

From: Christopher Santini
Sent: 04 April 2019 16:5>
Subject: parental briefing - Thursday 3rd of April during breaktime
Importance: High

To the parents of St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School
Please find below the parental briefing for the last day of term

1. **Staffing:** Please find the attached letter confirming Christopher Santini as the permanent Head Teacher at St Thomas. I will be interviewing for the permanent Support for Learning Leader post and the permanent Curricular Leader of Computing Science after the Easter holidays. The school will be welcoming Mr James Kennedy as permanent Music Teacher on Tuesday 23rd of April. I would like to thank Lindsey McGhee who has been our music supply teacher for the last couple of months. Her support in the Performing Arts Faculty has been excellent.
2. **Friday 5th of April S6 Awards ceremony:** Friday 5th of April will be a normal day for all year groups. At 11.30 all S6 pupils and parents will be invited to the S6 Award Ceremony in the main hall. Can as many staff as possible help with supporting the good behaviour of S6 pupils during all lessons and break time on Friday.
3. **Easter revision classes:** Please find attached the Easter revision timetable for S4-S6 pupils. This timetable has also been placed on the school website.
4. **St Thomas' Learns:** The 1st edition of St Thomas' Learns will be placed on the school website next week. The attachment is too large to send out via email so please encourage as many parents to share the newsletter dedicated to the learning experience of your children at St Thomas'.
5. I hope all parents and pupils have a joyous Easter holiday

Christopher Santini

Head Teacher | St. Thomas of Aquin's High School | 12- 20 Chalmers Street | Edinburgh | EH3 9ES
Website: www.st-thomas-of-aquins.org.uk
Twitter: @thomasofaquins

St Thomas of Aquin's Roman Catholic High School is a learning community which ensures a safe, supportive and enjoyable environment where pupils, staff, and parents are inspired and motivated to work hard for one another to fulfil the God-given potential of all pupils.

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From: Christopher Santini
Sent: 01 April 2019 14:54
Subject: Parent briefing - Monday 1st of April
Importance: High

6. **Staffing:** The short leet interviews for the permanent post of Head Teacher at St Thomas' will take place on Tuesday 2nd of April. The permanent Support for Learning Leader post advert will close on April 1st.
7. **Friday 5th of April S6 Awards ceremony:** Friday 5th of April will be a normal day for all year groups. At 11.30 all S6 pupils and parents will be invited to the S6 Award Ceremony in the main hall. I look forward to seeing all the S6 pupils and many parents of S6 pupils.
8. **Change of House Name:** Ms Kelly is proposing a change of St Kentigern's House name to St Patrick's. Staff, pupils, and parents of St Kentigern's will have their say in a vote.
9. **Spring concert:** Thanks to Ms Patrick and all the music staff for the Spring Concert. The evening was a great success.
10. **Wee sleep out:** St Thomas' Wee Sleep certificate has been sent to the school this week. I would like to thank Mr Whyte for all of his support and work in raising funds for this important social cause.
11. **Visitors:** We welcome French teaching colleagues to St Thomas this week to share good practice between our 2 education systems.
12. **Career Ready:** Congratulations to our 4 St Thomas' pupils at the Career Ready Graduation today. Thanks to Ashley and Gerladine Kelly for all of the support throughout the programme. All pupils completed a two year programme and worked with an array of prestigious companies during a summer internship in 2018.
13. **The Parent Council:** The Parent Council is running a cafe in the school hall from Friday 5th April - Sunday 7th April to raise funds for the school. If parents or staff are interested in making a pot of stoves , Sausages & mash , soup or do some home baking ?Could you volunteer a couple of hours? Please email stthomasofaquinfundraising@gmail.com. All help will be gratefully appreciated.
14. **Easter revision classes:** Easter revision timetable has been sent out to Parents last week and placed on the school website.
15. **S5 course choice interviews:** S5 pupils will be meeting with their Pupil Support Leaders for coursing interviews. A reminder that all pupils returning to S6 must choose 4 subjects in order to ensure a meaningful and productive S6 timetable. Pupil studying 3 Advanced Highers are exempt from this.
16. **S4-6 pupil SQA exam count down:** There are 5 school days until the Easter holidays. After the Easter holidays, school starts back on Tuesday 23rd of April. Tuesday 23rd will be the final day of school for all S4-6 pupils and will be a normal school day for all S1-S6 pupils. I will hold Assemblies for S4 and S5 on the afternoon of Tuesday 23rd of April to wish all S4 and S5 pupils the best of luck in their exams and to discuss the start of their new timetables in June.

For S4-6 pupils who will be sitting fewer than 3 National 5 exams, the school will continue with a meaningful timetable and information is being prepared by Mr Green. The timetable will be emailed to parents later on this week.

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From: Christopher Santini
Subject: Parental briefing of March 25th
Importance: High

Dear parents of St Thomas', please find the following briefing email for the week beginning Monday 25th of March.

17. **Spring Concert:** Good luck to all pupils and staff with the Spring Concert tonight, Tuesday 26th of March, in the main hall. The concert start at 7.00pm. There will also be an Art sale to support the S6 charity and social activities.
18. **Easter revision classes:** Please find attached the final draft of the Easter revision classes for S4-6 pupils. I will be placing this on the school website shortly.
19. **S6 standards and expectation assembly:** Mr Green and I will hold a S6 standards and expectation assembly on Tuesday 26th of March to support S6 pupils in the last week of attending St Thomas'.
20. **SCIAF:** The SCIAF 24 Fast at St Thomas, led by Mr Wotherspoon, was a great success. A big thank you also to Vivien Hunter who put on a bountiful breakfast to break the fast on Thursday 21st of March.
21. **Congratulations:** Congratulations to S6 Lauren Santandreu for being awarded the Baird of Bute Science Scholarship to Canada. Lauren is the first pupil from St Thomas' to win this scholarship. Well done Lauren and I hope you enjoy the experience.
22. **Congratulations:** Congratulations a group of S4 and S3 St Thomas' pupils who represented the school on Saturday 23rd March at Inverleith Park in a seven a side rugby tournament. In a 6 team tournament they finished 3rd place with wins over Trinity High School, Portobello HS and Leith Academy. I hope I have the correct names in the team - well done to Paddy Armstrong, Eroni Taoi, Alex Lopez, Frank Gray, Conor Burns, Tim Gilles, Ethan Midgley, and Mark McKay.
23. **The Parent Council:** The Parent Council is running a cafe in the school hall from Friday 5th April - Sunday 7th April to raise funds for the school. If parents or staff are interested in making a pot of stoves, Sausages & mash, soup or do some home baking? Could you volunteer a couple of hours? Please email stthomasofaquinfundraising@gmail.com. All help will be gratefully appreciated.
24. **S5 course choice interviews:** S5 pupils will be meeting with their Pupil Support Leaders for coursing interviews. A reminder that all pupils returning to S6 must choose 4 subjects in order to ensure a meaningful and productive S6 timetable. Pupil studying 3 Advanced Highers are exempt from this.
25. **Leavers Mass and Ceilidh:** The Leavers Mass will take place on **Wednesday 27th of March at The Sacred Heart 7.00pm** for all pupils intending on leaving St Thomas this year. I am sorry to announce that the Leavers Ceilidh has been cancelled.

26. **S4-6 pupil SQA exam count down:** There are **10** school days until the Easter holidays. After the Easter holidays, school starts back on Tuesday 23rd of April. Tuesday 23rd will be the final day of school for all S4-6 pupils and will be a normal school day for all S1-S6 pupils. I will hold Assemblies for S4 and S5 on the afternoon of Tuesday 23rd of April to wish all S4 and S5 pupils the best of luck in their exams and to discuss the start of their new timetables in June.

For S4-6 pupils who will be sitting fewer than 3 National 5 exams, the school will continue with a meaningful timetable and information is being prepared by Mr Green. The timetable will be emailed to parents later on this week.

Christopher Santini

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From: Christopher Santini

Sent: 18 March 2019 08:50

Subject: Parental briefing of March 18th

Goodmorning to the community of St Thomas of Aquin's

27. **Staffing:** I am pleased to inform parents that Madame Jean-Pierre was the successful candidate for the permanent Depute Head Teacher post. The Curricular Leader of Computing Science interviews will take place after Easter holidays.
28. **Inclusion:** Please find attached Alastair Gaw's inclusion statement. I will be placing this on the school website.
29. **International links:** I am pleased to announce that Mr Rafferty will be joining the Head Teacher of St Thomas in visiting Hong King in September 2019 as part of the school's international education programme. St Thomas' will have visitors from Paris coming to the school in the 1st week of April as part of the school's Erasmus project.
30. **S1-S3 standards and expectations:** I wish to focus on S1-S3 pupils standards and behaviour in and out of the school over the next 4 weeks. I will be holding a series of assemblies and visiting classrooms throughout. I will be holding a S1 Assembly this week.

31. **The Parent Council:** Parent Council are running a cafe in the school hall from Friday 5th April - Sunday 7th April to raise funds for the school. Could you make a pot of stoves , Sausages & mash , soup or do some home baking ?Could you volunteer a couple of hours of your time? Please email stthomasofaquinfundraising@gmail.com. All help will be gratefully appreciated.
32. **Full and Tracking reports:** S1&2 Tracking reports will be handed out in Key Adult classes on Wednesday 20th of March.
33. **S5 course choice interviews:** S5 pupils will be meeting with their Pupil Support Leaders for coursing interviews.
34. **Leavers Mass and Ceilidh:** The Leavers Mass will take place on Wednesday 27th of March at The Sacred Heart 7.00pm for all pupils intending on leaving St Thomas this year. After the Mass there will be a Leavers Ceilidh in the Sacred Heart Hall from 8.00pm. All parents, carers, siblings and extended family members of young people leaving the school are welcome to attend. There will be food, drink, music and dancing. The Parent Council will lay on tea and coffee, juice and snacks, but please feel free to bring your own food and drink to supplement supplies!
35. **S4-6 pupil SQA exam count down:** There are **15** school days until the Easter holidays. After the Easter holidays, school starts back on Tuesday 23rd of April. Tuesday 23rd will be the final day of school for all S4-6 pupils and will be a normal school day for all S1-S6 pupils. I will hold Assemblies for S4 and S5 on the afternoon of Tuesday 23rd of April to wish all S4 and S5 pupils the best of luck in their exams and to discuss the start of their new timetables in June.

