



# St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

6th March 2020

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

<p><b>Monday 9 March 2020</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Science Week</li> <li>• Mock Exams Commence</li> <li>• Spoken Word Workshop (15:15 - 16:45)</li> <li>• Oxford Conference Highgate School (18:00 - 19:30)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tuesday 10 March 2020</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mock Exams continue</li> <li>• Spoken Word workshop (15:15 - 16:45)</li> <li>• Science Fair (17:00 - 18:00)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wednesday 11 March 2020</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mock Exams continue</li> <li>• Maths Enrichment Day for Year 10 at LAE (11:30 - 15:00)</li> <li>• Spoken Word workshop (15:15 - 16:45)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Thursday 12 March 2020</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mock Exams continue</li> <li>• Big Bang Science Trip</li> <li>• Year 7 Retreat</li> <li>• Year 13 Hamlet lectures</li> <li>• Year 9/10 Psychology trip to Royal College</li> <li>• Year 9/10 Theatre Trip (12:30 - 16:00)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Friday 13 March 2020</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mock Exams Continue</li> <li>• A Level Geography Field Trip</li> </ul>

## INTRODUCTION

On Wednesday this week we held our Year 10 Parents' Evening. Thank you to all those who were able to attend. If you were unable to attend and would like to discuss your child's progress, please contact Mr Turner (Head of year) on [parents@stthomasmoreschool.org.uk](mailto:parents@stthomasmoreschool.org.uk).

Also this week we had our Online Safety Day. All year groups attended a talk given by an expert followed by a parents' talk in the evening. Information on this is elsewhere in the newsletter and further information is available on the website. A parent handout has been attached to this email.

Next week is Science Week. We will be hosting a range of activities throughout the week. On Tuesday evening we will have our Science Fair from 5pm to 6:30pm. There will be over 40 exhibitions. It would be great to see as many parents there as possible.

With regards the issue of COVID-19 (the corona virus) the latest advice is to limit the amount of personal contact. St Thomas More School will now, like many institutions, follow the 'no handshake' policy. Please be aware of this if you are meeting staff. The usual handshake greeting will not be used for the time being.

## WORLD BOOK DAY

Staff dressed up for World Book Day.



Activities took place around the school.



## CAMBRIDGE APPLICATION EVENT

Year 12 students Maica Caidic, Marilyn Gomes, Hannah Louis and Klaudia Mitiajew took part in an application event at Murray Edwards College, Cambridge. This included an introduction to Cambridge University's admission process, practice interview questions and tasks, a personal statement writing workshop and a tour of the College. This will be followed up with the pupils attending a Oxbridge conference at Highgate Independent School.



## AUTHOR VISIT

On World Book Day, a group of students thoroughly enjoyed a personalised presentation and workshop from charismatic poet and author, Dean Atta. He delivered an inspiring speech, and students crafted their own poignant poetry, encouraged by Atta's uplifting words. Students received powerful advice, and were excited to take home a signed book!



## RE

### First Sunday of Lent

#### Gospel Reading: (Genesis 2:8-10)

This week we begin the first Sunday of Lent. The word 'Lent' comes from very old word which means springtime. The days are getting longer as summer gets closer. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for forty days. Over the next few weeks the readings we will hear encourage us to say 'yes' to God and 'no' to our own selfishness. Lent means springtime, a little time of year when new life begins and everything starts to grow. We can make a fresh start too, and try extra hard to be good.

Today's story is all about temptations, when you think about or do something that you know is wrong. Like Adam and Eve, we are all tempted sometimes to do something wrong. God wants us to choose to do what is right, but this is not always easy. During Lent we make promises – we may give up something nice, or promise to do something good. Whatever we do we try to keep in touch with God, to be less selfish and more generous.

#### Prayer:

Dear Jesus, there will be time during Lent when we might find it difficult to keep our promises. But if you are there to help us then we will keep on trying. Amen.

#### 'The God Who Speaks' The Year of the Word'

**Matthew 6:25-26:** Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

**Philippians 4:6-8:** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

### U13 HANDBALL CHAMPIONS

The U13 boys' and girls' handball teams represented Haringey in the London Youth Games.

Both teams won their semi-finals and are now through to the finals.

Congratulations to all team members.



## Thought for the Week

Your destiny is to fulfil those things upon which you focus most intently. So choose to keep your focus on that which is truly magnificent, beautiful, uplifting and joyful. Your life is always moving towards something.

## YEAR 7 GEOGRAPHY

Y7 have been working hard in Geography. Knowing our world, being able to use maps and follow directions are all life skills we are developing with Y7.



## PARENTS' E-SAFETY TALK

Social media has been growing exponentially in recent years and will continue to do so. On Tuesday, 3rd March 2020, Education Child Protection presented an hour long on-line Safety session for every pupil, staff and for parents at St Thomas More Catholic School.

The sessions introduced pupils to CEPO, the Thinkuknow website and the CEOP 'Report Abuse' button. They included information on how and when to seek support and unsafe communication.

The session provided parents with an insight into the wide array of apps, games and websites that children are using. The session provided information on what children are taught about Online Safety, the latest trends, the issues and dangers and how we can make children safer online. The documents will be made available on the school website.

The feedback from pupils, staff and parents has been excellent.

## BOYS' BASKETBALL

The U16 boys' basketball team progressed to the London Youth Games this week. The top schools in each of the 33 London Borough were drawn into a round-robin competition. After three



round robin wins, STM extended their unbeaten run to vanquish Greenwich 63-59 and secure a place in this year's final. Congratulations to Chukwudi, Keanu, Jostin, Julius, Ikenna, Jacob, Jaden and Michael Osuji. Even more remarkable that the majority of the team are made up of Year 9 and 10 boys, with the exception of Jaden. The Year 7 basketball team meanwhile maintained an unbeaten run after beating Fortismere 51-21. They currently have a 100% win record.

## YEAR 10 FOOTBALL

The Year 10 football team also have a 100% win record after they beat Highgate Wood 3-1. They are topping the Haringey League.

## Words of the Week

**Monday- Catalyst - (Noun)** - A substance that increases the rate of a chemical reaction without itself undergoing any permanent chemical change; a person, thing, or event that quickly causes change or action.

**Tuesday- Amalgam - (Noun)** – A mixture or blend.

**Wednesday- Conjecture - (Noun)** – An opinion or idea formed without proof or sufficient evidence.

**Thursday- Deciduous - (Adjective)** – Falling off or shed at a particular season because it is temporary.

**Friday- Precipitate - (Verb)** - Cause (a substance) to be deposited in solid form from a solution.