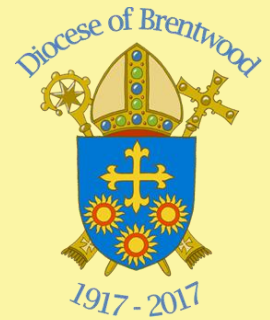


CONTACT

No. 1443 – Friday 2nd November 2018



Dear Parents and Pupils,

Feast of All Saints – Yesterday we delighted to welcome Fr. Gerry Drummond and Fr. Jeff Woolnough into school to celebrate Mass with students and staff for the Feast of All Saints. It was a lovely Mass and my thanks to Mrs Maxfield, the Priests, students, sound, ICT and site team who helped prepare and set up for this Mass. A particular highlight was the new hymn Saints and Beloved of God by Dan Schutte presented by the Lit Choir which I hope we use again. Thank you Mrs Webb and Mr Riches for their hard work in preparing the Lit Choir.

This week staff have also been considering the nominations for the new House Patron Saint made by our new Year 7 form and their House Captains. We look forward to the unveiling of the new House to the rest of the school at assemblies next week.



Mass for the Deceased Wednesday 14th November at 7pm – A reminder that you are warmly invited to attend our Mass for the dearly departed during November, the month of the Holy Souls, to pray for the deceased relatives and friends of members of our school community. If you hope to attend and would like the name of a loved one added to the list of those we pray for at the Mass, please send name/s to Mrs Davies via email LDAVIES@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk before Friday 10th November. All Form/Chaplaincy and Sports Captains/Leaders received an invitation letter on Tuesday 30th October 2018 to attend this Mass so please send back replies a.s.a.p. (even if they are unable to attend).

Year 10 Study Skills Evening 8th November at 6pm – All Year 10 parents should by now have received a letter via School Comms inviting them to attend the Year 10 Study Skills Evening which takes place on Thursday 8th November at 6pm. This Study Skills evening is designed to support your son in developing the skills that he will need and answer many of the questions that you and your son will have regarding your son's preparation for external assessments. It is often the case that parents are unsure of the amount of work and effort that we expect our students to put in to succeed in these very important years. We also hear from parents that they do not know how to help or support their sons during this busy and often stressful time. We hope that this evening will address these concerns. For the students this will also be a valuable opportunity for them to pick up advice and guidance on how to prepare for this intensive period in their school career. We look forward to seeing you and your sons on this evening. **A reminder that there is no parking at the school, the closest car park is behind the Fire Station in Mountdale Gardens which is a short walk away.**

Year 9 Study Skills Evening – 15th November at 6pm – An early warning for the Year 9 Study Skills evening – please put the date in your diary – more information to follow.

Weekly Prayer

Dear Jesus,

help me to make you number one in my life and not be distracted by material things.

Help me not to be tied down by possessions.

Give me the strength to struggle for a better world where the dignity of everyone is respected.

AMEN

October – Month of the Rosary - The Rosary was prayed during the second half of lunch on Tuesdays and Fridays throughout October and the cushion covers in the Chapel have been changed back to Red. My thanks to all the students who turned up to pray the Rosary with Mrs. Ackred, Mrs. Webb and myself.

An extended invitation to everyone to Morning Prayer in the Chapel every day at 11.15 for a decade of the Rosary, prayer and reflection for 5 minutes. Also we have a 'Prayer button' on the VLE where students can submit a prayer for all those in our school community, these will be displayed on the screens in the Canteen and Concourse.

Southend Foodbank - Natasha Copus – Project Manager from Southend Foodbank passes on her thanks to all Staff, Students and Parents/Carers for their generous food donations for the Foodbank. She was overwhelmed with the amount collected. All the items were collected yesterday and they will be distributed among families in the area. This will be an on-going project so students can still bring items to the Chapel for donation.

Debating Society - Last Friday saw the conclusion of the preliminary rounds of the competition with a demanding debate motion around the building of homes on the green belt. St Patrick's outlined their case but didn't have sufficient detail in their arguments to carry the floor or the judges. As usual there were some excellent contributions from the Floor. St Sebastian's House team showed great development following their first debate and all three speakers raised their scores. Saik Bah (House Captain) who opened for the opposition was commended as Star Debater for the research he had undertaken and for his clear outlining of the case for the proposition. Today the grand final took place between St Patrick's and St David's debating the motion: **This house would ban the sale and consumption of meat.** Look out for the report in next week's Contact. The debating Society will continue to run debates on Fridays so now is the opportunity for some of our younger speakers to get involved. If you would like to take part or you have a suggestion for a debate motion please come along to RE4 on Fridays at 1:35pm. Any questions, speak to Mrs Webb or Mr Tisi.

