



St. Thomas More High School

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

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CONTACT

No. 1279 – 11th July 2014

Dear Parents and Pupils

What a busy week it has been! This week, we held our two Induction Days to welcome all those who have applied to join our Sixth Form next year. I hope that they achieve the grades they need in the summer in order to be able to join us in September. Thank you to Mrs Genovese and Mrs Hudson for their hard work.

On Tuesday, we welcomed the Year 5 pupils from our Catholic Primary Schools for a day of activities – thank you to Mr Maxfield for organising this and thank you to the staff in various departments who have planned and led the activities with such enthusiasm.

And finally, yesterday evening, we held our Prospective Year 7 Open Evening. It was lovely to meet the parents and families of so many pupils looking for a secondary school place in September 2015. I would like to thank all of our staff members who worked so hard to prepare for the evening. A special thank you must go to the many students of our school who helped staff prepare the classroom displays and who led our guests on the tours. The comments I received from visitors about their knowledge and enthusiasm of the school and their outstanding behaviour made the evening such a pleasure. Please see below just two of the comments I received by email this morning:

'.....Following our visit to St Thomas More on Thursday 10th July, I'll like to say a big thank you to William Morley for showing us round the school. We had a very interesting walk with him telling us all we needed to know about the school. Once again thank you William, we were not bored for a minute throughout our tour of the school.'

'.....I just wanted to thank you for the lovely open evening I brought my son along to today at St Thomas More High School. Zachary in year 7 did a fantastic job of showing us both around the school in a calm, friendly and helpful way. Your Headteacher's talk almost brought a tear to my eye as it became quite obvious what the ethos of the school was all about. My son came home extremely excited and positive. I now just hope he will get a place at this school!'


End of Term 18th July - Please note that term finishes at 1:35 pm next Friday, 18th July. The Stephenson's bus will be arriving at the usual time of 3:30pm. **Boys who travel by Stephenson's bus will receive a letter asking parents to confirm their travel arrangements home on this day.** All students return to school on Thursday 4th September at 08:40am.

St George and English Martyrs, Shoeburyness – On Wednesday, I attend the 'Celebrating 75 Years Of Catholic Worship at St George's Church'. The Mass was warmly celebrated by Rt Rev Alan Williams, Bishop of Brentwood.

Primary School Visits – This week saw the last of our primary school visits. Mr Mason and Mrs Saunders, along with some student representatives, visited Our Lady of Lourdes. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the schools we have visited over the last few weeks for making us all so welcome. A special thank you must also go to the pupils

who have accompanied the staff, for their enthusiasm for the school and for being, as always, brilliant ambassadors of St Thomas More High School. We are very proud of them all.

Cashless Catering - All parents will by now have received a letter regarding our new cashless catering service which will go live from September 2014. This means that we will no longer be accepting cash for any food sold at school. Please could you ensure that you sign and return the consent form my Monday 14th July so that the fingerprint scanning can take place on 16th & 17th July.

 **SPOTLIGHT** – All the very best of luck to English teacher, Mr P Griffin, who is taking part in the Hever Castle Iron Distance Triathlon this weekend. It is a 2.4mile swim, 112 mile bike ride, 26.2 mile run. He is raising money for the British Lung Foundation. The justgiving page is www.virginjustgiving.com/Gronz78

50th Anniversary - St Anne Line in Basildon are celebrating their 50th year with various celebrations this weekend. There is to be a Mass in Holy Trinity Church at 2pm, and from 3:30 – 5:30pm there will be a chance to view memorabilia in school halls and classes. Following this, an afternoon tea will be served in the Infant School Hall. On Sunday, there is to be a summer fete from 11:30am – 4:00pm.

