

# CONTACT

No. 1438 – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018



Dear Parents and Pupils,

As this week draws to a close we have much to be thankful for. Last night we held our annual mass of welcome to Year 7 and their families and it was a joyful celebration of the Eucharist. Fr Jeff Woolnough had already spent time with Year 7 during their Retreats last week, explaining parts of the Mass so that everyone in Year 7 who had joined us felt included in the liturgy. A special note of thanks to all the Year 7's who played special roles in the Mass by taking part in the offertory procession or by being altar servers, readers or cross bearers. My thanks also go to the Head Girl, Head Boy, House/Chaplaincy and Sports Captains for their support, Prefects, sound team, I.T. Department, site team, Lit Choir and pianist and Year 7 Tutors. It would not be possible to organise such an event without the help and support of a reliable team. A special thank you also to Fr. Jeff Woolnough for his continued service and support to our School and Mrs Maxfield and Mrs Webb for their organisation and preparation of such a prayerful evening.

## Weekly Prayer

*Dear Jesus, give me the courage to speak out against what is wrong,  
even when others don't agree.*

*Give me the wisdom to know how to do this in the best way.*

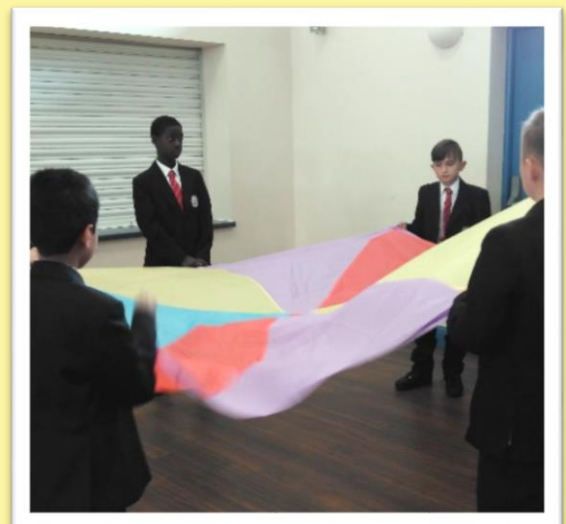
*Help me to sacrifice my time and energy to live your way of peace, love and acceptance.*

*AMEN*

**Weekly Mass** – Forms 12G and 13G gathered together in the Chapel to celebrate their Form Mass at lunchtime. We were pleased to welcome Father Jeff Woolnough. My thanks to all the students who led us in prayer and proclaimed the readings.



**Year 7 Retreat** - As promised last week, some photos of students taking part in the trust and team games that were organised. The games helped the students work together and to start building up trust with each other. It was lovely to hear all the laughing and seeing smiling faces from students, Tutors and Fr. Jeff Woolnough. Fr. Jeff spoke to all the students in the Church about



different parts of the Mass and lots of students across the Forms were enthusiastic asking really good questions. Once I have received all the evaluation forms, I will display the students' feedback in the concourse. My thanks again to all staff who helped with this retreat and Fr. Jeff Woolnough. Mrs. Maxfield

**Inter House Debating Competition** – At lunchtime today, we see the opening debate of our annual competition with St Andrew's vs St George's. Results will be published in next week's Contact. The second debate will take place on Friday 28th September with St David's proposing and St Patrick's opposing the motion, 'This House would lower the voting age to 16'.

**Year 12 Retreat** - Parents of Year 12 have received a letter detailing the retreat day to be held on Tuesday 25th September. This day for all members of the year group will be led by our Diocesan Youth Team from Walsingham House Abbotswick and will take place in school. Details of payment required can be found in the letter and any parent or guardian who has not received details of the day should contact the school office at:

[office@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk)

**Liturgical Choir** - All students with a love of singing with others are warmly encouraged to join our Liturgical Choir. Having led the congregation at our celebration of welcome Mass for year 7 students we will now be preparing for our Mass for the Deceased and Remembrance Service in November. The choir is open to students who have been in the school previously but we would be particularly pleased to welcome members of Year 7 and Year 12 who have recently joined our school community. We have a practice in RE4 on Monday at 1:35pm. Everyone Welcome.

