



CONTACT

No. 1283 – 19th September 2014

Dear Parents and Pupils,

Mobile Phones – Since September, I have received an unprecedented amount of letters from parents requesting, for various reasons, permission for their sons to bring a mobile phone to school. The phone would then be handed in at Reception, to be collected by the student at the end of the school day. As it stands, Reception has become 'home' to nearly 60 mobile phones which, when being collected at the end of the school day, is causing congestion and delay in some students being on time for their transport home.

After careful thought and discussion with my colleagues in the Senior Leadership Team, mobile phones will no longer be kept at Reception. The rules for mobile phones in school remains the same – mobile phones should not be brought into school. The decision to provide your child with a mobile phone to give parents/cares reassurance that they can contact their child whilst travelling alone on public transport or journeys to and from school, is made on the understanding that the mobile should be switched off completely whilst at school, not merely silenced or on divert or vibrate.

In order to reduce the risk of theft or loss during the school day, students who carry mobile phones must keep them concealed, not advertise that they have them, and mark them clearly with their name.

During examinations, we will continue to follow JCQ guidance (as found on the school website).

St Thomas More, the Governing Body and school staff accept no responsibility for replacing mobile phones that are lost, stolen or damaged whilst on the school premises, or on school sponsored functions.

St Thomas More, the Governing Body and school staff accept no responsibility for students who lose or have mobile phones stolen whilst travelling to and from school.

If a student is seen with, or using a mobile phone on school premises, the phone will be confiscated to a secure place in school and returned at the end of the school day and a letter will be sent home on a first offence. If a student breaks this rule again, the phone will be confiscated to a secure place in school, parents/carers will be informed who then may collect the phone during office hours. Repeated infringements would be seen as a breach of the Student Behaviour Policy and sanctions may follow.

It should be noted that it is a criminal offence to use a mobile phone to menace, harass, or offend another person. The school may consider it appropriate to involve the police if such an event occurs.

I am aware that the majority of us now own a mobile phone and I agree that they are useful tools, but use of them during the school day is not necessary and they can be a catalyst for drawing undesirable attention to their owners. Once the acceptable use policy is approved by governors, we will publish this to parents. It is understood that parents/carers accept this change of practice unless they contact the school directly to express their non-acceptance. I hope that I can have your full support on this matter.

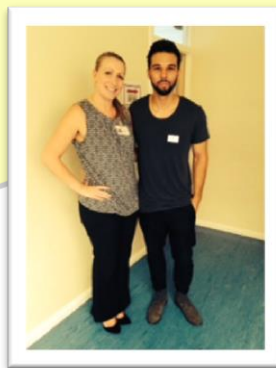
SEN Information Evening – Parents/Carers of students with a Statement of Educational Needs will shortly receive a letter inviting them to a SEN Information Evening on Wednesday 24th September at 6pm. The evening has been designed so that parents can hear about the changes to the SEN Code of Practice for Children with Statements and how we are able to offer specific support to these students.

Year 7 Mass and Social Evening – A reminder to parents of our new Year 7 pupils that there is a Mass, social and information evening being held on Thursday 25th September at 7.00pm. Please come along if you can as this is a lovely opportunity for parents to meet some of our staff and other parents in a relaxed atmosphere. Our Parents' and Staff Association will be providing refreshments after the Mass.

11+Examination – This Saturday many Year 6 pupils will be taking the 11+ examination. We shall have a large number of pupils sitting the exam in our school hall. Parents have been requested to arrive between 8.30 and 8.45am. My thanks go to our Parents' Association who will be providing refreshments.

Highlight of the Week

This week, I was delighted to have a visit from former student, Dom Craik. Dom told us all about the up-and-coming band he is in, 'Nothing But Thieves'. They had the first single from their album, 'Wake Up Call' from their album played on Radio 1 DJ Zane Lowe's show on Wednesday evening. Dom had an opportunity to speak to some of our students and his enthusiasm was infectious. Their first album is being released early in 2015. We look forward to hearing of the band's success in the future – watch this space!



Southend Books and Art Fair 2014 – The Forum (Southend's New Library) Saturday 4th October, 10am to 4pm – Admission Free. – This event features local writers and will include Pamela Shine, 14 year old local author, signing her latest book, 'Red Flame: Burning Valentine'. There will also be musical and dancing entertainment.

Annual Reunion for Form St Bernard's Students Saturday 4th October 2014, 2pm, at St Bernard's High School – Former students are invited to attend the above event. Please send a £5 subscription, payable to S.B.O.G.A (St Bernard's Old Girls' Association) to Sister Mary Stephen at The Monastery of Our Lady and St Bernard, Brownshill, Stroud, GL6 8AL, tel: 01453 883084. Please give details of your name, (and maiden name, if appropriate), address, telephone number, email address and decade or year you left St Bernard's.

