



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

9 September 2016

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday, 12 September 2016

- Sixth Form Lessons Begin

Wednesday, 14 September 2016

- Year 11 Up the Ante Evening (5.00pm to 7.00pm)

Thursday, 15 September 2016

- School Photographer
- IntoUniversity Personal Statement Writing Support for Sixth Form Students
- Year 8 Mass (9.10am to 10.10am)
- Year 7 Parents' Cheese and Wine Evening (5.00pm to 9.00pm)

Friday, 16 September 2016

- IntoUniversity Personal Statement Writing Support for Sixth Form Students

INTRODUCTION

We welcome all our new parents of Year 7 and Year 12 pupils to our school community.

Our examination results this summer were again very good. At A Level, students achieved a 99% pass rate and 85% A* - C grades. GCSE results were 58% A* - C including English and Maths with 33% of grades at A*, A and B. For the new government performance measure, Progress 8, we expect to be in the Outstanding category again.

It has been an excellent start to the new academic year. In the vast majority of cases, pupils have returned in excellent uniform so thank you to parents for this. A reminder that dyed hair and exaggerated or patterned hair styles are not allowed. If hair was dyed during the summer holidays, pupils have been asked to correct this for Monday. We ask all parents to support this.

On Thursday, 15 September, from 5.00pm, we will have the Parent and Teacher Association Cheese and Wine Evening for all Year 7 parents. Parents will have the opportunity to meet form tutors and other members of staff and to receive the results of their child's CATs that were taken before pupils started at the school.

On Monday, 19 September, at 4.30pm, we will be holding our 'Up the Ante' Evening for Year 12 students. During the evening, parents will have the opportunity to talk to staff about level 3 courses their children are embarking on along with our expectations to ensure success.

For all Year 11 parents, the GCSE results from the exams pupils sat before the summer will be issued at the 'Up the Ante' Evening on Wednesday, 14 September at 4.30pm.

PRUDENTIAL RIDE LONDON

On 31 July 2016, staff and pupils took part in one of Europe's greatest cycling events. In partnership with Teach First, eight students and two members of staff took part in the Prudential Ride London 2016 which took place in the hills of Surrey as well as some of the capital's most historic landmarks.

Developed by the Mayor of London in 2013, Prudential Ride London is a world-class festival of cycling designed as a legacy of the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Daniella Asare, who took part in the race, insisted that it was by the will of the crowd that she made the finish line, "I felt so good knowing that I completed it, the hills were really tough particularly towards the end where they seemed to get steeper," she said. "There was so much support, the crowd were really good and shouted how many miles there were to go which really gave me that extra boost I needed. But I'm immensely proud of myself, I felt really good but so tired and I had to go back and sleep, but it was a great feeling."

Thanks must go to Mr McStravick, Acting Head of IT, who supported and led the pupils on the bike ride.





SCHOOL PRODUCTION

Pupils can now sign-up to audition for this year's school production - we will be performing Annie!

Auditionees will need to sing a song and learn part of a script in an American accent. All those wishing to audition must sign their name on the sheet outside NG2.

For more information, please see a member of the Music or Drama Department.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"Make it a habit to tell people "thank you", to express your appreciation, sincerely and without the expectation of anything in return. Truly appreciate those around you, and you'll soon find many others around you. Truly appreciate life, and you'll find that you have more of it."

MOUNTVIEW DRAMA SCHOOL

The school will be holding open auditions for Mountview Drama School's 'The Bridge Project'.

The auditions are for pupils from Years 10 to 13 and are being held on Thursday, 15 September in NF2 from 4.10pm onwards.

WORDS OF THE WEEK

Monday: Plethora (noun) - this means extreme excess of, an oversupply.

Example: The Rutland County Cricket Club has a plethora of committees and sub-committees.

Tuesday: Reproach (verb) – to express criticism towards/admonish/tell off.

Example: The Headteacher reproached the sixth former for his irresponsible behaviour at the bus stop.

Wednesday: Obstinate (adjective) – this means resistant to guidance or discipline.

Example: The obstinate child refused to brush his teeth, when asked.

Thursday: Glitch (noun) – this means a fault or defect in a machine or system e.g. a computer.

Example: The glitch in Show My Homework meant that Mr Smith's homework did not appear.

Friday: Inveigh (verb) - this means to speak against something in a passionate and hostile way.

Example: The politician inveighed against the reintroduction of grammar schools as he felt that they would not give equality of opportunity to children.