**House assemblies** - Year 13 Captains are looking forward to house assemblies which take place for all next week.

**Confirmation Programme at St Teresa the Child Jesus – Rochford** - If you are in Year 9 or above and are ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and become full members of the Catholic Church please email Fr Gerry and let him know at [frgerry@talktalk.net](mailto:frgerry@talktalk.net) The course will be starting in October. If you have any questions please do email Fr Gerry or speak to him after Mass.

**Confirmation course at St. Helen's Church, Westcliff-on-sea** - If you are in Year 9 or above you are very welcome to join our Confirmation Course which is due to commence in October 2018. Please contact Nicola Nevin on 07740 287042 for further details and to register.

\*\*\*\*\***STM VARIETY SHOW AUDITIONS**\*\*\*\*\*



***Announcing auditions for the St Thomas More Variety Show!***

***Auditions will be held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October, during lunch, for the opportunity to showcase your talent.***

***So whether you can sing, dance, act, play an instrument, rap or juggle; we want to hear from you!***

***Come along to CR5 with a prepared act and show us what you can do.***

***The Variety Show is going to be a fun filled evening where teachers and students perform alongside each other.***



**New York – May 2019** - The Media and Film department are running a 5 day trip to New York during the May half term 2019. The trip will be a fantastic experience for students to visit the US and see many of the delights that the city has to offer – including a trip to Broadway, a tour of a television studio and all the usual tourist experiences that New York has to offer. We have 8 SPACES left on our trip and are now opening these spaces up to students in YEARS 9 & 10 on A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS. If your son is interested in joining our trip please could you email reception or myself declaring your son's interest.

Mr. Wiltshire [TWILTSHIRE@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk](mailto:TWILTSHIRE@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk)

# OUTLOOK EXPEDITIONS

**Are you up for a challenge? Are you in year 10, 11, 12 or 13? How do you fancy a month long expedition to Ecuador?**

*'Outlook Expeditions are about young people who pack a rucksack and go on an incredible, inspiring and transforming journey with friends.'*

For a month during July 2019, St Thomas More will be undertaking an 'Outlook Expedition' to Ecuador. If you would like to be involved in this exciting 'once in a lifetime opportunity'. There are still a few spaces available! Please see Mr West in G3.



## Year 7 Science Baseline Assessments

- 24th September for 7S
- 25th September for all other year 7 forms

Assessment to be held in classes during normal lesson time. A letter via School Comms has been sent out.

**Science VLE** - Please ensure all students review their learning weekly/fortnightly, and if they appear to have no extended learning work then there are resources they can be using on these VLE pages:

- Years 7 and 8: "KS3 Science"
- Years 9 to 11: "Science GCSE 2016 onwards"

There are practise papers, PowerPoints and other resources that both parents and students can use.

Students in years 9 to 11 also have access to the resources on Kerboodle which can be accessed via the link on the VLE page mentioned. They should have their logins sorted out so please encourage them to try them. Mr Clunn, Head of Science.

**Geography in Action** - All parents of Year 12 and 13 Geography students should have received an email regarding a trip to the Geography in Action conference in London on 7th November. If your son/daughter would like to attend, please make payment as soon as possible so final arrangements can be confirmed. If you have not received the email, I have hard copies of the letter in G1. Miss Main, Head of Geography

**Geography Revision Guides** - All students in Years 9-13 have the opportunity to purchase a GCSE or A Level Geography revision guide through the school at the discounted rate of £5.60 (GCSE) or £9.50 (A-Level). This book will be an invaluable resource for using in class, as well as for revision for examinations. Please check your email where you will find further information as to how to order a book. Miss Main, Head of Geography.

