



CONTACT

No. 1419 – Friday 9th March 2018



Dear Parents and Pupils,



Lenten Service for Parents – Please keep a note in your diaries that we are holding our Lenten Service on Monday 26th March 2018 at 7pm. A letter has been sent home to all parents via School Comms. We hope you will be able to join us on this evening. I extend a particular welcome to the parents and families of Year 7 students during this, their first year of membership of our school community. I am anxious to give you this advance notice this year in order that you are able to make the necessary arrangements so that we will be able to welcome you as a family to this service.

Year 8 Parents' Evening – Due to the severe weather conditions last week, the Year 8 parents' evening has been re-scheduled to **Thursday 15th March**.

Year 8 Options – Change of Deadline - Thank you to all those year 8 students and their families who attended the Year 8 Options Information Evening before the Half-Term Holiday. We hope you found the evening useful.

Due to the postponement of year 8 parent's evening to Thursday 15th March we have EXTENDED the DEADLINE FOR HANDING IN OPTIONS CHOICES FORM to **MONDAY 19th MARCH**. All forms must be returned to the DATA OFFICE by 3.30pm on this date. If you have any questions regarding the process, you can email me (ahardiman@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk). Mrs A. Hardiman.

Requests for Leave of Absence – I am concerned by the number of requests that I am receiving for leave of absence for holidays during term time. Students enjoy long and frequent holidays and I would only expect to receive requests for leave during term time in exceptional circumstances. I am confident that the majority of our families clearly understand this and the importance of education and attendance and therefore would not dream of requesting leave, except in exceptional circumstances. However, a number of requests do not appear to meet this condition. Please understand that I am unable to authorise holidays during term time. I would hate for a family to book a holiday only to discover that I am not prepared to authorise it. I look forward to your support.

Mini Bus Service – A reminder that there will be no **after school** mini bus service to the station until further notice.

Weekly Prayer



Lord God,

help me to make time to pray and find a quiet place to listen to you.

Give me the courage to do something really worthwhile for others who need help this Lent.

AMEN

Weekly Mass - This Thursday students from Form 7D gathered in the Chapel for their Mass. We are grateful to Father Jeff Woolnough, who celebrated Mass and stayed for lunch afterwards. My thanks to those students who did readings and bidding prayers and altar serving. Their Charity week will commence 16th April along with Forms 8D and 9D – they can use the whole week to run an event. Please let Mr. Maxfield know your ideas and have your Charity Form signed by him, before advertising etc.

Chapel Lunchtime Timetable - now back running as normal following snow days and Yr8 retreats.



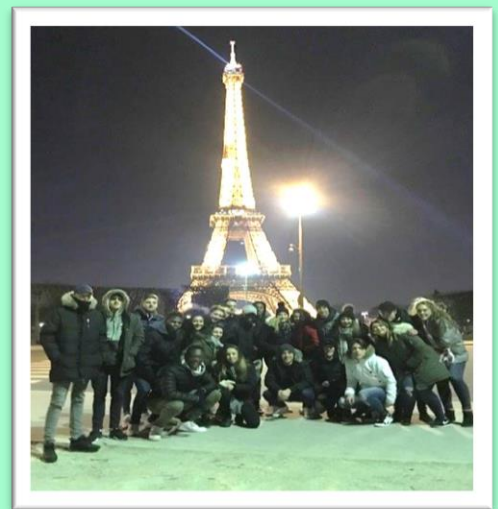
Sacrament of Reconciliation – Tuesday 13th/Wednesday 14th/Thursday 15th and Friday 16th March 2018. Students will have an opportunity to see one of the visiting Priests during this week. If students want to make an appointment could they please see Mrs Maxfield in the Chapel or let their form tutor know. Students cannot just turn up on the day.

Stations of the Cross – students and staff are invited to the Chapel on the following dates and times for Stations of the Cross: Monday 12th March 1.40 p.m., Monday 19th March 2018 and Friday 23rd March 2018. There are Stations of the Cross along the RE Corridor – so please take a look, stop for a while and look at the pictures, reading and reflection.

Form 8S Retreat – I have been in contact with Abbotswick to rearrange their Retreat that was postponed due to the bad weather. This will happen when students return to school following the Easter break. A letter with more details will follow shortly. Please send your consent via the School Gateway.



