



**St. Thomas More High School**  
*An Academy Trust in the Diocese of Brentwood (Reg No: 7696989)*

## **CONTACT**

*No. 1288 – 24<sup>th</sup> October 2014*

Dear Parents and Pupils,

**Half-Term Holiday** - We break up for the half-term holiday at 3.30pm today. We wish you all a well-deserved rest. However, if you have exams after the break, please ensure that a proper amount of serious revision is done. The second half of the term begins on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, (Timetable Week 1). We look forward to seeing you then.

**Open Days** – Following the success of our prospective Year 7 open days last week, on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week we decided to invite the parents of our current Year 7 & 8 pupils in to school to see what St Thomas More is like during a normal working day. Meeting parents, informally discussing with them various aspects of the school life and hearing how well their sons have settled into Year 7 and 8 was a real highlight for me this week. I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the Year 10 and Sixth Form team of students who volunteered themselves to act as tour guides for our visiting parents. Without exception, parents rated you all as outstanding ambassadors of yourselves, and the school.

### **Highlight of the Week**

#### **Just a few of the comments from parents following Year 7 & 8 Open Days:**

'.....I have enjoyed the opportunity to be allowed to visit and observe the school during a working day' '.... the feel of the school was warm and the ethos of the school reflects the polite and informative pupil that guided me around the school'.  
'...our son is very happy at the school, we are so pleased that he is in such a caring school, he also loves being part of the football team'. '...our son is very happy and Ms Jackson has been wonderful in her support.' '.... Our tour guides, Harry, Matthew and Lucas were informative and polite.'



**SPOTLIGHT** – Congratulations to Tomi Abere, Form 7S, on receiving the first Gold Merit Certificate for 18 positive marks on his respect card. Tomi is the first pupil in his year group to receive the Gold Certificate and he was awarded it by Ms Jackson in his year group's special celebration assembly earlier this week. Well done Tomi, keep it up!

Last Wednesday, Year 9 pupil Daniel Morgan's sister was confirmed at Most Holy Redeemer Church in Billericay by Bishop Alan. Daniel altar served at the Mass and was responsible for the Bishop's crook. Despite being rather nervous because the service was being concelebrated by the Bishop and our parish priest, Fr John McGrath, according to his family, Daniel did extremely well. Congratulations Daniel, this must have been a real honour for you.

Earlier this week, I was delighted to catch up with former student Daniel Adebayo. Daniel left St Thomas More last academic year to take up a scholarship at the prestigious Harrow School. Daniel told me that he has settled in well and is enjoying the experience.

**VLE** – A parental guide to the VLE can be found [here](#). You can also find all departmental news on the VLE by clicking [here](#)

Mrs G Ackred  
**Headteacher**



## Weekly Prayer

*Lord God,*

*everything we are, and everything we are capable of,  
exists for one simple reason: because you love us.*

*May we always be grateful, loving you  
and the people with whom we share our life.*

*Amen*

**Year 11 RE Mock Examination Revision** - Revision requirements for GCSE RE mock examinations are to be found on the Year 10 and 11 Religious Education area of the VLE. Students should prepare carefully during half term in order to be prepared for follow up in class upon return. Revision sessions will take place in the RE Department from 3.40pm - 5.00pm on Tuesdays during November which will focus upon Unit 1 Christianity. This area will be examined in the mock on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November.

**CAFOD Fast lunch** - Our St Thomas More Justice and Peace group is growing in size and it was wonderful to welcome new members on Monday. We have decided that each Monday lunchtime we will meet together and share a fast lunch. This will entail soup and a roll in the hope that the money saved on the food we have not eaten can make a regular contribution to CAFOD. In this way we can make a contribution simply by attending. On Monday we were given a presentation on climate change and its effects by John Jenkins and we joined the CAFOD One Climate One World Campaign by composing an email together to ask party leaders to act on Climate Change.



The group will meet again on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November in the Food Tech room at 1.30pm. We will share a fast lunch and spend some of our time baking some bread to be used for future meetings. If you come along you will be added to our VLE group so that you can keep up to date with our action for Justice and Peace in our world. Please let me know if you plan to join us by Monday morning break. Everyone is welcome.

