



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

13th November 2020

INTRODUCTION

As we are about to enter week two of this second lockdown and prolonged fight with the pandemic, we really need to persevere. Perseverance is vital to growing in our faith, God wants his people to persevere no matter what happens, so we have to learn how to overcome obstacles, difficulties, trials and tribulations to experience victory in Christ. We have two choices when faced with hardship: trust in God and keep our vision on Him or quit and abandon hope. We at St Thomas More must always move forward and persevere.

This week, Form Tutors have started discussing personal targets with your child and writing them in their journals. This coincides with Assessment 1, which has also been carried out this week. You will receive the results by the end of next week.

We have had information from Transport for London (TFL) and the Police, that they are performing spot checks on the buses and cautioning pupils who are not wearing masks. Can you please re-iterate the importance of always having their own mask, wearing a mask on the bus, and inside the buildings at school. We will no longer be supplying masks free of charge at school, but we now have reusable masks for sale, for £1. God bless, Alex Rosen, Acting Head of School

HEADTEACHER'S AWARD

This week's winners of the Headteacher's Award for outstanding work in History are: Jonathan Appah (7MC2), Jayden Brown (7MC1), Leonardo Castillo Tamayo (7BK2), George Adeluwoye (7BK3), Nicola Grad (7BK1) and Gerald Pratt (7KL3).



MOCK EXAMS

A reminder that Mock Exams for Years 10 to 13, will begin on Wednesday, 25th November.

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

This week we held our Sixth Form Open Event. Year 11 pupils were given the opportunity to speak to Mr Saunders, the Sixth Form team, and our Prefects about life in the Sixth Form, as well as learning more about the subjects we offer from subject teachers. This was followed by a well-attended virtual event which gave parents and carers the opportunity to ask any questions they may have had. On the school website, in the Sixth Form area, there are links to recordings giving further details on each subject. The closing date for applications is Friday, 29th January.



REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

We held a smaller than usual Remembrance Day Service on Wednesday, but the whole school community observed a reverent two-minute silence.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday 16th November

Year 7 and 8 Debate Mate Sessions (15:10-16:20, GG3/4)

GCSE Resit Exams continue

AUTUMN TERM SPORT

This term in Physical Education we have had to get creative! Pupils began the school year playing team building fitness games, invasion games, badminton and kick rounders. The aim was to build confidence, inspire creative thinking and problem solving, whilst developing fitness. At the end of the last half-term all pupils from Years 7 to 11 took part in our Autumn Term House Sports, from speed jumping to the bleep test. We also entered all pupils, in Years 7 to 10, into the Haringey Virtual Cross Country Competition, in which the pupils competed against all the schools in Haringey (pictured below: Year 8s after completing their 2.5km run). Lily Pereira Dos Santos (8BK3) achieved an amazing 11 minutes 24 seconds. We look forward to seeing whether she has placed in Haringey.



The winning house for the Autumn Term House Sports Competition was.....**TEMPLE!**

'BUBBLE' SPORTS CLUBS

Last half-term, we started 'bubble sports', opening up all of our rooms and spaces to each year group on different days of the week. Pupils turned up every night to take part in dance, football and athletics clubs. Running up to Christmas we will be starting up our regular club rota, offering a large range of clubs before school, at lunchtime and after school.



VOICES AGAINST HATE

On Wednesday, Year 9 pupils began working on an exciting new creative arts project 'Voices Against Hate' with director Anthony Taharka, from Collage Arts, in Wood Green. Over the next five weeks, pupils will explore issues that are important to them in their everyday lives, and will develop a range of creative materials with positive messages to celebrate difference and counter hate speech, that will be shared with the wider school and community online. Kofi Darko (9BK1) said "I really enjoyed developing some new skills in our first session with Anthony and am looking forward to working on this project over the next few weeks!"



