



CONTACT

No. 1416 – Friday 2nd February 2018



Dear Parents and Pupils,

Half-Term Holiday - A reminder that we break up for the half-term holiday at 3.30pm on Friday 9th February following our much anticipated House Music Competition which I shall report on after the half term break. If you have exams after the break, please ensure that a proper amount of serious revision is done. The second half of the term begins on Monday 19th February, (Timetable Week 1).

Year 9 Immunisations - Year 9 immunisations are taking place on Wednesday 7th February. All parents should have received the letter and consent form from their child. We still have some outstanding consent forms, any questions please speak with Miss Worby.

Year 8 Options Information Evening - By now, all year 8 students should have received a letter via email inviting them to their 'Options Information Evening' from 6 – 7.30pm on Wednesday 7th February. We look forward to seeing you on this very important evening. If you haven't done so already, we would be grateful if you could ensure that the reply slip attached to the letter is returned to school as soon as possible.



Well done! A huge congratulations to both Olly Robinson (8A) and James Anderson (9A) who performed at the English Speaking Union in Mayfair. Their performances were outstanding and they were a credit to our school. A special mention to James who has achieved a place in the National Finals; he will be performing at Wyndham theatre in the West End. Good luck James. Miss Curtis.

Weekly Prayer



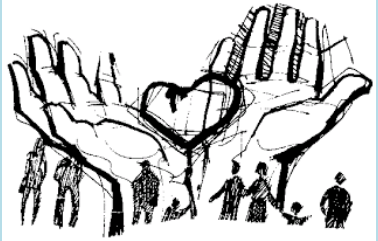



*Lord God, I want to have authority in my life.
Help me to keep free of all that would tie me down
and anything that would lead me into wrong behaviour.
Help me to be free to know, love and serve you.
I ask this in Jesus' name.*

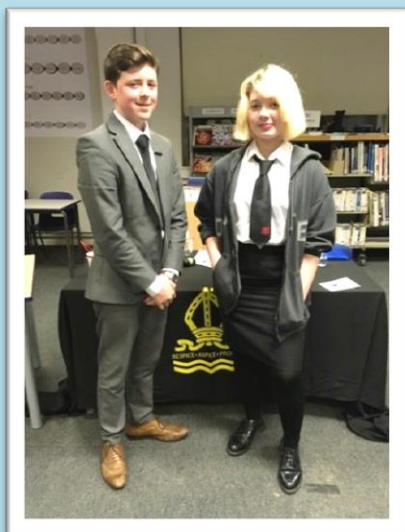
AMEN

Weekly Mass - This Thursday students from Form 8A - St Andrew's House gathered in the Chapel for our weekly Mass. We are grateful to Father Basil Pearson who celebrated Mass. Thank you to the Form 8A Captains and Chaplaincy leaders who helped to prepare the prayers and readings.

Chapel Timetable - This week saw the introduction of the Chapel Timetable for students. The sessions are open to all students throughout Year 7 to Year 13 and they can just turn up to a session. This week, there has been a great turnout. I would like to pass on my thanks to the students and a special thank you to Thomas Millham, our Head Boy for their support. Please see table below for information.

**Chapel Timetable – Open to all students Year 7 – Year 13
Commencing Monday 29 January 2018 – Just turn up**

<p><u>Mondays</u> 1.35 – 2.00 Quiet Prayer 2.00 – 2.25 Campaigns and reflection</p>	
<p><u>Tuesdays</u> 1.35 – 2.00 Quiet Prayer 1.45 – 2.25 Draw near to God</p>	
<p><u>Wednesdays</u> 1.35 – 2.00 Justice & Peace RE2 2.05 – 2.25 Prayers for our School and Community</p>	
<p><u>Thursdays</u> 1.35 – 2.00 Form/House Masses 2.05 – 2.25 Drop in and Chat Session</p>	 
<p><u>Fridays</u> 1.45 – 2.25 Meditation – can help with stress for exams or to just have some quiet time to relax</p>	



Debating News - Congratulations to Roisin Irvine and Charlie Beresford who competed in the second round of the ESU Mace debating competition which took place on Thursday evening at the Bishop's Stortford High School.



They opposed the motion: *This house would support a motion to prohibit the media from the use of software to cosmetically enhance the appearance of individuals.*

Our team made some convincing arguments and represented St Thomas More High School very well indeed! Mrs Webb, Director of Religious Life.

Year 8 Retreats to Abbotswick:

Retreats will take place for Form groups as follows:

- 8A Tuesday 20th February
- 8D Wednesday 21st February
- 8G Thursday 22nd February
- 8P Friday 23rd February
- 8S Tuesday 27th February



AFTER SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB - Every THURSDAY 3.30-5PM with JADA Youth Theatre meets in Psychology 1. A fun, social class in drama where you can learn extra performing skills to help with your other lessons such as English.

A fun way to make new friends, build confidence and be a little bit crazy.

We will cover storytelling skills, voice work, improvisation, scripts and physical theatre.

No experience needed, but willingness to work as part of a team is. Open to all. Mrs

Napper (Teacher of Food Technology/Enrichment Coordinator).



House Music Competition 2018 - Each house is to present one "whole House" piece, one instrumental and one vocal piece of their choice from any genre or style of music. Extra credit will be given to those houses that include the most students in their performance. Total of the three pieces is to be no longer than 9 mins

Groups / bands etc. to be organised by the House Captains and are to liaise with the Music Department to arrange rehearsal time etc.

The following equipment will be provided and set up ready to use

- Piano
- Drum Kit
- 2x Vocal Microphones
- Electric Guitar
- Electric Bass

If any other equipment or backing tracks, etc. are required, the House Captain needs see Mr Riches, in plenty of time.



