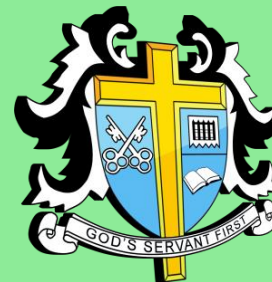




CONTACT

No. 1396 – Friday 7th July 2017



Dear Parents and Pupils,

Open Evening – Yesterday evening, I was delighted to meet the parents and families of so many pupils looking for a secondary school place in September 2018. I would like to thank all of our staff members who worked so hard to prepare for the evening. A special thank you must go to the many wonderful students of our school who helped staff prepare the classroom displays and who led our guests on tours around our school. We have already received some responses from families of prospective pupils:

‘.....I am writing to thank you most sincerely for the warm and courteous welcome and reception that we received. We were most impressed by the children, the staff and the school itself. As practising Catholics ourselves, we were so pleased to see how the Catholic ethos permeates throughout the school.

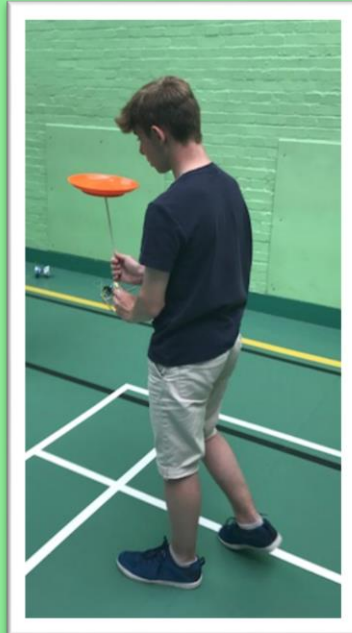
We were accompanied on our visit by Paul Galea and, for the first half of our visit, by another young man; I believe his name was Daniel. I cannot stress too highly how helpful and courteous both boys were. They are a credit to you and the school. Please pass on our sincere thanks to them both and to all who welcomed us.’

‘.....I just wanted to say that we (my wife, children and I) now have a very good impression of your school, mostly in part from the fantastic job that young Finn Parker Form 7G did, being a parent chaperone.

He was an absolute delight and answered the barrage of questions we had about his experiences in the school with aplomb, good humour and honesty. He truly is a credit to the school and his parents.....’

Enrichment Day – On Tuesday, the whole school took part in enrichment sessions; from a trip to Adventure Island for Year 7; a hike in the countryside for Year 8; to a Circus Skills workshop, Gaelic football, a First Aid session and Orienteering for Year 9 and an Interview Skills Workshop for Year 10. All in all, both students and staff alike had a great day, as you can see from a selection of photographs taken on the day. Many thanks to all involved, including the impressive behaviour of our students who made it easy for the staff to enjoy the day too.





Year 7 Big Bike Ride – A reminder that the Year 7 'Big Bike Ride' takes place on Thursday 13th July. Please ensure that your son wears clothes suitable for a bike ride and remembers to bring his cycle helmet, packed lunch and some water in a small two strap rucksack. Sun cream should be worn. If your son failed to complete the level 2 or 3 bikeability training, it is not possible for him to ride and a letter has been sent to their parents. He will however be transported to East Beach to join his peers in a picnic and games.

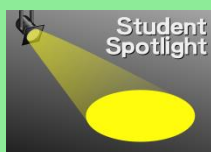
St Thomas More Day – Our St Thomas More Day Celebration is planned to take place on Friday 14th July 2017. School uniform is to be worn. Our Commissioning Assembly for our new student leaders will take place in the morning, followed by house activities and mini-sports (PE kits will be needed if your son/daughter is taking part in the mini-sports). **Our solemn Mass is to begin at 12:30pm and will finish at approximately 1:35pm, after this time, the students will be dismissed for an early finish.** We hope for very warm and sunny weather, in which case could you please ensure your son/daughter has a hat and sun cream.

End of Term 21st July - Please note that term finishes at 1:35 pm on Friday 21st July. The contract buses will be arriving at the usual time of 3:30pm. **Boys who travel by contract buses will shortly receive a letter asking parents to confirm their travel arrangements home on this day.** Students return to school on Monday 4th September at 08:40am. It will be Timetable Week 1.





Sports Day 18th July – Can parents please ensure that their sons/daughters have some spare cash on them on our Sports Day which is being held on 18th July as there will be an ice cream van for them to purchase ice creams, lollies, etc.



