



St. Thomas More High School

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

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CONTACT

No. 1274– 6th June 2014

Dear Parents and Pupils

Primary School Visits – Our round of primary school visits have started in earnest. This week, we have visited Our Lady of Ransom, St Helen's and Holy Family. Mr Mason, Mrs Genovese and Mrs Saunders were accompanied by some Year 7 pupils and some of our Year 10 prefects. This gives a great opportunity for parents to ask them some questions about their experiences at St Thomas More High School and personally invite them to our Open Evening on 10th July. Our thanks to the staff and pupils at the primary schools for their warm welcome. Please see times and dates of future visits, below.

Date	Time	School
Monday 9 June	2.00pm	Sacred Heart
Tuesday 17 June	2.00pm	St Joseph's
Wednesday 18 June	3.30pm	St Teresa's
Wednesday 2 July	3.00pm	St George's
Monday 7 July	2.00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes

Parent View Survey – My thanks go to the parents who have completed and returned the survey. They will be collated shortly and results will be published in next week's Contact.

St Thomas More Day – A reminder to parents that our annual St Thomas More Day Mass and celebration is to be held on Thursday 26th June 2014. All parents should have received a letter containing further details. Please can you ensure that payments for the day are made via ParentPay and the permission slip is returned to the office. This event will not be able to run next year, if contributions towards the event are not made. There are numerous activities on offer throughout the afternoon and pupils will be able to choose if, what and when they partake of these events, but will need to have brought the permission slip back fully completed and signed in order to have their hand stamped to show that they have parental permission. We hope for very warm and sunny weather, in which case could you please ensure your child has a hat and sun cream and suitable clothing.



Governors' Visit to the School – Yesterday, we welcomed six of our governors to the school for their termly visit to school day. Mr Michael Barry, Mr Francis O'Brien, Fr Kevin Hale, Mr Vincent Copeland, Ms Samantha Jones and Mr David Micklewright spent time in training with staff, attending our Healthy Eating Week assembly, Daily

Prayer at breaktime and Mass in the Chapel at lunchtime. The feedback I received from the governors on the progress the school is making and the excellent behaviour for learning seen in classrooms was wonderful. Thank you all for showing them what I am privileged enough to experience every day - the hard work of the staff and pupils of our school community.

Healthy Eating Week – This week has been Healthy Eating Week, with special assemblies on the subject. . All week, vegetables have been free for all students in the canteen. Please click on the following link for more information.
<http://www.foodafactoflife.org.uk/Sheet.aspx?siteId=20§ionId=114&contentId=643>

Leave of Absence Requests – We are, again, currently being inundated with requests for leave of absence. A reminder to parents that ‘.... ***Under the terms of the Schools Regulations, 2006, a Headteacher may not grant any absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances***’. A Notification of Absence of School Pupil form must be complete and sent to your child’s Pupil Support Mentor. At least one month’s notice should be given. If a Headteacher feels unable to grant your request you will be notified accordingly and you will then have the right to appeal to the School Governing body.

Parents’ & Staff Association AGM - On Wednesday evening, I attended the Parents’ and Staff Association AGM. The work that they do for the school is invaluable. Through fundraising, they raised a huge £12,000 last year on various equipment for our boys, including sports equipment and kit, and various items for other departments. The Pastoral Department used their money from the PSA to purchase new blazers and ties which are distributed amongst the Pupil Support Mentors for each year group and used on a daily loan basis or for a pupil to buy. Another use has been towards purchasing some awards, which are an incentive for those who take part in the Fantasy Football, plus some resources for the Pupil Support Centre to specifically aid our work with those who need support with communication/social skills. If you have any ideas for fundraising, or you have a small amount of time to spare to get involved in raising funds for the pupils then please get in touch. Contact Sue Arif on 0784 158 6046 or suearif@blueyonder.co.uk for more details. Thank you for your support.

Lost Property – Can parents please ensure that their sons/daughters check the lost property as we have a large amount of clothes, blazers, coats and shoes that need to be collected. Any items that are not collected by the end of the summer term, will be recycled by the PSA as a second hand uniform stall at the Craft Fayre on 29th November.

