



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

23 February 2018

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday, 26 February 2018

- NCS Assembly for Year 11 (08:50-09:10)
- PTA Meeting (18:30-19:30)

Wednesday, 28 February 2018

- Trip to Southampton Uni for Year 12 Futures participants
- Youth Club (15:15-17:15)
- Urban Debate League Round 2 at St Thomas More (15:15-18:40)

Thursday, 01 March 2018

- Option D Drop Down Day
- World Book Day

Friday, 02 March 2018

- Year 12 University and Apprenticeship Fair at Arsenal Stadium



INTRODUCTION

Last week, as always, there was a full programme of extra sessions for our pupils sitting exams this summer. The attendance was excellent with most pupils taking advantage of the sessions on offer. Thanks must go to parents for supporting these sessions by encouraging pupils to attend and of course to staff for giving up their holiday to run them.

Yesterday, we had a visit from Bishop John Sherrington. He celebrated mass for our Year 8 pupils, along with our Liturgical Prefects and School Choir. It was a wonderful mass. Our particular thanks go to Richard Huang and Marilyn Gomes in Year 10 who played the piano for our hymns during the mass. The Bishop was extremely complimentary of our pupils. Following mass, he had a tour of the school and then met with our Liturgical Prefects. Well done to all involved - Bishop Sherrington was extremely impressed with our school.

Also yesterday was our Year 11 Parents' Evening. Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend. This is obviously an extremely important time for our Year 11 pupils. If you were unable to attend and would like to discuss your child's progress, please contact Ms Warriner, Head of Year 11, via parents@stthomasmoreschool.org.uk.

Next week, the weather is forecast to become a lot colder with the possibility of snow. If there is snow on the ground, please check the school website before sending your child into school.



Pupils at the Reception for the Bishop

YEAR 9 MATHS ENRICHMENT DAY

On Wednesday, 7 February, four of our talented Year 9 pupils (Marianne Chaaban, Fallon Bourne, Mannab Berhanu and Kim Le) attended the second maths enrichment day of the spring term.

The title of the day was, "Colouring the integers!" Jennifer Brewin hosted an interactive and engaging afternoon offering pupils opportunities to share their passion for mathematics with able mathematicians from other schools. The over arching theme of the day was using colours and numbers to identify patterns.

We kicked off the day with "problems to puzzle over" where pupils had to find numbers represented by letters in equations. The puzzles were followed by interesting themes such as "Wilson's Theorem" and "Three From Five".

Our pupils enjoyed exploring challenging and interesting themes that will undoubtedly develop their problem-solving skills and the way they approach difficult problems.

PARENTS' ENGLISH CLASSES

St Thomas More Catholic School runs free English Language Classes for parents/carers. All parents/carers who want to improve their English are welcome to attend.

The classes are once a week on Tuesdays, 6.00 - 7.30pm. For more information, please email parents@stthomasmoreschool.org.uk

Thought for the Week

"You've done it before and you can do it now. See the positive possibilities. Re-direct the substantial energy of your frustration and turn it into positive, effective, unstoppable determination".

REFLECTION FROM THE RE DEPARTMENT

Gospel Reading: (Mark 9:2-10)

Reflection Gospel Reading:

Jesus took Peter, James and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white ... Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and for Elijah." He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.

We can find the rhythm of the dying and rising of the paschal mystery everywhere. In the gospel we see the transfigured glory then allusion to Jesus dying. In our daily lives we see the "dying and rising" between our work and leisure, between times with loved ones and times away, between success and failure, between doing something we would enjoy and doing something someone else would enjoy more. In our daily lives as we see the paschal mystery unfolding, the distance between the religious and secular spheres of our lives becomes less and less. Instead of putting religion in a neat box it becomes truly the very way we live. (Living Liturgy, p.78).

Prayer

When we struggle with our own weaknesses,
Change our hearts, O God!
When we resist the call to conversion,
Change our hearts, O God!
When we become bitter and judgmental,
Change our hearts, O God!
Amen

Words of the Week

Monday: Preposterous (Adjective) – Contrary to reason or common sense; utterly absurd or ridiculous.

Tuesday: Rebuke (Verb) – Express sharp disapproval or criticism of (someone) because of their behaviour or actions.
Noun: An expression of sharp disapproval or criticism.

Wednesday: Dignity (Noun) – The quality of being worthy of honour or respect; a sense of pride in oneself; self-respect.

Thursday: Harbour (Verb) – Keep (a thought or feeling, typically a negative one) in one's mind, especially secretly.
Noun: A place on the coast where ships may moor in shelter, especially one protected from rough water by piers.

Friday: Synchronise (Verb) – Cause to occur or operate at the same time or rate.