



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

8 February 2019

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday, 11 February to Friday, 15 February 2019

- Year 10 Work Experience
- Year 12 Health and Social Care students on Work Experience

Tuesday, 12 February 2019

- Careers Guidance Interviews

Wednesday, 13 February 2019

- Lunchtime Concert (13:45-14:10)

Thursday, 14 February 2019

- GCSE Music Trip to the Royal Festival Hall (09:10-14:10)

Friday, 15 February 2019

- Triple Science Drop Down Day

INTRODUCTION

On Wednesday this week we had our Careers events. During the day there were talks about apprenticeships, and during the evening we had our Careers Fair. All Year 11 and Sixth Form pupils also attended a Q&A session with four experts from different employment routes.

For the Careers Fair, the Sports Hall was packed with over 40 exhibitions from a variety of industries and universities. Representatives spoke to the pupils and discussed potential career pathways.

This week we have also had pupils away on our school French trip. This has been an amazing week for them. They are due back tomorrow afternoon (Saturday).

A full programme of extra sessions has been planned for half-term. This has been issued to all Year 10, 11 and Sixth Form pupils. All timetables are available on the school website. This has been issued early as Year 10 and some Sixth Form students will be out on Work Experience for a week, starting on Monday. We wish them well for this experience.



SPORT

Playing for England

Hubert Graczyk in Year 11 has been selected to represent England for an international Under 16 tournament. Some of the opponents include nations like Brazil, Germany and France. A hearty congratulations to Hubert for this huge honour, and we wish him and the England team all the best for the tournament.



Year 7 Basketball: Junior NBA (National Cup)

The Junior NBA League is a unique competition involving 30 of the top schools across the country, each of which is allocated an NBA team, and provided with a replica basketball kit of their team. St Thomas More are playing as the infamous Toronto Raptors.



This week the team beat Greig City Academy (Boston Celtics) 47-24, and St John's Wood School (New York Knicks) 20-0, bringing the team's tally to 11 wins of 11. The team are well on course to making the final eight teams in the country, as they sit comfortably at the top of their group with close to double the points of their nearest rivals.

Year 10: Haringey Football Cup

The Year 10 boys' football team competed in the 7-a-side Haringey Football Cup this week. After a round of victories against several opposing schools in the borough, St Thomas More managed to pick up a silver medal in the competition, out of a total of eight schools. Quaine Bartley scored the most goals on the day.

INTO UNIVERSITY WORKSHOPS

Two groups of Year 11 pupils enjoyed a workshop on 'University life' this week, while Year 13 students had a workshop exploring 'Skills for the Future'. This was the last of 14 workshops delivered to the group over the seven years since they started at St Thomas More School. The support doesn't end there though; the IntoUniversity staff will be at school on results day to offer guidance. The picture to the left shows the Year 13 group with Mike, Jenneh and Francesca from IntoUniversity Haringey North.

CAREERS DAY

St Thomas More Catholic School held a very successful Careers Day on Wednesday, beginning with an assembly and workshop delivered by Catherine Comp of the National Apprenticeship Services. Hervey Sakobo Bolowa commented, 'I now know better what an apprenticeship is and how and when to apply.' This was followed by a panel discussion with four high-flying individuals who represented the worlds of finance, politics and law and answered questions to a packed hall of Year 11 and 12 pupils.

The highlight of the day was our annual Careers Fair. Forty organisations were present, with a diverse field of sectors represented, from law and finance to arts and heritage. A number of universities were also present to answer questions on the application process, finance and university life. Many pupils learned about pathways into professions they had not considered before, and some even received offers for work experience!

REFLECTION FROM THE RE DEPARTMENT

Week Beginning February 3rd 2019

Gospel Reading: (Luke 4:21-30)

God's Good News

In today's Gospel, we learn that the people of Nazareth are impressed by Jesus' words, and yet seem surprised. They still think of Jesus as merely Joseph's son, and do not expect such words from someone they believe they know. This Gospel is about who Jesus is and who people believe him to be. In Luke's Gospel, this incident is told in a way that foretells Jesus' passion and death and helps explain the inclusion of the Gentiles in the promise of salvation. In Luke's Gospel this incident appears at the beginning of Jesus' ministry; in Matthew and Mark, this event is placed considerably later, after Jesus has preached and taught elsewhere. Only Luke identifies the content of Jesus' teaching in any detail, telling us that Jesus read from the book of the prophet Isaiah in the synagogue. In Mark and Matthew's Gospels, Jesus teaches in the synagogue in Nazareth, and the townspeople take offense because Jesus is only the son of a carpenter. They reject his authority to teach them. In Matthew and Mark, it is only after Jesus is rejected that he observes times when Israel has rejected prophets.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection>

Prayer:

Christ, healer of hearts, teach us compassion for others. Christ, maker of peace, help us to bring peace to all people. Christ, the light of life, show us the path of life. Help us listen to your calling to help those in need. We ask these prayers through Christ our Lord.
Amen

Thought for the Week

"Success is not the key to happiness; happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful."



PUBLIC SPEAKING REGIONAL FINALS

St Thomas More sent two students, Abigail Kimpalu and Gemima Kabunda to the University of Hertfordshire for the Catenian Public Speaking Regional Finals last Friday. With just two weeks to prepare, Abigail managed to secure second place, winning a trophy and £30 cash prize. Seven schools entered two students each, who spoke for four minutes on a topic of their choice. Students were judged both on the delivery and content of their speech. Abigail and Gemima wrote speeches about passion and fate respectively. Students were treated to a free lunch and a tour of the university's law facilities. Abigail said, "It was a great trip. I want to be a motivational speaker when I'm older and this helped develop my confidence to speak in front of audiences. The £30 is a plus too." Well done to both students for fantastic performances.



Words of the Week

Monday – Smuggle – Verb: Move (goods) illegally into or out of a country or convey (someone or something) somewhere secretly and illicitly.

Tuesday – Lacklustre – Adjective: Lacking in vitality, force, or conviction; uninspired or uninspiring, not shining; dull.

Wednesday – Enmity – Noun: A state or feeling of active opposition or hostility.

Thursday – Strenuous – Adjective: Requiring or using great effort or exertion.

Friday – Inundate – Verb: (1) Overwhelm (someone) with things or people to be dealt with. (2) Flood.