Martial Arts Award – Congratulations to Elliot de Florinier (Form 8D) for achieving his Black Sash in Wing Chun Kung Fu. Elliot started training in this martial art when he was just 4yrs old. He has worked extremely hard to reach this level, and took the test straight after our Enrichment Day hike! Well done Elliot!

Former Student News – We have three former students to report on today. I am always delighted to hear how our former students are getting on and celebrating their successes – well done!

Congratulations to former student, Sean Jones, who has successfully achieved a 2:1 BSc (Hons) in Politics and International Relations, from Canterbury Christchurch University. Sean also was conferred with 'colours' for sporting contribution and he received recognition from the Parish Church in Canterbury, for mentoring young people, training altar servers and working with the homeless.

Sean's brother, Liam, is about to start a Law degree, after spending the last two years in the Cabinet Office, specifically, in the Office of the Parliamentary Council and his other brother, Conor, is working towards completion of his Engineering Level 3 and hopes to specialise in rail engineering.

Weekly prayer

Lord God,

*you ask us to take up our cross and follow you,
and you give us the strength to handle it.*

*Help me to put aside everything coming between us
so that I can be the person you want me to be.*

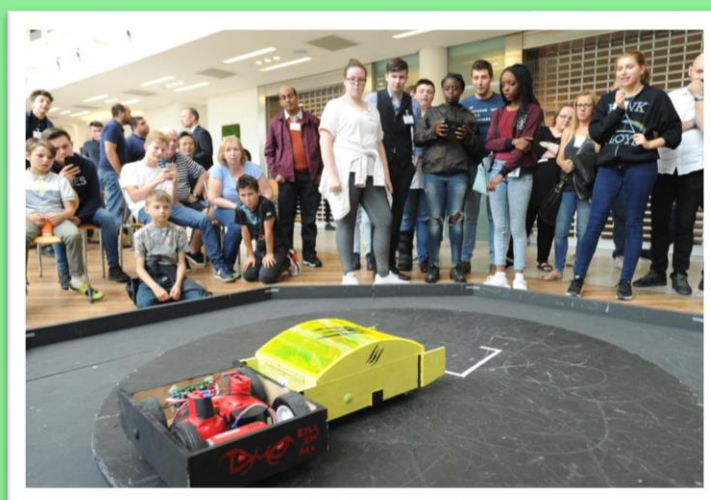
Amen.

House Cadre - On Monday morning all newly elected leaders will meet with their Year 12 Captains on the Concourse at 0850 to begin to get to know each other and to plan for forthcoming House activities. All appointments will be announced by Form teachers at the beginning of Form period. Good Luck to all with their term of office. We look forward to witnessing our young people growing as servant leaders as they take up their roles.

Rampaging Chariots: Wolver-Mean - On Saturday 1 July, Raphael Sossou and Greg D'Silva competed in this year's Rampaging Chariots competition organised and hosted by Leonardo Basildon. The two boys and Joe Trim, who was unable to attend on the day, dedicated their own time during lunch and after school to successfully construct a remote-controlled robot. Their objective? To compete and win.

On the day of the event, our boys competed in 3 challenges across the course of the day; Sumo, Assault course and Two-a-side Football. In the morning, the Sumo activity, our boys showed skill and determination in reaching the final unbeaten. They won an outstanding four games in a row including victories

over Westcliff High School for Boys and South Essex College. However, after a steely performance against St Martins, we were beaten, ultimately finishing as runner up. An unfortunate engineering malfunction put an early end to our challenge in the assault course, despite some fantastic driving previously having us on course for a record finish. Nonetheless, credit to our boys, they recovered strongly from this, to team up with Mayflower High School in Billericay, and embark on another thrilling run in the two-a-side football in the afternoon session. An extra-time golden goal





against Westcliff High School for Boys put us into a semi-final against King Edmund School where despite the concession of an early goal, we recovered for a 2-1 win and take our place in the final. Unfortunately, we met an old foe in the final in St Martins and, despite taking an early lead, we eventually lost out.

Despite our final heartbreak, a great day was had by all. Our boys showed great skill and teamwork, from the construction of their robot through to the last kick of the football on the day. We are very proud of our boys and wish them many congratulations for their great work. Mr Leamy, Head of Design and Technology.

A Level and GCSE Certificates – We have a large number of A Level and GCSE Certificates dating back three years that can be collected from the school reception on any Thursday between 09:00 – 3:30pm.