Public Speaking - There will be a public speaking competition taking place later this term and teams of three are required. This competition is open to all age groups and teams should either enter the intermediate category for students aged 11-14 or the senior category for students aged 15-18. Start to gather your teams and entry details will be published in next week's Contact.



Spotlight - This is Brandon Aguinaldo, Form 7/6, who has just returned from the Karate European Championship in Malta with a Bronze medal. There were 18 competitors in Brandon's category so this is a wonderful achievement – well done Brandon!! Mr Ackred.

Jack Petchey Small Grants Award 2018 -

I am pleased to be able to write that St Thomas More has been successful in achieving a Small Grants Award to the value of £750 from Jack Petchey following our 'Leaders Award' won last year by Mrs Wilkes for her contribution to Duke of Edinburgh. The money is to be spent on new tents and Trangias to support the growing number of students taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme at the school. Well done again to Mrs Wilkes for this achievement.

Mrs Napper (Enrichment Coordinator)



Royal Albert Hall – On Saturday 27th October, I had the privilege of singing at the Royal Albert Hall with the rest of the Southend Boys' Choir. The opera was titled, 'Camina Burana' and to sing with my friends at the Royal Albert Hall is my greatest and most honoured memory of my lifetime! By day, the Royal Albert Hall is jaw dropping and fascinating, but by night....well, words cannot express how amazing it is! Report by Adam Goff, Form 8S.

Friends of St Thomas More Meeting – A reminder that there is a FoSTM meeting next Tuesday in school library at 6.30pm. All welcome to attend.

Bicycle Safety – Now that the darker evenings are upon us, can I please remind parents/cares to check the lights on students' bicycles. Please ensure that students riding into school wear, bright coats, any fluorescent bands as well as the normal cycling helmet. A reminder that hoodies or sweat tops will be confiscated and only returned to parents. Warm winter coats should be worn.



Young Enterprise Quiz Night – Our YE team have organised a Quiz Night on 16th November from 7pm – 9pm. Tickets are £5 per adult and £3 per student. Please see the posters around the school or Miss McCague for further details.

Career Evenings in London - Are you in Year 12 or 13 and interested in studying Business at University? Lancaster University are running a series of free events in London throughout November aimed at helping students understand which Business related degree is right for them and explore the careers these could lead to.

Wednesday 14 th November 2018 Why study Business and Management at University?	Thursday 22 nd November 2018 Opening the Door to a Career in Financial Markets
Wednesday 21 st November 2018 Your Future in Economics	Wednesday 28 th November 2018 Marketing: A World of Career Opportunities

For more information and register a place visit <http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/lums/about-us/working-with-schools/>



KUDOS - In my absence 8G began KUDOS this week under the guidance of their Form Tutor Mr Marshall. They have all logged in and begun answering the questions to help them explore the different careers suited to their likes and dislikes. I look forward to seeing them next Wednesday in from time to time to see how they are getting on. Please encourage them to log in at home and show you what the website has to offer in the way of information and what careers the subjects they choose for their GCSE options can lead to. <https://kudos.cascaid.co.uk/#/>

Connexions - Connexions appointments began this week for year 11 with advisor Darren Graham. Connexions Southend are specialist providers of information, advice and guidance to schools across Southend and Essex and give impartial advice on Post 16 Options. All year 11 students will be made an appointment with Darren over the next few months. Don't forget that Open Events for Sixth Form and Colleges have started, a list of these can be found in the Careers folder in your Form rooms and on the Careers page of the School website. If you would like more information please ask. Mrs Griffiths – Careers Coordinator.

Spanish Club

Practise your Spanish – Writing and Speaking skills with señora Williams in MFL1			
Club	Day	Time	Who for
Spanish Beginners	Monday	1.35-2.00	Yrs 7 & 8
Spanish Conversation	Tuesday	3.30-4.30	KS5
Spanish Grammar Skills	Thursday	1.35-2.00	KS4/ KS5
Spanish Conversation	Thursday	3.45-4.45	Yr 9-11 (KS4)

SPORTS NEWS



PE Students of the Week - Our two winners this week are Korede from Year 10 and Aaron from Year 9. Both students have made a great start to their PE

academic studies this year, Korede in GCSE PE and Aaron in Level 2 BTEC. Well done to both students



House Chess Competition – During the week commencing 12th November, there are to be two House Chess Competitions taking place on Tuesday and Wednesday at lunch.