Disney Paris Trip - The Year 12 Business Studies, Disney Paris trip got back safely on last Wednesday evening. We all had a fantastic time on the trip. I would like to commend all of the Year 12 students who were on the trip for their exemplary behaviour, proud of them. I would also like to thank Mr and Mrs Pacey for all their hard work and support on this trip. I really appreciate it. Miss D McCague.



Take Your Son To Work Day - Year 8 and 9 students are being offered the chance to take part in National 'Take Your Son to Work Day' (TYSTWD) on Thursday 26th April 2018.

We do understand that for a variety of reasons it may not be possible for every student to accompany a parent/carer therefore we would suggest asking relatives or friends if they would be able to accommodate students to give them the chance to shadow them in their job for the day.

This is an excellent opportunity for parents and carers to show students what they do and what is expected in the work place. Please could I remind you to get your completed forms back to the main office as soon as possible but no later than **Friday 23rd March**. Any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs S. Napper (Enrichment Coordinator).



Rotary Youth Speaks Competition - Congratulations to our intermediate public speaking team who competed on Wednesday evening in the District round of the Rotary Youth Speaks Competition. The event took place in the Essex County Council Chambers in Chelmsford which is a rather imposing venue. Our team consisted of Heshan Mahendra 8G as chairperson Enzo Rossi-Dowman 7S as main speaker and Callum Huan 7D as the proposer of the vote of thanks. All three students took great care in their preparation and performed superbly on the night. Their presentation entitled, "Tasty Toppings" explored the similarities between diverse pizza toppings and the diversity we experience in modern society. The team was

commended for their confidence and humour. We will certainly be hearing more from these young speakers in the future. Well done boys! Next week we have a Year 10 team competing in the Senior category of the competition and we wish them well.

English Booster Classes - Year 7 English Booster Class in RE4, 3.30pm-4.30pm on Monday 12 March. Open to all Y7 students. Y7 and Y8 English Drop-In Surgery in BS3 every Monday and Tuesday during break. Open to all Y7 or Y8 students. Please see Mr Robinson or Mrs Caten for further details.



British Science Week – The science department are joining many schools across the country and this year, and participating in British Science week.

British Science Week (BSW) is a celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths - featuring fascinating, entertaining and engaging events and activities across the UK for people of all ages. The theme for this year's British Science Week is exploration and discovery. Students in years 7-9 will be able to participate in BSW activities during their normal science lessons that week. These activities are engaging and challenging as well as giving students a greater understanding of the important role of science and the world around them.

'The Plastic Tide' is a citizen science project that uses drone technology to survey and take photos of contaminated beaches, where plastics can be found. The project needs as many students as possible help to examine hundreds of thousands of images to locate these pieces of waste in order to train computers find the litter by itself in the future. Get involved and be a part of the clean-up effort! Help realise a 'Vision from the Skies'.

All students are encouraged to participate in this important project, simply head to www.zooniverse.org/projects/theplasticide/the-plastic-tide and follow the instructions.



All students also have the opportunity to enter "Guess the scientist" competition.

There are posters of 10 different scientists 'hidden' around the school.

(There is more than one complete set around school.) Pick up an entry form outside prep room 2).

Find the posters; write down the name of the scientists next to the correct number on the sheet and answer the question that scientist has asked.

You can download a free QR code reader to your phone to help you answer the questions, or simply look up the answers on the internet. **Take your completed answer sheet to Mrs Jones in Lab 7 or prep room 2.** There is a prize for each year group in school.

- Get creative and enter the British Science Association's annual poster competition. You can make your poster about whatever type of exploration or discovery you like, and enter a UK-wide competition with the chance to win an array of prizes.
- The poster can be about any of the activities you have participated in during BSW or you can use them to serve as a source of inspiration!
- Research your poster
- Investigate and imagine all the amazing exploration and discovery that takes place around the world. Here are some topic ideas to get you started:
 - What sort of discoveries have you made?
 - Research famous explorers e.g. Captain James Cook, Gertrude Bell, David Livingston
 - Think about what discoveries might be made in the future
 - Other than places, what else do people explore?
- Make your poster
- Once you've done your research, it's time to get creative!
- Your poster must be:
 - 2D (flat) – if you make a model, you need to just send us a photo of it
 - On A4 or A3 paper
- You can use pop up pictures, pull out tabs or use materials such as paint, drawing pencils, crayons and paper.
- Send us your poster

Posters will be judged on how creative and well-researched the ideas are and how well the poster has been made or drawn. Once your poster is complete, write all your information on the back, have your teacher, leader or parent/guardian fill in the online registration form, and then post your entry to us or hand it in to Mrs Jones in Lab 7.

