



# CONTACT

No. 1445 – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018



Dear Parents and Pupils,

## School Performance Tables and Sixth Form Open Evening 22<sup>nd</sup> November

Provisional 2018 school performance data has now been released nationally by the Department for Education (<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/%20>). As I said at the start of the term, we were very pleased with the results during the summer and this has now been validated with the release of this data.

Our Progress 8 score this year is 0.43 for GCSE. This is a big improvement on last year's positive Progress 8 score and the term used in the tables is that progress is 'above average'.

What's even more pleasing is the progress made when compared to boys nationally. Boys this year have a Progress 8 score of -0.25 so our result this year is 0.68 above the national figure. At A Level the provisional L3 valued added score is also positive. (The final L3 figure will not be published until January).

Overall, the achievements of GCSE, A level and BTEC students in 2018 have been excellent and once again, I want to pay tribute to the staff and the students for all they have achieved this year and to thank you, our parents/carers for your support in helping the school achieve these results. We look forward to welcoming many Year 11 students to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, an evening that provides an opportunity to explore the academic courses and also the wider opportunities our school and Sixth Form community has to offer learners.

***'Sixth form students are effective role models and show maturity and a high level of care for others'***

***Section 48 Ofsted Report October 2018***

Please remember that the school is closed on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018.



As was noted in our recent Section 48 Inspection

***'In November, the community reflect on the sacrifices made in war with an assembly and a Mass for the Deceased.'***

***Section 48 Ofsted Report October 2018***



This week both of these events were held in school.

**Mass for Deceased** – On Wednesday night we held our annual Mass for Deceased. This is a most prayerful occasion and we were grateful to Fr Jeff Woolnough who celebrated the Mass, to Form/Chaplaincy/Sports Captains/Leaders from Year 7 – Year 13 who welcomed, ushered, served, took part in the Liturgy and in particular those members of Year 13 who read out all the Names of the Deceased so reverently, to

our altar servers and members of the Lit Choir. Thank you also to Mr Seaby and Mr Shorten and their teams for preparing the Hall and to Mrs Davies for her organisation and careful preparation of the names of the deceased, who were prayed for during our service and lastly to the "Friends of Association" for their very kind donation of refreshments and nibbles and who also helped serve after the Mass, along with students. My final thanks is to Mrs Maxfield, Chaplaincy Co-ordinator for overseeing the organisation of our annual Mass.

***'The impact of Chaplaincy is evident in the worshipping nature of the school and the way pupils respond positively to opportunities to pray individually and collectively. Chaplaincy provides outstanding service to staff and pupils in engaging them in the preparation of and participation in Collective Worship. The Chaplain and Director of Religious Life are highly effective in the growth of the spiritual life of the school.'***

***'Chaplaincy is a significant strength.'***

**Section 48 Ofsted Report October 201**

**Measles, chicken pox and shingles - We ask for your cooperation in an important matter.**

One of our pupils is receiving medical treatment which puts them at risk if they are exposed to measles, chicken pox, or shingles.

The best way to protect our pupil from measles is for all children at school to be immunised against measles. Please would you discuss measles immunisation with your GP if your child has not already been immunised. If your child is suspected of having measles, you should let the school know immediately.

Our pupil is also at risk from chicken pox and would need to receive an injection within three days of contact. If your child is suspected of having chicken pox, you should let us know immediately.

It is also important that you let us know if there is shingles in your household.

Your child is not at any risk from this situation. However, the health and wellbeing of our pupil who is at risk, does depend on the cooperation of all other parents and we hope you will help us.

**Travel Assistance** - This week, I received a letter from Alan Smith, Transport Entitlement Officer at SOSBC, reminding parents that if their child is registered for Free School Meals and whose home address is over two walking miles from the school, they will qualify for travel assistance from Southend Council. Typically, this would be in the form of a bus pass, though consideration will be given to the applicant's (parent/carer) preferences. Full details and information can be found at the relevant page of the Council's website at [www.southend.gov.uk](http://www.southend.gov.uk) where online applications can also be submitted.

***Weekly Prayer***

*Dear Jesus,*

*everything I have – my time, possessions and money – is a gift.*

*Help me to be generous enough to make a sacrifice*

*when it is the right thing to do and to offer this as an act of love.*

*Help me to become more aware of the needs of others.*

***AMEN***

A reminder to staff and students that there is a prayer button on the VLE and this can be used to share our intentions, as we are a prayerful community. These are updated regularly and displayed in school in order that we can deepen our collective and shared prayer life. We encourage all members of our school community to contribute, either by offering a prayer intention or by praying for the intentions offered by others.

**Weekly Mass** - Again, thank you to Fr Jeff Woolnough who came back to school today - Thursday 15th November 2018, to celebrate our weekly Mass. Thank you also to Form 11S who were in attendance and prepared the readings and prayers and to our Altar Servers - Charlie Rumm 11S and Leonardo De Sousa - 7S.

