

# **CONTACT**

No. 1695 – Friday 27<sup>th</sup>June 2025



Dear Students, Parents and Staff,

**St Thomas More Day 27<sup>th</sup> June**: Our Feast Day began with the celebration of Mass followed by our annual mini sports which saw Mr Bass and his team mix it up with some new and original events with plenty of water obstacles to overcome. Following mass staff and students took part in the annual cricket match.

Grateful thanks go to Fr. Woolnough and Fr. Selvini and to Max and our servers, Mr Dixon and Mrs Donoghue our musicians and Choir, and our site team, for their help in preparation for a wonderful liturgy and day of events.





**Parent Forum:** Our next **Parent Forum** will take place on **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June** between 4.00pm and 5.30pm. This is an open invitation for parents and carers to pop into school to share ideas, ask questions and discuss feedback with leaders about general aspects of school life. No appointment is necessary!

## **Prayer of the Week**

Prayer of St Thomas More

O Lord, give us a mind that is humble, quiet, peaceable, patient and charitable, and a taste of your Holy Spirit in all our thoughts, words, and deeds. O Lord, give us a lively faith, a firm hope, a fervent charity, a love of you. Take from us all lukewarmness in meditation, and all dullness in prayer.

Give us fervour and delight in thinking of you, your grace and your tender compassion toward us. Give us, good Lord, the grace to work for the things we pray for. AMEN.

## St Peter and St Paul

Matthew 16:13-19



This week we hear from the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew, we witness a profound moment in the life of Jesus and His disciples. When Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?" it is Simon Peter, the leader among the disciples, who responds with the confession: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." This revelation, given not by human wisdom but by the Father Himself, is the foundation upon which Christ will build His Church. Jesus then names Simon Peter as the rock, on which the Church will be established, and grants him the keys to the kingdom of heaven.

On this Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of St. Peter and St. Paul, where we reflect on the unique roles these two great apostles played in the establishment and growth of the early Church. Peter, the first pope, embodies the role of leadership and unity, while Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, represents the spread of the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Both were chosen by Christ to fulfil a specific mission, yet both were, first and foremost, disciples. Men who walked with Christ, learned from Him, and were transformed by Him.

This week as a school we celebrated the life and martyrdom of our Patron Saint St Thomas More. A man who also dedicated himself to Christ, costing him everything.

A disciple is someone who followed. As disciples, we are called to listen and to trust in Christ's voice. Like St Peter, St Paul, and St Thomas More we are invited to go beyond mere belief and to proclaim the truth we have received. But we are also reminded that being a disciple is not just about personal faith—it is about a communal mission. These saints sent to serve others, to build up the Church, and to lead others to the Kingdom of God. We should look to these leaders as inspiration to do what is right, even when it's difficult. God's servant first.

- Max Morris, Lay Chaplain

# **Chaplaincy News**

**Charity fundraiser – Giving the Chaplain a tonsure:** To raise money for Southend Hospital Special Care Baby Unit our lay Chaplain, Max, will undergo a haircut – a tonsure, probably more often referred as the 'monk hair cut'. He will keep this haircut for a length of time depending on the amount of money raised. This haircut has profound meaning, showing outwardly a focus toward God and how you practice your faith. It was worn by many prominent saints, including

the patron of our school MAT – St Francis of Assisi. If the idea of Max having this haircut over a weekend and until the end of the school term is one you want to support to help our local hospital care for infants who need it most, please donate. Donations can be made on the school gateway. The shave will happen on 07/07/2025.



# HOW LONG WILL MAX KEEP THIS HAIRCUT?

Date	Price for the day	Accumulative amount that must be raised	
07/07/2025	£100	£100	
08/07/2025	£100	£200	
09/07/2025	£100	£300	
10/07/2025	£100	£400	
11/07/2025	£100	£500	
From 11 <sup>th</sup> to end of term	(for whole week) £500	£1000	

**Adoration:** Our weekly Holy Hour and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continues every Thursday after school in our Chapel, with opportunities for Benediction advertised as and when they are available. Come for as long as you're able, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament starts from 15:40.