For S4-6 pupils who will be sitting fewer than 3 National 5 exams, the school will continue with a meaningful timetable and information is being prepared by Mr Green.

Over the last 3 years St Thomas' has worked very hard to ensure the reputation of the school is as positive as possible. I was saddened last year by some of the actions of S6 pupils which resulted in 2 pupils not being allowed to attend the school prom due to their behaviour in their last week of school before the SQA exams. I believe it important to write to all S6 parents asking you to speak with your children about the high expectations St Thomas' has for its pupils in terms of behaviour (both in and out of school) during the last few days of school. I am asking all S6 parents to ensure that their children present themselves appropriately at school, in line with our school values, during the last week of school before the Easter Holidays and the 1 day after the Easter holidays to ensure that St Thomas' is a very positive learning experience for all staff and pupils. I do not wish to have to invite parents and pupils into school to discuss a pupil's behaviour that may lead to their non-attendance at the S6 Prom and individual plans having to be put in place for SQA exams.

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From: Christopher Santini
Sent: 11 March 2019 08:06
Subject: parent briefing of March 11th and out of school
Importance: High

Goodmorning to the parents of St Thomas of Aquin's, please find the briefing for the week beginning Monday 11th of March

36. **Staffing:** The interview for the permanent Depute Head Teacher will take place this Wednesday – March 13th. The Curricular Leader of Computing Science advert has closed and I will looking at applications this week.
37. **St Thomas Lent calendar:** Please find attached a simple and effective way for pupils to plan Lent 2019.
38. **Tracking reports:** S1&2 Tracking reports will start on Monday 4th of March and be completed by Friday 8th of March.
39. **S5-6 Parents Evening:** There will be a S5-6 Parents Evening on Tuesday 12th of March from 5.00pm until 7.00pm
40. **Leavers Mass and Ceilidh:** The Leavers Mass will take place on Wednesday 27th of March at The Sacred Heart 7.00pm for all pupils intending on leaving St Thomas this year. After the Mass there will be a Leavers Ceilidh in the Sacred Heart Hall from 8.00pm. All parents, carers, siblings and extended family members of young people leaving the school are welcome to attend. There will be food, drink, music and dancing. The Parent Council will lay on tea and coffee, juice and snacks, but please feel free to bring your own food and drink to supplement supplies!
41. **S1-S3 standards and expectations:** I wish to focus on S1-S3 pupils standards and behaviour in and out of the school over the next 4 weeks. I will be holding a series of assemblies and visiting classrooms throughout. I will be holding a S1 Assembly next week.
42. **S4-6 pupil SQA exam count down:** There are **20** school days until the Easter holidays. After the Easter holidays, school starts back on Tuesday 23rd of April. Tuesday 23rd will be the final day of school for all S4-6 pupils and will be a normal school day for all S1-S6 pupils. I will hold Assemblies for S4 and S5 on the afternoon of Tuesday 23rd of April to wish all S4 and S5 pupils the best of luck in their exams and to discuss the start of their new timetables in June.

For S4-6 pupils who will be sitting fewer than 3 National 5 exams, the school will continue with a meaningful timetable and information is being prepared by Mr Green.

Over the last 3 years St Thomas' has worked very hard to ensure the reputation of the school is as positive as possible. I was saddened last year by some of the actions of S6 pupils which resulted in 2 pupils not being allowed to attend the school prom due to their behaviour in their last week of school before the SQA exams. I believe it important to write to all S6 parents asking you to speak with your children about the high expectations St Thomas' has for its pupils in terms of behaviour (both in and out of school) during the last few days of school. I am asking all S6 parents to ensure that their children present themselves appropriately at school, in line with our school values, during the last week of school before the Easter Holidays and the 1 day after the Easter holidays to ensure that St Thomas' is a very positive learning experience for all staff and pupils. I do not wish to have to invite parents and pupils into school to discuss a pupil's behaviour that may lead to their non-attendance at the S6 Prom and individual plans having to be put in place for SQA exams.

43. **International links:** I am pleased to announce that Ms Whiffen, Mr Rafferty, and Mrs Henderson will share the leading of the school's International Links co-ordinator's role. I am also pleased to announce

that St Thomas will partner with a school in Hong Kong and 2 members of staff will fly out to Hong Kong in September 2019 and visit the school and a reciprocal visit from the Hong School will take place in late October 2019.

Christopher Santini

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From: Christopher Santini

Sent: 04 March 2019 11:42

Subject: Parental briefing - Monday 4th of March

Importance: High

Goodmorning to the parents of St Thomas of Aquin's, please find the briefing for the week beginning Monday 4th of March

44. **Staffing:** Ms McDonald will be on a 10 month sabbatical from St Thomas and returning to St Thomas in January 2020. We wish Ms McDonald all the best in the south of England and look forward to her return in January 2020. We have a RE specialist in place as of Monday 4th of March, Mr Gukian, to support Mr Wotherspoon up until the end of June.
45. **Ash Wednesday assemblies:** There will be 3 short assemblies on Wednesday 6th of March which Mr Wotherspoon will be leading supported by the Chaplaincy team. The Assembly times are as follows:
 - S3 and S4 pupils and staff to come to the main hall for 9.40 (Lesson 2)
 - S5 and S6 pupils and staff to come to the main hall for 10.55 (lesson 3)
 - S1 and S2 pupils and staff to come to the main hall for 11.20 (lesson 3)
46. **Tracking reports:** S1&2 Tracking reports will start on Monday 4th of March and be completed by Friday 8th of March. S5-6 Tracking reports handed out on Wednesday 6th of March.
47. **S6 Awards & Ceremony:** The S6 Awards Ceremony will take place on Friday, 5 April from 11:30 in the Assembly Hall. All S6 pupils and parents are welcome. S6 pupils will be nominated for Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards in all subject areas. After the event the school will provide light refreshments for all parents and pupils.
48. **Leavers Mass:** This will take place on Wednesday 27th of March at The Sacred Heart 7.00pm for all pupils intending on leaving St Thomas this year.

49. **S1-S3 standards and expectations:** I wish to focus on S1-S3 pupils standards and behaviour in and out of the school over the next 5 weeks. I will be holding a series of assemblies and visiting classrooms throughout. I disappointed to hear of another incident outside of school last week at the Sainsbury's shop in Quaternmile involving S3 pupils from St Thomas. I will be bringing this issue up at the next Parent Council.
50. **S4-6 pupil SQA exam count down:** There are 25 school days until the Easter holidays. I hope all S4,5, and S6 pupils are focussing on the important next steps to support their learning and attainment.
51. **The Environment group:** St Thomas staff are working in partnership with parents to actively engage pupils a global issues group. Please see the information attached.
52. **The school improvement plan February update:** Please find an update of the school improvement plan
53. **School Mural:** Please find attached an article about the school mural.

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From: Christopher Santini
Sent: 26 February 2019 08:51
Subject: Parental briefing
Importance: High

Goodmorning to the parents of St Thomas of Aquin's, please find the briefing for the week beginning Monday 25th of February

54. **Staffing:** I am delighted to report that Mr James Kennedy will joining St Thomas as permanent Music Teacher. Mr Kennedy will start at St Thomas after the Easter holidays.
55. **S4 Parents Evening:** There will be a S4 Parents' evening tomorrow from 5.00-7.00pm.

56. **Beer and wine Evening:** I am looking forward to attending the annual St Thomas' Beer and Wine event held in the main hall this Thursday 28th of February. There are tickets left so why don't you buy some tickets and not only enjoy the excellent beverage but also get a chance to speak to me about your children at St Thomas'.
57. **Tracking reports:** S1&2 Tracking reports will start on Monday 4th of March and be completed by Friday 8th of March. S4 Tracking reports will be handed out on Wednesday 27th of February and S5-6 Tracking reports handed out on Wednesday 6th of March.
58. **S6 Awards & Ceremony:** The S6 Awards Ceremony will take place on Friday, 5 April from 11:30 in the Assembly Hall. All S6 pupils and parents are welcome. S6 pupils will be nominated for Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards in all subject areas. After the event the school will provide light refreshments for all parents and pupils.
59. **S1-S3 standards and expectations:** I wish to focus on S1-S3 pupils standards and behaviour in and out of the school over the next 7 weeks. I will be holding a series of assemblies and visiting classrooms throughout March. There will be a S2 Assembly the week beginning Monday 25th of February. Please find attached the S3 Assembly presentation which was held last week.
60. **Leavers Mass:** This will take place on Wednesday 27th of March at The Sacred Heart 7.00pm for all pupils intending on leaving St Thomas this year.
61. **Edict:** CEC is supporting the setting up of a S1-S3 tracking database for all secondary establishments. I will be asking Mr Green to lead on this project and the school will use part of the May in-service as an information and training session.
62. **Curriculum:** The JET (Job, Education, Training) launch will take place this week. Staff will meet with interested pupils to discuss the programme in greater detail and support the completion of their booking forms. A parental information evening has been arranged on Monday 25th March from 6-8pm in the Drama Studio, the JET team will be present to highlight the core ideas and merits of the programme.
63. **Edinburgh Child Protection Committee and NSPCC Scotland** are working together to design a city wide campaign on neglect. As part of this CEC are keen to develop a better understanding of what parents in Edinburgh understand by the term neglect, what they would do if they suspected a child was being neglected and where families access support with parenting. CEC have created a [short survey](#) to do this, which should take between five and ten minutes to complete. By completing this survey, you are helping CEC ensure that the final campaign will be relevant to all families and contribute towards keeping all children in the city safe. Closing date for responses is 18 March.
64. Please find attached the most up to date ELATE – there is an article about St Thomas' to enjoy.

