



St. Thomas More High School

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

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CONTACT

No. 1280 – 18th July 2013

Dear Parents and Pupils

As we come to the end of another busy school year, I wish you all a peaceful, safe and happy summer holiday. A reminder that the school term starts for **all** students at 8.40 am on Thursday 4th September 2014.

GOODBYE!

Today we shall say a fond farewell to some members of our staff – Mrs Hinkins, Business Studies; Mr O'Loughlin, Maths; Miss Kearney, English; Miss Kennedy and Miss Ryan, Science; Mr Walshe, Music, and Ms Poulton, D & T. Also moving to pastures new are LSA, Mrs Cassidy, Cover Supervisor, Mr Wiltshire, Science Technician, Miss Dibbens, Exams Officer, Mrs Campion and ICT Apprentices, Mr Alphonse and Mr French. I would like to wish them all the very best of luck for the future and thank them all for their hard work whilst they have been at St Thomas More High School.

Good Luck! We would like to wish Mr & Mrs Spillet all the very best with the imminent arrival of their first baby, due in August.



WELCOME

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to new members of staff who will be joining us in the autumn term – Mr Riches, Music; Mr Young, D & T; Mr Brady, Mr Mulligan, and Mr Massey, Science; and Ms Ryan, Business Studies. We also welcome PGCE staff, Mr Jones in PE and Ms Patel in Geography.

Exam Results Days – A reminder to pupils and students that the A2/AS results day is 14th August and the GCSE results day is 21st August. For the GCSE Results, please arrive at 10:00am. For the A2/AS Level results please arrive at 11am.. Access to the school will be via the 6th Form Entrance at the rear of the school.



SPOTLIGHT – Well done to Alexander Ramsey in Form 10/D who took part in the South East England Swimming Regionals on 5th July at Watford swimming pool. Alexander won Gold in the Under 18 boys' singles 25m and another gold in the under 18 4 x 25m boys and girls relay. Well done Alexander – PE

Department.



Leave of Absence – Please note that, from September 2014, parents/carers who apply for leave of absence for their son/daughter during term time may be subject to a Penalty Notice issued by the Local Authority. Parents whose children are on a school register have a duty to ensure that their children attend regularly and if they fail to do so, they may be prosecuted under the terms of the 1993 Education Act.

As from 1st September 2013, the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment), the amendments make clear that the Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Taking your child out of school during term time could be detrimental to your child's educational progress. A student who takes 10 days absence will only attain 94.7% attendance in the year. 10 days absence also means the student will miss 50 hours of education. There is no entitlement to parents to take their child out of school during term time; however, you may apply to the school for leave of absence if you believe there are exceptional circumstances.

If the absence is not authorised and the holiday taken, the case will be referred to the Child and Family Early Intervention Team who may issue a Penalty Notice for £120 (or £60 if paid within 21 days) to each parent for each child taken out of school. Please click on the link below for further guidance from the Local Authority.

<http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/penalty-notice-advice-for-parents.pdf>

Merit Marks - Well done to St George's House who gained the most Merit Marks this academic year. We start with fresh slate in September. Well done to all the Houses for the impressive scores.

St Andrew's
2770

St David's
2746

St George's
2880

St Patrick's
2358

St Sebastian's
2647

A Prayer for the summer holiday

Loving Father,

*As we come to the end of our school year we come to you in confidence
and place any difficult relationships into the healing hands of Jesus, your Son.*

*Enable us to leave behind any pain of the past and any regrets or bitterness,
entrusting the past to your mercy, the present to your love,
and the future to your providence.*

Help us to appreciate more the need to keep a good balance in our lives.

*May the holiday be for us a time of rest and recreation to help restore us
and re-create us in your image and likeness,*

*as we enjoy more of the love and presence of our families,
on whom we ask your blessing.*

Amen.

Confirmation - We hold in prayer those students who were confirmed by Bishop Allan Williams on Wednesday evening at St Peter's Church Eastwood: George Chuck, Franklin Craik, Billy Ebbles, Alasdair Grant-Browning and Thomas O'Kane.

Debating - On Monday 14th July 7 Year 9 students took part in a Debating Workshop run by the English Speaking Union and hosted by Westcliff High School for Boys. They enjoyed developing their speaking and listening skills and engaging in debate with students from other schools. Students involved were John Jenkins, Charlie Bowers, Ben Kersch-Hunt, Nathan Bhanji, Elliott Highmore, Jacob Cullen and Amobkhvi Dingis.



School Equipment and Uniform – Please can all pupils and students ensure that they wear the correct school uniform, including black school shoes, not trainer and have all the necessary equipment needed as stated in the Code of Conduct so that a good start can be made in the new academic year in September. Mr Mason.



Gold Achievers' Lunch

- On July 16th our summer term Gold Achievers' Lunch was being celebrated in school. There were 15 boys from Year 7 and 8 they had achieved over 18 praises on their respect card and were invited to a buffet lunch with treats. Well done to all those pupils, and hope to



see you back again when we run the incentive again for the autumn term! Ms Jackson, Year 7 Pupil Support Mentor.

Manga High Star Performers Pizza Party lunch - On Wednesday we had a special pizza party lunch for the top 20 star performers in the Manga high Grassroots Competition. During this lunch, as well as the pupils eating a large amount of pizza, medals (for the top 4 students) and certificates were awarded! Well done again to all 20 star performers that helped the school achieve 3rd place overall in the country out of the hundreds of schools that took part. I look forward to next year's competition!

