



# St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

29 September 2017

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Monday, 2 October 2017

- Rome Trip
- Year 11 and A Level Drama Trip to see Metamorphosis (15:10-18:00)
- Parents' Meeting about the China Trip (17:00-18:00)

### Tuesday, 3 October 2017

- Rome Trip
- Year 9 GCSE Drama Workshop at Donmar Warehouse

### Wednesday, 4 October 2017

- Rome Trip
- Youth Club (15:15-17:15)

### Friday, 6 October 2017

- Rome Trip

### Saturday, 7 October 2017

- Year 13 Brunel Urban Scholars Programme

## INTRODUCTION

Today, Friday, 29 September 2017, has been a Teacher Training Day. During the day, the school also hosted a Year 6 football tournament for boys and girls from local primary schools. Over thirty schools took part in and enjoyed the event - well done to all the staff and pupils involved in the organisation.

On Thursday, we held the PTA Cheese and Wine Evening for parents of Year 7 pupils. During the evening, parents had the opportunity to meet their child's form tutor and receive assessment data.

Thank you to all those parents who have returned their questionnaires about the Catholic life of the school. We ask that you check with your child whether they have given back the questionnaire to their form tutor. If any parents have not had the opportunity to complete the questionnaire, it is available on the school website or from the school office which your child can collect on your behalf.

Next Thursday, 5 October, there will be a teacher training evening. This means that apart from Year 9 additional RE lessons, there will be no extra session after school, nor PREP.

## INTOUNIVERSITY

This week IntoUniversity delivered two workshops. The Year 11 workshop 'Communication in the Workplace' examined how to conduct oneself in a professional way at work.

The Year 12 workshop 'Independent Learning' provided tips on how to time manage, study and prepare for the challenges of sixth form life and beyond.

## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

During Friday's Teacher Training Day, the staff at St Thomas More School hosted a Macmillan Coffee Morning in memory of the late Counsellor Pat Egan, previous Chair of Governors.

Staff baked a wonderful array of delicious cakes, biscuits buns and pastries. This year, staff competed to be crowned Star Baker and we were honoured to have Canon Egan, Cllr Egan's brother, join us who nobly tasted every cake in pursuit of finding the best bake. It was a tough competition with Mrs Marquez's chocolate and Guinness cake, Mr Bent's spiced orange cake and Miss Dunne's infamous and perfectly cooked Victoria sponge but there could only be one winner! The prestigious award went to Miss Album for her delicious honey cake!

Staff raised £446.20 - thank you to staff for their generous donations and helping to make the coffee morning a great success.



## REFLECTION FROM THE RE DEPARTMENT

### 25th Sunday of Year Ordinary Time (A)

Matthew Chapter 20: 1-6 (The Workers in the Vineyard)

In this week's Gospel passage we learn we, too, will be given God's total love, God's generous offer of grace. Even when we come rather late to the table, the feast is still plentiful. The key phrase in this gospel passage may well be the one workers used in responding to the owner of the vineyard, "'Why do you stand here idle all day?' He asked them. They answered, 'Because no one has hired us'", indicating their willingness and desire to work. Their idleness is not laziness, not indifference, not even a lack of interest. It is that no one has called them, no one has given them work. Perhaps the lesson in this for us is simply that, as long as we desire the work of God's vineyard, as long as we are ready to undertake the labour of love, God is ready to receive and accept us in full. God's grace is so large, and God's love so far-reaching that everyone who responds when called will be treated as an equal daughter or son of God.

#### Prayer

O God, whose generous love we receive, create in us hearts ready for your vineyard, and hands able to work for you. Guide us to understand your call, to desire your will, and to go to work when you invite us. Send your Spirit into our lives to make us loving women and men, so your reign will be established on earth as in heaven.

Amen

#### NATIONAL POETRY DAY

On Thursday, 28 September, pupils celebrated works of poetry for National Poetry Day. The aim of the day was to promote the value and importance of poetry. This year's theme was centred around freedom - a topic that sparked lots of interesting discussion around the school.

Pupils spent the day engaging with works produced by Maya Angelou, William Blake and Joseph Coelho, to name a few, and encouraged to use these as inspiration to produce their very own poetry. Many pupils took great pride in their work and the quality of pupils' responses was fantastic. We look forward to continuing the celebration of poetry throughout this year!

**Freedom**, by Angela Subramaniam - Year 7

Free from the wicked steel chains,  
free to think with our own brains,  
free to choose our own way,  
free to go or to stay.

Free to change our fate:  
just don't leave it too late.

## Thought for the Week

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today. There is no substitute for hard work".

## SPORT

The boys' football teams have continued in their victories this week - the Year 7 team beat Woodside School 2-1, being awarded four points in their first two games in the Haringey Football League. The Sixth Form team showed their resilience in a well-earned 5-4 win against Enfield Grammar School.

Several boys have signed with football academies this week in attempt to fulfil their aspirations of playing football professionally: Quaine Bartley (AFC Wimbledon); Alex Mansaray (Cambridge); Nathan Browne (Cambridge); and Hubert Graczyk (Arsenal). A number of our boys have also been accepted for a 6 week trial with Luton Town Football Academy: Makhi Browne, Jeremiah Bongue-Cardoso, Donnabhan Green and Kaquan Maxwell. Several other boys will be attending trials over the coming weeks - we wish them the best of luck.

This week, the Year 9 Netball Team warmed up for their season with a friendly against Park View's Year 10 team. Our girls didn't let age and height get in the way and were winning 2-0 in the first 4 minutes of the game. Hannah Sarfo's and Colleen Sargent's shooting tested the opponents. The girls finished the first half winning 3-2. They did not disappoint and finished the game winning 6-4.

The Year 8 Netball Team started their season off the way they aim to continue. They played against Park View on Thursday, 28 September. The match started off with Park View in the lead but our girls were determined to change the game around with Daniella Barclay leading the team. Our shooters didn't miss a shot and they turned the game around with an 8-3 win. Well done girls!

## Words of the Week

Monday - Verbose (Adjective) – Using or expressed in more words than are needed; a person who talks a lot.

Tuesday - Ludicrous (Adjective) - So foolish, unreasonable, or out of place as to be amusing.

Wednesday - Protagonist (Noun) - The leading character or one of the major characters in a play, film, novel etc. A leader, or supporter of a cause or idea.

Thursday - Auspicious (Adjective) - Showing or suggesting that success is likely, favourable, giving or being a sign of future success.

Friday- Cajole (Verb) - To persuade someone to do something by sustained coaxing or flattery.