

St. Thomas More High School

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

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CONTACT

No. 1327 – Friday 23rd October 2015

Dear Parents and Pupils,

Half-Term Holiday - We break up for the half-term holiday at 3.30pm today. We wish you all a happy and safe break. However, if you have exams after the break, please ensure that a serious amount of revision is done. The second half of the term begins on Monday 2nd November, (Timetable Week 1). We look forward to seeing you then.

Governors' Visit to School Day - On Tuesday of this week, we held our termly Governors' Visit to School Day. Our thanks to Governors, Mr Barry, Mr O'Brien, Mr Copeland, Ms Jones, Mrs Kwasnica, Mr Micklewright, Fr Jeff Woolnough and Mr Crowley for attending. We thank them for giving up their time to be with us. They were encouraged by the hard work they saw taking place in classrooms and noted the sense of purpose and industry there was around the school.

**Highlight
of the Week**

Year 12 Study Skills Evening – Last night we were joined by a number of students and parents at our study skills evening. My thanks to those staff who gave up their time to meet parents and give additional course information and study skills tips to students and parents alike. Those who were unable to stay some of the information will be made available to students on the VLE under "[Year 12 Study Skills](#)".

Year 10 Study Skills Evening – A reminder that we are holding our Year 10 Study Skills Evening at 6pm on Wednesday 11th November. This Study Skills evening is designed to support your son in developing the skills that he will need and answer many of the questions that you and your son will have regarding your son's preparation for external assessments.



SPOTLIGHT ASTO Small Ships Race 2015 – Year 12 student, Alexander Sinclair, recently took

part in the Cowes small ships race which takes place every year around the Isle of Wight. Alexander raced with a non-profit organisation called the Rona sailing project (<http://www.ronasailingproject.com/>). They have been offering their service for over 50 years. They own three yachts which they use to take male and female crews out on 6 day voyages which can include sailing across the English Channel and back. They also take children with disabilities out such and blind and deaf children. All the skippers and leaders are volunteers with the correct qualifications. To read his full story, [please click here](#)



Weekly Prayer

Lord God,

*by creating us in love and by sending your Son to die for us,
you gave us all a place beside you.*

*Help me to respond to this by loving you more strongly
and by serving others with grace.*

Amen.

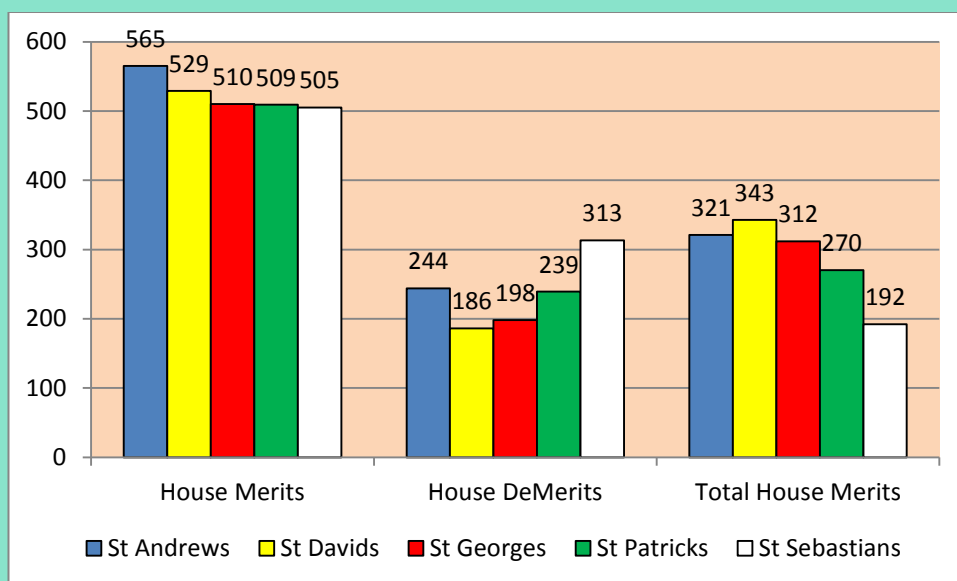
Weekly Mass - We were pleased to welcome Father Basil on Thursday for our celebration of Mass. Thank you to Form 11G who prepared the readings and bidding prayers under the guidance of the Chaplaincy and Form leaders.

Morning Prayer - Thank you to the students who have gathered faithfully to say the Rosary preceding Morning Prayer during the month of October, we plan to continue this practice. During November we will pray particularly for the Holy Souls. We look forward to welcoming Father Eamonn Power who will celebrate Mass for the whole school community on Tuesday 3rd November.

Inter House Debating Competition - Last Friday saw the debating season reach new heights with a very good quality debate between Saint George's and Saint David's House. Although the motion **This House believes that social media is bad for the health of young people** was carried, it was the opposing team, St David's, who narrowly won on points. It was encouraging to see speakers grow in confidence as they applied the advice that they had received from their first debate. The competition is 'hotting up'! Congratulations to all speakers, from St George's, Hanley Spence, George Morton and William Blackstone Whines and for St David's Rory Henderson, Gabriel Hignio-Hinios and Karina Lockowandt. The next debate will take place on 6th November between St Patrick's and St Sebastian's and the motion is **This house would do away with the grammar school**



House News!



Quiz Night!! There is to be Young Enterprise fundraising table quiz to be held here at St Thomas More on Friday the 6th November at 7.30pm. All support greatly welcomed! Parents can pay via the School Gateway.

Science GCSE Controlled Assessments – Year 10 and 11 - Starting after half term, your son will be focusing his efforts on preparing for his science controlled assessments. The pupils this will affect are in these groups...

All year 10 double award groups:

- 10s1 (Mr Clunn)
- 10s2 (Mr Massey)
- 10s3 (Mr Quane)
- 10as1 (Mr Mulligan and Mr Massey)

All year 11 classes regardless of course.

Email letters will be sent out soon to give you more details about the arrangements. Please would you make sure you read them and if you have any queries then please email me directly using my email address sclunn@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk and I will respond as soon as I can. Mr Clunn, Head of Science.

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.

A Level History News - A Level students! Make sure you make use of the VLE. There are chat sections for you to discuss many aspects of your modules. Take advantage of all opportunities provided to explore these materials to the fullest as depth of reading, knowledge and understanding is key to success.

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
02/11/2015	Cross Country Practice	3:30 – 4:30pm
03/11/2015	Year 8 Essex Cup Football v Passmores (AWAY) Essex Football v Shenfield (HOME)	12:30pm 2:30pm
04/11/2015	1st XI Football v Colchester (AWAY) House Cross Country	2pm Tbc
05/11/2015	KS3 Badminton tournament @ SHSB U14 Essex Basketball v Maltings (HOME)	4pm 4pm