Regards
Christopher

Christopher Santini

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From: Christopher Santini
Sent: 22 February 2019 08:06
To: STT-All Staff <STT-AllStaff@ea.edin.sch.uk>
Subject: staff briefing
Importance: High

Goodmorning Colleagues

I will be in staffroom at breaktime on Friday to give the following briefing:

65. **Staffing:** Adverts and posts:
66. **Student Teachers:** All the best in up and coming “crit” lessons over the next couple of weeks.
67. **Tracking reports:** S1&2 Tracking reports will start on Monday 4th of March and be completed by Friday 8th of March. S4 Tracking reports will be handed out on Wednesday 27th of February and S5-6 Tracking reports handed out on Wednesday 6th of March.
68. **S6 Awards & Ceremony:** The S6 Awards Ceremony will take place on Friday, 5 April from 11:30 in the Assembly Hall. All S6 pupils and parents are welcome. S6 pupils will be nominated for Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards in all subject areas. After the event the school will provide light refreshments for all parents and pupils.
69. **S1-S3 standards and expectations:** I wish to focus on S1-S3 pupils standards and behaviour in and out of the school over the next 7 weeks. I will be holding a series of assemblies and visiting classrooms throughout March. There will be a S2 Assembly the week beginning Monday 25th of February.
70. **S6 Leavers Mass:** This will take place on Wednesday 27th of March at The Sacred Heart 7.00pm.
71. **Edict:** CEC is supporting the setting up of a S1-S3 tracking database for all secondary establishments. I will be asking Peter to lead on this project and we will use part of the May in-service as an information and training session.
72. **Curriculum:** The JET Launch will take place next week. Meetings with pupils are planned for next week to discuss the programme in greater detail and support interested pupils with the completion of their booking form . A parental information evening has been arranged on Monday 25th March from 6-8pm in the Drama Studio, the JET team will be present to highlight the core ideas and merits of the programme.
73. **HMIe Joint Letter:** The letter discusses the educational empowerment strategy which includes schools, teachers, pupils and parents and is central in improving the life chances of children and young people in Scotland.
74. **Edinburgh Child Protection Committee and NSPCC Scotland** are working together to design a city wide campaign on neglect. As part of this we are keen to develop a better understanding of what

parents in Edinburgh understand by the term neglect, what they would do if they suspected a child was being neglected and where families access support with parenting. We have created a [short survey](#) to do this, which should take between five and ten minutes to complete. By completing this survey, you are helping us ensure that the final campaign will be relevant to all families and contribute towards keeping all children in the city safe. Closing date for responses is 18 March.

75. Please find attached the most up to date ELATE with an article about St Thomas' in – thank you Manuel.

Regards
Christopher

Christopher Santini

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From: Christopher Santini
Sent: 18 February 2019 07:56
Subject: Parental briefing - Monday 18th of February
Importance: High

Goodmorning to the community of St Thomas', please find a parental briefing for the week starting Monday 18th of February

1. **Staffing:** I will be interviewing for the permanent Music Teacher post on Tuesday 19th of February with Ms Patrick, the Curricular Leader of Performing Arts.
2. **Parent Council:** There will be a Parent Council meeting on Tuesday 19th of February starting at 6pm in the school.
3. **S4-6 information evening:** Parents of pupils in S3, S4 and S5 are welcome to attend a parental information evening on 21st of February at **6.00pm** in the main hall to look at the school's curriculum and exam results. The school Calendar states the information evening will start at 5pm however to support the S6 with their charity Lip-sync event I have moved the information evening back to 6pm.

4. **S6 Awards & Ceremony:** The S6 Awards Ceremony will take place on Friday, 5 April from 11:30 in the Assembly Hall. All S6 pupils and parents are welcome. S6 pupils will be nominated for Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards in all subject areas. After the event the school will provide light refreshments for all parents and pupils.
5. **S3 course preference sheet:** The S3 coursing interviews started on the 4th of February and will continue until Friday 22nd of February.
6. **Edict:** CEC is supporting the setting up of a S1-S3 tracking database for all secondary establishments. I will be asking Mr Green to lead on this project.
7. **S1-S3 standards and expectations:** I wish to focus on S1-S3 pupils standards and behaviour in and out of the school over the next 7 weeks. I will be holding a series of assemblies and visiting classrooms throughout March. There will be a S3 Assembly on Wednesday 20th of February to start the process.
8. **International Education co-ordinator's post:** I would like to create an International Education co-ordinator's post and give a small amount of time for a colleague to lead and manage potential education links St Thomas' is planning to embark upon. I will keep the community updated on this potential position.

Regards
Christopher

Christopher Santini

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From: Christopher Santini
Sent: 05 February 2019 12:20

Subject: Parental briefing - 4th of February
Importance: High

Goodafternoon to the parents of St Thomas' pupils
Please find below the parent briefing week beginning Monday 4th of February

9. **Welcome to student Teachers:** We have student teachers in PE, Modern Languages, English, Performing Arts, Art and Technologies, Science, Maths, English, Social Subjects, and RE. I wish them all the best with their teaching placement here at St Thomas'.
10. **Staffing:** I am interviewing candidates for the permanent Music Teacher post on Tuesday 19th of February.
11. **S3 course preference sheet:** The S3 coursing interviews started on the 4th of February and will continue until Friday 22nd of February.
12. **Pupil Equity Funding:** The school's Pupil Support Officer has started work at St Thomas' today, Tuesday 5th of February. We welcome Roisin Murray to the staff and wish her well in the post.
13. **S1-S3 standards and expectations:** After the February break I wish to focus on S1-S3 pupils standards and behaviour in and out of the school. I will be holding a series of assemblies and visiting classrooms throughout March.
14. **The St Thomas staff reunion:** Last Thursday, the school had over 40 retired staff attend the first St Thomas' staff reunion. The evening has a great success and I would like to thank Mary Duggan and colleagues for helping me plan the event. I hope this becomes an annual event in the week of our Feast Day.
15. **S4 Straw poll and Parents evening:** There will be a S3 assembly this week asking pupils what their preferred choices would be to support the writing of the 2019-20 S4 timetable.
16. **S4-6 information evening:** Parents of pupils in S3, S4 and S5 are welcome to attend a parental information evening on 21st of February at 6.00pm in the main hall to look at the school's curriculum and exam results.
17. **And finally,** I have asked staff to think about a plan I have for linking with a Catholic School in Hong Kong. The Hong Kong school would be an English speaking school and we would join a further 4 Edinburgh state schools in the partnership. Along with the Erasmus links with Paris, I would also wish St Thomas' to link with a school in Eire or Northern Ireland. The rationale would be for staff and pupils to look outwards to other countries and share pedagogy in order to improve the experience at St Thomas'. I am thinking of creating an International Education co-ordinator's post and give a small amount of time for a colleague to lead and manage all 3 links. I welcome parents' views on this.

Regards

Christopher Santini

Acting Head Teacher | St. Thomas of Aquin's High School | 12- 20 Chalmers Street | Edinburgh | EH3 9ES

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From: Christopher Santini
Sent: 28 January 2019 17:42
Importance: High

18. **Staffing:** I am planning to advertise a permanent Depute Head advert for S1-S3 and ensuring wellbeing, equality, and inclusion remit this term. I will keep the school community updated with the process. The permanent Music Teacher advert is now live on Myjobscotland and closes on the 30th of January.
19. **School mural:** On Thursday 24th of January Louise Fraser was in school working with the S2 pupils on the school mural project. I invited David Kerr in, communications officer for the Archdiocese, who will write a piece for The Scottish Catholic Observer. Thanks to Ms Wilson and Mr Cunningham for all of their support – it was a great success.
20. **S2 course preference sheet:** S2 pupils will complete their course preferences in PSE at this week. The S3 coursing interviews will the start soon afterwards.
21. **Beer & Wine Evening Thursday 28 February 7pm :** Join parents and colleagues for a relaxed evening of beer and wine tasting with Scottish drinks writer Tom Bruce-Gardyne. Please email stthomasofaquinfundraising@gmail.com to reserve your tickets. All adults welcome.
22. **Sainsbury's Quatermile:** I will continue to work with staff at Sainsbury's to support the good conduct of St Thomas' pupils in and around The Quatermile. I will be making visits on a regular basis and will be asking our community police officer PC McPherson to support me with this.
23. **Prelims:** Thanks to all staff and especially Mr Green, Mrs Bendall, and Mrs Waddell for the running of the S4-6 prelims, which will finish on Wednesday 30th of January. S4-6 pupils are back in school on Thursday 31st for their normal timetables.
24. **The St Thomas staff reunion:** former staff and present staff are welcome to an afternoon reception held on Thursday 31st from 4.30 until 6.00pm in the school library.
25. **S3 Parents evening:** On Monday 4th of February, the school welcomes S3 parents to their child's parents evening. I look forward to meeting S3 parents during the evening.

Regards

Christopher Santini

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From: Christopher Santini
Sent: 21 January 2019 10:12
Subject: parental briefing January 18th

Goodmorning to the parents of St Thomas of Aquin's, please find the parental briefing week starting Monday 21st of January

26. **Staffing:** The permanent Music Teacher advert is now live on Myjobscotland and closes on the 30th of January.
27. **School mural:** The artist supporting the school mural will be in school this week working with S2s. This piece of work will a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the vision and values of St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School.
28. **S2 course preference sheet:** S2 pupils will start their course preferences in PSE over the next 2 weeks.
29. **Beer & Wine Evening Thursday 28 February 7pm** : Join us for a relaxed evening of beer and wine tasting with Scottish drinks writer Tom Bruce-Gardyne. This popular event in the school calendar is a great opportunity to get to know other parents and members of the Parent Council in an informal setting and we particularly encourage new parents to come along. Tom is a freelance drinks journalist with a special interest in Whisky and Italian wines and author of the Story of Scotch Whisky, the Scotch Whisky book, Champagne and other titles. He also runs beer and wine tasting evenings at the Edinburgh Cook School. If your party is made up of 6 or more you may reserve a table. Tickets are £15 per person with a discount of 10% for groups of 6 or more and for parents & carers of S1 pupils. Funds raised will contribute to the purchase of a centrifuge, subject to PC approval. Please email stthomasofaquinfundraising@gmail.com to reserve your tickets. All adults welcome.
30. **Sainsbury's Quatermile:** I was called last Thursday to the shop yesterday due to some anti-social behaviour by a small minority of pupils. I will be making visits on a regular basis from now on and will be asking our community police officer PC McPherson to support me with this.
31. **Prelims:** S4-S6 prelims start on today, Monday 21st of January, and will run until Wednesday 30th of January inclusive. I wish all pupils the very best with the exams.
32. **St Thomas Feast Day:** will be held on Monday 28th of January with a S1-S3 Mass in The Sacred Heart.
33. **The St Thomas staff reunion:** former staff and present staff are welcome to an afternoon reception held on Thursday 31st from 4.30 until 6.00pm in the school library.
34. **S6 Photographs:** On Thursday 31 January the S6 Group/individual photographs will be taking in the main hall from 9am.

