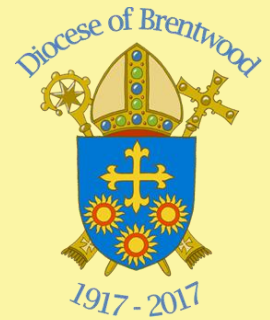


CONTACT

No. 1447 – Friday 30th November 2018



Dear Parents and Pupils,

Advent Service - We are holding our Advent Service on Thursday 13th December at 7pm. Our liturgical choir is working hard in preparation and we look forward to welcoming the pupils of Year 7 and their parents, other students and their families, staff, governors and friends of the school to share this evening of word and music. The service will be repeated on Friday 14th December for the whole school community.

Donations of mince pies, bottles of wine, festive refreshments and other Christmas goodies would be appreciated for after the service; these can be left at the school reception. Thank you, as always, for your support.

Following last Thursday's Sixth Form Open evening, I was delighted to receive a number of emails from families who attended and were impressed with the staff, students and atmosphere here at St Thomas More. See below for a sample of some of the comments:

"I was completely blown away by the evening"

"We were impressed with the STM offer for KS5. It was good to see the new subject areas being explored."

"The dynamic in the VI form was truly electric, engaged and vibrant."

"We met a number of year 12 students, new to STM. All those we spoke to, gave reasons why they had chosen STM and why this was a good choice for them."

"...the students and your staff group did you proud – the welcome; the knowledge and enthusiasm for the school and their subjects; and the way they interacted with us as visitors."

"you primarily spoke to the students; explained that they would be role models for the younger pupils in the school; encouraged them to think about leadership; talked about service and social justice; and finally made it very clear that the standards at your school are high, but motivated them to think about working hard so that they have choice going forward."

"I came away from the evening with hope..... I was delighted to hear your head girl state she wanted to study social policy! Saint Thomas More is a breath of fresh air."

Weekly Prayer

Dear Jesus, you came as the Servant King.

I want you to have first place in my life.

*Help me to turn away from anything which is stopping me
receiving your love and sharing that love with those around me.*

You are King of the Universe.

AMEN

Weekly Mass – Students and Staff from St. Andrew’s House gathered together in the Chapel to celebrate their Form Mass at lunchtime. We were pleased to welcome Father Jeff Woolnough. My thanks to the Altar Servers and all the students who led us in prayer and proclaimed the readings.

Public Speaking and Debating - Congratulations to four members of the Sixth Form who have represented St Thomas More High School in inter-school competition this week. Roisin Irvine and Jotham Akinyanju competed in the ESU Mace Debating Competition on Tuesday and Chris Ndlovu, Blerona Sulejmani and Jotham Akinyanju competed on Thursday in the East Regional Final of the ESU Sixth Form Public Speaking Competition. All speakers gave an excellent performance and were a credit to themselves and their school. Congratulations to all speakers.

Liturgical Choir - There will be rehearsals for the Advent Service taking on Monday and Tuesday lunchtimes next week. Please note that rehearsals will take place in the Music Room beginning at 1:35pm

Locker Keys - We have had a run lately of boys needing to buy spare locker keys as they have lost theirs, which means that we are now running low on all spares in reception. We are currently waiting for an order of them which is on delay from the supplier. Therefore, if your son has lost his locker key and needs a replacement, it is highly likely that we won't have one. Please may I urge you to ask your son to keep his locker key safe at all times. Reception.



On 11th December, we are holding a Christmas Jumper Day for this year's chosen charities. A minimum donation of £1:50 per student, please. The usual non-uniform day rules apply: students are allowed to come to school in their ordinary clothes, rather than school uniform, provided they pay **at least £1:50** into the charity

fund here at school. The money is to be paid via the School Gateway.



Southend Foodbank - On Friday 23rd November – 5 staff (Miss Myhill, Miss Barlow, Mr Dooley, Mr Leamy and Mr Griffin) and 3 students (Chris N, Chris K and Mania M) gave up their time throughout the day to volunteer at the Foodbank. They all did a great job and Natasha Copus, Project Manager was extremely grateful for all their help.

Some more staff are volunteering on Saturday 1 December at the Foodbank. If any student from Year 12 or Year 13 would like to join us, please ask your Form Tutor to email me or you can pop into the Chapel to speak to me. Items still required for the foodbank are: UHT milk cartons and puddings any donations can be brought to the Chapel. Thank you to all students who have brought items in – I have a box full to take with me on Saturday. Mrs Maxfield, Chaplaincy Co-ordinator.



New Building Site Visit –

Earlier this week, a group of staff and students were lucky enough to go on a site visit to our new school building which is still under construction. Davis Construction Ltd.'s Contracts Manager, Tom Thwaite, showed the group around and explained in

great detail the work that has

been carried out so far (as well as the very futuristic heating/air condition system





that is currently being fitted). The site has come on so much since the previous visit and we look forward to another visit in January 2019. A live feed of the build can be found on our website by clicking [here](#).

