



CONTACT

No. 1436 – Friday 7th September 2018



Dear Parents and Pupils,

Welcome back! I hope that you have all enjoyed a safe and happy summer break and are ready for the challenges of a new academic year. We welcome particularly all students and staff who are new to the school particularly in Year 7 and 12 and hope that they all settle quickly into life at St Thomas More. We wish all our new families a special welcome, and I look forward to seeing our Year 7 & 8 parents at 6:30pm on Thursday 13th September at our first informal information sharing evening. We also look forward to welcoming Year 7 parents again at our Welcome Mass and Social Evening at 7pm on Thursday 20th September.

It was an exciting summer as we celebrated with our Year 11 and 13 students their examination successes. Amid so much curriculum change and adjustment to the examination grading system, our staff and students have once again shown how we are able to inspire; to learn and achieve success together. So many of our Year 11 have returned to continue their A Level studies in our Sixth Form and all students wishing to head off to university were successful. Many of our leavers have also secured scholarships; apprenticeships; college places and employment opportunities and we hope they too keep in touch with us through our extended alumni community. www.stmalumni.co.uk

Exam Results

A level Headlines 2018	
A* - B	39%
A* - C	72%
A* - E	99%

GCSE Headlines 2018	
9-7 in English	31.3%
9-5 in English	76%
9-4 in English	91%
9-7 in Maths	19%
9-5 in Maths	59%
9-4 in Maths	83%
9-7 in English & Maths	12%
9-5 in English & Maths	57%
9-4 in English & Maths	81%

LUNCH MONEY - Please ensure that money is topped up onto the School Gateway in advance of the school day. This helps to ensure that our break & lunch service runs smoothly, avoiding the potential situation where boys are unable to purchase food in our canteen, due to lack of funds. A reminder that our break time is 11.10am & lunch is at 1.30pm.

NEW LOCKERS - We are currently in the process of updating our locker system, in order to ensure it works more efficiently and is easier for the boys to locate their lockers around the school. However, this does mean there will be a slight delay in the allocation of new lockers, this process should be complete next week. Anyone still wishing to get a locker, can do so by completing the payment section on the School Gateway App.



School Photographs – A reminder that the school photographer will be in school on **11th September**.

Caterlink Menus and Tariffs – Please [click here](#) for information on the school's catering menus and tariffs.

School Calendar of Dates for Your Diaries – Please [click here](#) for a link to dates of events and trips planned for this academic year. Any changes to these events will be announced in this newsletter.

Bronze D of E - A reminder to Year 10 parents that the bronze D of E training sessions resume next Tuesday and Wednesday ahead of their Expedition Assessment which will take place on the last weekend of September or first weekend of October, depending which group they are in. Students will be informed which weekend they are participating on by schoolcomm communication next week. Could parents please encourage their sons to complete the three activities, Volunteering/Physical and Skills on the eDofE. Mr Mason



On September 11th Mrs Caten is going to 'Brave the Shave' for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Mrs Caten is aiming to raise as much as she can for such a worthwhile cause, which is close to a lot of our hearts.

If you would like to support her, please click on the link below,

<https://bravetheshave.macmillan.org.uk/shavers/ruth-caten>

Some reminders concerning school procedures are as follows:

Late Gate - If your son is late for school without a reasonable explanation, he will be expected to make the time up during break time. Persistent lateness will result in after school detentions. If you have any queries regarding punctuality or would like any support please contact Mrs Walford.

School Car Park - I would remind parents that the school car-parks are not to be used by parents for dropping off or picking up, their sons or daughters at the end of the school day. The closest collection point is behind the fire station and I would ask parents to make use of this rather than the school grounds. I regret that we do not have the room in the car parks. Cars that are driven in at the end of the day for this purpose cause congestion and are a hazard. Please remember that this exit is also the main pedestrian exit from the school.



School Pay Phone – Could parents please ensure that sons/daughters have some loose change for the pay phone and also remember to write their contact telephone numbers in the School Planner. The Reception phone can be used in **EMERGENCIES ONLY**.

Mobile Phones – A reminder of the rules for mobile phones:

*As in previous years, the rules for mobile phones in school remains the same mobile phones should not be brought into school. However, the decision to provide your child with a mobile phone to give parents/cares reassurance that they can contact their child whilst travelling alone on public transport or journeys to and from school, is made on the understanding that the mobile should be **switched off completely** whilst at school, not merely silenced or on divert or vibrate.*

In order to reduce the risk of theft or loss during the school day, students who carry mobile phones must keep them concealed, not advertise that they have them, and mark them clearly with their name.

St Thomas More, the Governing Body and school staff accept no responsibility for replacing mobile phones that are lost, stolen or damaged whilst on the school premises, or on school sponsored functions.

