



MOREANA

NEWSLETTER OF ST. THOMAS MORE ALUMNI

A DINNER DATE FOR EVERYONE

Once again it's time to pop the year's most eagerly awaited social event into your electronic planner, personal diary, wall chart or kitchen calendar (or just scribble it on a scrap of paper and put it somewhere safe).

The 2019 Alumni Annual Dinner will, following the usual tradition, be held in the school dining hall on **SATURDAY 16th FEBRUARY**.

The speaker will be Chris Fairchild (1975) who will be entertaining us with insights into the logistical nightmares that he has to overcome working with, amongst others, US FEMA, to airlift the humanitarian aid that gets sent to the world's trouble-spots, as well as the finer points of internationally transporting rock and roll tours for the likes of Taylor Swift.



AN OUTSTANDING RESULT

Headteacher Gemma Ackred and all the staff are understandably delighted and feeling somewhat pleased with themselves after the school was graded as **OUTSTANDING** in its Section 48 Inspection



The full menu will consist of:-

Farmhouse pate with mushrooms, served with ciabatta, wild rocket and plum chutney

Potato and leek soup served with warm rolls and butter

Poached chicken breasts with Morel mushrooms, cream and parsley

New buttered potatoes
Seasonal vegetables & peas

Bramley apple and raspberry crumble with vanilla ice cream

Cheese board, crackers and grapes

Coffee and after dinner chocolates

The cost is £22.50 for members and £27.50 for non-members (who must, of course, be a past pupil or member of staff).

There will be the usual selection of wines and beers on offer for a suggested donation and we shall all look forward to playing our traditional Intercourse Bingo throughout the evening!

Tickets may be secured by emailing the address at the bottom of this page or calling 07847 469583.

These events are always great fun and provide a superb opportunity to commemorate a particular year's anniversary of leaving. So spread the word to anyone you know who left in 1969 that it'll be their 50th and for those in 1979 it's a chance to catch-up "40 years on". Everyone, of course, is always welcome no matter how long they've been away, be it one year or getting on for sixty!

carried out in October this year.

The report states: *St Thomas More is an outstanding Catholic school. Leadership at all levels is highly effective and its ethos is one of service to pupils to enable their spiritual, social and moral develop-*

ment. The vision of St Thomas More, "God's servant first", permeates every aspect of school life and provides a strong foundation for the school's strong spiritual and caring ethos. It is understood and lived by pupils and teachers. Pupils appreciate the care they receive from staff. Parents are over-

whelmingly supportive of the care and education their children receive. Pastoral care is a significant strength of the school. It is totally inclusive of pupils with different qualities and challenges.

Way to go! We send our congratulations to everyone involved in this achievement.

TERM PRODUCES TRIPLE TRIUMPHS

Today's students are proving to be just as competitive as those of old and have been busy garnering awards galore in only the first three months of the school year:-

Youth Awards



At the recent annual Youth Awards ceremony two Year 10 students, Paddy-Joe Blatch and Chiako Osman, jointly won the award for volunteer of the year. They were presented with the award by Stephen Gale from the Thorpe Bay Rotary Club after raising £570 for the young homeless people of Southend through Southend YMCA. They organised a sponsored sleepeazy and raised money through sponsorship for themselves and their friends by spending a night outside in cardboard boxes. They have also been involved in helping shape policy through the Southend YMCA youth board.

Southend 2050 Writing Competition



This first half of the current school term saw the Year 7 and 8 students enter the Southend

2050 writing competition. The competition involved specific tasks relevant to its



theme of the future of the borough and how it affects the everyday lives of the people that live, work and visit here. Participants were required to either **write a letter from their future self, exploring their lives and the town in 2050** or **create an A4 poster promoting Southend in the year 2050**.



Such was the level of interest and passion shown by the students our *alma mater* was heavily represented on the evening with wonderful con-



tributions. Joseph Murphy and Henry Bagnall scooped

the overall winners' prizes for their submissions and were presented with their plaques by the Mayor of Southend. Special mention also went to Don Sunil, Jinossan Suseendran, Emmanuel Commey, David Ibikunle, Kassius Bonney and Aksajan Aravinthan.

Armistice 100 Schools Poetry Prize Competition

Poet Laureate Dame Carol Ann Duffy and her fellow judges read every single one of the 544 submissions that were made to the national Armistice 100 Poetry Prize Competition, and from this number an incredible four from STM poets Andrew Millham, Harry Williams, Sebastian Watts, Alfred Oku and William Edward were shortlisted!

All shortlisted poems will feature in a book and an awards ceremony took place on Thursday 15th November at the University of Lincoln.

FEEDING FURTHER CONSTRUCTION



As reported in the last edition of this esteemed publication, yet another extension/new block is being constructed at our old seat of learning.

The picture above was taken in early autumn whilst the glorious summer weather was still with us, but this being the digital age, the builders have arranged for a live feed of the project to be viewed at

www.davisconstruction.co.uk/projects

NONAGENARIAN & ANTIPODEAN VISITORS

Thursday 21st June saw upwards of 30 past pupils and former staff attend the annual Memorial Mass & Social in the school on one of the many hot and balmy evenings that this year's summer produced.

As usual the list of deceased pupils and staff was read out for us to reflect upon and pray for during the Bidding Prayers and, also as usual, the list had grown by another one or two names since the previous year. Not only had the list that was read out grown but two more were added to it for next year by those present who happened to be aware of their deaths.

Amongst the usual mixture of familiar faces and first-time visitors the surprise guest of the evening was none other than former Art teacher **Tom Mayhew**. One of the school's original members of staff and now aged 90 Tom is sadly suffering from Parkinson's disease, which affects his speech, and is confined to a wheelchair. Nevertheless he seemed to be as happy to be there as others present were to see him with many taking the time to chat and reminisce with him.

