



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

11 January 2019

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday, 14 January 2019

- Faraday Challenge Year 8

Tuesday, 15 January 2019

- Extended Registration to review targets (08:50-09:30)
- AS Drama Workshop with Donmar Warehouse (14:10-16:10)

Thursday, 17 January 2019

- Ashurst Law Work Experience (09:00-10:10)

INTRODUCTION

Happy New Year from all of St Thomas More Catholic School. I hope you have had a restful Christmas.

Before Christmas, the Autumn Glendalian was given to pupils to bring home. It was an excellent showcase of the many activities and events that took place last term. If you did not get a copy, please ask your child to collect one from Student Services, or pop in to reception to collect your copy.

The pupils have returned and settled back into hard work very quickly. The latest assessment grades are being finalised by teachers and will be sent out very soon, along with results for the mock exams that Year 10, 11 and Sixth Form pupils sat before Christmas.

An early reminder that the Year 11 Parents' Evening will take place on Tuesday, 29 January, 16:30 to 17:30. This is obviously a very important evening.

As we may be in for some cold weather in the next month or so, could we please ask you to ensure your child has a plain black or navy overcoat. Any hats, scarves or gloves must also be plain black or navy. Your support with this is much appreciated and helps to avoid needless issues of pupils in incorrect uniform.

NATIONAL SATURDAY ART CLUB

Since October, Year 9 and 10 Art and Design pupils have had the privilege of participating in the National Saturday Art Club; this year it is at Central St Martin's School of Art (UAL), Granary Square, Kings Cross - both accessible and prestigious. Had I had the opportunity to work at an internationally renowned art college at such an early age, perhaps I would not be writing this article; instead I would be collaborating with a gallery making expensive and beautiful art works. **Artists, this is your opportunity! Remember you are working towards a public exhibition. In addition, you can generate UCAS credits.**

Please contact Mr Brankin for more information.

SPORT



Year 7 Indoor Athletics

The Year 7 boys' and girls' teams competed in the Indoor Haringey Athletics Championship on Wednesday, along with all other schools in the borough. St Thomas More have been borough champions for the last 5 years, which put the pressure on. Both boys' and girls' teams continued that reign this year, winning most individual track and field events to finish in 1st position. The boys' team were particularly exceptional, beating their nearest rivals by 19 points and conjuring up a total of 129 points to win the competition, out of a total of 10

teams. Huugo Boateng's performance in the 6-lap race was particularly memorable, as he took first position by an enormous margin. The girls' team scored 123 points, beating their nearest rivals by 8 points.

Year 7 Boys' Basketball

The Year 7 boys' basketball team competed in their first Haringey League game of the year against Woodside High. Victories in the Junior NBA league late last year left our boys in a confident state. The final score was 43-4 to St Thomas More school - a very positive start to the year. Several points on the day were scored by Darren Niamba, Emmanuel Yessoh, Kwesi Shakane, Jahzye Bitaye-Shepherd, Jesse Udaigwe and Ibuchie Johnson to secure the victory.

MATHS TRIP TO QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY

"The trip we attended at Queen Mary's University was to inspire young students to take up maths after GCSEs. The experience was eye-opening and motivational as we learnt about the different opportunities and careers you can achieve through maths. We had several lectures throughout the day to discuss the paths that maths can lead to. James started off the morning explaining how useful maths can be within different subjects, with Stephanie then giving a lecture expressing the importance of maths. Later on, Dr. Aoife Haunt talked about the movement of crowds and the factors considered within it and finally, we had a talk about Ada Lovelace and how she used maths to make a difference in the development of calculators. Overall, the experience was exhilarating and definitely inspired us to take up maths in the future and of course we need the good grades to get there!"

Tara McCarry and Emilia Fairbrass (year 10)



HISTORIAN OF THE WEEK

This week Dylan Gallagher from 8BK1 was awarded historian of the week for his excellent piece of homework. He produced a model of WW1 trenches out of clay and other materials, showing the Christmas Truce from 1914. We were all very impressed at the effort, dedication and production he put into this excellent piece of work.



REFLECTION FROM THE RE DEPARTMENT

The Epiphany of the Lord

The three Wise Men follow the star to Bethlehem to find the new-born King. There they worship Jesus and present their gifts of gold, frankincense and Myrrh: gold for a king, frankincense for God, myrrh for his burial. Jesus was both God and Man. This act of the three wise men represents the manifestation of Jesus to the world.

This feast of the Epiphany is the time for us to worship the new-born king, and to bring him our own gifts because Jesus has given his whole self to us.

Prayer:

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practising the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen

Thought for the Week

"There are two primary choices in life: to accept conditions as they exist, or to accept responsibility for changing them."

SCIENCE DEMONSTRATION

At the end of last term, St Thomas More school was host to a fantastic Science demonstration by Andrew Syzdlo. The demonstration was a wonderful mix of chemistry and physics, that amazed and taught pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9 the important fundamentals of science. The pupils involved were some of our Highly Able cohort and left with an increased enthusiasm and understanding of science. We hope to invite Andrew back later in the year to spread the joy and wonderment of science.



REALISING OPPORTUNITIES

Realising Opportunities is a unique partnership of leading universities. The programme gives students the opportunity to participate in aspiration-raising and enriching activities, increasing their ability to apply to and gain entry to leading institutions in the country; make informed choices about their higher education options and learn more about the benefits of studying at a world class institution.

Ten students in Year 12 have successfully enrolled on the Realising Opportunities programme delivered by our partner university, UCL: Nikaisha Anane-Busia, Sara Chrusciel, Adam Dawkins, Mark Guarnizo, Mereisa Hudson, Robert James, Melita Okuneva, Guilherme Oliveira, Leonardo Sommer Silva and Christine Vilorio.

Words of the Week

Monday – Capitulate – Verb: To cease to resist an opponent or an unwelcome demand; yield.

Tuesday – Estranged – Adjective: No longer close or affectionate to someone; alienated or removed; kept at a distance.

Wednesday – Implacable – Adjective: Used to describe (someone who has) strong opinions or feelings that are impossible to change.

Thursday – Admonish – Verb: To warn or reprimand someone firmly; warn strongly; put on guard.

Friday – Ironic – Adjective: Something is ironic if the result is the opposite of what was intended; an ironic event is one at odds with what might have been expected.