



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

13th March 2020

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday 16 March 2020
• Mock Exams Continue
Tuesday 17 March 2020
• Mock Exams continue
Wednesday 18 March 2020
• Mock Exams continue
• Year 10 Trip to Globe Theatre (11:30-16:30)
Thursday 19 March 2020
• Mock Exams continue
• St Joseph's Day
• Trip to Southbank Centre for Music students (10:30- 15:00)
Friday 20 March 2020
• Mock Exams Continue
• Year 11 RE Drop Down Day
• Year 9 English Trip to Barbican
• AS Drama Performance

INTRODUCTION

This week has been Science Week where a range of activities have been taking place throughout the week. On Tuesday evening we had our Science Fair which was a great success. We had over 40 groups displaying the Science projects they have been working on for months.

On Wednesday, the Urban Zoo visited. Unfortunately the planned visit to the Big Bang exhibition did not go ahead as the event was cancelled. This has been the case for a number of trips in the last week. We will always try to notify parents of cancellations as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, there has been some miscommunication and scaremongering with regards the coronavirus situation. Please be assured that the school will follow any advice it receives from the Department for Education or Public Health England. Currently it is clear that schools are expected to remain open and to continue to educate the children. Clearly this is a very important time for many pupils who will be sitting external exams in a number of months. It is important that they are supported and helped to work hard.

As a school we are doing all we can to educate the pupils about the importance of regularly washing hands and using the hand sanitizers available around the school. Hand sanitizers have been fitted to all the entrance doors of our school canteen. Pupils are all being encouraged to use them upon entry.

We will keep parents informed of any future developments or changes to the advice given.

Mr Rowland
Head of School

SCIENCE WEEK

All things Science have been celebrated this week with activities taking place throughout the school. The Science Fair on Tuesday was a huge success with large numbers of exhibitors (see photo below) and visitors.

The Urban Zoo visited the school on Wednesday giving pupils a chance to see and touch various animals.



EASTER EGG DONATIONS

Every year at this time we ask pupils to bring in Easter Eggs to donate to the school's charities. It is that time again - please can you donate an egg to those who might not otherwise be able to enjoy them. The collection will be continuing until the end of the term.



RE

Gospel Reflection:

Gospel Reading Matthew 17: Verses 1:9

Jesus climbs a mountain with three of his disciples and there he is transfigured. In a few weeks, we will contemplate his going up another mountain on which his face will be disfigured. On the first occasion, there was a dazzling bright light. On the second occasion, there was darkness over all the land.

The experiences of light help us go through experiences of darkness in our lives. The disciples had to remember the revelation of God's face in order to confront the Cross. At times, we have to remind ourselves and others of God's blessings in order to stand firm in the moment of trial. We need to be alert to those around us who may need that sort of encouragement.

Prayer:

O God, you have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Week Beginning 16th March 2020

Year of the Word 'The God who speaks'

The night is nearly over, day is almost here. Let us stop doing the things that belong to the dark, and let us take up weapons for fighting in the light (Romans 12: 13).

Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire (St Catherine of Siena).

Year 7 Retreats:

Over the last three weeks our Year 7 pupils took part in retreats with the theme "Come follow me". The students were able to complete activities as a team; they learnt how to care and share with each other.

Retreats are a valuable opportunity to take time to be with God and to nurture our inner spiritual life. In addition, an important factor in the emotionality of the retreat is the level of intimacy in discussions. Learning how to relate to others at a personal level was an important developmental task for the students.

During the retreat students enjoyed the thrill of being able to relate in a friendly and relaxed way in discussing personal matters, something they often find so difficult in other contexts.

They all thoroughly enjoyed the retreats and are looking forward to the next one in Year 8.

Thought for the Week

To succeed, you need to find something to hold on to, something to motivate you, something to inspire you.

When you show deep empathy toward others, their defensive energy goes down, and positive energy replaces it. That is when you can get more creative in solving problems.

MOCK TRIALS COMPETITION

On Saturday 7th March, a team of budding lawyers competed in the regional Mock Trials competition. We were given a specially constructed criminal case, and fought prosecution and defence cases against other schools. All students thoroughly enjoyed the experience, learnt so much about the criminal justice system, and developed their critical thinking skills.

Prince Boateng and Yasmin Zorba won awards for outstanding performances. Congratulations to all.



DANCE WORKSHOP

Bonnie Odie, a professional choreographer, ran a dance workshop with pupils from Years 7 and 8 this week. Pupils have been invited to attend Collage Arts weekly classes in Haringey's Cultural Quarters and should see Mrs Rosen/Miss Bevan for further details.



SPORTS

Year 7 Football

The Year 7 boys' team dropped points for the first time this season against Gladesmore school. Two goals from Mardochee and Kaleve meant the game finished 2-2. They remain top of the football league.

Year 7 Basketball- Jr NBA League

Two comfortable victories against Riverside and Evelyn Grace in Brixton, ensured St Thomas More cruise into the semi-final play offs this week.

Year 8 Football

The Year 8 boys competed in the Haringey 7-a-side football tournament this term and took home the bronze medal. Congratulations to the pupils who participated.

Tottenham Foundation Football Programme

We have started a football programme with Tottenham Foundation this term, taking place on Mondays and Fridays from 3:30 for Year 7-11 boys. They will be trained by Tottenham Foundation football coaches. Any pupils wanting to take part should see Mr Ameh for a letter of consent.

Words of the Week

Monday- Iconic - (Adjective) - An iconic image or thing is important or impressive because it seems to be a symbol of something.

Tuesday- Resurgence - (Noun) - an increase or revival after a period of little activity, popularity, or occurrence; a continuing after interruption; a renewal.

Wednesday- Rapport- (Noun) - a close and harmonious relationship in which the people or groups concerned understand each other's feelings or ideas and communicate well.

Thursday- Ratify- (Verb) - Sign or give formal consent to (a treaty, contract, or agreement), making it officially valid.

Friday- Convivial - (Adjective) - (of an atmosphere or event or person) friendly, lively, and enjoyable.