



CONTACT

No. 1285– 3rd October 2014

Dear Parents and Pupils,

As we are now in the middle of our first half term, I would ask that you take time this weekend to have a look at the work your sons and daughters have completed thus far. Discuss with them not only the marked extended learning tasks, but also what extended learning they are completing each evening and if they are beginning to think about attempting some of the extended learning projects this half term. Your support, interest and encouragement is a great source of reinforcement for their hard work and if you have any concerns please do contact either their Pupil Progress or Pupil Support Mentor at school by using the website to find their contact details. I hope that everyone is now firmly in the routine of extended learning and enjoying their studies, developing as well organised students. It was great to see parents and carers supporting their sons and daughters in Year 12 at the Study Skills evening this week and my thanks to the Sixth Form Leadership Team for organising this event. Please see below for information about the upcoming study skills evenings for Year 11 and Year 10.

Highlight of the Week

This week when I requested the help of volunteers for my CAFOD Harvest Fast Day assembly, I was delighted that a range of students from Year 8 through to 11 stepped up to offer their help. We collected £30 in loose change donated to CAFOD by students as they exited the hall after my assembly this week. Students will have the opportunity to give in the RE Department of during Form time today.



Merit Marks – St David's are still in the lead! Come on St George's!

St Andrew's
260

St David's
319

St George's
215

St Patrick's
218

St Sebastian's
293

Mrs G Ackred
Headteacher



Weekly Prayer

Lord God,

*may we never reject the things you have done for us
and the future life you have opened up.*

*Instead may we always be grateful to you and respond to
your goodness, by bearing fruit in our lives.*

Amen.

We were pleased to welcome Fr James Mackay and Sean Brennan (his assistant) into school on Tuesday. Students who live in the parishes of Canvey Island and Benfleet were invited to the Chapel during Form time to meet with our visitors and to hear from them about the opportunities available through involvement on parish life. More details are available from Father James who can be contacted via either parish. Please find the link to all our parishes on our school website. Youth opportunities are also available at www.bcys.net where regular Diocesan activities are advertised.

Year 12 General RE - This week saw the first session of General RE for our Year 12 students. The course involves a carousel of activities throughout the year designed to promote reflection and debate about matters relating to faith and morality. Students are encouraged to undertake independent reflection by engaging with an online forum. This will earn extra course credits when the end of year certificates are awarded. We look forward to sharing some of the outcomes. This week one group took part in a Cafod Fast Day activity exploring food distribution. The result of one of their activities is pictured here:



Weekly Mass - This Thursday's Mass did not take place this week as Fr James was unwell and unable to celebrate for us. Fortunately we are pleased to be welcoming Fr Gerald Gostling into school on Monday to celebrate Mass and 11D will be the Form in attendance. Father Gerald, who is the brother of Mrs Lewis, serves as a priest in South Africa, in the Diocese of Dundee.

Justice and Peace Group - St Thomas More has a newly formed Justice and Peace group which met for the first time on Wednesday lunchtime. The next meeting will take place after school on Monday 6th October ending at 4.30pm. Everyone interested in raising awareness about Justice and Peace issues and taking action to bring about change should come along to RE4. All ages of students from Year 7 to Year 13 are warmly encouraged to attend.

London Marathon 2015 - Brentwood Catholic Children's Society has Gold Bond places for runners in the LONDON MARATHON – SUNDAY 26th April 2015. If you are an experienced runner or someone who would value the opportunity to participate in this renowned event please contact Libby Phillips on 01268 784544 / lphillips@bccs.org.uk **Closing date for completed applications is Friday 31st October.**

If you have been lucky enough to secure your own running place through the ballot, we would invite you to join us and run for Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. The London Marathon is a unique opportunity to raise much needed funds for the Diocesan Children's Society and perhaps achieve a lifetime ambition!

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Year 11 Parent and Student Study Skills and Information Evening Wednesday 8th October at 6pm - The Study Skills evening is designed to answer many of the questions that you and your son will have regarding your son's preparation for his forthcoming examinations in May and June, as well as the mocks in November. It is often the case that parents are unaware of the amount of work and effort that we expect our students to put in to succeed in these very important examinations. We also hear from parents that they do not know how to help or support their sons during this busy and often stressful time. For the students this will also be a valuable opportunity for them to pick up advice and guidance on how to prepare for this intensive period of examinations. We look forward to seeing you on the evening. Mr Hardiman, Director of Learning i/c Pupil Achievement.

Year 10 Study Skills Evening – 15th October 2014 6pm – An early warning for the Year 10 Study Skills evening – please put the date in your diary – more information to follow.

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Design a school mosaic competition! - St Thomas More are commissioning a mosaic and we want the students to design it. Competition guidelines and resources are under the 'Enrichment' course on the VLE. Entries must be in by 17th October and winners will be given the opportunity to help the artist create the mosaic in school. Miss Gilroy.

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University: What's The Point? The Forum Southend on Sea – Friday 3rd October 2014 4:30pm Tickets: FREE - Is higher education the time of your life or a waste of time? Does the three-year investment reap rewards later in life? Dr Jeff Howard from the University of Essex challenges you to rethink the point of a university education. On a philosophical journey through murder, torture and taxes, he argues a degree isn't simply a key to a great career; it is the key to changing the world.

If you're not sure a University degree is worth it, this talk could change your life.

For further information and to reserve places, please contact Heather Leathley hleath@essex.ac.uk.



Vote for us!! - Chalkwell lifeguards are a charity along Southend seafront that provides first aid and rescue trained personnel to the members of the public that may need assistance. Chalkwell lifeguards have been put into the Lloyds Community Fund Scheme in which you, the members of the public, are asked to vote for a worthwhile cause Chalkwell lifeguards have been making the seafront from Leigh to Southend safer since 1978, giving safety advice, rescuing those in need and providing first aid assistance. We are looking to gain funding to expand our lifeboat crew, providing a better service to you and the community. The vote closes on the 10th October at 11.59pm. Text VOTE VXJ to 61119. Thank you.

Clubs and Study Sessions

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

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

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

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

Considering University? Useful resources for those considering University options:

<http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings>

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/University_Guide/

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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](#)

SPORTING FIXTURES

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) Year 9 Football v Westcliff (AWAY)	All day 4pm 4pm
Wednesday 8 th October	Year 7 Football v Chase (HOME) Year 10 Football v Chase (HOME) Sixth Form Rugby v Ormiton	4pm 4pm
Thursday 9 th October	Year 7 National Cup Football v Howard (HOME) Year 9 National Cup Football v Passmores (AWAY) Basketball Officials Course	4pm Tbc 4-6pm

EARLY WARNINGS

Date	Event	Time
Tuesday 14 th October	Year 8 Football v Southend (HOME) Year 10 Essex Cup Football v Shenfield (AWAY)	4pm tbc
Wednesday 15 th October	Sixth Form Basketball v Brentwood 1 st XI Football v Southend (AWAY)	4pm 2pm
Thursday 16 th October	Year 9 Rugby v Debden Park	4pm
Friday 17 th October	Year 9 Football v Fitzwimarc (HOME)	4pm