



# CONTACT

No. 1418 – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018



Dear Parents and Pupils,

**Whole School CAFOD Non-Uniform Day and Year 7 World Book Day –**



On **Thursday 1st March** the country celebrates World Book Day and at St. Thomas More we are offering Year 7 a morning of activities centred around literature. We hope to provide the students with an engaging and exciting morning hoping to fuel their love for reading. As part of the day, we want to encourage students to get into the spirit of the day and dress up as a character from one of their favourite books. **We have decided to incorporate this day**

**with our annual non-uniform day for CAFOD for the whole school. All students who wish to wear non-uniform are asked to make a minimum donation of £1.50 via the School Gateway and those who are dressed up as a character from their favourite book are asked to donate a minimum donation of £1.** On the School Gateway, there are two separate donation options to use: £1 and 50p please click on both of these if your son/daughter has chosen just the non-uniform option.

**Year 8 Parents' Evening** - On Thursday 1st March we are holding our Year 8 Parents' Evening. The evening provides a valuable opportunity to discuss your son's progress in his subjects and to address any concerns that you may have. We look forward to seeing you then. This parents' evening is especially important in light of the option choices Yr8 students are making at the moment so do please make every effort to come. A reminder that the options forms should be handed into school on Monday 5th March. Mr Hardiman, Director of Learning i/c Pupil Achievement.

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

## *Weekly Prayer*



*Lord God, you are alive today,  
giving your healing touch through the sacraments and through prayer.*

*May I receive your healing touch in my life today  
and I pray especially for all those who are sick,  
Stretch out your healing hands upon them.*

*AMEN*

**Weekly Mass** - This Thursday students from Form 9A - St Andrew's House gathered in the Chapel for our weekly Mass. We are grateful to Father Joseph Whisstock who celebrated Mass. Thank you to the Form 9A Altar Servers, Form Leader and Chaplaincy Leaders who helped to prepare the prayers and readings.

**Chapel Timetable** - As I have been away on some of the Year 8 Retreats this week, the Chapel timetable will resume in the middle of next week. Mrs Maxfield, Chaplaincy Co-ordinator.

**Ski Report 2018** - Another February 1/2 term, another St Thomas More Ski Trip departed for Austria. This year a new resort for us to devour, changing from our trusted and reliable Obertauern, to the modern and bustling Wagrain, part of the Snow Space Salzburg ski region. A vast expanse of slopes, varying in difficulty, length and style, spread over 500km of piste, encompassing 4 major towns. An amazing week of skiing for all, conditions in Austria were superb, some of the best they have had in the last decade. As for our boys, separated into ability groups, ranging from complete beginners, to outstanding experts, the mountains catered for everyone.



From day one, our

intermediate and experts groups were off with their instructors to discover all the mountain had to offer. Our 2 beginner groups stayed nearby, developing their skills and building their skiing confidence.

From day 2 on the slopes, our boys went from strength to strength. The resort was superbly set up for beginners learning to ski; the development they showed over the week was incredible, impressing both staff and instructors.

Over the week, the boys faced all conditions, from powder to bright sunshine, excelling and enjoying all that was put in front of them. Despite tired legs, early mornings & long days, nothing could dampen the mood and the spirit they showed to improve their skiing.

Away from the slopes, the boys engaged in a packed evening entertainments package. First up, 5-a-side football tournament, which, despite stiff competition, was won by the staff team (3 years in a row now!). Took in a local Ice Hockey game, enjoyed a pizza and football night as well as attempting traditional 9 pin bowling.

A packed out week, tiring for everyone involved, but always well worth it. A truly successful & memorable Ski Trip. As always, thanks to the school, parents and students who continue to support this amazing trip, the boys were a credit to all throughout the week. And a special mention to the staff who always go above and beyond to ensure all the boys have a memorable week - Mr Kearney, Miss Griffiths, Miss Barlow, Mr Tisi & Mr Wiltshire.

Information regarding Ski Trip 2019 will be out in the next few weeks. Mr Harding.



## Madrid 2018

**DAY 1** - After an unbearably early start at 3am in the morning we departed to go to Stansted to get our flight to Madrid. We were all excited but exhausted all at the same time and managed to catch our flight which was delayed. After arriving in Madrid we arrived at the hostel and checked in and then rushed to meet our tour guide in the Plaza Mayor, who gave us a walking, talking tour of the old part of Madrid which was absolutely beautiful. Mari Carmen was funny and entertaining and showed us where the 'secret cookie shop' was, taught the boys a lot about the history of Madrid as well as teaching them how to dance 'Flamenco' in the middle of the street (much to some of the boys embarrassment).

We then made our way across Madrid to El Pais newspaper. El Pais has become Spain's most popular broadsheet newspaper since its founding in the 1970's. The tour covered various aspects of the newspaper production process, from printing to editing. We were also shown to the news room





where they had a board with all of the most popular trending news at that moment in a 'live wall!' and were shown the VIP room for the 'AS' which was the sports branch of the newspaper.

