



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

22 June 2018

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday 25 June 2018

- Sixth Form Inductions
- Globe Theatre for Year 7 Pupils (11:30-13:30)
- Worlds by Women Project Introduction (16:00-17:00)

Tuesday, 26 June 2018

- Sixth Form Inductions
- Justice and Peace Conference for 10 Year 10 pupils (10:00-15:10)

Wednesday, 27 June 2018

- Year 12 Geography Trip to Margate
- Year 9 Top Set English Trip to Keats House
- Year 13 Leavers' Mass (12:30-13:30)
- Year 11 Mass (14:10-15:10)
- Youth Club (15:15-17:15)
- Year 11 Prom

Thursday, 28 June 2018

- School Choir Fundraising Concert (18:00-19:00)

Friday, 29 June 2018

- TAD
- Sixth Form Dinner and Dance

INTRODUCTION

Our external exams are all but finished now. Next week, on Monday and Tuesday, we have our Sixth Form Induction for our current Year 11 pupils who have been offered places in the Sixth Form, along with external pupils who have applied to join St Thomas More.

On Wednesday, we will be officially saying goodbye to our Year 13 students with a Leavers' Mass followed by refreshments. Students will then have their Dinner and Dance on Friday evening.

Our Year 11 pupils will have their End of Examinations' Mass on Wednesday afternoon and this will be followed by their prom on the River Thames.

Next Friday, 29 June, we have a Teacher Training day so there will be no school for pupils.

Wednesday, 4 July will be our Year 7 Parents' Evening, from 4pm to 7pm, which will also include a presentation about internet safety for Year 7 parents and their children.

A significant number of staff will be taking on the Three Peaks Challenge to support the PTA fundraising efforts for a new school minibus and we ask parents for their sponsorship/donations to support this. Further details on how to donate are included in this week's newsletter.

LA BOHÈME

This week, Year 9 GCSE pupils had the excellent opportunity to visit the world-renowned Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. The day started with a workshop with three industry professionals to create an 'Aria in an Hour'. In this workshop, pupils worked collaboratively with pupils from other schools to write the lyrics and music for an aria. They then performed the work.

Following the workshop, we took our excellent seats in the orchestra stalls of the Opera House and watched a powerful and stirring performance of La Bohème by Puccini. The performers were outstanding and the music was excellent. The pupils really enjoyed the performance and were wonderful ambassadors of the school.

SPORT

Year 8 Basketball

The Year 8 basketball team have extended their unbeaten run from Year 7 after beating Lammas School 47-25. Lammas played a mixture of Year 8 and 9 pupils in an attempt to match our boys' team. Chukwudi Dioramma and Jacob Pelling were unstoppable as they consistently posted up to score a number of baskets for the team. Adebolarinwa started at point guard and drove to the basket on a number of occasions to score several lay ups. The boys have one more game against Haggerston before the end of the academic year.

Year 8 Rugby

The Year 8 boys replicated the Year 7 team by beating Cardinal Pole in the final and winning this year's Champions Cup. The boys displayed a wonderful performance beating their opposition 7-3 in the final. The Year 8 team will now go on to represent the north-east region in the National Cup and London Youth Games. Ikenna Johnson also received player of the tournament on the day!



REFLECTION FROM THE RE DEPARTMENT

Week Beginning June 24th 2018

Gospel Reading Luke 1: 57-66-80

Earlier in Luke's gospel we learn that Elizabeth and Zechariah are elderly, but miraculously are expecting a baby. When an angel tells Zechariah that he will have a son, Zechariah questions how that can be. Because he questioned the angel, he was silenced until the baby was born. Today's gospel begins with John's birth. Elizabeth's neighbours ask her what she plans to name the baby. Since the angel had instructed them to, they planned to name their baby, John. The name John means Yahweh has shown favour. The people were amazed by this because it was customary to name a baby after his father. They turned to Zechariah to confirm Elizabeth's unusual answer. On a table, he wrote that the boy's name would be John. At that moment Zechariah was once again able to speak, and the first thing he did was praise God.

The destinies of John and Jesus are closely linked. John will eventually go about proclaiming the coming of Jesus, the messiah. The message John proclaims is the Good News of Jesus. Like John, we are all called to tell others about Jesus' saving power. Help one another recognise the way each person shows God's love to others. It might be actions, words or prayers.

Prayer

We dedicate ourselves to you, the holy, just, righteous, and merciful God. Grant that we may be your children, led and guided by you every day. Turn our hearts to you so that you can make us more and more as you want us to be. Turn our hearts to you until your goal of atonement and redemption is reached through the quiet working of your almighty power.

Amen

THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE

On Saturday, 7 July, 30 members of staff from St Thomas More School will be attempting to climb three of the largest mountains in England (Scafell Pike), Scotland (Ben Nevis) and Wales (Snowdon) in 24 hours. The "Three Peak Challenge" is being completed in order to raise money for a new school mini-bus. Staff will set off early on Saturday morning and arrive home on Sunday evening.

Parents can support the challenge by donating money to the PTA minibus fund via Parent Pay. A 'PTA Minibus Fund' option has been added to all Parent Pay accounts.

Thought for the Week

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is what it takes to stand up and listen". Believe in yourself.

Show you know right from wrong. Contribute to your community. Respect those who keep us safe. Accept other people's beliefs.

CHOIR CONCERT

In just over one week time, the STM Choir and Violin Ensemble will be embarking on their annual tour. This year they will be going to the Rhineland, Germany. The Choir and ensemble members have been working really hard to prepare for their tour. They will be having a pre-tour concert on Thursday, 28 June in the Glendale Hall at 6pm. Tickets are just £1! They can be purchased on the door on the evening or in advance from the Music Department at break and lunchtimes. Please come and support the students and send them on their way happily!

YEAR 9 RETREATS

This week, Year 9 classes spent a morning at St Paul's Church in Wood Green for their retreat. Having their retreat in a prayerful environment offers a time for reflection and peace. We all need the space and silence to reflect and pray, and it can help us begin to sense a deeper truth about ourselves and God, how he loves us as we are. The group were asked to reflect on this year and the challenges they will face next year, how the mission and ministry of Jesus is punctuated with "retreat experiences" and reminded that what the Lord asks of us is to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6.8).

Pupils had an excellent presentation on the refugee crisis and the problems these people face. This raised our understanding and empathy as well as our gratitude and appreciation and our desire and motivation to continue to

A 'thank you' from the Cardinal Hume Centre Charity

Our thanks to the school community for their generous donation of £500. The Cardinal Hume Centre offers a safe home to young homeless aged just 16-24. They live with us for one year, and in that time we help them to rebuild their lives. Your donation will help us to continue the work that Cardinal Basil Hume started over 30 years ago.

Words of the Week

Monday – Hubris – Noun: Excessive pride or self-confidence.

Tuesday – Aerate – Verb: Introduce air into (a material).

Wednesday – Abdicate – Verb: (of a monarch) renounce one's throne.

Fail to fulfil or undertake (a responsibility or duty).

Thursday – Vacillate – Verb: Waver between different opinions or actions; be indecisive.

Friday – Divisive – Adjective: Tending to cause disagreement or hostility between people.