## **Our Assisi Catholic Trust Family**

Schools	Parishes	
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary school and nursery	Our Lady of Lourdes and St Joseph	
	Msgr Kevin Hale https://lourdesleigh.org/	
St George's Catholic Primary School	St. George and The English Martyrs	

	Fr. Brett http://www.saintgeorgeschurch.co.uk/		
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary school and nursery	Sacred Heart of Jesus		
	Fr. Graham Sacred Heart and John Fisher – the Catholic		
	Parish of Southend-on-Sea and Prittlewell		
St. Helen's Catholic Primary School	Our Lady Help of Christians and Saint Helen		
	Fr. Alex Saint Helen's Catholic Church Westcliff		
	Southend-on-sea		
St Joseph's Catholic Primary school	Our Lady of Canvey and English Martyrs		
	Fr. Eamonn http://www.ourladyofcanvey.org/		
Holy Family Catholic Primary School	Holy Family and St Thomas More		
	Fr. Eduard Home (holyfamily-church.uk)		
Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Primary School	Our Lady of Ransom		
	Fr Paul Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church		
St Teresa's Catholic Primary school	Catholic Church of St. Teresa and the Child Jesus		
	Fr. Gerry Home - St Teresa of the Child Jesus, Rochford		
St Thomas More High School	St. Peter's		
	Fr. Jeff https://stpetereastwood.org/		

#### Vacancies:

MOMENTS MATTER,

ATTENDANCE

**Assisi Catholic Trust:** Digital Marketing Apprentice – closing date Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July <a href="https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeship/VAC1000327147">https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeship/VAC1000327147</a>

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School: Level 3 Early Years Practitioner - St Joseph's Catholic Primary School - A Good Catholic School - Vacancies

### **Parent Reminders and Student Information**

**Changes to Contact Details**: Please remember you can make these changes via your child's <u>School Gateway</u> account.

Student Medical Conditions: Please ensure school is made aware of any updates regarding student's medical conditions, particularly if they can potentially have an impact on their time in school and require support. Please contact Mrs Walford <a href="mailto:mwalford@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk">mwalford@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk</a> if you wish to discuss your case in detail.

Money for Travel: Just a reminder that students should ensure they have sufficient money with them to cover their transport costs to and from school each day as we are unable to provide this from school.

Caterlink are completing a **Parent/Guardian survey** on the meal provision they provide. The survey will close on 31st July and can be completed via the link and / or QR code.



Many thanks for your continued support.



### **Attendance**

Absence: If your child is unwell and unable to attend, please notify the school of the reason for the absence on the

first day of an unplanned absence by 9am or as soon as practically possible by calling the school and selecting attendance or by emailing <a href="mailto:attendance@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk">attendance@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk</a>. If the absence lasts more than one day, please update the school daily.

House Attendance Points: The form with the highest attendance in the year group gets 100 points each week and every form achieving 97% or above for the week achieves 20 points towards their house.



## Spotlight on Wellbeing and Keeping Safe

Please don't forget that staff are here for you and your children, and you can get in touch with Mrs Walford via welfare@st-

thomasmore.southend.sch.uk if you need some support. Parental factsheets on various topics are available on our website under the Safeguarding section, Parent Fact Sheets (st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk)

New name, new features... same concerns? The Nintendo Switch 2 is the Japanese gaming giant's latest console, and while it boasts impressive updates, it also brings a few new features for parents and educators to be aware of. From the arrival of real-time GameChat and a plug-in camera to an easier path to mature content and in-app spending , there's a lot to consider. Our #WakeUpWednesday guide sets out what adults need to know, and how they can keep gaming fun and safe for the children in their care .