Merit Marks – St Sebastian's are still in the lead, with St David's close behind!

St Andrew's
46

St David's
73

St George's
69

St Patrick's
63

St Sebastian's
88



Weekly Prayer

*Lord God,
you look at your children with love and compassion.
You have no favourites.
Help us to be grateful for the things you have given us.
Help us to look at others with your generous love.
Amen.*

Weekly Mass – Our Mass on Thursday was celebrated by Fr. Jeff and it was planned and executed by Mr. Kearney's Form 10A. Thursday was the feast of St. Andrew, and serendipitously, Mass was prepared by St. Andrews house. In addition to the Bidding Prayers prepared by 10-A, Fr. Jeff offered prayers for the people of Scotland for the momentous decision they faced in the referendum. Thank you Form 10-A for the lovely prayers offered. Mrs. McCurdy

Morning Prayer – A reminder that Morning Prayer has started again this term and is at **11:20 am** in the Chapel. It lasts just less than **FIVE MINUTES** and is open to students and staff who would like to spend this time in a little quiet reflection. Please join us. Mrs. McCurdy

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Sixth Form Students and Parents - Details of the Schools Bursary Fund are now available to download from the Schools website or via the VLE. Please click [here](#) for the form.

This fund is to help with education-related costs if you're aged 16 to 19 and can be used for clothing, books and other equipment for your course, transport and lunch on days you study.

If you wish to apply for a payment via this fund please apply via the application form and sent the form to Mrs. Hudson, Sixth Form Pupil Support Mentor.

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Cleaner Required – A cleaner is required at the school from, approximately 3:30 – 5:50pm daily. Please contact Mrs Newman, HR Officer at the school for more details.

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Dora Love Prize-trip to Essex University - For the 10 students going to Essex University on Tuesday, please **meet in H3 at 7:45am**, the bus **leaves at 8am**. Please bring a packed lunch and material to make notes. **Uniform is required**. We will be back around 5:30pm, so please confirm with Mr Shearman that you have made arrangements to get home.

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Drama Club!

We are lucky enough to have Lauren Beisser from JADA Theatre School running our drama club this year. The club runs every Thursday from 3.30pm -5.00pm and **EVERYBODY** is welcome!



Spanish Club - Some KS3 students joined myself (Mrs Terry) and Mrs Foster (a native Spanish speaker) last Wednesday. We chatted and learnt more about Spain through a video on Alicante.

All those studying Spanish at St Thomas More High School are welcome to join us every Wednesday in MFL3, 1.35-2.00. Mrs Terry.

Study Session – Miss Hickey will be running A-Level (AS and A2) Biology and Chemistry study sessions Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30-4:30 in Lab 3 from September to June. Lab 3 has a supply of revision resources for many topics/units and the pupils are encouraged to bring their own revision materials to work on.

History Revision is Back! – Year 11s can **revise** any **course content** they like with **Mr Shearman** in **H3** on **Wednesdays** from **3:35 – 4:45**. **Ms Statovci** will be taking you through **exam technique** every **Thursday Wk1 3:35 - 4:45** in **H2**. Mr Shearman.

For information and news on **Careers**, please click [here](#)

For information and news on **Business and Enterprise**, please click [here](#)

PE DEPARTMENT AND SPORTS NEWS HEADLINES

For information and news on all the sports headlines and latest news, please click [here](#)

Year 7 “D Team” 1-3 Southend High School - An excellent effort by all, as the team fell to two late goals in an exciting end to the game. Southend had the best of the first half although a quick STM counter attack was on the cards. After falling behind early in the second half a fantastic strike from Adam Mhlaba levelled things up after some excellent pressure. However, two swift breaks with powerful runs from the Southend front line took the game away from the ‘D team’. Well done to all.

SPORTING FIXTURES

Date	Event	Time
Monday 22nd September		
Tuesday 23rd September	Year 7 a&b Football v Westcliff v Southend (HOME) Year 11 Football v Plume (AWAY) Year 10 Football v Chase (HOME) Year 9 Rugby v Trinity (HOME)	4.00 – 5.15pm 4.00-5.30pm 4:00-5:15pm 4:00-5:15pm
Wednesday 24 th September	1 st XI Football v Chelmsford (AWAY)	2.15pm
Thursday 25 th September	1 st Team Basketball v Shoebury	4pm
Friday 26 th September	Year 7 Judo Demonstration Badminton Club Years 9, 10 & 11 1 st XI v Southend (AWAY) Year 8 Football v Gable Hall (HOME)	8:45am 3.30-5.00pm 3:40pm 4:00-5:15pm