



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

20 October 2017

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday, 30 October 2017

- Mock Exams

Tuesday, 31 October 2017

- Mock Exams
- Year 9 Talk from CAFOD (08:50-09:10)

Wednesday, 01 November 2017

- Mock Exams
- Year 10 Talk from CAFOD (08:50-09:10)
- All Saints Masses
- Youth Club (15:10-17:10)

Thursday, 02 November 2017

- Mock Exams
- Year 8 Talk to CAFOD (08:50-09:10)
- Year 11 N Flame Workshop (12:30-13:30)

Friday, 03 November 2017

- Mock Exams
- Year 11 N Flame Workshop (12:30-13:30)
- Year 9 Drama Workshop in NF1 (14:10-16:10)

INTRODUCTION

Next week is the half-term break. All pupils have been issued with homework to complete ready for their return on Monday, 30 October 2017. As always, there is a full programme of extra lessons arranged, starting on Saturday, 21 October, to Friday 27 October. These sessions are for Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form students. The relevant timetables for each year group have been issued to pupils and are available on the school website.

After the break, there will be mock examinations for Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form. Again, these timetables have been issued to pupils and are available on the website. There will also be external GCSE resit exams taking place for maths and English.

As our current Year 7 pupils are now well into routines and aware of the processes and expectations of the school, early lunch will stop after the half-term break. This will enable them to have a full period 4 teaching session. It also means they will now have to queue for lunch with the rest of the school.

We hope all pupils and staff have a break next week and return to school well rested and ready for the hard-working term ahead.

SPORT

The Year 11 boys' football team competed in the Haringey Cup this week. They played a total of four games, winning three and losing one. Our team beat both Heartlands School and Highgate Wood School 8-1, Gladesmore School 6-2 and lost to Park View 0-1. The boys showed great courage and resilience to play at such a high intensity throughout the tournament. In the end the final defeat was not enough to clinch the cup and we finished runners up.

The Sixth Form boys have progressed into the third round of the U18 Middlesex Football Cup. The team won in an emphatic style, beating Hendon School 8-3. Ryan Manzeke has now scored 6 goals in two games and achieved a hat-trick on the afternoon. The Sixth Form team will now play Finchley Catholic High School in the next round.

The Year 8 football team are still unbeaten in five games, competing in a thrilling match against Highgate Wood School in the League this week, winning 7-5. Well done to Ronnie who achieved a hat-trick on the afternoon.

The Year 7 rugby team commenced their season last Friday with an exceptional performance in the Haringey Rhino Cup and our boys proved to be too strong for the competition. The Year 7 team finished 1st with Samuel Nwabuko receiving the Player of the Tournament Award! The team also played in the Regional Cup against Cardinal Pole School. It was a very close game but our boys showed their resilience, winning the game 3-2. Ryan, Jonathan and Nicholas scored the tries on the day.

The Year 8 rugby team also entered two teams in the Haringey Rhino Cup with the expectation of great success. Both teams comfortably beat all schools and took the 1st and 2nd positions in the competition! A great achievement for all boys who attended the event.



The Sixth Form Football Team

BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

A Level students from both Years 12 and 13 had exclusive access to the BFI London Film Festival premiere screening of the film "Journey's End", an updated film adaption of the famous novel and play set in the First World War trenches. The film displays, at times, harrowing realistic events of British soldiers' lives as they await their turn to fight the enemy.

Students had front row seats at the Hackney Picturehouse and at the end of the screening, had a surprise question and answer session with the film's director, producer and screenwriter who gave their own account of the film's content and how it was created and filmed.

Students had differing opinions about the film but appreciated the access they experienced to professionals in the film industry and the chance to be a film critic for the day!

"Hearing the director and how they got into film, its really inspired me - I want to do that job!" - Klara Patseva

"I can see how the representations of British soldiers will be useful to my exam in the summer, and not all other students in the country will have had access to that!" - Natalie Nedelcheva



Thought for the Week

"Work hard for what you want because it won't come to you without a fight. You have to be strong and courageous and know that you can do anything you put your mind to. If somebody puts you down or criticises you, just keep on believing in yourself and turn it into something positive".

REFLECTION FROM THE RE DEPARTMENT

Matthew 22:1-14

We have another harsh parable from St Matthew's Gospel this week. The king invites guests to his son's wedding feast but they refuse to come. So he invites others who do come but are not properly dressed. People are invited to the banquet of God; some come, some do not. The story goes further in that everyone at the crossroads was invited. Whenever we are in crisis, in trouble, stuck at a crossroads to make a decision, God is nearby, part of our life's process, offering the good things of a banquet. The message from the parable is that we should not only want to be part of God's kingdom but we should work towards it throughout our life, always being ready for the invitation.

Parables tell us something about ourselves and about God; they also reflect realities of the world around us and the culture we live in. In today's parable we find out something about the inclusiveness of God's invitation to live with Him always, now and into eternity. We are all are invited. The danger of all religion is to narrow it down to 'people of our own faith'. The 'people of God' is the entire human race; the call is to sit down with God and be prepared to meet anyone with Him.

Lord, may your kingdom come among us everywhere in our world.

Prayer

May your grace, O Lord, we pray, at all times go before us and follow after, and make us always determined to carry out good works.

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

Words of the Week

Monday- Defamation (Adjective) – The act of communicating false statements about a person that injure their reputation.

Tuesday- Oxymoron (Noun) – A phrase in which two words of contradictory meaning are used together for special effect, for example, "wise fool" or "to make haste slowly".

Wednesday- Fiasco (Noun) – A complete failure or collapse.

Thursday- Sanctuary (Noun) – A consecrated place where sacred objects are kept; a shelter from danger or hardship.

Friday- Sprightly (Adjective) – Full of spirit and vitality.