**Southend Foodbank** - I have been in touch with Southend Foodbank and items they urgently require are:

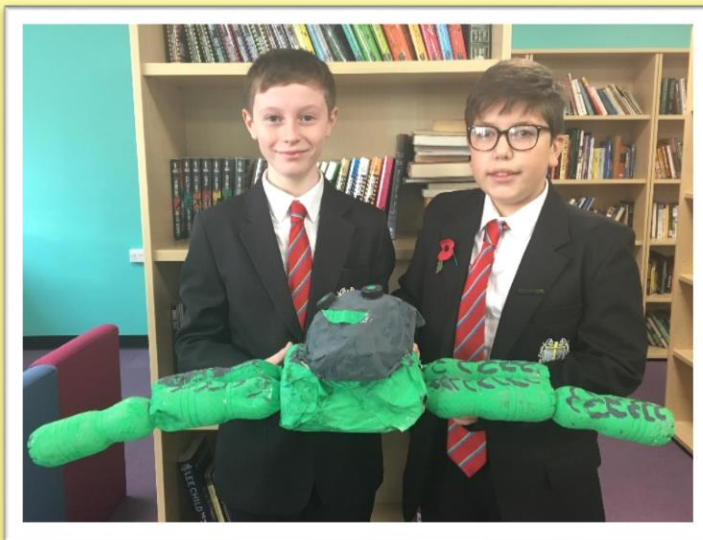
Washing up liquid (small plastic bottles); Washing powder (small boxes); Cartons of Long life milk; Cartons of Juice; Puddings (microwave or tinned) . If you wish to donate any of these items, please ask students to bring them straight to the Chapel.

Mrs Maxfield , Chaplaincy Co-ordinator

**Do you speak another language?** - If you speak an additional language and would be interested in taking an extra qualification in this subject then please see Mrs Lindsay as soon as possible (BS1) or alternatively contact her on [alindsay@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk](mailto:alindsay@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk)



**Oceans are NOT Rubbish!** I would like to thank all of the boys who were involved in Oceans are NOT rubbish competition. We had a great response and with the help of Mr Ackred and Miss Barlow and Miss Myhill, the boys have made some amazing endangered sea creatures out of 'RUBBISH'. Good Luck! Mrs Courtney, Librarian.



**Raffle Tickets** – Can parents/carers please be reminded to return to raffle ticket stubs and money to the school.

**Waitrose Community Matters** - Please support St Thomas More Library if you use the Leigh-On-Sea branch of Waitrose and put your green token in the Community Matters box as we are trailing in third position. Thank you.  
Mrs Courtney, Librarian.



**Shoebox Appeal** – Thank you to everyone that donated to the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal which has been run by Mrs Lane, Mrs Keville, Mrs Courtney and Mrs Caten and all the students in St Patrick's House. We have a wonderful selection of shoeboxes about to make their long journey to the children who I am sure will be delighted to receive them!



## CAREERS

**Amazing Apprenticeships** have produced a Parent Pack which aims to support parents in understanding the levels of Apprenticeships, the benefits and application process. <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/parents-pack-october-2018/>



**Guest Speaker** - On Tuesday we were joined by former pupil Luis Nastili who came to speak to years 12 & 13 during assembly about his experiences volunteering abroad. Luis is currently at the University of East Anglia studying geography and international development. He has just returned from Kenya where he spent 3 months volunteering with young people between the ages of 11-35, giving sessions on a range of different subjects and issues. He was also involved in setting up a country wide youth program. Luis emphasised the importance of volunteering and how this builds confidence and key skills that employers look for. Luis' power point presentation can be found on the VLE <https://vle.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk/course/view.php?id=1477> with links

to Volunteering opportunities.



I met with Mr Tisi and his form 8S on Wednesday, our last Year 8 form to begin KUDOS. They were very enthusiastic and all managed to get themselves logged on and underway with the questions. We will continue next Wednesday but if they wish to log on at home then please encourage them to do so. All three sections under the 'ME' heading in their profile must be at 100% before they begin exploring the careers section - My Future, My Personality, My Skills. <https://kudos.cascaid.co.uk> Mrs Griffiths Careers

Coordinator.

**Rapid Revision** - Following last week's Rapid Revision sessions we have been sent some feedback from the Project Manager at Made for Education. This was given by the students on the day. A selection of these are:

- '.....it has changed my view of revision as I now know you can make it fun and more memorable'.
- '.....discovered new ways to be motivated and it's helped me expand on my current techniques'.
- '.....gave me a better understanding of how we should revise and new techniques that I can use'.
- '.....it has motivated me to revise more effectively giving me the confidence to do so'.
- '.....showed me two new and different revision techniques that I will be using'.
- '...it has helped me become more creative with my revision techniques'.
- '.....gave me the knowledge of how to break down revision into 20 minute chunk'.

It is really encouraging to read such great feedback from the students. With year 11 Mocks beginning next week we hope they will use the different revision techniques they were shown to their advantage with positive results.