RE

Week Beginning 15th November 2020

Thirty-Third Sunday of the Year A:

Bible Reading and Gospel Reflections:

Gifts from God:

First Reading: Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31

The virtues of a good wife are extolled.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 128:1-2,3,4-5

Blessed are those who walk in God's ways.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Paul warns the Thessalonians to stay alert because the day of the Lord cannot be predicted.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:14-30:

Jesus tells the parable of the talents, in which he teaches about the importance of using the gifts that God has given to us in service to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Background on the Gospel Reading:

This week's Gospel speaks of how Jesus' disciples are to conduct themselves as they await the Kingdom of Heaven. In the preceding passages and in last week's Gospel, Jesus taught that there is no way to predict the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven. His disciples must, therefore, remain vigilant and ready to receive the Son of Man at any time. Jesus' parable talks about Christian discipleship using economic metaphors. Before he leaves on a journey, the master entrusts to his servants a different number of talents, giving to each according to their abilities. A talent is a coin of great value. Upon the master's return, he finds that the first and second servants have doubled their money, and both are rewarded. The third servant, however, has only preserved what was given to him because he was afraid to lose the money. He has risked nothing; he did not even deposit the money in a bank to earn interest. The master punishes this servant, and his talent is given to the one who brought the greatest return.

Read in light of last week's parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids, this parable teaches that God's judgment will be based on the service we render to God and to one another in accordance with the gifts that God has given to us. Our gifts, or talents, are given to us for the service of others. If we fail to use these gifts, God's judgment on us will be severe. On the other hand, if we make use of these gifts in service to the Kingdom of Heaven, we will be rewarded and entrusted with even more responsibilities. This Gospel reminds us that Christian spirituality is not passive or inactive. Our life of prayer helps us to discern the gifts that have been given to us by God. This prayer and discernment ought to lead us to use our gifts in the service of God and our neighbour. God's grace allows us to share in the work of serving the Kingdom of Heaven.

Thought for the Week

The most important key to success is having the discipline to do what you know should be done, even when you do not feel like doing it. Therefore, the struggle you are in today is developing the strength you need for tomorrow.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the talents, which you have given to each of us. Whatever our gifts may be, teach us to use them wisely and for the good of others. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Fourth World Day of the Poor:

Next week marks the Fourth World Day of the Poor. This year Pope Francis has given this special day the theme "Stretch forth your hand to the poor" (Sirach 7:32). The effect of the global pandemic has seen record numbers of people losing their jobs or being on lower incomes. The Holy Father invites us not just to offer handouts to those in need, but also a hand up out of poverty. Caritas Westminster are launching the 'Road to Resilience'; a new programme of work that focuses on helping people out of poverty and empowering them to be more resilient to the shocks and challenges that cause insecurity.

'A God Who Speaks': Year of the Word

For by grace you have been saved through Faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God not of works that on one would boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9).

One day there will be no more darkness, no more night. No one will need lamps or the light from the sun. God will light up the darkness with glory and they will see clearly forever. (Revelation 22:5).

STREET DANCE

We were lucky enough to have Sam Golle (a professional street dancer and choreographer) come in to work with our Year 11s.

The girls will be competing in the Virtual Haringey Dance Competition, which is coming up in the new year.



HEAD OF YEAR BADGES

A further 17 Year 11 pupils received Head of Year badges this week for having no X's this term and demonstrating good manners and perseverance in the classroom. Congratulations to the following Year 11 pupils: Alberta Aboagye, Tobi Adebambo, Lloyd Adomaah, Lillian Bankole, Elton Barroso Dos Santos, Mercy Boateng, Ross Bondoc, John Caidic, Sarya Calibasi, Beatriz Carrion Quezada, Simone Cioara Mantino, Kaiser Coleman, Crystal Darkwa, Franz De Guzman, Aidan Dolan (pictured), Kimberley D'Souza, Julius Ducusin.



Words of the Week

Monday- Impediment - (Noun) - A hindrance or obstruction in doing something; a defect in a person's speech, such as a lisp or stammer.

Tuesday- Wane- (Verb)- (Of a state or feeling) decrease in vigour or extent; become weaker.

Wednesday- Antagonise - (Verb)- Cause (someone) to become hostile.

Thursday- Rebuke - (Verb) - Express sharp disapproval or criticism of (someone) because of their behaviour or actions.

Friday- Impinge - (Verb) - Have an effect, especially a negative one.