



St. Thomas More High School

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

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CONTACT

No. 1278 – 4th July 2014

Dear Parents and Pupils



Bishops Ordination – Tuesday 1st July 2014 Brentwood Cathedral – The new Bishop of Brentwood was installed on Tuesday at Brentwood Cathedral in a prayerful and joyful celebration. It is thirty four years since the last episcopal ordination had taken place in the cathedral and Fr Alan Williams becomes the seventh Bishop of Brentwood.

During the Mass, Bishop Williams said: 'When I asked for advice from a brother bishop, he said: 'Keep it short.' So I will. I have been asked if I am afraid of this appointment – I am not. But one thing has always puzzled me – how can bishops wear two hats and get away with it? I had a fitting in front of a mirror recently by an Italian fitter which seemed fine but when it comes to getting them off they explode. So do be patient with me.'

"I expect the clergy have clubbed together to buy me L-plates – I need them. But I am very, very confident that the priests and the people of the diocese will look after me as I hope to do for you, by the grace of God."

I ask that you continue to support our new Bishop with your prayers in the coming weeks and months and reflect on the words of Cardinal Nichols in his homily from Tuesday's Mass.

You can read the full text of Cardinal Nichols's homily [here](#) and view photos of the Mass [here](#)

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

Early Closure of the School and Open Evening - On Thursday, 10th 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. Further to last weeks' notice which said that the Stephenson's buses will be leaving at 1pm – they have now informed us that they will NOT be able to collect them at that time and that they will be collecting them at the usual time of 3:30pm A letter confirming this will be sent out to those boys shortly. If you would like your son to make his own way home on that day, please ensure that you sign and return the reply slip to the school.** 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 20th 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.

Cashless Catering – This week, all parents have been emailed a letter informing them that following our annual self-review which included surveys with parents, staff and students, we are pleased to announce that we are installing a new cashless system for the catering service to go live from September 2014. This means that we will no longer be accepting cash for any food sold at school. A copy of the letter can also be found on the school website.

The system works using the biometric method which means your child's finger is scanned and the image is turned into unique identification number and stored. No register of the scanned image is kept and it is impossible to turn the numeric reference number back into a fingerprint. This numeric data is then easily deleted once a student leaves the school and is only used for the purpose intended. **It is very important, therefore, that you complete and return the reply slip provided as the fingerprint scanning is to take place on 16th and 17th July 2014 and we will be unable to scan your child's finger without the permissions slip.**

If you require further information on cashless catering, we have organised for a representative from the school, as well as Cunninghams, the Cashless System Provider, to be available to answer any questions you may have anytime between 2 – 5pm 7th July, please just drop in at reception.

Primary School Deanery Mass – On Monday of this week, we welcomed pupils and staff from our Catholic feeder primary schools for a Deanery Mass. Also present were Fr Jeff Woolnough, Fr Kevin Hale, Fr Martin Joyce, Fr Lee Bennett, Father Gerry Drummond and Fr Tom Saunders.

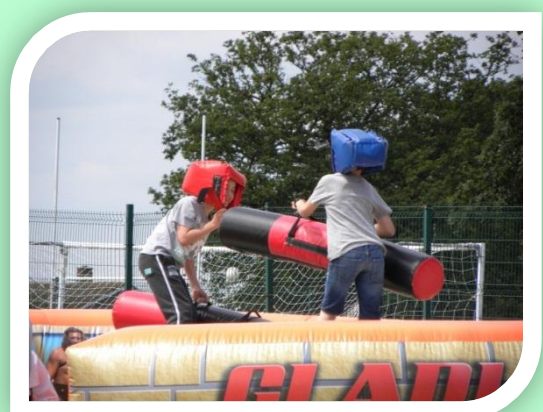
Catholic Primary Sports Day – Yesterday, we held out Sports Day for our Catholic Primary feeder schools. Please see the report from the PE Department, below.

'Be the Best You Can Be' – On Wednesday of this week, Miss Gilroy organised a celebration for Year 8 students for the 'Be the Best You Can Be'. It was a lovely celebration with medals and certificates, which parents could also enjoy. I have since received some lovely testimonials from parents.

Year 6 Day – Today we are holding our Year 6 Day, a day in which we welcome the boys who will be joining us in September. We are sure that they will have a wonderful day. My thanks to Mr Maxfield, Deputy headteacher, Ms Jackson, Pupil Support Mentor for Year 6, Mrs Lewis, Pupil Support Systems Co-ordinator, and Mrs Saunders, Admissions Secretary for overseeing the day. Also thanks to our PSA for the refreshments and the prefects and student helpers.

Health Schools Revalidation – We were delighted to hear earlier this week that the Quality Assurance Group has awarded St Thomas More with revalidation of our Health School Status which will last until July 2016.

St Thomas More Day – As promised, please see below some photographs taken on St Thomas More Day last Thursday.





