



CONTACT

No. 1417 – Friday 9th February 2018



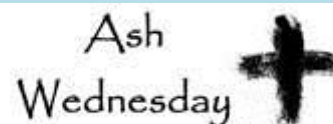
Dear Parents and Pupils,

Half-Term Holiday - A reminder that we break up for the half-term holiday at 3.30pm today 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).

Weekly Prayer

*Lord God, help me to recognise the importance of prayer and give me the courage to come to you with all my hopes, fears and needs.
Give me the strength to be a good listener to those around me.
AMEN*

During the half term break our Church marks the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday. It is hoped that our students will attend Mass in their parishes. Upon our return we will reflect upon the start of this Holy Season during a whole school assembly on Monday 19th February.



Gideon Assembly - We were pleased to welcome Mr and Mrs Oxenham, representatives from Gideon International, who delivered an assembly to Year 7 about the Bible. At the end of assembly boys were invited to receive a pocket version of the New Testament and Psalms. We are grateful to Gideon International for their gift and to Mr and Mrs Oxenham for sharing their insights into the comfort and inspiration offered by God's Word.

Weekly Mass - This Thursday students from Form 7A - St Andrew's House gathered in the Chapel for our weekly Mass. We are grateful to Father Gerry Drummond who celebrated Mass. Thank you to the Form 7A Altar Server, Captains and Chaplaincy leaders who helped to prepare the prayers and readings.

Chapel Timetable - As I will be away on some of the Year 8 Retreats when we return to School, the Chapel timetable will be reduced for 20/21/22/23 and 27 February 2018. Emails will be sent to Form Tutors on a daily basis to update students.

Year 8 Retreats – The year 8 retreats to Abbotswick will be taking place in February. The purpose of this trip is to give pupils the opportunity to spend some time reflecting and praying together away from school. This will also complement their RE studies. The cost of the retreat is £13 per pupil. Whilst this is a voluntary contribution, the retreat may not run if costs are not covered. Please make your payment via the School Gateway.

Retreat Dates are as follows:-

8A – Tuesday 20th February 2018
8D – Wednesday 21st February 2018
8G – Thursday 22nd February 2018

8P – Friday 23rd February 2018
8S – Tuesday 27th February 2018



Mini Bus Service – Please note that there will be no **after school** mini bus service to the station until further notice.



This week we had a special assembly visit from Mr Paul Hannaford for years 10-13. He delivered this assembly which was based around his life story, which included

controversial topics such as gangs, drugs and knife crime. He exhibited quite clearly how

being involved with this sort of thing can easily change your life for the worse and the effects it has on the people around you, especially family. It was a particularly hard hitting message that he had to give. It was great to hear

some of the students' comments afterwards. It was very evident that they gained so much from this assembly. This can be seen on the positive comments students have left on his Instagram post from being at St Thomas More. Miss McCague.



Iceland Trip – Did you miss out on the chance to book your place on the Geography department's Iceland trip? A place has become available at the last minute! The trip will run during the Easter holidays, from Monday 9th April until Friday 13th April, and is open to all students studying Geography or Geology in Years 10-13. The cost of the trip is £1070 which includes travel to and from the airport, flights, accommodation, 3 meals a day and all excursions and activities whilst in country. The place will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. If you are interested, please contact me via email (rmain@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk) as soon as possible. Miss Main.



Our expedition to Ecuador is LIVE for our current year 9, 10, 11 and 12 - We have finally had confirmation that our 2019 summer expedition to Ecuador is all set to go ahead. We have the required number of students involved and we will shortly be planning our itinerary for the month long trip in South America.

The pupils will be able to choose from a number of projects including work with the Tsa'chila community where we would facilitate sustainable agricultural practices. They will also be picking a variety of activities to partake in throughout the month, this might include whale watching off the coast of Puerto Lopez, a day of white water rafting on the Rio Napa or trekking through the Andes.

We are really excited to get planning and I am sure those of you involved are keen to start fundraising for this expedition! I am currently organising our Itinerary Development Evening where pupils and parents will be invited to create and hear the final itinerary so please keep an eye out for the date in March for that.

It is not too late to get involved if you were previously unsure. If you would like more information I have booklets in my Geography room (G3) and I can get the Outlook Company to contact you with further details. Mr West.



