



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

20 April 2018

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday, 23 April 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none">HPV Vaccinations for Year 8 Girls (09:00-11:10)PTA Meeting (18:30-19:30)
Tuesday 24 April 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 9 IU 'Introduction to University Life' Workshop (09:10-11:10)Year 10 (Group 1) IU 'Education Choices' Workshop (11:30-13:30)Year 11 English Trip to see DNA (12:00-16:30)Haringey Music Festival Primary School Choirs Rehearsal (13:30-15:30)
Wednesday, 25 April 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Year 9 Trip to Sussex UniversityYouth Club (15:15-17:15)
Thursday, 26 April 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none">A Level Sociology Booster Day at StratfordMacbeth Broadcast for Year 11 PupilsPractical A Level PE Exam at Enfield Grammar (08:00-13:00)GCSE Year 10 Drama Showcase (16:15-17:15)
Friday, 27 March 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Choir Practice (15:15-16:15)

INTRODUCTION

We have returned from the Easter break to extremely hot weather which is not due to last, unfortunately. We ask parents to remind their child that they must have their blazer at all times. Jumpers and coats can be left at home.

Well done to all the pupils who attended the extra sessions during the Easter break and thank you to all of the staff who gave up their time to support pupils in their preparation for the exams. It is now only three weeks before the external exams start.

Today we have a large number of Year 8 pupils out on a trip to the Battlefields in Belgium. They left in the early hours of the morning and are due back late tonight.

As mentioned before Easter, we have the expectation that all pupils have the basic equipment of a pen, pencil and ruler for every lesson. We ask parents to support us in checking that their child has the correct equipment before they leave for school each day. An X will be issued to pupils who do not have their equipment with them.

Letters have been given to Year 9 pupils to take home about the forthcoming Parents' Evening on Wednesday, 2 May, 5.00 - 7.00pm. We encourage all parents of Year 9 pupils to attend this evening to meet with teachers as pupils have now studied their GCSE subjects for two terms and it will be a good opportunity to review pupils' progress.

YEAR 12 EASTER SCHOOL

Seven Year 12 students recently attended the Easter School run by TeachFirst. The four day residential programme at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge gives students an opportunity to experience degree-level subject sessions run by world-class academics and insight into the pathways and careers that can follow from university. During the Easter School, Abigail Kimpalu (Chemistry), Klara Patseva (Italian Literature) and Anahy Mercado Zambrana (Engineering) won prizes in their respective subject streams.

Four students have also successfully applied for the highly competitive Insight Into Bristol Summer School. They are Chidumebi Ben-Nwankwo, Klara Patseva, Maja Maciurzynska and Nikola Kisielewska. Over 1000 students applied for just 240 places! Among the benefits is a guaranteed offer or interview to the university.

SPORT

Table Tennis - A number of our pupils represented the school in the Jack Petchey Table Tennis Competition. Richard Huang and Victor Ostapenko competed in the Under 15 competition and took the gold and silver medals! Both pupils beat their competitors by a large margin. Table Tennis Club is run every Tuesday from 3.10pm in the school gym.

Hubert Graczyk in Year 10 has been working very hard with Arsenal F.C. His efforts have earned him a call up for the Under 16 England National Team. Hubert is due to receive his first cap for England in the forthcoming weeks - good luck to him!

Football - This week, the Year 8 football team played against the well established Chettle Court Rangers. The boys put up a fantastic performance and marginally lost 5-4. Thomas Mansaray (2) and Ronnie Kabongo (2) scored the goals on the day. The Under 17 boys have progressed into the final of the Middlesex Cup after beating Alec Reed 7-1. The scorers on the day were Eddy Mobanza, Aaron Akinyemi (3), Jeremiah Luwero, Peter Nyugen and Kristian Mikeli. The boys will play against Drayton Manor in the finals.



REFLECTION FROM THE RE DEPARTMENT

Gospel Reading: John 10: 11-18

Jesus tells us in today's gospel that he is the Good Shepherd. He makes a distinction between good shepherds, hired hands, and wolves. As a good shepherd, Jesus knows his sheep and his sheep know him. He is so devoted to his sheep that he is willing to die for them. Not only is this image fitting for Jesus and God's people, but it helps explain the love of God for his son.

Prayer

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, in reparation for my sins, for the intentions of all my relatives and friends, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father.

Amen.

EASTER REFLECTION

On the last day of term, we held our Easter service which was a wonderful celebration of faith and community that characterises our school. The choir sung beautifully and the drama was fantastic - thank you to the drama and music departments. It was very impressive to see the prayerful way in which our students conducted themselves during the Easter Service.

The Religious Studies department collected an impressive amount of Easter Eggs before the end of term. This was distributed to the Cardinal Hume Centre for the Homeless and the Catholic Children Society at Westminster. The school also had enough Easter Eggs to deliver to a charity that helps disabled Children in Barnet. A big thank you to parents and staff for making this possible. We collected over £1000.00 before the end of term when we had our non-uniform day. This will be distributed to various charities.



Thought for the Week

"Pessimism leads to weakness; optimism leads to power. Inspiration comes from within you. One has to be positive. When you're positive, good things happen."

MENTOR PROGRAMME

A huge congratulations to Meena Chiu, Tania Chanda, Dayna Jonjo, Harris Kenny, Razvan Vlascenau, Wilfred Tchaptchet, Isaiah Graham, Elijah Campbell, Daniela Tavares, Shantel McKenzie, Monica Sarpong and Abena Ashalley for successfully completing the Motivational Report Programme.



CAFOD YOUNG LEADERS

The CAFOD Young Leadership Programme enables pupils to learn about justice issues with CAFOD and develop various transferable skills like leadership, communication and time management. Five of our Sixth Form students took part in the programme and had excellent feedback throughout their sessions. Led by Sarah, a member of CAFOD, she introduced our pupils to the 'Power to Be' campaign, which taught our students about how every child has the power in them to achieve great things, no matter what background they come from. Our students were touched by the campaign and are using the skills they learnt from the sessions to inspire others.



Words of the Week

Monday: Negligible (Adjective) – So small or unimportant as to be not worth considering; insignificant.

Tuesday: Bastion (Noun) – 1) An institution, place or person strongly maintaining particular principles, attitudes or activities. 2) Any fortified place.

Wednesday: Vestige (Noun) – A trace or remnant of something that is disappearing or no longer exists.

Thursday: Scrutinize (Verb) – Examine or inspect closely and thoroughly.

Friday: Acrimonious (Adjective) – Angry and bitter (typically of speech or discussion)