

St. Thomas More High School

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

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CONTACT

No. 1326 – Friday 16th October 2015

Dear Parents and Pupils,

Open Days – My highlight this week has been meeting, on Wednesday and Thursday, so many parents of Year 6 pupils who are considering applying for a place at St Thomas More High School next year. The Year 7 students who acted as tour guides received many comments regarding their enthusiasm and self-confidence and the students, who gave a presentation to parents about their first 5 weeks at St Thomas More, did so with a style and poise admired by all of the adults in the room. Staff and students around the school also deserve a well done and thank you as the positive relationships seen in classrooms and general high level of manners and politeness shown to our visitors, reinforced once again, why this is such an excellent school.

**Highlight
of the Week**

My second highlight was an email I received following a G & T basketball day here at St Thomas More. Mrs Judge wrote: '.....Please can you pass on my thanks to The STM PE department & Mrs Ackred. I had the pleasure of sharing a day with Year 5/6 children adapting their sports skills to Basketball. A fun filled, interactive day, well planned and extremely well organised. An amazing day, the sixth form students were great ambassadors for your school and a credit to themselves. Each had a different skill which inspired the children to take part and to grow in confidence.'

Non uniform day total – I am delighted to announce that the school has raised £970.16 for CAFOD following our 'Wear It Bright' non-uniform day last Friday. Thank you very much for your efforts in raising this amount of money.

Year 11 Study Skills Evening – On Wednesday of this week, we held our Year 11 Study Skills Evening. Judging by the comments from parents as they left, I know that all who attended found the information and presentations very useful. Thanks to Mr Hardiman for organising the evening, Mr Quane, Mr Maxfield, Mr Keenan and Mr Clunn for their presentations and Mrs Potton, our Catering Manager, for ensuring everyone was well fed at the end of the evening.



'Nothing But Thieves' Former Students' Band Success – The long-awaited **Nothing But Thieves** debut album will be released on the 16th October. Following a summer of festivals and significant airplay, we are excited that our alumni, Phil Blake (bass) and Dom Craik (guitar) and the rest of the band may have a shot at a top 10 chart position. You can follow their progress on their [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

Degree Success - Congratulations to former 6th Form students, Anita Simmonds, who graduated from Anglia Ruskin University with an Upper Second Class with Honours Degree in Accounting and Finance. Anita emailed me to say: '.....I would like to once again thank St Thomas More High School and all of the teachers, including yourself, who helped me on my way to achieving this amazing qualification'. Well done Anita!





Closure of the School Due to Bad Weather and Other Reasons - This week, all parents will have received a letter via School Comms giving details of the procedures to be followed in the event of the school being closed due to the bad weather or other reasons. The letter gives details of the radio stations which broadcast the messages about school closures. In the event of closure during the school day, a notice will be posted on the school website and a message will be sent to all parents via School Comms.

Weekly Prayer

Lord God,

*give me the wisdom to know what is truly important in life,
and the courage to get rid of anything that is keeping me from growing closer to you.
Amen.*

Morning Prayer - It has been wonderful to welcome students to morning prayer during this month of October as we have prayed a decade of the Rosary at 11:15 preceding our reflection at 11:20. All students and staff are warmly welcome to come along for this peaceful moment amidst the busy school day.

Weekly Mass - We were pleased to welcome Father Basil Pearson into school on Thursday for the celebration our lunchtime Mass. Students from Forms 12D and 13D were in attendance and participated fully in the celebration through reading and preparing the bidding prayers. The leaders chose a song as a post communion reflection and joined well in the singing.

Cafod Harvest Fast Day - Last week's collection for the CAFOD Harvest fast Day totalled £970.16. Thank you to all students and staff who contributed.



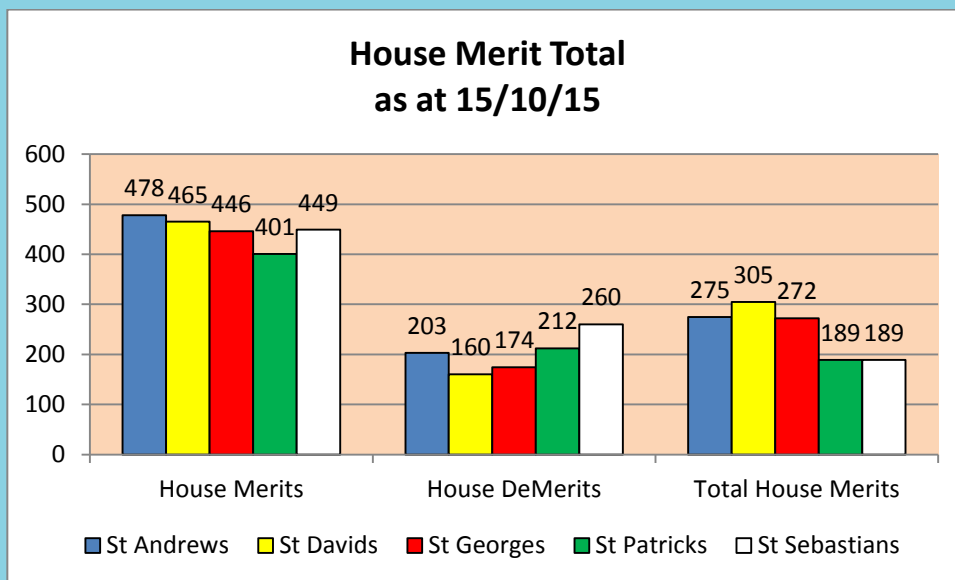
School Council - Next week students will hear the outcomes of the school council meeting and have a further opportunity to raise items with their Form Leaders. We look forward to reporting on outcomes from the work of the Council so far.