Highlight of the Week

Dover Arts Federation - Congratulations to the following students who have recently found out that their art work has been chosen by the Dover Arts Federation to be displayed at the National Students' Art Exhibition at Mall Galleries, London. This is a very prestigious event and a wonderful accolade for our young artists; Sophie Shields, Imrana Begum, Harry Vincent, Tobias Marsden, Christopher Hewett, Myles Wynne-Morgan and Thomas Orr. Well done to all of you, you should be very proud of yourselves. Also to be congratulated are Christopher Galea and Rowan Long whose art work received a 'Highly Commended'. Well done! Photos of all of their art work will be published in a later edition of Contact.



SPOTLIGHT – I was delighted to hear yesterday that former student Freddie Walton, will graduate with a First Class Honours Degree in French Language on 15th July at Portsmouth University. Freddie spent four years at university which included a year spent abroad in Senegal, West Africa. Well done Freddie, we are very proud of you!

Year 12 student, Joe Ginzler, found a £10 by his car this week and handed it into reception saying that if no one claims it we can donate it to charity. That was a very honest thing to do Joe, thank you.

Merit Marks

St Andrew's

2622

St David's

2605

St George's

2680

St Patrick's

2279

St Sebastian's

2543



Weekly Prayer

Lord God

Help us to have the trust and excitement of little children

When we think about our relationship with you,

And help us to remember that your burden is light.

Amen

Bishop's Ordination On Tuesday, I had the privilege to be invited by Father James of the Canvey parish to attend the ordination of the new Bishop of Brentwood, Father Alan Williams. The mass was led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols. In attendance were almost one hundred priests and deacons from the Diocese of Brentwood, around 20 Bishops of England and Wales, the Papal Nuncio Antonio Mennini, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor and dignitaries including Lord Petre. The beautiful service took place on an equally beautiful and sunny afternoon, with sparkling chandeliers and newly polished marble floor making the cathedral look stunning. Cardinal Vincent thanked Bishop Thomas McMahon for his 34 years of service, then said to the new Bishop-Elect: "Alan, you are most welcome and you know you are supported by the love and the prayers of all of us here today, and by so, so many more." Then with the traditional laying on of hands, anointing and prostrating, Father Alan Williams became the new Bishop of Brentwood, and our new spiritual leader. Alfie Bavin.

News from Marriage and Family Life

Grandparents' Pilgrimage – Saturday 12th July 2014. There is to be a fourth annual Grandparents' Pilgrimage at Aylesford Priory Aylesford, Kent ME20 7BX from 11:00am till 4:30pm. There will be a gathering service at 11:00am followed by a picnic with family activities and prayer balloons. There will be children's entertainment by Fun Force with face painting, bouncy castle and football and cricket. There will be a Mass at 4pm. For more information please call 01622 717272.

Synod on the Pastoral Challenges of Facing the Family – Many have asked about the consultation exercise which took place as preparation for this Synod. We are now beginning to see the fruits of this consultation in the *Instrumentum Laboris*, which was made public on the 26th June. To read the full details of this visit www.catholicnews.org.uk/family-synod-document

School Uniform Shop - Schoolwear Outfitters and Paul's Discount Clothing, will be holding a uniform shop at the school on **Saturday 12th July 2014 from 10am to 12 noon** for parents who wish to buy new items of school uniform for their sons.



Calling All Young Chefs!! The Munch Box – Are you a great cook aged 9 – 12 who'd love to show off your skills on an **ITV series**? Or do you just love food and want to taste it on the show? ITV is giving budding up-and-coming cooks and food critics the chance to take part in the second series of Saturday morning's **The Munch Box**. Can you cook the best



casserole, make a Mexican dish to get the taste buds tingling, or whip up a strawberry cheesecake to wow the crowd? Or do you just love eating and telling others what you think of their cooking? Then we want to hear from YOU! If you are aged 9 – 12, ask a parent/guardian to send an email by **Saturday 9th August** to: themunchbox@cactustv.co.uk

Contact Email Address - A number of parents will receive a letter re a contact email address. The school sends out various correspondence electronically, including reports, so it is extremely important we have your correct email address on our system. Please can you either complete and return the reply slip attached to the letter, email the school office office@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk with your email address or alternatively you can log into the SIMS Learning Gateway and update your email address. Miss Parr, Admin Assistant.

Year 10 science paper 1 ISA exams – date of exam is rescheduled

Due to issues happening on the 10th July the date that pupils will sit their science paper 1 controlled assessment exam is being moved to the **15th July**.

All pupils need to ensure that they have 2 black pens, pencil, ruler and eraser for the exam.

This exam **ISA** GCSE exam and will contribute part of the 25% gained through science controlled assessments.

S Clunn, Head of Science

Year 7 to 9 pupils in science - At the beginning of the year your son will have been given a disc that had an installed electronic copy of the text book placed on it. We are now in the process of collecting these in ready for reissue to next year's pupils. We would therefore be grateful if you would ensure your son locates his copy and returns it to us. If your son has lost his disc then we ask that he reimburses the school for its loss. The disc costs 50p. Pupils should take the money to prep room 2 after telling their teacher, our technicians will issue him with a receipt for his 50p.

