



# St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

02 February 2018

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Monday, 05 February 2018

- Year 10 Work Experience

### Tuesday, 06 February 2018

- Year 10 Work Experience
- Year 9 IntoUniversity Careers Workshop (09:10-11:10)
- Year 8 Geography Trip to the Natural History Museum
- Year 7 Mass (14:30-15:10)

### Wednesday, 07 February 2018

- Year 10 Work Experience
- Midweek Music Lunchtime Concert (13:30-14:10)
- Year 8 Drama Trip to Her Majesty's Theatre (13:30-16:30)
- Youth Club (15:15-17:15)

### Thursday, 08 February 2018

- Year 10 Work Experience
- Trip to Switzerland
- Year 11 IU 'University Life' Workshop (09:10-11:10)
- Year 13 IU 'Skills for the Future' Workshop (11:30-13:30)

### Friday, 09 February 2018

- Year 10 Work Experience
- Trip to Switzerland
- Year 9 Vaccinations
- Choir Practice (15:15-16:15)

## INTRODUCTION

On Wednesday evening, we held our Careers' Event in the Glendale Hall. We had over twenty-five careers and organisations represented. The evening gave our Year 11 pupils and Year 12 students the opportunity to talk to professionals from a wide variety of professions and apprenticeship opportunities. On Thursday, we had the second of our Year 8 retreats to St Paul's Church. The retreat was excellent with very good feedback from both pupils and staff.

Important Reminder: Parents should have been given a letter by their child about school opening times. From Monday, 5 February, the school will open at 7.30am for pupils when there will be staff supervision. Please ensure your child does not arrive before this time as they will not be able to access the site. This decision has been made following a security review. Please note, there will be no after school activities on Friday, 9 February.

## NUMBER DAY

Congratulations to the following pupils who were announced as the winners in their year group for successfully completing all the mathematical challenges for National Number Day: Gabriella Timoszuk, 7BK1; Beatriz Cattazzo, 8BK1; Kiane Johnson, 9BK1, Leticia Martins, 10DX1; Ted Mellows, 11BK1; and Hritik Panwar, 12BK1.

## DRAMA DEPARTMENT

Following a workshop, the AS and GCSE Drama students attended a production of *Belleville* at the Donmar Warehouse. The play gave the students a taste of a 'naturalistic' style and explored the idea of racial stereotypes. In a Q&A session with the actors after the performance, Tolani Durojaye, 10KL1, asked 'McMafia' star James Norton, "What was it like to work in such an intimate space", to which he responded that he thought that was a brilliant question and he spent a long time reflecting on it.

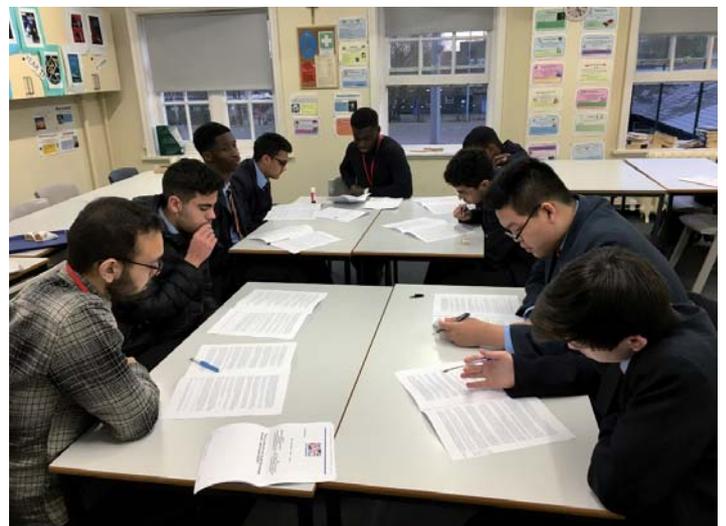
As part of their upcoming performance with Jacksons Lane at Alexandra Palace on the 24 March, pupils from Year 8 visited the V&A archives to conduct research on Victorian Theatre. Elton Baroso Dos Santos, 8BK1, is recording a blog for the project and said it was really interesting to see one of the first Victorian novels 'Count of Narbonne' and to hear about the first production of *Jekyll and Hyde* which has mysterious links to the Jack the Ripper Murders.

