



# St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## INTRODUCTION

One step at a time as Matthew 6:34 says "Do not worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will take care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." This is the message I would like to get across to all our pupils who are about to enter into our first mock exam season. Take each day as it comes and ensure that you are doing your daily preparation for your exams. If you are well prepared and are focusing on today then everything else will fall into place. In fact, this would apply to all the pupils in the school, as we often worry about the future without thinking about the tasks we must complete today. Assessment 1 has now been completed and you will be receiving the grades in the post shortly. I would like you to discuss these grades with your child, along with the targets that they have agreed with their form tutors. This will enable them to have a clear focus leading into Christmas and the new year. God bless, Alex Rosen, Acting Head of School

## HEADTEACHER'S AWARD

This week's winners of the Headteacher's Award for outstanding work in Art are: Iosef Restrepo Gonzalez (8MC1), Joshua O'Reilly (8MC1), Tamara Castano Mesa (8MC1), Junecia Nzau (8DX2), Maria Clara Nogueira Alborghetti (8DX2) and Andre Newton (8DX1).



Iosef Restrepo Gonzalez



Joshua O'Reilly



Tamara Castano Mesa

## ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

This week is Anti-Bullying Week and the pupils have been taking part in a poster competition. Congratulations to Blessing Apio Ochan (Year 7), Amy Zheng and Brianna Dastur (Year 8) and Zakias Thornille (Year 9). Their posters are displayed around the school.



Amy Zheng & Brianna Dastur



Zakias Thornille



Blessing Apio Ochan

## POSTCARDS

Pupils continue to receive postcards on a weekly basis due to their exceptional efforts every week. Well done to Aya Johannah Narkwa in 8KL1 for receiving multiple postcards this term.



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November

Year 11 and Sixth Form Q&A with David Lammy MP

GCSE resit exams continue

### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November

Internal mock exams begin for Year 11

## THE MEDIC SOCIETY

A group of Year 12 students interested in pursuing medicine at university met last week to present their findings on Coronavirus, as well as discussing the new vaccine. A small group of interested Year 11 students also took part.



## WINTER WANDER WORKSHOPS

Jacksons Lane Art Centre are offering a series of free online workshops to help create a magical winter parade through Haringey in December. Children, family members and friends are invited to work with professional artists to create costumes (materials delivered to you), record music, write stories and take part in dance and circus skill workshops for the parade. For more information please contact Holly (holly.w@jacksonslane.org.uk, tel: 07732 703 960).

## GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIPS

Geography is a practical subject. Field trips are at the core of being active and learning in our world. Covid lockdown stopped six planned Year 7 field trips last term, but we are back into exploring the local area in our lessons. Recently, 7BK2 were using OS maps to follow routes, checking symbols and compass directions in the local area and Woodside Park. They were really well behaved and have already suggested many day trips further afield that they would like to do, to see more of their amazing world. It is a pleasure to teach such inquisitive pupils.



## CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL

It is the time of the year for giving and helping others to have a good Christmas. We are now collecting non-perishable dry goods: pasta, rice, tinned food etc. for our Christmas Hamper Appeal. This year the majority of our hampers will be going to support our local community and to those who need just a little more support during this time. Please send in donations with your child if you are able to contribute.



RE

**Week Beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020**

**Thirty-Fourth Sunday of the Year A:**

**The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
King of the Universe:**

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 25: 35-46:**



This week we reach the climax of the Church's Year, the Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Universal King. It is the climax of St Matthew's Gospel too, as we have heard the parables from this Gospel over the last weeks. All these parables relate to the kingdom of heaven. Today's

parable concerns the Last Judgement. Are we amongst the sheep on the right who have followed God's will and cared for the other sheep in the fold?

On the other hand, are we amongst the goats who have rejected God's word, not followed His will and not seen God present in others? The sheep are the ones who will enter the kingdom of heaven. So what do we have to do to ensure that we are separated onto the right side with the sheep on Judgement Day? According to the parable it is those who give food to the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, visit the sick and imprisoned, who are amongst the virtuous who will receive eternal life. In doing these good deeds, we are serving Christ who is present in each one.

This week's readings take up the theme of sheep, almost as much as they do on Good Shepherd Sunday in Eastertide. The first reading from the prophet Ezekiel has a very much 'Good Shepherd' touch. The Lord looks after his people, he keeps them in view, he rescues the ones who are lost in the mist and the darkness, and he brings back the stray, heals the wounded, strengthens the weak and cares for the healthy as well. This reading reminds us of Christ's role as a shepherd to us, but today it is particularly urging us to be shepherd-like to one another, caring and loving in the different ways indicated in the Gospel. The Ezekiel reading is complemented by the Psalm of the day, the Lord is my shepherd. In our difficult moments, we might well reflect on the words from the final stanza! 'Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life; we can make this true for our fellow sheep.'

## Thought for the Week

"There is no end to education. It is not that you read a book, pass an examination, and finish with education.

The whole of life, from the moment you are born to the moment you die, is a process of learning." Always remember that there are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure.

### 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, forever and ever. Amen.

### A God who Speaks: 'Year of the Word'

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. In addition, the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your mind in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4: 6-7).

### EPRAISE

The Epraise shop was fully stocked up last week, which means pupils from different year groups have had the chance to purchase a range of commodities. A selection of vouchers, rugby balls, table-tennis bats and memory sticks have been added to the list. Felix Boateng (7KL3) was able to accumulate 430 points and purchase a new football. Kwesi Shakane (9KL1) was able to collect a range of new coloured pens to add to the rest of his stationery. All pupils have the chance to receive Epraise points by working hard, demonstrating good manners, using the Word of The Day and having excellent book presentation.



### MARK EVISON FOUNDATION

A number of our Year 12 students are taking part in the Mark Evison Foundation award. Students propose a project to the foundation which is their own challenging, non-academic project. The project can be anything the student desires, as long as the foundation deems it to be sufficiently challenging. The foundation will fund up to £500 per project. A member of the foundation has been coming in bi-weekly to support students with their applications, ready for final approval in January. There are seven proposed projects which include: hiking, holding a fashion show, recording songs in a studio and producing a short film.



## Words of the Week

**Monday- Decorum - (Noun):** Behaviour in keeping with good taste and propriety.

**Tuesday- Expedient - (Adjective):** (Of an action) convenient and practical although possibly improper or immoral.

**Wednesday- Inexorable - (Adjective):** Impossible to stop or prevent; (of a person) impossible to persuade; unrelenting.

**Thursday- Scrimp - (Verb):** Be thrifty or parsimonious; economise.

**Friday- Repudiate - (Verb):** Refuse to accept; reject. Deny the truth or validity of.