

**St Michael's Catholic
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THE LINK

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

Issue 24 - 7th May 2010

Volcanic Ash Clears for Global Partnership

Thanks be to God! Icelandic volcanic ash did not hinder the visit from Savi and Geetha, teachers from our global partners GEAR Innovative International School in Bangalore. We were honoured to host these creative and dedicated teachers and welcome them into our school life. Along with one of our primary partners, 23 Tower Bridge School, we spent time with our overseas partners developing our teaching and learning by planning out more joint activities on global themes. Some time was also spent team teaching with Savi, and our Year 8 pupils were fortunate to have lessons incorporating activities on: Indian cuisine, yoga, religions and cultures, music and drama.



For the future, we have exciting plans for whole school and dedicated Year 8 activities that will develop students' understanding of sustainability and enhance their intercultural understanding. These will be kept under wraps until their launch later on in this academic year.

Over the next few weeks in 'The Link' we will be detailing key aspects of the visit and providing you with articles and photographs, giving you an insight into some of the exciting lessons and workshops the young people have been enjoying.

Once Again

Once again the exam season has started at St Michael's – and if only it was all as entertaining as the year 11 drama students coursework presentation! This took place on the evening of Friday 30th April – and if it was good last year, then this year it was outstanding.

The evening began with a performance of 'Two'. The action takes place in the local pub and the audience is shown the workings of various couples, with all their idiosyncrasies. The core performance was from the bar owners, unhappily married since



the death of their son 7 years earlier. Like all the best stories though, tragedy is interspersed with comedy and through the course of the evening various characters take centre stage – and reveal the peculiarities of their relationships.

'Teachers' followed, appropriately enough, three students looking back fondly on their school days, just as

they leave them behind. This had side splittingly funny moments such as the 'Mission Impossible' move to the timetable room and lines like 'No more trendy art teachers saying "Hi and call me Gordon"' (Not that ours do that). This was a pacy and energetic performance involving a range of role changes from the three performers: Klaudia, Sophie and Szymon.



The mood changed again with 'Flipside', a version of King Lear, set in Africa. Once more, the actors showed their skill in handling a range of roles and even presented us with a shadow play. This play was moving and interesting as well as offering humour – and plenty of dancing!

Lastly, we were treated to a performance of Shakespeare's 'The Taming of the Shrew' – abridged but in the original language (apart from the horses!).

Among an excellent cast, Ronnie made a convincing Petruchio combining charm with a steely determination to tame his Catherina (Ami Metcalfe) and gain a biddable wife as well as her father's money.

In all, the audience in the packed drama studio had a thoroughly enjoyable time. Our thanks go to Miss O'Flaherty for all her hardwork that made it possible and to the excellent year 11 drama students: Veronica Gil, Daniela Marin, Denise Murgia, Kieran Clarke, Eilish Roache, Aimee Crawford, Melissa Corby, Daniel Uwadiae, Jack Bannon, Klaudia Dokaj, Sophie Warner, Szymon Madziel, Kemi Idowu, Sally Kamara, Sofia Freitas, Shane Hands, Joseph Balogun, Rosemary Ekinem, Alvin Smitha, Ronnie Neill, Ami Metcalf and Ellie Flasher.

If you were unlucky enough to miss it this year, then make a date for your diary for next year!



'Close to their hearts' .

We are keen to extend our partnership work with parents/carers and actively involve you in school life. As a new initiative, Mrs Grabowski is extending a personal invitation for groups of parents/carers to meet with her in **'Headteacher's Round Tables'**.

These half-termly small meetings will provide opportunities for groups of parents to discuss with her, matters close to their hearts that may improve our school and the education of students. Please contact Mrs Ferguson (telephone & email) giving your name and contact details if you would like to be involved in one of these future gatherings.

Maths Success!

Congratulations to:

Alexandra Laron-Mensah, Blessing Bakare, Charlie Beales, Ivan Beckley, Joshua Carr, Michael Cullinane, Siem Efram, Emma Fee, Hitian He, Jshua Landicho, Tochukwu Mbanasor, Adem Veli.

The above pupils of my top early entries group have achieved A*s, A's and B's in their recent Unit 2 Mathematics GCSE exams. Five of them achieved grade A*, five have got grade A and two of the remaining have achieved grade B. I will say that the credit goes to my Mathematics Department. Cheers!



(A. Khawaja)

The Chaplain's Corner:

It may seem a long time ago since Easter weekend, but I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the students for taking part in the Service on Maundy Thursday. Staff read and sang, Years 7,8 and 10 took part in various dramas and Year 9 did the prayers based on the thoughts of Oscar Romero, who was killed 30 years ago.

The service was reflective and serious in parts and our pupils responded in a very positive manner. The theme for lent this year was Justice and we finished with 'Everybody Hurts', a clip from YouTube on the earthquake and aftermath in Haiti.

It was a fitting end to the term where as part of lent your children had raised a staggering £2500 for our three charities- Cafod Haiti appeal, The Cabrini Society and Sports Relief.



Father and creator,
You sent your only son into the world.
The Word who speaks your truth,
The Word who gives life.

Bless our lips,

That they may always speak words that build up.

Give to us all the courage to proclaim Christ, to share the good News,
And to satisfy the thirst within our hearts as you speak to us of the story of our lives.

Amen

'Direct parent access to school via e mail'

parentemail@stmichaelschool.org.uk

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.

ATTENDANCE FIGURES

Year 7 93.9

Year 8 95.4

Year 9 92.3

Year 10 93.0

Year 11 97.7

Whole School 95.1

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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