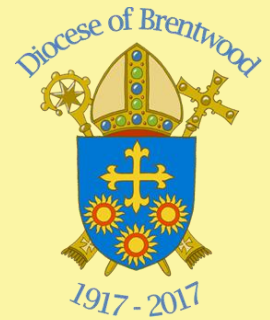


# CONTACT

No. 1451 – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019



Dear Parents and Pupils,

Welcome back to all of our staff and students. On behalf of the staff, I hope that you and your families have had a wonderful Christmas and we wish you all a blessed, happy and peace filled New Year. As usual, our new year began on Monday with the school community gathering for assemblies to celebrate the Epiphany. This gave us an opportunity to reflect upon the Christmas Season and to pray together as we begin a new term. Thank you to those who took part in and helped to plan the assembly.

As we start this New Year, we look back at what has been achieved and resolve to do even better in the months ahead. As national figures on last year's examination results begin to be validated by the Department for Education, we are able to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our staff and students in their GCSE examinations which see **St Thomas More ranked in the top 6<sup>th</sup> percentile** of schools nationally for their progress in English and Maths and consistently in the **top 20<sup>th</sup> percentile** of schools nationally for all headline progress and attainment measures. This was due to the determination and hard work which began early in the New Year, well in advance of the final summer examination season. The importance of settling into a good study routine cannot be underestimated. Year 13 I'm sure will reflect on the success of their study habits as they conclude their intensive week of mock examinations.



**Prizegiving Evening** – During the last week of term, we held our annual Prizegiving Ceremony. We were delighted to invite former student, Martyn Rickard, to be our Guest Speaker. His address to students was inspirational, giving them words of advice for life which he attributes to the values and lessons he was taught here at St Thomas More. It was really lovely to see so many of our alumni return, having settled into university life and employment. We encourage them to keep in touch as they continue on their life's journey.

**Year 11 Parents' Evening** – On 17<sup>th</sup> January we are holding our Year 11 Parents' Evening. This week you would have been sent a letter inviting you to attend. Your son would have received an appointment sheet allowing him to book appointments with each of his teachers. The evening provides a valuable opportunity to discuss your son's progress in his subjects and to address any concerns that you may have. We look forward to seeing you then. Mr Hardiman, Director of Learning i/c Pupil Achievement.

## *Weekly Prayer*

*Dear Jesus,  
you are the light of the world.  
Help me to see, judge and act in your light.  
Help me to lighten up the world by spreading your love.  
AMEN*

**Year 11 Revision Timetable** – Please see the last page of Contact for a timetable of all the revision sessions offered to our students. Please encourage them to take advantage of these sessions.

**Immunisations** - Year 9 immunisations for Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio and meningitis. This will be taking place on the 28<sup>th</sup> January. Can parents/carers please ensure that they complete the forms and return them to the school by Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January at the latest.

**Year 8 Retreat** - All parents/carers were emailed a letter on Tuesday 8th January 2019 about the Year 8 retreat. As stated in the letter, all students in Year 8 are expected to attend and payment of £23 needs to be in by Friday 8th February 2019. Please email me, if you have any problems.

**Youth Mass** - The next Youth Mass is on Wednesday 6th March 2019 at 8.00 p.m. at Brentwood Cathedral. Could any student from Year 11, Year 12 or Year 13 come and see me in the Chapel office a.s.a.p, if they wish to go to this Mass via Minibus from school. Mrs Maxfield

**Lost Property and return of named items** - 3 large bags of named lost property has now all been returned to pupils via the form trays in the Library. Some of this was very straightforward as the pupil's name was clearly marked and legible. Some families have had initials embroidered on their sons PE kit which can be helpful in identifying your son's property but in one instance, a black PE bag and rugby shirt might potentially have 8 possible owners with the same initials. Can I ask again that you clearly mark your son's uniform, PE kit and other property with their name. 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!



At the end of last term there were 3 tables full of un-named property. This will be available for students for one last time to go through at the end of the day today (Friday 11th Jan). From now on, any lost property will go to reception where it will be sorted into named and un-named. Named property will be put into form trays or for bulky items, prefects will bring it round to form rooms. 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 the FOSTM 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 his blazer, might I suggest looking on the Pre-loved uniform shop first rather than buying a new one. Mr Maxfield, Deputy Headteacher.



