



CONTACT

No. 1397 – Thursday 20th July 2017



Dear Parents and Pupils,



End of Term I can't believe that we bring to a close another busy school year at 1:35pm this Friday, 21st July. In the last few weeks alone there have been so many highlights, please see below for the reports and photos of just a few of our events. I wish you all a peaceful, safe and happy summer holiday. All students return to school on Monday 4th September at 08:40am. The new Year 12 students have an Induction Day on Friday 1st September.



Traditionally, this is the main time of the year when schools experience the comings and goings of staff. Tomorrow we will say farewell to Mr Shearman, Mrs Shearman, Mr Quane and Mrs Quane, wishing them all the very best for their relocations and thanking them for all they have brought to the school and the children in their care over their years of service. We will also say a fond farewell to Mr Johnson, Mr Dewan, Mr Davies, Mr Reza and Ms Hynes.

We look forward to welcoming our full complement of staff in September.

Sports Day – Our sports day was held on Tuesday of this week. Well done to the House Leaders who encourage their House teammates to participate in the races. Please click [here](#) for a report on the school's website.

Presentations Assembly – Tomorrow, we are due to hold our presentations assembly. This assembly is a continuation of our celebration of the students' achievements in recognition for their successes in sport, the arts, community life, liturgy, and charitable works, etc. Please take a look at the [school's website](#) on Friday to see the presentation PowerPoint.

Prayer of St Thomas More

*O Lord, give us a mind that is humble, quiet,
Peaceable, patient and charitable,
and a taste of your Holy Spirit
in all our thoughts, words and deeds.*

*O Lord, give us a lively faith, a firm hope,
a fervent charity, a love for you.*

*Take from us all lukewarmness
in meditation and all dullness in prayer.
Give us fervour and delight in thinking of you, your grace,
and your tender compassion toward us.*

*Give us, good Lord,
the grace to work for the things
we pray for. Amen*

St Thomas More Day – On Friday, we celebrated the Feast Day of our patron, St Thomas More. The day began with the Commissioning Assembly of our new Student Leaders, followed by House Activities and Mini-Sports. This was followed by a solemn Mass, led by Father Eamonn Power. We are also grateful to Father Jeff Woolnough and Fr Daniel Kelly who came along to concelebrate Mass. We were also joined by guests including some of our governors, former staff and long term friends of our school. With the students enjoying an early dismissal, staff, their families and our guests enjoyed a BBQ and buffet and watched some cricket on our school field. My thanks go to all the staff involved in making the day so special; Mrs Webb and Mrs Maxfield for organising the Mass and music; Mrs Potton and her catering team for the wonderful buffet; the site team for their hard work organising the field for the events and the office team for their behind the scenes administrative work. My thanks also to the students of St Thomas More for their good behaviour, as always.

Final House Merit Marks for this Year

St Andrew's	St David's	St George's	St Patrick's	St Sebastian's
1918	1759	3607	3007	1794

St Thomas More Feast Day Commissioning Assembly - The badges of office were presented to our school leaders for the forthcoming year. The newly appointed Heads of School and Year 12 Captains were announced together with the Leaders in Years 7-10. The students were gathered in their House teams and the term "cadre" was introduced. This term will be used to describe this team of leaders and we hope that our House cadres will continue to build House identity over the forthcoming year. Students committed themselves to lead, declaring the following pledge



'As student leaders of the Saint Thomas More School community we commit ourselves in service to God, family, school, friends and study. We pledge to seek Jesus Christ in all that we do. We aim to lead, not for our own recognition and glory, but as servants of all'.

With faith in God we acknowledge and accept their commitment to lead as servants of the Saint Thomas More School community. Congratulations to all our newly appointed student leaders.

