



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

30 September 2016

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday, 03 September 2016

- Year 11 Mass, 9.10 to 10.10 am
- **PTA Meeting**, 6.30 to 7.30 pm

Tuesday, 04 September 2016

- **Open Morning**, 9.30 to 11.00 am
- **Open Evening**, 5.30 to 8.00 pm

Thursday, 06 September 2016

- Author Visit - Kiran Millwood
- Year 12 Financial Literacy Workshop, 9.10 to 11.10 am
- Year 13 UniDosh Workshop, 11.30 am to 1.30 pm

INTRODUCTION

Today, whilst the majority of staff were involved in training, we held our primary school football competition. Year 6 boys and girls from 32 primary schools were competing for the prestigious Year 6 Football Tournament Cup. As we go to press, the competition is still in play so we will reveal the results in next week's newsletter. Our thanks go to the PE staff and pupils from Years 10 and 11 for the organisation of the tournament.

On Tuesday of next week we have our Open Morning and Evening. On Monday, the school will close at 1.30 pm to enable staff to prepare their departments for visitors. On Tuesday morning, 9.30 to 11.00 am, we will have tours of the school lead by Sixth Form students. Our Open Evening will be from 5.30 to 8.00 pm and we will have lots of pupils acting as ambassadors for the school, either in departments or as tour guides. Thank you in advance to parents for all their support for the school.

There will be no after-school activities on Monday and Tuesday of next week.

OPEN EVENING

The school will be holding its Open Evening on Tuesday, 4 October 2016, 5.30 to 8.00 pm. It will also hold an Open Morning on the same day, 9.30 to 11.00 am. Please inform friends and family, who are currently considering possible secondary schools for their children, about the school's open events. A school prospectus and application forms will be available to collect during both open events.

TRIP TO ROME

We have successfully completed our second annual joint pilgrimage to Rome with 40 children from St Thomas More, St George's and Bishop Douglass School.

On the first day of the trip, pupils were lucky enough to be present at the Papal audience with thirty thousand other pilgrims at St Peter's square.

On the second day, pupils visited one of the world's most ancient monuments, The Colosseum. A tour guide led pupils to different parts of The Colosseum, explaining its purpose and its reputation as a sacred spot where Christian martyrs met their fate. A walking tour of the Roman Forums followed and pupils' knowledge of Roman history was expanded.

On the third day, pupils embarked on a tour of Rome's fascinating fountains and churches. Ms Henry and Mr Narisetti explained to pupils the importance of various amazing places such as The Church of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the Trevi Fountain and the Spanish Steps.

Pupils were also lucky enough to experience the 'Time Elevator' - a 5D experience of a journey through time. Pupils saw two shows as part of the experience - 'The History of Rome' and 'The Beginnings of the Universe'. Both these shows were highly appreciated and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

This trip has been a great learning experience for pupils. Many were away from their families for the very first time and had to be responsible for going to bed early enough in order to be ready for the demands of the next day. Quite importantly, they had the added pressure of budgeting their pocket money for the week so they always had enough for lunch after spending on souvenirs and other gifts. Pupils improved their bargaining skills with street vendors and learned how to travel safely and at the same time enjoy the company of one another.



INTOUNIVERSITY WORKSHOPS

On Wednesday, 28 September, IntoUniversity visited the school to run two workshops - Year 11 'Communication in the Workplace' and Year 7 'Choosing Success'.

The Year 11 session covered the variety of ways we communicate, both verbal and nonverbal and explored appropriate communication in different situations.

The Year 7 pupils' workshop was the first of fourteen workshops which will be delivered over a seven year programme that will help them to make the most of themselves and their time in school.

They enjoyed the team-building activities and explored the transferable skills they have and how best to use them.



Year 11 pupils taking part in the 'Communication in the Workplace' Workshop

UPCOMING SPORT

A group of girls will be taken by Mrs Carter to Wasps RFC on Sunday, 2 October to try out for the Middlesex Rugby team - good luck to the girls!

On Wednesday, 7 October a group of Key Stage 3 athletes will be taken off timetable to complete workshops lead by Montell Douglas who is a Great Britain 100m sprinter and a Sky Sports' Living for Sport Athlete and Mentor.

Congratulations to Kechell Dalton, 8MC1 who recently competed in the International Karate Championships and achieved a bronze medal -what a fantastic achievement.

Thought for the Week

"The height of your achievements are determined by the depth of your self-belief, the strength of your resolve and the intensity of your efforts."

RE DEPARTMENT

26th Sunday of Year C

Reflection

This week's gospel passage provides us with a stark call to be alert to the needs of the poor. The image of the rich man feeding and dressing lavishly while the poor man is lying at his entrance is meant to jolt us into action.

There is a great gulf between heaven and hell. The rich man's plea to let his brothers know this fell on deaf ears. The passage ends by intimating that if they do not listen to the prophets, they would not even be convinced if somebody should rise from the dead. The resurrection should be our main reference point for the good deeds we need to do.

Prayer

O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen

Today, staff at the school held the **Macmillan Coffee Morning**, in remembrance of ex-Chairs of Governors Cllr Pat Egan and Isaac Phillips, both of whom passed away from cancer. Staff baked an assortment of cakes, biscuits and muffins to help raise money for Macmillan. The total raised this year is an amazing **£505.02**. Thank you to all those who donated.

Words of the Week

Monday: **Crass** (adjective) – this means lacking in style or lacking in sensitivity or good taste.

Tuesday: **Aesthetic** (adjective) – this means in good taste, considered beautiful or pleasing to the eye.

Wednesday: **Acquiesce** (verb) – this means to yield in e.g. to give in/agree to demands or re-quests.

Thursday: **Liaise** (verb) – this means to link people with a view to sorting out problems, issues or difficulties. To cooperate on a matter of mutual concern.

Friday: **Desist** (verb) – this means to stop doing something unpleasant or annoying.