

**St Michael's Catholic
School**

**John Felton Road
London SE16 4UN**

Tel: 020 7237 6432

**www.stmichaelschool.org.uk con-
tact@stmichaelschool.org.uk**

THE LINK

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

Issue 21 - 5th March 2010

ST MICHAEL'S GOES GLOBAL



Inspiration from India

When we think of India, we might be inclined to think of slums, poverty, people needing our help. My experience of India however, tells a much different story. Our partner school 'GEAR' caters for middle class students. The head teacher and founder Srinivasan is a very inspirational educator with innovative ideas for education that permeate the school. The school foster an environment for active and independent learning.

On my tour of the school I saw a home-made cement mixer created by a student out of recycled materials and an oven made from a shoe box which was solar powered. Projects like these that students undertake offer a 'hands on' learning approach which enables them to experiment and



understand concepts like solar power in a creative and engaging environment. Students are encouraged to work collaboratively and be resourceful with some fantastic results.

Whilst I expected a warm welcome from our Indian friends their hospitality and generous spirit was overwhelming. On arrival I was greeted by staff and students with a garland made from sandalwood and blessing with a thali tray. A special assembly was arranged in my honour with drama, traditional song and dance and a march with both the UK and Indian flags – a truly memorable experience! As a visiting teacher, I was treated with the utmost respect, including being ferried by car to and from school as well as to sights of beauty and interest in the surrounding areas.

On one such trip I visited the ancient Kingdom of Mysore and toured its temples, cathedrals and palace.

The experience as a whole has had and will continue to have a significant impact on my teaching and the practice of the school. Already, the RE, Geography, Art and Music departments are working together with all year 8 pupils on a special project about India. Our aim is to encourage the resourceful and independent nature of students that I



saw in India. Teachers and students alike are highly motivated and engaged in this project which is destined for success. I hope to be involved in many more exciting projects such as this and hope that you have enjoyed reading about this exciting partnership which has only just begun!



Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge (Amani Mwinyi 10S)

On the 5th February, our English students were given the opportunity to enter the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge, a public speaking event in which over 20,000 students will be participating across London and Essex. During workshop we participated in many different exercises all related to public speaking and listening. First of all we all had to publically introduce ourselves in front the whole class and tell our likes and dislikes. We also each were given an object and we had to persuade other people to want it.

We individually had to make our own speech on anything we felt strongly about, everyone participated and the speeches were all very good, some were very emotional and took a lot of courage from the speaker, some were funny as opposed to some that were serious. In the end Amani Mwinyi and Bejji Mulenga won and will be going to Bacons College for the regional finals on the 23rd March, where a few will be selected to go to the final in the Mermaid Theatre. I think that the workshop was good because it built everyone's confidence and improved our public speaking skills which will be vital for us in the future.

The World of Sport (by Antonia Krupa 8s)

Last week, on Thursday, St Michael's had a very special visitor. It was Francis Houghton from the British Olympic Rowing Team. So far Francis has won 3 gold world medals. Francis told us about her career and how it started.

As a child Francis hated sport and it was her sister who was the sporty one in her family. At 11 years old she started to do rowing and said she enjoyed it so much that she started going everyday because she loved the feeling of moving a boat down a river. At the age of 16 she had met someone who had just come back from the Olympics and told everyone that if they wanted to take part in the Olympics they should try really hard. From then on Francis went swimming to the pool early in the morning, she ran to the pool then practiced her rowing.



At the age of 19 she was in the Olympics in Sydney 2000 and this was her first Olympic Games she had ever been to and she says that if she had never worked as hard as she did before the Olympics she would never have got there in the first place. Then 4 years later she went to Beijing and set her mind on winning the gold medal. She trained for 6 or 7 days a week each morning rowing 20 km which is equivalent to rowing 50 times round a football pitch. When she got to Beijing she lived in the Olympic city where all the athletes lived with their coaches. The Olympic city holds 10,000 athletes—here they ate, slept and trained. In Beijing she won silver but wasn't disappointed as she was glad that she came that far. Then in 2004 she went to Athens and also won a silver medal.

Francis also talked about her diet and daily routine. She said that she had breakfast then did some training then had another breakfast and did some more training, then she had dinner, then she had tea. Francis also said that the athlete had to take at least 5000 calories a day to keep them going.

At the end of this she said that she wouldn't change her sport and if she was put with someone she doesn't like she knows that they are all working as a team to get to a common goal.

Congratulations to Year 7 Football Team

The Year 7's played the Football match against City Of London Academy (COLA) with a fantastic attitude. All the pupils were positive throughout and demonstrated great leadership qualities. Although it was difficult to decide, the players awarded Weyinmi Neburagho 'Man of the match'.

St Michael's won 0-3. The team members are:

7A - Tommy Bartholomew, Igor Antczak ©, Tony-Hung Nguyen, 7O—Nelson Bendeja, Tunde Laja, Daniel Odob, 7V— Ronald Kemoka, Jack Murphym, Weyinmi Neburagho, Mehylene Bertie, Denzil Okyere, 7I— Christian Ayala, Aniel Thomas,

Congratulations to the Green Team

We are delighted to announce that the Green Team have achieved the Eco Schools Bronze Award! We are the only secondary state school in Southwark to achieve this. Well done to:

*Luke Perryman 9J Oliver Byrne 9J Molly O'Riordan 9J Kiefer St Louis 9J
Onella Edde 9S Ibrahim Elamin 9 John Gallego 9S Luisa Patterson 9S
Lillie Cosgrove 9J*

Special Thanks to Ms Delaney, Mr Field, Ms Hodder-Williams, Mr Irvine, The Geography Department, Admin staff & Ms Corcoran, Kate, Ms Hammil, Premises Staff & Student Leadership Team for their support, interest and input. Thank you to all staff who have given us use of their rooms & resources.

The Chaplain's Corner:

The Theme for this year's Lent is justice. During this time we will be trying to think of what that means in our lives and the lives of others. Thankfully our students (your children) are responding to the challenges we offer with their usual generosity.

'Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the peoples you can. As long as you ever can' (John Wesley)



ATTENDANCE FIGURES

22/2/10 to 4/3/10

Year 7	96.2
Year 8	95.1
Year 9	92.4
Year 10	93.1
Year 11	97.2
Whole School	94.7

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 at-

Key Dates for your Diary

10/3/10 (4 pm)	- Yr 9 Parents Eve.
11/3/10 (pm) PUPILS	- INSET DAY
will be dismissed at 12.30. There will be no lunches.	
23/3/10 (6 pm)	- Parents Forum
11/5/10 (4.30 pm)	- Yr 8 Parents Eve
18/5/10 (6 pm)	- Parents Forum
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
13/7/10 (6pm)	- Parents Forum

'Direct parent access to school via e mail'

parentemail@stmichaelschool.org.uk