S Clunn, Head of Science



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

KS3 Practice Books - Please can I remind all students to return their Practice book to their class teacher. Next year's Practice Book will not be issued until this year's book has been returned.

Year 5 Maths/ICT Days - A big thank you to all the students who helped in the Year 5 Maths activities, they were an absolute credit to the school!



PSA NEWS

Due to lack of interest the car boot sale has been cancelled on Sunday. Our next meeting date is 17/9/14 in the Learning Resources Centre at the back of the building at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Please contact: Sue Arif on 0784 158 6046 or suearif@blueyonder.co.uk for more information.

SUMMER HOLIDAY FUN ACTIVITY! The **Hawk Eye** walk through Leigh hunting for clues and at the same time learning about the history of Leigh. There is a prize draw for correct entries submitted by 31st August. Copies £3 each, Tel 01702 472536 or 478105 (all proceeds in aid of the local Serving the Homeless charity.)

PE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Catholic Primary Sports - Yesterday STM hosted this special primary event on our playing fields. All schools arrived around 1:15pm, on a very hot summer's day

The quality of competition throughout the Key Stage 2 area was fantastic and all students gave their all. The sports day involved sprints (qualifiers and finals), a 600m race, long jump, long throw and finally the 4 X 100 relays. Helping

at the event were some of our Year 9 students, they were fantastic ambassadors for the school, helping, leading and coaching the younger students all afternoon.

The event finished with the awarding of the trophies by Mr O'Kane and Mr Maxfield. It was a close fought competition, however Our Lady of Ransom were crowned 2014 champions, beating our Lady of Lords by two points. Well done to all pupils involved!

A special thank you to our Catholic primary schools and their staff for bringing the students over at a very busy time in the academic year.



HOUSE BASKETBALL - With the end of exams and the returning of the sports hall, the PE staff organised the house basketball competitions, there has been much anticipation by the students prior to the competitions, with important house points at stake. Lead and run by Mr Lettieri there have been some excellent competitions in Years 7, 8 and 9 this week.



The results:

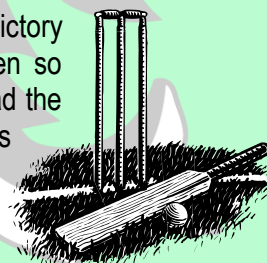
- Year 7: St Andrew's Champions
- Year 8: St Sebastian's Champions
- Year 9: St Andrew's Champions

KEY REMINDER - House Field Finals

*****House throws and jumps will take place this Monday after school for all students. Up to two students per year group and house can compete in the event. Events include javelin, long jump, triple jumps, shot put and discus*****

Year 9 Cricket v Eastwood (Won by 10 wickets) - The Year 9 team strolled to a comfortable victory against Eastwood although it could have been even more comprehensive if they had not been so sloppy in the field. With Eastwood choosing to bat first, a few of the team perhaps thought we had the game won before it had started, which led to some lazy fielding and poor bowling. The boys tightened it up in the second half of the innings and eventually bowled Eastwood out for 59 runs. Allian Arif took two wickets in two balls at the end of his last over, meaning he is on a hat-trick the next time he bowls!

The run chase was pretty straight forward, with Oscar Waller retiring on 25, Mark Jackson hitting 22 and Jess Dyos 3. Next match is a league and cup double-header against Southend.



"The Harrison Cup" – Staff v Boys Golf - The second instalment of the Harrison Cup saw the staff team record a comprehensive victory to secure bragging rights for at least a year! The setting was once again Garons Park and after a bacon roll and cup of coffee, the 8 pairs set off to do battle. It was by all accounts a tense affair across all four matches and as the players turned for home on their respective 10th holes, there was very little in it. Bass and Harding took a commanding 3 shot lead over Robinson and Goodman, and despite some brave golf from the Year 12 boys,

eventually secured the first point of the evening with a 5 and 3 victory. Smith and Harrison (he who the cup is named after!) saw off Pickford and Cutts, with Harrison's new clubs working a treat. The lads from the Emerald Isle (Dooley and Heaphy) won their match 3 and 2 against Eary and Marshall, with Heaphy (allegedly) sinking a 40 foot put to half one of the holes. There is no video evidence of this so we can only go on his word.....The final staff pairing of Hollingsworth and Hardiman were 2 up with four to play but lost on the final hole to an inspired McCarthy and Brown. Special mention to the non-playing "captain" Mr Kearney, who gave great support from his buggy in between stuffing his face with sausage rolls and scotch eggs. Thank you to all those who played, roll on next year!

DIARY DATES

Date	Event	Time
Monday 7 th July	Year 7 House Cricket – Sports Hall Year 9 Cricket v Southend (AWAY) House Athletics – Field Competition	All day 4-6pm 3.30-5pm
Wednesday 9 th 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
Thursday 10 th July	Year 8 Rugby training (after school closes for open evening)	1.30-2.15pm

EARLY WARNINGS

Date	Event	Time
Monday 14 th July	Sixth Form House Cricket – Sports Hall	All day
Tuesday 15 th July	SPORTS DAY	PM

