



St. Thomas More High School

An Academy Trust in the Diocese of Brentwood (Reg No: 7696989)

CONTACT

No. 1291 – 21st November 2014

Dear Parents and Pupils

Sixth Form Open Evening – Last night we held our 6th Form Open Evening. It was so lovely to meet such enthusiastic group of students as they begin to think about their future education. They now need to continue studying hard for their GCSEs and make sure that they take all of the opportunities we are offering to support them in this.

My thanks go to our Year 12 and Year 13 students who led tours of the school; they were great ambassadors for our school. Huge thanks also to all the staff involved in arranging, helping out, and attending the evening, including the Parents' and Staff Association, who provided the refreshments.



Christmas Fayre – A reminder that our PSA Christmas Fayre takes place on 29th November. We still need your donations of sweets, chocolates, alcoholic drinks (to be brought in by an adult, please) and soft drinks and quality tombola gifts. Please see the school website for more news about this exciting event.

Advent Charities – The charities student voice and staff have chosen for our Advent fundraising fortnight are **CAFOD, The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) and the Make a Wish Foundation**. Various events will be taking place between the 8th and 19th December to raise money for these worthy charities. Watch this space over the coming weeks for a diary of events.

Advent Service Thursday 18th December 7pm start – Save the Date! – Shortly, parents will receive a letter inviting them to our Advent Service which is to be held on 18th December. Please put this date in your diary as we hope to see many parents and friends at this event.



Christmas Lunch - All parents should receive a letter next week inviting their son or daughter to have a special Christmas Lunch on Wednesday, 17th December 2014. Please ensure that you return the reply slips to Reception as soon as you receive the letter.

Highlight of the Week

My highlight this week was hearing from ex-student, James Smith. James has gained a first class honours degree from University of Cumbria based in Lancaster in business and Marketing. James is now based in Germany working in recruitment and marketing for Adidas. It makes us very proud to hear of how well our alumni are doing. Congratulations James and well done.

Mrs G Ackred
Headteacher



Weekly Prayer *Lord God,*

you created the world and you rule over your people with love.

*Help us to put you first in everything we do
and help us to reach out to everybody we meet.*

Amen

Thursday Mass - On Thursday we were pleased to welcome Fr Jeff into school for the celebration of our weekly Mass. Students in 10P were in attendance and prepared the readings and prayers. Mass was offered for their intentions and for the dearly departed Holy Souls during this month of November.

Year 10 Work Experience – Year 10 work experience will take place from Monday 13th – Friday 24th April 2015. To start the process we are holding an information evening for parents on Thursday 4th December, 6.30pm at school. We will inform you of the process and give a handy guide to take home. Your son will be informed of the process during an assembly the next day. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday 4th December. Miss Munson, Careers Co-ordinator.



This week is the official anti-bullying week, and there have been various activities in school to promote awareness of this. We have a very strong anti-bullying policy at STM, and this is made clear to all our pupils.

There are two competitions organised within school, and entries have been flying in. There is an anti-bullying poster competition with the posters on display in the concourse. First prize is a £10 voucher. There is also a National song /rap competition which is open to years 7, 8 and 9.

Inform activities included a PowerPoint presentation on anti-bullying which leads to an open discussion on anti-bullying. There is also an online survey completed by pupils, organised by Southend Borough Council. The results of this will be displayed around the school. Our anti-bullying assembly was Thursday 20th for Lower School. The theme here was 'Show Racism the Red Card' and included a DVD featuring famous footballers. A group of year 7's are preparing a small drama production on anti-bullying also, which will tour form groups.



Show Racism the Red Card! - We strongly support the anti-bullying campaign at St Thomas More and the anti-bullying week has helped raise awareness and encourage anyone that encounters bullying of any kind to speak out.

£1 a month campaign - Thank you to the parents that have so far supported the £1 a month campaign. There is still time to support the project which will support Caritas Anchor House in the first year but then any money donated each month will be available to the charity committee from student council to determine which charities we will support. The process is straightforward: print off the attached standing order form or download it from the school website and send it to address on the form.



(http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/uploads/documents/publications/gnb_donation_form.pdf)

Completing this form commits you to making a donation of just £1 for each month the standing order is active for. This money will all go to Caritas Anchor House, a homeless charity that operates in our Diocese. You may have seen this week's article in the Leigh Times featuring the student council as they learnt more about the work of Caritas Anchor House and why this is such a worthwhile cause.

Departmental News

For lots of Departmental news, please click [here](#)

PE DEPARTMENT AND SPORTS NEWS HEADLINES

For information and news on all the sports headlines and latest news, please click [here](#)

Reminder from the PE Department - This term the boys are participating in Hockey and Rugby during PE lessons. We strongly advise students to wear a gum shield for these activities!

Date	Event	Time
Tuesday 25 th November	Under 16 Basketball v Bromfords (H) Year 7/8 Mash Up Football	3:45 tip off 3:30-5:00
Wednesday 26 th November	1XI v Clacton Cons (H) Year 8 v Sydney Russell Year 10 Basketball v Eastwood (H)	2:00 kick off 2:30 kick off 4:00 tip off
Thursday 27 th November	Year 8 Basketball v Eastwood (H) Year 7/8 Rugby Trials	4:00 tip off 3:30-5:00

EARLY WARNINGS

Date	Event	Time
Tuesday 2 nd December	BASKETBALL TABLE OFFICIALS COURSE	4:00-6:00