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, your love and your truth are valuable things,
and you offer them to absolutely everybody.*

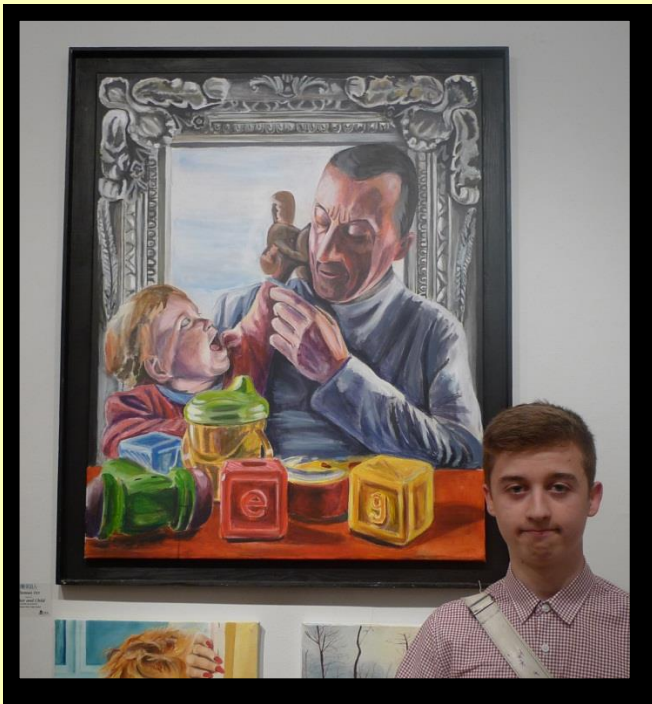
*Help us to welcome them into our lives
and to be the amazing people you created us to be.*

Amen

Mall Galleries - At 3pm on Tuesday 8th July, the annual National Students' Art Exhibition was officially opened at the Mall Galleries at Westminster in London. This is an exhibition sponsored by the Royal Society of British Artists (RBA) and showcases the best student work in the country. Seven of our Sixth Form students had their work on show. This is a highly prestigious exhibition and the selection procedure is rigorous. Well done to all the following students who had their work on show; Sophie Shields, Imrana Begum, Harry Vincent, Tobias Marsden, Christopher Hewett, Myles Wynne-Morgan and Thomas Orr. Also, the two students who received Highly Commended were Christopher Galea and Rowan Long. Please see their impressive work, below.







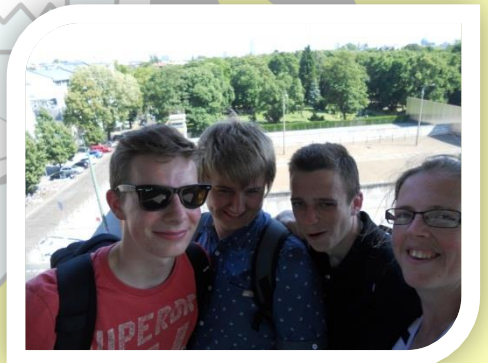
Lost Property – We have, again, acquired a large amount of lost property. There will be a last chance to collect lost property from the hall during break time and lunch time on Tuesday 15th July. Any lost property remaining after this time will be recycled.

Berlin Trip - Last week we had another successful trip to Berlin with our Year 12 students. The students visited a range of sites in order to improve their knowledge and understanding of Nazi Germany. This in turn, helps them with their coursework for their A2 module. The benefits of this trip are clear when the students return with a keen sense of context and empathy, thus allowing for better essay research & writing.

We started off with a tour of the Reichstag and ended up on top of the building where we had a fantastic view of Berlin at night time. The following day we did a 3 hour walking tour of central Berlin where we learnt about the development of the Nazi party, the importance of their

buildings and then we saw the location of the Fuhrerbunker, the site of Hitler's demise. We also visited the growing range of Holocaust memorials, some of which are only being built now. They remember all the victims of the Holocaust, from Jews to Roma, to Communists and many, many others.

Too good to miss, we visited Checkpoint Charlie, a relic from the Cold war before returning to things Nazi and heading off to the only remaining Workers camp. In Berlin alone there was 3000 of these camps. Here we learnt about the lives of the inmates. We also visited Sachsenhausen which is the first ever concentration camp created by the Nazis. Feeling the need for another break from the Nazis we visited Charlottenburg palace which was built in 1695.



