



# CONTACT

No. 1426 – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018



Dear Parents and Pupils,

As you know from previous updates in Contact this year, in line with Brentwood Diocesan Policy, the Catholic Schools in the South East Essex have been working together towards the formation of a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT). I am delighted to report that the **Assisi Catholic Trust** has now formed. Please see an attached letter of welcome. As a newly formed Trust we are looking to recruit Catholic individuals from who share our passion and mission for Catholic education, that might consider serving as either a Trustee or at a more local level as a Foundation Governor for our Catholic schools. If you think you have the skills, dedication and motivation please do speak to either your Parish Priest or myself to find out more about the roles we have available. I really hope many of you will consider your potential to serve our schools in this way and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Next week sees the start of the public examination season for all Year 11, Year 13 and Year 6 pupils. All pupils preparing for examinations have been working so hard with the support and encouragement of staff and families and we want them to know that we continue to hold them in our prayers as a school community and that, with God's help, they will do and be the best that they can.

As St Paul writes in his letter to the Philippians,

*'There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving,'*

## A Prayer Before Exams

*Loving Father,  
Source of all wisdom,  
help me to use my time  
and my intelligence wisely  
in my exams.*

*Help me to listen to Your Holy Spirit,  
so that You, as my Loving Father,  
may place me in a state of wisdom  
and lead me to understand that I am Your child.*

*Help me to remain serene  
so that my work may truly reflect  
my full ability.*

*Mary, Mother of my spiritual life,  
guide me in the ways of your Son,  
so that my work may help  
to transform this world for His glory.  
Amen.*

**Year 11 Thanksgiving Mass** – Year 11 and some of their parents will gather together this afternoon for their Mass in thanksgiving for their last five years at St Thomas More High School. We are grateful to Father Gerry Drummond, who will celebrate this Mass and my thanks go to the following students who are to do the readings and bidding prayers – Leo Bruce, Alex Bryan, Teejay Chiororo, Charlie Manwa, Deepak Jijo, David Ogunjinrin, Rian King and Harvey Tang and to Frazer Carrigan-Fleming and Charlie Rumm for Serving. It will be a wonderful way to mark their final week of

school before their exams and then a well-deserved long summer break. They have been a fantastic bunch of students and we look forward to celebrating their future successes and seeing many of them return to our Sixth Form.

## Highlight of the Week

At the end of Mass in school yesterday, to celebrate the holyday of Obligation for the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, the assembled congregation of staff and students were delighted to hear Father Gerry Drummond congratulate Bogdan Yumanov for bearing witness to his faith at the Jack Petchey Speak Out regional finals on Wednesday. He performed a fantastic speech on the evidence for Jesus, which had an impact on many there. Indeed so moved was someone in the audience at the event on Wednesday, they spoke to Father Gerry about the impression this young man had made upon them. It is truly inspiring to see a young person standing up and giving witness to his faith. He performed well against competition of the highest standards, and while he did not make it to the national finals, he did the school proud! Well done, Bogdan! And thank you to Mr. P. Griffin for the support and preparation.



**Holyday of Obligation Mass - 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018** – Thank you to all the students who did the readings and bidding prayers – Aaron Akoman, Deepak Jijo, Joe Trim, Chad Borbe and James Gomez and to Frazer Carrigan-Fleming and Charlie Rumm for Serving.

**Ofsted Inspection** – As you will be aware, on 24th April 2018, Ofsted carried out the first short inspection since the school was judged to be good in February 2015. I am delighted that the inspection team agree that the leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the previous inspection and St Thomas More continues to be good.

I am very pleased that the inspection team understood the distinctive nature of our Catholic school as students talk proudly about being a 'Tommy More boy' and identify the importance of being part of the 'family' community. To read the full report, please click the following link: [Ofsted Report 2018](#)

**Primary School Visits** – Our round of Year 5 primary school visits to prepare the boys for open evening starts next week. These visits are a great opportunity for parents to ask questions about St Thomas More High School. Please see time and date of visits to Catholic feeder schools, below. More details about visits to some of our other local and further afield schools to follow.

School	Date	Time
OLOR	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	3.30pm
St Helens	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	2.30pm
St Georges	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	3.30pm
St Teresa's	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	3.30pm
St Josephs	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	3.30pm
Sacred Heart	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	3.30pm
Holy Family	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	3.30pm
OLOL	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	3pm

**Confirmandi Mass** – Fr. Graham Smith will be coming into School on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018 to celebrate Mass at 1.35 p.m. in the Chapel for all students who have, or are being Confirmed this academic year. Could **all** students please see Mrs. Maxfield by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May so that the list of names can be finalised.