**Year 11 Business Studies REVISION – Tuesday 3.35 – 4.35 in BS1** - I would like to invite anyone who would like to get extra help with work and to attend revision sessions for GCSE Business Studies. This will be on a Tuesday after school with Mrs Lindsay. We will cover topics covered as well as help with exam practice.

Mrs Lindsay

**Year 12 and 13 Business Studies DROP IN – Monday 3.35 – 4.35 in BS1** - I would like to invite anyone who would like to get extra help with work and to attend revision sessions for A LEVEL Business Studies. This will be on a Monday after school with Mrs Lindsay. We will cover topics covered as well as help with exam practice. Mrs Lindsay.

## Business Studies TWITTER page

If there is anyone interested in Business and are on twitter, please follow Mrs Lindsay for up to date business news, exam information and interesting articles from all aspects of Business.

@Alindsay100





**KUDOS Sessions** - This week 8A completed their second week of KUDOS during form time. KUDOS is a fantastic tool designed to help students aged 13-19 explore future options and possible career paths based on their interests, aspirations, likes and dislikes. This personalised experience will help them discover new ideas and uncover how what they are learning in school links to future opportunities and careers. With their user name and password, they can now log on to <https://kudos.cascaid.co.uk/#/> at school or home and explore

further.

With the GCSE option process starting early in the New Year, the 'Explore Subjects' area can be used to search for careers linked to the subjects your son enjoys and make informed choices of which options to choose.

I look forward to beginning KUDOS with 8D on Wednesday. Mrs Griffiths, Careers Coordinator.



### University vs apprenticeships: What should I choose?

As decisions go, they don't come much bigger than "What should I do when I leave school?" Many students see university as the natural choice after school. But while it's the right option for many, for others, an apprenticeship might be a better choice. In today's newsletter, we share some of the key facts - as well as some useful links - to help you get started on your journey.

What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is a paid job with training and qualifications. Higher and degree apprenticeships are aimed specifically at students with A-levels/equivalent. They give you a higher-education qualification - even a degree - and you can train for a high-skilled role in industries such as engineering, software engineering, public sector, law and healthcare.

Apprenticeship or uni: Which one's for me?

An apprenticeship could be for you if you have a clear idea of what career you'd like to do and are keen to get stuck into work straight away rather than spend

another three years studying. Uni might be for you if you have a love of an academic subject and would like to learn more before embarking on your career - or if you'd like to go into a career which requires a university degree, such as medicine or veterinary science.

### Can't make up your mind? Here are some handy tips:

- Can't decide between an apprenticeship and university? Apply for both and carry on your research.
- If you really don't know what you want to do next, why not take a gap year? We've got plenty of advice [right here](#).

Check out Success at School's Jobs & Courses page for some inspiration: you can find [apprenticeships](#) and also [school leaver programmes](#) and [gap year schemes](#) as we add them.

## Spanish Club

Practise your Spanish – Writing and Speaking skills with señora Williams in MFL1			
Club	Day	Time	Who for
Spanish Beginners	Monday	1.35-2.00	Yrs 7 & 8
Spanish Conversation	Tuesday	3.30-4.30	KS5
Spanish Grammar Skills	Thursday	1.35-2.00	KS4/ KS5
Spanish Conversation	Thursday	3.45-4.45	Yr 9-11 (KS4)

# SPORTS NEWS

**PE Extra-Curricular Sports Timetable** – Please see last page, below.



**PE Student of the Week** - Each week the PE department selects a student who we feel has worked extremely hard, be it in practical PE lessons, theory lessons in the classroom or as part of the extra-curricular programme. Their photo is then displayed on the Student of the Week board outside the PE office and they also have a chance to win a prize in the Presentations Assembly at the end of term. We have two winners this week –Labib Olijare of Year 7, who has really impressed with his efforts in both basketball and football already as well as how he has approached his lessons, and Zach Sossou of Year 9 for his great start to the GCSE PE course. Well done to both boys.