Leadership Team

**HEAD BOY
HEAD GIRL**

**THOMAS MILLHAM
ELENA BAILEY**



ST ANDREW'S HOUSE

**HOUSE CAPTAIN
CHAPLAINCY CAPTAIN
SPORTS CAPTAIN**

**LILY RODRIGUEZ
MARRIA KANICHAJ
EBUKA NWANYA**



ST DAVID'S HOUSE

**HOUSE CAPTAIN
CHAPLAINCY CAPTAIN
SPORTS CAPTAIN**

**CONNOR MACMAHON
MELITA BENOY
ELOISE SMITH**



ST GEORGE'S HOUSE

HOUSE CAPTAIN
CHAPLAINCY CAPTAIN
SPORTS CAPTAIN

ISSY GREEN
DANIEL MANN
BROGAN LITTLEJOHN



ST PATRICK'S HOUSE

HOUSE CAPTAIN
CHAPLAINCY CAPTAIN
SPORTS CAPTAIN

MARK JACKSON
RHEA JACKSON
JACOB CULLEN



ST SEBASTIAN'S HOUSE

HOUSE CAPTAIN
CHAPLAINCY CAPTAIN
SPORTS CAPTAIN

ANDREW MILLHAM
SOPHIE RANKIN
OSCAR WALLER

A Level Results Day:

Year 13: A Level Results will be available from 9am in the Sports Hall on Thursday 17th August. Please use the entrance at the back of the school to gain access to the Sports Hall. Staff will be on hand to support you with your next steps, including securing university places and post-results services.

Year 12: AS Results will be available from 10am in the Sports Hall on Thursday 17th August. Please use the entrance at the back of the school to gain access to the Sports Hall. Staff will be on hand to support you with your next steps, including sign up to year 13.

GCSE Results Day:

GCSE Results will be available from 10am in the Sports Hall on Thursday 24th August. Please use the entrance at the back of the school to gain access to the Sports Hall. Staff will be on hand to support you with your next steps, including sixth form enrolment and post-result services.

*******NO RESULTS CAN BE GIVEN OUT VIA E-MAIL OR PHONE*******

School Equipment and Uniform – Please can all pupils and students ensure that they wear the correct school uniform, including black school shoes, not trainer and have all the necessary equipment needed as stated in the Code of Conduct so that a good start can be made in the new academic year in September.

Mall Galleries - On 12th July, the annual National Students' Art Exhibition was held, at the Mall Galleries at Westminster in London. This is an exhibition sponsored by the Royal Society of British Artists (RBA) and showcases the best student work in the country. Eight of our students had their work on show. This is a highly prestigious exhibition and the selection procedure is rigorous. Well done to all the following students who had their work on show; Christian Dabu, Eddie Jones, Ella Holmes, Galvin Salvador-Regaldo, Harrison Lee, Maria Hartley, Oscar Waller and Thabang Ngwenya. Congratulations also to Neve Rogers and Miles Mulcahy who both received Highly Commended certificates for their artwork. Photographs of the artwork can be viewed on our website by [clicking here](#)

Former Student News – Congratulations to former student, Daniel Arif, who has completed his apprenticeship at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden and has just been offered employment there – well done Daniel! We are very grateful to Daniel for the support that he still offers the Music Department in a voluntary capacity.

Also, yesterday, we welcomed former student, Ed Lynch, into school. Ed is currently training to be a Police Officer and part of his training was to be involved in some Pastoral care work which we were delighted to assist him with. We wish him all the very best in his chosen career.

Confirmation - Will you be in Year 10 or above from September onwards and live in St. George's Parish, Shoburyness? If so, we would like to invite you to put your name forward for Confirmation next year. At present we are only trying to get an idea of numbers; details of the programme will follow when we know the date of Bishop Alan's visit in 2018. Please telephone or email the office to register your interest (01702 292726 stgeorgesrccchurch@btinternet.com). If you have any questions please speak directly with Fr Brett Adams.

Catholic History Walk – The King's Good Servant Tuesday 25th July 6pm. The history of the heroic St Thomas More Meet at the Church of Our Most Holy Redeemer, Chelsea. Nearest tube: Sloan Square or South Kensington.