## **Departmental News**

Music Department Ensembles: Information can be found <a href="here">here</a> for Choir, Folk Bank, Liturgy Band & Orchestra.







Our <u>Amazon Wishlist!</u> Friends, family and alumni can donate directly to the school library. We still accept preloved copies from home you may wish to donate, but student and departmental requests for library stock can be found here. The book wish list is chosen and updated by the Library team as texts that benefit the student's

reading comprehension, engagement with the curriculum and foster an interest in reading. If students have overdue library books, you should have received an overdue notice and may be charged an overdue fee per book via Gateway. To have the overdue notice removed, students can return the book, pay the fee, or replace the missing book with a new copy. The library is also now accepting board game donations.



Year 7-10, Would you like a quiet place to work after school?? CR7 is now open on a Tuesday (3.30-4.30pm) and on a Thursday (3.30-4.30pm) Computers will be on a first come, first served basis.

Jack Petchey Winners – Jan-June 2025: Congratulations go to the students nominated for our 2025 Jack Petchey Awards. These students have all been allocated £300 to spend on a school project of their choice. As well as the certificate and pin badge presented at the end of term presentation assembly they will also receive an invitation to attend the annual Jack Petchey awards ceremony in Spring 2026 to receive



their boxed medallion in recognition of their achievement. Below is a brief summary of the reason they were nominated.

Winner 1: Clement K - Contribution to Chess Club. Clement has been helping train younger chess players, and he is a constant help at tournaments.

Winner 2: Oliver B - Outstanding contributions to school events, especially fundraising, and his dedication to supporting both staff and students.

Winner 3 and 4: Abdul B R & Vincent M - Contribution to Aviation Club - preparing weekly presentations for our weekly aviation club which they have presented with such passion for aviation

Winner 5: Roisin M - Roisin has proven to be an inspirational leader to her peers and the rest of the school, she has regularly helped chair school council meetings, building relationships with younger students and being a shining example of what a good role model is.

Winner 6: Luke S - Luke was nominated because of his outstanding dedication and commitment to serving the school community. Luke consistently goes above and beyond to support Form 7V and the wider school through his acts of service and leadership

Winner 7: Ewan M - Ewan is always a willing to help out throughout the school whenever asked. Earlier this year he stepped up when the school play lost a key cast member and was at risk of being cancelled. Outside of school, Ewan shows exceptional dedication and volunteer work with Cubs.

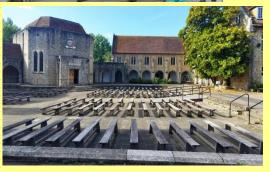
Winner 8: Corban H - Corban is a true example of what a Tommy More student is. He has grasped every opportunity offered to him, including choir, school CAFOD team, getting involved with house competitions but most notably sport and PE. He has also recently raised £1720 for charity by taking part in a 5k Charity run!

Well done again! Mrs Napper, (Enrichment Coordinator)



Assisi Trust Staff Pilgrimage to the North Downs: last weekend a group of 40 staff from the Assisi Trust schools participated in a two-day Pilgrimage, walking legs of the Pilgrims way on the North Downs in Kent. On Day 1, over 40 staff walked from Boughton Lees

in Kent. On Day 1, over 40 alked from Boughton Lees in Ashford to the impressive Chilham Castle, located in the beautiful and



peaceful village of Chilham. Despite the gruelling heat and a significant hill, we managed to cover 10km, manly along the more sheltered parts of the North Down Way. We wandered through rolling farmland dotted with traditional oast houses, walked through quiet stretches of ancient