**Sugary drinks and snacks** - At the start of the new year, Public Health England, who are the group in charge of studying how healthy the whole country is, released a study which identified that some children in the UK eat more than the maximum recommended sugar intake for an 18-year-old by the time they are 10. You may have seen this on the news at the time. (BBC Newsround) Half of the sugar in children's diets comes from sugary drinks, sweets, biscuits, cakes, puddings, sugary breakfast cereals and higher-sugar yoghurts and puddings. At school we have not allowed pupils to bring high sugar drinks and snacks into school for the last few years and yet on a daily basis we still see pupils bring in bottles of high sugar drinks as well as full packets of biscuits and bags of doughnuts. The photo here is a selection of a few drinks confiscated last term. When we confiscate them and speak to the boys, they tell us that all of these are purchased on the way to school. As a school, we are not allowed to sell these sort of drinks to pupils. Can I please ask parents to do two things? 1. Send your son into school with a suitable water bottle. A re-usable bottle is best which he can top up throughout the day and will help him remain hydrated as well as help

reduce the demand on plastic pollution. 2. St Thomas More High School is a cashless school so there is no need to send your son in with any money for his lunch. Please top up your son's lunch account from home which means he won't be tempted to buy sugary drinks and snacks on the way to school. As a school we have a duty to educate the students in making positive healthy choices for their life and we need the support of parents to help us do this. Mr Maxfield, Deputy Headteacher.

**Public Speaking Competition** - On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January two teams of students from St Thomas More travelled to



Westcliff High School for boys to compete in the Southend-on-Sea round of the English Speaking Union Churchill Public Speaking Competition. Team 1 comprised James Anderson as chairperson, Mads Bowden as the questioner and George Pierre who was the speaker giving a five minute speech entitled, "Be a vegan and save the world". Team 2 included Heshan Mahendra as chairperson, Joseph Lambe as questioner and speaker Israel Akubueze who spoke about the rights of gun ownership. Congratulations to all six students who worked hard in preparation and gave a great performance on the night. The prize for the best chairperson of the evening was awarded to James Anderson and St Thomas More

Team 1 were runners up in the heat. This has won them the honour of progressing to the branch final which will take place in February. Congratulations to all team members pictured here. Thank you to Mrs Webb and Mrs Kadwill for giving their time to help prepare the students for competition.

**KS3 English Booster Class** will take place in E4 on Tuesday 15 January between 3.30pm and 4.15pm. Thank you for your continued support. Mr Robinson and Mrs Caten.

**Money Raised for Diabetes UK** – Congratulations to Mr Webber, one of our cleaners, who raised an impressive £233.00 for Diabetes UK in memory of his father, former PC and Liaison Officer, PC Webber. Thank you also to the members of staff who supported him in his 'Movember' challenge.



The next 'KUDOS' sessions take place on Tuesday 15th January for:

- Form 10A – CR1
- Form 10D – CR4

## CAREERS



**Are you interested in studying Criminology or joining the Police Force?**

Anglia Ruskin University are holding a Crime Day on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March at their Chelmsford Campus.

We are invited to join them for a day of crime and investigation and explore the career options available.

Activities include:

- Crime Scene Processing – Working as part of a team of Crime Scene

Investigators you will undertake preliminary tests e.g. analysing for bloodstains

- Policing – Gathering evidence and identifying your suspects
- Criminology – Undertake criminal profiling to identify the perpetrator.

Places are limited, please let me know if you are interested. Mrs Griffiths

**JLL Real Estate** - are world leaders in Real Estate services and are holding two events in March for those interested in a Surveying Apprenticeship.

JLL's Surveying Apprenticeships involve an earn as you learn combination that focuses on practical training and academic study allowing you to develop invaluable skills, vital work experience and a professional qualification that is relevant to the property industry.

For more information and to book a place visit <https://mailchi.mp/successatschool/jll-apprenticeships-1274985?e=cc37ffcf7>



Financial services Apprenticeships are now open with UBS. Designed especially for school leavers, UBS offer a great opportunity to start your career in financial services and gain a professional qualification while you work.