St Thomas More, the Governing Body and school staff accept no responsibility for students who lose or have mobile phones stolen whilst travelling to and from school.

If a student is seen with, or using a mobile phone on school premises, the phone will be confiscated to a secure place in school and returned at the end of the school day and a letter will be sent home on a first offence. If a student breaks this rule again, the phone will be confiscated to a secure place in school, parents/carers will be informed who then may collect the phone during office hours. The phone will not be returned to the student. Repeated infringements would be seen as a breach of the Student Behaviour Policy and sanctions may follow.

It is understood that parents/carers accept this change of practice unless they contact the school directly to express their non-acceptance.

A reminder that, during PE practical lessons, valuables, including mobile phones, should be placed in the tray which is made available to students at the start of every lesson. It would also be advisable not to bring an expensive phone into school.

Lost Property – Please ensure that all items of clothing and equipment are marked with a full name (not just initials) and take care not to leave belongings behind in classes or the playground, etc. It is expensive and wasteful to replace items when they could easily be returned to their owner.



Absence Line – Could parents please ensure that, when calling the Absence Line, they give details of their child's absence, rather than just saying that they won't be in school. Thank you for your support.

Changes to Contact Details – If you have moved house, changed your email address, mobile telephone number or work contact number, etc., please remember to email the changes to: datacollection@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk

.....

Year 7 Retreat to St Peter's Church – Shortly, Year 7 Parents/Carers will receive a letter via email about the Year 7 Retreats next week at St. Peter's, Eastwood: Wednesday 12th September Forms 7A and 7D, Thursday 13th September Forms 7G and 7P and Friday 14th September Forms 7S and 7(6).

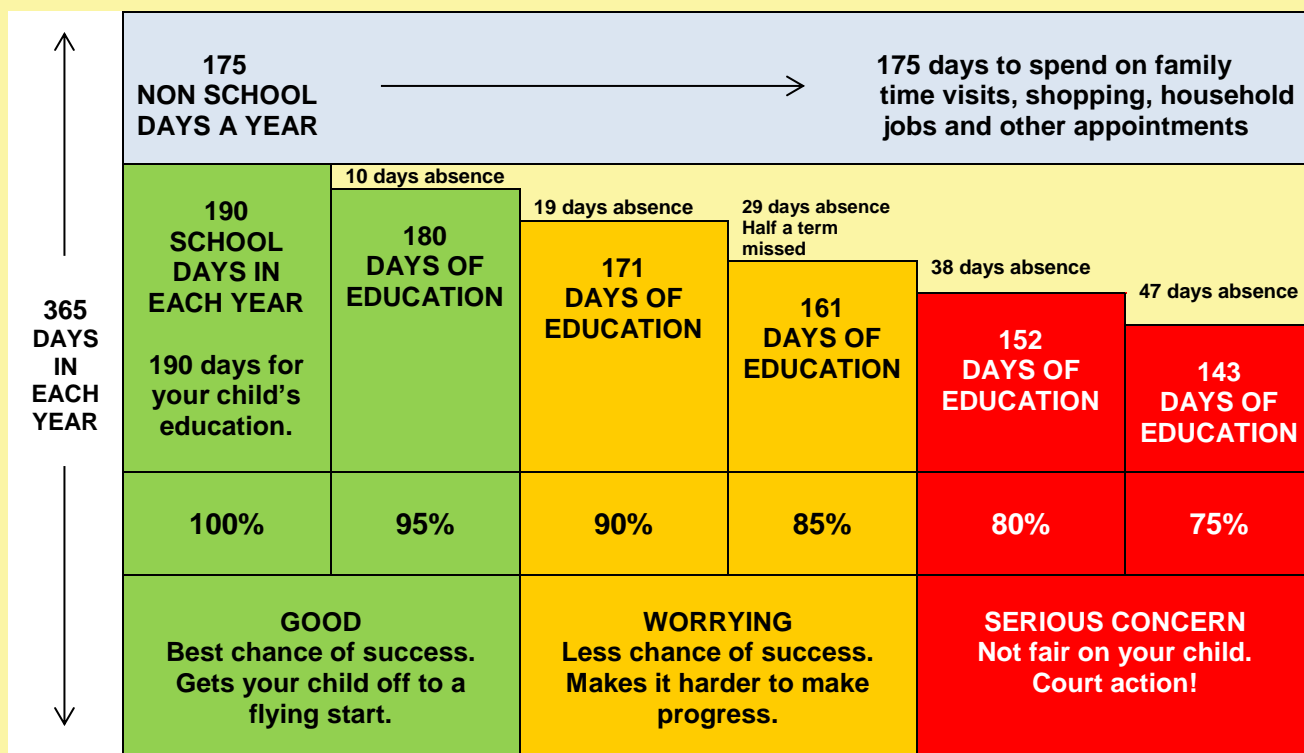
Leave of Absence Requests - I would like to remind our readers that parents whose children are on a school register have a duty to ensure that their children attend regularly and if they fail to do so, they may be prosecuted under the terms of the 1993 Education Act.

