



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

16 March 2018

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, 20 March 2018

- Science Week - A Level Workshop at London Met
- A Level Economics (Year 13) Revision Conference at Conway Hall

Wednesday 21 March 2018

- Year 10 GCSE Music Recital in Glendale Hall (13:40-14:10)
- Youth Club (15:15-17:15)

Thursday, 22 March 2018

- Year 13 Philosophy and Ethics Conference at Bloomsbury
- Years 7/8 London Indoor Athletics Finals at Crystal Palace (11:00-18:00)

Friday, 23 March 2018

- Mock Exams
- Choir Practice (15:15-16:15)

INTRODUCTION

This week has been Science Week and the school has held several activities to celebrate. On Wednesday, we held our Science Fair where pupils from Years 7 to 10 presented their projects which they have been preparing in their own time. The response to the fair was amazing - thank you to all the parents who came to support the event. There were 59 students demonstrating a vast array of scientific elements. Well done to all the pupils involved and particular thanks to the science department for all their hard work supporting the pupils.

Next Friday, our final mock exams begin. Timetables have been issued to pupils and these can also be found on the school website.

Pupil Equipment: Unfortunately, a large number of pupils are not bringing essential equipment into school which is making it very difficult during lessons. We ask parents to support us in ensuring the children have the basics of a pen, pencil, ruler, eraser and calculator. We are reminding pupils about the importance of having the correct equipment but after Easter, we will issue an X to those missing equipment and hence not ready to learn. Thank you in advance for your support.

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

This week, the school took part in British Science Week and held a number of fantastic events for pupils across the year groups. The week kicked off with a visit from Urban Zoo who brought snakes, lizards, chinchillas, giant snails and rats to exhibit and, for the brave few pupils and staff, to handle! Pupils had a wonderful time learning about the different animals and broadening their knowledge by taking part in the hands-on-activities.



On Tuesday and Friday we welcomed guest speaker Dr Paulo Oliva from Queen Mary University who spoke to pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9. Dr Oliva explored the topic 'The mind of the machine: Artificial Intelligence?' On Wednesday, we held our much anticipated Science Fair where pupils presented to parents, peers, governors and special guests their projects and experiments that they had spent months working on. As well as the exhibitions on show, the school also held a minute's silence to remember Professor Stephen Hawking who sadly passed this week.

Congratulations to the following winners for their projects:
1st Place: Kim Ly (9BK1) and Mannab Berhanu (9BK1) - **Laminar Flow**
2nd Place: Sorcha Gotthjalpsen (7MC2) and Chloe Turner (7KL1) - **Solar Oven**
3rd Place: Viktoriya Skubik (8DX1) and Lydia Mesfin (8DX1) - **Heart Valves**

Special Mention Awards:
Emmanuel Atta (10DX2) and Massie Barnes (10DX2) - **Artificial Pancreas**
Rayneisha Cordice (10BK2) and Rita Mazve (10MC1) - **Organic Soaps**

On Thursday, 49 Year 7 pupils attended a trip to the Big Bang Fair at Birmingham NEC. The pupils were able to take part in engaging interactive activities and improve their knowledge in STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and maths). Thank you to the science department all those involved in a very successful Science Week.



WORLD BOOK DAY

Last Friday we held our belated World Book Day. In St Thomas More tradition, staff were encouraged to dress up as a literary character from their year group's assigned genre. It was remarkable to see characters such as Pennywise (Mr Dolan), Friar Lawrence (Mr Gaughran) and Dr Jekyll (Mr De Groot) walking the school corridors for the day.

We also ran two competitions that offered pupils a chance to explore their creative boundaries: a bookmark competition and a creative writing competition. Congratulations to Esteban (7BK2) for his winning bookmark, and Patricia (7DX1) and Rous (9MC2) for coming top of their Key Stage. Congratulations also to Angela (7BK1) for winning the writing competition with her fantastic entry 'Thoughts Aloud'. Similarly, commendations were awarded to Isabella (7KL3) and Rita Manve (10MC1) for coming top of their Key Stage. All three bookmarks and short stories have been printed and are in circulation for



World Book Day competition winners with Mr O'Connor

SPORT

The Year 8 basketball team kicked off their season with a fixture against Highgate Wood School.

The boys initially looked apprehensive but showed their true quality as they progressed throughout the game. Chukwudi Dioramma scored the most points as he posted up his markers and took many close range shots. Ikenna Johnson proved difficult for the opposing team as he scored many lay ups for us. Thomas Oduro and Gabriel Boateng were setting many screens and driving to the basket to ensure the victory was cemented. The final score finished 58-26 to St Thomas More School!

The Year 8 team will now play against Ark John Keats Academy in the next few weeks.

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's when you can get more creative in solving problems".

REFLECTION FROM THE RE DEPARTMENT

Gospel Reading: (John 12:20-33)

Jesus answered them, "Amen, Amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit... Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honour whoever serves me."

Jesus announces that the hour is near when God will glorify him. Jesus knows that his earthly ministry will end and that he must endure the cross before he returns to be glorified by his father. In a way to help his disciples understand what must happen, Jesus compares the phenomena to a grain. A grain of wheat must die and therefore no longer look like itself, in order for new life to come from it. Like the disciples, we only know the finality of this world, but Jesus assures us that, like the grain of wheat, when we die, new life will come from that death.

Prayer

Jesus, we seek refuge in your loving heart and so we pray:
For the grace to be your servant,
For all members of the Society who model a life of service,
For our families and friends who teach us how to be compassionate,
For all those who are suffering, especially the sick and the dying, Jesus, keep them close to you.
Amen

DRAMA DEPARTMENT

Pupils from Year 8 will be performing the Heritage Horror Show 'Two In One' on Saturday, 24 March at Alexandra Palace. The performance is a culmination of pupils' research on Victorian Theatre. Tickets are available from The Eventbrite link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/heritage-horror-show-two-in-one-tickets-43744165978>

Words of the Week

Monday: Emulate (Verb) – Match or surpass (a person or achievement), typically by imitation; imitate.

Tuesday: Untenable (Adjective) – Not able to be maintained or defended against attack or objection (especially of a position or view).

Wednesday: Ruminant (Verb): 1. Think deeply about something. 2. (Of a ruminant) Chew the cud.

Thursday: Nuance (Noun) – A subtle difference in or shade of meaning, expression or sound. Verb: Give nuances to.

Friday: Elucidate (Verb) – Make something clear; explain, to make something that is hard to understand clear or easy to understand.