Isle of Arran Trip – Despite heavy snow on the hills and cold weather, conditions remained generally bright for the annual A Level Geology trip to Loch Ranza Field Centre on the Isle of Arran. The super blue blood moon proved to be a good omen for the week. The students undertook fieldwork on North Sannox beach to study the Devonian sedimentary rocks and the Igneous dyke

complexes as part of their AS and A2 investigations. This was followed by a day in Glen Catacol to study Quaternary sedimentation. Credit to the group for their hard work and exemplary conduct during their stay. My thanks to all staff who helped organise and run the trip.

G Mason.



BOOK REVIEW - Fault in Our Stars - A feature of The Fault in Our Stars that instantly caused me to become fixated with it was the characters. However, it frustrated me because I did not like the way Augustus' health seemed to rapidly change, which turned Hazel into a vulnerable girl like she was when she was first diagnosed with cancer. The novel has an informal tone which gives the story a sense of realism and relatability. John Greene is an excellent author who tells fantastic tales of the lives of teenagers. The Reading Club would give this book 4/5 stars. Korede Odubanjo 8S.



Logo Competition - The STM Parent Staff Association are rebranding to "Friends of St Thomas More High School". We are looking for logo designs to capture a fresh approach, spark new interest and involvement to a wider audience! Got an idea? Get your design to Mr. Barrett by **Friday 23rd February 2018** **A detailed brief can be found on the VLE**

Vacancy: Treasurer Friends of St Thomas More High School - Sadly unpaid! Our current treasurer of sometime has decided to step down and as such we are looking for a volunteer. It's nothing difficult; you don't need to be an accountant. Just a bit of common sense!

It will involve managing the funds for the Friends of St Thomas More High School with attendance of an occasional evening meeting.

Please support your child and the efforts of the association. We are very poorly supported presently and are working hard to change that. We are trying to raise funds for our school.

Drop a line to PSA@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk if you would like to help or need any further details.

Sarah Burns, Friends of STM Chair.



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.

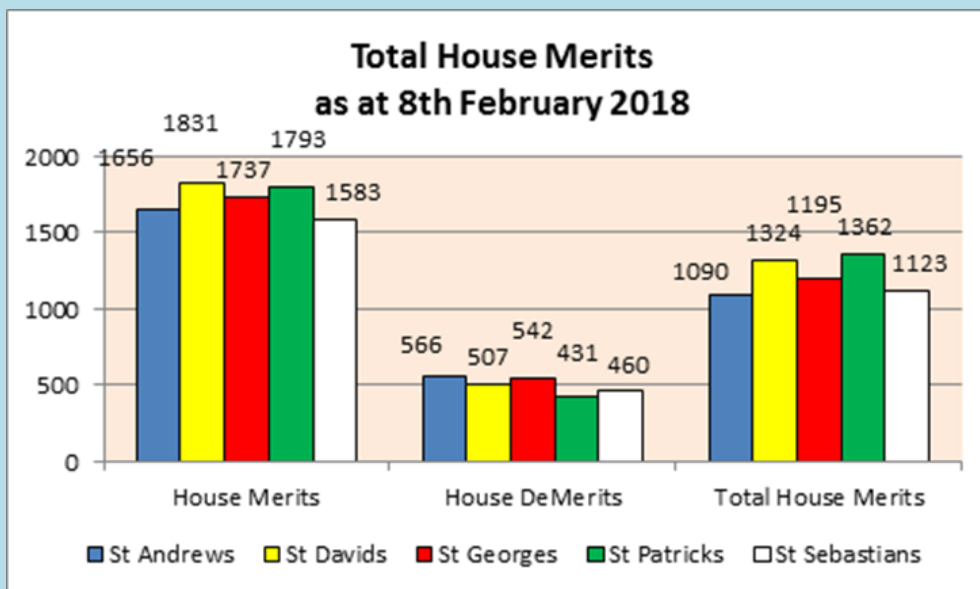
¡Hasta luego! Also, would you like to practise your Spanish in a friendly and relaxed way? Come & join Señora Terry and Mari-Carmen in MFL2 first half of lunch on Wednesday.



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!



House News!



SPORTS NEWS



90
RM
FUT

Jude Walton

84 PAC	82 DRI
89 SHO	65 DEF
80 PAS	77 PHY

FUT 18

PE Students of the Week - Our PE students of the week for this week and last week are Jude Walton and Rohan Burke. Jude has been a consistently great performer in PE lessons this year and put in a fantastic performance in the recent Year 8 football match. He also played in the Year 8 basketball match against Cecil Jones when we were short of players. Rohan of Year 7 has impressed us all with his efforts and enthusiasm this year in lessons and extra-curricular PE. He even turned out for the Year 8 rugby team this week when a few boys dropped out through injury. Well done to both boys!

