



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

07 October 2016

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday, 10 October 2016

- Year 11 Life Matters Workshop (10:10-11:10)

Tuesday, 11 October 2016

- Sixth Form Mass (09:10-10:10)

Thursday, 13 October 2016

- Year 7 RAF Education Roadshow (09:10-10:10)

Friday, 14 October 2016

- AS workshop with the Donmar Theatre on the Tempest (14:10-16:10)

INTRODUCTION

On Tuesday we welcomed around 1000 visitors to our Open Morning and Evening. Pupils from Years 7 to 13 who acted as guides or helped in departments were fantastic ambassadors for the school - something that many of the visitors mentioned.

Over the next two weeks, pupils in Years 7 to 9 will have tests in all subjects to assist teachers with their grading of pupils for this half term. After the half term break Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form will have mock exams.

Target Setting Day for all pupils will be held on Monday, 7 November 2016. The first half term grades will be available for parents on this day and targets for the academic year will be agreed.

ADMISSIONS AND APPLICATIONS

The school's Open Morning/Evening was very successful and applications to the school are now flowing in. The school will be holding a number of Open Morning tours for prospective pupils and their parents over the coming weeks, details of which can be found on the school website. If you know of any family or friends who are applying for their child to join the school next September, please remind them that the closing deadline for application is **Monday, 31 October 2016**. Applicants must apply through their local borough **and** return the school's application form by this deadline - late entries will only be considered once all other applications have been processed. Please note that applications are still required even if siblings are currently attending the school.

AUTHOR VISIT

On Thursday, bestselling novelist Kiran Millwood Hargrave visited our school to discuss her novel 'The Girl of Ink and Stars' with pupils in Years 7 and 8.

Kiran explained how she came up with the inspiration for her novel and how she created her setting of the imaginary island Joya. She then worked with our Year 8 pupils in designing and planning their first novels.

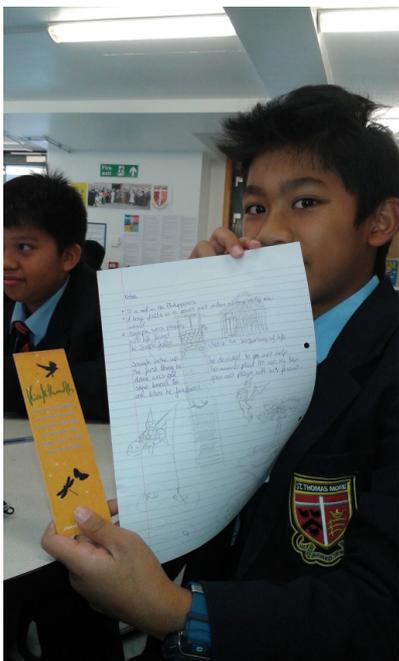
Ideas ranged from a post-Trump apocalypse to a world where people travel in time between their past, present and future.



Author Kiran Millwood Hargrave working with pupils from Years 7 and 8.



Emika, 8MC1, shows off her design for her island, signed by Kiran Millwood Hargrave.



Jericho, 8MC1, with his signed 'The Girl of Ink and Stars' bookmark and plot for his first novel.

OLD GLENDALIANS

Mya Jarrett had the great honour of being invited to the Old Glendalians' 14th Anniversary Luncheon, where she was presented with a Shield and a bursary for all her achievements in the Performing Arts.

Every year former pupils from the Glendale School, which was based in the current Glendale Building prior to St Thomas More acquiring the site, meet up to reminisce about their school days.



Mya Jarrett receiving her Shield from Richard Greenhill

Thought for the Week

"Do not let yesterday's disappointments overshadow tomorrow's dreams. It'll cost nothing to dream and everything not to. Never stop dreaming, as yesterday's dream can become the reality of tomorrow and the innovation of the future".

RE DEPARTMENT 27th Sunday of Year C Reflection

In Jesus' time, having servants and expecting them to obey was very much evident. So it is that Jesus explains to his apostles that they are merely servants. This is not a downgrading title. It means that they have a duty to serve and should not expect any reward apart from what was due to them. Serving one another is our duty as Christians. It should be part of life, not something that we do now and again.

However, towards the end of his life, Jesus did tell the apostles that he was not to call them servants anymore but friends. That did not mean they were not to serve one another any longer but that they were to carry on the work of Jesus, serving one another, after Jesus had risen from the dead.

So we too can call ourselves friends of Jesus as we continue to work in His name.

Prayer

Almighty ever-living God, who in the abundance of your kindness surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you, pour out your mercy upon us to pardon what conscience dreads and to give what prayer does not dare to ask.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen

Words of the Week

Monday: **Burgeoning** (adjective) – this means rapidly developing or growing; flourish.

Tuesday: **Vanguard** (noun) – a group of people leading the way in new developments or ideas/a position at the forefront of new development or ideas. A part of a military group that leads the fighting.

Wednesday: **Paltry** (adjective) – this means a very small or meagre amount; petty, trivial.

Thursday: **Benign** (adjective) – gentle and kind/not harmful in effect; mild. Not likely to provoke a reaction.

Friday: **Demise** (noun) – this means dying or the ending of something. The downfall of someone or something.