For more details, along with the full set of rules and tips, check out website:

www.britishtscienceweek.org/plan-your-activities/poster-competition

Follow me on Twitter!



St Thomas More History twitter account is now up and running and will have videos, pictures, exam tips, exemplar work by students, and much more. Follow @STMHISTORIANS for all the latest news.



Spanish Club - All KS3 pupils welcome!

Wednesday 13.40-14.05 Spanish Club Mrs Terry and Mrs Foster

Videos/songs/films plus help with Speaking and Writing.

¡Hasta luego! Also, would you like to practise your Spanish in a friendly and relaxed way? Come & join Señora Terry and Mari-Carmen in MFL2 first half of lunch on Wednesday.



Year 7 practice for Spanish Spelling Bee – please come to improve and be entered for the competition against other schools later this month.

Practise your Spanish – Writing and Speaking skills Years 9, 10 & 11. Do you need help with some grammatical structures? Come & join Señora Williams in MFL1 after school on Wednesday.

¡Nos vemos!



CAREERS NEWS

Westcliff High School for Boys Careers Events:

- 21st March (7-9pm) - Careers in STEM
- 25th April (7-9pm) - Careers in Apprenticeships

These events are open to all year groups, their parents, families and carers.

Applications in advance for these free of charge tickets, must be via the WHSB website on Ticketsource please.

Medical Insight Day – So you want to become a doctor?

An exclusive opportunity to have a taste of medical school as well as more advanced experience and professional advice and help, provided by a group of Southend Hospital Junior Doctors.

Is this event for me?

The event is designed for Year 11, 12, 13 students considering applying to medical school and is FREE OF CHARGE; (a small, refundable deposit is required to reserve a place and students are to bring their own packed lunch/refreshments).

When and Where?

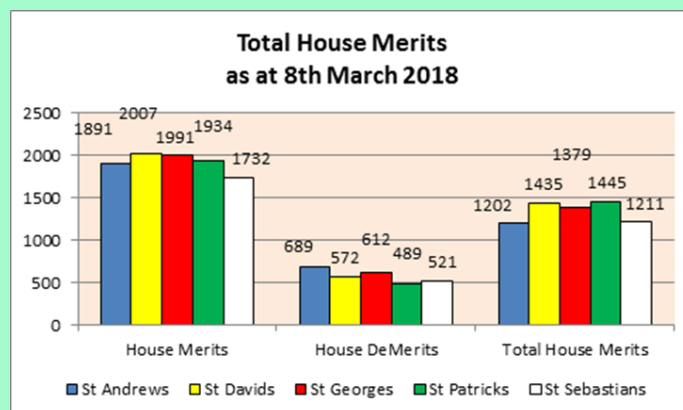
- Saturday 28th April 2018
- 08:45 – 17:00
- Education Centre, Southend University Hospital, Essex SS0 0RY

How Do I Apply?

- Contact medschoolexpday@southend.nhs.uk
- Deadline for expression of interest – 12/03/18



House News!





SPORTS NEWS



PE Students of the week - With the snow disrupting the school last week, we have two winners this week. First is Lucas Stoleru of Year 8 who came second in the Borough table tennis tournament this week. Lucas played some excellent table tennis and was unlucky to lose to a Year 9 boy in the final who he beat in the group stages. Our second winner is Alfie Treacher of Year 10. Alfie kindly volunteered to run the line in the First XI's County cup semi-final this week. Alfie showed maturity beyond his years in dealing with what was a hostile environment at times. He was faultless in his performance and we are very grateful for his help.



PE Dept Twitter - Keep up-to-date with all the latest news, results, fixtures and photos by following the PE Department's Twitter account - @PEDeptSTM