Later on, we visited the 1936 Olympic stadium, the site of Jessie Owens' victories which gave the lie to the Nazi idea of the Aryan superman. After that brisk tour, there was a visit to a Stasi prison to learn about life in Germany after the Nazis.



There followed another break in the Nazi History. The Cold War was our subject, and we began by walking along the longest remaining stretch of the Berlin Wall. The students looked closely at the graffiti which adorns the wall, much of it reflecting the hopes and fears of ordinary Berliners (also a type of pastry!) who for many, had known nothing else but division of their country. Then, it was, to the TV tower, (one of the tallest buildings in Europe) where we were treated to a fantastic view of Berlin. It was also an opportunity for the students to see, even 25 years later, the difference between the east and west sides.

We then headed back into Nazi Germany history with a visit to the topography of terror, (all about the SS), followed by a visit to the largest Holocaust memorial. The trip ended with an underground tour of the bunkers that were created for the German population during the bombing raids of the 1940's.

It was, as ever, a trip to remember and a hugely valuable experience for the students. The trip is a great one and this was acknowledged by our tour company who filmed the experience for their advertising campaigns! Also, a big thank you to Mr McCague and Miss Bull for all their help on the trip. Mrs Statovci.

Geography Competition - On Tuesday 8th, seven pupils from year 9 entered into a local geography competition run by the South Essex Teaching School Alliance. When school finished we walked across to Westcliff High School for girls, where it was held and the seven pupils split themselves into two teams. They were competing against year 9 students from all of the local schools and the quiz tested them on their geography knowledge over 6 rounds based on places, fieldwork equipment and map skills. They really performed well and overall came third in the competition. Very well done to Patrick Crowley, Jacob Cullen, Allian Arif, Jonathan Hill, Gus Underwood, Ryan Lehane and Brendan McAlpine. Mr Pankhurst, Head of Geography and Geology

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

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 last week is:

Day	Date	Time	Teacher	Room
Wednesday	16/7/14	1-1.25pm	Mr O' Loughlin	Maths 3

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. Ms E Clarke, Head of Mathematics.



PE DEPARTMENT NEWS

PE Kit – This week, all parents have been emailed a letter and information regarding the new PE kit. The main addition is a rugby reversible PE top that will be used for outdoor lessons including Hockey, football and rugby. There is also a sport hoody *that is optional for all sports teams' players to purchase.*

The indoor and outdoor kit list is attached, with the PE kit supplier information. We strongly encourage parents to get their sons initials embroidered onto the tops at the listed PE kit suppliers.

PE KIT:

COMPULSORY KIT:

INDOOR PE KIT:



- White polo shirt with embroidered school crest **** (only available from kit suppliers) ****
- Black shorts
- Short white socks
- 1 pair of sports trainers (non-marking soles)

OUTDOOR PE KIT:



- Black rugby reversible shirt with printed crest (printed name initials advised) ***** (only available from kit suppliers) *****
- Black shorts
- Long black football socks
- STM sports hoody (**optional** for students in school sport teams)
- Gum shield
- 1 pair of shin pads
- Studded football boots/astro turf trainers
- Sports bag for PE kit.

PE KIT SUPPLIERS:

***** kit suppliers are able to print pupil initials on request *****

1. Schoolwear Centre at 96 Hamlet Court Road, Westcliff on Sea, Essex, SS0 7LP. Tel: 0844 6869080
2. Paul's Discount Clothing, 38-40 Southchurch Road, Southend on Sea, Essex, SS1 2ND Tel: 01702 466431



STM Judo Club - Our final training session before the Summer Holidays will take place in the Sports Hall on Monday 14 July between 7.15pm-8.30pm. Please remember that training sessions continue at Southend Judo Club throughout the Summer Holidays every Wednesday at Chase Sports Centre, 6.30pm-7.45pm. If you are interested in starting Judo, take a look at www.yellowbeltchallenge.co.uk where you will find a great offer for newcomers to the sport.

Mr Robinson.

DIARY DATES

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