



CONTACT

No. 1448 – Friday 7th December 2018



Dear Parents and Pupils,

Advent Service – A final reminder that 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. Please ensure that all raffle ticket stubbs are returned to the school asap.

End of Term – A reminder that the school closes for the Christmas break at **1:35pm on Thursday 20th December**. If your son uses Stephenson's, Crest, SBC or Amber coaches he will shortly be given a letter regarding his journey home from school on that day.

Weekly Prayer

Dear Jesus,

*help me to keep focused on the true meaning of Christmas
and not to be distracted by the great things in the shops.*

*Help me to spend more time in prayer during Advent
and help me to be more kind and considerate at home during this busy time.*

AMEN



Youth Mass - A group of 8 students attended the Youth Mass at Brentwood Cathedral on Wednesday 5th December. It was a lovely evening and great to see that the group attending is growing in numbers. We are not back at school for the Youth Mass in January but please look out for announcements in Contact in the New Year for the Mass in February 2019.

My thanks to all students who attended, Mrs Kadwill for her support and to Mr. Maxfield for driving the minibus for us.

Weekly Mass – Students and Staff from Form 10P 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

Server and all the students who led us in prayer and proclaimed the readings.

Prayers for Advent – Chaplaincy Leaders/Captains - My thanks to those who turned up on Tuesday 4th December from St. Andrew's to take part in an Advent reading, prayer and hymn. Could all leaders/captains please note the following dates: (meet outside Mrs. Ackred's office at 2.00 p.m.)

- Friday 7th December – St. David's
- Wednesday 12th December – St. George's
- Friday 14th December – St. Patrick's

- Monday 17th December – St. Sebastian's and St. Vincent's
- Tuesday 18th December – All Chaplaincy Leaders/Captains from all the houses to meet in the Chapel

Southend Foodbank - The foodbank has a need for the following items, to make up their Christmas boxes for families (I have split them into Year groups):-

Year 7

- Milk (UHT or powdered – not baby milk)

Year 8

- Fruit juice cartons (long life)

Year 9

- Tinned puddings

Year 10

- Jam

Year 11

- Instant mashed potato

Year 12

- Children's Selection boxes (not pricey ones)

Year 13

- Boxes of Chocolates/bar of chocolate (both for adults)

If you wish to donate these items, please send them in with your Son/Daughter and they will be collected in each Form room and brought down to the Chapel at the end of Registration on Friday 14th December 2018. My grateful thanks to all who have supported this appeal so far. Mrs. Maxfield, Chaplaincy Co-ordinator

Armistice 100 Poetry Event - On Thursday 15th November, Mrs Kadwill and I went to Lincoln University for the Armistice 100 Poetry event. Five of our boys were shortlisted and attended – when we heard the calibre of the poetry read out by Carol Ann Duffy and Imtiaz Dharker for the winning entries it only made us feel more proud of our boys to have been selected. William Edwards was listed with a Commendation. The boys' poetry has been put on display in the English corridor. There will be a copy of the Armistice 100 published book in the School Library.

The boys who were shortlisted were:

- Andrew Millham
- William Edwards
- Harry D Williams
- Alfred Oku
- Sebastian Watts

Congratulations to them all. Mrs Caten.

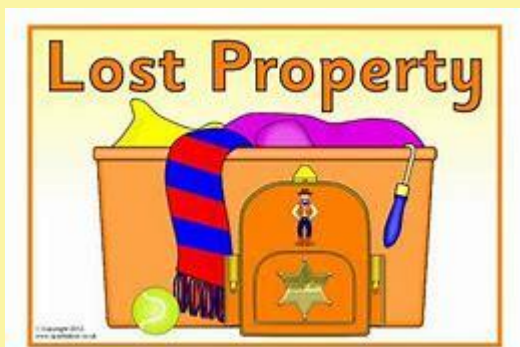


A reminder that on 11th December, we are holding a Christmas Jumper Day for this year's chosen charities. A minimum donation of £1:50 per student, please. The usual non-uniform day rules apply: students are allowed to come to school in their ordinary clothes, rather than school uniform, provided they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

