



Archdiocese of
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Headteacher: Mr M Rayner BA(Hons) NPQH



May 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are rapidly approaching the end of a half term that has been as busy as ever with lots going on, particularly in the run up to examination season. We wish all our students doing examinations luck and hope that they will give it their best.

As you are aware, we have had a visit from Ofsted this half term; unfortunately, the report has not been published yet. I will write to you with the details as soon as I am able. I look forward to sharing the outcome as soon as I can.

Lourdes

Our Year 10 and 12 Lourdes pilgrims have been working tirelessly to raise money and prepare for the pilgrimage. They took part in a sponsored walk around Trentham Gardens raising £400 and held a fundraising meal raising over £700. Our Lourdes pilgrims will be having their hands blessed on Sunday 21st May before they head off on pilgrimage on May 27th for the week. This is in preparation before the students go to help the sick pilgrims over in Lourdes. We ask for all your prayers and thoughts whilst our group is there.

Charity Fundraising

So far this year, our students have worked very hard to raise money for charity. Our current Year 7s have been fundraising for Father Hudson's Society. They took part in the Parable of the Talents, where each individual student was given £1 and they were asked to go away and make as much money as possible from that £1. As a year group they raised a fantastic £1000 for Father Hudson's. Back in December; as a whole school we fundraised for the Jimmy Mizen Foundation, with a Christmas jumper day which also raised £1000. In addition to this, individual year groups have raised the following:

Year 8	CAFOD -£123- World Gifts
Year 9	Stoke-on-Trent Foodbank- 70.25kg of food donated
Year 10	Dougie Mac Bag it Bring it - £700
Year 11	Teenage Cancer Trust - £188

Examinations Update

The GCSE and A Level examinations are now well underway; the students are working hard and their conduct is impeccable. As with last year, there is no study leave for any of the students taking public examinations. We feel that the students can best make their final preparations with the assistance of their teacher and by attending lessons right up to the examination. When a student completes an

examination they will work in private study under the supervision of a member of staff or by a member of the senior team. This means all students will be able to revise effectively in a purposeful revision session, allowing directed and meaningful revision for their remaining examinations. A more detailed letter has been sent to Year 11 parents.

School Examinations - Summer 2017

In addition to the external examinations that are taking place in school for Year 11, Year 13 and some students in Year 12, there are school examinations that are due to take place for Year 12 and Year 7, 8 and 9. These examinations will be taking place during normal school lessons and are an important assessment of your child's progress. Information about revision will be provided by subject teachers so that revision can take place over half term as appropriate. A timetable for the examinations will be issued after half term. If you require any further information regarding this please contact the relevant Head of Year at school. Please note that Year 10 examinations took place earlier in the school year.

Year 11 Taster Week (3rd – 7th July)

We will be holding a 'taster week' on Friday 1st July for all Year 11 students who are interested in coming into our Sixth Form. Mrs Todd will send out a letter closer to the time. If you have any questions or concerns about entry into the Sixth Form please contact Mrs Todd.

Term Dates 2017-18

The term dates for next year are available on our website: <http://www.stmca.org.uk/term-dates>. All Students in Years 7 to 13 return to school on Wednesday 6th September. Further details of the organisation and times of the day will follow.

A Level Results Day – 17th August

Year 13 results will be available from 8.30am and Year 12 results will be available from 10.00am. Mrs Todd will send a letter with further details closer to the time.

GCSE Results Day – 24th August

Year 11 results will be available from 8.30am. Further details will follow.