Year 9 Mountain Walking Trip - Lake District 15th-18th June 2017 - The beautiful shores of Wastwater was the setting for this years' Year 9 Mountain Walking Trip based at Wasdale Youth Hostel, in the Western Fells of the Lake District. Day one started in Eskdale at the picturesque village of Booth. A walk up to Burnt Moor Tarn saw the best of the views. The ascent of Ill Gill and the ridge walk to Whin Rigg (height 1,755 feet) was completed in low cloud until the final descent back to Wastwater and dinner in the Hostel. The next day, as forecast, beautiful clear skies allowed a near perfect ascent of England's highest mountain Sca Fell Pike (3,209 feet) with panoramic views over to Great Gable, Pillar, Sca Fell, and the Langdale Pikes. A refreshing dip in the lake that evening cooled everybody down ready for our last days walk up the very steep, but beautiful Yewbarrow (1,686 feet) which completed a very tough but satisfying three days of walking in England's highest mountains. Well done to Alfie Treacher, Archie Twine, Daniel Ratcliff, Ethan King, Euan Tucker, Hysen Alsela, John Cachia, Joseph Bolt, Joshua Cronin, Joshua Faires, Kane Pugsley, Kai Davis, Kristian Eklund, Luke Chapman, Marcus Stoleru, Miguel Hall-Balina, Nathan Juniper, Noah Severwright, Noyal Mathew, Ryan Mortis, Thomas Mann, Thomas Quinn, William Mason, William Pier, William Russell, and a big thank you to Mr Hollingsworth, Mrs Webb, Miss Curtis, Sam Mason and Mr Griffin for giving up their weekend to make the trip such a big success. Mr G Mason.

Mountain Walking Trip- Scotland Friday 7th to Tuesday 11th July 2017 - The long 12 hour journey up to Glen Nevis



Youth Hostel did not dampen the spirits of the students keen to experience Britain's highest mountains in the Lochaber area. The first day saw a long steep ascent onto the Grey Corries ridge. Striking for its colour, the MetaQuartzite ridge provided a fantastic view point of the surrounding mountains of Ben Nevis, the Aonachs, Mamores and as far north as the Cuillin Ridge of Sky. A long 10 hour day was rewarded by the ascent of Stob Coire An Laoigh (3,661 feet) as well as the two 'tops' of Stob Coire An Easain and Caisteal. The good

weather didn't last and a very damp ascent of Ben Nevis (4,409 feet) on day two whilst enjoyable, taught the group the importance of preparation and the need for correct mountain equipment. Day three, a long drive out to Loch Quoich via Glen Garry gave the group a chance to climb a very isolated Munro-Sgurr a' Mhaoraich (3,369 feet). Fantastic views over to Loch Hourn and the Rough Bounds of Knoydart to the west and the Torridon Hills to the north. This six hour ascent in good weather completed a very gruelling three days mountain walking which the group coped with, to their credit with great determination. Well done to all that took part, Alex Gilbert, Alexander Hill, Alexander Keeble, Alexander Mann, Billy Piercy, Brendan McAlpine, Charlie Beresford, Denver Barry-Hannan, Gregory D'Silva, James Mills, Joseph Trim, Jude King, Mitchell Brushette, Nicholas Horton, Raphael Sossou, Raphie Parascandolo, Thomas

Fyvie, William Parker, Lewis Dye, Michael O'Brien, Joseph Quinn, George Hennessy, Joe O'Kane and Harry Pulham. A special thank you to Mr Griffin, Mr Hardiman, Sam Mason and Mrs Saunders for giving up their weekend to contribute to such an enjoyable trip. Mr G. Mason.

Year 10 D of E Expedition Training - Friday 30th June to Saturday 1st July 2017 - The year 10 bronze D of E group undertook their expedition training using Belchamps camp site as their base. The weather remained perfect with beautiful sunshine and mild temperatures to allow them to pitch camp, cook their evening meal and undertaken a navigation training exercise whilst hiking back to the camp from Canewdon, Hullbridge, Fambridge and the surrounding area of Hockley Woods and Roach Valley. Well done to all those that took part, we now look forward to the assessment weekend in September. Thank you to Miss Main, Mr Marshall, Mrs Wilkes, Mrs Saunders, Sam Mason and Mr Griffin for giving up their time freely to support the students. Mr G Mason.