Regards

Christopher Santini

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From: Christopher Santini

Sent: 14 January 2019 11:17

Subject: Parental briefing January 14th

Goodmorning and Happy New Year to all parents of St Thomas'. Please find the parental briefing below week beginning Monday 14th of January.

35. **Staffing:** A welcome to Ms Moreno in Social Subjects and Mr McCombie in Modern Languages who have just started at St Thomas. I wish our colleagues all the best at the school.
36. **Teachers lunch:** I would like to warmly thank members of the Parent Council who prepared lunch for staff on Tuesday 8th of January, this was a lovely act of compassion and selflessness. The food was fantastic and the atmosphere in the staffroom was very positive. I will be writing to individual parents to thank them for their contributions.
37. **Infocus (St Thomas' Learns):** I believe it is time for the school community to rebrand the school's newsletter "Infocus" into a learning and teaching newsletter with a provisional title of St Thomas' Learns – the learning and teaching group will write a forward and it will be send out to school community in February.
38. **Prelims:** S4-S6 prelims start on Monday 21st of January and will run until Wednesday 30th of January inclusive. All pupils have been given a prelim timetable at the end of last term and on behalf of the school we wish pupils all the best in these important exams.
39. **S2 Parents' evening:** S2 parents evening will take place on Wednesday 16th of January starting at 5pm.
40. **St Thomas Feast Day:** will be held on Monday 28th of January with a S1-S3 Mass. I will ask the Chaplaincy team to meet to plan the Mass. The St Thomas staff reunion in which former staff and present staff are welcome will be held on Thursday 31st from 4.30 until 6.00pm in the school library.
41. **The school will undergo a £750,000+ refurbishment** including replacement boiler, new heating system, decoration and replacement floorcoverings. This will take place from Spring 2019 until March 2020 and will probably involve works being carried out during the school day, although holidays will be used to minimise disruption.

42. **S6 Photographs:** On Thursday 31 January the S6 Group/individual photographs will be taking in the main hall from 9am.

43. **Congratulations:** to the 50:50 club members who have won over £250 in total in cash prizes over the last 6 months. That means that a fantastic £250 has also been raised for the school during the same months. Don't miss out on your chance to win whilst raising funds for school equipment and activities. *You can find more information about how to join on the school website fundraising page:* <https://www.st-thomas-of-aquins.org.uk/parents-carers/parent-council/fundraising-for-the-school/>

Regards

Christopher Santini

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From: Christopher Santini

Sent: 18 December 2018 09:05

Subject: Parental briefing: week beginning 17th of December

Importance: High

Goodmorning to the community of St Thomas, please find the final parental briefing for 2018.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all pupils and parents a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

1. **Staffing:** Congratulations to Ms Patrick who was appointed Permanent Curricular Leader of Performing Arts at St Thomas'. On behalf of the school community we wish her all the success in her new position. Mrs M Moreno is the preferred candidate for the temporary Geography Teacher post and I expect her to start on Wednesday 9th of January.
2. **End of term and January in-service:** The school will close at 12 noon on Friday 21st of December with assemblies for S4-6 from 11.00am and S1-3 from 11.30. Friday the 21st will be a non-uniform day. All pupils will resume school on Wednesday 9th of January.
3. **Equalities group:** Mr Macpherson and Ms Butler will be starting an Equalities group in January. Pupils are welcome to support them with the development of this group.

4. **St Thomas' Christmas concert:** St Thomas' Christmas concert was a great success on Monday 10th of December. Thank you to the 100+ parents and pupils who attended the event. The pupils were fantastic and a credit to their families and the school. Thank you to Ms Patrick and the instrumental staff for all of their support.
5. **Parental engagement morning – Friday 14th:** 20 P7 parents attended the school to meet with me and 8 S1 pupils on Friday 14th of December. I would like to thank S1 Mahir Ahmed, Skye Barnes, Aiden Clark, Isaac Markus, Rory Meehan, Euan Riach, Sophie Shaw, Sarah Smith for their help. I will be writing to their parents this week.
6. **Infocus:** I think time has come to rebrand the school newsletter “infocus”. I would like a new title and the emphasis on the newsletter being a learning and teaching article from each Faculty. I will ask the Learning and Teaching working group to lead this and have the new version out to the community by Easter 2019.
7. **St Thomas of Aquin's Drama Club:** Will present a Victorian Double Bill on Wednesday 19th of December at 7.30pm in the Drama Studio. We start with ‘Foiled Again!’ A melodrama directed by Emer Irvine (S4) followed by an adaptation of Charles Dickens ‘A Christmas Carol’ directed by Mrs Grindall. Donations to the Drama Club fund would be very much appreciated.
8. **Prelims:** The prelim timetable has been completed in draft form. There will be assemblies for S4, S5, and S6 pupils this week to share the information. Thanks to Mr Green for his work on the prelim timetable.
9. **S5-6 full Reports:** The S5-6 reports will be handed out during Key Adult time on Wednesday 19th of December.
10. **Message from the parent council:** If you are sitting down to do your Christmas shopping online, please think about signing up to **easyfundraising** first. Every time you buy something online, the retailer makes a small donation to the parent council account. It won't cost you a penny extra and there are no hidden charges. Over the past 2 years, over £1600 has been raised for the school this way. Use the link below to find out more. <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stthomasofaquins/>
11. Please find attached a copy of the Edinburgh Learns Newsletter

Regards

Christopher Santini

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From: Christopher Santini
Sent: 10 December 2018 10:08
Subject: Parental briefing 10th of December
Importance: High

12. **Staffing:** The interview for a temporary Geography Teacher, to fill the Mrs Stark's Geography vacancy , will take place on Tuesday 11th of December. Ms Bianchini will be leaving St Thomas' at the end of term. An advert for a Modern Language Teacher closes on Friday 7th of December.
13. **End of term and January in-service:** The school will close at 12 noon on Friday 21st of December with assemblies for S4-6 from 11.00am and S1-3 from 11.30. All pupils will resume school on Wednesday 9th of January.
14. **Staff in-service lunch:** The Parent Council & parents/carers of S4, S5 & S6 are hosting a thankyou lunch for staff on Tuesday 8th January at 1 pm. S4,5 &6 parents and carers are invited to contribute . Please email stthomasofaquinfundraising@gmail.com. All contributions will be most welcome. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parent Council for this, the staff are very grateful.
15. **St Thomas of Aquin's Drama Club:** Will present a Victorian Double Bill on Wednesday 19th of December at 7.30pm in the Drama Studio. We start with 'Foiled Again!' A melodrama directed by Emer Irvine (S4) followed by an adaptation of Charles Dickens 'A Christmas Carol' directed by Mrs Grindall. Donations to the Drama Club fund would be very much appreciated.
16. **CEC refresh:** I have asked Mrs Greene to reform the school's ICT group in light of the up and coming ICT refresh across Edinburgh Schools
17. **Pupil Equity Funding update:** The school's PEF plan is taking shape with the 3 coaches taking on extended remits of communication, analysis and evaluation, and curriculum planning. The new pupil support officer, Mrs Murray, should hopefully be arriving at the school soon to develop the learning nurture hub. Vivian Hunter is leading on the daily breakfast club, which is a great success. Faculties have made successful bids for PEF funds and Curricular Leaders are invited to continue making bids.
18. **St Thomas' Christmas concert:** The school concert will take place next week on Monday 10th of December starting at 7pm. All pupils and parents are welcome to attend.
19. **S5-6 full Reports:** S5-6 reporting window started on Monday 26th of November and finishes on the 7th of December. The reports will be handed out during Key Adult time on Wednesday 19th of December.
20. **Message from the parent council:** If you are sitting down to do your Christmas shopping online, please think about signing up to **easyfundraising** first. Every time you buy something online, the retailer makes a small donation to the parent council account. It won't cost you a penny extra and there are no hidden charges. Over the past 2 years, over £1600 has been raised for the school this way. Use the link below to find out more. <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stthomasofaquins/>

Regards

Christopher Santini

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From: Christopher Santini
Sent: 03 December 2018 09:04
Subject: Parental briefing - 3rd of December
Importance: High

Goodmorning to the community of St Thomas', please find the parental briefing for the week beginning Monday 3rd of December

21. **Staffing:** An advert for a temporary Geography Teacher, to fill the Mrs Stark's Geography vacancy, closed on Friday and I plan to interview at the beginning of next week.
22. **St Thomas' assessment timelines 2018-19:** Please find attached 2018-19 assessment timelines for S4-S6 pupils. I would like to thank Mr Green and all the Curricular Leaders for this piece of work.
23. **S2 course preference assembly:** There will be a S2 straw poll assembly for course preferences this week led by Madame Jena-Pierre.
24. **St Thomas' Christmas concert:** The school concert will take place next week on Monday 10th of December in the main hall from 7pm.
25. **CEC refresh:** In 2019, St Thomas' will undergo an ICT refresh. A school working group will be set up to support the process and I will update the Parent Council in due course regarding the date of the refresh.
26. **Parent Council meeting:** There is a Parent Council meeting on Thursday 6th of December at 6.45.
27. **Remembrance service:** My thanks goes to Mr Wotherspoon and the Chaplaincy team for leading on the senior remembrance service on Wednesday 28th of November.
28. **S5-6 full Reports:** S5-6 reporting window started on Monday 26th of November and finishes on the 7th of December. The reports will be handed out during Key Adult time on Wednesday 19th of December.

