



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

26 May 2017

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, 30 May - Friday 2 June 2017

- School Choir Tour to the Netherlands

Monday, 5 June 2017

- A Level Drama Devising Residency

Tuesday, 6 June 2017

- A Level Drama Devising Residency
- Year 8 Self-Esteem Workshop (15:15-16:15)

Wednesday, 7 June 2017

- A Level Drama Devising Residency
- Youth Club (15:15-17:15)

Thursday, 8 June 2017

- A Level Drama Devising Residency
- Year 8 Fire Brigade Workshop (09:10-11:10)

Friday, 9 June 2017

- A Level Drama Devising Residency
- BBC Music Day
- Duke of Edinburgh Meeting (15:10-16:10)

INTRODUCTION

This week in school, the pupils have had the opportunity to learn and take part in discussions about the forthcoming General Election.

Next week on Tuesday, our School Choir will leave for their tour of the Netherlands. We wish them well and look forward to hearing about their performances.

Next week we also have a full timetable of extra sessions for Year 11 and Sixth Form students. Sessions will run from Tuesday to Saturday. Timetables have been issued to pupils and are available on the school website.

MOCK ELECTION

On Friday, 26 May, St Thomas More Catholic School held a Mock Election because of the fact that many of us in the school (excluding teachers) are not old enough to vote. During Form Time this week, form tutors discussed the manifestos of the main parties and the Prime Minister's Election Officers were picked within the year groups.

During break and lunch time today, the school was invited to come to the polling stations located in the Glendale Hall to cast their votes. Overall 370 pupils voted (a 30% turnout). As for the results, Labour won with 75% of the votes, in second was the Liberal Democrats with 8% of votes, following on with UKIP (7.5%), Conservatives (5%) and the Green Party (4.5%).

POLITICAL DEBATE

During the Year 10 assembly today, the school held a political debate focusing on the forthcoming General Election. Labour Cllr Peter Mitchell and Conservative party representative Mike Burgess responded to our invitation to speak to pupils and took up the task of addressing the whole of Year 10.

The format was simple - both representatives had 10 minutes to address the year group and put forward their views on their party's manifesto. The pupils then had the opportunity to raise questions and ask for clarification or explanation of any points they found relevant or important. There were some fantastic questions focussing on a variety of important issues such as Brexit, crime, grammar schools, international terrorism, extremism and university education. Both representatives were warmly received and hugely impressed by the passion and degree of political engagement shown by the students.



By Toni-Rose Gomez, Year 7

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

We have reached the stage of Eastertide when the Gospels are looking forward to the coming of the Holy Spirit. In this week's Gospel, Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as the Advocate, the Spirit of truth. An advocate is one who supports us, pleads our cause, looks after our interest and is by our side. We can feel the Holy Spirit in our lives, guiding us and helping us through difficult moments. As we move towards Pentecost in the next two weeks, we can reflect on the Holy Spirit and how it is there for us at all times.

MANCHESTER ARENA ATTACK

As a school community, we were all shocked and appalled at the terrible events in Manchester earlier this week, where 22 people lost their lives and many more were injured. It is difficult to comprehend the massive effect it has had on families, schools and the community in Manchester. Yesterday, we stood together, as with the rest of the country, in a minute's silence and have been praying for those who need our prayers at this very difficult time.

The school has had contact from the Metropolitan Police about the extra measures being put in place to help keep us all safe. As half-term is upon us, a time when people and particular children enjoy themselves, we need to keep "business as usual" but also to be extra vigilant. Should you see or notice anything suspicious, please speak to a police officer, telephone 101 or call the Anti-Terrorism Hotline on 0800 789 321 to report to a trained member of staff in confidence.

CATHOLIC CUP

Last Friday, the Sixth Form Football team led the school to a 2-1 victory over Richard Challenor School in the Catholic Cup Final! Due to a number of injuries, some of the school's Year 11 players stepped up to lend a boot or two.

After two well-fought halves, the score was 1-1 at full time meaning the two teams would have to battle it out in extra-time. It wasn't until the second half of extra time that the St Thomas More boys pushed forward and Daniel Sporni smashed the ball with vigour into the empty net. Richard Challoner posed little threat in the dying embers of the game and the boys deservedly lifted the cup and were crowned this year's Catholic Schools Cup winners.

Congratulations to the team: Mack (Year11), Georgie L, Brandon F (Year 11), Samuel A, Dennis S, Hany C, Bereket, Phillip N, Tareef, Krasimir K, Babak, Joshua I, Daniel S, Alkeo B, Jaiden P, Yuri Costa and Erhan L.

Thought for the Week

"Learning, in all curriculum areas, is required to offer opportunities to raise, discuss and develop tolerance of the wide variety of viewpoints in our local and national community."

GCSE DRAMA

Congratulations to the Year 10 GCSE Drama pupils who performed their devised pieces to a sell out audience this week.

The pupils created their own performances in response to the poem 'Home' by Warsan Shire and covered a range of topics from female empowerment, a response to the refugee crisis and a warning about the rise of knife crime.



Words of the Week

Monday : Gourmet (Noun): A connoisseur of good food; a person with a discerning palate; of a kind or standard suitable for a gourmet.

Tuesday : Formidable (Adjective): Inspiring fear or respect through being impressively large, powerful, intense, or capable.

Wednesday : Pedagogy (Noun): The method and practice of teaching. The term generally refers to strategies of instruction, or a style of instruction.

Thursday : Ambience (Noun): The character and atmosphere of a place.

Friday: Intricate (Adjective): Very complicated or detailed.