



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

05 May 2017

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday, 8 May 2017

- Bulgarian Assembly
- Year 8 Second HPV Vaccinations (09:10-11:10)
- PTA Meeting (18:30-17:15)

Tuesday, 9 May 2017

- Bulgarian Assembly

Wednesday, 10 May 2017

- Bulgarian Assembly
- Year 7 Retreat
- Youth Club (15:10-17:15)

Thursday, 11 May 2017

- Bulgarian Assembly

Friday, 12 May 2017

- Prayers with Sr Eileen
- Choir Practice (15:10-16:10)
- Duke of Edinburgh Meeting (15:10-16:10)

PTA MEETING

The next Parent and Teacher Association (PTA) Meeting is being held on Monday, 8 May. The meeting will take place at the school and will commence at 6.30pm. All parents are automatically members of the PTA and are encouraged to attend.

The PTA plays an important role in the school, fostering more extended relationships between the staff, the parents and others associated with the school, and engages in activities that support the school and advances the education of the pupils attending it.

If you would like more information about the PTA, please email parents@stthomasmoreschool.org.uk.

INTRODUCTION

It has been a busy term so far, with eyes securely focussed on forthcoming public examinations. Staff and pupils alike are working every available hour to achieve the best grades possible. Those in examination subjects should be organising themselves with rigorous revision schedules.

Those in the lower school should be laying the groundwork for future exams; completing homework and extension tasks, bringing in the correct equipment to lessons and presenting written work with pride and high standards. Parents, please make time to look through your children's journal and exercise books to monitor their presentation and progress. There will be an opportunity for Year 8 parents to discuss any issues at Parents' Evening on Tuesday, 16 May 2017.

There has been lots happening this week, with Year 7 retreats to St Monica's Church and a trip to Jerwood Hall. On Thursday, Year 8 pupils went on a trip to Goldsmiths, University of London, whilst on Tuesday, they had the opportunity to take part in IntoUniversity workshops. Year 9 pupils visited Sussex University and some of our Year 11 pupils met with careers' advisors.

With so many pupils taking part in opportunities which encourage them to think about their future, it is important they focus now, to organise and motivate themselves.

SUSSEX UNIVERSITY

On Wednesday, 3 May, 37 pupils from Year 9 visited Sussex University as part of the First Generation Scholars Scheme (FGSS). The scheme provides workshops and guidance for pupils who would be the first in their family to go to university.

On arrival, pupils were met by some of the university's student ambassadors who, after an introductory talk, gave pupils a guided tour of the campus. After the tour, pupils were treated to lunch and experienced a taster lecture and a workshop on finance.

Sussex University is situated in beautiful countryside and could be described as a self-contained student village including lecture rooms, accommodation, shops, banks, a library and a meeting house for worship.



REFLECTIONS FROM THE RE DEPARTMENT

This is the Third Sunday of Easter. We continue our focus on 'encounter' and 'accompaniment' by considering specific ways we can live out our faith through meeting those in need, living in solidarity with them, and taking appropriate action for the common good.

Our Gospel this week provides us with a beautiful instance of Jesus appearing to the disciples after the resurrection. Jesus joins two disciples walking out of Jerusalem on the road to Emmaus. They are sad and downcast because they are confused with all the happenings over the previous days. When Jesus walks with them they don't recognise him but Jesus explains the scripture to them.

When they reach Emmaus, they invite Jesus into their home. It is when he breaks bread with them that they recognise Jesus. They then hurried back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples that Jesus had appeared to them and so the news of the resurrection rapidly spread. We too have a role to play in spreading the Good News of the resurrection.

Prayer

May your people exult forever, O God, in renewed youthfulness of spirit, so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption, we may look forward in confident hope to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
Amen

GOLDSMITHS

A group of Year 8 pupils had the unique opportunity to visit the campus of Goldsmiths, University of London this week.

Whilst there, they participated in a careers workshop where they had to plan a festival together. After a tour of the campus they had a free lunch in the university refectory and completed a Dragon's Den-style activity in the afternoon.

The organiser of the day said St Thomas More pupils were one of the best Year 8 groups to ever visit the campus - the pupils made the school proud!

Thought for the Week

"The importance of spiritual, moral, social and cultural learning, encompassing an understanding of British Values and the need to prevent extremism, is threaded through the curriculum and entire ethos of our school."

STEM CLUB IS BACK!

From Thursday, 11 May, pupils are invited to attend STEM club which runs from 3.15 to 4.15pm. The club is looking for pupils, who are interested in science, technology, engineering and maths research, to take part in a STEM project. The club is also open for pupils whose previous projects had not been graded for a STEM award.

Pupils should register their interest in room GF8 and see Mrs Pringle with any questions they may have about the club.

INTOUNIVERSITY WORKSHOPS

On Thursday, 4 May, the IntoUniversity staff delivered two workshops for Years 8 and 9 pupils. IntoUniversity is a charity which helps children to attain a university place or a another chosen aspiration.

The Year 8 'Pathways to Success' workshop explored study options and the variety of transferable skills needed to follow different careers.

The Year 9 workshop, 'Introduction to University Life' looked at the range of universities in the UK and how to explore what they offer.

Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the workshops and were all given invaluable advice on careers and life at university.

Words of the Week

Monday: Innocuous (Adjective): Not likely to give offence or to arouse strong feelings or hostility. Not harmful or offensive.

Tuesday: Footloose (Adjective): Free and having no ties.

Wednesday: Punctilious (Adjective): Showing great attention to detail or correct behaviour.

Thursday: Tantamount (Adjective): Equivalent in seriousness to; virtually the same as.

Friday: Itinerant (Adjective): Travelling from place to place

Itinerant (Noun): A person who travels from place to place