Please see Mr Vitone for further information.



Twitter - A reminder that Twitter users can follow the PE Department's Twitter handle @PEDeptSTM to keep up to date with news, fixtures, results and links to content for exam preparation. Items are available which are already set up for customisation and just require the initials of the student. The items include:

SPORT FIXTURES

DATE	FIXTURE	TIME
05/11/2018	1st XI National Cup Football v SHSB (HOME) Year 7-9 Badminton @ SHSB Year 7 Basketball v Southchurch (AWAY)	2:00pm
06/11/2018	Year 10 Basketball v Chase (AWAY) Year 8 Basketball v Thorpe Hall (HOME)	4:00pm 4:00pm
07/11/2018	Borough Cross Country P1-3 High Jump Practice Year 9 Essex Cup Football v Little Ilford (AWAY)	1:35pm – 2:30pm 2:30pm
08/11/2018	Assisi Catholic Trust Football & Netball Tournament at OLOR Year 10/11 Badminton @ SHSB Tennis Ambassadors @ King Edwards Sixth Form	1:00pm – 3:00pm 4:00pm
09/11/2018	Year 11 Football v Great Baddow (AWAY) Essex Table Tennis Team Event, Harlow	2:45pm 9:00am – 1:30pm

PE Extra-curricular Timetable Winter 2018

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8.00 - 8.30am	PE DEPARTMENT MEETING	Year 9 Futsal	All Years Cross Country Year 8 Football	Year 10 Futsal SNR Rugby	Year 7 & 8 Basketball
1.40 - 2.20pm	Year 7 Basketball Year 9 Rugby	Sport Scholars Fitness	Year 7 & 8 Rugby Year 9 Basketball	Year 8 Basketball	Sport Scholar Meeting Racquet Sports
3.30 - 5.00pm	Year 7 & 8 Rugby Year 10 & 11 Basketball Year 11 & VI Form Football Training	Year 9 Rugby Year 9 Basketball	Yr 10 Football - Week 1 SNR Rugby Year 7, 8 & 10 Southend Football - Astro	Year 7 & 8 Rugby Year 9 Football	Badminton Club (Wk 1 - Years 10 & 11) (Wk 2 - Years 7, 8 & 9)

YEAR 11 REVISION TIMETABLE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
AM			RE 8:00 – 8:30am	English - All levels 8.00-8.30am (E5)	English - All levels 8.00-8.30am (E1)
LUNCH	English - "Aiming for a level 5" 1.30-2.00pm (E3) Chemistry 1.35-2.05pm (LAB3)	Media - Drop in 2.00-2.30pm (CR7) Science - Drop in 1.35-2.10pm (LAB 8)	D&T 1.35-2.20pm (CR8)	Science - Drop in 1.35-2.10pm (LAB 8)	English - Poetry Revision 1.30-2.00pm (TR7)
AFTER-SCHOOL	English - All levels 3.30-4.30pm (E5) English - Drop in 3.30-4.30pm (E4) D&T 3.30-4.30 (TEC1 & TEC2) ICT coursework 3.30-4.30pm (CR3) Maths - Foundation 3.30-4.30pm (LAB7) <u>Week 1 only</u> Maths - Set 1 3.30-4.30pm (M2) <u>Start date TBC</u> RE 3:30 – 4:15pm	English - Drop in 3.30-4.30pm (BS3) English - Levels 5-9 3.30-4.30pm (MS1) Business Studies 3.30-4.30pm (BS1) Food Prep 3.30-4.30pm (Food tech) Maths - Set 3 3.30-5.00pm (M1) Maths - Set 2 & 4 3.30-4.30pm (M5) Maths - Higher Tier 3.30-4.30pm (M6) <u>Start date TBC</u>	English - All levels 3.30-4.30pm (E6) ICT coursework 3.30-4.30pm (CR3)	Business Studies 3.30-4.30pm (BS1) Science 3.30-4.40pm (LAB6) Maths - Set 3 3.30-5.00pm (M1) Spanish 3.30-4.30pm (MFL1)	