



# St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

7th February 2020

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Monday 10 February 2020

- Year 10 Work Experience
- Teacher Training Day - SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

### Tuesday 11 February 2020

- Year 10 Work Experience
- Year 11 Taster Day
- Year 8 Trip to Tower Bridge
- GCSE Brightsparks Concert

### Wednesday 12 February 2020

- Year 10 Work Experience
- Year 7 Geography Trip to Tower Bridge
- Year 12 Mark Evison Foundation Workshop

### Thursday 13 February 2020

- Year 10 Work Experience
- Year 9 Drama Trip
- Sixth Form Public Speaking Competition

### Friday 14 February 2020

- Year 10 Work Experience
- Year 11 Option C Dropdown Day
- Year 12 Theology at St Mary's

## TRIP TO BURGUNDY, FRANCE

Last week 33 pupils and 4 staff had a very successful trip to Burgundy in France. The pupils had lessons each morning in French and then carried out activities using the language they learned. In this picture the students are preparing their lunch with the food they bought in the market. We hope to organise another trip next year and hope that we will be able to take even more students. We have also recently launched our annual Spanish trip taking place in October 2020. If you are interested please collect a letter from Mrs Silva.



## WORKSHOP BY LOCAL MAGISTRATE

This week, local magistrate Tim Harris delivered a workshop to our Mock Trials team to help prepare them for the upcoming regional competition in March. The pupils found this interesting and engaging and are very excited to prosecute and defend at Willesden Magistrates Court in a few weeks time.

## INTRODUCTION

Yesterday (Thursday) the DfE Key Stage 4 Performance Tables for schools was published. I am delighted to share with you the following headline figures for STM.

### Progress 8 +0.72

(this indicates on average every grade achieved was about 3/4 of a grade higher than expected).

### Attainment 8 51.27

% achieving grade 5 or above in English and Maths

**47.54%**

% achieving grade 4 or above in English and Maths **72%**

The full details can be found at [compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk](http://compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk) - clearly we are delighted with the achievement of our Year 11 pupils last year. Most of them have continued with us into our Sixth Form. Well done to all, especially the staff for their dedication and commitment to the pupils of our school.

Wednesday evening we had our Careers Fair for the Year 11 and 12 students. There were over 40 companies and universities present. Students were able to discuss opportunities and find out more information to help them consider their future path into university, apprenticeship or employment.

Also this week, our GCSE Drama pupils, Year 10 and 11 had the practical element of their exam assessed by an external examiner from the exam board. They are all confident in their performances. Their final grades are not available now until results day in August. We wish them well.

Next week all Year 10 pupils will be on their work experience placements.

On **Monday 10th February** there is a Teacher Training Day and **school is closed to pupils.**

Our Year 11 pupils will have a Sixth Form Taster Day on Tuesday 11th February. They will have the opportunity to go to some Sixth Form lessons and learn what our Sixth Form has to offer. Pupils will not be expected to wear uniform but should wear smart/professional clothes.

Mr Rowland, Head of School

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

### THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

This week we listen to the Scripture about 'The Presentation of the Lord'.

Forty days after his birth Jesus was taken by his parents to the temple to be presented to the Lord, as was the Jewish custom. Offerings were made, and inside the temple was Simeon, a devout man who acclaimed that in seeing Jesus he had set his eyes on the salvation of the world. At the start of all masses on Sunday to celebrate this there were extra candles at the altar, and these candles were also held and blessed by the priest.

### Malachi 3:1-4 -The Coming Messenger

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight. Indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi, and refine them like gold and silver until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD, as in the days of old and as in former years.

### Prayer

Strong and mighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus, the presentation of your Son in the temple was his first entrance into the place of sacrifice. Grant that, trusting in his offering upon the cross to forgive our sins and uphold us in the time of trial, we may sing your praises and live in the light of your salvation, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### The Year of the Word 'A God who Speaks'

Colossians 3:15-16: And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

### SPEAK OUT CHALLENGE

Mekhi Neunie-Dyett in year 10 represented our school at the Haringey final of the Speak Out competition, delivering a highly-engaging speech titled 'Silent Voices'. He was confident, engaging, humorous, and well-informed, proving a great hit with the audience!



## YEARS 7 & 8 BASKETBALL - HARINGEY LEAGUE

This week there has been numerous games to fulfil in the Haringey and Jr NBA Leagues. The first game was Year 7s against Gladesmore School. The final score finished 45-16 to St Thomas More, with Daniel Dagba scoring many points. On Monday they played against Highgate Wood and won 77-6. Congratulations to Godwin, Dujon and William who scored a number of points.

**Year 7 Basketball-** Jr NBA League - STM have continued their success in basketball as they were victorious against Greig City and Riverside. Godwin managed to score several points against Greig City scoring 51-22. David W was on top of his game scoring numerous points against Riverside. The final score finished 32-7. St Thomas More have now progressed into the quarter-final of the Jr NBA league.

**Year 8 Basketball** - The Year 8 basketball team are through to the Haringey League final. Congratulations to Wisdom who scored the most points with a 70-9 win.

**Year 10 football** - STM are now through to the quarter-final.

**U13 Handball** - the U13 boys' handball team have made it into the 2nd round of the London Youth Games.

### YEAR 11 & 12 CAREERS FAIR

We held a very successful Careers Fair on Wednesday. Almost 40 exhibitors were present including a number of universities, the National Apprenticeship Service, and employers from a wide variety of fields including finance, healthcare, science and tech. The fair was preceded by an informative panel discussion involving 3 executives. Sam Sloma (former footballer & Managing Director at Engage), Mark Gross (Investment Manager & Partner at Downing) and Karen Glass (Lawyer & Director at Marsden). They discussed their own career journeys and shared tips on what they are looking for in job candidates.

## 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 about today. So think thoughts of hope, confidence, love and success."

## Words of the Week

Monday – **Arduous** - (Adjective) - Involving or requiring strenuous effort; difficult and tiring.

Tuesday - **Bereft** - (Adjective) - Deprived of or lacking something; of a person sad and lonely, especially through someone's death or departure.

Wednesday – **Porous** - (Adjective) - of a rock or other material having small gaps through which liquid or air may pass; not retentive or secure.

Thursday – **Translucent** - (Adjective) - of a substance allowing light, but not detailed shapes to pass through; semi-transparent.

Friday - **Audacious**- (Adjective) - Showing a willingness to take surprisingly bold risks; showing an impudent lack of respect.