Merit Marks

St Andrew’s	St David’s	St George’s	St Patrick’s	St Sebastian’s
2445	2461	2539	2083	2338



Weekly Prayer

*Lord God, as we celebrate Pentecost,
we ask you to watch over your Church and over all who work in your name.
We pray for those who receive the Sacrament of Confirmation,
and in particular for members of our school community.
May they be strengthened by your Holy Spirit to lead lives of witness to the Gospel.
Amen.*



Choir - Choir rehearsals for our St Thomas More Feast Day celebrations are underway. If you have missed the opportunity to take part you must see Mr Walshe as soon as possible to get details of the rehearsal schedule. The first rehearsal next week will take place on Monday at 0840.

Special Mass - On Thursday, Father Basil celebrated a special MFL mass with students, staff and governors in the Chapel. The feast day of St. Joan of Arc (Patron Saint of France) is 30th May so we decided to have a French slant! Prayers were said for the students of the school and for the soul of Mr. Love and also for his family. The Hail Mary (which we distributed as prayer cards (see below) and blessed by Father Kevin)) was said in French. This feast day is particularly poignant for us and our students in the Languages department as Mr. Love researched the history of this laudable saint and often spoke of his admiration for her. In fact he produced a series of lessons which we have delivered to students this week. What a legacy (one of many) he has left us! Miss O'Neill, Head of MFL.



*Je vous salue, Marie,
pleine de grâce,
le Seigneur est avec vous.
Vous êtes bénie entre toutes les femmes,
et Jésus,
le fruit de vos entrailles,
est béni.
Sainte Marie,
mère de Dieu,*



Year 12's - Interested in taking History at degree?

Queen Mary's University of London are holding Taster Days at their Mile End Road Campus on the following dates

- Tuesday, 17 June 2014
- Monday, 23 June 2014
- Tuesday, 24 June 2014
- Wednesday, 25 June 2014
- Thursday, 26 June, 2013

They are very proud of their Taster Days, and last year nearly six hundred students attended them as well as forty teachers. There is a real desire amongst Sixth Formers to gain direct experience of what studying History at university is like, and they have designed the Days accordingly. Each Taster Day begins with an introduction in the Arts Two Lecture Theatre and end with a session in the same place on the UCAS Personal Statement. In between times, Sixth Formers attend a university style lecture as well as two seminars of their choice from among a wide range of offerings. They meet some of our undergraduates who take them on a tour of the campus and they provide lunch where they meet informally members of the academic staff. Students do not require a group leaders, and can come alone.

They hope that some of our students will be interested in applying. But you need to register individually on their website: <http://www.history.qmul.ac.uk/undergraduate>.



Year 10 science GCSE exams next week - With the Biology exam now done there is just the Chemistry (Tuesday 10th PM and Physics (Thursday 12th AM) exams to go. To assist in your son's revision there are past papers available

on the AQA website using this address: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/science-a-4405/past-papers-and-mark-schemes>. Your son will be sitting UNIT 01 exams.

These papers, mark schemes and other resources are also available via our VLE webpage titled "science GCSE – module 1 resources".

This can be accessed via this address: <http://www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/vle/moodle/login/index.php>. On our page your son will be able to access the grade boundaries document showing what grade he would get for a certain mark.

We would be grateful if you would ensure that your son knows his candidate number, is equipped with a working calculator and ruler, and has at least 2 working black pens before each exam.



Manga High Grassroots Maths Challenge 9-22 June - St Thomas More Maths department will be participating in this year's Manga High competition which, for this year, is running for two weeks. All students will be given their own user ID and password. During the fortnight students will be able to gain points by playing maths games. As well as the main prize for the winning school, there will be prizes for the top three students in the school and also year group prizes. Ms E Clarke, Head of Mathematics



Revision Sessions



Maths - Reminder that the Maths department are running a weekly 'Maths Clinic'. This is open to any pupil in Years 7-11 who needs help with any Maths work! The timetable for the next four weeks is::

Day	Date	Time	Teacher	Room
Wednesday	11/6/14	12:30-1pm	Mrs Rivers	Maths 6
Wednesday	18/6/14	1-1.30pm	Mr O' Loughlin	Maths 3
Tuesday	24/6/14	12.30-1pm	Mr O'Connell	Maths 1
Wednesday	2/7/14	12.30-1pm	Ms Clarke	Maths 2

There are also Year 11 revision sessions every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 1-1.25pm in Maths 2 with Ms Clarke and Maths 5 with Mr Heaphy and Maths 6 with Mrs Rivers.