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

Christmas Dinner – The deadline for Christmas Dinner has now passed if you haven't purchased a tickets for your Son/Daughter please provide them with a packed lunch. There will be a reduced break time service available to all students on the day, **no other lunchtime alternatives will be available.**

Year 7 Christmas Movie & Games Night - Parents, do you need more time to get your Christmas Shopping done? On Tuesday 18th December, 3:30-6pm, we are hosting a festive charity night in aid of Teenage Cancer Trust for all of our year 7's. Our evening begins with a Christmas film, followed by festive activities and the chance to win some prizes! Drinks and snacks will be available at a small cost, including Popcorn, Hot chocolate and lots of other goodies! Minimum donation of £3 per child. Make your payment on the Gateway.



Changes to lost property in school - We have had to introduce some changes to the way we manage lost property as we are being overwhelmed daily with items which students leave lying around the school.

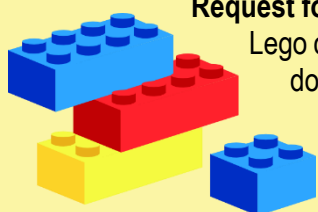
The significant change is that the old lost property cupboard off the assembly hall is now no longer in use. From now on any items of lost property will go to main reception in the first instance. Once there we will look for a name on the item and put it into the appropriate form/house tray. Form tutors/leaders will then collect any items from their tray the next morning and return them to the student concerned. Ideally all items

of clothing will be named and returned quickly. This system, if used properly, should cut down on the amount of property lost by families and should hopefully save you a lot of money. However it does rely on things being named. Can I impress upon all parents/carers the need to have things named and for your sons to look after their own property. There are spaces on most items of school uniform to write a name. Alternatively the school has an arrangement with a company called LabelPlanet to supply named labels which lots of Yr7 did take up. Each order placed quoting the school reference number (35912) will provide the school with 30% commission. Go to the Stikins website to place your order (<https://www.stikins.co.uk/>). However if you use the link on the school's FOSTM web page or the FOSTM Facebook page to order your labels online, the number is filled in automatically for you!

Any un-named items will be kept at reception for a few days (depending on the volume of items this might be only a day or two) before these are taken and sorted through. Some will be washed and the rest, where possible, will be donated to a local charity shop. We have such large volumes of lost property that we cannot continue to keep it in school. Any washed items will then be stored and available to purchase from the 'Pre-loved uniform shop' which is run by the Friends of St Thomas More through their Facebook page. The pre-loved uniform shop has been running for a few months now and is a great way to source good quality uniform at a much cheaper price than the uniform suppliers. If your son is growing out of their blazer might I suggest looking on the Pre-loved uniform shop first rather than buying a new one.



RIP - We were very sad to hear of the passing of a good friend of the school, Mr Ian Johnson, MBE. Ian, over a number of years, has regularly attended our Remembrance Service and lent us the 3rd Chalkwell Scouts Union Flag for this event. In the past Ian gave up his time free of charge to teach our students First Aid and manned a number of our big events as a member of St John's Ambulance. Many former St Thomas More students attended the 3rd Chalkwell based scouts or worked with Ian as a member of St John's. His kindness will be missed by all at St Thomas More. G.Mason.



Request for Lego for the Lego Club - The School Council have recently had many suggestions for a Lego club to be part of games club. Unfortunately, the school does not own any Lego and therefore donations are required to make this feasible. Any donation of Lego would be very greatly appreciated, please hand your donations into the Library where they will be collected by the student council and put into games club. Thank you, on behalf of the School Council.

Recycling - With the schools recycling scheme well under way and with improvements happening in the New Year, I thought I would use this opportunity to share an important message about recycling given that Christmas is rapidly approaching and the mounts of wrapping paper that we all dispose of at the end of Christmas Day. I now know, that I have been wrongly recycling wrapping paper all these years, making the assumption that it's fine to just stick it in the blue bins/pink sacks throughout the day. Turns out not all wrapping paper can be recycled. The best way to remember: if it's made from recycled paper already or if you can fully scrunch it, then you should be able to recycle it, BUT remember to remove all the sellotape first and any stick labels/bows. Shiny



paper is for the rubbish bin only!! Why not go back to old traditions and use brown paper which can be recycled and ribbons which be re-used in the following years. If we all do our bit, we can help to protect the environment. Please check with your local authority about what recycling scheme they have in place.