Regards
Christopher Santini

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From: Christopher Santini
Sent: 27 November 2018 07:48
Subject: parental briefing - Tuesday 27th of November
Importance: High

Goodmorning to the community of St Thomas', please find a parental briefing week beginning Monday 26th of November

29. **Staffing:** Ms Patrick has taken up the Acting Curricular Leader Performing Arts position as of Monday 19th of November, an advert for the permanent position of Curricular Leader Performing Arts closes on Monday 26th of November with interviews taking place in December. An advert for a temporary Geography Teacher, to fill the Mrs Stark's Geography vacancy, closes at the end of this week.
30. **P7 Transition Mass:** On Wednesday 28th of November 20 S1 pupils will be attending St Mary's Cathedral to celebrate the P7 Transition Mass along with the Acting Headteacher and Depute Headteacher.
31. **2018 Mural:** Please see the attached draft plan for a series of murals to be designed by staff and S2 pupils to celebrate 100 years of Catholic Education. Pupils and staff will have a huge influence in this piece of art work that I hope will be on permanent display throughout St Thomas' over the next 100 years.
32. **Remembrance service:** On Wednesday 28th of November, there will be a senior remembrance service in which parents can attend. The service will be held in the main hall at 12.30 and will last for around 25 minutes. My thanks goes to Mr Wotherspoon and the Chaplaincy team for leading on this event.
33. **Uniform:** I will continue to visit classrooms to support the wearing of school uniform by all of pupils. Can parents please continue to support the school with pupils wearing the St Thomas' full school uniform: Black shoes, black trousers or skirts, white shirt, school tie, black jumper, and the option of a school blazer.
34. **S4 full Reports:** The S4 reports will be handed out during Key Adult time on Wednesday 5th of December.
35. **S5-6 full Reports:** S5-6 reporting window started on Monday 26th of November and finishes on the 7th of December. The reports will be handed out during Key Adult time on Wednesday 19th of December.
36. **S2 Parents Information evening:** There will be a S2 coursing information evening in the main hall tonight, Tuesday 27th of November, from 6.00-7.30pm.
37. **Rugby at St Thomas':** S3 St Thomas pupils who play for Borroughmuir Rugby U15s, (which has pupils from schools from all around the city) won the Scottish Rugby Union's Shogun Club Conference League 9for their age-group) this weekend. The three pupils are Frank Gray, Mark McKay and Alex Lopez. Congratulations.

Regards
Christopher Santini

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From: Christopher Santini
Sent: 21 November 2018 07:42
Subject: Parental briefing Wednesday 21st of November
Importance: High

Goodmorning to the community of St Thomas', please find below the parent briefing week beginning the 19th of November.

38. **Staffing:** Curricular Leader of Performing Arts, Mr Lovett, retired from St Thomas on Friday 16th of November. I would like to extend my sincere thanks for all of the work and support Mr Lovett has given to pupils and the school. I wish him all the best in his retirement. Ms Patrick will take up the Acting Curricular Leader Performing Arts position on Monday 19th of November, an advert for the permanent position of Curricular Leader Performing Arts closes this Thursday with interview taking place in the 1st week of December.
39. **Edinburgh and Midlothian Schools swimming championships:** St Thomas' took part at Ainslie Park Leisure Centre on Sunday 18th November. Faye Williamson, Freya Chambers, Elora Anderson, and Anna Perry. The girls were a credit to the school. They all did well with at least one PB each and a huge amount of heart shown. The future of swimming is bright for St Thomas of Aquins.
40. **Wee Sleep out:** On Friday 9th of November Mr Whyte organised a S6 sleep out event in St Thomas' with 21 S6 pupil supported by staff. I would like to thank all staff members and S6 pupils Leone Bainomugisha; Felix Barley; Dillon Boyle; Molly-Rose Cordiner; Eleanor Dowling-Clarke; Khena Dungu; Sophie Evans; Joanna Hedley; Ethan Hornibrook; Julia Jackiewicz; Kara Lynch; Tara Lyons; Julia Magnucka; Morgan Ramsay; Mark Robertson; Oskar Romanowicz; Edie Shand; Ollie Slater; Eduard Stoica; Nica Villaester; Natalie Wilson for supporting this event. Former pupils Gus Harrower and Conal Mooney (2015-16) came along to play for the group. If anyone would like to sponsor the pupils you can, up until Christmas Eve, at <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/st-thomas-of-aquins>
41. **Uniform:** During the next 2 weeks I will be visiting classrooms to support the wearing of school uniform by all of pupils. Can parents please continue to support the school with pupils wearing the St Thomas' full school uniform: Black shoes, black trousers or skirts, white shirt, school tie, black jumper, and the option of a school blazer.

42. **P7 Parent Engagement morning:** On Friday 19th of November, 20 P7 parents attended the school to meet with Mr Santini and 8 S1 pupils to tour around the school. The S1 pupils who helped with the morning were, Katie Accarino, Elora Anderson, Giovanni Di Rollo, Noah Ducker, Callum Murray, Emily Munro, Priya Singh, Toni Tague. I have written to the parents of the S1 pupils conveying how impressed and proud I was of their help.
43. **Pupil newsletter:** S6 Edie Shand has taken up the position of Editor of the new St Thomas of Aquin's pupil newsletter. This monthly publication will come out at the start of each month and is written entirely from a pupil perspective – with a little guidance from Mr Santini. I would like to thank Edie for this fantastic idea and for putting her passion for news into reality. I hope that the S6 pupils have started a legacy for the younger year groups to continue with next year. Copies of the pupil newsletter can be found at main entrance and reception area
44. **St Thomas of Aquin's senior pupil football team:** The senior boys won their Scottish Cup 3rd round fixture away to Leith Academy on Friday 19th of November, winning 2-1 with goals from Callum Simpson S6 and Ivan Alapiki S5. The boys performed brilliantly against a strong, unbeaten team to keep their cup run going. The senior team will play Bishopbriggs Academy in the fourth round of The Scottish cup in December.
45. **S4 full Reports:** S4 reporting window will finish starts on Friday 23rd of November. The reports will be handed out during Key Adult time on Wednesday 5th of December.
46. **Careers event for St Thomas' pupils:** The school's Business Manager, Mrs Ritchie, is organising a career fayre in the school on Thursday 22nd of November. Pupils and parents are welcome to attend from 5.30-7.00pm
47. **S2 Parents Information evening:** There will be a S2 coursing information evening in the main hall on Tuesday 27th of November from 6.00-7.30pm.
48. **Friday 23rd November:** There will be a non-uniform Day for the S6 chosen charity SCOPE. I am asking pupils to bring a donation of up to £1 on the 23rd of November.

Regards
Christopher Santini

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From: Christopher Santini
Sent: 12 November 2018 09:48

Subject: Parent briefing - Monday 12th of November
Importance: High

Goodmorning to the community of St Thomas', please find the below briefing email for the week beginning Monday 12th of November

49. **Staffing:** Curricular Leader of Performing Arts, Mr Lovett, will be retiring from St Thomas on Friday 16th of November. I would like to extend my sincere thanks for all of the work and support Mr Lovett has given to pupils and the school. I wish him all the best in his retirement.
50. **Congratulations:** To S6 House Captains Daniel Irvine and Fergus O' Donoghue for organising a S3-4 football event versus the Staff. Unbeaten and with no goals scored against them, the Staff team were very successful and emphasised the importance of giving me the left back in the changing room position.
51. **Wee Sleep out:** On Friday 9th of November Mr Allan organised a S6 sleep out event in St Thomas' with over 20 S6 pupil supported by staff. I would like to thank Mr Allan, all staff members and S6 pupils for supporting Social Bite.
52. **S4 full Reports:** S4 reporting window starts on Monday 12th November and runs until Friday 23rd of November. The reports will be handed out during Key Adult time on Wednesday 5th of December.
53. **S3 full reports:** The reports will be handed out during Key Adult time on Wednesday 14th of November.
54. **S1 Parents evening:** S1 parents evening will take place on Monday 19th of November from 5-7pm in the main hall.
55. **Careers event for St Thomas' pupils:** The school's Business Manager, Mrs Ritchie, is organising a career fayre in the school on Thursday 22nd of November. Pupils and parents are welcome to attend from 5.30-7.00pm
56. **S2 Parents Information evening:** There will be a S2 coursing information evening in the main hall on Tuesday 27th of November from 6.00-7.30pm.
57. **Friday 23rd November:** There will be a non-uniform Day for the S6 chosen charity SCOPE. I am asking pupils to bring a donation of up to £1 on the 23rd of November.
58. **St Thomas Chess success:** The St Thomas team won the School Shield at the Lothian Junior Chess Team Day competition last weekend. The team was Aiden Clarke (S1), Daniel Best-Solorzano (S2), Cristina Kringe (S1) and Enrique Kringe (S3).
59. **Uniform:** During the next 2 weeks I will be visiting classrooms to support the wearing of school uniform by all of pupils. Can parents please continue the very good support you give St Thomas by sending pupils to the school with full school uniform: Black shoes, black trousers or skirts, white shirt, school tie, black jumper, and the option of a school blazer.

Regards

Christopher Santini

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From: Christopher Santini
Subject: Parental briefing - Monday 5th of November
Importance: High

Goodmorning Karen

Can you send the following parental briefing to all parents Bccing their name prior to sending.

Many thanks
Christopher

Goodmorning to the community of St Thomas', please find the parental briefing week beginning the 5th of November.

60. **Staffing:** I will be interviewing for the Pupil Support Officer position on the 13th November. I hope this position will support the creation of a nurture learning classroom.
61. **S2 Trade Fayre and S6 Discos:** I would like to thank Mrs Turner for all the work that went into a very successful S2 trade fayre on Wednesday 30th of October. I would also like to thank the S6 Leadership team and staff who supported the S1/2 and S5/6 Halloween Discos. I am looking forward to the S3/4 football games versus the staff on Thursday the 8th. I unfortunately have been given the position of left back...in the changing rooms!
62. **Quatermile:** I was called to the Sainsbury's in the Quatermile last week due to some of our pupils allegedly stealing food from the shop. I will work with our local neighbourhood colleagues to ensure the school's reputation remains very high and I am asking pupils to conduct themselves with the very best behaviour and attitude around this area.
63. **Eve Woehrling – congratulations:** I wished to share the great news that S6 Eve Woehrling's "Portrait of Saul" won the SPA Young Fine Artist 2018. This is a very prestigious award for a secondary school pupil to win.
64. **Remembrance service:** The school is planning a remembrance service in school this month in which pupils, staff, and parents will be invited to. I will email out the date and time shortly.
65. **S3 full reports:** S3 reports have been completed today Monday 5th of November. The reports will be handed out during Key Adult time on Wednesday 14th of November.