Assessment Dates

- Year 7 – Tuesday 17/6/14
- Year 8 – Wednesday 18/6/14
- Year 10 – Monday 7/7/14

Year 10 English, Maths and Science Revision Sessions - I would like to make you aware of the following revision sessions which are now available for your son. I would appreciate if you could encourage your son to attend. Please find the revision timetable below. Mr Quane, Year 10 Pupil Progress Mentor

Subject	Teacher	Time	Room
English	Mr. Dooley	12.30 – 1.00pm Mon & Tues 3.30 - 4.30pm Thursday	MS2
Maths	Mr. Heaphy	1.00 – 1.30pm Mon, Tues & Wed	M5
Science	Miss. Ryan	12.30 – 1.00pm Mon, Tues & Wed	Lab4

PSA NEWS

We are holding a car boot sale on the school grounds on Sunday 6th July from 10am-2pm. £6.00 per car. Please contact Sue Arif on 07841586046 or suearif@blueyonder.co.uk to book a place.



Careers Corner

Year 10 Work Experience – I am still chasing the last few pupils for their self-placement forms. We still have a small amount of pupils who are struggling to find a suitable placement. If you or a family member have a business that would be willing to take a Year 10 pupil for 1 week work experience from 30th June – 4th July please contact me.

Calling A level student interested in Social Care – Doris Jones are looking to recruit A-level students who are interested in health and social care. Caroline Southgate the MD of Doris Jones is a qualified Physiotherapist and is keen to give practical experience to individuals who are looking to progress within health and social care. They have multiple success stories of post A-level students who did not receive desired grades but wanted to pursue degrees, they worked at Doris Jones as Care Assistants which strengthened their CV's and aided stronger applications for university. Two of these stories are from **St. Thomas More's – Shauna McKenny and Ross Dixey, 2011**, after a year at Doris they applied to university to undertake their physio degrees, they both started with us straight from A-level to gain experience and have continued to work for us during their degrees. With a background in physiotherapy as well as social care and home support, our team is uniquely equipped to offer enhanced care. In addition to traditional personal care and home help services, we look for opportunities to maintain or increase the mobility, independence and emotional wellbeing of the people we care for. For further information or an introduction to Doris Jones staff please see Miss Munson.

If you have anything to add or can support us with work experience or internships please contact me at school on emunson@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk. Miss Munson, Careers Co-ordinator.



Career Academy – Internship Appeal

The students are still looking for internships and any support from our readers would be greatly appreciated.

We have been fortunate enough to have the following placement:

		Internship placement			Internship placement
Tammy	Adebayo		James	Norrington	Brookfield, Australia - Confirmed
Daniel	Agbodza	Accenture - interview to take place. Not confirmed	Chloe	Norris-Dean	
Frankie	Ball		Olivia	O'Brien	
Emma	Barton	Bank of England – interview to take place. Not confirmed	Hannah	Rothman	Moody's - interview has taken place. Confirmed
Alex	Murley	Marsh Services Ltd - Confirmed	Mollie	Stripp	Using current part time employer for internship. Confirmed
Matteo	Ngoma	Barclays – interview to take place. Not confirmed	Ryan	Willis	Lloyds Banking Group, Grays - Confirmed

As you can see, we are still a few placements short. If you have links to any company we could approach for a 4 – 6 week paid (minimum wage) internship to help our students get the employability skills that would boost them in their futures please contact me on the above email. We would ask that the following are provided by any company in a position to offer an internship:

- A job description including a list of skill requirements
- A formal interview experience
- A staff member assigned to supervise the intern's work and act as a main contact
- A planned programme of activity aimed at challenging and enhancing the student's skills

Thank you in advance for your support. Miss Munson

PE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Regional Athletics Final Preparations: The STM junior athletics squad has been training hard in preparation for the Regional Schools athletics finals, the event takes place next Thursday at Lee Valley Athletics Stadium in London.

The boys will compete against some of the best schools in the East Anglia Region.