Davis Constuction's Site Manager, Mark Notton, was recently awarded the 'Performance Beyond Compliance' award by the Considerate Constructors Scheme for his 'enthusiasm for running a high performing site' and 'his commitment to delivery a quality project for the school'. 'Excellent lines of communication have been set up with the staff and students of St Thomas More with site visits and assemblies to promote the industry to the next generation'.

Christmas Dinner - We will offering a Christmas Dinner to all students on the 11th December. The cost of the dinner is £4.80 please see attached menu for details. If your Son/Daughter would like Christmas Dinner please make payment via the School Gateway before **30th November**, we are unable to accept cash or cheque payments. There is no charge to pupils who receive free school meals.

There will be a reduced break time service available to all students on the day, no other lunchtime alternatives will be available. If your son/daughter does not want a Christmas dinner please provide them with a packed lunch.



Roast Turkey
Pigs in Blankets
Brussel Sprouts or Peas and Carrots
Roast Potatoes, Stuffing
Gravy and Cranberry Sauce

Caramelised Onion, Cranberry and Brie Tartlets
Roast Potatoes
A Choice of Vegetables

Christmas Dessert with Custard Sauce

Drink
and a Christmas cracker

The cost of the meal will be £4.80. (via the School Gateway ONLY)

The Deanery Orchestra – The Deanery Orchestra present 'A Christmas Festival' on Saturday 8th December at 7:30pm at St Augustine's Church, Thorpe Bay. Adults £5, children aged 16 and under, free. The price includes refreshments, mince pies and mulled wine. 30% of ticket sales go directly to Cancer Research UK. Plesae contact 07922 554343 for tickets.

Advent Service at Brentwood Cathedral - We should very much like to invite you to our **Advent Service** at Brentwood Cathedral this Sunday 2nd December which will take place at 4pm and last about an hour. Bishop Alan will be presiding at this beautiful event which will include carols and hymns for Advent.

On Sunday 23rd December at 4pm we hope you can again join us for our annual **Service of Nine Lessons & Carols** which will commence at 4pm and last about one hour and fifteen minutes.

These two beautiful services are held once a year here in the Cathedral and are wonderful choral occasions sung by the Cathedral Choir, together with hymns and readings. They are not only appreciated by our own Parish Community and the Brentwood Diocese, but are also our own Cathedral contribution to the music of the town, the county and nationally when we welcome all our visitors and music supporters. It will be a particularly moving event in this special Centenary Year. We do hope you can join us.

CAREERS



8S continued with KUDOS this week and all the boys are now able to log in and access a range of careers information and advice that it offers with regard subject choices for GCSE's. Our aim is to ensure that all students have the resources to fully explore and research their future options in order to make informed choices. We are encouraging the use of it at home and want to involve parents with the important decisions your child has to make about their future options. We hope

that you find Kudos useful and informative. <https://kudos.cascaid.co.uk>



On Wednesday Oz Simsek from Havens Hospices gave an assembly to years 12 & 13 on the Young Ambassador Project 2019. The Young Ambassador Project offers Work Experience within Havens Hospice ranging from Care at both little Havens and Fair Havens to Marketing and Administration. This is a great opportunity to gain work experience and boost CV's and Personal Statements when applying for University.

For more information visit <https://www.havenshospices.org.uk/volunteer-at-havens-hospices/apply-to-volunteer/young-ambassadors>



This week 23 Yr13 students took part in a Mock Interview. Arranged by Caroline Fairman from Career Ready, volunteers from local businesses came in to interview the students. They had previously been given details of the job with time to familiarise themselves with the role and update their CV's. The feedback from the interviewers was extremely positive and all the students were praised for their interview skills. Despite the initial nerves we hope they felt the experience was a positive one.

Careers in Government, Law and Politics – There is to be a Careers event at Westcliff High School for Boys on Wednesday 9th January from 7pm – 9pm. Four ambassadors will be presenting their pathways to careers within these law sectors: Ben Williams OBE, Former Chief of Staff, Liberal Democrats; Mahit Butt, Intelligence Unit, Serious Fraud Office; Stuart McCarthy OBE, Diplomat, British Foreign Office and Henry Madell, Trainee Solicitor, Jones Day. Please book you **FREE** tickets via TicketSource which can be accessed at <https://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/>

On Sunday 25th November a number of students attended the The Young Lawyer Programme at University College London - The Young Lawyer Programme at UCL in Bloomsbury was a great experience! We feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to participate in this day, it has given us a genuine insight into the study and profession of Law. The programme included a variety of different talks from experienced solicitors and barristers who currently work within the law field. We thoroughly enjoyed the 'Mock Murder Trial' where we were able to participate in solving the case through critically analysing the evidence given. It was very interesting and useful to broaden our understanding of what universities and employers are looking for in admissions and recruitment. We would highly recommend attending this programme if you have an interest in Law, especially for those in year 12 because the programme informs you about the necessary steps you should take in preparation to study law in the future. To end an eventful and information filled day we went to Wagammmas and enjoyed a plate of prawn firecracker and chilli squid!

Fahmida Rahman (13), Amelia Ward (13) and Christopher Kaiyo (12)

Year 7 and Year 8 English Booster Class in E4, 3.30pm-4.15pm, Tuesday 4 December with Mr Robinson and Mrs Caten. All students in Y7/Y8 are welcome to attend.