66. **S1 Parents evening:** S1 parents evening will take place on Monday 19th of November from 5-7pm in the main hall. I have sent out a letter to all S1 parents with details.
67. **S2 Parents Information evening:** There will be a S2 coursing information evening in the main hall on Tuesday 27th of November from 6.00-7.30pm.
68. **Friday 23rd November:** There will be a non-uniform Day for the S6 chosen charity SCOPE.

Regards

Christopher Santini

Acting Head Teacher | St. Thomas of Aquin's High School | 12- 20 Chalmers Street | Edinburgh | EH3 9ES

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From: Christopher Santini

Sent: 29 October 2018 14:11

Subject: Parental f briefing - Friday 12th of October

Importance: High

Goodmorning to the parents of St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School

Please find a briefing for the week beginning Monday 29th of October:

69. **Staffing:** Ms H McGowan is the permanent Geography and Modern Studies Teacher at St Thomas' and started on Monday 22nd of October. Mrs Stark is the successful candidate for the role of Acting Pupil Support Leader for St Margaret's House (Whilst Ms Taylor is on maternity leave) and started the position on Tuesday 23rd of October. I will be advertising a temporary Geography post very soon. To support the school's Pupil Equity plan I have advertised for a Pupil Support Office post which closed on Friday 26th of October. I plan to interview in early November.
70. **P7 Information Evening:** Thank you very much for all of the support that staff, pupils, and parents gave to the P7 information evening on the 9th of October. The evening was very busy and I believe very successful. I have planned a further information morning for interested parents on Friday 16th of November.
71. **November 1st All saints Day Mass and Remembrance Mass:** To support our new Chaplain Fr Douglas who is the Parish Priest at St Peter's Morningside and Chaplain to St Peter's primary school, S1-S3 pupils will be attending Mass in The Sacred Heart on Thursday and S4-6 pupils will have a Religious Observance assembly during Key Adult time on Wednesday. I will be back in touch with parents regarding the date for our annual remembrance Mass in November.

72. **Boys Toilets:** Due to some acts of vandalism the main boys toilets have been locked at times during the past few weeks. I will be opening up the main boys toilets today and I am asking pupils to look after the school's resources.
73. **School uniform:** I would like to thank all parents and pupils in ensuring that school ties, white shirts, black jumpers, trousers, skirts and shoes are worn at all times. Please can we continue with the high standards of uniform at the school.
74. **Book Bingo update:** A letter has been sent to all S1 and S2 parents asking them to encourage their children to read on a regular basis. Parents are requested to sign the Book Bingo sheets in pupils' planners to indicate that they have done their homework of reading for at least thirty minutes a week. This is part of the English department's Book Bingo programme which aims to develop pupils' reading skills.
75. **S3 full reports:** S3 reports are being written during this week and will be completed by Monday 5th of November. The reports will be handed out during Key Adult time on Wednesday 14th of November.
76. **S1 Parents evening:** S1 parents evening will take place on Monday 19th of November from 5-7pm in the main hall.
77. **S2 Parents Information evening:** There will be a S2 coursing information evening in the main hall on Tuesday 27th of November from 6.00-7.30pm.
78. **Friday 23rd November:** There will be a non-uniform Day for the S6 chosen charity SCOPE. Please read SCOPE's vision below. I am asking pupils to bring a donation of up to £1 on the 23rd of November.
79. **Edinburgh Learns newsletter:** Please find the attached CEC newsletter full of examples of the wonderful work that happens in CEC schools and centres.

Regards

Christopher Santini

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SCOPE:

We're Scope, the disability equality charity. We won't stop until we achieve a society where all disabled people enjoy equality and fairness. At home. At school. At work. In our communities.

We're a strong community, of disabled people and non-disabled people, with a shared vision of equality.

We provide practical advice and emotional support whenever people need it most. We do this through our Scope helpline, our online community, a range of employment services, community engagement programmes, and more. All of our services are developed to achieve our strategy, Everyday Equality.

We use our collective power to change attitudes and end injustice. And we campaign relentlessly to create a fairer society.

From: Christopher Santini
Sent: 09 October 2018 07:32
Subject: Parental briefing - Monday 8th October
Importance: High

Goodmorning Parents of St Thomas'

Please find the parental briefing for the week beginning Monday 8th of October

1. **Staffing:** Ms H McGowan is the successful applicant for the Geography and Modern Studies post and will hopefully start with us on October 22nd.
2. **P7 visit:** On Tuesday 9th of October we have our P7 Information Evening. Parents will meet me in the main hall for a summary of the school's vision and values, 2017-18 attainment, and the transition process to secondary school. Then there will be given a tour of the school from 7.30 to 8.30. I am looking forward to meeting new parents of St Thomas'
3. **Draft Course Choice sheets for 2019-20:** After the October break I will start work on the school timetable for 2019-20. I will be meeting with Curricular Leaders and Pupil Support Leaders to support finalising the course sheets for pupils.
4. **October break:** With The October break starting on Friday 12th of October, I wish all pupils, parents, and staff a happy holiday. This term has been very busy yet very successful and I extend a big thank you to the entire St Thomas' community. Pupils are to wear school uniform on Friday the 12th of October and school will close at the normal time of 1.10
5. **A MULTINATIONAL CELEBRATION FOR ALL PARENTS AND PUPILS Thursday 11 October 3.30pm - 6.30pm**
Did you know that over 300 St Thomas' pupils are fluent in another language? That's over 40% of the school!! To celebrate our international community, the Parent Council invite YOU, the parents and pupils to participate in: **An afternoon of music, dance, food and entertainment from around the world. CAN YOU HELP US?** To make this event the success it deserves to be, we are appealing to all parents and pupils to join in and represent their country by bringing flags, food, music, games or national dress. We are open to more suggestions too! We already have some fantastic contributions so we want to build on this. Please let us know if you would like to set up a **Table for your Country or bring some home baking.**

If not, just come along and join in the fun! Free food for pupils coming straight after school and throughout the evening! The event will finish around 6.30 pm

Regards

Christopher Santini

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From: Christopher Santini

Sent: 02 October 2018 11:38

Subject: Parent Briefing: Week beginning Monday 1st of October

Importance: High

Goodmorning Parents of St Thomas'

Please find the following parent briefing for the week beginning Monday 1st of October

1. **Staffing:** The Acting Pupil Support Leader post will close on Tuesday 2nd of October. Interviews will take place next week. I have appointed a permanent teacher for the Geography and Modern Studies position and hope they can start after the October break.
2. **The Pupil Council:** Please find attached S6 Rose Inglis' Pupil Council proposal which is now in place. Rose is now the first S6 Chair of the St Thomas' Pupil Council.
3. **The Awards Ceremony:** I would like to thank all staff who supported the Senior and Junior Awards. The awards were a great celebration of what is happening at St Thomas'. I thought Alice Thomson's speech was inspirational. I would also like to thank our S6 Senior Leadership team – they were a credit to the school.
4. **Annual Attainment report:** Over the next 2 weeks I will asking the SLT and CLs to support me in completing the annual Attainment Report. I will be sharing this Attainment report with the Parent Council in November.
5. **Sports at St Thomas:** Please see the updated letter from Allan Reid regarding all the clubs at the school. Please do get in touch with Allan if you require further details: Alan.Reid@ea.edin.sch.uk
6. **The Quatermile:** Since the start of term I have received a number of calls from shops at the Quatermile regarding pupils at St Thomas'. If you child buys lunch at shops in and around the Quatermile and resides there during lunchtime, could you please speak with them regarding the high standards of behaviour expected by all pupils. Your support is most appreciated.

7. **A MULTINATIONAL CELEBRATION FOR ALL PARENTS AND PUPILS Thursday 11 October 3.30pm - 6.30pm**

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If not, just come along and join in the fun! Free food for pupils coming straight after school and throughout the evening! The event will finish around 6.30 pm.

Please confirm your attendance, or if you can help please email us, your Parent Council at stthomasofaquinfundraising@gmail.com.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

Regards

Christopher Santini

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From: Christopher.Santini@st-thomasaquins.edin.sch.uk <Christopher.Santini@st-thomasaquins.edin.sch.uk>

Sent: 24 September 2018 07:45

Subject: Parental briefing - Monday 24th of September

Importance: High

Goodmorning to the parents of St Thomas', please find the parent briefing for Monday 24th of September.

1. **Staffing:**

The Depute Head Teacher advert closed on Wednesday 12th of September. I have held a meeting with David Leslie, the school's Quality Improvement and Educational Officer on Tuesday 18th of September. I am planning to interview candidates on the 11th of October subject to catholic Approval.

Acting Pupil Support Leader: An advert for maternity cover for Ms Taylor's post is with HR and I am awaiting the advert to be approved and to go live

Geography and Modern Studies Teacher. The advert for the post closed on the 19th of September. I have met with Jenny on Wednesday 19th and we have drawn up a short list of 7 candidates. We plan to interview on the 28th of September.

Pupil Equity Funding Development Officer. This post closed on Wednesday evening. I will be deciding on interviewing the applicant in the coming week.

2. **Take 5:** Over the last 2 years of my Acting Headship I have met pupils from different year groups for 5 minutes to understand their views on the school - I call these Take 5 meetings. I will start the Take 5 meetings with pupils on Monday 24th and I will be focussing on pupils' views on learning and teaching
3. **P7 information Evening** – The P7 parent information event on the 9th of October will now start at 7.00pm and last until 8.30pm. The school website has been updated with the new date and time.
4. **Active Sports annual review:** Please find attached the annual review sent to me by our Active Sports co-ordination Alan Reid.
5. **Pupil Council:** S6 Rose Inglis met with me to discuss a proposal that ensures the Pupil Council is chaired and planned by pupils. This was unanimously carried by the Pupil Council on Friday 14th of September and S6 Rose Inglis and S5 Kaitlin Kington are now the chair and co-chair.
6. **A MULTINATIONAL CELEBRATION FOR ALL PARENTS AND PUPILS Thursday 11 October 3.30pm - 6.30pm**

Did you know that over 300 St Thomas' pupils are fluent in another language? That's over 40% of the school!!