As from 1st September 2013, the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment), the amendments make clear that the Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Taking your child out of school during term time could be detrimental to your child's educational progress. A student who takes 10 days absence will only attain 94.7% attendance in the year. 10 days absence also means the student will miss 50 hours of education. There is no entitlement to parents to take their child out of school during term time; however, you may apply to the school for leave of absence if you believe there are exceptional circumstances. If the absence is not authorised and the holiday taken, the case will be referred to the Child and Family Early Intervention Team who may issue a Penalty Notice for £120 (or £60 if paid within 21 days) to each parent for each child taken out of school.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS - We take absence very seriously. We target intervention with students whose attendance falls below target of 95%

Days off school add up to lost learning

- Please don't let your child miss out on the education they deserve
- Every school day counts



If your child does not attend school they will not achieve. We want all students to achieve high levels of attendance and give themselves the very best life chances and choices.

Care Plans - If your child has a care plan for anaphylaxis or another specific medical condition, can you please ensure that all medication is handed into reception and that all medication is in date. If you have any queries regarding medication, please contact Mrs Walford.

Confirmation Programme at St Teresa the Child Jesus – Rochford - If you are in Year 9 or above and are ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and become full members of the Catholic Church please email Fr Gerry and let him know at frgerry@talktalk.net The course will be starting in October. If you have any questions please do email Fr Gerry or speak to him after Mass.



Interested in Drama? Why not try the STM Drama Club run by Nick from JADA Youth Theatre.

A fun, social class in drama where you can learn extra performing skills. This is a fun way to make new friends and build confidence in a relaxed environment.

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 important. Open to all year groups.

When? Every Thursday 3.30-5pm (starting Thursday 13th September)

Where? Psychology 1

Any queries please contact Mrs Napper (Teacher of Food Technology/Enrichment Coordinator)

Year 11 Business Studies REVISION – Tuesday 3.35 – 4.35 in BS1 - I would like to invite anyone who would like to get extra help with work and to attend revision sessions for GCSE Business Studies. This will be on a Tuesday after school with Mrs Lindsay. We will cover topics covered as well as help with exam practice.

Mrs Lindsay

Year 12 and 13 Business Studies DROP IN – Monday 3.35 – 4.35 in BS1 - I would like to invite anyone who would like to get extra help with work and to attend revision sessions for A LEVEL Business Studies. This will be on a Monday after school with Mrs Lindsay. We will cover topics covered as well as help with exam practice.

Mrs Lindsay



Business Studies TWITTER page

If there is anyone interested in Business and are on twitter, please follow Mrs Lindsay for up to date business news, exam information and interesting articles from all aspects of Business.

@Alindsay100

STEM CLUBS

ALL STUDENTS WELCOME

Through STEM, you will develop key skills:

- problem solving
- creativity
- critical analysis
- teamwork
- independent thinking
- initiative
- communication
- digital literacy.

STEM CLUB	Teacher	When	Where	STEM CLUB	Teacher	When	Where
	Space Jam A. Pierce	Thursday 3.45 - 4.45	Lab 2		Electronics J. Vitone	Tuesday 3.45 - 4.45	TR1
	Programmers J. Marshall	Tuesday 1.30- 2.30	CR5		CS:IL J. Dibbens	Tuesday 3.45 - 4.45	Lab 5
	Construction R. Leamy & S. Griffin	Thursday 3.45 - 4.45	Te1		Medics E. Jones	Tuesday 3.45 - 4.45	Lab 7
	Guardians S. Jones	Tuesday 3.45 - 4.45	Lab 6	ALL STARTING Week Beginning 17th September			

SPORTS FIXTURES

DATE	FIXTURE	TIME
10/09/2018	Year 7 Football trials – Andrew’s/David’s/George’s Year 7 Basketball trials – Patrick’s/Sebastian’s/New	3:50 – 5:00pm 3:50 – 5:00pm
11/09/2018	Year 7 Football trials – Patrick’s/Sebastian’s/New House Year 7 Basketball trials – Andrew’s/David’s/George’s	3:50 – 5:00pm 3:50 – 5:00pm
12/09/2018		
13/09/2018	Year 7 Rugby trials Year 10 Open Football Practice Sixth Form Football Practice	3:50 – 5:00pm 3:50 – 5:00pm 3:50 – 5:00pm
14/09/2018		

