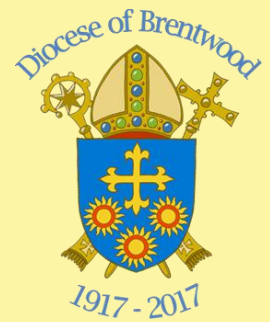


# CONTACT

No. 1444 – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018



Dear Parents and Pupils,

**St Thomas More is an Outstanding Catholic School** - Before half term, St Thomas More was visited by two Inspectors who conducted an inspection of our Wider Catholic Life, Religious Education and Collective Worship. We are absolutely delighted to report that the inspectors found that we were Outstanding in all areas they looked at. They spent time in RE lessons and speaking to our wonderful students across all years. They were left with a real sense of what we stand for as a school. They said:

***'.....Pupils make an outstanding contribution to the Catholic Life of the School and derive huge benefit from attending St Thomas More....'***

Their understanding of his words, "God's servant first", is evident throughout the life and work of the community. The word "family" was used by many pupils to describe the school.

The full report is now on our school [website](#) to read. Thank you to everyone connected to the school; pupils, parents, staff and governors who have all helped us grow over the last 5 years since our last Diocesan Inspection.

**Our new house has a new name** - As you will be aware, we now have a 6th form group in Year 7. For a while now Form 7/6 have been thinking about what saint to be named after. The students in the form came up with a range of saints to choose from. In the end they voted, along with staff, and the saint chosen is **St Vincent de Paul**. Vincent was a French Catholic priest who dedicated himself to serving the poor. He was renowned for his compassion, humility and generosity and is patron saint of the poor.

We have chosen purple as the new House colour and we are now looking to design the new House badge which I know the new 7 Vincent will be involved in designing.

**Year 9 Study Skills Evening** – A reminder that we are holding our Year 9 Study Skills Evening on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November, starting at 6pm. We look forward to seeing you and your sons at this important and informative event.

**Remembrance Poppies** - Poppies are on sale in the school – please remind your son/daughter to donate to this great cause and wear their poppies with pride.



**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.

## *Weekly Prayer*

*Dear Jesus,*

*thank you for your love and for wanting the best for me in my life.*

*Inspire me to know how to return your love in the way I live.*

*Help me to see all those I meet each day as neighbours whom I should love as I love myself.*

*Amen*

**Weekly Mass** – My thanks to Fr. Jeff Woolnough who celebrated our weekly Mass with us for members of Form 11P and to those students who prepared the readings and prayers.

**Youth Mass** - Wednesday 7th November - 5 students attended this Mass which was led by Fr. Dominic and focussed on Remembrance. My thanks to the students who attended and to Mrs Kadwill for driving the Minibus.



**Debating Society** - Last Friday we held the Grand Final of the Inter House Debating Competition between St David's and St Patrick's. After a very closely fought debate St Patrick's House were declared the winners and the star debater Emeka Ogbonna. The motion proposing to prohibit the sale and consumption of meat was carried despite some lively contributions from the floor from staff and students. Congratulations to both houses for their performance, for St David's Ellie Gudgin, Noah Hughes (House Captain) and William Parker and to our winning St Patrick's team pictured Emeka Ogbonna, Emanuela Lika and Galvin Salvador Regalado (House Captain)



Finishing Positions:

- 1<sup>st</sup> St Patrick's
- 2<sup>nd</sup> St David's
- 3<sup>rd</sup> St Sebastian's
- 4<sup>th</sup> St Andrew's
- 5<sup>th</sup> St George's
- 

The Debating Society will now continue with volunteer speakers from across the school who wish to sharpen their skills in the building and challenging of arguments. Today the motion for debate was, 'This house would ban smart devices to anyone under 18'. We encourage all students interested in developing their skills in this entertaining and competitive context to come along on Friday lunchtimes to see what debating is all about!

**Public Speaking** - We were pleased to welcome Mr James Scruby from the English Speaking Union to school on Wednesday. He led a workshop for those speakers who will be competing in the ESU Public Speaking Competition in the new year. We are holding an internal public speaking competition to determine which teams of students will represent St Thomas More in this year's Rotary Youth Speaks Competition. Teams of three may enter in two age categories, Intermediate (students in Years 7-9) and Senior (students in Years 10-13). Teams comprise a chairperson, a speaker and a proposer of the vote of thanks. Entry Forms will be available from Mrs Webb from Monday 12th November.