From Technology and Operations, through to Equities, Wealth Management and Compliance & Operational Risk Control, there's a range of opportunities available. For more information and to apply see:

[https://www.ubs.com/global/en/about\\_ubs/careers/school-leavers/apprenticeship-uk.html](https://www.ubs.com/global/en/about_ubs/careers/school-leavers/apprenticeship-uk.html)

## 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 10 Basketball vs Chase** – League Game - Won 57-26 - A slightly different STM team travelled to Chase on Wednesday with a few regulars missing. The boys were slow to get started and ended the first quarter only 13-6 up with Isaac Dunbar adding 8 of the points. The instruction of Shedene Edward into the second quarter made a big difference as he netted 8 points, with Ben Gyimah adding 6. We went into half time with a healthy 29-11 lead. Changed were made in the third and fourth quarter allowing some of the less regular players some minutes. Kingley Muchamika hit a 3 pointer and Vaughn Addy and Glenn Tabi played some good basketball in the offensive end. A good all round performance ended in a 57-26 victory. Some promising basketball that needs to be built on if we are to beat our remaining league opponents. Mr Spillett.

**Year 7 NBA Basketball v Woodlands (lost 34-22)** - this was a frustrating defeat for the Year 7 team as they never really got going in the match and didn't put into practice all the things we have talked about and worked on. Although the opposition were well drilled, we could have done more to stop them scoring and at the same time been a bit more composed when we had the ball. There is still a lot of basketball left this term for the Year 7 team in both the NBA and local competition so we have time still to improve and progress as a team.

**Scorers** – Olajire, Ibikunle, Registe, Bass, Alfonso, Adebayo, Ofori-Owusu

# SPORTS FIXTURES

DATE	FIXTURE	TIME
14/01/2019	NO FIXTURES	
15/01/2019	Year 13 House Futsal	3:30 - 5:00pm
16/01/2019	1st XI Football v Plume (AWAY) Year 9 Basketball v Eastwood (HOME)	2:00pm 4:00pm
17/01/2019	Year 8 House Futsal	3:30 - 5:00pm
18/01/2019	NO FIXTURES	

## PE Extra-curricular Timetable Winter 2018/19

	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>Computer Science</b> - 8.00-8.45am (CR5)	<b>KS5 Spanish</b> - 3.30-4.30 (MFL1) <b>TECH</b> - 8.00-8.30am (TEC3) <b>Computer Science</b> - 8.00-8.45am (CR5)	<b>RE (Judaism &amp; The Themes)</b> - 8.00-8.30 <b>Maths</b> - 8.30-9.05 (sets 2&3)	<b>English</b> - All levels 8.00-8.30am (E5) <b>GCSE/BTEC PE</b> - 8.00-8.30 (CR8) <b>KS4 Spanish</b> - 3.30-4.30 (MFL1)	<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) GCSE PE – 1:45 – 2:15 (CR8)	<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>Biology for Triple Science students</b> - 1.40-2.20pm (LA7) <b>English</b> 2.00-2.25pm (MS1) <b>Maths</b> Set 1 drop in 1:35 – 2:05 (M4)	<b>Science</b> - Drop in 1.35-2.10pm (LAB 8) <b>Geography</b> – 1:45 – 2:30 (G1)	<b>English</b> - Poetry Revision 1.30-2.00pm (TR7) <b>Maths</b> - 'Study club for all' 1.35-2.00pm (M1)
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) <i>Week 1 only</i> <b>Maths</b> - Set 1 3.30-5.00pm (M2) <b>RE (Catholic Christianity)</b> - 3.30-4.15 (RE3)	<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>Business Studies BTEC</b> 3.30-4.30pm (BS2) <b>Food Prep</b> 3.30-4.30pm (Food tech) <b>Maths</b> - Set 3 3.30-5.00pm (M1) <b>Maths</b> - Higher Tier 3.30-4.30pm (M6) <b>Media</b> – 3:30 – 4:30 (E5) <b>D &amp; T</b> - 3:30 – 4:30 (TEC1 & TEC2)	<b>English</b> - All levels 3.30-4.30pm (E6) <b>ICT</b> coursework 3.30-4.30pm (CR3) <b>Food Prep</b> 3.30-4.30pm (Food tech) <b>Maths</b> - Set 2 & 4 3.30-4.30pm (M5) <b>D &amp; T</b> 3:30 – 4:30 (TEC1 & TEC2)	<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)	