



CONTACT

No. 1284 – 26th September 2014

Dear Parents and Pupils,

Year 7 Mass and Social Evening – We were delighted to welcome a very large number of parents and students to our Year 7 Mass, Social and Information evening yesterday. It was lovely to meet and talk to so many of you and hear how happy you are with the transition your sons have made to us from primary school. Thank you to all the students and staff who helped to make members of Year 7 feel so welcome at mass and a special thanks to Mrs Webb for her overall leadership in preparing the liturgy. We are most grateful to Fr Jeff Woolnough who celebrated Mass and blessed the Form crosses which will accompany our students through the school. The music group

led by
Mr

Riches

enhanced our liturgy beautifully and we look forward to more students joining the group. Anyone wishing to be part of this important service at the heart of school life should come to the Music Room next Tuesday lunchtime at 1.35pm.

Our thanks also to the Parents' and Staff Association for the refreshments, to our student welcoming committee and Mrs Potton and her Catering team for their information for parents about the food, menus and cashless catering. Please do access our website to obtain more the information about the PSA, including how you can join and support them in raising money for the students of the school.



11+Examination – Last Saturday, a large number of Year 6 pupils sat the 11+ examination in our school hall. I would like to thank the staff involved and the following students who helped to welcome candidates to our school and for their invaluable assistance on such a busy day; William Blackstone- Whines, Thomas O'Kane, Michael O'Brien and Ed Ashcroft. Thank you also to the Parents' Association who provided the refreshments for the pupils and the invigilators.

Highlight of the Week

Just before the Year 7 Mass yesterday evening, I am proud to say that the newly formed STM Basketball Academy Team beat Shoebury Academy 65-58, in their first league game of the season. A tense but exciting evening and I'm delighted that hard work and sporting excellence has triumphed so early in the season! Please see the school website for the full report and some pictures.

Quotation of the Week: "God has imprinted on the soul of every human being the image of the world as he wants it to be." Hildegard of Bingen.



Merit Marks – St David's have taken the lead! Come on St Andrew's!

St Andrew's
77

St David's
132

St George's
102

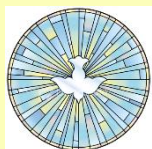
St Patrick's
85

St Sebastian's
123



Weekly Prayer

*Lord God,
you can read our hearts and you know whether we are true and genuine.
We ask you to work in us and make us loving, kind, faithful and honest.
Help us to grow closer to your plan for our lives.
Amen.*



CHAPLAINCY

Daily Prayer -- This week we have continued to hold our "Five-Minute Prayer" retreat every day at 11:20 am. This is open to anyone who would like to spend a few special moments during the hectic school day. All staff and students are very welcome.

Weekly Mass – Thursday 25th September. Our Mass this week was celebrated by Father Basil and everyone was happy to welcome him back in school. The Mass was planned and attended by Miss O'Neil's 12-A and Mr. Pankhurst's 13-A. This was an uplifting occasion with the Mass offered for the Sixth Form, with Year 12 doing the scripture readings and Year 13 the bidding prayers. Thanks to all involved and to the 33 students who attended. Mrs. McCurdy.

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Vatican Television Broadcast

Catholic Grandparents Association (CGA) to testify to Pope Francis on the vocation of grandparents worldwide.



On Sunday 28 September Pope Francis will meet grandparents in St. Peter's Square during the first international day, organised by the Pontifical Council for the Family, *The Blessing of Long Life*. The encounter will undoubtedly attract grandparents from many countries and the CGA will be present, many wearing the distinctive green sashes of the association, in the form of a delegation from many countries where the CGA is active.

The event is scheduled to begin at 9.00 am in St Peter's Square and will conclude with Holy Mass at 10.30 am.

