



CONTACT

No. 1450 – Thursday 20th December 2018



Dear Parents and Pupils,

It has been a very busy and productive term with many opportunities in this final week to celebrate the achievements of our students past and present. Last night we held our annual Prizegiving Evening and it was wonderful to see so many past and present students collect their examination certificates and receive their well-deserved prizes and awards. Well done to all. Our guest speaker was Martyn Rickard. Martyn is a former student of St Thomas More and is currently Executive Director at Nomura, London.

Presentations Assembly – This morning we are holding our two presentations assemblies. This is always a lovely morning, during which we celebrate the outstanding achievements of our students this term. Congratulations to all those nominated.

Start of Term January 2019 – A reminder to parents that the school will re-open for students after the Christmas break on Monday 7th January 2019 at the usual time of 08:40am. It will be Timetable Week 2.



*On behalf of all the pupils, staff and governors of the School,
I would like to wish all of our readers a very merry Christmas
and a happy and peaceful New Year.*

May the peace of Christ and the joy of the season be with you and your families

Weekly Prayer

Dear Jesus, you are the reason for the season.

Help me not to forget this and give me the courage to remind others.

Help me to be generous by sharing with others.


*Give me the strength and generosity to respond to charity appeals in school,
my parish, or elsewhere.*

Amen

Chaplaincy Captains/Leaders Advent Prayers – my thanks to all students and staff who attended these sessions. All houses met today in the Chapel to finish our Advent prayers before the Christmas break.

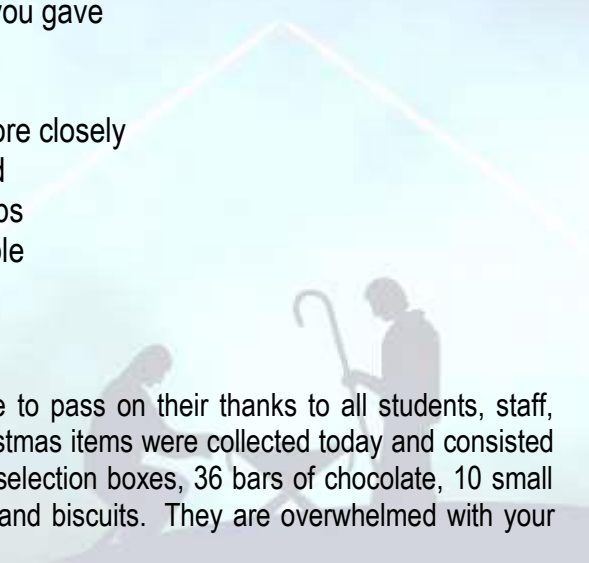
Year 8 Retreats – February 2019 - On return to school during the week commencing 7th January 2019, a letter will be emailed out to all parents/carers of Year 8 students informing them of the date of their Son's Retreat to Abbotswick, Brentwood. This will include payment details and deadline dates for money/details to be in. **All students are expected to attend this Retreat.**

National Competition Winner - Congratulations to Gabriel Aupont, Form 9A, for winning first prize in a National Competition for World Book Day. Gabriel won the 13+ category for designing a Christmas book cover and story. His winning entry can be viewed by clicking [here](#) Well done! Mrs Courtney, Librarian.



The Advent story
of hope and mystery,
anticipation,
preparation,
a kingdom
of this world and the next,
and a king
appearing when we least expect.
Heaven touching earth,
the footsteps of the divine
walking dusty roads
as once they did in Eden,
and a people,
searching for a Saviour,
and walking past
the stable.
Open eyes and hearts,
that this might be
an Advent of hope to the world.

To you O Lord we bring our lives
Troubled, broken or at ease
A sacrificial offering
For you to use
Take away our selfishness
And teach us to love as you loved
Take away our sense of pride
And show us the meaning of humility
Take away our blindness
And show us the world through your eyes
Take away our greed
And teach us how to give as you gave
Show us your ways
Teach us your paths
That we might walk with you more closely
Our hand in your hand
Our feet in your footsteps
From the baby in a stable
To eternity,
Amen



Southend Foodbank - The team at Southend Foodbank wanted me to pass on their thanks to all students, staff, parents/carers who donated items since this project started. The Christmas items were collected today and consisted of 58 cartons of Orange/Apple juice, 30 tins of fruit, 12 puddings, 20 selection boxes, 36 bars of chocolate, 10 small boxes of chocolates, 70 cartons of UHT milk and selection of crisps and biscuits. They are overwhelmed with your generosity and wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

We will continue to support this project next year and lists of items will be sent through as and when required to fill up their stock in the warehouse. May you all have a very blessed Christmas and New Year. Mrs Maxfield Chaplaincy Co-ordinator.