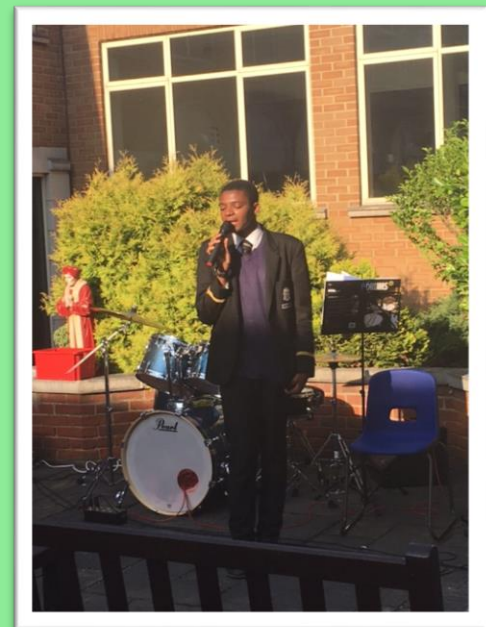
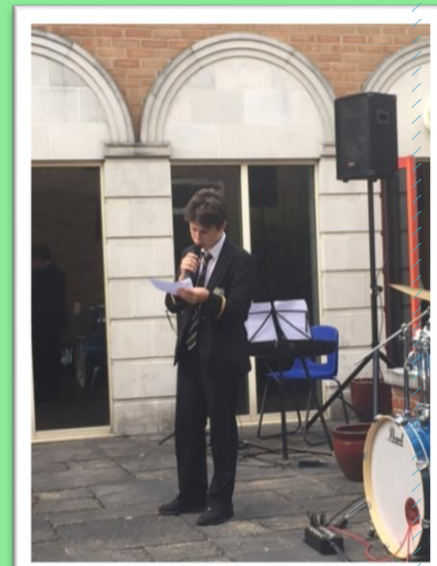
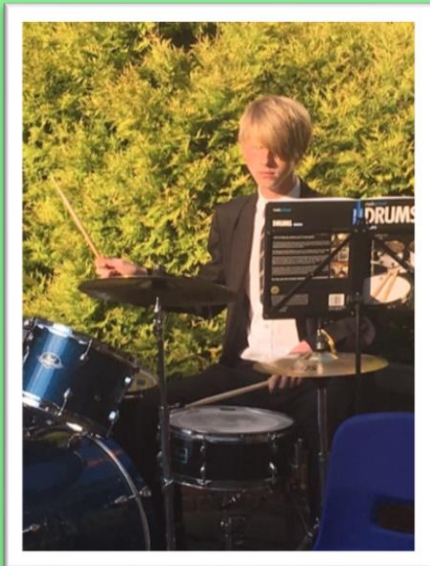
Year 9 D of E Expedition Training- Monday 3rd to Tuesday 4th July 2017 - Year 9 this time camped at Belchamps the following Monday to also undertake their bronze D of E practice. An enjoyable evening around the camp fire was the highlight of a very successful two days where camping and navigation skills were practiced. Well done to all those that took part. A special thank you to Miss Curtis, Mr Wiltshire, Mr Breen, Mrs Saunders, Sam Mason and Mr Griffin as well as the three sixth form volunteers, Alex Hill, Joe Hardcastle and Julius Manikas.

Year 7 Big Bike Ride to Shoebury East Beach - Thursday 13th July 2017 - Our annual Big Bike ride took place last Thursday which is the culmination of the Bikeability training undertaken by all year 7's last March. The weather was glorious for the 9 mile return cycle along the seafront to Shoebury East Beach where the students had a picnic and games break. Probably the



smoothest trip so far with very few problems with bikes or students with tired legs! Well done, the students' conduct was exemplary and a credit to the school. A big thank you to all the staff that helped supervise.

Musical Performance Evening – The Year 10 GCSE Music students hosted a 'performance evening' last Thursday. It was a lovely evening enjoyed by families of the students as they showcased their solo performance and compositions ready for exam submission. Well done to all those involved, you were a great credit to yourselves and I look forward to hearing your final recordings. Mr Riches- Head of Music.



