



## ***St. Thomas More High School***

*An Academy Trust in the Diocese of Brentwood (Reg No: 7696989)*

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# ***CONTACT***

***No. 1277 – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2014***

Dear Parents and Pupils



Yesterday, we celebrated the Feast Day of our Patron, St Thomas More. In the morning we held our Solemn Mass in the Sports Hall, with Father Lee Bennett and Father Gerry Drummond. I was delighted to welcome our special guests of retired staff, governors and members of the PSA and the St Thomas More Alumni.

The weather was perfect for the afternoon festival activities on the field. Our students enjoyed various activities, including 'zorbing', an assault course and much more. The finale to the afternoon's festivities was an 'exclusive set' by the staff band, 'The Birds of Prey', made up of teachers, Mr Keenan, Mr Lettieri, Mr Walshe, Mr Bass and Mr McCague. After school, the staff and their families enjoyed the traditional Staff v Boys cricket match, followed by a BBQ. It was wonderful to see the children of the staff taking part in and enjoying the celebrations. Please see next week's Contact for photographs of the day.

My thanks to everybody involved in making it a day to remember – Mrs Webb and Mrs McCurdy for organising the Mass, along with the Readers, Servers and Ushers, Mrs Potton and her catering team for a delicious buffet, Mr Seaby and his site team, Mrs Westpfel and her team in the office and all the support staff for the behind-the-scenes arrangements and to the teaching staff for their support.



Earlier this week, I was delighted to receive the following email from a member of the public and former 'old boy' of the school:

*'.....I wanted to let you know about my experience of travelling with a group of boys from your school. I travel from Wickford to Southend everyday on the 25 bus and start the journey from 7.15am. A boy gets on at Wickford and others from Eastwood Road. Up to 4-5 can travel on certain days. I have to say that it is a pleasure to be around them. They are polite and well-mannered and a great asset to your school. Their parents and the school should be very proud of them and I wanted to let you know.*

*I left your school in 1986 and glad that the school still thrives on these values.....'*

**Early Closure of the School and Open Evening** - On Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> July, from 6.00-9.00pm we are holding one of our Open Evenings for families considering sending their son to us. **The whole school will therefore close early, at 1:30pm. Boys who travel by Stephenson's buses will be leaving at the slightly earlier time of 1pm. A letter confirming this will be sent out to those boys shortly.** In the evening, the whole school will be open again and many pupils will be here to give guided tours of the school and to help staff with displays etc. We look forward to meeting prospective Year 7 pupils and their parents. Prospective students to the sixth form are most welcome to attend this Open Evening but we also have a special **Sixth Form Open Evening for them on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November from 6.00-9.00pm.** All of our current pupils who are going to help out in any way next Thursday should by now have brought home a letter with a reply slip for you to fill in and send back to school. **We cannot have any**

pupils with us on this Thursday unless we have had written permission from their families via the reply slip. Please check with your sons this weekend whether or not they are involved and, if you have not yet signed a permission letter, please make sure they bring one home.

**NON-PUPIL Day 11th July** – A reminder that Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July is a Non-Pupil Day therefore the school will be closed to all students.

**Primary School Visits** – Our round of primary school visits are now coming to a close. Please see times and dates of our last two visits, below.

Date	Time	School
Wednesday 2 July	3.00pm	St George's
Monday 7 July	2.00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes



**SPOTLIGHT** – Huge congratulations must go to Year 12 student, Joao Pereira, who recently found out that he had won the 2014 Year 12 Honourable Mention from the Portuguese Embassy for an essay he wrote about Madeira which was written entirely in Portuguese. Joao is to attend a special prize giving ceremony at the official Portuguese Embassy residence on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2014. Congratulations Joao, very well done!

Congratulations also to the students who took part in the Manga High Grassroots Maths Challenge over the last couple of weeks. Please see Ms Clarke's report, below.

#### Merit Marks

St Andrew's	St David's	St George's	St Patrick's	St Sebastian's
2556	2563	2627	2205	2447



### *Weekly Prayer*

*Lord God, you give us so many great saints to be an example to us,  
including our patron Saint Thomas More.*

*Help us this week to follow his example together  
with the example of Saints Peter and Paul,  
by being faithful to you and serious about our work,  
Amen*

**Confirmation Course for 2015** - If any students in Year 9 or above (in September) would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next year could they please email Fr Gerry at [frgerry@talktalk.net](mailto:frgerry@talktalk.net)



**Manga High Grassroots Maths Challenge 9-22 June** - I am pleased to report that out of the hundreds of schools that took part in the Manga High competition this year across the country we came 3<sup>rd</sup>!! Well done to everyone who took part and worked hard both in school and at home completing challenges to gain us points. The class that achieved the most points were 9B1 who gained 523 Gold medals, 120 Silver medals and 157 Bronze medals.