**Holyday of Obligation** - There is another holyday of obligation to be celebrated this term, the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June. We know that many students will be attending Mass with their families. For those students

who are unable to attend in their parishes there will be Mass held in school during the lunch hour which is open to all. This term's Mass for the whole school community will take place on the Feast of St. Thomas More on Friday June 22nd.

**Praying a Decade of the Rosary during May – Tuesdays and Thursdays 2.15 p.m.** - An invitation went out to all the Chaplaincy Leaders/Captains from Years 7 – 13, to come along and pray a decade of the Rosary on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the Month of May outside Mrs. Ackred's office by the Statue of Our Lady. We thought this would be a good opportunity to offer some witness in a public way in our school. Thank you to all students and staff who have supported this so far. Mrs. Maxfield, Chaplaincy Co-ordinator.

**Guest Speaker** - As part of the Month of Mary on Wednesday, Brenden Thompson (Founder of Signs of Life charity) came into the school to speak to students about "Our Lady of Guadalupe". A selection of Chaplaincy leaders from years 7-9 and members of the Justice and Peace group listened to a short talk during lunchtime with some excellent questions being generated. The talk continued in the afternoon with Year 12. The 6<sup>th</sup> Form students were very engaged with the idea of God speaking to them in different ways with a lot of food for thought regarding faith and scientific evidence. We would like to thank all those involved. Mr Baird.



**Year 12 students' campaign in Parliament for CAFOD** - On



Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May, six students from Year 12 (Noah Hughes, Galvin Salvador-Regalardo, Amelia Ward, Darcy Cornish, Aaron Akoman-Ehikpa and Scarlett Reeve) travelled to London to join a number of students from other schools for a training day with CAFOD. The day was centred around CAFOD's latest appeal 'Share the Journey', which is aiming to support those affected by war, persecution and natural disasters. The students were given a unique insight into this campaign and the tactics that CAFOD use to influence politicians in Westminster. Following their training day, the students attended the CAFOD parliamentary reception, where they got to speak to a number of MPs and Member of the House of Lords about the issues raised by the 'Share the Journey' campaign. The students involved were a real credit to the

school and we are hoping that they will be able to share their experiences with all of us at St Thomas More. If you would like to learn more about the 'Share the Journey' campaign, go to: <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Share-the-Journey>  
Mr Tisi

**English Department News** - English Surgery in BS3 Monday and Tuesday break. All students are welcome to pop in. English Y7 and Y8 Booster sessions open to all pupils in RE4 every Monday after school with Mrs Kadwill. Y7 Read For Good Readathon commencing Monday 21 May. Information has been sent home to parents via School Comms and a presentation has been shown to all Y7 form groups. Please support your son in his efforts. Please see Mr Robinson or Mrs Kadwill for more information.

**School Nurse Drop-in** – The School Nurse will be offering a drop-in service at the school on Tuesday lunchtime. Next week is Mental Health Awareness Week so the focus will be on stress. Research has shown that two thirds of us experience a mental health problem in our lifetimes, and stress is a key factor in this. For further information on Mental Health Awareness Week, please [click here](#)

**Road Safety** - Could parents please remind their sons/daughters to take care when arriving and departing from school. Some students have been seen crossing the central reservation, which is a hazard to themselves and to other road users. **The pelican crossing must be used.** The same goes for the students who travel to and from school by bicycle.

**Fundraiser for Ecuador 2019** – Archie Twine and Alfie Treacher are holding a fundraiser meal at East, 33 Alexandra Streets, Southend on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018 from 6:30pm onwards. This is an all you can eat Chinese buffet and tickets are £15 for adults and £7.50 for children under 140cm. All proceeds are going towards their trip to Ecuador in July 2019 which the boys are funding themselves. There will be raffles and games for all ages during the evening. The invite is open to teachers, families and friends, you are all welcome. Please, if you can, come along to support the boys.



**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.



**The Deadline is approaching for student finance** – New students should apply now - If you are starting university or college this year, it's time to apply for your student finance! The deadline to make sure you get your money in time for the start of your course is 25 May 2018. If your student finance application is late, your money might be too.

It is quick and easy to apply online at [www.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.gov.uk/studentfinance)

