

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

No. 1338 – Friday 29th January 2016

Dear Parents and Pupils

School Car Park – Further to my notice in last week's Contact about parent dropping off and collecting their sons/daughters from the school car park, it has been brought to my attention that, during the dark winter months, parents who collect their sons/daughters from evening sports fixtures from the large car park at the rear of the school, are driving a bit fast in the narrow, dark stretch of path between the car park and the rear playground. Some students could be leaving the school on their bikes and a car coming round the sharp bend could very easily collide into them. Please could I ask parents to drive very carefully in this area. Thank you for your support.

Highlight of the Week

I have two highlights this week. The first was hearing from a parent who informed me that she attended an Employers' Apprenticeship event on behalf of her company and was delighted to inform me that one of our former students, Ben Larkin, did a presentation about his decision to follow an apprenticeship route, rather than the more traditional university one. She wrote, '.... He presented well and was a great ambassador for his current employer.' It is always nice to hear how our former students are getting on and it was very nice of her to take the time to get in touch with me to let me know.

I also received an email from an LSA of Our Lady of Ransom School who accompanied some of their pupils to our Catholic Primary Schools Sports Network - Indoor Cricket event which took place on Wednesday. She wrote, '....I have just attended the cricket sports experience with 6 boys from OLOR and would like to pass on my sincere thanks to all involved for organising such a wonderful event. The boys had a fantastic time and were made to feel very welcome, as was myself. Tea, coffee and sandwiches were lovely! The event was very well organised and kept the boys busy and focused at all times, whilst having great fun! Thanks to all staff and pupils for giving up their time to spend with the younger children. It is very much appreciated'. My thanks to our PE department and the kitchen staff for their hard work.

Year 9 Options Information Evening - Just a reminder that it is Year 9 'Options Information Evening' on **Wednesday 3rd February**, from 6pm – 7.30pm. All families of year 9 students should have received a letter, via school comms, detailing the arrangements for the evening and the start of the options process. If you still have not received this information spare copies can be collected from reception. We look forward to seeing you on this very important evening. Mrs A. Hardiman.

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: <https://www.facebook.com/STMPSA#!/groups/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>

Weekly Prayer

*Lord God,
your Son came with your Spirit to bring good news,
and Luke came after him to pass that good news on.
Help me to be good news to others,
and help my life to draw others to you.
Amen.*

Visiting Speaker - Today we were pleased to welcome into school Eamonn Hyde, who is the new vocations promoter for Brentwood Diocese. Eamonn works closely with Father Dominic Howarth within the newly formed Vicariate for Pastoral Formation and today he shared his experiences with Year 12 students as part of their General RE Programme. There was also an opportunity for him to meet with our Chaplaincy leaders and captains informally during the lunch break. Hopefully Eamonn will visit our school again soon, to help shape a culture of vocation for our pupils and to weave into their teenage lives a deep understanding that we are all called by God for some definite purpose.

Public Speaking opportunity - This week several students expressed an interest in competing in the forthcoming Rotary Youth Speaks Public Speaking Competition which takes place in March. If they wish to be considered as a team of 3 they now need to see me by the end of Monday 1st February to make their application. The first preparation session will take place in RE4 at 1.35pm on Wednesday 3rd February.

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**

106 days **23** hours **4** minutes **1** seconds 323



Bookbuzz - All students in Year 7 should have received their choice of free book in English lessons this week. Please encourage students to read these books and perhaps to share with others once they have finished. All students have a reading log which should be completed weekly and signed by parents. We value your support in encouraging our students to read widely for pleasure. D Cotgrove, Interim Head of English.

Ms Statovci Fundraising for the Duke of Edinburgh - This year the D of E has asked people to help fundraise for their great cause. I am taking up the challenge to raise money for the D of E. by learning to ride a 600cc motorbike and pass my tests - hopefully before June 2016 and I'd really appreciate your support. For the last 3 years I have worked with the D of E helping students from our own school achieve the D of E award and in the process gain experiences that they will never forget. I would like to try and give something back to the D of E.

Donating to my JustGiving page is easy - just follow this link and click Donate:
<http://www.justgiving.com/owner-email/pleasesponsor/ClareStatovci>

JustGiving sends your donation straight to The DofE so it's a quick and safe way to donate.

Thank you in advance for any support you can give. Ms Statovci.





