



# St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

24 February 2017

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Monday, 27 February 2017

- Keats' Project with Jacksons Lane (15:10-17:10)

### Tuesday, 28 February 2017

- Year 11 Performing Arts BTEC Final Performance (15:30-15:50)

### Wednesday, 01 March 2017

- Prudential RideLondon Launch
- Ash Wednesday Year Group Masses
- Year 11 Workshop with NFlame (11:30-12:30)
- Youth Club (15:15-17:15)
- Debate Mate Urban League Round 2 (15:45-18:30)

### Thursday, 02 March 2017

- AS and A Level Psychology Students' Day at Goldsmiths
- World Book Day
- Year 7 and 8 BAE Royal Navy Workshop (09:10-11:10)
- Year 10 Globe Theatre Trip (11:30-15:10)
- Tommy Awards (17:30-19:30)

### Friday, 03 March 2017

- Year 11 NFlame Workshop (09:10-11:10)

## INTRODUCTION

Thank you to parents of pupils studying for exams for your support in encouraging your children to attend the extra sessions which ran during the half-term break. Thanks must also go to the members of staff who gave up their time to hold the sessions. The next set of mock exams start in a few week's time so it is imperative that pupils are prepared.

On Tuesday we held the Year 11 Parents' Evening. Again, thank you to the large number of parents who attended. The partnership between home and school is so important during the time pupils are preparing to sit their GCSEs.

Our intrepid skiers returned home safe and sound following their week on the slopes during half-term. We hope they all had a wonderful time.

Next week, the school is celebrating World Book Day by holding a World Book Week. Please encourage your child to read as much as possible; literacy skills gained from reading are vital for pupils' studies.

Pupils have been given a flier and booking form for the PTA's Annual Quiz Night which is taking place on Friday, 17 March; please ask your child for this if they have not already given it to you.

A copy of the booking form has been attached to the newsletter email. It would be great to see another successful PTA evening attended by many parents.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL SINGING AFTERNOON

Before half-term, St Thomas More School Choir had the great opportunity of hosting a Primary School Singing Afternoon.

On Wednesday, 8 February, pupils from St Gilda's Catholic School, Earlham Primary School, St John Vianney Catholic Primary School, St Martin of Porres RC Primary School and St Paul's RC Primary School came together, under the direction of Catty Alberman from Haringey Music Service, to perform songs they've been working on and to sing together. There were nearly 150 primary school children in attendance! It was a lovely afternoon, enjoyed by all.

## KEATS' HOUSE

Pupils from Years 8, 9 and 10 have been working hard creating performances for "Keats' Writ in Water". "Writ in Water" is a unique collaboration between Jacksons Lane Theatre and St Thomas More School. The performances are taking place at Keats' House on Saturday, 18 March, 11am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm and 4pm.

Through attending one of the pupils' shows, you'll get to meet larger-than-life characters and share hidden secrets within the beautiful listed building in Hampstead Heath.

Tickets are free and you can book online at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/writ-in-water-omg-keats-tickets-31719277212>. Please see Miss Gibb in the Drama Department for more details.



## RE DEPARTMENT

### Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)

Jesus tells his disciples that they should love their enemies and pray for them. This may have come as a surprise to the disciples because the practice had been to retaliate when attacked. 'An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth' had been the order of the day. Jesus indicates that following his teaching is the way to the heavenly kingdom; to be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.

#### Prayer

O God, who teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true, grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling pleasing to you. 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

## NEW CANTEEN

The school, especially the canteen staff, has celebrated the grand opening of its much anticipated "Quick Bite" area in the canteen.

The new space has made a real difference to the pupil experience at lunch-time; in pupils' own words it has been described as a "beautiful space" and "really peaceful".

Pupils can look forward to an extensive range of salads and sandwiches; an ever expanding range of homemade wraps and pasties; and a freshly cooked range of choices from either the pasta or curry station every lunchtime.



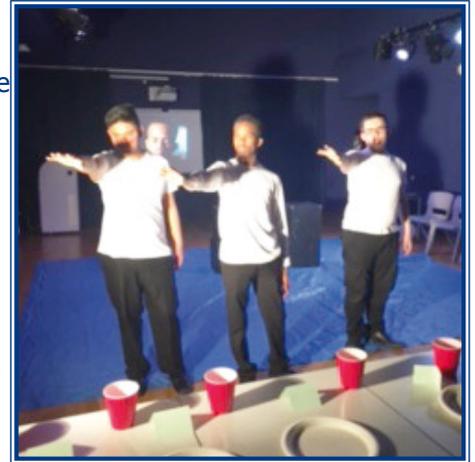
## Thought for the Week

"People who value their privileges above their principles soon lose both. Compassion and tolerance are not a sign of weakness but of strength".

## DRAMA DEPARTMENT

Jaemal Fergus, with the support of Denzel Manarin and Anthony Shearer, performed a piece he devised for his A2 Drama exam.

The piece entitled 'Your Last Supper' asked the audience to question their mortality and involved heavy audience participation. The performance received top band marks! Congratulations to Jaemal!



Also in Drama, the A Level students attended a performance of St Joan at the Donmar Warehouse and took part in a workshop that explored the themes of the play.

The director updated the setting to the modern business world, so it gave the students an understanding of how the context of a play can be changed to make it relevant to a contemporary audience.

## Words of the Week

Monday: Soliloquy (Noun): an act of speaking one's thoughts aloud when by oneself

Tuesday: Gothic (Adjective): belonging to or redolent of the Dark Ages; gloomy or horrifying

Wednesday: Bookworm (Noun) a person who enjoys reading

Thursday: Dickensian (Adjective): reminiscent of the novels of Charles Dickens, especially in suggesting the poor social conditions or comically repulsive characters that they portray

Friday: Prose (Noun): Prose is regular written or spoken language that is not poetry