**Catholic History Walks – A royal walk on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 3pm** – A walk around Westminster to see Catholics and Royalty, from Henry VIII and his break with Rome to the present day. We walk towards Buckingham Palace. Meet on the steps of Westminster Cathedral. Nearest Tube: Victoria. St Joseph's Catholic Church, Upminster.

**Do you speak another language?** - If you speak an additional language and would be interested in taking an extra qualification in this subject then please see Mrs Lindsay as soon as possible (BS1) or alternatively contact her on [alindsay@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk](mailto:alindsay@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk)

Please be advised I can put year 7 and 8 on a list for future years and will consider year 9 – 13 for this year depending on the subject and also if there is a speaker available. Mrs Lindsay.

**School Nurse 'Drop-in'** - The school nurse will be available to see on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November during lunch time.



**Young Enterprise Quiz Night** – Our YE team have organised a Quiz Night on 16<sup>th</sup> 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.



**Community Matters** - St Thomas More Library is in Waitrose (the Leigh-On-Sea branch) for Community Matters. Please vote for us when you are given a green token as we will be given a share of a £1,000 to buy much needed new books for the School Library. Mrs Courtney, Librarian.

**Year 9 Business Studies REVISION** – Monday 3.30 to 4.30 in BS4 - I am looking to invite and encourage any student who would like some extra support to go over topics we have covered so far and exam technique to attend revision sessions for GCSE Business Studies with Miss Myhill.

**Year 12 A-level Business Studies DROP IN Sessions** – Tuesday 3.30 to 4.30 in BS4 - I am looking to invite and encourage any student who would like some extra support to go over topics we have covered so far and exam technique to attend revision sessions for A-level Business with Miss Myhill.

**Year 12 BTEC Business Studies DROP IN Sessions** – Friday 13.35 to 14.25 in BS4 – In preparation for the upcoming Personal and Business Finance exam (Unit 3) I am inviting any student who would like some extra support to go over topics and exam technique to attend revision sessions for BTEC Business Studies with Miss Myhill.

**The Great House Bake-Off** - On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October Mrs Ackred and Mr Maxfield judged the entries for The Great House Bake-Off. The task was to decorate a cake or cupcakes in the theme of your school house or your favourite school subject. Originally we had planned to have 3 winning categories; key stage 3, key stage 4 and sixth form/staff but due to no sixth form or staff entries this year we decided to split the key 3 into years 7 and 8 as they had the greater number of entries. Each cake was marked out of 10 for its appearance, taste, complexity and relevance to the set brief/theme. The points awarded to each student were added up contributing to the House totals. The cakes were then sliced and sold on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October, the total is still to be confirmed. This money will be divided between the 3 winners House charities for this year.

I am pleased to announce the winning cakes from each category are as follows:

- Year 7 Charles Bedford (7/6)
- Year 8 Presley Fleming (8G)
- Year 9/10/11 Ronan Fallon (9P)

**Year 7 winner**



**Year 8 winner**



**Year 9/10/11 winner**



Total points awarded for each house are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place – St Patrick's (172 points)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place – St George's (170 points)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place – St David's (165.5 points)
- 4<sup>th</sup> place – 7/6 (75 points)
- 5<sup>th</sup> place – St Andrew's (45 points)
- 

Well done again to all who entered, the quality of the entries were amazing. Mrs S. Napper (Teacher of Food Technology).

**Southend 2050 Writing Competition** - This half term saw our year 7 and 8 students entered the Southend 2050 writing competition, it's about the future of the borough and how it affects the everyday lives of the people that live, work and visit here. The tasks were as follows:

***Write a letter (A4 one sided) from their future self, exploring their lives and the town in 2050  
or  
to create an A4 poster promoting Southend in the year 2050***

***Whether written, drawn, painted or collaged, we invite pupils of all ages to get creative and tell us what they think their lives will be like in Southend in the year 2050. One entry will win a prize!***

Such was the level of interest and passion shown by our Year 8 and 9 students, Saint Thomas More was heavily represented on the evening with wonderful contributions from our students. Joseph Murphy and Henry Bagnall scooped the overall winners' prizes for their wonderful works and were presented with their plaques by the Lord Mayor of Southend. Special mention to Don Sunil, Jinossan Suseendran, Emmanuel Commey, David Ibikunle, Kassius Bonney and Aksajan Aravinthan. It was a wonderful evening that saw the hard work and creative talents of our students on display, all contributors and winners can feel incredibly proud of their efforts. Mrs Cotgrove, Mr Dooley and all the staff at Saint Thomas More would like to pass on their congratulations to the boys and their families, well done.