**Well done Josh!** Congratulations to Josh Johnson of Year 9 who was part of the Rochford Hundred golf team that won the Youth Shield last week in a Ryder Cup style event. This is a fantastic achievement for Josh and we look forward to hearing of many more successes in the future. PE Dept.

**Year 9 Football Vs Southend 1-1** - After last year's titanic cup final these two excellent and competitive teams met again in an early pre-season fixture. The conditions were frankly horrific, a testing gale blew across the pitch and made for a feisty game lacking in real quality. Ciaran Burke and Matthew Oni were exceptional in a new look backline featuring an impressive performance at left back from Aidan Knight. In a first half STM controlled we benefited from having the wind on our side but couldn't make our midfield dominance pay. Southend were always a danger on the counter attack and at a few points their talent testing the calm and impressive Dan Pier. In the second half, with the wind against us, Southend look to take advantage but with a new found resilience and discipline STM held firm and late into the game Jude Walton hooked a delightful finish to take us 1-0 up. Late into the half Southend earned a throw in and with a large gust carrying the ball onto an STM we were pegged back! Two late corners couldn't restore the lead but this was a performance to be proud of and we look forward to an exciting season. Mr Wiltshire and Mr Dooley.

**Year 7 C Team Football** – The boys started well and were very disciplined in their positioning and some good composure on the ball created a few near-miss chances. The STM team worked incredibly hard both defensively and when going forward to support each other and ensure they stayed in the game, going into the half-time break 0-0 and looking the better side. With some tactical positioning changes made, the breakthrough finally came early on in the second half with an excellent defensive clearance making its way through to Trent who calmly beat the SHSB goalkeeper before rolling the ball into the bottom corner. Some fantastic defensive displays made from all boys, but worth a mention is Moyo and Leo who worked tirelessly to keep Southend out but unfortunately fitness became a factor late on. With Southend making multiple changes throughout and the STM 11 man side becoming fatigued, keeping a clean sheet was just too difficult, a sloppy clearance from a corner led to the equaliser and in practically the last kick of the game a parried save from William Sanders saw the ball land at the Southend strikers feet who calmly won his side the game. A very positive team performance and a great platform for the boys to work from. Final Score – SHSB 2 – 1 STM

**Year 7 Football report B team – LOST 4-0.** - A positive performance from our B team vs SHSB. Despite the scoreline, our boys worked very hard, had chances to score during the game and were very competitive throughout. Unfortunately SHSB were very clinical in front of goal. However, plenty to take from the afternoon and we move onto our next fixture, looking to put into practise the improvements we discussed after the game.

**\*YEAR 7 RUGBY REMINDER\*** Now being a couple of weeks into the academic year, Mr Binstead is very pleased for the amount of boys who have been showing up to rugby so far. On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> there will be a year 7 training game

where the boys will play against each other in a fully contested match to finalise the A & B squads going into their first few competitive matches of the year. Training is open to all, regardless of experience and takes place Monday after-school, Tuesday lunch-time and Thursday after-school each week.

**1st XI Football – Pre-season** - The pre-season for the 1st XI Football team has concluded with two wins in two highly contested games. With



26 boys playing a part, some making their school debut, it was pleasing to see the side be clinical going forward but also keeping clean sheets. Beating



Appleton 3-0 and SEC 5-0, there is still room for improvement in performances in the coming weeks as the league campaign begins.

First up next week in the Essex Schools and Colleges Division 1 we welcome Plume in what always is a tightly contested game. Well done to all involved so far and we look forward to another campaign defending the league title.

**Year 11 v Southend** - Despite missing three important players due to a school trip, along with two who left the school in the summer for pastures new, the Year 11 team put in a solid performance in their first friendly match of the season against Southend. A goalless first half reflected the closeness of the tie, with no side dominating. Southend scored two in the second half although a disallowed goal and other missed chances from STM meant the final result could have been a lot different. Special thank you to Stephen and Bob who stepped up to make their debuts with both putting in great performances.



