



# St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

14 February 2020

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Monday 24 February 2020

- National Careers Week

### Tuesday 25 February 2020

- Year 12 Work Experience Presentation
- Year 13 Drop Down Day/ Into University Workshop
- Year 11 GCSE Music Lunchtime Concert
- Year 11 Advance English Workshop
- Year 8 Drama Workshop

### Wednesday 26 February 2020

- Year 10 Theatre Trip
- Year 9 Collage Arts Workshop
- Year 12 Mark Evison Foundation Workshop

### Thursday 27 February 2020

- Year 11 Option B Drop Down Day / 'N' Flame Workshop
- Year 7 Students Retreat
- Year 12 Work Experience Workshop

### Friday 28 February 2020

- No events

## LAWRENCE VIGOROUX, PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLER

Former pupil and Current professional football player Lawrence Vigoroux came in to speak to a number of St Thomas More's P.E pupils this morning. Lawrence gave an inspirational talk regarding the significance of education. Lawrence stressed that sporting success is inconsequential if there is no contingency plan in place as well as speaking about his time at Liverpool, Tottenham, Swindon and Leyton Orient.



Adoara Dioramma was also fortunate enough to receive a signed shirt donated by Lawrence due to her sporting commitment.

## INTRODUCTION

This week our Year 10 pupils have all been on their 'one week work experience'. We have had some very positive reports already. The maturity and willingness to work and learn new skills are just some of the comments. They must not forget there are extra sessions planned from Saturday and all next week during half term. Timetables have been issued, year 10 were issued theirs last week. All timetables are on the school website. We encourage all exam pupils to attend these very important sessions. The next set of mock exams is Monday 9th March - Friday 20th March. The full timetable will be issued straight after half term. **A reminder** on Tuesday 3rd March at 5.30pm there will be a presentation for parents about internet safety.

We encourage all pupils to ensure they are completing homework and tasks set, along with some reading, which should be for pleasure.

We wish all a restful half term break to recharge the batteries and return on **Monday 24th February** ready for hard work.

## THE MEDICS SOCIETY

A group of year 12 students interested in taking Medicine related courses at University are running seminars on related topics every Monday lunchtime in MG4. Klaudia and Chirra presented their findings on the Coronavirus last Monday. All Year 11 pupils interested are welcome to join.

## YEAR 11 & 12 CAREERS FAIR

Our Year 10 pupils have completed a very successful five day work placement this week. Pupils have had an opportunity to develop the essential skills of leadership, teamwork, problem-solving and communication in a real work environment and they have had an opportunity to write down their reflections in their work experience diaries. The pupils have been working in a wide variety of settings. A number of pupils have been at the Royal Bank of Scotland where pupils were given a tour of the bank and completed a series of enterprise and finance workshops. Notably, two pupils completed a prestigious culinary placement at a central London restaurant, the Gymnasium. The head chef was full of praise for our pupils and invited them back for workshops and training opportunities.

Thank you to all parents who supported their child in obtaining a work placement this week, or who hosted pupils. If you are interested in hosting students in the future, please contact [careers@stthomasmoreschool.org.uk](mailto:careers@stthomasmoreschool.org.uk)



## GOSPEL REFLECTION

### 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

#### JESUS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

The theme of light has been prominent over the last few weeks. At Our Lord's Presentation in the Temple, Simeon remarked that Jesus would be a light to the nations, to Jew and Gentile alike. Before that, Jesus had been proclaimed as a light in the darkness through the prophet Isaiah.

Today Jesus tells his disciples that they too are a light for the world. That of course means us as well. Our light must shine out through our good works so that others may in turn praise the Father in heaven.

#### Racial Justice Sunday

This Sunday the Catholic Church in England and Wales celebrated Racial Justice - the theme is "You are at the Heart of the Church" it celebrated the contribution Travelling Communities make to the church in England and Wales. It is an opportunity for all Catholics to pray, reflect and respond to racial justice matters within the church and wider society. Racial Justice Sunday should encourage proactive discussions on overt and covert forms of racism experienced by fellow Catholics from the travelling communities.

#### The Year of the Word 'A God who Speaks'

Then Jesus said "Come to me all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest". (Matthew 11: Verse 28). Whoever acknowledges me before others I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. (Matthew Chapter 10: Verse 32).

#### Prayer

Keep your family safe, O Lord with unfailing care that relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace they may be defended always by your protection. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

#### VISIT TO THE PLAYHOUSE THEATRE

A number of pupils attended a production of 'Cyrano de Bergerac' at The Playhouse Theatre. The French classic has been updated with a modern twist as it explores the issues of body image. The year 11 pupils that meet weekly to prepare for Oxbridge applications will be creating presentations on the relevance of a 17th century play to a modern audience.

## Thought for the Week

You've done it before and you can do it now. See the positive possibilities. Redirect the substantial energy of your frustration and turn it into positive, effective, unstoppable determination.

## SPORTS

**Under 16 Basketball** - The U16 basketball team beat Enfield Grammar 90-56 in the London Youth Games' quarter-final. An excellent performance from STM means that they will play either Leytonstone or Riverside in the semi-final. We sadly say goodbye to Adebolarinwa who has been a prominent member of the basketball team since Year 7. We wish him success at his new school.

**Year 11 London football Cup** - The Year 11 football team are through to the London Cup semi-final after beating last year's winners 3-1. Goals on the day were from Ronaldinho, Kaquan and Quaine.

**Year 7 & 8 Athletics - London Youth Games** - St Thomas More were extremely successful this week in the London Youth Games Indoor Athletics competition. The Year 7 boys' and girls' and Year 8 girls Indoor Athletics teams finished 1st in the London Youth Games. The Year 8 boys' team finished 2nd but still progress into the grand final. A big congratulations to all the teams and best of luck to them in the London Youth Games final.

**Year 8 Basketball Haringey Final** - The Year 8 boys' team are Haringey basketball champions for the 2nd year in a row. Congratulations and well done to them.

#### GCSE BRIGHTSPARKS CONCERT, ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Yesterday, some pupils from year 8 and the GCSE music students from year 9 and 11 visited the Royal Festival Hall to see the 'GCSE Brightsparks' concert. During the concert, the pupils listened to the London Philharmonic Orchestra play selected pieces from the GCSE syllabus which included clapping music by Steve Reich and Star Wars by John Williams. It was a great day out and for the pupils, the very first time visiting a concert hall and hearing a live orchestra play.



## Words of the Week

Monday - **Unanimous** - (Adjective) - (of two or more people) fully in agreement.

Tuesday - **Monotonous** - (Adjective) - (of a sound or utterance) lacking in variation in tone or pitch; dull, tedious, and repetitious; lacking in variety and interest.

Wednesday - **Perspicacious** - (Adjective) - Having a ready insight into and understanding of things.

Thursday - **Deference** - (Noun) - Polite submission and respect.

Friday - **Calibrate** - (Verb) - To mark units of measurement on an instrument such so that it can measure accurately.