



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

11th September 2020

INTRODUCTION

I would like to start this first newsletter of the year with a sincere thank you to all parents and guardians for supporting the school during the lockdown months and this back to school week. It has been a long few months preparing for our re-opening, ensuring that the site is safe and ready for the return of the pupils and staff.

I am sure that all the staff would join me in saying what a pleasure it has been to see all your sons and daughters return to school in such a positive manner. I took great joy in visiting every class this week and seeing all pupils engaged in their school work.

We are obviously going through some challenging times and it is now more than ever that I request your support and help in keeping the school open and safe. We have spent time educating and reminding your children on the important safety procedures we have put in place. I hope that you are able to reinforce these measures with your children when they are at home. We have provided useful information on our website and we are holding a series of Zoom meetings next week to provide you with more information. The invitations will be sent out in a letter and emailed.

The days/times are below:

Monday 14th September 2020

5.30-6.00pm - Y7 Parents Information and Curriculum Meeting

6.00-6.30pm - Y12 Parents progress meeting

6.30-7.00pm - Y8 Parents Information and Curriculum Meeting

Wednesday 16th September 2020

5.30-6.00pm - Y9 Parents Information and Curriculum Meeting

6.00-6.30pm - Y13 Parents progress meeting

6.30-7.00pm - Y10 Parents Information and Curriculum Meeting

Our thought of the week this week was "The capacity to learn is a gift; the ability to learn is a skill; the willingness to learn is a choice." Your children certainly do have a gift and the skill to learn, and now is the time to make the choice and take every opportunity that is given to them.

If you require any information, please check our website "Parents – Latest News" as we will continue to post the most up-to-date documents in this section. If you have any other queries please email parents@stthomasmoreschool.org.uk

God bless,
Alex Rosen.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 16th September

Into University Workshops - Year 13 (1-2-1 support with Statements)

Thursday 17th September

Into University Workshops - Year 13

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 25th September: INSET Day, school closed to pupils

Tuesday 29th September: Virtual Open Evening

ZOOM MEETINGS NEXT WEEK

Zoom links for the meetings mentioned opposite, and taking place next week, will be emailed to parents by 12.30pm on the day of the meeting. If you have not received the link by 1pm email parents@stthomasmoreschool.org.uk



ONLINE COUNSELLING FOR PUPILS

Kooth is a free, anonymous, online counselling service, commissioned by Haringey CCG for students aged 11-18 (up to 25 for specific vulnerable cohorts). The students have the opportunity to talk to a counsellor, read articles and speak on forums. Information on this service is posted around school.

Website link: <https://www.kooth.com/>

Kooth Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/318713056/3b5ea08a52>

On Kooth you can



SCHOOL JOURNALS

Every pupil has been issued with a journal. Please can you ensure that you have **signed the permissions** on the page near the back of the journal, opposite the Homework timetable page. Also please sign the area on the first page. Journals must be brought into school every day. Failure to do so will be sanctioned. Journals should be used by pupils to record the homework set each day. There is also an area for parents to make comments/pass on information to Form Tutors/teachers and for teachers to do likewise.

RE

Gospel Reflection: Week Beginning 13th September 2020

Reading: Matthew 18:23-35: Be Forgiving

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents [millions of dollars] was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go.

Prayer:

Knowing that the Lord will grant to us all that is good and life-giving, we now turn to him confidently as we pray for our needs and the needs of the world.

For those in positions of leadership in the Church, let us pray that they may exercise their ministry with love and justice.

For those suffering in family situations of conflict and division, let us pray that the power of Christ may bring comfort and healing.

For those who work for peace with justice, throughout the world, Let us pray that they might be given new hope.

We pray for those who have died recently and for their loved ones, that they may feel the Lord's comforting presence with them in their grief.

Lord, we trust in your promise and make our prayers, those spoken and those within our hearts, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

'The God Who Speaks'; The Year of the Word.

God tells us in the Bible, "I have loved you with an everlasting love". It doesn't matter how far you try to run from Him, He loves you and wants to forgive you when you've gone wrong. He created you and cares about you (**Jeremiah 31:3**).

God loves you and has a plan for you:

The Bible says, "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (**John 10:10**).

Thought for the Week

You must tell yourself, no matter how hard it is or how hard it gets, I'm going to make it.' A little progress each day adds up to big results.

DRAMA DURING LOCKDOWN

During 'lockdown' pupils from Years 10-12 met virtually each week with director Steve Medlin from College Arts to create a performance that recorded their experiences as part of the ImagiNation Festival. Below is the link for you to view the final product. Please note that the performance is rated a 12A.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=knrGnd2H8sY&list=PLu75G07Ddm6xNUcKZkL5Q-C4RjVFimp1&index=17&t=0s>

SCHOOL ARRIVAL TIMES

We are asking pupils from different year groups to arrive at different times if travelling by public transport, in order to avoid over-crowding on buses/tubes during peak times.

Year 7: 8.00 - 8.15 am, **Year 8:** 8.15 – 8.30 am, **Year 9:** 8.30 – 8.45 am, **Year 10:** 8.35 – 8.50 am, **Year 11:** 9.00-9.10am and **Year 12/13:** 8.40 to 9.10am.

Your assistance in ensuring pupils arrive during these times is appreciated.

CAMHS 24/7 CRISIS LINE

CAMHS has been heavily affected by the NHS response to the rapidly evolving coronavirus situation which will lead to taking longer than usual to answer your call.

Please bear with us.

Please do not attend any of our sites without first calling our crisis line, due to the risk of spreading the coronavirus. the crisis telephone service number is: **0300 0200 500 (24 hours)**. Call to get help or advice in a crisis from our trained mental health advisors and clinicians, 24 hours a day, 7 days, 365 days a year.



Words of the Week

Monday- Balmy- (Adjective) - Characterized by pleasantly warm weather.

Tuesday- Headquarters - (Noun) - The premises serving as the managerial and administrative centre of an organization/ The premises occupied by a military commander and the commander's staff.

Wednesday- Impassive - (Adjective) - Not feeling or showing emotion.

Thursday- Caricature - (Noun) - A picture, description, or imitation of a person in which certain striking characteristics are exaggerated in order to create a comic or grotesque effect.

Friday- Cower - (Verb) - Crouch down in fear.