**Autumn Term Music Competition for years 7 and 8** - Each term we will be holding a Music Competition. To be in with a chance of winning one of these fantastic prizes, you will need to upload a recording of you playing or singing your favourite piece of Music onto the year 7 or 8 Music page on the VLE

Your performance must be a solo (you performing on your own) and no longer than 2mins in length.

Make sure you introduce yourself and what you are playing at the beginning of your recording

**Entries should be made by 21<sup>st</sup> November**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Prize** – 3 Tickets to see 'The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain' live in concert at the Cliffs Pavilion (year 7 study a project on the Ukulele) *A great experience and chance to see this popular instrument in a different light*
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Prize** – a free 20min lesson on an instrument of your choice with Morley's Music Academy at their new studio
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Prize** – 3 'Prasies'

**Friends of St Thomas More High School** - Please remember to return raffle ticket stubbs and money back to school no later than 6 December. A reminder to put Student's name and Form on returning envelope so that they can be included in the Merit prize for most sold tickets. If you require more raffle tickets, they can be collected from reception. We also require donations for hampers luxury food, drink and toiletries items including wine, chocolates, chutneys etc to be received no later than 6 December; If anyone has any large baskets that they can donate for the hampers it would be much appreciated

**STM Variety Show** – Thank you to all of those who are taking part; a schedule will be out shortly.

## CAREERS

Check out <https://www.ratelyapprenticeship.co.uk/top-employers> for this year's list of the best employers in the UK offering both Apprenticeships and Work experience for School and College leavers. There are links to the latest Apprenticeships on offer and advice on the range of Apprenticeships available.



### Exam Made Easy – Rapid Revision -

This week our Yr11/12 & 13 students took part in an Exam Made Easy workshop delivered by Joe Rowntree on behalf of MADE Training. The interactive one hour sessions focused on Rapid Revision techniques where Joe provided strategies aimed at improving performance levels and ultimately better results. The techniques included note taking using the Cornell Method, skim reading and a memory aid called The Memory Palace, an incredibly useful way of revising based on visualisation and location. The feedback from the students has been really positive and we hope they will begin to apply the techniques when revising for their upcoming mocks and exams.



**Form 8G** completed their second week of KUDOS on Wednesday and many of the form had completed their profiles and were researching their possible career matches. Please encourage them to continue logging in at home and to be searching for the relevant subjects they may need to consider taking as a GCSE that relate to the career path that interest them. Mr Tisi's form, 8S, will join me next week and I understand from Mr Tisi that they are keen to get their KUDOS journey underway. I look forward to meeting them.

**Apprenticeships Assembly** - We were joined on Tuesday by Caroline Fairman from Career Ready who gave an assembly to year 10 on Apprenticeships. Caroline gave a presentation on the different levels of Apprenticeships, from a Traineeship up to a Degree, explaining the differences and the career opportunities available as an alternative to going to college and university. Ms Griffiths, Careers Co-ordinator.

## SPORTS NEWS

**PE Student of the Week** - Our winner this week is Afi from Year 7 for his fantastic efforts in both the Regional and Borough Cross Country tournaments recently. We have high hopes for him come the Athletics season in the summer!

**Year 8 Basketball V Thorpe Hall** - After a good first half-term of training and a tough selection process for Mr Binstead, the year 8 basketball squad had their first fixture on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> of November. The boys started the match very strong, Mark C scoring 10 points in the matter of minutes and the boys showing some fantastic discipline in offense and defence enabled us to get an early lead. Substitutions were made constantly, between quarters changing the entire 5 on the court and some individual substitutions to mix up the combinations, every player made an impact whilst they were playing, making good decisions and dominating throughout. A strong 70-15 victory is a very positive start for this squad who have plenty more to offer. MVP – Mark C.



**Year 9 Football** - Now Year 9 have shown they can play two types of football. After the silky, swashbuckling performances of late this was a game where we had to go toe to toe physically with an incredibly strong team. On an awful pitch with rain intermittently pouring down Year 9 showed true 'Tommy Spirit' to come through as 4-3 winners. In a first half of ill-discipline and some poor mistakes we found ourselves 3-1 up after an excellent corner routine saw Josh Johnson volley home six yards out. Chimeze Ogbonna and Zolani Dlodlo added to the total after we pounced on some Ilford errors. It was the second half in which we showed our spirit! Dan Pier produced his finest display in an STM shirt with two match winning saves. He was colossal in that goal. Zac Sossou and Lewis Hill displaying desire and commitment to the team cleared two off the line throughout.