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To make this event the success it deserves to be, we are appealing to all parents and pupils to join in and represent their country by bringing flags, food, music, games or national dress. We are open to more suggestions too! We already have some fantastic contributions so we want to build on this. Please let us know if you would like to set up a **Table for your Country or bring some home baking**.

If not, just come along and join in the fun! Free food for pupils coming straight after school and throughout the evening! The event will finish around 6.30 pm.

Please confirm your attendance, or if you can help please email us, your Parent Council at stthomasofaquinfundraising@gmail.com.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

regards

Christopher Santini

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From: Christopher Santini
Sent: 18 September 2018 11:34
Subject: Tuesday 19th of September - Parental briefing
Importance: High

Dear Parent – please find the parent briefing for the week beginning Monday 17th of September.

1. **Staffing:** The Depute Head Teacher advert has closed and I am meeting David Leslie, the school's Quality Educational and Improvement Officer, for a meeting on Tuesday 19th of September to discuss candidates. The Geography/Modern Studies position closes on Tuesday and the Pupil Equity Funding position closes on Thursday 19th of September. I will be advertising a Maternity cover post for Ms C Taylor's Pupil Support Leader position in the next couple of weeks.
2. **S1/2 Tracking:** The tracking report for all S1 and S2 pupils will be completed by staff on the 21st of September. Pupils will receive the tracking report on October 3rd.
3. **Awards ceremony:** With one week to go I am looking forward to the senior awards ceremony on the evening of Wednesday 26th of September with Alice Thomson from Social Bite as our guest speaker. The junior awards ceremony takes place on Thursday 27th of September at 2.30pm.
4. **P7 information Evening:** I will be writing to confirm to P7 parents of the 4 associated primaries the presentation I will be giving and the plan for touring the school. I am looking forward to meeting new parents on Tuesday 9th of October.
5. **SLT remits:** Please find attached the updated Senior Leadership Team remits for 2018-19.
6. **Prefects:** I would like to thank Mrs Stark for taking on the role of supporting S6 Prefects this year. I have arranged a rota system for 3 prefects to attend the weekly S6 Leadership team meeting I chair to also support the S6 Prefects' plans this year.
7. **Numeracy evening:** I would like to thank Ms Cairns and Ms Reid for arranging a very well attended S1 Numeracy evening for targeted S1 pupils on Wednesday 12th of September.
8. **Blazers for sale:** Parent Council recycled Blazers will be on sale on Wednesday 19 Sept 5.30 pm - 6.30pm in school foyer. Suggested donation £5 / £10.
9. **Infocus:** With my weekly parent briefing and regular tweeting, the infocus newsletter is reduced in size. Please find it attached.

Regards

Christopher Santini

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From: Christopher Santini
Sent: 10 September 2018 07:57
Subject: Monday 10th of September - Parental Briefing

Goodmorning Parents of St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School

Please find below a briefing email for the week beginning **Monday 10th of September**

1. **Staffing:** The permanent Depute head advert will close on the 12th of September with interviews being planned for the 28th of September. The advert for the Geography and Modern Studies Teacher is live and closes on the 17th of September with interviews planned for 1st of October. The PEF co-ordinator role advert has gone live and closes on the 19th of September.
2. **Awards Ceremony:** The senior and junior awards Ceremony will be held on Wednesday 26th of and Thursday 27th of September. Parents and invited guests should be receiving letters inviting them to the awards ceremony this week. A list of award winners will be posted the week beginning the 10th of September.
3. **P7 Info Evening:** On October 9th P7 Parents will be invited to the school to see around it and meet Faculties. I hope the Parent Council will support this event and I look forward to meeting perspective new parents of St Thomas' in a month's time.
4. **Congratulations:** To S6 Fergal O Donoghue, Daniel Irvine, Dillon Boyle, Isabel Magarth-Badrena, Joanna Hedley, and Khena Dungu in becoming House Captains of St Margaret, St Kentigern, and St Andrew's Houses. They will form the S6 leadership team along with the Heads and Depute Heads, Kirstie Cronin, Felix Barley, Moral Stiven, and Molly-Rose Cordiner.
5. **S6 Centenary Mass:** The 3 Edinburgh Catholic Secondary High Schools, Holyrood High School, St Thomas of Aquin's, and St Augustine's will be celebrating a S6 Centenary Mass in Holy Rood High School on Thursday 13th September. Mr Green and Mr Wotherspoon will be attending the Mass along with representatives of S6. St Thomas' has hired a bus to take pupils to and from the Mass and (Leaving St Thomas' at 9.45 and pupils will leaving Holy Rood at 1.00pm). Social Bite will provide lunch. I would like to thanks Mrs Legrix, Headteacher at Holyrood High School, for planning this event.
6. **Headboy Felix Barley and Headgirl Kirstie Cronin:** On the evening of Thursday 6 September, Bishop Robert Barron spoke to a packed Usher Hall on the topic of "Proclaiming Christ in Our Culture". Felix and Kirstie we asked to represent St Thomas by reading before Bishop Barron's speech. I would like to thank them both for this.
7. **S1 and S2 Tracking:** On the 14th of September S1 and S2 tracking starts. Please continue to discuss your child's learning to support them in identifying next steps for improvement. S1/2 Tracking ends on the 21st of September.
8. **Vision and Values group:** I am looking for staff and pupils to support creating posters for our redrafted vision and values statements. If your child is interested then please direct them to speak with personally. I already have 5 members for the group.
9. **Skills Development Scotland:** <https://www.myworldofwork.co.uk/> is Skills Development Scotland's careers website. It has lots of information and tools to support pupils to build their Career Management

Skills, learning more about themselves and the opportunities available. Please can all parents support their children by ensuring they are registered with the myworldofwork website and are using the site regularly to make informed choices about their next steps after finishing school.

Regards

Christopher Santini

Acting Head Teacher | St. Thomas of Aquin's High School | 12- 20 Chalmers Street | Edinburgh | EH3 9ES

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From: Christopher Santini

Sent: 03 September 2018 07:34

Subject: Parent weekly briefing - Monday 3rd of September

Importance: High

Goodmorning to the Parents of St Thomas of Aquin's

1. **Staffing update:** The permanent Depute Head Teacher advert is now live on Myjobscotland. The closing date for the advert is 12th of September. I am still waiting for confirmation on the permanent Teacher for Geography/Modern Studies and the Pupil Equity Funding co-ordinator adverts to go live on Myjobscotland.
2. **Draft St Thomas of Aquin's curriculum policy:** Please find a draft copy of the school's curriculum policy. I am meeting with the curriculum sub group very soon and hope to have the curriculum policy completed and on the website at the end of September.
3. **Thank you to Margaret Winders** for supporting the Parent Council's Fire work party for parents on Monday 27th of August. There were over 50 parents in attendance enjoying food cooked by Margaret and her S6 helpers Nicole Holburn and Julia Jackiewicz.
4. **Data Capture Form:** Thank you to the parents who have completed the data capture forms, can any forms not handed in please be completed and returned by the end of this week.
5. **S6 pupil Timetables:** Mr Green will be supporting S6 pupils who have chosen a volunteering or mentoring experience for their S6 timetable. S6 pupils should be identifying 6 hours of support every week if they are mentoring or volunteering.
6. **Congratulations:** to the 50:50 club members who have won a total of £165 in cash prizes over the last 6 months. Don't miss out on your chance to win whilst raising funds for school equipment and

activities. *You can find more information about how to join on the school website fundraising page:*
<https://www.st-thomas-of-aquins.org.uk/parents-carers/parent-council/fundraising-for-the-school/>

Regards

Christopher Santini

Acting Head Teacher | St. Thomas of Aquin's High School | 12- 20 Chalmers Street | Edinburgh | EH3 9ES
Website: www.st-thomas-of-aquins.org.uk
Twitter: @thomasofaquins

From: Christopher Santini
Sent: 27 August 2018 09:38
Subject: St Thomas of Aquin's RC high School - Parental Briefing Monday 27th August
Importance: High

Goodmorning Parents of At Thomas'

Please find below a briefing email for the week beginning Monday 27th of August.

1. **Staffing:** Welcome to Mr Stephen Carlin who has taken up the temporary Support for Learning Teacher position until the October break.
2. **Awards Ceremony:** I am pleased to inform parents that Alice Thomson of Social Bite will be the Guest speaker at our September senior awards ceremony.
3. **Curriculum policy:** I am in the process of finalising the school's curriculum policy which I hope to send out next week to parents and place on the school server.
4. **Draft School Handbook:** The school has completed a handbook for new parents to the school. We hope to have this completed for the P7 information evening in October. A copy will be placed on the school website.
5. **S6 Heads and Deputes:** Congratulations to Kirsty Cronin (Headgirl), Felix Barley (Headboy), Moray Stiven (Depute Headboy), and Molly-Rose Cordiner (Depute Headgirl). I will be meeting with our new Heads and Deputes once the interview for House Captains take place this Friday.
6. **Parent Council:** I am meeting with Chair and Vice Chair of the Parent Council today to start preparing for the 1st Parent Council meeting on the 19th of September at 6.45.

Regards

Christopher Santini

Acting Head Teacher | St. Thomas of Aquin's High School | 12- 20 Chalmers Street | Edinburgh | EH3 9ES
Website: www.st-thomas-of-aquins.org.uk
Twitter: @thomasofaquins

From: Christopher Santini
Sent: 20 August 2018 07:51

Subject: Monday 20th of August - Parental briefing
Importance: High

Goodmorning to Parents of St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School – please find below the briefing for the week beginning Monday 20th of August.

I will be in the staffroom tomorrow breaktime, Friday 17th of August, to give the following briefing:

1. **Staffing:** Congratulations to Mr Linden in becoming the Acting Curricular Leader of Science. Adverts for a permanent Depute head Teacher and Teacher of Geography and Modern Studies will hopefully go live on Myjobscotland this week.
2. **Timetable and recouring:** Mr Green has completed his week of recouring S4-6 pupils (13th-17th of August) and the administration team will update pupils' timetables. Any S4-S6 pupil wishing to speak about recouring should speak with their Pupil Support Leader from Wednesday 22nd of August.
3. **S6 Leadership positions, voting, and interviews:** Voting for Headgirl/boy and Depute Headboy/girl took place on Friday and interviews will take place on Tuesday 21st from 2.00pm onwards. House Captains will be voted for on Thursday 23rd by Staff and S6 pupils and interviews will take place on Friday 24th.

