



# St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

2nd October 2020

## INTRODUCTION

As a Catholic community we recognise and celebrate all our pupils and staff at St Thomas More School. We are aware more than ever, that we should be a support for those who need it. As Christians, each one of us can ask ourselves, "What should I do today to be a support for my neighbour?" Paul the Apostle asks us to "have among yourselves the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus."

This week we opened our doors to prospective Year 6 pupils and parents. They were welcomed into our school for daytime tours and our official open evening on Tuesday. I was extremely proud to see our Sixth Form pupils demonstrate their interpersonal skills as guides and listen to how they spoke fondly of the school, and promoted it to the parents and pupils who came to visit. A very important reminder - any applications for a place in Year 7 for September 2021 must be submitted online via the Common Admissions for your home borough AND a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) must be submitted to the school with evidence. This includes siblings. The deadline for submission is 31st October 2020.

This month our pupils and staff will celebrate the diverse culture at St Thomas More School through our Black History Month programme of activities, which you will hear more about each week. The Staff Book Club is reading 'The Underground Railroad', a beautifully written and painful to read, but very important work, as Colson documents the channels that helped those enslaved escape from plantations in the south of America during the 1900s.

I am delighted to announce the winners of this week's Headteacher's award. The three pupils selected were from the whole of Year 7 and were highlighted for their outstanding work in English. Congratulations to Oliver Skubik 7BK1, Kevarni Bushell 7KL3, and Donnell Mubadiata 7MC2 (all pictured below).

God bless  
Alex Rosen  
Acting Head of School



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Monday 5th October

AS/A-Level Resit Exams Begin

Year 12 Apprenticeship Presentation (08:50-09:10)

Year 12 EPIC Gambling Awareness Talk (16:15-17:15)

### Tuesday 6th October

Year 12 Mark Evison Workshop (16:15-17:15)

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

### Historical Icon:

#### LOUIS ARMSTRONG

Career: Musician

Louis Daniel Armstrong (August 4th, 1901– July 6th, 1971), nicknamed Satchmo, Satch or Pops, was an American trumpeter, composer, singer and occasional actor who was one of the most influential figures in jazz. His career spanned five decades, from the 1920s to the 1960s, and different eras in the history of jazz.

Coming to prominence in the 1920s as an "inventive" trumpet and cornet player, Armstrong was a foundational influence in jazz, shifting the focus of the music from collective improvisation to solo performance.



### Current Icon:

#### DINA ASHER-SMITH

Career: Athlete

Dina Asher-Smith (born 1995, Orpington, London) is a British sprinter who competes in both the women's 100 and 200 metres.

She is the fastest British woman in recorded history and in 2019 became the first female British sprinter (over 100m or 200m) to win an individual medal in the world championships since 1983.

In addition to her track success Asher-Smith has a growing modelling career and graduated from Kings College London with a history degree. In 2020 she was included in the Powerlist as one of the UK's most influential people from African/African Caribbean descent.



## SCHOOL COUNCIL BACK IN SESSION!

On Monday we held the first School Council meetings of the term. The meetings were slightly different to normal, as they were held in year group bubbles rather than the Council meeting together. Students came armed with a wide variety of brilliant ideas to pursue this year and were enthusiastic about making positive changes around the school. Thank you to all members of the Student Council for your active involvement, and to our Year 13 prefects for facilitating and running the meetings.

## RE

**Week Beginning 4th October 2020**

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 21: 33-43**

**Gospel Reflection: Listen to God's Message**

Jesus came to share the Good News and to bring God's message to all people. He wanted them to learn how to live in the love of God and one's neighbour, and to know what mattered most in life. Many people did not listen, and so, Jesus told them that he would give his message to others.

The path to our heavenly Father is like the rising sun, getting brighter and brighter as we draw closer to God. Those who turn away from his love, follow a path as dark as the night, and they stumble and fall because they cannot see the way. (Proverbs 4: 18-19). Jesus told a parable to the people: 'There was once a farmer who owned a vineyard. He had to go away on business, and so he put some farm workers in charge of the vineyard. When it was time to harvest the grapes, the farmer sent some servants to collect his share. However, the farm workers beat his servants and chased them away. The farmer did not give up, and sent more servants to collect what belonged to him. Again, they were beaten and chased off. Finally, the farmer sent his own son: the farm workers seized the son and killed him.

Then Jesus asked, 'What will the farmer do when he arrives at the vineyard? The people who had been listening answered, 'He will punish the farm workers and put other people in charge of the vineyard.'

Imagine if the vineyard was the whole world. Who would be in charge of it all? God made the world and everything belongs to him. In the story, he is like the farmer: God trusts us to take care of what we have been given, just as the farmer trusted the farm workers. Just as the vineyard would be taken from the farm workers who would not listen to the master's message, so the kingdom of God will be taken from those who do not listen to God's message, and given to others who listen and live according to God's way.

### Prayer:

Jesus, open our ears to hear your message and help us to understand it. Help us to share the message of your saving love with others, so that they too can share in your kingdom. Amen.

## Thought for the Week

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.

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

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

God loves you and has a plan for you:

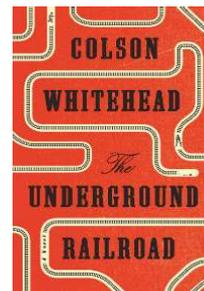
"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, [Jesus Christ], that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" — a complete life full of purpose (John 10:10).

### STAFF BOOK CLUB

This month the staff book club will be reading "The Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead as recommended by Barack Obama. The novel follows the story of Cora, a 15-year-old slave who escapes from a plantation in Georgia and her journey across America on an underground railroad.

Although fictional, Whitehead uses first person accounts of slavery collected by the Federal Writers Project and the fictional underground rail road represents the network of safe houses that were set up to aid escape.



### VIRTUAL SCHOOL TOUR

We have launched a virtual tour of the school in the Admissions section of our website. Please do have a look!

### EPRAISE POINTS

Felix Boateng in Year 7 (pictured right) purchased 3 items from the Epraise shop this week after accumulating over 50 points. The following students have collected the most points in their year groups: Ashley Brown-Year 7, Nana Konadu-Year 8, Wisdom Osuji-Year 9, Mikolaj Kotecki-Year 10, Anabela Santos-Year 11.



Students should continue to collect as many Epraise points as possible this year.

## Words of the Week

**Monday- Mellifluous - (Adjective)** - (Of a sound) pleasingly smooth and musical to hear.

**Tuesday- Fewer - (Determiner - Pronoun - Adjective)** - A small number of.

**Wednesday- Lethargy - (Noun)** - A lack of energy and enthusiasm.

**Thursday- Pedantic - (Noun)** - Excessive concern with minor details and rules.

**Friday- Teeming- (Verb)** - Be full of or swarming with.