



CONTACT

No. 1287 – 17th October 2014

Dear Parents and Pupils,

Open Days – My highlight this week has been meeting, on Wednesday and Thursday this week, so many parents of Year 6 pupils who are considering applying for a place at St Thomas More High School next year. Our Year 7 tour guides illustrated how well they have adjusted to life at secondary school after just 4 weeks and they spoke confidently to the parents about all that they have experienced so far and the many things they are looking forward to in the coming year. My thanks to Oliver Robinson, Ted Turnham and Harrison Frost for preparing and delivering such confident and informative speeches for the parents. My pride grew as I listened to Jacob Cullen in Year 10, and Daniel Boosey, Audrey Tambanewako and William Lambert from Year 13. They demonstrated beautifully the journey our young people make through the school and the outcome of their hard work and the support of both their families and the staff here. William was particularly impressive as he spoke from the heart, without prompts and demonstrated the well rounded, unique approach we have as a Catholic school in educating our young people. I extend my thanks to Mrs Saunders and Mr Mason for their smooth organisation of the day and the Prefects who were, as always, fantastic ambassadors of the school and its motto. Finally a thank you to all the staff for their patience and support of the day and warmly welcoming parents into their lessons for two days. Parents, without exception were impressed with the learning atmosphere of the school, the purposeful lessons and particularly the enthusiasm of our year 7 and year 11 tour guides. I appreciate a number of staff had to rearrange a number of events and I can only thank them for going that extra mile for the benefit of the school.

Year 10 Study Skills Evening – Last Wednesday, we held a Study Skills Evening for our Year 10 students and their parents. I am sure that all who attended found the information and presentations very useful. Thanks to Mr Hardiman for organising the evening, Mr Maxfield, Mr Keenan, Mr Clunn, Mr Heaphy, Mr Dooley and Mr Hollingsworth for their presentations and Mrs Potton, our Catering Manager, for ensuring everyone was well fed at the end of the evening.

Year 7 & 8 Open Days – Following the success of our open days this week, parents of Years 7 & 8 pupils will have received a letter by email this week inviting them to make an appointment to visit the school on either 21st or 22nd October. The day will provide an opportunity to meet the Head, staff and pupils and to ask any questions you may have. Appointments will be offered on a first come, first served basis. A copy of the letter can be found on the school's website.

Car Park – After reports of an increasing number of parents dropping their sons/daughters off in the school park in the morning, one in particular who sped in and out of the car park with no consideration for pupils and staff, I would like to remind parents that the school car park is not a suitable drop off/collection point. Please remember that this exit is also the main pedestrian exit from the school. The closest drop off/collection point is behind the fire station and I would ask parents to make use of this rather than the school grounds. Thank you in advance for your support.

Closure of School due to Severe Weather (or other reasons that lead to school closure) – This week all Year 7 pupils should have brought home a letter giving details of the procedures to be followed in the event of the school being closed due to bad weather, or other reasons that lead to school closure. Please make sure that you have received this letter from your son. It will give you details of the radio stations which broadcast the messages about school closures. In the event of closure during the day, a notice will also be posted on the school website.

Highlight of the Week

Last Friday evening, I was invited to attend the Careers Academy, Student Presentation evening held here at school. It made me immensely proud to see how well connected our Career Academy students are with a wide range of employers following their summer internships and how confident they are in speaking publicly to an audience. Thank you to Miss Munson and Mrs Lindsay for their hard work in setting up this programme and to all our employers and partners in business for their continued support. I look forward to meeting our new Career Academy candidates as the programme embarks with its second cohort of students.

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Merit Marks – St David's are still in the lead. St Sebastian's has been overtaken by St Andrew's!

St Andrew's
474

St David's
584

St George's
365

St Patrick's
321

St Sebastian's
463

Mrs G Ackred
Headteacher

Flu Vaccination for pupils in year 7 & 8 - 14th NOVEMBER 2014

We all know that Flu can be a very unpleasant illness, often lasting for several days. There is now a safe and effective nasal spray to protect children over 2 years old against flu and all year 7 & 8 pupils. Following the success of a pilot scheme last year, pupils in year 7 & 8 are offered the option to self-administer the vaccine with the support of a health professional. A nurse will be available to offer the vaccine for any pupil who does not wish to self-administer. On Monday 20th October all year 7 & 8 pupils will bring home an Information leaflet and a Consent Form. The Consent Form needs to be returned to School Reception by **Thursday 25th October**. Mrs M Lewis, Pupil Support Coordinator.



Weekly Prayer

Lord God,

*help us to treasure the things that come from you
and to use them only for you and our neighbours.*

Amen

Justice and Peace Group - The Justice and Peace group will now meet on a regular basis on Mondays at lunchtime. As part of our learning and campaigning for Justice and Peace we will be sharing a simple "Fast Lunch" of soup and a roll. Group members are asked to make a contribution to CAFOD and this small but regular contribution will help others in our world who are in need. The group will meet in the Food Technology Room on Monday 20th October at 1.35pm. We encourage new members who would like to come along and share in our work

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Parent Governor Vacancy - I am delighted to say that there are 2 candidates for the vacancy; this means we must now hold a ballot. Letters will be sent home to all parents by post on Tuesday 21st October with details of the voting procedure. The closing date is **Monday 10th November**. Copies of the letter will also be available at reception. G Prior, Clerk to the Governors.

Trainers – It has been noted that some students are wearing black Nike trainers, rather than the permitted school shoes. Please can parents ensure that the correct school shoes are worn. Mr Mason, Director of Learning i/c pupil safety and behaviour.

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 florescent clothing is worn. Mr Mason, Director of Learning i/c pupil safety and behaviour.



PARIS 2014 25th – 28th November A space has become available. If you are interested in coming with us, see Miss O'Neill ASAP.

Year 7 Science Setting test - The test will take place on Wednesday 5th of November, it will focus on Modules 7A and 7B which your son is currently studying in lessons. To support your son in revising for this important test, I would encourage him to use his active book cd, KS3 Science bitesize along with his exercise book. Mr Quane, Second in Science

History Department news – The 2014 Dora Love Prize - For more details about this, including competition details, please click [here](#).

Clubs and Study Sessions

For information on **clubs and activities** please click [here](#) For information about Technology Club, please click [here](#)

For information about **revision** sessions, please click [here](#)

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

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

Parents' and Staff Association News Please click [here](#) for more information on the PSA.

PE DEPARTMENT AND SPORTS NEWS HEADLINES

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

Date	Event	Time
Monday 20 th October	Year 10 Football v Shoebury (Away)	4.00pm
Tuesday 21 st October	Year 9 Football v Chase (Home)	4.00pm
	Year 7 v Cecil Jones (Away) (Jones Memorial)	4.00pm
Wednesday 22 nd October	Year 7 v Eastwood (Home)	4.00pm-5:15pm
	1 st XI Football v Gable Hall (Away)	2:00pm
	1 st Team Basketball v Chelmsford (Away)	2:00pm
	Year 11 Football v Cornelius (Home)	3:45pm