Music News



Year 8 Performance evening - On Monday evening friends and family of year 8 were entertained in the 'year 8 performance evening' an informal presentation of the pieces that year 8 have been working on in their Music lessons.

With all forms represented it was brilliant to see students rising to the challenge and the pleasure on parents faces as they saw the hard work and determination that all the students have been putting in and in some cases "revealing a hidden talent".

Everybody who performed should be proud of what they achieved – well done year 8!

Mr Riches (Head of Music)

Music Academy - We are providing an introductory offer for new students learning with the academy at St Thomas More. This offer, to start next half term is to give students a taste of the experience that we can offer.

This offer is £50 for the half term; students will receive 5 lessons of 20mins

On Tuesdays / Wednesdays or Thursdays (day to be agreed with Morley's Music Academy).

Times between 3:40 and 7

To enquire about booking your son a lesson slot or for any additional information, please email interest to contact@morleymusic.co.uk or telephone 01702 481440

Mr Samuel Thompson (Head of Morley's Music Academy)

GCSE Geography Revision- Monday 3:45 – 4:45 in G1, G2 and G3

Monday 5th February Changing Economic World: The UK



MFL Department News



Spanish Club - All KS3 pupils welcome!

Wednesday 13.40-14.05 Spanish Club Mrs Terry and Mrs Foster

Videos/songs/films plus help with Speaking and Writing.

¡Hasta luego! Also, would you like to practise your Spanish in a friendly and relaxed way? Come & join Señora Terry and Mari-Carmen in MFL2 first half of lunch on Wednesday.



Practise your Spanish – Writing and Speaking skills Years 9, 10 & 11. Do you need help with some grammatical structures? Come & join Señora Williams in MFL1 after school on Wednesday. ¡Nos vemos!

Work Experience in Law, The Young Lawyer Programme – There is a Young Layer Programme being held at the UCL London on 25th March 2018. The programme gives students a 360-degree immersion into the world of a lawyer through a mixture of case-studies, interactive exercises and personal networking time. Activities that students will involve themselves in include:

- A faulty supercar case study
- A mock court hearing
- A real-life political asylum case
- A real-life international oil dispute

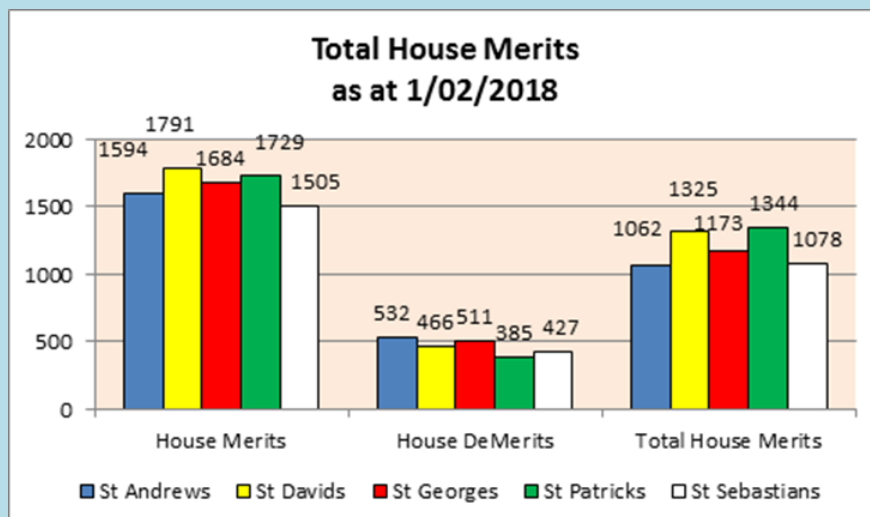
Most importantly, students will have the opportunity to interact with established professionals, who could be crucial mentors throughout their university life. Professionals in attendance include:

- Government human rights lawyer who worked in the Prime Ministers legal team
- Senior private equity lawyer at a top international law firm
- Barrister specialising in criminal defence cases
- Senior director with extensive litigation experience

To book your place, email info@investineducation.co.uk or call 0844 057 0242.



House News!





SPORTS NEWS



Year 8 Football - The Year 8 team continued in the Essex cup after an impressive and professional victory over Robert Clack on Tuesday night.

In the first half we were put under considerable pressure from an athletic Robert Clack team. We regained our composure and began to play our football as the excellent pairing of Lewis Hill and Josh Johnson took a grip on the game. Their influence on the match continued to grow and after a sustained spell of pressure we took the lead after a well worked goal. Jude Walton was proving a constant menace for the opposition as we continued to look for a second. His partnership with the brilliant Dom O'Kane is what forged our second and crucial goal.

If those two were not enough to contend with Zolani Dlodo's pace and ability to find space in the tightest of areas proved decisive and his trickery allowed Josh Johnson to score a goal that wouldn't have looked out of place in the professional game.

At half time we placed the importance on being defensively solid and hitting them on the counter - our defence was a well marshalled by Ciaran, Henry and Aidan squeezing the pitch and forcing the opposition into errors. It was a brilliant team performance and we go into the next round with confidence and a squad brimming with talent. Mr Wiltshire.

DATE	FIXTURE	TIME
05/02/2018	NO FIXTURES	
06/02/2018	Year 8 Basketball Final (WHSB)	4:15 tip off
07/02/2018	1st XI v King John (HOME) Year 10 Rugby v Sweyne (HOME)	2:15 kick off 3:30 kick off
08/02/2018	Year 8 & 9 Rugby v SHSB @Southend Rugby Club	4:00 kick off
09/02/2018	NO FIXTURES	