Kingsdown Christmas Party - We were very pleased to invite the staff and students of the Kingsdown School on Monday to celebrate their annual Christmas Party. Our Sixth Form students sang Christmas songs whilst a number of younger students helped run the party with cupcakes and juice, provided by Mrs Pacey and Pass the Parcel. Followed by the delivery of Christmas Presents by Father Christmas, alias Mr Marshall. A big thank you to all of the staff and students that have helped over the last few days including the St Christopher's and Lancaster school parties. G.Mason

School Uniform - Please could you ensure that on return in January your son's uniform is fully adhering to the dress code including a warm winter coat. Also please make sure that working equipment is replenished, pens, pencils, geometry sets etc. Could all new uniform/equipment be clearly marked with your son's name. Mr Mason.

Drama Club run by JADA Theatre School restarts on Thursday 10th January 3.30-5pm in Psychology. Open to all.

English Booster Classes - Mr Robinson and Mrs Caten's KS3 English Booster sessions will resume on Tuesday 8 January 2019 in E4 between 3.30pm and 4.15pm. Season's greetings to all students, parents and carers who have supported this group during the Autumn Term.

Criminology Course - On 7th December, myself and Blerona went on a criminology course induction at South Essex College. Despite the low turnout we found the course to be very insightful. During the day, we learnt the fundamentals of DNA and fingerprint usage in forensic investigations. As well as this we were intrigued with the cold cases that we had to investigate with the help of peers from other schools. It was a very interesting event which I would definitely recommend to others.

London School of Economics – on 11th December, I went to the London School of Economics University for a Student Shadowing Programme for law. It was a wonderful experience which included a lecture on contract law. I met a wide range of students who expressed their love for law which served as a source of motivation for me. During my visit to LSE, I was taken on a campus tour which included various talks about what is provided in the first year at LSE. It was an experience which I will definitely take into consideration when writing my personal statement and applying for universities next year. Both reports by Chris Ndlovu.

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

Year 8 Basketball v WHSB - On Monday we played our final game of the calendar year against WHSB. Due to cancellations by other teams, this was our first game in around 2.5 weeks and this showed in the first quarter, with STM starting very slowly and allowing Westcliff too much time to move the ball into and they instantly took advantage of this. In the second quarter, some spirited play from Dylan and Calton see us put some good plays together, scoring some baskets and getting free throws from some strong drives. Moving into the second half WHSB were rotating their bench but not letting up the intensity, keeping STM under pressure at all times and giving us an excellent challenge to overcome. The final 2 quarters were much better than our first and we the boys allowed themselves to walk off their court with their head held high, despite our biggest loss of the season in terms of point difference. An excellent game played by all, MVP – Calton M.

SPORTS FIXTURES

DATE	FIXTURE	TIME
07/01/2019	NO FIXTURES	
08/01/2019	Year 11 Basketball v Eastwood (AWAY) Year 9 House Futsal	4pm tip-off 3:30 – 5pm
09/01/2019	1st XI Football v King John (HOME) Year 10 Basketball v Chase (AWAY) Sixth Form Basketball v Westcliff (AWAY) Year 7 House Futsal	2:15pm 4pm tip-off 3:45pm tip-off 3:30 – 5pm
10/01/2019	Year 8 Rugby v SHSB @SRFC Year 7 NBA Basketball @ Woodlands Year 12 House Futsal 3:30-5:00pm	4pm k/o 3pm tip-off 3:30- 5pm
11/01/2019	Year 11 Football National Cup v Hall Mead (HOME)	1:45pm k/o



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) <i>Week 1 only</i> 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) <i>Start date TBC</i>	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)	