After we finished at the newspaper we travelled back to the hostel for a feast at the hostel before we made our way to the bowling alley, where we witnessed the competition of all competitions between Cornelius and Mr Dooley. Mr Dooley was in the lead until the final moments when Areeb came from behind and drew with Mr Dooley.

After a lovely evening we made our way home for a very welcome nights rest before an early start the next day!!!

**DAY 2** – started with an early breakfast and departed for the Spanish Language School at the International House. We were in 2 groups and the boys had different activities to including charades and Pictionary of key words/grammar and verbs in Spanish. After that we made our way to El Retiro Park where we ate lunch, saw various parts and enjoyed soaking in the atmosphere. This green oasis in the centre of Madrid has 125 hectares and is home to over 15,000 trees. From a botanical point of view, the park includes some very important gardens: the Jardín de Vivaces, the Jardines de Cecilio Rodríguez (classical gardens of an Andalusian style), the Jardines del Arquitecto Herrero Palacios, the Rose Garden, and the Parterre Francés with the oldest tree in Madrid, a bald cypress that is believed to be 400 years old. The boys enjoyed meeting new friends and purchasing gifts for family and friends as well as having a bit more relaxation time than the day previous. We then made our way to the Plaza Mayor which is Madrid's central square and is one of the prettiest open spaces in Spain. A combination of imposing architecture, picaresque historical tales and vibrant street life coursing across its cobblestones! Close to the Plaza Mayor was the San Miguel Market which opened in May 1916 as a food market, this centenary establishment (one of the city's few and best examples of iron architecture) became Madrid's first gastronomy market in May 2009. Throughout 2018, the market will undergo a period of consolidation of much of its gastronomy contents. Located in the centre of Los Austrias Madrid and with over 10 million visitors a year, the San Miguel Market is the city's gastronomic temple, the contemporary essence of all the corners of Spanish cuisine. Absolutely beautiful architecture as well as food offerings it was rife with Spanish Culture. After dinner at the hostel we made our way to our next activity which was mini golf, again there was some intense rivalry but everyone remained friends by the end!!!

**DAY 3** - After breakfast we made our way to the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium. Here we had a self-guided tour of the legendary home of Real Madrid. Visit the "Best Club in History" exhibition and seeing the pitch. The boys seemed to enjoy learning about the history of the club and spending money in the shop before we returned to the hostel where we met our coach transfer to go to the Danone Factory. On this visit we were given an insight into how Danone rank as a world leader in fresh dairy products.

Students can see how the yoghurt is made, and find out about the firm, which started in Barcelona in 1919, but subsequently moved to France. Mrs Terry came to the fore translating the processes and talk from Spanish into English with ease and was a real asset to our team.

We returned to the hostel and had some free time before dinner.

After dinner we made our way to the "Basilica of Jesus de Medinaceli" to receive mass for Ash Wednesday. The boys were so respectful and a real asset to the school. It was a really special evening which we enjoyed hearing the Spanish mass and were honoured to be a part of it.



**DAY 4** - After breakfast in the morning we got organised and packed up so we could depart in the afternoon.

We visited 'El Corte Inglés' El Corte is the largest chain of department stores in Spain, founded in 1940. Madrid is home to their flagship store, and this visit with a guide included some breakfast 'Chocolate con Churros', some pastries and coffee. Liliana gave us a presentation about the business including some of its history and a guided tour around the store, telling us how they tailor their customer service some their customers who have more disposable income to spend in their store.

After that we returned to the hostel, had some lunch and then the boys had some free time on Grand Via shopping for some souvenirs before returning to the hostel to pick up our bags and meet our coach on the return journey to the airport.

Overall, I think the trip was a success, we discovered some of the delights of Madrid, enjoyed some Spanish culture and sights as well as enjoying our time together as a group. Thank you to all of the boys for being such good company and also a huge thank you to Mr Dooley and Mrs Terry who were invaluable. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Weir and Mr Berry in the office for their excellent organisation skills, Miss Barlow in reprographics for arranging all of the copying and laminating. Also to Rebecca in Diverse Travel who was excellent in arranging our many visits as well as Mr Maxfield for his support. Hopefully we can look forward to going back to Spain next year after a well-earned rest! Thank you to everyone for making this visit possible. Mrs Lindsay.



**Year 8 Retreats** – By the time of going to press, the year 8 retreats to Abbotswick are well underway with Forms 8A 20/2, Form 8D 21/2, Form 8G 22/2 and Form 8P 23 having taken place. The theme was Love and Mercy and students had time to reconnect as a Form group and spent time together taking part in challenges and reflecting and praying together away from school. The house and grounds in the countryside were both beautiful and peaceful. Form 8S have their retreat on Tuesday 27th February 2018 - students will need to bring a packed lunch, wear comfy clothes (non-uniform) and old shoes (can be muddy outside in the grounds depending on weather).