1st XI Football 2-0 West Hatch (Essex Cup Semi Final) - On Tuesday, the 1st XI faced a semi-final match against a strong West Hatch team who had been prolific in the competition so far. STM started the game strongly in the first 10 mins, dominating possession but lacking the clinical edge. West Hatch then had their chances; however a good spell of defensive organisation kept them at bay. As half time approached the 1st XI regrouped and managed to get a goal. Zach Wing the scorer, finishing the ball into the goal after some scrappy defending from the opposition. At half time the score was 1-0 which created a positive position for the 1st XI, but the job was only half done. In the second half the game continually became stretched and very open with end to end play and neither side having total control. STM created their own luck as a spell of pressure led to a penalty being given for hand ball, however the opportunity was not capitalised as the penalty was missed. West Hatch then had a spell of pressure upon the Tommy More goal, which led to them having the ball in the goal only to be ruled out for offside. With the game still at 1-0 after a penalty and a disallowed goal, the 1st XI finally got another breakthrough. With a surging run and cross from Max Saul, Zak Miller only had to be in the right place at the right time. Miller was the scorer of the second, and put the St Thomas More team one step closer to the final. All of the boys really pulled together for the last 15 minutes of the game with their backs against the wall, however managed to secure the win with a clean sheet. Deservedly the team are into the Essex Cup final, an accomplishment which has not been achieved before at this level. Good luck to all the boys in the final, let's bring the trophy home. Jacob Cullen.

Year 7 v Thorpe Hall - On Tuesday 20th February, year 7 had their first game in a while against Thorpe Hall. This was Thorpe Hall's first game and with only 10 boys in their side, it gave some of our boys a good run out, especially those who had not played in a while. A bit of a slow start showed that Thorpe Hall had not turned up half-heartedly, they were a well-structured team with some enthusiastic players who were giving STM boys a game! Eventually a spark came alive in our boys, with some strong running from Emmanuel, Johnny and others combined with a fantastic defensive effort led by Ben Caswell, the game became a thrilling contest. Both teams ended up exchanging scores, but the slow start from STM seemed to be the deciding factor at the end of the game. Thorpe Hall ran out overall winners, but some excellent skills on show from both sides from the majority of the game was a great stepping stone for this year 7 side. **Man of the Match** – Ben Caswell.

Year 7 v Cecil Jones - 2 days after our previous match, year 7 were scheduled to travel to their first away fixture at Cecil. With several boys now playing this match who had not played on Tuesday, STM were looking for a big result to show our true class. The message was to start a lot stronger than we did previously and keep the momentum on our side. The game plan was executed perfectly from the boys. Ball retention and some aggressive defensive work from STM showed the true class of this STM squad. Skilful passes, offloads and effective rucking from each boy who was on the pitch saw some great tries being scored by forwards and backs. It wasn't just the attacking phases that impressed though. Every boy on the pitch tackled superbly to ensure that Cecil were kept from our line and we won the ball back as quickly as possible. A great result at the end of the game. **STM 55 – 0 Cecil. Man of the Match** – Sam Knight.



Year 10 v William Edwards - On Friday 23rd February, Year 10 hosted the Essex Plate fixture, a competition which this side narrowly lost to Sweyne Park (Plate Winners) in the semi-final last year. William Edwards were a strong side, with some confident tacklers and a well-structured attack, STM were asked plenty of questions defensively. Possibly due to the severe cold, both sides were making some simple handling errors which worked in STM's favour due to the dominant display in the scrum, led by the powerful Harvey S and Patrick S, this gave a platform for our backs who proved difficult to handle. Whilst the result swayed to both teams throughout the fixture, STM showed a phenomenal mentality for the duration of the game and with less than 10 minutes to go, Afam I scored his 4th try, Tayla C made sure of the result putting Tommy More 9 points clear and from

then it was evident William Edwards knew they needed a miracle. Year 10 now face Trinity School in the next round on Monday 12th March. **Man of the Match** – Afam Ijeh.

SPORTS FIXTURES

DATE	FIXTURE	TIME
12/03/2018	KS4 Table Tennis tournament (STM)	4 - 4:15 PM
	Year 8 Football Essex Cup v St Martins (AWAY) Year 10	3:00 K/O
	Rugby Essex Plate v Trinity (AWAY)	1:30 K/O
	Year 9 Rugby 7s @WHSB	1:00 PM
13/03/2018	Year 10 Rugby 7s tournament (Campion)	1:00 PM
14/03/2018	1st XI v Gable Hall (AWAY)	2:00 K/O
	Year 11 v Fitz (AWAY)	4:00 K/O
	Year 7 and 8 Rugby v WHSB (HOME)	4:00 K/O
	Year 7 NBA Basketball v Woodlands/Shoebury (HOME)	4:00 PM
15/03/2018	Year 10 Football v Eastwood (AWAY)	4:00 PM
16/03/2018	Year 11 Essex Cup v Abbs Cross (HOME)	2:30 K/O