



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

29 November 2019

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday, 2 December 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none">No events
Tuesday, 3 December 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none">No events
Wednesday, 4 December 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mock Exams
Thursday, 5 December 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mock Exams
Friday, 6 December 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mock Exams

INTRODUCTION

This week we were treated to our amazing school production of 'Hairspray'. There were 5 performances, 2 matinees for our local catholic primary schools, along with Earlham Primary School, our closest neighbour. A matinee for our Year 7 pupils and 2 evening performances. Our evening performances were sold out. The talent that we have in our pupil body was very clear as they sang, danced and acted on the stage. The show could challenge any West End performance. Well done to all the cast and all the staff that made the production so wonderful.

Also this week our first set of mock exams are taking place starting with Year 11, with Year 10 and Sixth Form next week. Pupils are studying hard and we look forward to some very good results and clear indications to pupils where they need to improve to ensure excellent grades next summer.

Thank you to all the staff and pupils that supported 'Red Wednesday'. The school raised over £950. As Christmas draws ever near at St Thomas More, we think of how we can help those in need at this time. We are now collecting non-perishable food, dry good - rice, pasta, tinned foods etc. to create hampers for those in need. Please send in donations with your child.

We are also collecting goods for a Christmas hamper we would like to raffle at our school Carol Service on Wednesday 18th December. If you would like to donate to this, please send items with your child, or drop them into the school reception. Proceeds made from the raffle will go to the charities we support.

SCIENCE CLUB

A-Level Biology students enjoyed a busy day on Friday 22nd November at the Apollo Victoria Theatre. They met 5 scientists working at the cutting edge of their specialisms.

The sessions were thought-provoking and gave the students the chance to raise questions and have interesting discussions with the scientists.



WEEKLY BOOK CLUBS

A major focus of our school is to develop a reading culture across all Key Stages. Recent studies suggest that a pupil's ability to comprehend any given text is directly related to their reading speed, which highlights the need to ensure all pupils are consistently reading. Our school have an extensive availability of Book Clubs on offer that are run by teachers in the English Department: Ms Mackay, Miss Ward, Mr Strickland, Ms Daniels, Ms Dag, Mr Frederick, Ms Chandler. The clubs are after school on a daily basis and are open to any pupils that wish to attend. They are 3:10-3:40 for reading circles and group discussions. Pupils are currently reading the following novels: A Monster Calls, The Hate U Give, The Handmaid's Tale, The Great Gatsby and The Life of Pi. Please encourage your children to attend the Book Clubs we have on offer! Students attending the Book Clubs will also be invited to attend an award trip at the end of the academic year.

GOSPEL REFLECTION (Luke 23:35-43)

Believe in The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe - Thirty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time) Cycle C

Today we end the church's year with the triumphant feast of Christ the King. But the Gospel scene is not of one sitting on a throne wearing a golden crown in a grand palace. It is of someone nailed to a cross wearing a crown of thorns beside two criminals. This is how Jesus secured for us a place in his kingdom. As described in today's preface, this is a kingdom which is eternal and universal, one of truth, life, holiness, grace, justice, love and peace. Today we join in praising the Lord as our king who has invited each one of us to be part of his kingdom. Jesus is king, but not the kind of king we might have imagined or expected. His kingship was hidden from many of his contemporaries, but those who had the eyes of faith were able to see. As modern disciples of Jesus, we, too, struggle at times to recognise Jesus as King. This week's gospel invites us to make our own judgment. With eyes of faith, we, too, recognise that Jesus, the crucified one, is indeed king and saviour of all.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you come to share the Good News of God's Kingdom with the whole world. May your love reign in our hearts always? We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ADVENT DAY OF PRAYER Begin the season of Advent and new liturgical year with fresh spiritual energy by thanking God for what he has done for us so far and what he is still to do.

KALEVE MAXWELL

We are pleased to inform you that Kaleve was part of the successful Education project from the Watford FC Academy U12 Group that recently won the Flu100 Football remembers Premier League competition. The past 7 weeks our U12s have been working hard exploring the Great Flu pandemic of 1918, including creating a pop-up exhibition, a news report and a tribute game to honour Albert Passmore and Angus Douglas (two ex-professionals who died of the Flu in 1918).

Due to their hard work and dedication to their educational project, the group have won a trip to Ypres, Belgium in which they will take part in educational experiences such as visiting the trenches, Menin Gate, taking part in the last post ceremony in addition to taking part in a Premier League tournament to commemorate the Christmas Truce Football game of 1914, playing against opposition from England, Germany, France and Belgium.

BOYS SPORTS

Congratulations to the KS3 badminton team for taking silver in the Haringey badminton competition. Excellent performances from Omari, Tousan and Michael ensure 2nd place for the boys.

The U16 basketball team have been crowned this year's Haringey basketball champions after winning the Haringey League. Some excellent results in the groups stage saw St Thomas More cruise into the final. They managed to beat Greig City Academy 65-32 in the final, and progress into the London Youth Games to represent Haringey; well done to the boys.



Words of the Week

Monday - Pertinent - Adjective - Relevant or applicable to a particular matter; apposite.

Tuesday - Demure - Adjective - Shy and modest; reserved.

Wednesday - Irrepressible - Adjective - Not able to be controlled or restrained.

Thursday - Congenial - Adjective - (of a person) Pleasing or liked on account of having qualities or interests that are similar to one's own.

Friday - Capacious - Adjective - Having a lot of space inside; roomy.

Thought for the Week

Find a place inside where there's joy, and the joy will burn out the pain. Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose. When you think positive, good things happen.