



# St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

15 September 2017

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Monday, 18 September 2017

- AS and A Level Drama Workshop and Fallow Cross

### Wednesday, 20 September 2017

- Year 9 Brunel Workshop (11:30-12:30)
- Youth Club (15:15-17:15)

### Friday, 22 September 2017

- Year 7 Pupils to receive bibles

### Saturday, 23 September 2017

- Year 9 Brunel Urban Scholars Programme

## INTRODUCTION

This week, Sixth Form students returned to lessons and along with Year 11 pupils, have started their additional lessons. Next week, Years 9 and 10 pupils will begin their additional lessons also. Saturday sessions for Year 11 pupils and Sixth Form students begin tomorrow - pupils have been issues with timetables. The timetables for additional and Saturday lessons can be found on the school website in the 'Student' area.

On Tuesday, Year 11 pupils and their parents attended the Year 11 progress evening, Up the Ante. During the evening, pupils received their exam results from the summer and parents were introduced to their child's programme of study for the year ahead. Thank you to those parents who are able to attend the evening.

Next Wednesday, Youth Club returns for all Years 7 to 11 pupils. The sessions run from 15.15 to 16.15 and will take place every Wednesday. Parents should have received a letter about the start of Youth Club with a permission slip to sign if they wish their child to attend - pupils must bring the signed slip with them when they register in the canteen for Youth Club on Wednesday.

The school was very saddened to hear about the death of Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, who passed away on 1 September 2017. The late Cardinal's funeral was held this week at Westminster Cathedral and we were honoured that three of our pupils, together with a member of staff, were asked to be in attendance.

## CARDINAL CORMAC MURPHY-O'CONNOR RIP

The school community was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Archbishop of Westminster. The school hastened to offer its heartfelt condolences to the clergy and faithful of the Archdiocese. On Wednesday, three pupils from the school, Desange Nkumu and Daniele Espinoza Dume (Year 9) and Sixth Form student, Jozay Sriviki-Farrell, accompanied by Mr Asgian, attended the Requiem Funeral Mass of His Eminence Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor.

The students' reverence, piety and commitment to our faith was outstanding. Prior to the mass, they met briefly with Bishop Mark O'Toole and one of our School Governors Mr Thornhill. Bishop Mark attended St Thomas More as a schoolboy and sent his blessing and good wishes to our school community.

This mass was an opportunity to recall with immense gratitude the late Cardinal's distinguished service to the Church in England and Wales, his unwavering devotion to preaching the Gospel and the care of the poor and his farsighted commitment to the advancement of ecumenical and inter-religious understanding.

## PARENTS' ENGLISH CLASSES

For the last two years, St Thomas More School has been holding free English language classes for parents/carers of pupils. The classes are designed to provide support for those parents who want to improve their communication and English skills.

This year, the classes will be held once a week on Tuesday evening, 6.00 to 7.30 pm, starting on Tuesday, 19 September. For more information, please email [parents@stthomasmoreschool.org.uk](mailto:parents@stthomasmoreschool.org.uk) or call the General Office.



## REFLECTION FROM THE RE DEPARTMENT

### Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### St Matthew: 18:15-20:

Jesus said to his disciples, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be lost in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

#### Reflection

In today's Gospel, the disciples are given practical advice about dealing with faults and stubbornness, when suddenly the talk turns to eternity. Jesus offers them astonishing power and incredible access—the disciples might have been a little staggered by this. Perhaps these promises seem rather overwhelming to us as well. We may not think that we humble followers are ready to have our prayers answered in such a dramatic, eternal way and yet they are. Jesus is not offering us new promises, but reminding us of what we already know. When our small group of teachers gather to pray for our school community, the community grows in love. God will do what is asked in prayer—because, as we find when we pray, God has already given us what we need. Jesus will be with us when we gather in his name—because, as we find when we gather, Jesus has been with us all along.

#### Prayer

God of unity and peace, our human nature drives us to dark places of competition and comparison among ourselves. Give us the humility to see one another as you see us, as people struggling towards to the same goal—eternal life with you. Help us to work together in harmony as we strive to grow in holiness. Let us listen to each other with patience, speak to each other with gentleness, and love one another with mercy. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

## Thought for the Week

Some day everything will make perfect sense. So, for now, laugh at the confusion, smile through the tears and remind yourself that everything happens for a reason. Remember never give up.

## GIRLS CAN!

The St Thomas More's girls' sporting teams had an extremely successful year 2016-17! The girls' teams came 2nd as the overall performing school in Haringey, narrowly missing out on 1st place. This year we are aiming to achieve 1st place!

Our netball season will begin the week commencing 25 September and we will be playing Park View School. Our teams have started training and we are looking forward to an excellent season and year!

## A LEVEL DRAMA

On Thursday, 7 September, A Level Drama students went to see a production of Jim Cartwright's 'Road' at The Royal Court Theatre. It was an exciting opportunity for the students to see how the production was performed and staged by professionals, as in January they will be performing the same play as part of their exam.

The students came away with lots of ideas for their own performance and even had the opportunity to speak to some of the cast outside the theatre afterwards to pick up some top tips!

## LIBRARY BOOKS

There are a number of pupils who have not returned overdue books to the school library. Parents are asked to check that their child has returned their books from last term and if not, remind them to do so as soon as possible.

Pupils with overdue books will not be able to borrow additional books until they have returned their current, overdue items.

## Words of the Week

Monday: Foresight – Noun – The ability to predict what will happen or be needed in the future.

Tuesday: Arbitrary – Adjective – Based on random choice or personal whim rather than any reason or system.

Wednesday: Scrupulous – Adjective - Having moral integrity. Thorough and extremely attentive to detail.

Thursday: Palpable – Adjective - A feeling or atmosphere so intense as to seem almost tangible; plain to see or comprehend.

Friday: Flippant – Adjective - Lacking proper respect or seriousness, not showing a serious or respectful attitude.