



# St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

12 May 2017

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Monday, 15 May 2017

- GCSE Art Exam
- Start of the Public Examinations

### Tuesday, 16 May 2017

- GCSE Art Exam
- Year 8 Parents' Evening (17:00-19:00)

### Wednesday, 17 May 2017

- Youth Club (15:10-17:15)

### Thursday, 18 May 2017

- School Choir Concert at St Pauls' Church (from 19.00)

### Friday, 10 May 2017

- Prayers with Sr Eileen
- Haringey Song Writing Workshop (09:10-11:10)
- Choir Practice (15:10-16:10)
- Duke of Edinburgh Meeting (15:10-16:10)

## INTRODUCTION

Next week is the official start of the public examinations. The pupils have been working hard in preparation for these exams and have been given a new timetable which includes examinations, revision sessions and when their normal lessons will take place. A copy of the timetable can be found on the school website.

Please be aware and support the fact that the school does not allow pupils to take study leave as many other schools do. We firmly believe that continuing lessons between exams help pupils stay focussed and assist them in preparation for the remainder of their exams. We wish all those sitting exams great success.

Next Thursday, the Year 8 Parents' Evening will be taking place, starting at 5.00pm. Pupils' reports will be issued during the evening. We ask all parents of Year 8 pupils to attend with their children in full school uniform. Parents' Evening is a great opportunity to discuss your child's progress with teachers and form tutors. Please note reports will not be issued to children without their parents being present.

This week, another two Year 7 form classes were involved in a retreat to St Monica's Church, Palmers Green. The retreat was a very spiritual and thought provoking experience for pupils, as you will read later in the newsletter.

## SCHOOL CHOIR

During the May half-term holiday, St Thomas More School Choir will be going on its first ever tour in the Netherlands. **The choir will be presenting their tour programme in a concert at St Paul's Church, Wood Green on Thursday, 18 May 2017.**

The concert will showcase the wonderful talent of many of the pupils in the choir and help them to prepare for the tour. The concert starts at 7.00pm and there is no charge for admittance but donations are warmly welcomed. Money raised through the concert will go toward the Courtyard Youth Project and the choir's tour to the Netherlands.

**We hope as many parents as possible can come along and support the pupils in the choir as they fill St Paul's Church with the sounds of their brilliant voices!**



The choir pictured at the recent Voice in a Million Concert, Wembley Stadium

## YEAR 7 RETREATS

The Religious Education Department is committed to providing a range of opportunities to celebrate and explore the teachings of our Catholic faith and our Judaic Christian heritage.

Mrs Henry, Head of Department, is always looking for new ways to encourage our students to pray. The annual retreats are always an enjoyable experience that benefit both pupils and staff. This term's Year 7 retreat was held at St Monica's Church Hall. The half-day was centred on the gospel of Matthew 25:35 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in".

The gospel message of charity inspired Mrs Henry to create a programme of activities that would combine the teachings of our patron saint, Thomas More; the idea that "actions speak louder than words"; the current refugee crisis; and plight of the unfortunate families and children who are currently living in temporary camps because of wars and famines.

St Monica's Church hosted an exhibition of photos of the international refugee crisis. This exhibition was viewed by the pupils who reacted sensitively, maturely and intelligently with comments ranging from despair, "this is so sad", to anger, "we must do more to help these people", and to gratitude, "we are so lucky to live in this country".



## Thought for the Week

"Being British means being respectful to each other and having tolerance for people and their views. Freedom of speech is an important part of British culture but we must exercise it thoughtfully, taking care not to offend".

One pupil summarised the retreat saying, "we sometimes say we are sorry, we try to believe, we think mostly of ourselves, we want to receive but need to give and do more". Another pupil added, "we know about 'loving our neighbour as ourselves' begins in school and in Wood Green, but we all need to be aware of and help as many people everywhere".

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE RE DEPARTMENT Fourth Sunday of Easter

This week is "Good Shepherd Sunday" when we reflect on Jesus in the role of the shepherd. A shepherd knows his sheep. He cares for them. He guides them in the right direction. He brings back the stray. Today Jesus tells the disciples that he is also the gate of the sheepfold. This implies that the only way for us as sheep to get through to the other side is to approach Jesus. Any other way would not lead to the life that Jesus refers to. So we listen out for the voice of the shepherd, calling us into his care. At the same time, we try to ignore the call of the stranger, which we see as the devil, enticing us away from God.

### Prayer

Almighty ever-living God, lead us to a share in the joys of heaven, so that the humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen

## Words of the Week

Monday: Latent (Adjective): Existing but not yet developed; lying dormant or hidden, concealed or inactive.

Tuesday: Meander (Verb): If you meander somewhere, you move slowly and not in a straight line.  
(Noun): A winding curve or bend of a river or road.

Wednesday: Catatonic (Adjective): So tired or exhausted that one can barely move: immobile or unresponsive.

Thursday: Lurid (Adjective): Unpleasantly bright in colour, especially so as to create a harsh or unnatural effect.

Friday: Ambivalent (Adjective): Having mixed feelings or contradictory feelings or ideas about something or someone.