



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

13 October 2017

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday, 16 October 2017

- MACE Talk to Sixth Form Students (08:50-09:10)
- Year 9 GCSE Drama Workshop in NF1 (15:10-17:10)

Tuesday, 17 October 2017

- Sixth Form Presentation at Gladesmore School (08:50-09:10)

Wednesday, 18 October 2017

- Years 7 and 8 Heritage Horror Workshop with Jacksons Lane (15:15-17:15)

Thursday, 19 October 2017

- Year 8 HPV Vaccinations (09:10-12:30)
- Year 9 GCSE Workshop at the Donmare Warehouse (12:30-23:00)

Friday, 20 October 2017

- Year 9 Drama Workshop in NF1 (14:10-16:10)

INTRODUCTION

This week, the school held its Open Morning and Evening for prospective pupils and their parents. Over 900 people attended the open events! The Open Evening was a great success with pupils and staff showing the school in a very positive light. A big thank you to all those involved, especially to the pupils who acted as tour guides and the Sixth Formers who welcomed pupils and parents to the school. The school will continue to hold a number of additional open mornings over the coming weeks.

Next week, Mr Gaughran will be taking a group of pupils on a trip to China - we wish them all a safe journey and enjoyable time and look forward to hearing about their trip upon their return.

To help pupils become more organised, we ask parents to please spend some time in the evening going through their child's journal and timetable to ensure our child is well prepared for lessons with the correct equipment and books. Whilst the school will always ensure important messages are passed on to pupils from parents, please also try to organise with your child in the evening any alternative arrangements for the following day to help the Office staff who deal with a large number of calls daily.

Please note that mock exams will be starting on Monday, 30 October for Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form. To help aid pupils prepare for these exams, the school will be holding additional lessons during the half-term break. The timetable will be distributed to staff next week and copies will be available on the school website.

£1 COINS

Please note that from Monday, 16 October 2017, the school will no longer be able to accept the old style £1 coins.

AUTHOR VISIT

Last term, an online fund-raising auction called 'Authors for Grenfell', was held where hundreds of authors offered signed books, author visits to schools and much more to raise money for people coping with the Grenfell tragedy. St Thomas More was lucky enough to win a visit from Mimi Thebo, an award-winning author who has written three books inspired by her life experiences.



Mimi visited the school on Friday and began her visit with a presentation in the hall to Year 7 pupils, which was based around her first book, 'Dreaming the Bear'.

Pupils were left inspired by her reasons to start writing and left the session with some ideas for their own work. Mimi then ran workshops with pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9 in the Library. Pupils were chosen to take part in the workshops from a writing competition that was open to all pupils across the year groups. The workshops were aimed at developing pupils' writing skills with a particular focus on writing from the perspective of an animal. Each pupil was lucky enough to receive a signed copy of one of Mimi's books.

Thank you to Mimi for a fantastic visit that left all inspired to pick up a pen and write!



REFLECTION FROM THE RE DEPARTMENT

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 21:33-43

A common image Jesus bring to our attention is the garden or the vineyard, with comments on wasteland and fruitful land. In this story he looks at stones and points out that a rejected stone, if looked at again, could become the cornerstone of a building. He is referring to prophets who were rejected, and to Himself. He would, through His weakness and death, be the essential stone of the new temple, the energy through death of the new community.

We live in a throwaway culture. Much of what could be used again is dumped to destroy the earth and the sea. We waste a lot of the daily bread of the people. Jesus asks us always to look again, to see the value of what we may throw aside, especially in our treatment of each other. Everyone has a value in the eyes of God.

Pope Francis noted: 'When adolescents feel unloved, they may turn to violence, hatred or delinquent behaviour. There is no such thing as bad children or evil adolescents, He said, but there are unhappy people.' (June 2107). Pope Francis is asserting that with love and a community of acceptance, everyone has a place and has something to offer, like every stone is valuable to a new building, especially some we may first throw away.

I thank you, Lord, for the wonder of my being.

CAFOD YOUNG LEADERSHIP

Sixth form students Cecilia Hayford, Dawid Hendrych, Anastasia Ojo, Damian Wroblewski and Jozay Seriki-Farrel attended their first training session on the CAFOD Young Leadership programme this week.

In the session, they explored CAFOD and Catholic Social Teaching, what makes good leaders, as well as learning more about the 'Power to Be' campaign. They will be sharing their learning with the rest of the Sixth Form during assemblies.

Thought for the Week

"Your positive action combined with positive thinking results in success. I believe if you keep your faith, you keep your trust; you keep the right attitude, if you're grateful, you'll see God open up new doors. Live life to the fullest, and focus on the positive".

SPORT

Table Tennis

The Year 8 boys' table tennis team finished second in the Haringey Cup. Eight schools in the borough were competing to be named Haringey Champions. Following the Year 10 team's success last week, St Thomas More had high expectations going into the tournament.

Unfortunately, the team marginally lost out to Fortismere School scoring a total of 482 points in the competition. Well done to Tobias Okot, Lloyd Adamah, Mohammad Rujbally and Ander Iza for representing the team.



Football

Mr Adjei's Year 8 football team continued to dominate the Haringey League as they were awarded three points against Duke Academy. The opposing team conceded the points, resulting in Mr Adjei's team continuing their unbeaten run in four games with the rest of the schools in the borough chasing them in the league!

Words of the Week

Monday – Empowering (Verb): To give someone the authority or power to do something; or make someone stronger and more confident, especially in controlling their life and claiming their rights.

Tuesday - Luminous (Adjective): Bright or shining, esp. in the dark. Glowing with health, vigour, giving off a very bright light or a person or trait considered glowing.

Wednesday - Elicit (Verb): Evoke or draw out (a reaction, answer or fact) from someone.

Thursday - Nocturnal (Adjective): Done, occurring or active at night.

Friday - Segregation (Noun): is the act of separating, especially when applied to separating people by race, the action or state of setting someone or something apart from others.