



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

08 December 2017

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday, 11 December 2017

- Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge Workshop for Year 10

Tuesday, 12 December 2017

- Access Project Parents' Meeting (17:30-18:30)

Wednesday, 13 December 2017

- Lunchtime Concert - Violin Ensemble (13:45-14:00)
- Youth Club (15:15-17:15)
- Prize Giving Evening (18:00-20:00)

Thursday, 14 December 2017

- Senior Citizens Christmas Party

INTRODUCTION

This week, we held our annual school production, this year being Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. The cast put on a number of amazing performances, with many stars in the making! We have been inundated with such positive reviews from those in the audience. Our thanks, of course, go to the cast for all their hard work and excellent performance but also those involved in the organisation, in particular the Music and Drama departments.

Next Wednesday we have our annual Prize Giving Evening, starting at 6.00pm. Tickets are now being issued to pupils.

The end of term is always very busy, with many activities taking place. A letter has been issued with important dates and information. Please note that our last PREP session for this year will be Friday, 15 December. There will be no PREP during the last week of term.

As the weather becomes colder, we ask parents to remind their children that hoodies are not allowed and outdoor coats must be plain dark blue or black. Hats should only be beanie style and should also only be dark blue or black, as should scarves.

SAFEGUARDING CATHOLIC EDUCATION

The Diocese has asked us to share the information and encourage parents and our school community to be proactive in helping overturn the cap. The Secretary of State has acknowledged the policy to cap Catholic admissions has been ineffective and has adversely affected Catholic families.

Included in their letter is a link to the Catholic Education Services form for members of the public to make their voices heard. Parents can follow the link here to join the CES' campaign: <http://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/guidance-for-schools/item/1003640-safeguard-the-future-of-catholic-education>

BRUNEL URBAN SCHOLARS

On Saturday, 2 December, a group of Year 13 students graduated from their three year programme as Urban Scholars at Brunel University.

The programme helps nurture and support students as they grow and move towards their future. Not only is the programme exciting and challenging but also offers additional opportunities such as visits to outside agencies with a variety of expertise on hand. Critical Thinking has been one aspect of the programme that the students have particularly enjoyed as it goes beyond the normal school curriculum and the inspirational speakers make you feel you can do anything!

Congratulations to the graduates!

SCHOOL PRODUCTION OF JOSEPH

This week saw months of preparation for the school production culminate in two evening shows and a performance to local primary school pupils, of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. Packed audiences of parents, staff, school governors and special guests, revelled in professional, polished and uplifting performances.

The drama, music, art and media departments have worked tirelessly over the last few months to ensure the show was a great success, and the cast of pupils wowed audiences with their musical and acting talents. The school has received wonderful feedback from many of those who came to see one of the performances - pupils should feel very proud of their hard work and commitment to the production.

Well done to everyone involved and we look forward to watching next year's production!



REFLECTION FROM THE RE DEPARTMENT

Reflection on the Gospel: Mark 13: 33: 3-7

Jesus said to his disciples: "Watch out and be ready! You don't know when the time will come. It is like what happens when a man goes away for a while and places his servants in charge of everything. He tells each of them what to do, and he orders the watch men to be on their guard. "So be on your guard! You don't know when the master of the house will come back. It could be in the evening or at midnight or before dawn or in the morning. But if he comes suddenly, don't let him find you asleep. I tell everyone just what I have told you. Be on your guard!"

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us to be prepared. To get ready. What are we supposed to get ready for? Each year the Church invites us to remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus, God's gift to us. Each one of us has a birthday – the day we were born. Jesus was born and grew up just like us. When Jesus was older he taught many people many things about God. Jesus taught the little children that God loves each one of us.

Today, the Church celebrates the Liturgical New Year: Advent Cycle B of the three cycles of Sunday readings. The seasons of Advent and Christmas celebrate the "coming" of Jesus. The preparation during Advent has a three-fold purpose. The Coming of Jesus in the flesh, Immanuel, "God with us"; The Coming of Jesus in the Eucharist, "This is My Body, My Blood" food for the journey; and the preparation for the Second Coming, Parousia "presence" or "arrival" of Jesus coming to make way for His faithful Servants— those who keep watch.

During this time of Advent we are given four whole weeks to prepare for the Coming of Jesus. A long time to wait. To help us remember how long we need to wait, a special decoration is made, called an Advent wreath - four candles placed around a circle of evergreen. Three candles are purple, like the colours in church, and one candle is pink. When the pink one is lit, we know it is not long before Christmas is here. The Light of Christ burns evergreen with life in a circle of love that is never-ending.

Prayer

Jesus, you want us to be ready so we will see you when you come, even if we don't know when. I want to be ready and need your help. Come Lord Jesus into my heart.
Amen

Thought for the Week

"Successful people maintain a positive focus in life no matter what is going on around them. They stay focused on their past successes rather than their past failures, and on the next action steps they need to take to get them closer to the fulfilment of their goals rather than all the other distractions that life presents to them".

SPORT

The Year 7 basketball team has ended the year in emphatic style comfortably beating their neighbouring schools in the Haringey League.

The first match was against Park View on Monday, which saw our Year 7 team control the game throughout the four quarters. The final score ended 13-8 to St Thomas More School and Shamah Onyinah was named player of the match.

On Thursday evening, the Year 7 team went down to Highgate Wood to test out their ability on the west side of the borough. St Thomas More looked extremely sharp, implementing several screens and plays they learnt in training. The final score ended 27-10 to St Thomas More School! Hamilton Mhatta, Jonatan Drzewiecki, Cayden Nuhu and Prince Boateng impressed the most on the evening.

The Year 7 basketball team have been invited by the Enfield Games Organiser to play in the Enfield basketball tournament in January. This has been down to their recent success in the Haringey Basketball Cup - well done to the team!



Words of the Week

Monday: Insatiable (Adjective) – Impossible to satisfy (of an appetite or desire).

Tuesday: Advocate (Verb) – Publicly recommend or support.
(Noun) – A person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause of policy; a person who puts forward a case on someone else's behalf.

Wednesday: Visceral (Adjective) – Relating to deep inward feelings/instinct rather than intellect.

Thursday: Eclectic (Adjective) – Deriving ideas, style, or taste from a broad and diverse range of sources.
(Noun) – A person who derives ideas, styles or tastes from a broad and diverse range of sources.

Friday: Coherent (Adjective) – Able to speak clearly and logically; consistent and forming a unified whole.