Next week the group are conducting their final research expedition with a back stage tour of one of the few remaining Victorian Theatres.

## READING GROUP

This week saw our UCL student ambassadors lead a session engaging with Boris Johnson's argument for leaving the EU. Pupils engaged in challenging material, grasping and later evaluating a sophisticated political argument.

Keep up the excellent work Year 11! We are definitely recognising your hard work.



## REFLECTION FROM THE RE DEPARTMENT

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Reading: (Mark 1:29-39)

When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to Jesus all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him. Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come?" So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

Jesus rose "very early before dawn" and went out to a "deserted place" to pray, to be in communion with God. He is able to turn his back on the adulation and keep his mission on a steady course because he does not lose sight of why he came—to preach the good news of salvation. He does not lose sight of his mission because he never loses sight of his Father. This is how we reorder ourselves—by praying, being in communion with God so that Jesus' mission is truly our own. (Living Liturgy, p.54).

The RE department held retreats for Year 8 pupils at St Paul's in Wood Green this week. The school provides religious retreats because it believes it provides an opportunity for pupils focus on spiritual matters. The retreats are planned so that pupils are encouraged, through a guided process, to reflect on where they are as a person of faith, identify their own uniqueness, and decide what they want to achieve in their spiritual life and create a plan to move forward, all in a quiet and peaceful environment.

The retreats were based on a quote from the book of Micah. Micah, a prophet from the Old Testament, wrote, "This is what God asks of you, only this to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly." The pupils and retreat leaders developed this theme in several ways and this led to the conclusion that we need to allow the Holy Spirit to develop our inner qualities that reflect the character of the Lord Jesus.

Prayer

For the grace to pray privately and to pray together,

For the grace to serve the poor with dedication and faithfulness,

For the grace to support and care for each other.

Help us to have the grace to spread the Good News of Jesus.

Amen

## Thought for the Week

"It is important to get your surroundings, as well as yourself, into a positive state – meaning surround yourself with positive people, not the kind who are negative and jealous of everything you do".

## SPORT

The Year 11 basketball team has progressed into the last 16 of the London Youth Games. The boys undoubtedly participated in the hardest match of the season as they were stretched by Bishop Challoner to the final whistle. By the end of the third quarter, St Thomas More School were down by 2 points with Samuel Mukendi and Trey Headman on 4 fouls each. In the last quarter, Joseph Bautista worked his magic to score several points and assist Courtney Mwangola to bucket a number of lay ups.

After showing fantastic perseverance, the final score ended 47-36 to St Thomas More School, which ensures they progress into the next round. The team will now play against the current winners of Hackney or Ealing in the last 16. Well done to the boys.

The Year 8 boys' and girls' indoor athletics teams have matched the Year 7 teams by finishing top in Haringey. Twelve Haringey Schools came to the central venue at St Thomas More School to be crowned champions and represent Haringey in the London Youth Games. The boys and girls won most of their races and beat all schools in the borough to progress into the London Youth Games.



## Words of the Week

Monday: Incandescent (Adjective) – Full of strong emotion; passionate; emitting light as a result of being heated.

Tuesday: Abscond (Verb) – To leave quickly and secretly and hide oneself, often to avoid arrest or prosecution.

Wednesday: Demur (Verb/Noun) – To raise objection or show reluctance.

Thursday: Slur (Verb/Noun) – 1. To speak indistinctly so that the words run into one another/the act of speaking indistinctly so that the words run into one another. 2. A remark or allegation about someone that is likely to insult or damage their reputation.

Friday: Al fresco (Adverb/Adjective) – In the open air.