



**CONTACT**  
*No. 1286 – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014*

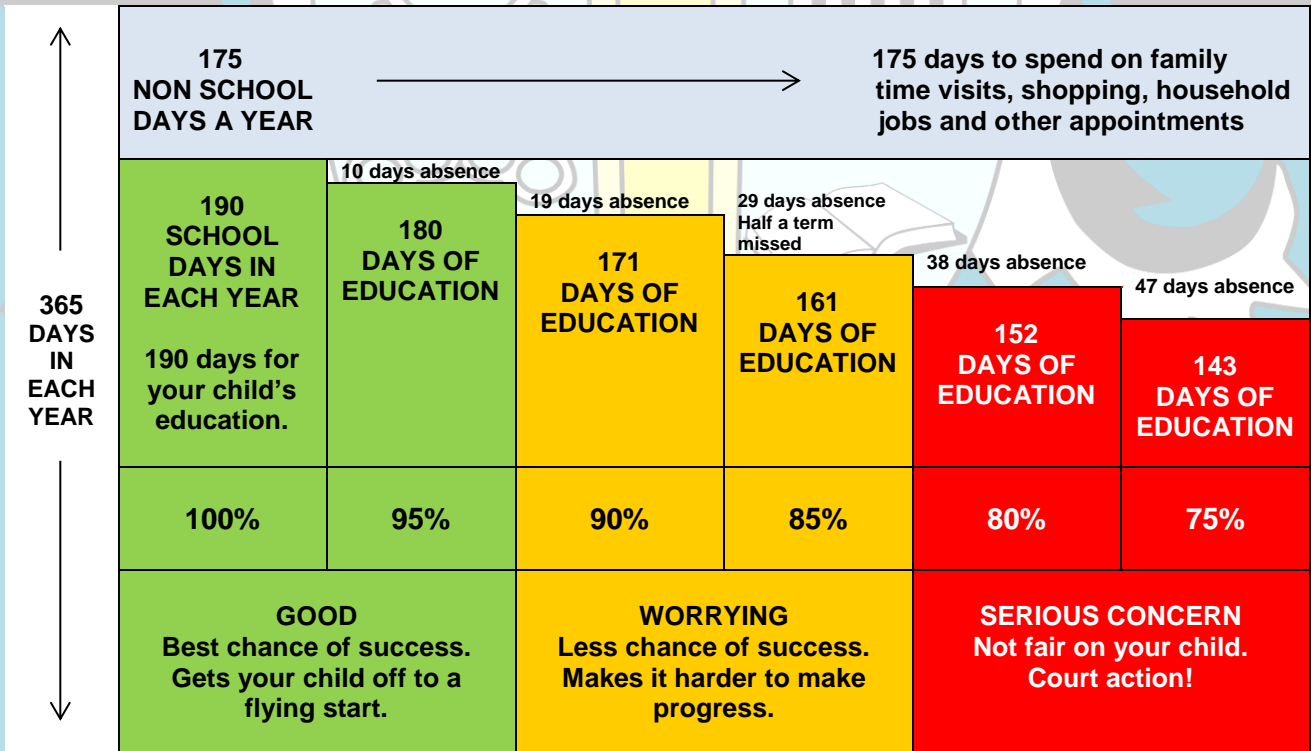
Dear Parents and Pupils,

**Study Skills Evening** – Last Wednesday, we held a Study Skills Evening for our Year 11 students and their parents. I am sure that all who attended found the information and presentations very useful. My thanks to Mr Keenan from the English department and Mr Quane from the Science department for giving information about their respective areas and also to Mr Maxfield, for speaking about the school’s Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), and revision and study skills. The PowerPoint presentation from the English department has been emailed to all Year 11 parents, via School Comms. A reminder to Year 10 pupils and their parents that there is to be a study skills evening for their year group on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October, starting at 6pm.

**EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS** - We take absence very seriously. We target intervention with students whose attendance falls below target of 95%

Days off school add up to lost learning

- Please don't let your child miss out on the education they deserve
- Every school day counts



If your child does not attend school they will not achieve. We want all students to achieve high levels of attendance and give themselves the very best life chances and choices.

There are 175 non-school days per year for holidays, shopping and appointments. There should be little need, except in “exceptional” circumstances for your child to miss a day’s education.

90% Attendance may look impressive but it means they miss 19 days of education in a year and risk dropping one grade in their GCSEs. **5 C grades become 5 D grades.**

## Highlight of the Week

**Careers Academy, Student Presentation** - This evening, I am looking forward to hearing from our Careers Academy students who will be giving presentations to our governors and local business about the internships they have been on this year. My thanks to Miss Munson, Careers Co-coordinator, for her hard work in organising the evening and the time she spent helping to arrange and visiting the students at their internships over the summer. More news about the evening in next week's Contact.

