



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

25th September 2020

INTRODUCTION

We ask God to give us hope in this difficult time. When we stumble and fall, lift us up. When nothing seems sure, give us trust. When we lose our way, be our guide; that we may find serenity in Your presence, and purpose in doing Your will.

This week we have been grateful that we are remaining safe and enabling our pupils to continue their learning under our supervision. I will continue to remind you and your children that we must follow all the COVID safety procedures that we are carrying out in the school so that we can remain open. As I write this newsletter, I am pleased to say that we have had no confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school, since the start of term. Being socially distanced, sanitising hands and not mixing with other year groups outside of school, are all key to the success of this school.

The staff and pupils have been preparing for our Open Evening next week. This is always an important time for our school as it enables us to show the school in its most positive light. We are extremely delighted to have, for the first time, a virtual tour of the school and I would highly recommend that you view it on our website in the Admissions area. There are other videos in the News area. If you know of any friends or families who wish to apply to the school please direct them to our website.

We will be starting a series of activities and presentations during Black History Month next week and we are very privileged to welcome David Lammy, Member of Parliament for Tottenham, who will be speaking to pupils at the end of the month.

I hope that you and your children enjoy this extended weekend and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday at the usual start time of 8.50am.

God bless.
Alex Rosen
Acting Head of School

LIBRARY BOOKS



If you have any library books you borrowed last year and weren't able to return due to

lockdown, can you please bring them back to the library in the next few weeks or give them to your Form Tutor to return. Thank you.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday 28th September
School starts at 8:50am as usual
School council meetings - Y7-10 (separate year groups) - New Canteen
Tuesday 29th September
School closes early for Open Evening - no period 6 lessons or Prep
Wednesday 30th September
School starts at 9:50am for 10am Registration following Open Evening
Thursday 1st October
Year 12 Into University meetings

THE ACCESS PROJECT

Students in Year 11 have been given the chance to apply to a really exciting opportunity with The Access Project. The Access Project is a charity that works in schools to help bright young people get into top universities. We do this through a programme of both tutoring and mentoring to help students reach their goals. Tutorials will take place online in a free period, or after school, for 1 hour a week and the mentoring will take place in school with Ms. Nolan. Students have until Monday 5th October to apply using this link: [bit.ly/TAPlication2020](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=19&v=IX8CQKzCirY&feature=emb_title). More info can be found by watching this YouTube video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=19&v=IX8CQKzCirY&feature=emb_title



PREP

After School Prep is part of our incessant efforts to provide our pupils with as many opportunities as possible to succeed.

All pupils are welcome to stay in school after their lessons finish and complete their homework tasks, every Monday to Thursday from 3.10pm until 7pm, and on Fridays 3.10pm to 4.10pm.

Prep sessions are supervised by members of staff, they are free of charge and a snack is offered to pupils at 4.30pm during a small break.

MOBILE PHONES

A reminder that mobile phones are not permitted in school and will be confiscated.



RE

**Week Beginning: 27th September 2020 Year A
Gospel Reading: (Matthew 21:28-32)**

Reflection Gospel Reading: Making Choices

In this week's Gospel, we contrast two sons who are asked to work in the vineyard. The first son refused but later changed his mind and went. The second son agreed to go but in fact didn't go. It is the first son who did the right thing.

Jesus presented this parable to illustrate how we all need to repent, to change our ways from what is wrong to what is right. This is the way to our salvation. All human life is itself a second chance offered to us by God. We call that second change redemption. Redemption makes life a choice.

Jesus means action when he speaks his message. While he is happy that people listen and pray and say good things, he is looking for men and women who put their hands where their hearts are, and put the gospel into action. He says that some of the people most looked down on will find their way into the kingdom of heaven, because they do the works of God – they love and care, they help and encourage. They are not just spiritual thinkers, but faith-filled doers of the word of God, even when their lives are not perfect.

Prayer:

O Gods, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven. 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.

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

But from there you will seek the Lord your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul. When you are in tribulation, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, you will return to the Lord your God and obey his voice. For the Lord your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them (Deuteronomy 4: 29-31).

Thought for the Week

No matter how well you think you carry yourself,
if you do not value yourself it will show,
and you'll be treated accordingly.
Know who you are and be confident in it.
Know your worth and act on it.

INSTRUMENT LESSONS

Unfortunately, due to the ongoing pandemic, our musical instrument lessons have been temporarily suspended while we implement the measures necessary to ensure the safety of both teachers and students. We are now able to re-introduce lessons in a staggered manner, starting with those students who are studying music at GCSE/A Level (these courses have an examined performance component), and then opening up to the wider school in stages. We aim to have a full programme by the start of the spring term (although dates are necessarily tentative at this point). If your child is interested in learning a musical instrument, please ask them to pick up a letter from their Head of Year. These will be available after half term. Any other queries, please email: instrumentlessons@stthomasmoreschool.org.uk

DRAMA

On Tuesday, Year 13 Drama students Anna Figueria, Tolani Durojaye and Tavon Small, performed their devised piece '2020' as part of their A Level exam. Their play used political satire to explore the events of this year. They began the process during online lessons and have worked very hard since the start of term to put the piece together. Congratulations on completing the performance despite challenging circumstances, we are very proud of you!



MASKS

A reminder that if your child is travelling by public transport they must wear a mask to protect you, themselves and their fellow travellers.



Words of the Week

Monday- Perplexed - (Adjective) - Completely baffled; very puzzled.

Tuesday- Conspiracy - (Noun) - A secret plan by a group to do something unlawful or harmful.

Wednesday- Mitigate - (Verb) - Make (something bad) less severe, serious, or painful.

Thursday- Prescient - (Adjective) - Having or showing knowledge of events before they take place.

Friday- Congregate - (Verb) - Gather into a crowd or mass.