I have asked Mr Green to meet with S6 pupils on Wednesday to support access to the S6 study area and arrangements with Faculties to work in classrooms.

4. **Attainment meetings:** I will be meeting with all Curricular Leaders in September to analyse the very attainment of St Thomas' pupils in the 2018 SQA exams.
5. **Communication:** Please find attached the draft communication protocol for session 2018-19.
6. **Senior and Junior Awards:** The senior awards ceremony will take place on the evening of September 26th and the junior awards ceremony will take place on the afternoon of the 27th. Faculties will complete their attainment and achievement nominations by this Friday and the school will endeavour to send letters to the successful pupils as soon as possible.
7. **Fireworks:** last chance to buy tickets for the school's special event on Monday 27th August - watching the Festival Fireworks show from the school balcony with food and drink included. Please email the fundraising team on stthomasofaquinfundraising@gmail.com by this coming Tuesday 21st August.
8. **The 2018/19 Parent Council meeting dates for you diary:** - all meetings will be held in school at 6:45pm.
Wednesday 19th September 2018
Thursday 29th November 2018
Tuesday 29th January 2019
Wednesday 20th March 2019
Thursday 23rd May 2019

Regards

Christopher Santini

Acting Head Teacher | St. Thomas of Aquin's High School | 12- 20 Chalmers Street | Edinburgh | EH3 9ES
Website: www.st-thomas-of-aquins.org.uk
Twitter: @thomasofaquins

From: Christopher Santini
Sent: 14 August 2018 10:48
Subject: Parents briefing - Tuesday 14th of August
Importance: High

1. **A welcome back to all staff, pupils and parents** – I hope all pupils and parents have had an enjoyable summer holiday where possible. The school is looking forward to all pupils starting tomorrow in full school uniform.
2. **Wednesday 15th of August:** Tomorrow all new S1 pupils should go straight to the main hall at the start of lesson 1 to receive their new S1 timetables. S1-4 Masses for the Feast of the Assumption will take place from 2.00pm and I am pleased that the school's new Chaplain Fr Douglas will be present. An assembly for S5 and S6 pupils will take place and led by Mr Wotherspoon.
3. **Staffing update:** At the end of last term **Ms Gardner** (Depute Headteacher) and **Ms Kelly** (Pupil Support Leader for St Margaret's House) left St Thomas and I would like to thank them both for all of their work and support for pupils during their time at St Thomas. I am pleased to announce that **Mr Green** is now Acting Depute Head Teacher and **Ms Taylor** is permanent Pupil Support Leader for St Margaret House. The school welcomes 4 new staff members for session 2018-19: **Mr Neil Duncan** Teacher of Chemistry, **Ms Emily Bianchini** Teacher of Modern Languages, **Ms Samantha Butler** Physical Education probationer, and **Mr Lewis MacPherson** English probationer. Mrs Nicholson and I are interviewing for a temporary Business Teacher due to the withdrawal of the Business Teacher probationer. I will keep parents up to date with recruitment and any further plans to support the teaching of Business Education.
4. **Exam success:** I would like to congratulate the pupils at St Thomas' with regards to their exam success. I have had time to initially analyse our National 5, Higher, and Advanced Higher results and I am pleased with the increase in key exam areas. The school will continue to analyse the 2017-18 exam statistics when Insight goes live in September. I look forward to seeing many parents at the **1st Parent Council meeting on Wednesday 19th of September at 6.45** to discuss the 2017-18 exam results. Mr Green is leading on recouring from **Wednesday 15th to Friday 17th**. Any pupil who needs to look at their options can sign up for a timeslot. Can I ask parents and pupils to remember that pupils should stay in their initial subject class until Mr Green has confirmed any movement.
5. **St Thomas Fundraising Group**, in association with the Home Economics, are pleased to invite you to a unique and exclusive view of the **Festival Fireworks on Monday 27 August**. Just £20 will reserve your place on the school's balcony where you can enjoy food prepared by Home Economics pupils and a great view of Edinburgh International Fireworks display. Places are strictly limited so to guarantee your place please email stthomasofaquinfundraising@gmail.com - you will then receive instructions on how to pay. Funds raised will be used to purchase equipment. St Thomas Fundraising Group have a wide selection of blazers available for purchase or exchange. Blazers will be available from 1:30 till 2:30 on Friday 10 August . Suggested donation £5 - £10. If you wish to purchase uniform recycle at another time please email stthomasofaquinfundraising@gmail.com
If you wish to donate blazers please hand them into the janitors.
6. **Tollcross Community Survey** : Luke Campbell, a board member for the Tollcross Community Action Network (TCAN) would like parents and pupils of the Tollcross community to participate in our short online survey. The survey is linked below and contains just three questions asking respondents what they like about Tollcross, what they feel is missing from the area, and what they would like our organisation to focus on during the next twelve months. Though the activity is brief, it forms an important part of our community-based work. Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YKZF8MX>

regards

Christopher Santini

Acting Head Teacher | St. Thomas of Aquin's High School | 12- 20 Chalmers Street | Edinburgh | EH3 9ES

Website: www.st-thomas-of-aquins.org.uk

Twitter: @thomasofaquins

From: Christopher Santini

Sent: 26 June 2018 07:53

Subject: Parent briefing - Tuesday 26th of June

Importance: High

Goodmorning to Parents of St Thomas

This is the final parent briefing of the 2017-18 school year, briefings will start up again in August.

1. **P7 3 Day visit:** I would like to thank Madame Jean-Pierre, the integrated support team, and all staff for a very successful 3 day P7 visit. The feedback from P7 parents on the Thursday information evening was very positive.
2. **Drama production:** I would like to thank Ms Grindall, The performing Arts Faculty and all the pupils involved in the production of The Fisherman and his wife. This was a great production and thoroughly enjoyed by the new S1 pupils and by parents.
3. **The Convenor's challenge on Friday 15th of June:** The St Thomas' team came in 4th place, managing to the summits of Blackford Hill, Calton Hill and Castle Hill as well as rock climbing, paddle boarding and a team activity. Congratulations to new S5 Eleanor, George, Jovan and Lukah and to Ms Main.
4. **Staffing:** Interviews for Pupil Support Leader and Acting Depute Headteacher will take place on Wednesday 27th of June and Thursday 28th of June respectively.
5. **Draft Curriculum policy and draft 2018-19 coursing timeline:** I have completed a draft St Thomas' curriculum policy which has been sent to all staff. Once I have had feedback from Faculties I will be placing the new policy on the school website in September.
6. **Final Day of Term letter:** Please find a Final Day of term letter attached. On Friday lesson 1 from 8.45 to 9.15 there will be a voluntary Mass for pupils in the Oratory. There are Masses at The Sacred Heart at 7.45 and 12.30 that pupils can also attend.
At 11.00am there will be a S4-6 Service and Assembly: This will involve the Gospel reading, a reflection by Mr Wotherspoon, and Ms Gardner will then wish senior pupils a happy holiday and a farewell to staff who are leaving.
At 11.30am there will be a S2-3 Service and Assembly: This will involve the Gospel reading, a reflection by Mr Wotherspoon, and Mdm Jean-Pierre will then wish S2 and S3 pupils a happy holiday and a farewell to staff who are leaving.
7. **New Chaplain:** I am pleased to announce that the school's new Chaplain is Fr Kevin Douglas, Parish Priest at St Peter's in Morningside. I am meeting Fr Douglas today and look forward to working with him.

I wish all pupils and parents a relaxing holiday and look forward to pupils returning on Wednesday 15th of August.

Regards

Christopher Santini

Acting Head Teacher | St. Thomas of Aquin's High School | 12- 20 Chalmers Street | Edinburgh | EH3 9ES

Website: www.st-thomas-of-aquins.org.uk
Twitter: @thomasofaquins

From: Christopher Santini
Sent: 18 June 2018 07:55
Subject: Parent briefing - Monday 18th of June
Importance: High

Goodmorning to the parents of St Thomas'. Please find a parent briefing week beginning Monday 18th of June.

- 1. Staffing:** The school has nominated successful candidates for the temporary Chemistry and Modern languages posts. Mr Duncan in Chemistry and Ms Bianchini in Modern Languages will start at St Thomas' in August. Ms Kelly, Pupil Support Leader of St Margaret's House, will be leaving St Thomas' in June. Ms Kelly has been at St Thomas' for over 7 years and she will be greatly missed. The school wishes her all the best in her new post and thanks her for the tremendous support she has given pupils and parents throughout her time at St Thomas'.
- 2. Vision and values:** Please find the final version of the vision and values. I will now be looking for support in developing the statements into posters and flags for the school.
- 3. Caritas Awards:** Thank you to Mr Wotherspoon and Fr Nick for all of their work with the 2017-18 S6 Caritas awards. 28 S6 pupils attended the awards ceremony in Glasgow and I look forward to the new S6 participating in the Caritas award in 2018-19.
- 4. P7 Visit:** The school welcomes the news S1 cohort for their 3 day visit starting on Tuesday 19th of June. We all hope the P7 pupils enjoy their 3 day visit.
- 5. St Thomas' Chess Team:** The St Thomas chess team won the Secondary School Championship, beating other Edinburgh schools and the Edinburgh Chess Academy. They won a shield, which is to be kept by the school for a year and then returned (unless they successfully defend it!). The team was Lukah Connolly Sams (S4), Dietah Connolly Sams (S1), Daniel Best-Solorzano (S1) and Enrique Kringe (S2).
- 6. Drama production:** The Fisherman and his wife! A fun show for all the family will be performed by St Thomas of Aquin's High School Drama Club at 7.00pm on Wednesday 20th of June. Tickets proved £4 and £2 conc.
- 7. Message from the Parent Council Fundraising Group:** Please remember to sign up to the 50:50 club (the monthly school lottery) before the end of term. For as little as £1 per month, you can help raise funds for the school whilst being in with a chance of winning a cash prize, See the fundraising page on the school website for more details.
- 8. Uniform:** Baru uniform company will be in St Thomas' on Tuesday 19 June from 17:00pm until 19:00pm and Thursday 21 June from 17:00pm until 19:00 to support parents with school uniform.

Regards

Christopher Santini

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