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.

Cleaners Required – We require 3 part time cleaners from September 2017. One morning cleaner and two afternoon cleaners. Please email anewman@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk for more details.

Summer Programming Challenge – GCSE Computer Science – GCSE Computer Science students have been set an extended programming challenge to complete over the summer holiday. This piece of work is in preparation for the Non Examined Assessment (course work) which your son will be expected to complete over the autumn term. We

have found student who continue to use their programming skills over the summer break are more able to complete the tasks than those who have not. To this end we would ask you to encourage your son to complete the work by Monday 4 September and to bring the work in on a memory stick. We will mark the assignment and merits will be awarded to the student(s) who produce detailed reports with supporting evidence of the program developed.

Students have been given an assignment sheet and a support booklet to help them complete the challenge. We have also created a support page on the VLE which can be found at:

<https://vle.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/course/view.php?id=2179>

The work is to be handed to their Computer Science teacher during their first Computer Science lesson of the first week back. Mrs S Chell/ Mr J Marshall Computer Science Teachers.

Science requests - I would like to develop a database of parents who are scientists or engineers who would be willing to be involved in events, competitions. If you are willing to be a part of this database please would you email me via the school's email address.

If there are any families who have baby bottle warmers they no longer need then the science department would appreciate any donations this September. We can use them to heat up boiling tubes or small beakers of solutions for demonstrations. S Clunn, Head of Science

SPORTS NEWS

Year 8 Cricket Final v Westcliff - The last game of the year for Year 8 saw them fall to a disappointing defeat. Batting first, we could only manage 90 runs from our 16 overs, with George Thurlow top scoring with 26 retired. The rest of the batsman never really got going due to some tight bowling and fielding from the opposition. Our bowlers tried to find the breakthrough that would give us a chance of victory but the Westcliff batsmen stood firm and chased down our total with a couple of overs to spare. Well done to all the boys who played throughout the season. There is much to build on as they move into Year 9.

Year 7 Cricket Final vs Southend STM 88-8. Southend 89-4

Having reached the borough final in their first season of school cricket, facing Southend was never going to be the easiest of tasks. After losing the toss and being put into bat, the side got off to a good start. Mahendra continued his good form, retiring on 16. Burke complimented him well scoring 15 and Johnson also retired with a quick run a ball 18. A flurry of quick wickets allowed Mahendra to return to finish his innings and finish 33 unbeaten taking his school average to an impressive 88 for the season. Compared with previous games the bowling and fielding was much improved. Burke got an early breakthrough with a good caught and bowled. Wickets also for Hill, Johnson and a good run out continued to keep the game in the balance. Southend showed their cricketing experience and safely negotiated their run chase. The team can be extremely proud of their season and the improvements they have made since their first game. Lots of positives to carry into next year



Mini-Sports 2017 - The annual mini-sports took place last week as part of the St Thomas More day celebrations, with pupils from all years joining together to compete for their house in such high profile events as the 3-legged race, football dribble, rugby dribble, tug-of-war and obstacle course. Great fun was had by all, with the highlight as always being the staff v Sixth Form tug-of-war, where the female staff team out-pulled their Year 12 counterparts before the Year 12 boys destroyed the staff teams pride by winning both rounds. After all five events, and the only injuries being dented pride, St Patrick emerged the winners. Well done to all who took part.

Sports Day 2017 - Perfect weather conditions greeted the competitors and spectators this week for the annual Sports day competition. Following the parade of athletes, students took to the track to race over 100m, 200, 300m and 800m, with the 4x100m relays ending the morning. There were great performances across all houses and year groups, with a few surprising medallists and great spirit shown by some just to get to the end of their race! The results of the day are below. Well done and thank you to all who took part.

Sports Day Results

Junior

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

Senior

David's
Andrew's
Sebastian's
Patrick's
George's

Overall

Andrew's
David's
Sebastian's
Patrick's
George's

