



# St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

09 February 2018

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Tuesday, 20 February 2018

- GCSE Drama Performance (16:15-17:15)

### Wednesday, 21 February 2018

- Option B Drop Down Day for Year 11
- Years 12 and 13 Physics Drop Down Day
- Youth Club (15:15-17:15)

### Thursday, 22 February 2018

- Year 12 Philosophy and Ethics Conference at Bloomsbury
- Years 10 and 11 Media BFI Study Day
- Bishop John Sherrington Visit
- Year 12 and 13 H&SC Workshop (11:30-13:30)
- Year 11 Parents' Evening (16:30-18:30)

### Friday, 23 February 2018

- GCSE Drama Exam
- Sixth Form Geography Trip to Norfolk (Friday, 23 to Sunday, 25 February)

## INTRODUCTION

Next week is half-term. There is a full programme of extra sessions planned and pupils have been given a timetable which is also available on the school website. Along with the extra sessions timetable, pupils have been given the timetable for the next set of mock exams which will be in March. These will be the final mock exams before the external exams in the summer, therefore it is very important that all pupils work extra hard leading up to the exams. The school asks that parents are supportive by encouraging their children to attend all the extra sessions planned and to start their revision now.

The Year 11 Parents' Evening will take place after half-term on Wednesday 22 February, 16:30 - 18:30. Parents will receive their child's report on the evening. We encourage all parents of Year 11 pupils to attend.

It is very important that pupils come to school prepared each day. We would like to remind parents that pupils should have all the books and equipment required for the day. Please ensure your child has the correct stationery: pens, pencils, rulers etc. Thank you to parents in advance for your support with this.

## SPORT

Klaudia Moczulska, Year 11, recently competed in a national cheerleading competition with the group Fame All Stars. The group won the competition and will now go on to represent the UK in the next round in Washington!

Klaudia and the group will take part in the week long competition in March. This is an amazing and wonderful opportunity for Klaudia. Her role in the group is back spot which means she is responsible for aiding the aerial girls. We wish her the best of luck in the competition and hope she has a very enjoyable experience in Washington!

Khayon Edwards, Year 9, has had another successful week with his football team Arsenal FC. Khayon scored two goals last weekend to secure a 4-2 victory against Queens Park Rangers.

Kaquan Maxwell, Year 9, has recently signed for Luton Town Football Academy. St Thomas More School sent a selected few individuals to attend a 6 week trial for the League Two side. Kaquan Maxwell was one of the few individuals who gained success from the trial - congratulations Kaquan!

The Year 11 basketball team played a friendly against the sixth form team this week, in preparation of the next round of the London Youth Games. The final score was 57-25 to the Year 11 team. The score was testament to the hard work and dedication the Year 11 boys have shown throughout the year. The team will play against Haggerston in the last 16 of the London Youth Games this month.





Khayon Edwards, Year 9

## REFLECTION FROM THE RE DEPARTMENT

### Gospel Reading: (Mark 1:12-15)

#### Reflection Gospel Reading

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him. After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfilment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Jesus went out into the desert to be alone. He is on the brink of inaugurating his public ministry. Something new and important is about to happen. He does the natural thing: goes off alone to think things through and confront the demons that would dissuade him from his mission. Then he goes to Galilee to proclaim the gospel of God. This defines in a nutshell what Lent is all about.

#### Prayer

Jesus, model of prayer,  
-lead us into silence and prayer.

Jesus, model of compassion,  
-give us merciful hearts.

Jesus, model of meekness and mildness,  
-make us gentle and humble of heart.

Jesus, model of proclaiming God's kingdom,  
-transform us so that we can extend your kingdom.

Amen

## Thought for the Week

"Remember, happiness doesn't depend upon who you are or what you have; it depends solely upon what you think. So start each day by thinking of all the things you have to be thankful for. Your future will depend very largely on the thoughts you think today. So think thoughts of hope and confidence and love and success."

## YEAR 8 DRAMA TRIP

On Wednesday, 7 February, a group of Year 8 pupils conducted a research trip to her Majesty's Theatre Haymarket as part of our upcoming 'Horror Heritage Project' with Jacksons Lane.

Pupils were given a backstage tour of the theatre which is the only west end theatre which still operates using Victorian machinery. Tavon Small, 10BK1, is currently completing work experience at Jacksons Lane and attended the trip as one of their representatives! Following the trip, he composed a detailed blog summarising the fascinating day and what the pupils had discovered during the tour.

## LIBRARY BOOK AMNESTY

Currently, there are over 700 books overdue from the school Library! Pupils who have overdue books have been notified by our Librarian, Mrs Brownlie.

To encourage pupils to return these books, there will be a book amnesty the first week back after half-term. Pupils who have a book overdue must return it urgently!

## INTOUNIVERSITY WORKSHOPS

This week the IntoUniversity team delivered three workshops. Year 9 pupils explored the theme of transferable skills in their 'Careers Carousel' workshop.

Year 11 pupils learnt about what to expect when at university in their 'University Life' workshop, as well as alternative Post 16 options.

The Year 13 students discussed 'Skills for the Future' in their final workshop in the programme that has taken them through seven years of secondary education.

## Words of the Week

Monday: Efficacy (Noun) – The ability to produce a desired or intended result.

Tuesday: Incessant (Adjective) – Continuing without pause or interruption (of something regarded as unpleasant)

Wednesday: Caustic (Adjective) – 1. Sarcastic in a scathing and bitter way. 2. Able to burn or corrode organic tissue by chemical reaction.

Thursday: Eradicate (Verb) – Destroy completely; put an end to.

Friday: Perfidious (Adjective) – Deceitful and untrustworthy.