**All Saints Mass** - On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November the whole school community will join together in a celebration of Mass. The theme of the Mass will be All Saints and we look forward to celebrating Mass together for the first time this academic year. During the month of November our weekly Masses will be offered for those deceased members of our families and school community. Students will have the opportunity to write the names of loved ones departed into a remembrance book kept in the Chapel during November.

**Year 10 GCSE RE** - All Year 10 students are currently studying St Mark's Gospel as part of their GCSE RE Course. It would be helpful for students to have a copy of the Gospel that they could annotate to assist them in their learning. A suitable version is available in school for £1. This cost will be added to



the Parentpay for all parents of members of Year 10 and Gospel texts will be issued to those students who have made payment. All students have their own Bibles but we think a single Gospel text will be a useful study aid.

**Global Notice Board** - Earlier this week, all students would have received a letter regarding the Global Notice Board and the 'pound-a-month' campaign. Further information can be found on the school website by clicking [here](#)

**London Marathon 2015** – Brentwood Catholic Children's Society has Gold Bond places for runners in the London Marathon on 26<sup>th</sup> 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 or email: [lphillips@bccs.org.uk](mailto:lphillips@bccs.org.uk) The closing date for completed applications is Friday 31<sup>st</sup> 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 the 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! Libby Phillips, Fundraising Administrator BCCS. [www.bccs.org.uk](http://www.bccs.org.uk)

**Exam Invigilators Required** – We are looking for Exam Invigilators to assist the Examinations Officer in the supervision of students under exam conditions. For more information and for an application form, please go to our website [www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk](http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk)

**Cleaners Required** – We are looking to employ on a temporary basis, some part time cleaners – various hours required. Please contact Mrs Newman via email: [anewman@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk](mailto:anewman@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk)

**Paris 2014** - If you have not handed in a photocopy of your passport or EHIC card to me, please do so ASAP. Miss O'Neill.

**WWI Battlefields Trip** - The trip is fast approaching in December and letters with a full itinerary will be sent home right after half term. We will also have a **parent's information evening on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November**. This will be an opportunity to discuss the trip, any queries you might have and for the trip staff to explain the expectations and aims of the trip. Mr Shearman.

## Clubs and Study Sessions

For information on **clubs and activities** please click [here](#) For information about Technology Club, 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](#)

## Parents' and Staff Association News

TABLE SALE 25th OCTOBER 9am - 12.30 pm

DIARY DATE: 29th Nov - HUGE GIFT AND CRAFT FAYRE

Donations needed for our school stalls, please click [here](#) for further information.

.....

## PE DEPARTMENT AND SPORTS NEWS HEADLINES

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

### FIXTURES

Date	Event	Time
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Year 11 National Cup Football v Simon Langton (HOME)	2.30 kick off
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 8 Essex Cup Football v Southend (AWAY) Sixth Form Basketball v Rokeby (AWAY) 1 <sup>st</sup> XI Essex Cup Football v KEGS (HOME)	2.15pm kick off 3.15pm tip 2.00pm kick off
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 7 National Cup football v St Martins (HOME) 8/9 Athletics @ Lea Valley	2.45pm kick off Lunchtime meet
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Senior badminton tournament @ SHSB Year 11 Essex Cup Football v Mayflower Year 9 Rugby v Boswells (AWAY) Futsal Course	4pm Kick off TBC 2.30pm kick off 4-6pm
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	House Cross Country @ Blenheim Park	Periods 1-3

### EARLY WARNINGS

Date	Event	Time
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 10 Basketball v Westcliff (AWAY) Junior Badminton @ SHSB	4pm 4pm
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 7 Basketball v Westcliff (HOME)	4pm
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Borough Cross Country @Blenheim Park Year 9 Basketball v Westcliff (AWAY) 1 <sup>st</sup> XI Football v TBC (Essex Cup) 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI Football v Havering (HOME) Sixth Form Basketball v Woodbridge (HOME)	9-12pm 4pm 2pm 2pm 4.30pm
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 8 Rugby v Royal Liberty (AWAY)	2pm
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 10 Rugby v Southend (VENUE TBC)	TBC