Inter House Debating Competition - Last Friday's debate addressed the motion: **This House would never push the button**. The motion was proposed by St Sebastian's with speakers Bernard Musture, Ben Sargeant and Matt Norris and opposed by St Andrew's; Holly Gerrard, Timi Oloko and John Jenkins. We had a record number on the floor of 27 and we hope to continue to build numbers. The motion for today's debate is **This House believes social media is damaging to the health of young people**. We now have some "regulars" who will form the basis of the St Thomas More Debating Society following the inter-House competition. A reminder that all debates take place in RE4 at 1.45pm and are open to all. Any student hoping to represent the school in inter schools competitions is required to demonstrate their commitment to speech and debate by regular attendance. Opportunities to take be part of a team will be publicised soon.

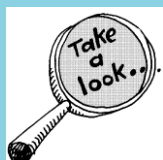


House News!

This week House Assemblies took place under the leadership of student Captains. As our Year 13 students develop their leadership skills they are securing House identity for members of the House. In competition with other Houses all students were encouraged to try their best at all times in all areas of school life. Announcements about best attendance levels were also made known this week and St Andrew's had the best attendance for the month of September. Well done to all!



Cycle Safety – With the dark mornings and evenings upon us, can I please ask parents of students who cycle to school to ensure that the lights on their bikes are working correctly and that cycle helmets and fluorescent clothing is worn. Mr Mason, Director of Learning i/c pupil safety and behaviour.



Lost Property – Lost property will be on display during break and lunch time in the assembly hall on Tuesday 20th October 2015. If your son/daughter has lost any items, please ensure that they go along to check. Items are expensive to replace and we have a large amount of lost property already this term.

YOUNG ENTERPRISE UPDATE – Tommy's Impact - There is a table quiz in the school hall that will be held on the 6th of November 2015 @ 7pm. Each person will pay £5 per head on the night or if you would like to book your place in advance you can contact the school. The team have run a number of cake sales and they made a total of £70 from the cake sales last week! They are currently in the process of deciding on products and getting ready for Christmas Trade fayre and going to Christmas fete's at various different primary schools.

If you know of any primary school or church fetes that could be looking for people to sell then please do not hesitate to contact the CEO Niamh Moggan in Year 13 or link teachers Miss Ryan/Miss McCague. Mrs Lindsay.

REVISION SESSIONS – A LEVEL Business Monday 3.30 – 4.30 - Some revision sessions for year 13 after school on a Monday. Week 1 we will focus on BUSS1 from AS and Week 2 we will focus on BUSS2 from AS. These will be held in BS1 with Mrs Lindsay.

DROP IN SESSIONS – AS and A2 Business Tuesday 3.30 – 4.30 - If you have any problems with any elements of the course, difficulties with homework, private study or any other concerns please come along to BS1 on Tuesdays after school with Mrs Lindsay.

Year 11 GCSE History Revision – Revision sessions are held in H1 or H2 each Thursday from 3.35pm - 4.30pm. Mrs Statovci will cover structure and Mr Shearman will go over any content you require.

Cold War Lecture – Early Warning: Sat 9th January, Essex Historical Association hosts a Cold War lecture. GCSE students and Year 13 students are welcome to attend. See Mr Shearman for further details.



Spanish Club – Wed 1.35-2.00 in MFL2: come and practice with Mrs Terry and a native Spanish speaker, Mari-Carmen. All KS3 and KS4 who study Spanish are welcome. ¡Bienvenidos!

SPORT FIXTURES

| DATE | FIXTURE | TIME |
|------------|---|----------------------------|
| 19/10/2015 | Cross Country Practice 3.30 Netball v Shoebury (AWAY) | 3:30 – 4:30pm 4:00pm |
| 20/10/2015 | Year 7 Basketball v Chase (HOME) Year 8 Football v Eastwood (HOME) Year 10 National Cup Football v Jo Richardson (HOME) | 4:00pm 4:00pm 2:30pm |
| 21/10/2015 | 1st XI Football v Colchester Institute (HOME) Sixth Form Basketball v Chelmsford (HOME) | 2:00pm 2:30pm |
| 22/10/2015 | Junior Cross Country @ Thorpe Hall Year 9 Basketball v Chelmsford Lions (@ St John Payne) | 11:30am 6:00pm |
| 23/10/2015 | Senior Cross Country @ Thorpe Hall | 11:30am |