



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

9th October 2020

INTRODUCTION

This week we have welcomed Father Fortunatis to our school to preside over our start of term Year Group masses.

We are very grateful to Father Fortunatis, as this is an extremely important aspect of our school life and we are fortunate that he could bless all our pupils and set the tone for the year ahead. This year has been, and is going to be, a challenge for all involved. Our thought for the week has been "Many of life's failures are people who did not realise how close they were to success when they gave up." Staying positive does not mean you have to be happy all the time. It means that even on hard days you know that there are better ones coming. As a community, we must remain positive and ensure that we are all working together to overcome this pandemic and achieve success in school. We are continually reminding the pupils to remain safe and socially distance where possible, and I would be grateful if you can support us in doing this.

God bless
Mr Rosen
Acting Head of School



This week's winners of the Headteacher's Award for outstanding work in Geography are: Joshua O'Reilly (8MC1, Hope Ajayi-Idodolo (8DX1), Aya Johannah Narkwa (8KL1).

SIXTH FORMERS EARNING THEIR STRIPES!

Mr Rosen was thrilled to award ties to our Year 13 Prefects on Friday. Our prefects set a fantastic example to the rest of the school and have proven themselves to be the most hardworking and eager of our school community. Daniel Oke-Uyannah (Head Boy), Marilyn Gomes (Head Girl), Tavon Small (Deputy Head Boy) and Nadine Obeng (Deputy Head Girl) were also awarded their badges. We congratulate these students on receiving this recognition.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY, 10TH OCTOBER

This Saturday is World Mental Health Day (WMHD) and below are details of Thrive LDN's virtual World Mental Health Day Festival, taking place between 12pm – 6.30pm. The various activities are predominately aimed for children and young people aged 14–25 years old. The day will provide a platform for young people to discuss the challenges faced during COVID-19 and explore shared experiences of inequality and issues raised through the Black Lives Matter movement. Haringey residents can register for the day and select any of the live workshops they wish to join. All of the festival's activities are free and available via the Thrive LDN website: www.thriveldn.co.uk/wmhd2020

- Interactive workshop with the team behind Kooth, 1pm -1.40pm
- Sing 'Live Again' with Melissa James, 3pm-3.45pm
- Spoken Word Poetry Workshop with Write2Speak, 4.30pm-5.30pm

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday 12th October

AS/A-Level Resit Exams continue

Friday 16th October

Deadline for Sixth Form Peer Mentor Applications

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Historical Icon:

MARY JANE SEACOLE

Career: Jamaican Business Woman
Mary Jane Seacole (1805-14th May 1881) was a Jamaican business woman who set up the British Hotel behind the lines during the Crimean War. She described this as "a mess-table and comfortable quarters for sick and convalescent officers", and provided succour for wounded servicemen on the battlefield. She was posthumously awarded the Jamaican Order of Merit in 1991. In 2004 she was voted the greatest black Briton. She acquired knowledge of herbal medicine in the Caribbean. When the Crimean War broke out, she applied to the War Office to assist but was refused. She travelled independently and set up her hotel and assisted battlefield wounded. She became extremely popular among service personnel, who raised money for her when she faced destitution after the war.



Current Icon:

STORMZY

Career: Musician
Born Michael Omari (in 1993 in Croydon, London) Stormzy first gained attention after freestyle 'Shut Up' gained large attention on YouTube and eventually reached number 8 in the UK charts. He has since released two hugely successful albums and headlined Glastonbury Festival. Stormzy has increasingly used his status as a platform for political activism, including campaigning for reform of the judicial system and the level of support being given to the survivors of Grenfell Tower. Stormzy has recently teamed up with Penguin publishing to create #MerkyBooks, a publishing imprint aimed at forming a home for a new generation of voices.