Spanish Club



Practise your Spanish speaking and writing skills with Señora Williams in MFL1			
Club	Day	Time	Who for
Spanish Beginners	Monday	13:35-14:00	KS3 / Y7
Spanish Conversation	Tuesday	15:30-16:30	KS4 / Y9-Y11
Spanish Grammar Skills	Thursday	13:35-14:00	KS3-KS4/ Y8-Y11
Spanish Conversation	Thursday	15:30-16:30	KS4 /Y10-Y11

Sports News



PE Student of the Week - Congratulations to Dylan Aylward of Year 10 for winning the award this week. Dylan has made a great improvement in his GCSE PE studies and has shown a great level of commitment to push himself to higher grades.

Year 9 Rugby: STM 15 - 5 William Edwards (Thursday 22nd November) - The Year 9 rugby team produced a superb all round performance to defeat William Edwards in the Essex Cup group stage on Thursday by 15 – 5.

This was Year 9s first win of the season that was achieved through some ferocious tackling and excellent work at the breakdown. William Edwards appeared to have the size advantage but excellent tackling from Josh Johnson, Will Peck and Ciaran Burke kept the William Edwards big runners quiet. In attack Chimeze Ogbonna used his pace to score an excellent try on his rugby debut, before Joel Ossai was at his rampaging best as he flattened everything in his path to score a fantastic try for STM. Captain Ollly Taylor capped a fine performance with a try in the second half as STM closed the game out well. The performance showed what this team is capable of and I was blown away by the commitment and ferocity that the team played with. I hope we will take this into our next game this week! Mr Tisi.

Y8 Basketball V Eastwood - On Tuesday, the Y8 basketball team played our toughest opponents so far in a well-organised Eastwood squad. Already missing a couple of key players, our depleted squad knew they would have a tough battle on the afternoon but did not shy away from the challenge. With some early points scored by Sam A and Dylan S, we were looking competitive against what was a very well drilled team. Fitness started to become a factor, with Eastwood rolling on 5 players at a time to all get a break, our smaller squad of 8 were struggling to keep up with the pace towards the second half. Once Eastwood got 10-15 points ahead, a comeback was probably too far out of our grasp. Some excellent offensive work from Daniel O and Rohan B kept us in contention but unfortunately Eastwood were too strong of a collective squad to overcome this time. Some excellent basketball on display from both teams however and we are looking forward to the official borough fixture later on in the academic year. MVP – Rohan B

Y8 Rugby V Belfairs - This postponed fixture finally took place on Wednesday, with a good squad available and the excellent setting of Westcliff Rugby Club under floodlights, our year 8 team were well up for the challenge against a side we narrowly lost to last academic year. STM started with a real purpose, strong carries from Rohan B, Sam K and Soji A allowed us to crash over for our first try and take the lead. Belfairs defensive effort was very good, really testing the STM side to maintain possession, clear out rucks effectively and support each other – all of which we did brilliantly to score 2 more tries and begin to almost get out of sight for the Belfairs side to make a comeback. On the stroke of half-

time, a Belfairs scrum inside their own half saw the ball end up in the opposition wingers hands who scored in the corner, game on!

The second half again though saw STM keep control of the game, pressuring Belfairs into making some unforced mistakes, each player showing excellent decision making skills and executing to a tee. Final score STM 25 – 5 Belfairs. MoM – Sam A.

Year 11 National Cup 4th round v Roding Valley – Won 4-3 - The Year 11 team secured their place in the 5th round of the National cup with a hard fought win over Roding Valley. An early Fin Gregory goal was soon cancelled out by a penalty for our visitors after Pitcher brought down their striker in the box. Adams restored the lead with a deflected effort following some good team pressing but we conceded again just before half time to go in to the break level. Poor defending from a corner early in the second half saw us behind for the first time but the team regrouped and from then on dominated the game, with Gregory popping up in the box to snatch two goals from Liam Barry's assists to settle the tie. Our next opponents are St Joseph's from Croydon on the 10th December

Year 7 Football - Year 7 overcame a stubborn Chase team 3-0 in the borough league this week. Despite dominating possession and creating numerous chances in the first half, the game remained goalless at the break. Seven changes were made at half time and it was one of these boys, Jamie Amner, who scored the opening goal. This settled the team down and two further goals from Amner and Elliot Tilley sealed the win to leave the team top of the league at Christmas. Matches will resume in February for the boys who will be looking to collect some silverware in their first season.



FIXTURES

DATE	FIXTURE	TIME
03/12/2018	Year 7/8/9 Badminton v SHSB (AWAY)	4pm
	Year 7 Basketball v WHSB (HOME)	4pm
	Sixth Form Netball v St Bernard's (AWAY)	4pm
04/12/2018	Year 8 Basketball v Southchurch (HOME)	4pm
05/12/2018	1st XI v King John (AWAY)	2pm
06/12/2018	Year 9 Basketball v Cecil Jones (HOME) 4:00pm	4pm
07/12/2018	No fixtures	--

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)