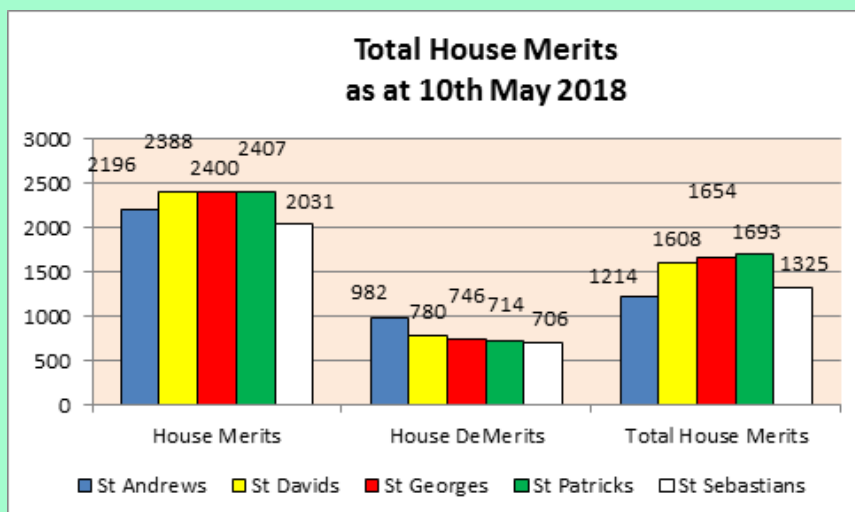
You don't need to have a confirmed place at university or college – you can use your preferred choice of course and change it later if you need to.

If you have already started their application, log back into your student finance account now and finish it before the deadline.

For everything students need to know about student finance they should check out our student finance information on UCAS.



# House News!





## SPORTS NEWS

**National Athletics First Round** - On a sunny day in Chelmsford, the junior and inter teams from St Thomas More took part in the first round of the national athletics competition. A few last minute changes due to illness and injury meant we weren't at full strength but despite this, all the boys tried their best and put in some impressive performances. The format of this competition isn't about trying to win but is based on a points system, so all the athletes knew their target for each of their two events. As is always the case, some were a little under and some performed so well they smashed their personal targets in trying to get as many points for the team. There were standout performances from Kehinde Ashalou, Rhys James and Michael Okafor but a special mention must go to Afam Ijeh who scored 52 points across the 300m and long jump, a fantastic achievement. Well done to Tinashe Marufu too who was the only Year 7 in the team and competing at his first ever athletics event. Thanks also go to Blythe and Aleisha from Year 12 for their help in running the long jump. We will find out whether we have made it to the next round sometime next week.

**U14 Essex Cricket v Shoebury** - This was a convincing win for the combined Year 8 & 9 team in the first round of the cup. Batting first, we put on 120 runs in our 20 overs with good contributions from Alaguras, Fernando, Mahendra and Thomas. This was always going to be too much for Shoebury to chase down and so it proved as we took regular wickets. We used nine different bowlers with every one of them looking threatening. Wickets were shared around amongst the nine, with Randall, Thomas and Collett bowling particularly well. The team now face a much tougher opponent in KEGS in the next round.

## SPORTS FIXTURES

DATE	FIXTURE	STAFF
14/05/2018	Year 10 House football	3:30pm
15/05/2018	Year 7 Athletics v Woodlands (AWAY)	4:00pm
16/05/2018	Under 14 Essex Cup Cricket vs KEGS (AWAY)	2:00pm
17/05/2018	Year 7/8/9/10 Tennis vs Belfairs @WLTC	4:00pm
18/05/2018	NO FIXTURES	

## EXTRA CURRICULAR SPORTS TIMETABLE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8.00 - 8.30am	PE DEPARTMENT MEETING	Hurdles Training - All years <b>(CB)</b> Sprints - All years <b>(SB/EK)</b>	GCSE/A Level catch-up (TR6) Run-Bike-Run <b>(SB/CB)</b>	Long/Triple Jump - All years <b>(JB/CB)</b>	Athletics Throws - Year 7 & 8 <b>(CB)</b> Sprints & Middle Distance - All years <b>(SB)</b>
1.40 - 2.20pm	Long/Triple Jump - All years <b>(CB/TH)</b> Hurdles - All years - 800/1500m <b>(SB)</b> Year 7 NBA Basketball Training <b>(GL)</b>	High Jump - All years <b>(CB)</b> Long/Triple Jump - All years <b>(SB)</b>	Sprints & Hurdles - All years <b>(EK/TW/TH)</b>	Indoor Cricket - Year 7 & 8 <b>(EK)</b>	Racket Sports <b>(NS)</b> Middle Distance - All Years - 800/1500m <b>(JB)</b>
3.30 - 5.00pm	Run-Bike-Run <b>(SB/MG)</b> Athletics Throws - All years <b>(CB/MT)</b>	Cricket Training - Year 7 & 8 <b>(EK/CB)</b> Middle Distance - All years - 800/1500m <b>(JB)</b>	Athletics Throws - All years <b>(GL/CB)</b> Year 7 & 8 Southend FC Football on Astro	High Jump - All years <b>(CB/TH)</b> Cricket Training - Year 9 & 10 <b>(MT/TW/JM)</b>	Badminton Club - All years <b>(JM/SG)</b>

**Please note – After-school clubs are subject to change depending on fixtures and staff meetings. The Sports Hall will be out of use from 14th May due to Public Exams**