



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

9 January 2017

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, 17 January 2017

- Sixth Form Study Skills Seminar

Wednesday, 18 January 2017

- Year 10 Booster Vaccinations (09:00-12:00)
- IntoUniversity Workshops (09:30-13:30)
- Keats' Project with Jacksons Lane (15:15-17:15)
- Youth Club (15:15-17:15)
- A Level Drama Workshop and Visit to see 'Art' (15:30-17:30)

Thursday, 19 December 2017

- Year 10 Booster Vaccinations (09:00-12:00)

Friday, 20 December 2017

- Google HQ Visit for 20 Years 10 to 13 Girls
- Choir Practice (15:15-16:15)

INTRODUCTION

Welcome back and Happy New Year to you all. Hopefully, you all received a copy of the Christmas Glendian before the end of last term. If you did not receive one, please ask your child to collect one from the School Office.

The first four days of this week have been very intensive for KS4 and KS5 pupils as they sat their mock examinations. Pupils worked hard throughout the week for their exams and we hope their results reflect this.

As the weather is becoming more adverse, as we saw last night with heavy snow and sleet, we would like to remind parents that if there is a layer of snow on the ground, parents are to keep their children at home until they have checked our website. Many of our staff travel from outside London and we do not want children unsupervised or to travel if the school is not open.

PARKING CARS/DROPPING OFF PUPILS

Parents should be aware we have asked Haringey Parking enforcement to issue enforcement fines to any cars stopping outside the school. Haringey have now placed a clear sign to this effect outside the school. We will also be taking registration numbers and if necessary, photos to aid this.

The issue with people parking outside the school is a real safety concern for our pupils. For the safety of pupils, please park/drop off children away from the front of the school.

CHALLENGE BOOK CLUB

The first day back after Christmas was the fourth meeting of the Years 7 and 8 Challenge Book Club. Over Christmas club members read Robin Talley's 'Lies We Tell Ourselves', a novel about the first African-American students to enter a previously all-white school during the Civil Rights movement.

The students agreed that the book helped them to understand the difficulties of integration at the time but some pupils were critical that the book didn't go far enough in depicting the horrors of segregation.

Some of the questions discussed included:

- Does an author need to have gone through similar experiences to her characters to be able to write a realistic novel?
- What was the effect of the shifting narrative (from black to white students) in the novel?
- What did you think was the most disturbing moment of inequality in the novel?

Challenge Book Club's next book is Mark Haddon's 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime' and we will meet on Monday, 6 February 2017.



RE DEPARTMENT

Happy New Year to everyone, I hope that you all had a peaceful and restful time during the festive season. Two major events in the bible took place, one after the other, recently - we had the 'Epiphany of the Lord' and the 'Baptism of the Lord.'

The Epiphany

The Epiphany of the Lord is a reminder that God's love is for the whole world and not just for a few and the Good news of Jesus Christ will draw people of all faiths and none.

It is the calling of the Church to ensure that we work with the Spirit of God to encourage this to happen rather than put conditions and demands on those who are wanting to respond. Our calling is to enable God's love and grace to flow rather than to be bottled up.

The Baptism of the Lord

This feast of the Baptism of our Lord brings to a conclusion the Christmas season that we've been celebrating, and in this week's readings we find a recapitulation, a summary of all that this marvellous feast means for all of us.

First of all, we're reminded again of the extraordinary truth that God, the God who is transcended above and beyond all of creation, this God who is the source of all being, has become one like us, fully human, in every way except sin.

Prayer

We praise you, invisible Father, giver of immortality: you are the source of life, the source of light, the source of every grace and truth, lover of humankind and lover of the poor, who reconciles all with you and draws all to you through the coming of your beloved Son. Make us living people, grant us your Spirit of light so that we may know you, the true One and the One whom you sent Jesus Christ.

Amen

Thought for the Week

"Working hard is a good attribute, but the pay-off is determined by whether you are investing the great effort in the right place."

PAST PUPIL SUCCESS

On Monday 30th January St Thomas More Catholic School will be hosting its annual Careers Event from 16:15 - 18:30. The aim of the event is to expose our Year 11 and Year 12 students to a variety of professionals to help them firm up which career path they would like to follow. External Year 11 students are welcome to attend and this year's event is particularly special.

As well as the usual mix of professionals, including university and apprenticeship advisors, we have one of our own returning to give our students guidance. Naveen Bisht left our Sixth Form in 2014 with qualifications in Chemistry, Maths, Further Maths and Physics and he has gone on to successfully obtain his pilot's licence!

Naveen has kindly volunteered to come in and speak to students considering a career in aviation.



Words of the Week

Monday: Wreak (verb) – cause a lot damage or harm/ inflict (vengeance).

Tuesday: Erratic (adjective) – not even or regular in pattern or movement; unpredictable.

Wednesday: Amnesty (noun) – an official pardon granting release from punishment for an offence.

Thursday: Erudite (adjective) – having or showing profound knowledge or learning.

Friday: Rhetoric (noun) – Is the art of using words well when speaking or writing. The art of persuasive speaking or writing, especially the exploitation of figures of speech.

Language designed to have a persuasive or impressive effect, but which is often regarded as lacking in sincerity or meaningful content.