APPRENTICESHIP ASSEMBLIES

The National Apprenticeship Service has delivered information assemblies to Year 12 and 13 over Zoom this week. Tina Mahon spoke about the benefits of an apprenticeship and how it compares to other post-18 options. Pupils then had an opportunity to explore what apprenticeships are available locally in a live workshop. Further information on apprenticeships is available on the government apprenticeship website: <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/#>

RE

**Week Beginning 11th October 2020:
Twenty-Eight Sunday of the Year A:
Gospel Reading: Matthew 22: 1-14:
Gospel Reflection: The Wedding Party**

God gives each one of us an invitation to join him in his heavenly kingdom and the celebration of everlasting life. We must choose whether to accept the invitation or turn away from his loving offer. Lord help us to be good, and forgive us if we have failed to do what is right.

A king planned a great party for his son's wedding. When everything was ready, he sent his servants to tell all the guests who had been invited to come and join in the celebrations, but each of them had an excuse for not coming. The king was furious and said to his servants: "These people do not deserve to share in my party, so go out and invite everyone you meet, they can come to the wedding instead!" Soon the hall was filled with people, good and bad alike. The king noticed one man who had not bothered to dress for the occasion. He sent for his servants and the man was thrown out into the dark.

In this Gospel, what did the king do when no-one who had been invited came to the wedding celebration? He invited everybody to the party. In the same way, God invites all of us into the kingdom of Heaven. If we refuse to accept his invitation, we are like the guests who refused to come to the king's celebration. If we accept God's invitation to join him in the kingdom of Heaven, then we must make the effort to do what is right and follow God's way or we cannot become part of the final celebration at the end of time.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you invite each one of us to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Help us to make the effort to do things God's way, so that we can accept your offer and be ready to share in your glory at the end of time. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CAFOD Fast Day

This week we are marking CAFOD's Family Fast Day to help people facing the worst of the coronavirus crisis. We have all felt the impact of this terrible disease — let us come together to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world survive, rebuild and heal. Today we had a penny collection and have donated the proceeds to CAFOD. The funds raised build much-needed infrastructure from chapels and schools, to orphanages, clinics and dispensaries.

MY MISSION PRAYER

Here I am, Lord send me to share your love with all people. May I be empowered and carried by you to be courageous and enthusiastic in bearing faithful witness

Thought for the Week

Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.

to the merciful Father, to the love of his Son Jesus Christ, and to the divine life in the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen

A God Who Speaks: 'The Year of the Word'

But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. (Ephesians 5:13). For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. (1st John 5:4).

PUPILS AIMING FOR OXBRIDGE!

This year we have six pupils applying to study at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The pupils are Marilyn Gomes (Law, Cambridge), Maica Caidic (Natural Sciences), Chriso Panayi (Law, Cambridge), Daniel Abendano Celi (Geography, Cambridge), Mayowa Awofadeju (Land Economy, Cambridge) and Dennis (Engin) Bay (Physics, Oxford). The pupils are now hard at work preparing for their admissions tests and interviews. They are getting support from Dr Irani and Ms Nolan (The Access Project). We wish them luck!



NATIONAL POETRY DAY

Jakub Kolanko, in 9BK1, wrote a fabulous poem on National Poetry Day, based on the theme of freedom:

Bars

Bars, the only thing keeping us restricted
depriving us of joy and making us constricted.
Like the steel rods inside of a jail cell,
as to our freedom they put a quell.
And even through our desperate times,
they make us pay for our crimes.
As many believe they are not in the wrong,
it is us who are responsible all along.
It is us who build our own bars,
we are all responsible for our scars.
An enclosed space, left only to our mind,
which solely by we are defined.
We all inhabit our bars inside,
a place where all our fears are amplified.

Words of the Week

Monday - Enigmatic - (Adjective): Difficult to interpret or understand; mysterious.

Tuesday - Contaminate - (Verb): Make (something) impure by exposure to or addition of a poisonous or polluting substance.

Wednesday - Mesmerise - (Verb): Capture the complete attention of (someone); transfix.

Thursday - Nocturnal - (Adjective): Done, occurring, or active at night.

Friday - Congruence - (Noun): Agreement or harmony; compatibility.