I would like to take this opportunity to pass on my thanks to the following staff involved so far: Mr Baird, Mrs Webb, Miss Dibbens, Ms Wilkes, Miss McCague, Mr Marshall and Miss Main for driving the minibuses and to Ms Weir and Staff in the Admin office for all

their help organisation of the trip. Mrs Maxfield, Chaplaincy Co-ordinator.

**Road Safety Presentation** - The Essex Road Safety Team came into school on Wednesday afternoon to take their annual assembly with Year 11 as part of their Science work on Forces and Speed. It took the form of a play and an interactive workshop where the three main characters explored themes around young people and risks associated with driving. Topics included being a responsible passenger to driving under the influence of drink and/or drugs as well as distractions such as using a mobile phone behind the wheel. The play was shocking and moving as it explored three real life stories all from roads in and around Essex involving young people involved in fatal road accidents. Our students contributed some great ideas on how to cope with a situation when a friend might offer them a lift home but they knew that they had something to drink. Thank you to Miss McCague for organising for the team to come into school.



**Take Your Son To Work Day** - Year 8 and 9 students are being offered the chance to take part in National 'Take Your Son to Work Day' (TYSTWD) on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

We do understand that for a variety of reasons it may not be possible for every student to accompany a parent/carer therefore we would suggest asking relatives or friends if they would be able to accommodate students to give them the chance to shadow them in their job for the day.

This is an excellent opportunity for parents and carers to show students what they do and what is expected in the work place. Please could I remind you to get your completed forms back to the main office as soon as possible but no later than **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**. Any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs S. Napper (Enrichment Coordinator)



**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 &

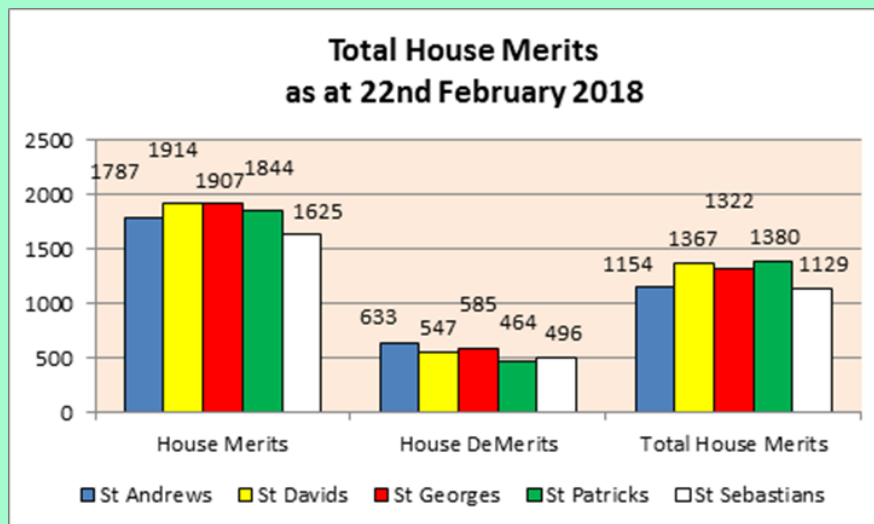
join Señora Terry and Mari-Carmen in MFL2 first half of lunch on Wednesday.



**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



**1st XI Football 6-1 Gable Hall** - A comprehensive performance and result from the 1st XI Football side saw them go top of the Essex Schools and Colleges Division 1, brushing aside title rivals Gable Hall in the process. An early strike into the top corner from Price settled any nerves. Further first half goals from Price and H. Phillips extended the lead before Gable Hall pulled one back just before half time. An accomplished, dominant second half display with goals from Aaron Akoman, Zachary Wing and Joseph O'Kane completed the scoring and a vital three points to move the team top of the league with five games remaining. Mr Kearney.



**PE student of the week** - Our winner this week is Ryan Benson-Smith of Year 9 whose enthusiasm and dedication to sport and PE shines through. Not only is he a talented rugby player but he has given up to his time to help coach the Year 7 team. He even went with them after school this week to their fixture. Well done Ryan.

## SPORTS FIXTURES

DATE	FIXTURE	TIME
26/02/2018	Year 7 Rugby v Chase (HOME)	3:45pm k/o
27/02/2018	Year 8 Basketball Essex Cup v King John (HOME)	4:00pm tip off
28/02/2018	Year 8 Football Essex Cup v St Martins (AWAY) ESAC Basketball v King John (HOME)	3:00pm k/o 4:00pm tip off
01/03/2018	Year 10 Football v Cecil (HOME) Year 7 Belfairs (HOME)	4:00pm k/o 4:00pm k/o
02/03/2018	NO FIXTURES	