**Interested in a Career in Medicine?** Westcliff High School for Boys are holding a 'Careers in Medicine Evening' on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November from 7pm until 9pm. Guest speakers include a Senior Physiotherapist, A first year Doctor, a PhD Researcher and a Dentist. Please contact <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/>. To obtain a FREE ticket to this event.

# Spanish Club

Practise your Spanish – Writing and Speaking skills  
with señora Williams in MFL1

Club	Day	Time	Who for
Spanish Beginners	Monday	1.35-2.00	Yrs 7 & 8
Spanish Conversation	Tuesday	3.30-4.30	KS5
Spanish Grammar Skills	Thursday	1.35-2.00	KS4/ KS5
Spanish Conversation	Thursday	3.45-4.45	Yr 9-11 (KS4)

## SPORTS NEWS

**PE Student of the Week** - Our winner this week is Lauren from Year 12 for volunteering to help officiate netball at the recent St Assisi's Trust primary school competition as well as organising and officiating the Sixth Form netball match against Westcliff this week. Thank you and well done!

**Year 9 vs Shenfield 3-3 aet (lost on pens)** - A classic cup game came to an end in the late November sunshine with Tommy More's losing cruelly on penalties. Arriving at the game poised at 1-1 STM had made a solid start against a robust and talented Shenfield side. Quickly our dominance asserted itself and once again our ability to move the ball wide at speed caused Shenfield problems. Henry Tilley crossing deliciously for Zolani to slot home once more. A fire drill and half time came and we regrouped finding the game on a knife edge at 2-2. Josh Johnson then produced a 'Gerrard-esque' bullet from the edge of the area. Even the exceptional Shenfield keeper was getting nowhere near it. Once again, some poor defending had us pegged back at 3-3 and the game flowed into extra time. How Shenfield survived the extra time will baffle us! Some incredible goalkeeping and dogged defending kept STM at bay. Lady Luck was not on our side and despite some penalty heroics from the sublime Dan Pier Shenfield won the game. My thanks to all the staff and parents who watched what as a brilliant football match. This is not a defeat in which we are disappointed with, if anything, it only gives this brilliant team more confidence going forward. Mr Wiltshire.

**6<sup>th</sup> Form Netball** - On Wednesday the girl's netball team went over to Westcliff High School for Boys to play their girls Sixth form team. STM scored the first goal of the game, but by the end of the second quarter WHSB were ahead by two goals. However, in the third quarter we took control of the game, making the score 6-5 to STM. The last quarter the girls knew we had to work together to ensure we stayed ahead, scoring another two goals. The final the score was 8-6 to STM. Olyvia Baker yr13

Well done to the girls for their first win and for adapting to the difficult play and coming out strong. Also a special thank you to Lauren Paddick-Croft for umpiring the game. Mrs Griffiths (Netball Coach)



**Year 7 Basketball** - The Year 7 boys were extremely unlucky to lose this fixture against Shoebury by one point. The poor performance in the first 10 minutes really cost us and despite our best efforts, we couldn't quite catch this well drilled opposition. A disallowed basket in the final few seconds for a 3 second key infringement was particularly upsetting!! All the boys should be proud of their efforts and look forward to the rest of the games in what is going to be a busy season for them.

## SPORT FIXTURES

DATE	FIXTURE	TIME
19/11/2017	Year 11 Basketball v Westcliff (AWAY) Year 9 Essex Cup Basketball v Woodlands (AWAY)	4:00pm 3:15pm
20/11/2017	Year 9 Basketball v Chase (HOME) Year 8 Basketball v Chase (AWAY) Year 9/10 Football vs Colchester United (AWAY)	4:00pm 4:00pm 3:45pm
21/11/2017	Year 7 Rugby v Belfairs (WRFC) Year 8 Essex Cup Football v Chelmer Valley (HOME) 1st XI Football v Gable Hall (HOME)	4:00pm 2:30pm 2:15pm
22/11/2017	Year 7 Basketball v Chase (HOME) Year 9 Essex Cup Rugby v William Edwards (HOME)	4:00pm 2:45pm
23/11/2017	<b>INSET DAY</b>	

## PE Extra-curricular Timetable Winter 2018

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8.00 - 8.30am	PE DEPARTMENT MEETING	Year 9 Futsal	All Years Cross Country Year 8 Football	Year 10 Futsal SNR Rugby	Year 7 & 8 Basketball
1.40 - 2.20pm	Year 7 Basketball Year 9 Rugby	Sport Scholars Fitness	Year 7 & 8 Rugby Year 9 Basketball	Year 8 Basketball	Sport Scholar Meeting Racquet Sports
3.30 - 5.00pm	Year 7 & 8 Rugby Year 10 & 11 Basketball Year 11 & VI Form Football Training	Year 9 Rugby Year 9 Basketball	Yr 10 Football - Week 1 SNR Rugby Year 7, 8 & 10 Southend Football - Astro	Year 7 & 8 Rugby Year 9 Football	Badminton Club (Wk 1 - Years 10 & 11) (Wk 2 - Years 7, 8 & 9)