We remind all the team that the final training sessions take place on:

Tuesday lunchtime and **Wednesday after school**, next week. Best of luck boys!



Junior boys:

Daniel Adebayo
 Ryan Daniel-Castle
 Damian Gozdek
 Samuel Ibidapo
 Charlie Killington
 Jaden Mensah
 Samuel Norris
 Chosen Odushoga
 Enrico Paparcura
 Billy Piercey
 Seagun Shodunke
 Isaac Smith
 Zack Wing
 Herbert Zumbika

Senior Boys

Will Blackstone Whynes
 Chris Burkette
 Franklin Craik
 Tobias Desouza
 Kacper Fraszczak
 Alasdair Grant Browning
 Will Harris
 Michael Hodges
 Tanaka Massina
 Connor Moore
 Matthew Norris
 Ebuka Nwanya
 Lucas Phillips
 Oscar Waller

*****A reminder to all boys interested in athletics***:**

Thursday evenings 7:30-8:20pm at Garons Athletics Track Southend (Cost £1). All welcome, please see Mr Perrotton for more details.



The PE department would like to say a huge well done to Mr Harrison. Our former Head of PE and STM legend, representing the Senior Essex Hockey team vs Kent last weekend. It is no surprise that with the skills and experience of Mr Harrison the team won 5-1. Great result!



*****GCSE theory clinic** *** will take place every Wednesday afterschool in TR5:
3:30-4:30pm – All GCSE students welcome.

GCSE Year 11 practical sessions:

Sport	Day	Time	Teacher	Location
GCSE TABLE TENNIS	MONDAY	1-1:30PM	MR BASS	SPORTS HALL
GCSE BASKETBALL	TUESDAY	1-1:30PM	MR LETTIERI	SPORTS HALL
GCSE FITNESS	WEDNESDAY	1-1:30pm	Mr PERROTTON	SPORTS HALL
GCSE ARCHERY	THURSDAY	12:30-1:15PM	MR BASS	SPORTS HALL

Year 9 Cricket v Southend – Won by 72 runs - A sublime 83 from Jess Dyos in one of the best innings the school has seen was the platform for this resounding victory. The rules of the Essex plate competition meant there was no need to retire on 25, meaning Jess could build his innings over the course of an hour. He dispatched the ball to all areas of the ground and never looked like getting out until he played a wide ball on to his own stumps. And to think he was moaning before the match about his new bat not working! Jess was not the only one to impress with the bat, as Oscar Waller came in for the last few overs to hit 15 off 11 balls, supported by McCarthy's 13 from 14 balls. Regular readers will know how Ewan Thomas was out earlier in the innings.....

Aby Roy and his leg spinners opened the bowling for us and he finished with figures of 1 for 21, Jacob Cullen bagged 2 wickets, as did Jerome James, although he was slightly fortunate to get a man caught after his ball pitched right on the edge of the wicket and kicked back in about 3 feet! Matthew Curtis sent down a tidy over for one wicket but it was Oscar Waller who was the pick of the bowlers with 3 wickets for 3 runs from two overs. On any other day he would have been man-of-the-match although on this occasion, he was overshadowed by the fantastic performance of Jess. The boys now move on into the quarter-final of the Essex plate competition with genuine aspirations of winning the competition.

DIARY DATES

Date	Event	Time
Monday 9 th June	Year 7 Cricket v Shoebury (HOME)	4-6pm
Tuesday 10 th June	Year 10 Cricket v Eastwood (HOME)	4-6pm
Wednesday 11 th June	First XI Cricket v Shenfield (AWAY) Athletics Trials	1.45pm 1.30-3.30pm
Thursday 12 th June	Junior Athletics Regional Final @ Lea Valley Year 8 Cricket v Shoebury (AWAY) Year 10 Cup Cricket v Southend (HOME)	10.30am 4-6pm 4-6pm

EARLY WARNINGS

Date	Event	Time
Wednesday 18 th June	First XI Cricket v Southend (TBC) Borough Athletics Trials @ Garons	3.30pm 4.00-6.00pm
Thursday 19 th June	Year 9 Cricket v Shoebury (AWAY) Year 8 Cricket v Westcliff (HOME)	4pm 4pm
Friday 20 th June	Borough Athletics Finals @ Basildon	9.30-5.00pm