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**Merit Marks** – St David's are still in the lead, with St Sebastian's closing in!

St Andrew's  
352

St David's  
408

St George's  
273

St Patrick's  
281

St Sebastian's  
404

Mrs G Ackred  
Headteacher



### Weekly Prayer

*Lord God,  
you didn't create us to be slaves or to be miserable, but to be full of joy.  
You promise us that if we are faithful to you,  
our joy will one day be complete.  
Help us to radiate joy to others.  
Amen*

**Justice and Peace** - The newly formed Justice and Peace group is looking for new members. If you are interested in learning more about situations of injustice in our world and taking action to campaign against such issues, please come to our next meeting which takes place on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 1.30pm in RE4. Everyone welcome. Mrs Webb,

**Weekly Mass** – Our Form Mass on Thursday was a memorial to Blessed John Henry Newman and offered for the intentions of Form 10D, who read the scripture and planned and read the Bidding Prayers. Our readers may remember that Pope Benedict beatified John Henry Newman, a scholar of the Oxford Movement, during his visit to England in September 2010. Our thanks to Father Jeff who celebrated the Mass, Mr Brady and Form 10D. Mrs. McCurdy.

**General RE** – On Thursday Year 13 had a visit from CAFOD Brentwood. The topic was Climate Change and the work being done by CAFOD to combat the effects of Climate Change on the poorest communities in the world. Year 13s viewed some interesting film footage during the various presentations and the morning culminated in 'heart' posters planned, illustrated and presented by each group to promote the work of CAFOD on Climate Change. Our thanks to CAFOD and their volunteer presenters Peter, Joan and Linda. Mrs. McCurdy.

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**Well done!** - I am very pleased to acknowledge that 5 of our year 7's have already received bronze certificates for achieving six praises on their respect cards. These boys are now on their way to achieving silver and hopefully by the end of term we should have names for the Gold Achievers' special lunch. The praises are given out by staff who recognise that the pupil has done more than expected of them, particularly with a community spirit.

The boys who have achieved Bronze status so far are: Robin Sleigh Johnson, Emmanuel Frampong, Andrew Gilbert and Marcus Stoleru of 7D and Tomi Abere in 7S. Well done to all of you. Ms Jackson, Year 7 Pupil Support Mentor.

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### **Be the Best You Can Be!**

Please click [here](#) for photos and news on our launch day and visit from Olympian, Jo Mersh on Wednesday

***“Don’t be afraid to dream big. Every single person is special in their own way and embracing our own uniqueness is something that gives us integrity and pride. Being the best we can be is something we should all aspire towards.”***

***Olympian, Jo Mersh***

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**Student Council Leadership Day** - On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October all form representatives of student council gathered together to take part in a leadership development day. Please click [here](#) for photos and further news on this event.

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**Young Enterprise @ St Thomas More**, are to present their first fundraising event. **‘Tommy’s Diamonds’**. For more information and news of the forthcoming Quiz Night which is to be held here at St Thomas More on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October from 6:30pm, please click [here](#) Please come along and give your support if you can!

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**Biology Week 11<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> October - Get involved and celebrate Biology week in!**

**Complete the quiz or put pen to paper and write a poem explaining how your body works.**

Pick a bodily function, maybe digestion, eye sight, or breathing, and use it as inspiration to compete in The Physiological Society’s poem competition to win some great prizes for you and the school.

**Deadline:** Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October, winners announced on Friday (17 October) as part of Biology Week!

**Submit all entries to Miss Nugent (Lab2)**

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### **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](#)

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**Parents’ and Staff Association News** – There is to be a PSA meeting October 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30pm at the school. The main topic will be Christmas Fayre arrangements. Please click [here](#) for more information on the PSA.

## PE DEPARTMENT AND SPORTS NEWS HEADLINES

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

Date	Event	Time
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 8 Football v Southend (HOME) Year 10 Essex Cup Football v Shenfield (AWAY) Year 9 Essex Cup Football v Shenfield (HOME)	4pm Tbc 4pm
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Sixth Form Basketball v Brentwood 1 <sup>st</sup> XI Football v Southend (AWAY)	4pm 2pm
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 9 Rugby v Debden Park	4pm
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 9 Football v Fitzwimarc (HOME) Year 11 Football v Cecil Jones (HOME)	4pm 4pm

Date	Event	Time
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 10 Football v Shoebury (AWAY)	4pm
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Year 9 Football v Chase (HOME) Year 7 Football v Cecil Jones (AWAY)	4pm 4pm
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Year 7 Football v Eastwood (AWAY) Year 11 Football v Cornelius (HOME) Sixth Form Rugby v Ormiton Sixth Form Basketball v Chelmsford (AWAY)	4pm 4pm 2pm

