

**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 25 - 21st May 2010**

## DAMILOLA TAYLOR TRUST — TRIUMPH IN LOGO COMPETITION FOR ST MICHAEL'S

St Michael's school was delighted to win two major prizes in the competition to design a new logo for the Damilola Taylor Trust. Out of 250 school children taking part in the competition from across London, the top and runner-up prize were both accorded to pupils at St Michael's. Gbenga Balogun and Olivia Lin, now both 14, respectively won the number one and two slots, and a special assembly was held to mark their success.

The Damilola Taylor Trust was established in memory of the young schoolboy who was killed at the age of 10 in a stairwell in North Peckham.

Ten years on, the Trust, established to take the message of peace and opportunity out into the world, wanted to refresh its logo. Much of the Trust's work is done by visiting schools throughout South London, and further afield, and engaging young people in discussions about youth crime.

The competition to create a new logo was seen as a



positive way to engage young people and mobilised a lot of interest.

Gbenga was delighted to receive a day in a design studio bringing his logo to life and a signed Manchester United t-shirt as a prize. He said "we had to make designs based on peace and non-violence and I just drew what was in my head when I thought about it". Olivia Lin, the runner-up, said that she had no personal knowledge of youth

violence but thought that it was "important to do what we can to stop it from happening". It was very clear that the prize winners understood the underlying objectives of the competition. Gbenga said: "I think the campaign is really good for young people, because it gets them on a positive track, to take them away from joining gangs, which they could do out of peer pressure or other problems in the family".

Such responses were music to the ears of Damilola Taylor's father who was there to award the prize and receive a portrait of his son by a St Michael's pupil. His sentiments were mirrored by Barry Mizen, who also lost his son to violence in south London: "The solution is for us to create a more peaceful community ourselves. It's about how we treat each other". This is a message at the heart of St Michael's ethos and it was a delight at the assembly to see how enthusiastically the pupils had engaged with the challenge they had been set.



## Sporting Spirit!

The Year 8's played the Football match against Peckham Academy (Thursday [06/05/10]) with a fantastic attitude. Like the year 7's and year 9's who played them before, the year 8's remained positive throughout the game. There was great cohesion in the performance. Unfortunately, the result was not favourable for the year 8's and after going 1-2 up, they eventually lost 4-2. There was little debate who was 'Player of the match', with Joshua George claiming the award for the second game in a row.

The first cohort of league games have now been played, the results are below.

Year 7 - Peckham Academy 1 – 4 St Michael's Catholic School (Away Win)

Year 8 - Peckham Academy 4 – 2 St Michael's Catholic School (Home Win)

Year 9 - Peckham Academy 1 – 2 St Michael's Catholic School (Away Win)



*Coffee & Chat*

## The Headteacher's Round Table

A big thank you to Parents who attended the first of these forums. It was a great success and a number of useful points were made.

Look in 'The Link' for the next date to have your say.

## The Drop in Centre/Parent Support Advisor

Mrs Mulock and Mrs Carr would like to invite you to their weekly meeting which takes place every Thursday morning between 10 and 11 a.m.

The meeting is very informal and there is tea and coffee provided. It is a chance for Parents to get together as a small group to discuss any issues or concerns that either they or their child might have or just take advantage of an opportunity to come in for a coffee and a chat!

So far we have had a very good response and the feed back has been very positive.

**We look forward to seeing you!**

## The Chaplain's Corner:

St Michael's school was well represented by Year 9 and Miss Nottage and Mr. Kinal at the service last week in Westminster Cathedral to celebrate the life of Jimmy Mizen, and to express our common commitment to "Building a Legacy of Peace".

Over 2,500 people, including Archbishop Vincent Nichols, and the Anglican Bishop of London, in the presence of Prince Charles, came together at the instigation of Margaret and Barry Mizen. It would have been Jimmy's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, if he had not been the tragic victim of random violence, and it was a fitting celebration with many schools in attendance. The service was jointly hosted by the Jimmy Mizen Foundation and Pax Christi.

The service was designed by Jimmy's parents to be an expression of their love for their son but it was primarily intended to give a strong message of hope to all young people. With readings from Anne Frank's diary, a beautiful oboe instrumental, a song written and sung by Jimmy's brother, readings from the Universal Declaration of the Rights of the Child, the Archbishop's homily and bidding prayers, all young people and those working with and for them were encouraged to commit to a better world.

The focus of Archbishop Nichols, and the service as a whole, was the role that young people can play, even in the simplest way, in confronting violence.

In the words of the prayer card handed out to all the participants:

**"Blessed are you peacemakers,  
when you speak out against violence  
when you stand by those who are hurt or ridiculed;  
when you listen to those you disagree with;  
when you give your time and energy to help others;  
when you try to forgive those who hurt you;  
when you love and open yourselves to others".**

**The students who attended from St. Michaels will be invited to head up and lead the Justice and Peace group we are starting in the school.**

### ATTENDANCE FIGURES

<b>Year 7</b>	<b>95.5</b>
<b>Year 8</b>	<b>97.1</b>
<b>Year 9</b>	<b>92.8</b>
<b>Year 10</b>	<b>94.9</b>
<b>Year 11</b>	<b>97.5</b>

**Whole School 95.4**

### KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

31/5/10—4/6/10	- Half Term
26/6/1	YEAR 11
6.30.pm— 12 am	PROM
24/6/10 (6 pm)	- Prizegiving
29/6/10 (4.30 pm)	- Yr 7 Parents Eve

**'Direct parent access to school via e mail'**

**parentemail@stmichaelschool.org.uk**