



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

03 February 2017

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday, 06 February 2017

- Year 10 Work Experience Week
- Year 12 Assembly with National Citizen Service (08:50-09:10)
- Year 8 STEM Workshop 8BK1, 8KL1, 8MC1 (09:10-11:10)

Tuesday, 07 February 2017

- John Gilbert Motivation Workshops for Sixth Form
- PTA Teachers in the Spotlight Event (18:00-19:00)

Wednesday, 08 February 2017

- Year 11 NFlame Workshop (11:30-12:30)
- A2 Drama Devised Performance (16:15-17:15)

Thursday, 09 February 2017

- A Level Drama Trip to St Joan at the Donmar Warehouse (14:10-15:10)

Friday, 10 February 2017

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

INTRODUCTION

This has been yet again a very busy week at the school. On Monday evening we held our extremely successful Careers' Event for Year 11 pupils and Year 12 students, along with external pupils who are interested in joining our Sixth Form next year. More than 25 different professionals were present to give advice along with a number of universities and apprenticeship organisations. Our thanks go to all those involved and those who managed to get friends and family to come along and chat with our pupils.

Throughout the rest of the week, Years 8 and 9 pupils have had retreat experiences organised by our RE Department - feedback from pupils has been very good. We have also had five performances of our production of Annie. This year's production was marvellous and every show ended with rapturous applause. We welcomed over 250 pupils from our local primary schools (Earlham, St Paul's and St Martin de Porres) to watch a performance of the show. Well done to all those involved in the production, pupils and staff.

Today we have 30 Year 8 pupils on a day trip to the Battlefields of France, leaving in the early hours of this morning and returning late this afternoon.

Next week, our Year 10 pupils will be on their work experience placements. We wish them well in their placements in the world of work!

SPEAK OUT CHALLENGE

This week, pupils from St Thomas More competed in the Haringey Regional Finals of Jack Petchey's "Speak Out" Challenge, delivered by Speakers Trust and funded by the Jack Petchey Foundation and one of our very own pupils Lin Ly, Year 10, scooped top prize! Lin Ly impressed the judges with her winning speech "Flopped" fighting off stiff competition from 16 other young speakers from schools in the Haringey area. Asked about the experience she said, "I feel very relieved I was able to make it through to Regional Finals and actually win 1st place." Congratulations must also go to Claudyne Small, Year 10, for coming in fourth with her beautifully delivered speech 'Bashing'.

Lin Ly's public performance was voted on by an independent judging panel comprising of Des Fahy Detective Superintendent (Metropolitan Police); Pam Oparaocha (Station Manager, London Fire Brigade); Benjamin Tansey (Elliot Advisors); Reen Polonsky (Head of Project Grants JPF); Cindy Rampersand (Trustee, Speakers Trust); James Scott (Education Correspondent, Ham and High) Lanya Matthews (Third Place Finalist, JPSOC Haringey Final 2016).

Through their dedication and commitment to the competition, the pupils involved gave up their free time to practice and perfect their speeches which led to Lin Ly becoming the 2016-17 Haringey Regional winner. Ms Agostini, Teacher of English, who organised our pupils' participation in the challenge, said, "The Speak Out Challenge is more than just a competition it is an experience that builds character and confidence in all students who take part. Lin Ly's hard work paid off and I could not be more proud of what she has gone on to achieve".

Lin Ly's winning performance can be viewed through the following link: <https://youtu.be/1fwnXqzWL5Y>



Lin Ly with the Mayor of Haringey, Councillor Ozbek

RE DEPARTMENT

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Jesus started his teaching according to St Matthew's Gospel with the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes aren't just the gateway to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, but in a very real sense form a perfect introduction to Jesus' teaching.

To understand the Beatitudes properly, we should realise that they are addressed to each of us. In other words, to be poor in spirit and meek, to mourn, to hunger and thirst after righteousness, to be merciful and clean of heart, to be a peacemaker, to suffer persecution in a search for holiness -- these aren't different people or kinds of people but different demands made on every true disciple of Jesus Christ.

The Beatitudes promise peace in this life, God's peace in the midst of tribulation and suffering and in doing so, they imply a completely new approach, one radically at odds with the way we usually evaluate things.

Prayer

Grant us, Lord our God that we may honour you with all our mind, and love everyone in truth of 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. Amen

NUMBER DAY

Well done to the winners of this year's Number Day. Pupils were asked to tackle three challenging questions and submit their answers to a member of the Maths Department by lunchtime. Two names from each year group were drawn from all those who submitted the right answers; the KS3 winners are Temi (7BK1) and Harry (9BK1); KS4 are Ismaeel (10BK1) and Herson (11DX1); and KS5 are Ola (13MC1) and Godswill (12BK1).

Well done to all those who submitted the correct answers! Money raised today will go toward the

PAYPOINT CARD REMINDER

Important reminder for Parents/Carers.

Please be aware that if you use the paypoint card outlets to credit your child's lunch account, it can take up to 3 working days for your child's lunch account to be credited.

Thought for the Week

"Values – a word that all manner of people seem to find difficult to define or delineate. "British" values – are defined as "a belief in freedom, tolerance of others, accepting personal and social responsibility, respecting and upholding the rule of law". These are the things that we should try to live by every day".

CAREERS' EVENT

Like many of you, I definitely do not have a clear plan of what I want to do and how I want to do it. However, I feel like St Thomas More never fails in providing us with guidance- especially in Year 11 and Sixth Form. These years are the crucial period in which we make life's biggest decisions, like: What do I want to do after Sixth Form or college? University? Apprenticeships? Look for work? What subjects should I choose? What next?

This is where the Careers' Evening comes in. This year, Mr Henry managed to gather up to 25 different institutions or companies in various fields to provide us with an insight of each one. Not only did the event include such a wide mix of career paths to choose from, it also had charities and challenges (that students can part take in,) such as The National Citizens Service and CAFOD.

Furthermore, St Thomas More always encourages all students to continue into further education. Personally, I looked at Oxbridge and many other Russell group Universities as out of my league. Yet, this view changed after speaking to Tobi Rufus, an Oxford graduate who attended a state school and Sixth Form just like myself. Tobi was extremely encouraging and gave Anastasia and I his email address so that we could contact him at times of need.

This event is just one of many ways the school is bringing institutions to us that can better our opportunities and knowledge of life after Sixth Form.

By Aruay Mongok, 12DX1

Words of the Week

Monday: Relinquish (verb) - Voluntarily cease to keep or claim; renounce or give up.

Tuesday: Extenuating (verb) - (usually used with 'circumstance') Acting in mitigation to lessen the seriousness of guilt or an offence; making forgivable.

Wednesday: Incorrigible (adjective) - Not able to be changed or reformed; habitual; confirmed.

Thursday: Intemperate (adjective) - Having or showing a lack of self-control; immoderate; unreasonable.

Friday: Foment (verb) - Instigate or stir up; provoke; agitate.