Also present amongst the first timers was 1978 leaver Sean Cray who has lived in Australia for many years and just happened to be visiting family at the time. As with so many who haven't attended events before he was surprised to be so easily recognised by those present from his era and much news was exchanged over a few beers and the buffet.

The date for the 2019 Memorial Mass has already been set for **FRIDAY 21st JUNE 2019**, so make a date in the diary to spare a few hours remembering the deceased and enjoying the company of the living.

LOOKING BACK OVER OUR FIRST TWENTY

As long-term members may well be aware, this esteemed association is now in its twenty first year of existence.



To commemorate the fact that 20 years ago last June the St Thomas More Old Boys' Association (as the Alumni was originally known) was formally inaugurated at the Memorial Mass on 20th June 1998, we have included below a selection of pictures from a variety of events that have taken place since then.



They may bring a smile to the face, or a tear to the eye, or just serve to demonstrate the passing of time when you consider the changing fortunes of some members' hairstyles and waist-lines!

Here's to the next twenty years of fun...



A BIT OF VARIETY DOES YOU GOOD

The school will be presenting their very own Variety Production on **Thursday 28th February** and **Friday 1st March** with contributions from both pupils and members of staff.

They have been working hard on this, holding auditions and fine-tuning the format since September and would be delighted to see former pupils and staff in the audience.

Further details from the school.

VINCENT HITS A PURPLE PATCH

As the school continues to expand it has become necessary to introduce a new house to accommodate the boys entering the additional form (there are now six forms entering the school each September).

The boys in the new Form 7/6 have been thinking about what saint to be named after since they joined the school in September and came up with a range of saints to choose from. In the end, after they and staff voted, they chose **St Vincent de Paul**.

Vincent was a French Catholic priest who dedicated himself to serving the poor. He was renowned for his compassion, humility and generosity and is patron saint of the poor.

St Vincent joins the original house saints of Andrew, David, George and Patrick, along with the newest previous addition St Sebastian and the House colour chosen is purple.

All that remains now is for the new 7 Vincent students to design the new House badge and to turn their attention to wresting some of the many trophies from the clutches of the more established houses.

MEMBERSHIP AS AT DECEMBER 2018

1961	Graham Lewis	1971	Bernie Brooker Mike Donovan Kevin Flynn	1978	Kevin Thomas	1995	Paul Bending
1962	Kevin Butt Michael Hughes John Lewis	1972	Paul Culleton David Thompson	1979	Pete Chambers Paul Clarke Paul Driscoll John Lawrie David O'Ryan Sean Tyrie	1998	Ben Gibson
1963	John Bowman John Sheehy	1973	Martin Carroll Phil Mahoney	1980	Sean Leggett Martin McKeown Nial O'Callaghan	2000	David Cook Martyn Rickard
1964	John Griffiths Ronald Patchett	1974	Kevin Bonham Paul McArdle Simon Millyard	1981	Sean Conlon Malcolm Patterson	2001	Chris Thompson
1965	Brian Dalton Alan Dobby Terry Knights	1975	Eamon Day David Ekers Keith Exley Chris Fairchild John McDermott Andrew McGregor Gerry Thomas	1982	Sean Corr Mark Harvey	2005	Jack Brudenell Jonathan Fenn
1966	Stephen Barker Patrick Clancy Bill Clegg Paul Hutchinson Paul Wenham	1976	Christopher Barber Laurence Blainey John Chambers Guy Francke Clive Knight Andrew McWilliam Simon Ravinet Martin Sullivan John Todryk James Tyrie	1983	Richard Allard Anthony Crowley Keith Traynor	2011	Dale Claridge
1967	Tony Cane Paul Clancy Glen Sweeney Mike Thompson	1977	Phil Coath John Cobbold Mark Hidveghy Martin Hodson John Judge Liam Rand	1984	Michael Barry Mark Denton Stuart Humfrey	2014	James Driscoll
1968	Martin Duggan Geoffrey Lewis Peter Mahoney			1985	Tim Allard	Chpln	Rev Daniel Kelly
1969	Peter David Paul Marsh Chris McHale			1986	Iain O'Connell	Assoc	Matthew Hardiman Jed Marshall Ben Micklewright Chloe Spillett Nick Spillett Tom Wiltshire
1970	Michael Davis			1987	Martin Corr Martin Diggines	DateTBC	Peter O'Callaghan
				1989	Damian Dillon Justin Hennessey Paul Lynch	H/T	Gemma Ackred
				1990	Christopher Hull	F/T	John Askew Ian Britt James Devor Mary Donaldson Tom Kennedy Tom Mayhew David Milne John O'Connell* David Sims

IN MEMORIAM



It is with great sadness that we report the death of 22-year old Grace Millane who left the school in 2015.

Members will be aware of the recent articles in the media concerning her murder in New Zealand.

Grace joined the school (which her two brothers also attended) for the Sixth form and graduated this year from Lincoln University.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends at this time as they mourn a young life cut so tragically short.

May she Rest In Peace.

CAN YOU BE TRUSTED?

Headteacher Gemma Ackred is seeking Trustees for the fledgling *Assisi* multi-academy Catholic Trust.

The trust came into being in 2017 and is a conglomerate of most of the Catholic schools in the Southend deanery.

Potential candidates need to be passionate about Catholic education in the deanery and be willing to commit to 3-4 meetings each year. Ideally practising Catholics, trus-

Hon Frank Keenan
Jan Lewis
Helen Wigmore

In Mem Richard Copley

*John O'Connell is currently a member of staff having previously left.

tees enjoy non-executive status with no personal liability. Experience in audit/finance/legal or HR areas would be of particular interest.

Any members or their partners interested are invited to contact Gemma via her PA at the school: ldavies@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk