



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

09 December 2016

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday, 12 December 2016

- Year 10 Speak Out Challenge

Tuesday, 13 December 2016

- Techmix Digital Career's Roadshow
- Guitar Christmas Lunchtime Recital (13:40-14:05)
- Annie Cast Puppet Workshop (15:15-17:15)

Wednesday, 14 December 2016

- Violin Christmas Lunchtime Recital (13:40-14:05)
- Keats' Project with Jacksons Lane (15:10-17:10)
- Youth Club (15:10-17:10)

Thursday, 15 December 2016

- PE GCSE and A Level trip to Loughborough University
- Piano Christmas Lunchtime Recital (13:40-14:05)
- Senior Citizens' Christmas Afternoon Tea Party (14:30 onwards)

Friday, 16 December 2016

- GCSE Business Trip to the Warner Bros Studios
- Voice Christmas Recital (13:40-14:05)



ANNA FIORENTINI DRAMA SCHOOL

The Anna Fiorentini Drama School, at Parliament Hill School in Camden, is holding two taster days on the 7 and 14 January 2017. During the taster days, participants will get to experience a variety of fun filled dance, singing, acting and film classes, all run by leading industry professionals.

Past pupils of the school have secured roles in TV and theatre including EastEnders and The Lion King. Thanks to St Thomas More School's relationship with the Anna Fiorentini School, should your child wish to attend the school, you will receive 20% off your first term.

To reserve your place at a taster day, visit www.annafiorentini.com.

INTRODUCTION

This week, our Year 11 and Sixth Form Business studies students went on a visit to the Bank of England which they found very informative and should help them with their studies.

Rehearsals are well underway for our school production of Annie. There will be two performances of the show, Wednesday, 1 and Thursday, 2 February 2017. Please save the dates of the shows in your diary. Tickets will go on sale in the New Year and if the success of last year's production of The Lion King, is anything to go by, it will be a spectacular two nights. We expect that tickets will sell out very quickly.

Preparations are also underway for our Parents' Carol Service which is being held on Wednesday, 21 December at 6.00 pm. It would be great to welcome as many families as possible to the service. There will be over seventy pupils involved in this year's service.

There have been a number of occasions recently where young pupils have been running across the road without due care and attention. These pupils have been spoken to but we encourage parents to also speak to their children about the importance of road safety.

URBAN SCHOLARS

Our Year 12 Urban Scholars celebrated their continuing progress and commitment to their futures through the programme with their family and friends on Saturday, 3 December.

Brunel University hosted a day of motivational speakers and talks on how to plan for University for the families. One of the speakers was our very own Mayra Zuque who gave a presentation on her native country, Brazil and was awarded a prize as a result.



RE DEPARTMENT

2nd Sunday of Advent

This second week of Advent we must think of Mary and her anticipation as she awaited the birth of Our Lord and Saviour. In a similar manner we should be anticipating and preparing the way of the Lord. We hear John the Baptist calling us to prepare our hearts to greet the Lord.

In this season of Advent we desire peace and harmony between all people. We desire an end to all war, strife and misunderstanding. Much of what we see on TV does not please us because it focuses on violence and the brokenness of human nature and does not uplift us but poisons our mind with negativity.

The consequences of the sin of Adam affect the lives of all in various ways. Brokenness has been passed down to every single human from Adam in original sin. We are aware of brokenness in our own lives and in the lives of others.

This brokenness affects us as we do not always choose what is right or good and affects those we come into contact with since none of us is yet the perfect image of God that we are meant to be. It also affects our relationship with God by distracting us from putting God first at all times.

Prayer

Almighty and merciful God. May no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company? Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen

PARENT 'PHONE CALLS

Whilst we understand that parents may need to phone the school to ask for an urgent message to be passed on to their child, the office staff are very busy.

If possible, we ask that parents speak to their children before the start of the school day to let them know of any important information for that day.

Thought for the Week

"Success is not just about what you accomplish in life; it's about what you inspire others to do".

ANCIENT MEDICAL ETHICS

On Wednesday, 30 November, Dr Bouras-Vallianatos from King's College London gave a lecture on the theme of Ancient Medical Ethics to a group of twenty AS History and Philosophy and Ethics students.

The broad ranging talk covered ancient medical practices, ancient attitudes to abortion and private and public morality. Students praised the lecture for being so detailed and for giving them a glimpse into studying the humanities at university.



Words of the Week

Monday: Disingenuous (adjective) - not honest or sincere, typically by pretending that one knows less about something than one really does: deceitful, crafty

Tuesday: Excise (verb) – to cut out surgically/remove (noun) – a tax levied on certain goods and commodities produced or sold within a country

Wednesday: Contemplate (verb) - think deeply and at length/look thoughtfully for a long time

Thursday: Advocate (noun) - a person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy. A person who puts a case on someone else's behalf. (verb) – publicly recommend or support

Friday: Fulcrum (noun) - a thing that plays a central or essential role in an activity, event, or situation: fulcrum is the pivot about which a lever turns or is supported