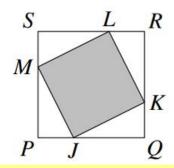


woodland where the sounds of nature filled the air, and passed small, charming villages with historic churches and quant cottages. That evening, we attended Mass at St Francis Catholic Church in Maidstone and stayed overnight at the tranguil and historic Aylesford Priory – an ancient religious house of the Carmelite Order dating back to the 13th century. Afterwards, we treated ourselves to a well-earned curry and refreshing drinks at a nearby curry house, sharing stories and forging new friendships. On day 2, we enjoyed the peaceful ground of the priory, visiting the various chapels, Peace Garden, and Rosary Way. After a hearty breakfast, we set off again from Chilham Castle and continued along the North Downs Way, eventually reaching the iconic and historic centre of Christian pilgrimage – Canterbury Cathedral, Along the way, we were treated to a wonderful mix of historic and natural beauty; gentle farmland and orchards dotted with apple and cherry trees, typical of Kent's famous fruit-growing region. The path wound through peaceful woods, open field of wheat, and serene countryside. We paused at various points to pray, reflecting on the essence of pilgrimage, our beautiful surroundings, and the plight of refugees who arrive in the 'Garden of England' seeking refuge and new opportunities. "It was a truly spiritual and calming experience - one that offered a rare chance to pause, reflect and reconnect. In the busyness of our everyday roles, moments like these are so valuable for our wellbeing and renewal." A big thank you to Dr Arnold for driving the school minibus and shuttling staff between locations; Mrs McKenna for providing moments of reflection, and Mr Cauchi and all the staff of ACT for joining us and making it such a beautiful and memorable event. Definitely one for the diary again next year!

THE GARDEN GUARDIANS NEED YOUR HELP!: We are really proud of our beautiful well-being and prayer garden, it is a wildlife sanctuary and a quiet space to enjoy nature. The Garden Guardians maintain and develop the garden, alongside Mrs Caten and Ms Carus. This year we are growing tomatoes, raspberries, blackcurrants and a couple of wonderful sunflowers. In the winter months the boys planted and nurtured seeds which we planted out – some of which have survived! We really want to encourage as much wildlife as possible into the garden by introducing more insect friendly plants and a wildlife pond. And this is where we need your help. Please could you hunt in sheds and garages for any of the following: Potting compost, Spare garden tools such as secateurs, spades, forks etc.

Anything we can repurpose into a pond such as: Small rigid paddling pool/ sandpit, old sink, old pond liner (rigid)
Please drop any donated items at reception, saying they are for the garden and we will come and collect them. Thank you so much, The Garden Guardians

In the diagram, *PQRS* and *JKLM* are squares. Each corner of *JKLM* is one third of the way along an edge of *PQRS*. What is the ratio of the area of *JKLM* to the area of *PQRS*?



## Maths Problem of the Week:

Answer to last weeks problem: They made 210 cups

## MFL Department's Word and Idiomatic Expression of the Week:

# Las palabras se las lleva el viento

Literal translation in English: The wind takes the words

When do we use it?: To say that that actions speak louder than words

Example: Te la pasas diciendo que vendrás a visitarnos, pero ya sabes qué dice el proverbio: las palabras se las lleva el viento.

(You keep saying that you'll come to visit us, but you know how the proverb goes: actions speak louder than words.)

# **Abrelatas**

(ah-breh-lah-tahs) Masculine Noun

**English translation: Can opener** 

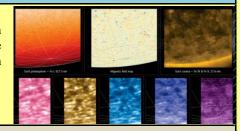
Example: No necesitas el abrelatas. Esta lata tiene anilla.

(You don't need the tin opener. This tin has a ring pull on it.)





<u>June Discoveries in Science</u>
The first image of the Sun's south pole from the European Space Agency's Solar Orbiter, the Vera C HERE, and the discovery of a new blood type in a woman from Guadeloupe **HERE**. **European** Space Agency Jobs



## **Science Clubs**

**Science Department** 

### **Lab Rats**

Become the scientists of the future, today.

- Mr Jackson Lab 1
- Monday (3.30 4.30) Year 7 & 8

#### **Astronomy**

Study the cosmos and go supernova as you grow knowledge and skills. You could gain an extra GCSE.