84
CB
FUT

Rohan Burke

82 PAC	83 DRI
83 SHO	84 DEF
79 PAS	84 PHY

Year 11 Football - Essex quarter final: Successfully won 2-0. Goals from: Kwabena Koomson and Matthew McCorley. Outstanding effort and overall performance from all involved. Well done to all the team, bring on the semi-final! Special thanks to Mr. Kearney for expert coaching advice. S. Griffin.

Year 9 Rugby vs Southend High School for Boys - Southend 50 – 7 STM

Yesterday the Year 9 rugby team faced arguably their toughest opponents of the year when they travelled to play Southend High. From the off it was clear that Southend were a very well drilled and experienced side but St Thomas More did well to limit them to only four tries at half term.

St Thomas More improved significantly in the second half and caused Southend a number of problems when they attacked. Strong running from Rio Ablorh and Emmanuel Poku saw St Thomas More get over for a deserved try. A lack of substitutes and some injuries saw St Thomas More tire in the last 10 minutes and allowed Southend to run in a few more scores before the close of the game.

While the score line was heavy, the effort from the team cannot be faulted and there was a lot to be learnt for the team last night. Hopefully we can take the positives forward and learn from our mistakes! Mr Tisi.

Southend Schools Basketball final Year 8 vs Westcliff: Won 76-61 - Those in attendance were witness to a truly spectacular year 8 basketball final which saw the home team Westcliff get off to an incredible start. The STM dream team however were unfazed and quickly took the lead by the end of the first quarter through aggressive full court defence and unselfish team play. With the high octane attacking play of Ashalou (35 points) and Ukegheson (30 points) the opposition began to fall behind. However they did not give up and mounted a dangerous fourth quarter run which made the outcome uncertain early in the fourth quarter. I'm proud to say that on cue the STM year 8 team rallied together to secure a convincing victory and can now call themselves CHAMPIONS.

Well done to all the team: Kehinde Ashalou, Efeose Ukegheson, Ciaran Burke, Ian Mahop, Zolano Dlodlo, Sean David, Heshan Mahendra, Richard Adams, Macfaweya

Year 8 Rugby v SHSB - On Thursday, the year 8 team had the privilege of playing at Southend Rugby club against Southend High School. With Paddy Kane and Korede missing from the side, a bare 13 boys had to switch to the mind-set of all playing a full match with no substitutions on the side-line! A slow start from the boys saw SHSB take an early first half lead but there were many positives to take from the first half, with the main focus being to retain possession and continue putting pressure on the opposition defensive line. With some fantastic work across the whole team and outstanding attacking play from STM saw us pile pressure on to Southend, eventually being finished off by one of Southend's own who kindly stepped across on to the wing for us after Bayley Johns being treated for a nose bleed! For the remainder of the second half, STM showed phenomenal grit and determination which took the game right down to the final minute. Unfortunately, the slow start in the first 10 minutes had given us too large of a mountain to climb. SHSB 30 – 20 STM. A huge performance from a depleted year 8 team. Massive praise goes to Rohan Burke also who stepped up an age group and played a stormer! Mr Binstead.

U16 Futsal Tournament - With our Year 11 boys unavailable due to their county cup quarter finals, we took nine Year 10 boys over to SEEVIC to represent Tommy More against six other Year 11 teams from around South East Essex. All the boys were outstanding on the day and by winning four and drawing two, we secured second place and deserved silver medals. Well done to all the players – Oliver Robinson, Afam Ijeh, Ricardo Codinha, Taylor Banks, Liam Barry, Thomas Salter, Tomi Abere, Michael Okafor and Finley Gregory.

SPORTS FIXTURES

DATE	FIXTURE	STAFF
19/02/2018	NO FIXTURES	
20/02/2018	Year 11 Football v Cecil Jones (AWAY) Year 7 Rugby v Thorpe Hall (HOME)	4:15 K/O 3:40 K/O
21/02/2018	1st XI v Gable Hall (HOME) Year 8 & 9 Rugby v Westcliff (HOME)	2:15 K/O 4:00 K/O
22/02/2018	Under 13 Cricket v Beauchamps & St Cleres (HOME) Year 7 Rugby v Cecil Jones (AWAY)	3:45 4:00 K/O
23/02/2018	Year 10 Rugby v William Edwards (HOME)	2:30 K/O