



St Thomas More Catholic School Parents' Newsletter

14 December 2018

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday, 17 December 2018

- Mock Exams
- Sixth Form Assembly: Stop and Search with PC Lee Robinson (08:50-09:10)
- Sixth Form Parents' Evening (16:30-18:30)

Tuesday, 18 December 2018

- Mock Exams
- Christmas Jumper Day
- Year 10 Maths Enrichment Day at Queen Mary University
- Year 9 visit to Charles Dickens Museum (09:00-12:45)
- Christmas Lunch (12:30-13:45)

Wednesday, 19 December 2018

- Parents' Carol Service (18:00-20:00)

Thursday, 20 December 2018

- Early finish (approximately 12:00)

Friday, 21 December 2018

- Christmas Holidays!

INTRODUCTION

Yesterday afternoon we held our annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Party, welcoming over 100 guests from a number of organisations and the local community. As always, our pupils were a real credit to the school, as reflected by the many very positive comments we received. The visitors were treated to refreshments, singing and Bingo. Our thanks go not only to our pupils, but also to Mrs Henry, the RE Department, and the many other staff who made the afternoon such a great success.

This will be the last Parents' Newsletter of 2018, as next week the Autumn edition of 'The Glendalian' will be issued to pupils. Please ask your child for it, or look in their bag!

We currently have a large amount of lost property. Please check that your child has their coat in particular. If not, please get them to have look in lost property, or pop into school yourself. Any remaining items will be donated to charity on the last day of term. It would be very helpful if parents could please write their child's name inside of their coat, so that if found it can be returned to the right person.

There will be exams for Year 11 and Sixth Form BTEC pupils in January and February. Timetables are on the school website. To assist BTEC pupils in Year 11 and Sixth Form, there are extra sessions arranged for Wednesday, 2 January, and Thursday, 3 January. Again, the timetables will be on the school website.

School will reopen for all pupils on Monday, 17 January at the normal time of 8.50am. We wish all a very merry, safe and holy Christmas.

FOOTBALL

Handball

The U14 boys' handball team are Haringey champions for the second year running, after beating Greig City, Alexandra Park School, Fortismere and Park View.

The Year 8 girls' team finished 2nd in Haringey and the Year 9 girls came 4th. Congratulations to all the teams!

Swimming: Bronze Medallists

The St Thomas More boys' swimming team took the bronze in this year's Haringey swimming contest. Benjamin, Patrick and Gerard swam excellently to secure the win.

Rugby

The Year 9 boys played their National Cup semi-final this week. Although they marginally lost the game, they did an amazing job to make it to the top four teams in the country, and deserve hearty congratulations!

Football

Our Year 11 boys played fantastically against Marylebone this week, taking a 4-2 win in an intense penalty shoot-out. They are now through to the quarter-finals of the Middlesex Cup.

Netball

Years 10 and 11 took part in their first mixed netball tournament at the University of Bedfordshire this week. They played against the University of Bedfordshire and drew 2-2. This was an amazing achievement as there was a minimum of a 3 year age gap. Well done to all the players!

SCHOOL CLUB: ART CLUB

In Art Club, the students have been creating their very own Christmas cards. Congratulations to everybody who took part! It was an extremely tough decision, but the winners, chosen by Mr Rowland, are:

Year 7- Priscilla Smith-Mensah Armah

Year 8- Scarlett Sharp

Year 9- Kimberley Mary D'Souza

If you are interested in finding out more about School Clubs, please speak to Miss Christodoulou.



CHRISTMAS SCIENCE LECTURES

This week, 15 pupils attended a Christmas lecture at the Royal Institute of Science. The talk was on Genetics, and how we came to be the way we are today. This was part of a 200 year tradition involving notable scientists such as Michael Faraday and David Attenborough, and was the first of a series of lectures to be aired on BBC4 over the holidays. This year, the pupils had the privilege of seeing Dr Alice Roberts. All very much enjoyed the event and the unique opportunity of experiencing the live filming of a TV programme.



REFLECTION FROM THE RE DEPARTMENT

Week Beginning December 9th 2018

Gospel Reading: (Luke 3:1-6)

Prepare My People

The people of Israel had turned away from God and his love. He had promised to send them a saviour, but first he sent someone to prepare the people to welcome the Son of God. John the Baptist told the people of Israel to turn back to God and ask for his forgiveness. Today we do the same. All we need to do is to tell God how sorry we are for our faults and failings.

So what is the message of John to us as we prepare for the faith-deepening experience of the Birth of Jesus? The message is the same one that John preached to the Jews: "Prepare by seeking forgiveness." What gets in the way of our appreciation of God's gift of Jesus as Saviour is that we have let idols clutter our lives as the Jews of old did. Do our abundance, our need for recognition, and our longing for security become ends and not means? Have they become the little idols we worship? John invites us to transform our hearts by acknowledging and confessing our sins so we can be attentive to the true "reason for the season."

(<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection>)

Prayer:

Help us, Lord, to be like John the Baptist, filled with your spirit and brave enough to say and do what is right. Give us the courage to choose the right way, despite what others might say or think, because we believe in you and love you with all our hearts.

Amen.

Thought for the Week

"Never give up on what you really want to do. The person with big dreams is more powerful than one with all the facts."

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD PROGRAMME

The Duke of Edinburgh Award program is now underway for a new group of Year 9 pupils, who are undertaking activities towards achieving their Bronze Awards. Pupils will independently work towards goals relating to a skill, volunteering and a physical activity before completing an expedition together at the end of the year. Special congratulations to Year 10 pupils Mannab Berhanu and Kim Ly, who both recently received certificates for their efforts in completing their awards. Both have been commended for their work as volunteers in the school library. Well done! Please see Mr Andrews if you have any questions about the award.



Our highly successful Senior Citizens' Christmas Party in full swing:



Words of the Week

Monday – Covet – Verb: To yearn to possess (something, especially something belonging to another).

Tuesday – Conjecture – Noun: An opinion or conclusion formed on the basis of incomplete information. Verb: To form an opinion or conclusion about (something) on the basis of incomplete information.

Wednesday – Apprehension – Noun: (1) Anxiety or fear that something bad or unpleasant will happen. (2) Understanding; grasp.

Thursday – Felicitations – Noun: (1) Adjective: Words expressing praise for an achievement or good wishes on a special occasion.