



# St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

14 September 2018

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

<b>Monday 17 September 2018</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Goldsmiths Assembly to Sixth Form (08:50-09:10)</li><li>Samaritans Assembly to Year 11 (08:50-09:10)</li></ul>
<b>Tuesday, 18 September 2018</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Samaritans Assembly to Year 9 (08:50-09:10)</li><li>Sixth Form Mass (09:10-11:10)</li></ul>
<b>Wednesday, 19 September 2018</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Samaritans Assembly to Year 10 (08:50-09:10)</li><li>Year 11 Mass (09:10-11:10)</li></ul>
<b>Thursday, 20 September 2018</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A2 English Lit trip to Keats House</li><li>IntoUni Year 13 Support with Personal Statements</li><li>Year 11 Geography Trip - Wales</li><li>Samaritans Assembly to Year 8 (08:50-09:10)</li><li>Worlds by Women Project (16:30-18:30)</li><li>Aristocrats at the Donmar - A Level Drama Trip (18:00-21:00)</li></ul>
<b>Friday, 21 September 2018</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>IntoUni Year 13 Support with Personal Statements</li><li>Year 11 Geography Trip - Wales</li><li>Samaritans Assembly to Year 7 (08:50-09:10)</li></ul>
<b>Friday, 21 September 2018</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Year 11 Geography Trip - Wales</li></ul>

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our new parents of pupils in Year 7 and students in the Sixth Form, and welcome back to parents of existing pupils to our first newsletter of the academic year.

We start the year following some excellent examinations results. We had our best ever A Level results with a 99% pass rate, 50% A\*-B and an ALPS score of 2 (out of 9). At GCSE we again had a better than average progress with 63% of grades 9-4. Well done to all our pupils and staff for this great achievement.

Our new Year 7 pupils have settled into the school well. We held our first mass of the year for Year 7 and their parents.

This week we held our 'Up the Ante' evenings for Years 11 and 12. These are information evenings on the year ahead for those students who are commencing on what are extremely important years in their education. Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend.

Pupils have returned to school very smart and well organised. We ask parents to continue to support us by ensuring excellent uniform, no 'fashion' hairstyles and that pupils have the correct equipment for all their lessons.

## SPORT

### Sport Clubs

All of our sport clubs returned this week. Over 50 boys from Years 7-9 attended football on Monday in preparation for the Haringey league which starts next week. Over 20 Year 7 boys attended basketball on Tuesday evening to prepare for their forthcoming season, hoping to replicate last year's success. Pupils who would like to attend a club should check the timetables in the P.E. changing rooms. We have table-tennis, rugby, volleyball, fitness, dance, football, basketball and athletics available for all year groups.

### Lamarhio Foster

Lamarhio in Year 8 will begin his football trial with Reading F.C Academy on Monday, 17th September. Lamarhio has impressed a number of scouts playing for his school football team along with his local external club. He will be assessed by the Reading F.C Academy coaches for the next 6 weeks to determine whether he will receive a place in the squad. We wish Lamarhio the best and hope he gets signed for the academy!

### Summer Basketball Camp

Over the summer break, the school established its first Summer Basketball Camp. New Year 7 pupils along with several pupils from Years 8, 9 and 10 were taught a number of fundamental basketball skills. This also provided the new pupils a chance to interact with each other and experience the school's P.E. department. The pupils commenced their session from midday, had an hour lunch and finished the day playing several basketball games. Professional basketball player Ryan Martin also came along to provide the boys with some inspirational words and teach them some advanced techniques.



## REFLECTION FROM THE RE DEPARTMENT

Week Beginning September 9th 2018

Gospel Reading: (Mark 7: 31-37)

God speaks to us in many ways, including through the Sunday Scripture readings. This week we continue to hear the Gospel of Mark proclaimed. In his reading, Jesus heals a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment. This is a story about Jesus' healing power and in it we find clues about our understanding of sacrament. We are struck by the physical means used to heal the man, the use of spittle and touch.

The Church continues to celebrate the sacraments using physical means. In the Sacrament of Baptism, water and oil are used to show the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, we are anointed with holy oil on the forehead and the hands. In the Eucharist, bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. We are a sacramental people who believe that God's grace is given to us through these physical signs. (<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection>)

Prayer:

Dear God we thank you today for the gift of hearing. Help us to listen to and appreciate all the wonderful sounds around us, and to pray for all those who only know the sound of silence. We make these prayers through Christ our Lord.

Amen

## SIXTH FORM

Students in Years 12 and 13 began their Sixth Form Programme of Study with a range of workshops that focused on independent study skills, mindfulness and team building.



## PARENT ENGLISH CLASSES

St Thomas More Catholic School runs free English language classes for parents/carers. All parents/carers who want to improve their English are welcome to attend. Classes are held every Tuesday, 6 - 7:30pm here at the school. The first class will be on 18 September.

## Thought for the Week

"You must tell yourself, no matter how difficult something may be, I'm going to make it. A little progress each day adds up to big results."

## DRAMA DEPARTMENT

As part of their GCSE and A-level Drama students watched a performance of the Greek Tragedy 'The Oresteia'. They then took part in workshops with the company that introduced them to the themes of the play and prepared them to write a review of the performance.

Pupils from Years 11- 13 began working on a performance with Jacksons Lane entitled Worlds by Women. With director Katie Posner they will be creating a piece inspired by the Suffragette movement that will be performed on 29th November.



## Words of the Week

Monday – Decadent - Adjective - Characterized by or reflecting a state of decay or cultural decline, as in being self-indulgent or morally corrupt.  
Noun - A person who is luxuriously self-indulgent.

Tuesday – Tempestuous – Adjective - Tumultuous; stormy.

Wednesday – Dogmatic – Adjective - Expressing rigid opinions; prone to expressing strongly held beliefs and opinions. Asserting opinions in a doctrinaire or arrogant manner; opinionated.

Thursday – Antiquated - Adjective - Very old; aged. Too old to be fashionable, suitable, or useful; outmoded, obsolete.

Friday – Formative – Adjective - . Of or relating to formation, growth, or development: the formative stages of a child.