

**St Michael's Catholic
School**

**John Felton Road
London SE16 4UN**

Tel: 020 7237 6432

**www.stmichaelschool.org.uk
contact@stmichaelschool.org.uk**

THE LINK

**A fortnightly Newsletter for the pupils, parents
and staff of St Michael's Catholic School**

Issue 26 - 18th June 2010

Head Teacher's Round Tables

Our Head Teacher's Round Tables are proving popular and we have a full quota of parents for the meeting this half term, so thank you to all parents who have committed their time to this.

The aim of these forums is to enhance communication between the parent body and the school. The purpose is for parents, along with staff, to reflect on school issues with the aim of encouraging school improvement. They provide an opportunity for staff to explain policies, procedures and practices and to receive helpful feedback about them.

If you would like to attend the next Round Table, please contact Mrs Ferguson (Tel : 0207 394 5716

Email valerie.ferguson@stmichaelschool.org.uk) giving your name and contact details.

Michael's Student sails a Tall Ship

Congratulations to Shannon and Kyle, from year 10 who are among 24 young students from across the UK who have been selected to be part of the crew on a special Sailing Academy taking place this week on board two ocean-going Challenger yachts, run by the Tall Ships Youth Trust and funded by the HSBC Global Education Trust.

During the five day voyage sailing from Gunwharf Quays in Portsmouth, the students aged 14 to 15 years, will get the opportunity to complete the RYA Start Yachting course – a short introduction to sailing for complete beginners awarded by the RYA (Royal Yachting Association).

Whilst learning the fundamentals of sailing, they will also develop important life skills, such as teamwork, leadership, communication and problem-



solving. As well as getting to grips with living in the close confines of an ocean-going yacht, students will set and stow the sails, haul the ropes, steer the yacht, and sail the yacht out to sea under the expert tuition of the experienced Tall Ships Adventures crew

Tim Law from the Tall Ships Youth Trust said: "We are opening up opportunities for people as young as 14 years old to sail on an ocean-going yacht and gain a qualification that they can use to continue sailing as well as apply to other walks of life. We will encourage these students to continue in the sport after their voyage by sailing on another

Tall Ships voyage or giving dinghies a go at their local sailing club."

Paul Sinclair, Education Executive for HSBC Global Education Trust, said: "HSBC are supporting the Tall Ships Sailing Academies because we want to make a positive

difference in the communities in which we operate. We have seen how sailing can be such an inspirational experience outside the classroom and the Academies will develop important life skills that young people can take back into their community, school or job."

The crews joined the yachts on Thursday 10 June and underwent a day's training alongside learning safety procedures and yacht familiarisation. They set sail for the Solent on Friday 11 June and will return to Portsmouth on Monday 14 June for a prize giving ceremony at Gunwharf Quays, Portsmouth to mark their achievements.

Global Schools Partnership Reciprocal Visit Letter – From Savi (Partner Teacher from GEAR School Bangalore)

I would like to congratulate Mrs Grabowski, the Head Teacher, for leading a very dedicated staff who are always on their toes keeping the children's future in mind.

We were very excited when we got to know the Global School Curriculum Grant was awarded to both our schools. As we live in an increasingly globalised world, by partnering with a school in the UK we thought we would be able to learn and move towards a broader curriculum.

We at GEAR Innovative Intl. School were very happy to receive Miss Delaney in February. I was excited when it was my turn to visit St. Michael's Catholic School. Luckily for me the volcanic ash had just stopped and the flight was able to take off as scheduled. Children were very curious to know about India and its culture. Many had a different perception.



(photo – Savi receiving flowers from a member of the Year 8 Theatre Group (in costume))

The children did a very good job of making a textbook for their juniors and I had the opportunity to judge. I am sure every child and teacher involved with the project felt enriched. I enjoyed teaching them how to make 'Masala Papad' and teaching them to sing a Hindi song was fun!

Everyone at St. Michel's was very hospitable, warm and welcoming.

The assembly put up by year 8S was very interesting and informative. During the weekends I was taken around to see the amazing sights of London. I enjoyed every bit of my stay in the UK. Thanks a ton.

Working on the projects has helped both our students, staff and the school as a whole to understand and respect differences and get to know each other as human beings belonging to one planet. We have more things in common than differences.

I would like to express sincere thanks from our Management, Staff and Students to all those involved in the Global School Partnership Programme of St Michel's Catholic School. I look forward to exchanging pedagogies and innovative teaching practices in the years to come.

Lots of Love, Bye! Savi

The Chaplain's Corner: Whitstable Retreat

I thought I would leave the comments on the Retreat to a pupil this time. It was a great success and the pupils were very well behaved.



“It was a trip like no other”

“This was something I could definitely say about Year 8's trip to Whitstable. The trip was filled with so much excitement and learning and growing and also building relationships. Three members of staff accompanied us on the trip Kate, Maggie (Kate's sister) and Mr Redwood. On our arrival to Whitstable my first impression was “wow this area is so quiet?”. When we arrived at our destination, which was St Vincent's Youth Centre, we met several people

who led the team and stayed there voluntarily, their names were Sarah, Phil (my favourite), Tree, Danny and Carmella. They were very young and fun people who often cracked really funny jokes. We were then split up into 3 groups; my group was Monkey Paws (named after Ash the Monkey), Tree huggers and Awesome.

We later went to dinner, which was really different as we said the prayer in a different way, (we sang in a famous tune). We also played different games like the chopstick game and many more. We wrote affirmations (good things we like about different people) and reflected on our memories and people who meant a lot to us. We also tried to get closer to God. It was a great experience.

Overall the trip was a growth process for us as we got to know many people who we wouldn't normally interact with. Also it was a wonderful trip as we went to see the beach and it was my first time going to the beach; also bowling was really exciting. In conclusion my favourite part of the trip was getting to know different people and not judging them by the way they look or the way they talked but getting to know them for who they really were and actually thinking about the good side of them.”

Finally I just have to say **“It was a trip like no other”**. (Elizabeth Oladunmi 8S)

For Fathers' Day:

Let us pray for fathers, for loving fathers, for caring fathers, for absent fathers, for young fathers, for cruel fathers, for brave fathers, for fathers who have died, God who Jesus called father.

Hear our prayers.

‘Direct parent access to school via email’
parentmail@stmichaelschool.org.uk

Absence Text: please respond by text or phone on 0207 237 6432 EXT. 730



EYE PROTECTION MUST BE WORN

ART & DESIGN EXHIBITION 24/25 JUNE 2010

ATTENDANCE FIGURES

Year 7	95.8
Year 8	96.6
Year 9	91.8
Year 10	93.8
Year 11	100
Whole School	95.4

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

24/6/10 (6 pm)	- Prizegiving
29/6/10 (4.30 pm)	- Yr 7 Parents Eve
5/7/10 (6 pm)	- Yr 6 Parents Eve
5-16/7/10	- Yr 10 Work Exp.
24/6/ - 2/7/10	- Yr 10 Exams