

St Michael's Catholic School

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THE LINK

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

Issue 18 - 15th January 2010

Snow returned to brighten St Michael's— but it was not quite as deep as last February and we had less space to enjoy it. Unlike many other schools we opened as usual!



The new building is taking shape at last – this time next year we expect to be in our new building. Meetings with the construction team continue and we have given them some good ideas we have seen elsewhere.

Democracy in Action! St Michael's Students Impress VIPs

Students from Year 10 and 11 so impressed at a recent Junior Question Time event that they have been personally invited to be a voice of young people for key decision makers in London.

Encouraging young people to actively engage in democratic processes is a strong commitment at St Michael's and our students have risen to that challenge. Hosted by our friends at PriceWaterhouseCoopers and organised through Southwark Council, Junior Question Time involved eleven of our students joining with other schools to quiz decision makers. Within minutes St Michael's pupils were asking incisive questions of representatives from the Metropolitan Police, Transport for London, Community Wardens, and Local Councillors.

Topics covered included: young people on buses and whether there should be a school bus system similar to the States; locals having a say in how money is spent to beautify our neighbourhoods; how Community Wardens can be a stronger, positive addition in ensuring neighbourhood safety; and how to protect young people from crimes against the person.

Offering suggestions and sensible

solutions for local and London-wide problems, students made a lasting impression that will result in visits to our school from various organisations next year. We are proud to see our pupils making democracy work for us all.

The pupils who so impressed at the Junior Question Time were:

Sian Carolan, Shannon Donovan, Katie



Whittington, Ivan Beckley, Charlie Beales, Michael Cullinane, Liam O'Callaghan, Michele Leoni and James Antone

St Michael's Goes Green - Parents don't panic, we're not talking about a change of uniform...

Taking up the English Government's challenge for all schools to be sustainable by 2020, St Michael's is going green!

With an enthusiastic Eco Team of staff and pupils working in partnership, our green journey is well on its way. We have joined the International Eco Schools Programme, an international

award programme that guides schools on their sustainable journey, providing a framework to help embed these principles into the heart of school life.

Joining 40,000 schools from 46 countries around the world St Michael's is taking practical steps to uphold our Catholic commitment to global stewardship.

Pupils are the driving force behind Eco-Schools and this week our Eco Team are carrying out waste and energy audits to assess the environmental performance of the school. Once results are in the team will decide what positive steps they need to take to make St Michael's greener and gain an Eco Schools Bronze Award.

Watch this space!

Retreats

The next Whitstable Retreat will be from 9th -11th June for Year 8. It costs £75 for food, accommodation, travel and activities. It is in school time. Will you be there? Further information will be out this week.



What are they doing?



The Pensioner's Party

Once again, the dining hall was transformed into a festive extravaganza for the local pensioners. Year 10 citizenship students worked tirelessly with Mr Mahon, on the afternoon of December 17th, to make sure that everything was ready for our guests.

This year, the entertainment included Karaoke which was lots of fun and various people participated. No one who was there, however, will forget Mr O' Sullivan's masterful rendition of 'My Way' – he really 'owned it' as they say on X factor! This was followed by dancing, with the year 10 hosts ensuring that anyone who wanted to dance had a willing partner.

It really was a wonderful occasion and it was delightful to see the year 10 students serving the meals and getting drinks so politely and attentively. As a final Christmas touch, even the weather cooperated and it began to snow!

Our thanks go to Mr Mahon and his year 10 citizenship students for organising it.

One senior citizen put pen to paper and here's what they said:

"Thank you very much for the lovely evening you organised for the Senior Citizens on Thursday evening/ It gets better every year. Thank you also for the music provided by the band and for the wonderful pupils who gave up their time to look after us. They are a credit to the school. Thank you again."

Carol Singing at Millwall Football Club

40 members of the school choir sang their hearts out with the help of some Millwall footballers on 12th December 2009. Mr Field, Mr Cronin and Mr Laurence accompanied the pupils to the match again Walsall FC. Having been warmed up with hot chocolate and mince pies after they had sung, raising money for school charities, the choir watched the game and cheered Millwall on to a 3-1 win.

Here's what Veronica Quinn, organiser of the annual Family Fun Day at Millwall, had to say:



Just a little note to say a huge Thanks to you, and all from St Michaels who

made Saturday such a great Day here at the Den. I have been inundated with Fans' compliments about how fantastic the Choir were. They really were amazing and sang their hearts out and were a credit to St Michael's and your music department even with a few out of tune footballers!! It was a real pleasure and I very much look forward to welcoming you back next year!

The Chaplain's Corner:

"When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes have gone home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks, the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among people and to make music in the heart."
We ask this through Christ our Lord .

Amen

SHOE BOX APPEAL

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support of and contributions to the shoebox appeal this year.



The total number of boxes collected was 100. I was I impressed by the efforts of our pupils who obviously took time and effort to choose the contents of each box; their generosity is greatly appreciated.

Thanks to all of your hard work, these 'little boxes of Christmas cheer' were delivered to disadvantaged children in Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Wishing you all a very happy and prosperous New Year,

Miss Delaney

ATTENDANCE FIGURES

1/01/10 - 14/01/10

| | |
|---------|------|
| Year 7 | 93.1 |
| Year 8 | 94.0 |
| Year 9 | 90.0 |
| Year 10 | 90.0 |
| Year 11 | 92.2 |

DROP IN CENTRE

If you have any concerns about your child please 'drop in' to speak to Mrs Carr.

Every Thursday between:
10—11 a.m.

We offer advice and support on attendance or other related issues.

Key Dates for your Diary

| | | |
|------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 28/1/10 (p.m.) | - | Yr 11 Ethics Exam |
| 2/2/10 (6 pm) | - | Parents Forum Mtg |
| 3/2/10 (4.30.pm) | - | Yr 11 Parents Eve. |
| 15-19/2/10 (HALF TERM) | - | New York Trip |
| 4/3/10 (a.m.) | - | Science Mod.Exam |
| 5/3/10 (a.m.) | - | Science Mod.Exam (provisional) |
| 10/3/10 (4 pm) | - | Yr 9 Parents Eve. |
| 11/3/10 | - | INSET DAY |
| 23/3/10 (6 pm) | - | Parents Forum |

'Direct parent access to school via e mail'

parentemail@stmichaelschool.org.uk