



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

22 September 2017

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday, 25 September 2017

- PTA Meeting (18:30-19:30)

Wednesday, 27 September 2017

- Year 11 IntoUniversity 'Communication in the Workplace' Workshop
- Year 8 IntoUniversity 'Learning Techniques' Workshop

Thursday, 28 September 2017

- Year 12 IntoUniversity 'Independent Learning' Workshop
- Year 7 Parents' Cheese and Wine Evening (17:00-19:00)

Friday, 29 September 2017

- TAD - School Closed for Pupils

INTRODUCTION

Pupils and students have now settled into a good, hard working routine. This week, extra classes started for Years 9 and 10. This now means pupils in Years 9, 10, 11 and Sixth Form are following their respective additional lessons' timetable.

Next Monday, the school will be holding the first PTA meeting of the year. The meeting will take place in the school's Large Conference Room, starting at 6.30pm. All parents are welcome to attend. On Thursday, we will have our Year 7 Parents' Cheese and Wine Evening. The evening is an opportunity for the parents of our new Year 7 pupils to meet form tutors and learn about their child's assessments to date. The event will be held in the school's Glendale Hall, 5.00 to 7.00pm.

This year, we are due to have our Section 48 Inspection. This is a Diocesan inspection of our RE Department and the Catholic life of the school. To prepare for this, we have sent home, with pupils, a questionnaire for parents to complete. Thank you to all those who have already returned the questionnaire. If all other parents could return these as soon as possible, we would be grateful. There is a copy of the questionnaire on the school website. Alternatively, pupils can ask for another copy at pupil reception if they have lost their.

GIDEON BIBLES

Today, Paul Meoke from Gideon Bible visited the school to distribute bibles to Year 7 pupils. During their assembly, Mr Meoke spoke to pupils about the global work of Gideon Bible, providing bibles to people around the world.

SPORT PERFORMANCE AWARD

The St Thomas More boys' sporting teams have won the Haringey Overall Sports Performance Award for last academic year. The Haringey Schools Game Organiser hosted several sport competitions for all secondary schools in the borough and each school accumulated a certain amount of points for winning a sporting competition.

St Thomas More were fortunate enough to finish 1st in almost every sport and were crowned as overall champions; a cash prize of £300 was awarded to the PE Department. The success is testament to the hard work and commitment from both staff and pupils in the previous year. Well done to the students involved and hopefully, this year's pupils will achieve the same accolade.

DRAMA DEPARTMENT

It has been a busy week in the Drama department with several different workshops taking place! On Monday, fifteen AS and A Level students visited the Fallow Cross Village in Bruce Grove to participate in a workshop in which they were taught how to create pieces of theatre inspired by their surroundings. This culminated in students creating their own performances in the world famous theatre space at the end of the session.

On Thursday, Paul Edwards from the Almeida Theatre spent an afternoon running a series of workshops for pupils from BTEC, GCSE and A Level courses. Pupils learnt about all the different opportunities available to them at the Almeida and were told how they could get involved. Many of the pupils were interested in joining the Young Persons Company and have been invited to audition for it in a few weeks time!



REFLECTION FROM THE RE DEPARTMENT

This week's Gospel parable gives a stark lesson on forgiveness. The servant who had his debt cancelled by the king refused to cancel the debt of his fellow servant who owed him a much smaller amount. He suffered the consequences. In remembering how much God has forgiven us, we should be ready to forgive those who have offended us. The parable invites us to forgive and highlights the difficulties in doing so. The story mirrors many of us: we forgive conditionally, expecting something more. Real forgiveness forgives seventy times seventy. We see this in many families – we forgive, in small or big issues, over and over again.

Forgiveness also brings freedom. The forgiveness expressed from one nation to another, even if symbolic, leads to greater freedom of relations.

Seven times seventy is the forgiveness rooted in mercy. It is the forgiveness of Jesus for his captors and for those who betrayed and denied him. When we find it difficult to forgive, we can pray for those who have treated us badly.

Prayer

Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart.

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.

BOYS' FOOTBALL

This week, the Year 8 boys' football team played their first league match of the year against hosts Alexandra Park School. Within the first ten minutes of the game, Alexandra Park took the lead and St Thomas More were soon losing 4 goals to nil. However, Thomas Mansaray had other plans for the hosts, scoring two goals in quick succession. Ronnie Kabongo joined his strike partner on the score sheet, with two goals by half-time, levelling the scores.

The host were back in the lead early into the second half. After excellent defending by Samuel Asiedu, Thomas Mansaray completed a hat-trick to level the game 5-5. With just ten minutes to go, the opposing side scored, taking the lead once again, but with five minutes left on the clock, Raymond Poku danced around the defenders slotting the ball inside the far post, resulting in a final draw of 6-6.

Well done to players for a hard-fought match!

Thought for the Week

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today". There is no substitute for hard work".

NEW SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

Dear Parents,

Please allow me to introduce myself as the school chaplain of Thomas More School. I will be working with the school two days a week.

My aim is to support and develop the Catholic life of the school, in conjunction with the RE Department, to deepen the Catholic ethos, and ensure that staff and pupils can exercise, practice and uphold those Catholic values we so dearly hold. I aim to develop the liturgical life of the school through highlighting Saint of the Day so that children have a practical role model to follow; to encourage participation in our weekly mass; and to encourage and support the prayer life of the school through a variety of resources available to staff and pupils, which can be used in assembly and class.

I will also be available to pupils, parents and staff, for support, encouragement and to help them on their journey of faith as they embrace the life and ethos of the school.

May God bless you all.

Mr Bernard Dadswell

LOST PROPERTY

There a large pile of lost property sitting in Pupil Reception. The school will be disposing of any unclaimed property during the half-term break.

If your child has lost a coat or other personal items, please ask them to see Ms Evans in Pupil Reception. It is important that parents write their child's name on school clothing and personal items so they can be easily returned if lost.

Words of the Week

Monday

Symbiotic – Adjective - a mutually beneficial relationship between different people or groups.

Tuesday

Generic – Adjective - characteristic of or relating to a class or group of things; not specific.

Wednesday

Erroneous – Adjective – Wrong; incorrect.

Thursday

Devour – Verb – eat (food or prey) hungrily or quickly; read quickly and eagerly.

Friday

Frivolous – Adjective - not having any serious purpose or value: a person who is carefree and superficial.