



# St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

27 January 2017

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Monday, 30 January 2017

- Retreats 8BK1 and 8BK2 (09:10-12:30)
- Year 11 CAFOD Workshop (10:10-11:10)
- Retreats 9BK1 and 9BK2 (12:30-16:10)
- Year 11 and Sixth Form Careers' Enrichment Event (16:15-18:30)

### Tuesday, 31 January 2017

- Retreat 8MC1 and 8MC2 (09:10-12:30)
- Retreat 9MC1 and 9MC2 (12:30-16:10)
- Regional Final of Jack Petchey's "Speak Out" Challenge (18:00)

### Wednesday, 01 February 2017

- Retreat 8DX1 and 8DX2 (09:10-12:30)
- Year 11 N Flame Workshop (11:30-12:30)
- Retreat 9DX1 and 9DX2 (12:30-16:10)
- Opening Night of Annie (18:30-19:30)

### Thursday, 02 February 2017

- Year 11 Art Trip to The Tate Modern
- Retreat 8KL1 and 8KL2 (09:30-12:30)
- IntoUniversity Workshops (09:30-13:30)
- Retreat 9KL1 and 9KL2 (12:30-13:30)
- Closing Night of Annie (18:30-19:30)

### Friday, 03 February 2017

- Year 8 WWI Battlefields Trip to France
- Year 11 N Flame Workshop (09:10-11:10)
- A Level Workshop with the Donmar (14:10 onwards)
- Choir Practice (15:15-16:15)

## INTRODUCTION

Yesterday, fifty Years 10 pupils were involved in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) workshops. The organisers of the workshops were extremely impressed with our pupils, not only with their attitude and behaviour but with their enthusiasm and academic ability. Well done to those involved.

Next week is going to be extremely busy. There are Retreats for Years 8 and 9; letters have been issued to the pupils involved. On Wednesday and Thursday, our pupils will be performing in our school production of Annie. There are very few limited tickets available so if you would like to attend, please ask your child to purchase a tickets during Lunchtime. Tickets are also available to buy in the Front Reception. It looks like that this year's production is going to be another smash hit!

We will end next week with National Number day; more details about the day are in this week's newsletter.

We would like to remind parents that there are parking restrictions in force at the front of the school for the safety of our children. If you are collecting your child, please arrange to do so on one of the neighbouring roads, not outside the school. Your cooperation with this is very much appreciated.

## GOOGLE HEADQUARTERS TRIP

To celebrate the achievements of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) St Thomas More girls were invited to an exclusive, behind the scenes event at the Google Headquarters last Friday. We were selected to attend a workshop to get more girls involved with Computer Science, as part of the 'Mind The Gap' programme from Google.

"There were 18 of us and we all travelled to Belgrave House in Victoria which is where Google have one of their branches. When we arrived, we were given passes to wear at all times and were given the opportunity to meet some talented people in the company including Software Engineers, Web Developers and Coders. We finished the programme by checking out some new gadgets, for example Google Glasses. We then went on a tour of the building and were able to see what people at Google do every day. No two jobs or days are the same and people spend their time coding, in meetings, eating and even have time to go to the gym, receive a relaxing massage or have a nap in 'The Cog' which is a dark room with multiple hammocks where you can just chill out.

It was a great trip and I would definitely be interested in studying Computer Science because the women were very inspirational. I now know what I have to do to become a Computer Scientist and it all starts with some coding online."

By Isabella Hernandez, Year 10





## RE DEPARTMENT

### Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

Both the First Reading and the Gospel this week echo the message of the great seasons of Christmas, which we have just celebrated. 'The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light'. At Christmas, we saw this light made have in the infant Jesus but now the light has aged thirty years on. And he announces to us that the kingdom is at hand. The kingdom is here, present before us. Christ is among us. What are we to do then? Are we prepared to receive this light? How do we do it? Jesus puts it quite simply. "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand".



To start this new term we continued with 'The Angelus' (Moment for Jesus) at 2pm in the Chapel every lunchtime. It is a good way of giving thanks to God for what he has done for us and what he is yet to do. It is very well attended and this has now become a student led event.

Every Wednesday morning at 8.40 am we have Voluntary mass in the Chapel which is well attended. Another good way for our students to start the day.

Please continue to encourage your child/children to attend both or one of the sessions as they help to develop their spiritual, cultural, moral and social development.

## NUMBER DAY

Next Friday, 3 February, is National Number Day and all Year 7 pupils will be partaking in 'Maths for Cash'. Pupils put their Maths skills into action and do maths for cash and will learn about the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), a national charity that helps children in need.

Pupils will be bringing home a sponsorship form for the day. Please help them to get sponsors for their hard work. They will also be able to get sponsored by other students and staff in school.

All money raised is in support of the NSPCC National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Prayer:

Almighty ever-living God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of your beloved Son we may abound in good works. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen

## Words of the Week

Monday: Abrogate (verb) – repeal or do away with.

Tuesday: Bravado (noun) – a bold manner or a show of boldness intended to impress or intimidate.

Wednesday: Mollify (verb) – to appease the anger or anxiety of (someone)/reduce the severity of (something).

Thursday: Reprehensible (adjective) - deplorable · disgraceful · discreditable · disreputable · despicable/ deserving condemnation

Friday: Integer (noun) – a number which is not a fraction; a whole number.

## Thought for the Week

"The wisdom of religion states that to find peace we must calm our busy minds; stop basing happiness on things outside of ourselves and develop the qualities of love, compassion, patience, wisdom, concentration and generosity".