### **Year 7 A Team- STM vs Southend AWAY- FRIENDLY Match lost- 5- 3**

**Scorers- Emmanuel NWACHOKOR, Afi ADEBAYO & Samuel Ofori- Owusu.**

After 3 days of football trials the newly formed Year 7 Team lined up for their first match against an organised Southend Team who had already played 3 matches previous to this. That said, we started full of enthusiasm and worked so hard for each other both on and off the ball. We were rewarded after Afi took a strike on goal which (&with a slight deflection!) found its way into the net. 1-0. This was swiftly followed with some lovely passing down the wing and a wonder strike from Emmanuel striking the post before flying in. 2-0. Things were just starting to feel comfy when we briefly switched off and unfortunately we were punished -2-1. Halftime. Great half but with the wind picking up I knew we were in for a hard battle in the second half. 5 changes made and although experimenting with everyone in different positions gave the boys a great opportunity to show what they could all do it definitely interrupted our rhythm and ultimately the game. That said we battled hard and were unlucky to find ourselves on the wrong side of a 5-3 result.....However, what potential and all boys involved did themselves proud. Looking forward to what I believe is going to be an exciting season. Well done boys and thank you to the parents who braved the high winds to come out and support the team.

Mr Hardiman

**Twitter** - A reminder that Twitter uses can follow the PE Department's Twitter handle @PEDeptSTM to keep up to date with news, fixtures, results and links to content for exam preparation.





**PE kit** - In partnership with the English Schools Football Association, we have been given the opportunity to have a school shop created with their kit provider, Pendle Sportswear. Having used Pendle Sportswear to purchase kit for our football and rugby tours this year, we were impressed by the quality and the professional style of the kit and so far it has been a real success with the boys who went on the trips. As a result, we are introducing a selection of items through the St Thomas More High School 'school shop' on the Pendle website as an optional extra alongside our current PE kit. Please note, the kit is not replacing any current kit, it is available alongside the items of PE kit available now.

Items are available which are already set up for customisation and just require the initials of the student. The items include:



- White t-shirt
- Black sweatshirt
- Drawstring bag
- Rucksack
- Woolly hat
- Tracksuit top
- Baselayers
- Shorts
- Football socks

You can access our school shop using the following link <https://st-thomas-more-high-school.footballkit.co.uk/kits/football-training-wear/> to search items or purchase any kit you would like from the school shop.

## SPORTS FIXTURES

DATE	FIXTURE	TIME
24/09/2018	Year 10 Football vs WHSB (AWAY)	4:00pm
25/09/2018	Year 8 Football vs St Clere's (HOME) Year 7 Football training	3:45pm 3:30 – 5:00pm
26/09/2018	1st XI Football vs Plume (Home) Year 8 Football vs Belfairs (Home) Year 7 Rugby A vs B training match Year 10/11 Table Tennis v SHSB (Home)	2:15pm 4:00pm 3:30 – 5:00pm
27/09/2018	Year 7 Football A & B team vs Eastwood (Home)	4:00pm
28/09/2018	NO FIXTURES	

## PE Extra-curricular Timetable Winter 2018

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8.00 - 8.30am	PE DEPARTMENT MEETING	Year 9 Futsal	All Years Cross Country Year 8 Football	Year 10 Futsal	Year 8 Basketball
1.40 - 2.20pm	Year 7 Basketball	Year 7 & 8 Rugby	SNR Rugby Year 9 Basketball	Year 8 Basketball	Sport Scholar Meeting Racquet Sports
3.30 - 5.00pm	Year 7 & 8 Rugby Year 10 & 11 Basketball Year 11 & VI Form Football Training	Year 9 Rugby Year 9 Basketball Sport Scholars Fitness	Year 10 Football - Week 1 Year 7, 8 & 10 Southend Football - Astro	Year 7 & 8 Rugby Year 9 Football	Badminton Club (Week 1 - Years 10 & 11) (Week 2 - Years 7, 8 & 9)