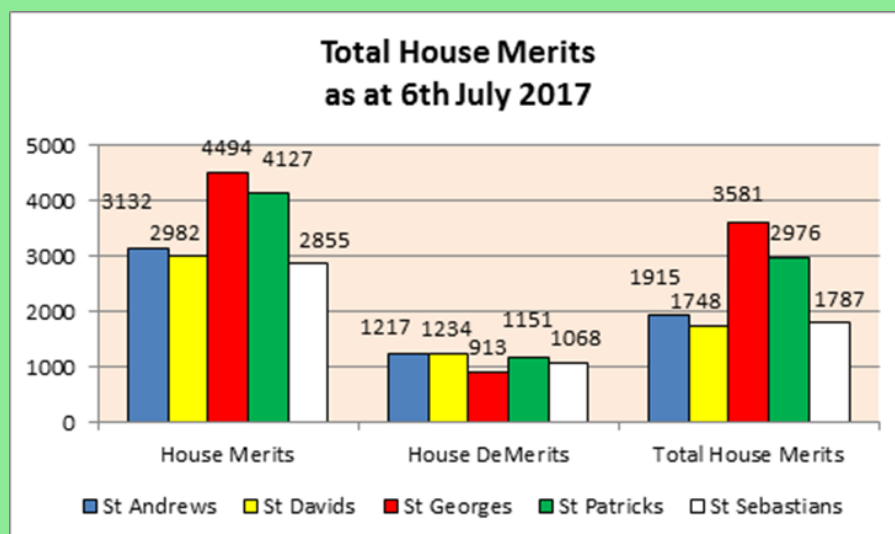
Bike Safety – There has been a spate of bike thefts in the area recently. Can parents please ensure that their sons/daughters have secure locks for their bicycles? The bikes that are secured in our locked school bike sheds are safe and secure, but some students are arriving late to school and leaving their bikes unlocked in the bike shed in the school car park, leaving them vulnerable to theft. Thank you for your continued support. Mr Mason, Director of Learning i/c Pupil Behaviour and Safety.

Catering Balance – Can parents please ensure that all balances should be cleared for any monies owed for catering by the end of the term. Please also ensure that students have enough credit on their account for food as we seem to have a lot of students coming for credit.

Essex Ultra Marathon - Mr. Griffin is running the Essex Ultra marathon on Saturday 15th July, which is a 51.6 mile run. He is hoping to raise money for the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society, a charity which provides an early intervention service with children throughout Essex and East London, focusing on enabling them to address difficulties that may be impeding their educational, social and emotional development. You can help Mr Griffin raise money for this great cause by donating directly to his fundraising page by clicking [here](#) JustGiving sends your donation straight to BCCS - Brentwood Catholic Children's Society and automatically reclaims Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer, so your donation is worth even more. Thank you for your support.



House News!



SPORTS NEWS

House Cricket - A great week of House cricket has seen some excellent performances, new players to the game and some great team spirit. Well done to our winners and all those that took part. Two more competitions to come next week which will see some more excellent cricket played.

- Year 7 winners – St George's
- Year 9 winners – St Andrew's
- Year 12 – St Patrick's



FIXTURES

DATE	FIXTURE	TIME
10/07/2017		
11/07/2017	Year 10 House Cricket (Sports Hall) Year 7 Cricket Training 3:30-5:00	Pds 1-4 3:30pm – 5:00pm
12/07/2017	Year 8 House Cricket (Sports Hall) Year 8 cricket vs WHSB	Pds 1-4 4:00pm
13/07/2017	Year 7 Cricket v KEGS (AWAY) Year 9 vs WHSB	2:00pm-5:30pm 4:00pm
14/07/2017	ST THOMAS MORE DAY Staff v Boys Cricket	2:00pm

EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORTS TIMETABLE

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8am-8:30am	BTEC Booster Session TR6 (EK)	Athletics: Throwing events Track - Sprints Jumping events		Athletics: Track - Middle Distance	Athletics: Hurdles
Lunch: 12:45-1:20pm	Indoor cricket – all years		Btec catchup – TR6		
After-school:	Year 7 Cricket Nets (Sports Hall) 3.30-5.00pm Athletics – Track & Field Years 9 & 10		Athletics – Track & Field Years 7 & 8	Years 8 & 9 Cricket Nets (Sports Hall) 3.30-5.00pm	Badminton club

Please note – After-school clubs are subject to change depending on fixtures and staff meetings.