Everyone played their part and this was a performance to be immensely proud of. As Josh said on the sideline "last year this was a game we would've lost." He couldn't be more correct - this is a team the whole school can be proud of. My thanks to Mr Binstead for his tactical knowledge throughout!

## SPORT FIXTURES

DATE	FIXTURE	TIME
12/11/2018	Year 11 Basketball v Shoebury (AWAY)	4:00pm
13/11/2018	Year 7 Basketball v Shoebury (HOME) Year 9 Basketball v Shoebury (AWAY) Year 9 Football v Shenfield (HOME) Year 8 Rugby v Belfairs (WRFC)	4:00pm 4:00pm 2:45pm 4:00pm
14/11/2018	Year 8/9 Indoor Athletics @ Lee Valley Sixth Form Netball v WHSB (AWAY) Year 10 Basketball v Shoebury (HOME)	12:00pm 2:30pm 4:00pm
15/11/2018	Year 7 Football v Fitzwimarc (AWAY) Sixth Form Basketball v Southend (AWAY)	12:15pm 4:00pm
16/11/2018	Year 8 Basketball v Shoebury (HOME)	4:00pm

## PE Extra-curricular Timetable Winter 2018

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>8.00 - 8.30am</b>	PE DEPARTMENT MEETING	Year 9 Futsal	All Years Cross Country Year 8 Football	Year 10 Futsal SNR Rugby	Year 7 & 8 Basketball
<b>1.40 - 2.20pm</b>	Year 7 Basketball Year 9 Rugby	Sport Scholars Fitness	Year 7 & 8 Rugby Year 9 Basketball	Year 8 Basketball	Sport Scholar Meeting Racquet Sports
<b>3.30 - 5.00pm</b>	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			<b>RE</b> 8:00 – 8:30am <b>Maths</b> - 8.30am to 9.05am suitable for Higher tier sets 2-4 in M6	<b>English</b> - All levels 8.00-8.30am (E5)	<b>English</b> - All levels 8.00-8.30am (E1)
LUNCH	<b>English</b> - "Aiming for a level 5" 1.30-2.00pm (E3) <b>Chemistry</b> 1.35-2.05pm (LAB3)	<b>Media</b> - Drop in 2.00-2.30pm (CR7) <b>Science</b> - Drop in 1.35-2.10pm (LAB 8)	<b>D&amp;T</b> 1.35-2.20pm (CR8)	<b>Science</b> - Drop in 1.35-2.10pm (LAB 8)	<b>English</b> - Poetry Revision 1.30-2.00pm (TR7)
AFTER-SCHOOL	<b>English</b> - All levels 3.30-4.30pm (E5) <b>English</b> - Drop in 3.30-4.30pm (E4) <b>D&amp;T</b> 3.30-4.30 (TEC1 & TEC2) <b>ICT</b> coursework 3.30-4.30pm (CR3) <b>Maths</b> - Foundation 3.30-4.30pm (LAB7) <u>Week 1 only</u> <b>Maths</b> - Set 1 3.30-4.30pm (M2) <u>Start date TBC</u> <b>RE</b> 3:30 – 4:15pm	<b>English</b> - Drop in 3.30-4.30pm (BS3) <b>English</b> - Levels 5-9 3.30-4.30pm (MS1) <b>Business Studies</b> 3.30-4.30pm (BS1) <b>Food Prep</b> 3.30-4.30pm (Food tech) <b>Maths</b> - Set 3 3.30-5.00pm (M1) <b>Maths</b> - Set 2 & 4 3.30-4.30pm (M5) <b>Maths</b> - Higher Tier 3.30-4.30pm (M6) <u>Start date TBC</u>	<b>English</b> - All levels 3.30-4.30pm (E6) <b>ICT</b> coursework 3.30-4.30pm (CR3)	<b>Business Studies</b> 3.30-4.30pm (BS1) <b>Science</b> 3.30-4.40pm (LAB6) <b>Maths</b> - Set 3 3.30-5.00pm (M1) <b>Spanish</b> 3.30-4.30pm (MFL1)	