Rotary Young Chef Competition - On Thursday 21st January Edward Asaman, 9G, competed in the area round of the Rotary Young Chef Competition. This took place at South East Essex College and he was up against students from local schools. It was a very tough competition and I am very pleased to announce that Ed came 3rd!! The students that came 2nd and 1st place were both GCSE Food Technology students so they had an extra years' experience. One of the judges commented that the chocolate brownie that he served as part of his dessert was the best he had ever tasted! The judges commended all students on the quality of the 3 course meals that they produced in an industrial kitchen which is very different environment to that found in schools. This is the first year that STM has entered the competition and we intend to enter again next year so any budding chefs at home keep cooking!! Mrs Napper (Teacher of Food Technology)

Collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids 2016 Vouchers - ACTIVE KIDS

2016 - We are collecting Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers again this year. Vouchers are available in store from 27th January to 3rd May 2016. Please ask your friends and families to collect the vouchers for our school – there is a box outside the canteen for the students to place the vouchers. This is an easy way to “buy” sports and cooking equipment to use in school. For more information on what is on offer – <https://activekids.sainsburys.co.uk/>

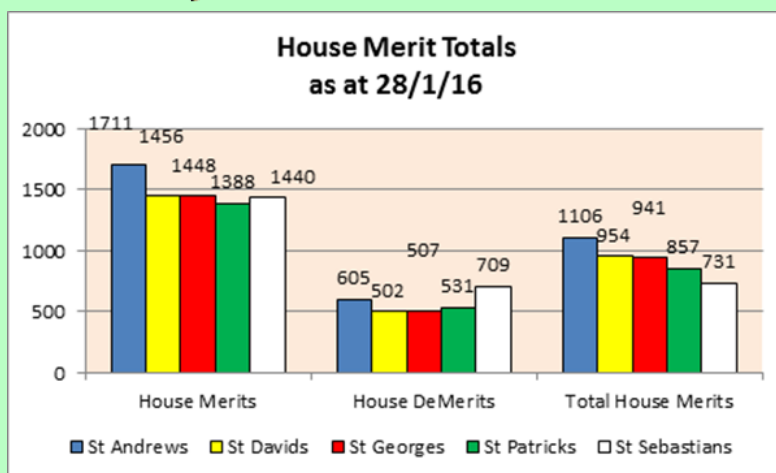


Mrs Napper (Enrichment Programme Leader/Food Technology Teacher)

Focal Point Gallery - There are three funded places available at Focal Point Gallery in Southend, to undertake the nationally recognized Bronze Art Award (UCAS points available for Gold award). This is open to students from year 7 onwards. Sessions run each Thursday in term time from 4.00pm to 6.00pm at Focal Point Gallery, situated in the Forum Southend-on-Sea. Although participants will undertake a visual arts challenge, they do not necessarily need to be doing art at school but they should be open to a challenge and be prepared to undertake some self-directed research. Students will be supported by professional artists and trained Arts Award advisors who have undergone the appropriate checks. The award offers a variety of transferable skills including increased self-confidence, motivation and organisation. Although this course has already commenced, there is a settling in period factored into the timetable so participants will be welcome to join within the next two to three weeks.

If you would like more information or an application form, please see Mrs Osborne in Art 3, either before school or during the beginning half of lunch.

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!



PE DEPARTMENT NEWS



Essex Year 8/9 Futsal Tournament Semi Finalists - Well done to all students involved in the County Year 8/9 Futsal tournament last week at Waterside in Canvey. The boys had a very impressive tournament, getting through to the semi-final of the competition. A really impressive performance in their first ever Futsal tournament.

Catholic Primary Cricket Day - On Wednesday we hosted our feeder schools for an action packed day of cricket. 6 students from each school came to STM to have a masterclass in cricket. The STM GCSE PE cricket coaches were fantastic. We look forward to seeing all our schools soon for the "Hot Cross Run".

Essex Cross Country Success - A number of the STM students took part in the Essex Championships last weekend at Hilly Fields course in Colchester. Special mentions to the following students who ran extremely well and have qualified to represent the Essex Team in the Southern Counties Championships:

- Lucy Kidwell – Year 13
- Michael Hodges – Year 12
- Sam Norris – Year 10

SPORTS FIXTURES

DATE	FIXTURE	TIME
01/02/2016		
02/02/2016	Year 10 Basketball v Southend (HOME) 4pm Year 9 Basketball v Shoebury (AWAY) 4pm	
03/02/2016	1st XI Football v Chelmsford (HOME) 2pm Sixth Form Basketball v Brentwood (HOME) 2.30pm	
04/02/2016	Sixth Form Basketball v Bromfords (AWAY) 3.30pm Year 8 Basketball v Shoebury (HOME) Year 7 Basketball v Cecil Jones (AWAY)	
05/02/2016		