



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

20 January 2017

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday, 23 January 2017

- Step Forward Talk to Year 13 (08:50-09:10)
- PTA Meeting (18:30-19:30)

Tuesday, 24 January 2017

- London Secondary Urban Debate League Round 1 (15:45-18:15)
- Choir Tour Parents' Meeting (18:00-19:00)

Wednesday, 25 January 2017

- Keats' Project with Jacksons Lane (15:15-17:15)
- Youth Club (15:15-17:15)
- Year 8 Parents' talk about WWI Battlefields Trip (17:30-18:00)

Thursday, 26 January 2017

- Year 10 STEM Workshops

Friday, 27 January 2017

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

INTRODUCTION

We are delighted at our Progress 8 scores which testify to our Ofsted 'Outstanding' status. Unfortunately, only first-entry scores are published (ours is still a respectable 0.32) but eclipsed by our exceptional best-entry score of 0.9, one of the best in the country!

Our PTA has arranged for the first 'Teacher in the Spotlight' Evening on Tuesday, 7 February at 6.00 pm. This first session will be led by Mr Bent, Assistant Headteacher for Teaching and Learning and Assessment, who will explain to parents the exams' data and the new assessment levels. We encourage as many parents as possible to come along to this event.

This week, seven of our girls performed in a regional dance competition and were outstanding. This now means the girls will go on to compete in the national finals. Well done to the girls.

Saturday extra lessons are starting back tomorrow. Parents of Years 10, 11 pupils and Sixth Form student should encourage their children to attend, on time, if they have timetabled lessons. All timetables are available on the website.

OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS

There are currently over 600 books overdue from the school library. Parents should check whether their child has an overdue book at home and if so, ask your child to return any books to the library as soon as possible.

SCHOOL JOURNALISTS

Congratulations to our School Journalists! Hayden Grant, 7KL1; Emilia Mielniczek, 9MC1; and Aruay Mongok, 12DX1, have been appointed as the St Thomas More School Journalists.

The pupils applied for the role by writing an article on the School Christmas Carol Service and the articles were of an excellent standard. We look forward to reading articles from our School Journalists in the Parents Newsletters and The Glendalian.

SCHOOL PRODUCTION TICKETS

Get your tickets for the school production of 'Annie' before it is too late! Last year, the production of 'The Lion King' was sold out and we expect this year to be the same. Tickets are available from the Front Reception throughout the day or pupils can purchase them from outside the Music Rooms at lunchtimes. The pupils are working hard to make it a sterling show!

DANCE CHAMPIONS

This week, St Thomas More was crowned London and South East of England Dancing Champions! It was the first time our pupils entered this new and up and coming competition. During the four years of the competition, we are only the second school to sweep a win in both age group (KS3 & KS4). Now the girls will go on to represent London and South East England in the grand final of the English School National Dance Off this summer. This is a massive achievement not just for our school but for the girls who took part.

Congratulations to: Tei-Ann Miller, Estelle Darkwa, Ayarna Witter-Morgan, Chairra CabusIsobel Awaah Duah, Klaudia Moczulska and Julia Legowiah.



RE DEPARTMENT

Second Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A)

The Baptism of the Lord was celebrated last Monday and this week's Gospel refers to that event. John the Baptist, who had baptised Jesus, had seen the Spirit descending on him in the form of a dove. He was a witness of this and that Jesus was the Chosen One of God. Now John the Baptist had the role of acknowledging Jesus to others. "There is the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world". We too have this role.

Peace Sunday

This month, Pope Francis has reflected on world peace and has chosen the theme 'Nonviolence: a style of politics for peace.' In our world this offers a timely opportunity to explore the Catholic tradition of nonviolence.

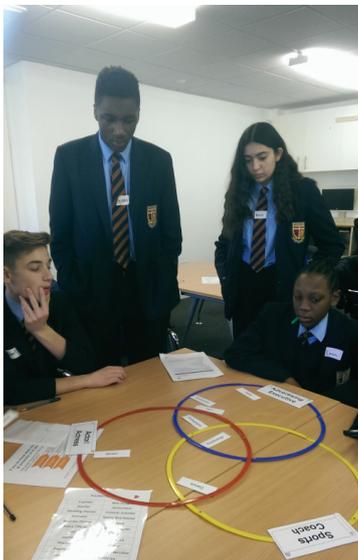
Prayer for Peace

Recognising the violence in my own heart. Yet trusting in the goodness and mercy of God, I seek to practice the nonviolence of Jesus. By striving for peace within myself and seeking to be a peacemaker in my daily life; by refusing to retaliate in the face of provocation and violence; by living conscientiously and simply so that I do not deprive others of the means to live; by actively resisting evil and working nonviolently to abolish war and the causes of war from my own heart and from the face of the earth. God I trust in your sustaining love and believe that you will give me the grace to live out this prayer. Amen

INTOUNIVERSITY

On Wednesday 18th January IntoUniversity delivered two workshops to pupils: Year 7 'Approaches to Homework' helped pupils identify their own study styles and came up with top tips for completing homework; Year 9 'Pathways to Success' examined career goals and why GCSEs are important.

The photo shows Year 9 pupils creating Venn diagrams to show how different subjects are useful for future careers.



Thought for the Week

"Overcoming feelings such as anger, greed, hatred, or pride; or forgiving someone who has hurt you, are all possible examples of British Values".

DRAMA DEPARTMENT

As part of the Drama Departments partnership with The Old Vic Theatre, pupils from Years 10 to 13 saw a performance of 'Art' by Yasmina Reza. Before the performance the pupils took part in a workshop with the actors that explored the themes and issues that the production raises and questioned the meaning of art work.



ROAD SAFE

The 'Riot Act' delivered a road safety workshop to Year 7 last week.

The workshop highlighted key dangers associated to road safety and informed pupils of practical steps they can take to be more safe when near roads.

Words of the Week

Monday: Germane (adjective) – closely or significantly related/relevant to a subject under consideration

Tuesday: Belligerent (adjective) – hostile and aggressive; ready to fight.

Wednesday: Assert (verb) – state a fact or belief confidently and forcefully. Behave or speak in a confident manner.

Assertive (adjective) – having a forceful manner.

Thursday: Oblivious (adjective) - not aware of or concerned about what is happening around one. that was drawing the attention of his classmates.

Friday: Plume (noun) - a long cloud of smoke or vapour resembling a feather as it spreads from its point of origin. A long, soft feather or arrangement of feathers.