Expectations/Behaviour

Since my last letter we have refocused our strategies for behaviour. I am pleased with the improvement amongst the vast majority of our students. We have a set of non-negotiables that we expect all our students to comply with. These enable them to be prepared for life after school and make progress. I know that we can do even better and therefore would like to take this opportunity to reinforce several points:

- Trainers are not to be worn in school
- Hoodies and coats should not be worn under blazers – they should not be worn inside the building
- Phones are not allowed to be used or turned on during the school day
- Trousers should be plain black, straight trousers; no lycra or 'stretchy' trousers are allowed
- Students are expected to be on time to school and lessons. They should be on the school site by 9:00am
- Students should be ready to cooperate
- Students need to bring equipment to all lessons; including pen, pencil, ruler and planner – they are non-negotiable for all lessons

English

Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Leese enjoyed a celebratory meal with the Year 13 Literature students on the 3rd May, followed by a trip to the New Vic theatre in Newcastle. All were entertained by the writing of Frederick Knott and innovative direction by Peter Leslie Wild. The performance in the round added to the tense atmosphere too and the plot twists were spectacular. We would like to wish good luck to the Year 13 English Literature group who are an exceptional group of young people - we look forward to hearing about your inevitable success in the future.

Over the previous two weeks, all Year 7 and 8 students have been taking part in Readathon. This gives students the opportunity to use their passion of reading to help other people, by getting sponsored to do it. The money which is being raised provides children's hospitals with regular storyteller visits, plus a mobile bookcase jam-packed full of brand-new books, which are replenished every six weeks. This has been an incredibly rewarding project for the students and with only the first round of money being collected we have made £75. The remaining money will be collected by Miss Allen and Mrs Emberson (School Librarian) over the coming weeks, so they hope to report an even bigger final total next half term.

Also in English, students in Key Stage 3 are continuing to make great progress through the Accelerated Reader programme. Students complete quizzes and receive awards for their reading; for example Courtney Pennington in Year 8 has read 30 books, Tyler Rosenau in Year 7 has read 35 books and Dominic Hewitt in Year 8 has read an incredible 2,062,544 words. Well done to all students.

Geography

The Year 7s are beginning the new topic of 'Extreme Weather' and Year 8 are studying Global Development Issues. Both Year 9 and 10 are in fieldwork mode following on from visits to Chester town centre and Llandudno North Shore. Both trips went very successfully and enabled students to apply geographical theory to the real world. The students are currently in the data handling phase at the moment.

P.E.

The summer programme is well underway, with Rounders, Tennis, Cricket and Athletics after school clubs and competitions available for students to get involved with. Congratulations to the Under 15 football team upon reaching the city cup final. Sadly they lost 4-0 in the final to Blythe Bridge. Congratulations to the Year 10 and Year 11 students who competed in the recent city athletics competitions. Several students have been selected to represent the city of Stoke-on-Trent Athletics team. Photos will be provided in the end of term newsletter.

Duke of Edinburgh News

The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze students have completed their training and planning for their practice expedition which went extremely well on 5th and 6th May. Their fantastic teamwork brought them together as a group and they are now getting excited for their assessed expedition in June. Likewise, the Silver group are fully planned and prepped and ready for their assessed expedition following their GCSE exams in July. Well done to all of the students that participate in the great award scheme, we are very proud of you. Congratulations to Holly Lawrence in Year 13, she has completed the Gold Award which means she will soon be receiving an invitation to St James' Palace to be presented with her award by the Prince.

Science Club

In Science Club this half term, students have made a floating garden to simulate how flooded countries grow vegetables. They have also made an elastic band car and a sprinkler. Next half term, the activities will include making an air cooler, a magnetic toy, ice cream with dry ice and are also completing a spaghetti challenge. Science Club is on Mondays after school from 3.10pm - 4.10pm in Room 26 for Years 7, 8 and 9.

Key Dates for your Diary

Thursday 22 nd June	Feast of St Thomas More
Friday 23 rd June	Year 11 Ball
Monday 3 rd July	Awards Evening
Thursday 6 th July	Year 9 Vocations Day
Monday 10 th July	Work Experience begins for Year 10
Wednesday 12 th July	Summer Concert
Monday 17 th July	Sports Day
Friday 21 st July	End of Year Mass and break up for summer holidays

Website and Twitter

Our website is being further developed and updated; in addition we are now regularly tweeting news and information. A number of departments also have department resources and study information that is also being tweeted. Please follow us and be kept up to date with news and events

@StThomasMoreCA.

Thank you all for your continued support. A full newsletter will come home at the end of the summer term.

Yours sincerely,



Mr M Rayner
Headteacher



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