



# St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

22 November 2019

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Monday, 25 November 2019

- School Production Week

### Tuesday, 26 November 2019

- School Production of Hairspray to Primary Schools

### Wednesday, 27 November 2019

- Non-Uniform Day - Red Wednesday
- School Production of Hairspray to Primary Schools
- GCSE Music Lunchtime Concert

### Thursday, 28 November 2019

- Mock Exams
- School Production of Hairspray to Year 7

### Friday, 29 November 2019

- Mock Exams
- Sixth Form Geography Hazards Conference
- Geography and DT trip to Thames Barrier

## INTRODUCTION

Pupils in Year 10, 11 and Sixth Form are working very hard on their revision for the first set of mock exams which start next week. The full timetable is available on the school website. All pupils have been issued with a timetable along with revision information.

Last night (Thursday) a number of Sixth Form students visited Kew Gardens for 'Kew at Christmas'. They had a great experience and were treated to some spectacular sights and lights.

Next Wednesday is 'Red Wednesday'. The school will have a non-uniform day in aid of charity. A reminder that we encourage pupils to wear something red and stress bandanas are not allowed.

Our school production is next Wednesday and Thursday evening. This year it will be 'Hairspray' and no doubt another excellent production. There are only a few tickets left, so if you would like to come, please get your child to purchase the tickets, alternatively tickets can be bought from the reception.

I would also like to inform you that aerosols are no longer permitted on site. This is due to a number of our pupils having serious allergies. Please remind your child that these will no longer be permitted at school, and therefore should no longer bring them in. We do encourage pupils to bring roll on.

Thank you for your support.

## SCIENCE CLUB

Last Wednesday during Science Club we had a visitor in from the Royal Academy of Engineering. Students were introduced to coding through hands-on activities based around the theme of emergency services.



## HAIRSPRAY PERFORMANCE

Our school production of Hairspray is taking place this week on Wednesday 27th November and Thursday 28th November at 6pm in Glendale Hall. Tickets are selling fast and are now limited. Please contact the school ASAP if you are interested in attending.

## READING FOR PLEASURE INITIATIVES

This year the school is launching a wide range of new initiatives to promote Reading for Pleasure. As part of that, we will have a regular corner in the Parents' Newsletter, where the Reading Team will update you on reading-related events and share book recommendations.

International evidence shows that reading for pleasure not only helps young people succeed at school; it is also key to developing imagination, empathy, and identity. However, at secondary school age, a large number of young people stop reading. At age 11, nearly 80% of young people report that they enjoy reading. By age 16, that figure drops to a staggering 53% for girls and 36% for boys. The St Thomas More community is ready to change that! Stay tuned and join our Reading for Pleasure campaign.



## GIRLS NETBALL

The netball teams played against Dukes Aldridge Academy on Monday. The Year 7 netball team finished their match winning 6-0. Lily Pereira Dos Santos was named woman of the match. Year 8 finished their first half with a 7-0 win. They were incredibly determined to finish the match with a clean sheet and won an amazing 12-0. Dayanna Ortiz Ramirez was named woman of the match. Year 9 won 9-5 and Nayla McClean-Jhinnoo was named woman of the match. Unfortunately Year 10 did not win. They played very well but lost 3-1. Yasmin Young-Clarke was named woman of the match.

## GOSPEL REFLECTION (Luke 21:5-19) Believe in Me

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle C

Jesus predicts the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem and warns his followers that persecution will come before the end time. In the context of Luke, today's Gospel appears near the end of Jesus' teaching in Jerusalem, prior to the events that will lead to his crucifixion. His warnings and predictions are ominous but can be read in many ways. Jesus is assuring his followers that God is present to all believers, even in times of trouble. Ultimately, Jesus will witness to this with his own death. As disciples of Jesus, we try to follow his example, trusting in God's mercy and protection, even when we are facing difficulties.

### PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of faith which each of us has been given. Help us to share it with whoever we meet. Amen.

## WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

This week is World Day of the Poor. This day was introduced by Pope Francis a couple of years ago so that we may pray and support the poor, locally and worldwide. Let us continue to remember all of the poor people in our daily prayers.

## 'A GOD WHO SPEAKS' YEAR OF THE WORD

This week's quote: Do not be anxious about anything, put everything in prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. All the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4: 6-7).

## Thought for the Week

I truly believe that everything that we do and everyone that we meet is put in our path for a purpose. There are no accidents; we're all teachers. If we're willing to pay attention to the lessons we learn, trust our positive instincts and not be afraid to take risks, or wait for some miracle to come knocking at our door.

## BOYS SPORTS

The Year 7 basketball team have started their Junior NBA league with a strong performance scoring 58-10 against Heartlands. The Under 14 basketball team beat Alexandra Park 62-19 to progress into the Haringey basketball final. Boys U15 volleyball are Haringey champions for the 4th year in a row. Well done to Junior, Keanu, Chukwudi & Jacob for continuing the legacy. Year 11 student Quaine Bartley has officially received a scholar contract from his club - AFC Wimbledon & Khayon Edwards in Year 11 has also signed a scholar contract with Arsenal this week. We wish both of them every success in their future careers.

## MOCK TRIALS ENRICHMENT CLUB

The lawyers of tomorrow are thoroughly enjoying the challenge of examining a criminal case and preparing both prosecution and defence cases, for the upcoming Mock Trials competition which will take place in a real Crown Court. The exciting and challenging competition develops students' understanding of the criminal justice system, builds their confidence, and gives them a taste of all the different roles involved in the Police and Courts of Law. Any students in years 8 or 9 who would like to join the legal team, please see Ms Daniels.



## 'BLANK & TOUCHING THE VOID PRODUCTIONS'

GCSE and A-level students saw a production of 'Blank' this week at the Donmar Warehouse which explored the impact of the criminal justice system on women and their families. While 35 Year 9 drama pupils watched 'Touching the Void' at The Duke of York Theatre, this retold the real life story of Joe Simpson near-fatal climb of Siula Grande in the Cordillera Huayhuash in the Andes.

## Words of the Week

Monday– Bewildered- Adjective- Perplexed and confused; very puzzled.

Tuesday – Camouflage – Verb- Hide or disguise the presence of a person, animal, or object (by means of camouflage).

Wednesday– Mollify– Verb- Appease the anger or anxiety of (someone).

Thursday– Infatuation- Noun- An intense but short-lived passion or admiration for someone or something.

Friday– Avarice – Noun- Extreme greed for wealth or material gain.