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

Mountain Walking Trip - Bright sunshine, a rarity in Scotland, greeted the Mountain Walking Group as they arrived at Glen Nevis Youth Hostel located under the slopes of Britain's highest mountain. A long mini bus journey had not dampened the spirits, with breaks en route to visit The Gretna Green Smithy, a drive past Loch Lomond and a fish supper, taking the opportunity to sample a Scottish Haggis. A beautiful sunset greeted us as we travelled North through the famous Glen Coe up to Fort William and the Youth Hostel.

A long first day of 9 hours, took in the Grey Corries adjacent to Glen Nevis. A brief stop at the Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge took in the breath taking views of the Locharbar Munro's.



The following day, a cloudless sky prompted an early start for the summit of Ben Nevis, 4409 ft (1344 m). The summit was reached after a long four hour climb which took in the famous snow patches which remain on the Ben throughout the summer. The summit afforded 360 degree panoramic views up Loch Linnhe to Mull and up the Great Glen Fault to Loch Ness and North to the Cuillen Hills of Skye. For Elliott Phillips, Tom Short, Jack Chambers and Sam Mason, the reaching of the summit meant all three highest peaks of Britain had been achieved over the past three walking trips to:- Wales (Snowdon 2012), Lake District (Scafell Pike 2013) and now Scotland (Ben Nevis 2014). Additionally Dennis

Gleadell summited Ben Nevis for a second time in a week, having done the three peak challenge for charity the weekend before.



With conditions so favourable the decision was made to descend by the famous Carn Mor Dearg (CMD) ridge. This entailed a further six hours along the steep one mile Arete to the famous Charles Inglis Clark Mountain Hut, the base used to climb the famous North face routes of Ben Nevis. In all a ten and half hour day covering 20km took in one of the top ridge walks in the country.

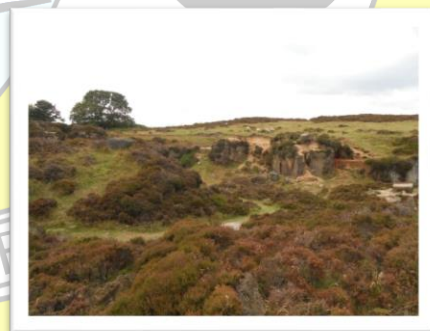
An easier day of 10 miles from Kinlochleven ice climbing wall along part of the West Highland Way to Fort William concluded our trip. A magnificent effort from the whole group, both in determination and stamina made the whole trip extremely enjoyable. Conduct as ever was extemporary and commented upon positively by both staff and visitors to the Youth Hostel. A big well done to Ben Faulkner,

Mike Millham, Mitchell Howes, Ed Booroff, Jamie Sayer, Charlie Goddard, Jack Baumbach, James Garwood, Tom Schofield, Elliott Phillips, Jack Chambers, Fabio Peluso, Sam Mason, Tom Short, Dennis Gleadell, George Morton, Pedro Melo-Peet and Jonathan Chambers. A further thank you to the staff who gave up their weekend to support the trip. G Mason.



Duke of Edinburgh – The Silver Award - The weekend of the 10th to 13th July. The year 11 students who are completing their silver D of E award headed off to near Bakewell in the Peak district to complete their expedition section of the award. There they completed 3 days of walking. Each day they had to be out for 7 hours. To pass this section they had to prove to the assessor that they had good map and compass skills. Also that they are good cooks (well at least be able to use a Trangia to cook their food!). All

the students proved themselves to be outstanding in all areas and the assessor was overly impressed with their attitude and determination to complete the award. All the students successfully passed this part of the award. So a big well done to all of them. And we hope to see you all on the Gold award next year.
Mrs Spillett and Mrs Statovci



PE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Essex Plate Semi-Final - The Essex Plate Semi Final stage made its debut at St Thomas More this week as Champion were the visitors in what looked all set to be a close encounter. Having won the toss, captain Coelho elected to bat and get runs on the board. The score kept ticking along nicely, despite losing two early wickets but a good 3rd wicket partnership of 44 between Dyos (45) and Thomas (21) pushed the score to the team's minimum target. Some good

hitting, running and sensible cricket from Roy supported by the lower order pushed the team to a target that gave them something to defend. Campion started well, rotating the strike and some fine hitting from their opener until a breakthrough was found from Waller. Wickets continued to fall; Roy had them in all sorts of trouble with his flight and guile. Curtis bowled with accuracy and variation to pick up wickets along the way. An inspired bowling change from captain Coelho was the undoing from the Campion gun batsman, Waller having him caught at mid-wicket by Roy. Waller rounded off his day with four wickets taking his school average to 5.48 and will start his next game on a hat trick. An excellent result and performance from this group, made up of boys from year 8-10. Southend await in the final which promises to be a cracker. Well done to all.

U14 Essex Cup cricket semi-final v Shoebury – Won by 53 runs - At one point midway through our innings, it looked as though we had blown our chances of making the final. The team were 42/5 from just 6.4 overs, with our top order all back in the hutch having given away their wickets. Only wayward bowling from our opponents allowed the score to keep ticking over. Then Dylan O’Riordan Mitchell from Year 8 showed the Year 9 boys how to bat, taking singles whenever he could and farming the strike to keep our weaker batters away from their bowlers. He added 35 runs off 38 balls and assisted by Allian Arif, took our score to a more respectable 114 from our 20 overs. Our strength is always our bowling and so it proved again as we ripped through their top order to have them four down for just 13 runs. Their main batsman looked dangerous, hitting Aby Roy for a couple of sixes before the same bowler got him caught in the covers. Shoebury were eventually all out for 61 runs, meaning we now face our biggest rivals Westcliff in the final after the summer break. A great end to our first season in the Essex competition, well done boys!