I would also like to take this chance to say a big thankful to the recycling form reps who have helped support the recycling initiative and special thanks to Harry Matheron, Fynn Aspel, Billy Ross and Joseph Porter who have given up many of their lunch times to empty the recycling bins from the offices and classrooms around the school. Miss Myhill – Recycling Lead.

Do you or does someone in your house eat, sleep and breathe the little plastic bricks? Is the LEGO MASTERS build room with over 1 million bricks your idea of heaven?

The producers of the popular Channel 4 series **LEGO MASTERS** are looking for a new bunch of imaginative building pairs to take part in a third series of the bold brick-building competition.

If you think you, a family member or a friend have the creativity, skill and imagination to be crowned Britain's best amateur building team then please email build@tuesdayschild.tv

Applicants must be aged 9+ by 03/02/2019 in order to take part.



Unfortunately, we won't be able to answer all the requests individually. Your application will be received by a member of Tuesday's Child production company and they will contact you directly. Tuesday's Child will process your personal data in accordance with their privacy policy.

CAREERS

Apprenticeship Latest - The National Apprenticeship Service have just published the latest Higher and Degree Vacancy Listing for 2019 Recruitment. It includes information on the salary and location of the Apprenticeships and a link to apply. For more information go to

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/758117/A5-NAS-UCAS-Listing-211118.pdf

Economics Apprenticeship - This week the UK Civil Service has launched the UK's first degree-level apprenticeship in Economics. With the various departments and agencies within central Government including HM Treasury and the Department for Work & Pensions this is a new way of creating routes to careers in the Civil Service. Aimed at those wishing to work whilst also studying for a degree and with a starting salary of 22k in London.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-economics-service-degree-apprenticeship-programme>

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 FIXTURES

DATE	FIXTURE	TIME
10/12/2018	Sixth Form Basketball v SHSB (HOME) Year 7 Rugby v Swayne @ WRFC Year 11 National Cup Football v St Joseph's (HOME)	4:00pm 2:00pm
11/12/2018	NO FIXTURES	
12/12/2018	Year 8 Basketball v Cecil Jones (HOME)	
13/12/2018	Year 7 NBA Basketball @ Jo Richardson (AWAY) Year 9 Essex Cup Basketball v King John (HOME)	3:00pm 4:00pm
14/12/2018	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)

YEAR 11 REVISION TIMETABLE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
AM	Computer Science - 8.00-8.45am (CR5)	GCSE/BTEC PE - 8.00-8.30 (CR8) KS5 Spanish - 3.30-4.30 (MFL1) TECH - 8.00-8.30am (TEC3) Computer Science - 8.00-8.45am (CR5)	RE - 8.00-8.30 Maths- 8.30-9.05 (sets 2&3)	English - All levels 8.00-8.30am (E5) GCSE/BTEC PE - 8.00-8.30 (CR8) KS4 Spanish - 3.30-4.30 (MFL1)	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) Biology for Triple Science students - 1.40-2.20pm (LA7) English 2.00-2.25pm (MS1)	Science - Drop in 1.35-2.10pm (LAB 8)	English - Poetry Revision 1.30-2.00pm (TR7) Maths - 'Study club for all' 1.35-2.00pm (M1) Geography - 1.45-2.30pm (G1)
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 3.30-5.00pm (M2) RE - 3.30-4.15 (RE3)	English - Drop in 3.30-4.30pm (BS3) English - Levels 5-9 3.30-4.30pm (MS1) Business Studies 3.30-4.30pm (BS1) Business Studies BTEC 3.30-4.30pm (BS2) Food Prep 3.30-4.30pm (Food tech) Maths - Set 3 3.30-5.00pm (M1) 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) Food Prep 3.30-4.30pm (Food tech) Maths - Set 2 & 4 3.30-4.30pm (M5)	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)	