The top three students who gained the most points were:

- ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> Panashe Masina
- ❖ 2<sup>nd</sup> Keoni De Souza
- ❖ 3<sup>rd</sup> Jeswin Babu

Certificates and prizes to follow...



Throughout this year, students in Year 8 have taken part in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Legacy trust's 'Be the Best you can Be' programme. The Programme was developed by Dr David Hemery (Olympic champion) and supports young people in recognising their dreams and aspirations. The

programme aimed to develop student understanding about what they need to do in order to achieve their personal goals. The programme placed the onus of the achievement on the student. Staff and peers have supported students by challenging and encouraging them to take ownership of their next steps to make a positive change in their own lives. This process is referred to as coaching.

The programme was launched at St Thomas More by Paralympic champion Wendy Smith in January. There will be a celebration event to mark the completion of the programme on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 2.30pm. Each student will receive a certificate and medallion to mark their achievements in the programme. Miss Gilroy.



## Revision Sessions



**Maths** - Reminder that the Maths department are running a weekly 'Maths Clinic'. This is open to any pupil in Years 7-10 who needs help with any Maths work! The timetable for the next three weeks is::

Day	Date	Time	Teacher	Room
Wednesday	2/7/14	12.30-1pm	Ms Clarke	Maths 2
Wednesday	9/7/14	12.30-1pm	Mrs Rivers	Maths 6
Wednesday	16/7/14	1-1.25pm	Mr O' Loughlin	Maths 3

### Assessment Dates

- Year 10 – Monday 7/7/14
- Year 10 – Monday 7/7/14

**Year 10 English, Maths and Science Revision Sessions** - I would like to make you aware of the following revision sessions which are now available for your son. I would appreciate if you could encourage your son to attend. Please find the revision timetable below. Mr Quane, Year 10 Pupil Progress Mentor

Subject	Teacher	Time	Room
English	Mr. Dooley	12.30 – 1.00pm Mon & Tues 3.30 - 4.30pm Thursday	MS2
Maths	Mr. Heaphy	1.00 – 1.30pm Mon, Tues & Wed	M5
Science	Miss. Ryan	12.30 – 1.00pm Mon, Tues & Wed	Lab4



## PARIS 2014

- The deadline for full payment (£350) for this trip is **30th June 2014**. Prompt payment would be appreciated.
- If you already have a valid **passport and EHIC card**, please pass copies of these to Miss O'Neill ASAP to avoid unnecessary last minute administration closer to departure. Many thanks.

Miss O'Neill, Head of MFL.

## PSA BOOT SALE

Our car boot sale is on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 10am till 2pm. Please let me know on 07841586046 or [suearif@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:suearif@blueyonder.co.uk) if you would like to reserve a pitch.

Sue Arif – Secretary of the PSA

100  
Years

### SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

100  
Years



Would like to invite all  
those involved with the  
Sacred Heart School over the last  
100 Years to join us for our



### CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2014 for an Open Air Mass at 11.00 am  
at the school, followed by celebrations afterwards.

Please bring a picnic and enjoy Tea & Cakes, Pimms or  
Strawberries & Ice Cream from Café FOSH.

## PE DEPARTMENT DIARY DATES

Date	Event	Time
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 8 Cricket v Westcliff (HOME)	4pm
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Year 9 House cricket – Sports Hall Year 8 House Basketball Staff v Sixth Form Golf @ Garons	All day 3.30-5.15pm 4.30pm
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 8 House Cricket – Sports Hall Year 9 House Basketball	All day 3.30-5.15pm
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Year 7 House Basketball Year 9 Cricket v Eastwood (HOME)	3.30-5.15pm 4.00-6.00pm

Date	Event	Time
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 7 House Cricket – Sports Hall	All day
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 10 House Cricket – Sports Hall Year 8 Cricket v Eastwood (HOME) Year 10 Cricket v Westcliff	All day 4.00-6.00pm 4.00-6.00pm