- Mr Vitone Ma6
- Wednesday Lunch Time Year 10

### This week at St Thomas More Science Dept:

If you are interested in quick revision and want to remind yourself or recap your Science Lessons. Then look no further and Subscribe to Mr. Sykes Youtube Channel - Search @LoveScience.educate Or click here: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfg71C4ql2UX\_BHPsvUbi9w?sub\_confirmation=1





# **Love Science**

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Alumnus of the Month: June

**Aspire**: online resources for all things careers/universities and apprenticeships, great for those not sure of the opportunities after GCSE's (POST 16) and A levels (POST 18). Click to find out more <u>The Aspire Guide - Flipbook - Page 1 (papertum-</u>



view.com)

**INVESTIN:** Information on weekend programmes in Law and Finance Careers can be found here

### CAREERS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is a collation of all the opportunities we have heard about from employers and universities. Please use the links included to read more information and apply to anything you are interested in. Links are <u>underlined</u>.

Careers Newsletter can be found here.

### Poetry Corner No.70

Whispers of Wisdom: 'The Noble Nature' by Ben Jonson Set to Calming Melodies

### The Noble Nature

It is not growing like a tree
In bulk, doth make Man better be;
Or standing long an oak, three hundred year,
To fall a log at last, dry, bald, and sere:
A lily of a day
Is fairer far in May,
Although it fall and die that night —
It was the plant and flower of Light
In small proportions we just beauties see;

And in short measures life may perfect be.

Ben Jonson (1572-1637)

## **Sports News**



**PE Student of the Week:** Our winner this week is Malachi from Year 7. Malachi excelled at the Borough Athletics championships, winning silver in the Year 7 200m and gold as part of the 4 x 100m relay team. This meant he represented the Borough of Southend in the Year 7 Essex championships where he made the final once again. Well done Malachi!

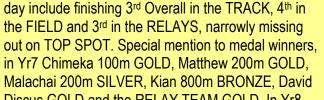
**Essex Athletics Championships:** The following STM boys took part in the Essex schools Championships representing Southend Schools. David B 11.2secs in 100m Inter Boys, Max A 22.3secs in 200m Inter Boys, Lewis A 24.2secs in 200m Junior Boys and Elliot B 11.5secs in 100m Junior Boys. This competition is a platform to the English Schools Championships being held in Birmingham 10-12th of July. A Youtube link will be sent out for those interested in following.







Borough Sports: Over 75 boys have represented the school over the last week in heats and FINALS day in Athletics. The Outstanding results from the FINALS Discus GOLD and the RELAY TEAM GOLD. In Yr8



Elliot B set a new Borough record winning GOLD in the 100m in 11.5secs, Ralph finished



3rd picking up a BRONZE, but also won GOLD in the Javelin 32.48m, Henry won GOLD in the 200m 25.3secs, the Yr8 RELAY also took BRONZE. In Yr9 Sean took GOLD and Jesse to SILVER in the 200m, Lewis took BRONZE in the 200m, Sop & Sean also took GOLD & SILVER in the SHOT PUTT, the RELAY TEAM also took GOLD. The Yr10 team effected a bit with a clash of Mock Assessments, but those organised enough to enable their services saw some impressive results. Joel ran 11.0secs flat to take SILVER in 100m, Godfrey took BRONZE in the 200m on debut for the school, Jack took BRONZE in the extremely challenging 400m Hurdles, Joel also took BRONZE in the Triple Jump.