The event will be broadcast by CTV (Centro Televisivo Vaticano, Vatican TV) and will be streamed live on the web via <http://www.ctv.va/content/ctv/it/livetv.html>

For more information contact:- www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org

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The Governing Body has a vacancy for a Parent Governor from October this year. The school proposes to hold an election and is seeking nominations. A letter with details will be sent home via email to all parents. There will also be copies available in reception and on our website by clicking [here](#). Please read and consider if you would like to become a Governor.

Mr G Prior Clerk to the Governors.

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Sixth Form Students and Parents - Details of the Schools Bursary Fund are now available to download from the Schools website or via the VLE. Please click [here](#) for the form.

This fund is to help with education-related costs if you're aged 16 to 19 and can be used for clothing, books and other equipment for your course, transport and lunch on days you study.

If you wish to apply for a payment via this fund please apply via the application form and sent the form to Mrs. Hudson, Sixth Form Pupil Support Mentor.

The Tommy More Times is available to purchase now! - John Jenkins 10/A. Editor of the Tommy More Times (4th year) - Award Winning School Newspaper, Member of the Year 10 Council & the School Council.

Clubs and Study Sessions

For information on **clubs and activities** please click [here](#)

For information about **revision** sessions, please click [here](#)

Careers Centre and Library – A reminder that this area is now up and running and welcoming all pupils and students during the following times: **8.15 – 8.45am except Mondays, 11.10 – 11.30am, 1.35 – 2.30pm and 3.30 – 4pm.** Please remind your son that this is a quiet area for reading, written work, chilling out or playing board games. Our sixth form students are also welcome to use the area for silent study during their free periods. I would also like to remind all pupils and students that no electronic devices, other than laptops, are to be used as they could disturb other learners.



Student Library Assistant – We have successfully recruited a small group of volunteers to help in the Careers Centre and Library. If any other pupils are interested in joining the team please see me for further information.

Donations – A reminder that if you have any old magazines, suitable for ages 11 – 16, that you no longer need, I would be happy to give them a new home. Please ask your son/daughter to bring any spare magazines to me in the Careers Centre and Library (previously the Learning Resource Centre). Thank you, Miss Munson, Careers Co-ordinator.

For more information and news on **Careers**, please click [here](#)

For information and news on **Business and Enterprise**, please click [here](#)

Parents' and Staff Association News – For details on ordering a Christmas Pudding and Easy Fundraising, please click [here](#).

PE DEPARTMENT AND SPORTS NEWS HEADLINES

For information and news on all the sports headlines and latest news, please click [here](#)

Judo Presentation - Year Seven were treated to a judo presentation today during their form period. Members of the school's judo club along with coaches and members from Southend Judo Club demonstrated their skills and talked about their experiences within the judo world. Pictures to follow on the school website next week.

The St Thomas More High School Judo Club trains every Monday night in the sports hall between 7.00pm and 8.15pm. All new players are welcome. Please see Mr Robinson in E5 for more details.

SPORTING FIXTURES

Date	Event	Time
Tuesday 30 th September	Year 9 Football v Westcliff (AWAY) Year 11 Football v Southend (HOME) Year 10 Rugby v Oaks Park	4pm 4pm Return 6.30pm
Wednesday 1 st October	Year 10/11 National Indoor Athletics Lea Valley	2-7pm
Thursday 2 nd October	Year 9 Essex Cup Football v Moulsham (AWAY) Year 8 Football v Eastwood (AWAY)	4 – 6.00pm 4-5.30pm
Friday 3 rd October	Year 8 Essex Cup Football v Gable Hall (HOME)	4pm

EARLY WARNINGS

Date	Event	Time
Monday 6 th October	Year 7 Essex Cup Football v Sandon (HOME) Year 11 Football v Shoebury (HOME)	4pm 4pm
Tuesday 7 th October	National Cross Country @ Benfleet Year 8 Football v Chase (AWAY)	All day 4pm
Wednesday 8 th October	Year 7 Football v Chase (HOME)	4pm
Thursday 9 th October	Basketball Officials Course	4-6pm