



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

1 December 2017

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday, 04 December 2017

- AS English Trip to Globe Theatre

Tuesday, 05 December 2017

- School Production Performance to Local Primary Schools

Wednesday, 06 December 2017

- Year 13 Keats Museum Trip
- Youth Club (15:15-17:15)
- School Production Opening Night (18:00-19:30)

Thursday, 07 December 2017

- Tim Foot Sessions with Year 11 Pupils
- School Production Closing Night (18:00-19:30)

Friday, 08 December 2017

- Year 7 Author Visit (09:10-12:30)

INTRODUCTION

It has been an extremely busy week. On Monday and Thursday, our Year 7 pupils were involved in a retreat at St Paul's Church. On Monday, pupils were able to attend mass before their retreat at the Church. As always, the pupils were great ambassadors for the school. Father Perry, Parish Priest, indeed wrote to the school following the retreats to say how wonderful the pupils had been.

On Wednesday, sixty Year 10 pupils were involved in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) activities for the day. Again, the pupils were outstanding and learnt a lot. Today, Year 7 pupils had a science talk from 'Rocket Man', followed by a workshop for thirty five pupils who made their own rockets and also got to see the launch of an actual rocket. Along with this, the rest of Year 7 had a road safety talk.

Rehearsals for our school production of Joseph are now in full swing with the opening night next Wednesday. Our pupils will be joined by the choir of St John Vianney Primary School for this year's production. We wish the cast well and are certain there will be great reviews next week.

BOYS' BOOK CLUB

Last week saw the launch of our latest literacy initiative aimed at a group of Year 11 boys. The targeted reading club, which will focus on honing key reading skills that are assessed at GCSE, had its first session which was received phenomenally well by the pupils. Each week, the group will work with an extract that explores a particular theme (such as freedom, ethics or law) and engage in a discussion whilst practising key reading skills in summarising, making inferences and analysing language.

In partnership with UCL, the boys will be working with two dynamic undergraduates who will challenge their thinking and lead focused reading workshops to support their studies. This collaboration is a great opportunity for those involved and considering university in their Post-16 options. The group's focus and hard working attitude towards the club, alongside their very busy timetables, has been noticed by many teachers. Keep up the great work.



THE WHITE RIBBON PROJECT

Sixth Form students Denzel Manarin, Anthony Shearer and Javay Telfer attended "The White Ribbon Local Authority Awards" this week, which recognises the work that has taken place across Haringey to end violence against women and girls.

They accepted the award on behalf of Haringey Council and gave a speech about how important it is to create a fair society where men and women are equal. They will continue to be Ambassadors for the campaign by working on further projects with them.



REFLECTION FROM THE RE DEPARTMENT

Gospel Reflections for November 2017

We have been listening to a series of parables over several weeks. Today we reach the climax of the Church's year with the parable of the sheep and the goats. It is a powerful parable set at the final judgement with the Son of Man seated in glory and surrounded by angels.

Pope John Paul II, in the years just before he died, delivered a series of powerful sermons in which he outlined our Catholic understanding of "judgment" at the moment of your death. At that moment, you understand the truth of your entire life completely. There is nothing unknown. You know precisely when you "gave water to the thirsty, food to the hungry, comforted the sick," and when not. Jesus was the perfect example of how to be a genuine human person. When you stand before Our Lord, you will instantly see the difference between your life and His.

This week's Gospel describes behaviours that reveal genuine caring and concern. We take what we have, and use them for some good cause. As we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, we remember that Jesus is our shepherd, the humble King who serves and requires his followers to do the same.

Advent

The Season of Advent start this weekend. This year we have a shortened Advent, lasting not much more than three weeks. Let us start to reflect on our lives and the good seed that we can sow as we lead up to Christmas.

Prayer

Almighty ever-living God, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of the universe, grant, we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery may render your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise. 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

SCHOOL PRODUCTION OF JOSEPH

Tickets for the school production of Joseph are almost sold out! Tickets for the show cost £2.50 for students and children and £3.50 for adults and can be purchased from outside the music department and reception at lunchtime.

Thought for the Week

"Find a place inside where there's joy, and the joy will burn out the pain. Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose. When you think positively, good things happen".

YEAR 10 STEM DAY

On Tuesday, sixty Year 10 pupils participated in the STEM enrichment programme, organised by The Smallpeice Trust. This workshop and the theme of the day was Smart Building. STEM days provide short, introductory sessions for pupils to enhance their understanding of, and aptitude for, problem solving, creativity, design, and engineering.

At the end of the session, four of our Year 10 pupils were rewarded for their exceptional effort with a free scholarship to Aerospace Engineering at Kingston University, next May. Congratulations to the Adebambo Laolu, Ducusin Edric, Garofeanu Sophia and Owounou Harry!

SPORT

Last week, the Years 7 and 8 girls' football team competed in a local competition at Charlton Football Ground. Our girls came third after playing a total of six matches.

Megan in Year 7 scored all our goals with fantastic assistance from Lilly and Oumou in Year 8. All our girls contributed towards the team's success with great skill and team effort whilst depicting excellent sportsmanship - well done girls!



Words of the Week

Monday: Impetus (Noun) – something that makes a process or activity happen or happen more quickly; a moving force.

Tuesday: Vociferous (Adjective) – expressing feelings or opinions in a very loud or forceful way.

Wednesday: Exuberant (Adjective) – full of energy, excitement, and cheerfulness.

Thursday: Aficionado (Noun) – a person who is very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about an activity, subject, or pastime.

Friday: Intrinsic (Adjective) – belonging to the essential nature or constitution of a thing or person.