A fantastic set of achievements from our students in probably the strongest Borough in ESSEX arguably the Country, all of which would not have been possible without the commitment of the students and staff. The last athletics of the this term involves Yr7 at their age grouped ESSEX Championships where they represent Southend Schools on Wednesday at Chelmsford. Thanks again to all the parents for supporting and driving sons to, from and collecting from school especially on late returns from Lee Valley, here's to another busy year next year. Stay fit and active this Summer, but



rest up a little. Mr Ackred









**Yr7 Borough Athletics**: Having finished in the top 2 of the Yr7 Borough Athletics Chimeka, Matthew, Malachi and David competed in the Essex Athletics Championships. First steps to sample the standard of English

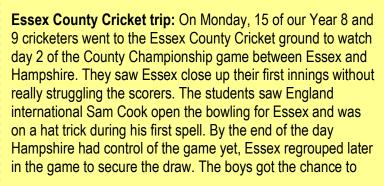
Schools representative athletics. David having thrown 24m to win Borough Discus went big today with a throw well over 25m but landed outside the sector. Chimeka ran a PB in the 100m but not fast enough for a podium in the Final. Matthew and Malachi finished 2nd and 5th in the final of the 200m meaning Matthew would be in a good position to represent Essex at English schools in future years. This wraps up a wonderful year of Athletics, thank you all students and families for all your efforts and continued support. The future is bright. Mr Ackred







Year 8 Cricket Vs Eastwood: Year 8's first win of their school career!!! A very close game, with STM chasing down 72 runs in just 14 overs. Eastwood started strong, taking 5 STM wickets in the first 4 overs. However, Rhys, George, and Charlie stepped up when it mattered most. A strong partnership between George and Charlie helped secure Year 8's first win since joining the school in Year 7. Special mention to Charlie for playing some fantastic shots, George for his consistency when batting and Teddy for his golden duck...Well done to all!









learn how to score the game and have a game on the outfield during the breaks. Thank you to Essex CCC for their hospitality and offer of the tickets for the day. We hope the students will continue to grow their love for the sport in the rest of the year and into the future.

# **Fixtures**

DATE	FIXTURE
	Year 10 Cricket v SHSB (AWAY) 4pm - return 6pm
30/06/2025	Year 9 Cricket V Eastwood (HOME) 4pm
	Year 10 House Cricket - P1-4
01/07/2025	
	Year 7 House Cricket - P1-4
02/07/2025	Year 10 House Football - 3:45pm-5pm
	U15 8-a-side cricket final @ Bentley Cricket Club (Leave 9.10, return either 1pm or 4pm!)
	Year 9 House Cricket - P1-4
03/07/2025	Year 7 Cricket v Eastwood (HOME) 4pm
04/07/2025	House Tennis @ WLTC - Leave 9am, return 3:30pm
07/07/2025	Year 9 Cricket v WHSB (AWAY) Leave 3.30pm Return 6pm
07/08/2025	Year 12 House Football - P5
07/09/2025	Year 8 House Cricket
07/10/2025	No Fixtures
07/11/2025	No Fixtures

# PE Extracurricular Timetable

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7.45 - 8.30 am	S&C Training (Gym) Year 7 & 8 (JEN) MDR & EST Track 8am (AAC)	Year 8 & 9 Gym (JES) Darts Club - All years (SB)	Year 10 & 11 Gym (LSH) AII Years Astro (AP)	Year 9 & 10 Gym (SB)	Yrs7-10 Athletics High Jump (AAC) Year 9-13 Gym (EK)
1.35 - 2.25pm	Year 8 Cricket (JEN) Athletics - LJ/TJ (AAC) Darts Club - All years (SB)	Athletics - Throws (AAC) Year 9/10 Cricket (LSH) Year 8 Astro (JTB)	Athletics - Throws (AAC) Athletics - Sprints (EK) Year 7 Astro (JES)	Athletics - LJ/TJ (AAC) Year 9 Astro (NSP)	Year 10 Astro (TH) Athletics - Track/Relay (SB) Athletics - LJ/TJ (LSH) BTEC Sport catch up (EK)
3.30 - 4.45pm	Tennis Club - All years (RHE/NSP) Athletics (SB)	Year 7 Cricket (JTB)	Tennis Club - All years (RHE/NSP)		Year 8 Football Training (MH/AH)