STMPSA or by searching for 'STMPSA' on Facebook. If you would like to add yourself to the group, no commitment is required and you may participate in discussions or just be kept informed as you choose. The group is all inclusive and is about more than just fund-raising it is a community forum for our parents and staff. Closed groups allow the group to be seen but its posts can only be seen by the other group members – they will not appear on your own Facebook page. We do ask that all parents read and adhere to group rules and etiquette and take note of the school's disclaimer.

Years 11/12/13 Revision Sessions – For details on revision sessions, please click on the link, below.
<http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/curriculum/revision-timetable.pdf>



House News!



SPORTS FIXTURES

DATE	FIXTURE	TIME
25/01/2016	Year 8 Basketball v Southend (AWAY) U18 Basketball v King John (AWAY)	4pm 4:15pm
26/01/2016	U18 Essex Basketball v King John (AWAY) Year 9 Basketball v Southend (AWAY) Year 7 Basketball v Southend (HOME)	2:30pm 4:00pm 4:00pm
27/01/2016	1st XI Football v Shoebury (AWAY) U18 Basketball v SEEVIC (HOME) Catholic Primary Schools Sports Network - Indoor Cricket	2:00pm 4:00pm Pds 1 - 4
28/01/2016	Year 11 Basketball v Southend (HOME)	4:00pm