



**St Michael's Catholic
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THE LINK

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

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Thomas Mulligan heads to Oxford



Congratulations to Thomas Mulligan who will be taking up a place at Oxford in October.

Thomas received three A grades, one in Law, which he will go on to study at undergraduate level while at St Edmund Hall. *Teddy Hall*, as it is affectionately known in Oxford, was founded in 1226 and is one of Oxford's very oldest colleges: its alumni include Sir Robin Day, Keir Starmer MP and Al Murray.

We wish him well in joining this illustrious company!

Year 11 Trip to Thorpe Park



Term began with a splash for Year 11 with a trip to Thorpe Park. An early start meant that for ten minutes at least, the queues were short and by 10.30 EVERYONE had screamed their heads off on the Swarm, including most of the staff!

There were tears on Derren Brown's ghost train, soaked students from the appropriately named 'Wet Wet Wet' and more screams from Saw, Samurai and Colossus.



You can see from the photos that everyone who went had an amazing time. Our thanks go to Mr Parker and Ms Main for making such a great day out possible.

Year 7 Welcome Mass

We celebrated Mass with our New Year 7 students and their parents after school on Friday 8th of September and the theme was "welcoming friends". Canon Alan from Holy Trinity Church led us in the Mass and prayed for all our new students and parents. Students, staff and parents sung "Bind us together" and "Christ be our light". The first reading and responsorial psalm were read by students and the gospel, read by Canon Alan, from St Matthew's gospels, where Jesus spoke about what he understood by "real friendship". The Year 7 students composed and read out their own bidding prayers and took part in the offertory procession. They later joined their parents and members of staff in a sign of fellowship by shaking each other's hands and receiving Communion together for the first time at the College.

The Mass was a lovely way of welcoming the new students and parents to our college community.





Outward Bound Canada Trip

The Stuart Horne bursary gave me the opportunity to go canoeing and backpacking in Canada for 3 weeks. It was not simply an experience I enjoyed but also one that helped my development.

Being subjected to stormy weather and reaching my physical limits on little food I was able to learn more about myself: my strengths and more importantly what I could change about myself.

For 21 days I canoed and made camp at a new site with a group of 12 others, working together to build teamwork skills, having the opportunity to take leadership to complete a common daily-goal. With no outside contact or access to any form of technology we were able to see the everyday luxuries we don't notice and take for granted.

It was an experience anyone could benefit from. It was an absolutely incredible trip stretching out over 200km. I'd encourage anyone to take part, if given the opportunity.

Bruno Batista



Mass at St George's Cathedral

Tuesday 12th September marked the celebration of the new academic year for the Diocese. Ms Corcoran, Katherine Duff, Ryan Long and I attended a special mass at Saint George's Cathedral, to mark the occasion: representing St. Michael's as Head Boy, Head Girl and Senior Prefect (alongside many other students and Headteachers, within the diocese). Before the mass we even had an opportunity to catch up with Mrs Grabowski whom the Diocese had invited to attend

The overarching message from the service was to celebrate the Catholic and Christian identity of our schools: 92% of schools in the Diocese are rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted and for religious inspections 98% are rated 'good' or 'outstanding' (with St Michael's scoring outstanding in both areas). Archbishop Peter Smith, who led the mass, attributed these great achievements to the values that we, as faith schools, uphold: kindness in the way we treat others and the community with dignity and compassion; perseverance, in the way staff and students both strive for the best despite the challenges that may lay ahead and openness - the willingness for schools in the diocese to pull together as there is strength in togetherness.

For me, the service provided a time of reflection- to not only reflect on my own journey heading into my final year at St. Michael's but also reflect on what I can do, as Head Boy, to further contribute to the Catholic identity of the College that has served all the students at S Michael's well.

Derek Obaseki

Year 7 Summer school 2017



Year 7 Summer School once again provided our new students with the skills and familiarity to be able to begin their academic career here with confidence.

"Our week in summer school was amazing. I absolutely loved it. We made loads of new friends, we got to meet our Leaders of learning Mr. Ludlow and Miss Osei and also met some of our other teachers. We even had a day out together in LEGOLAND. We loved it! It made our friendships stronger for when we started in September." – Students from 7DA

Safeguarding

Important Notice from the Safeguarding Officer - there is a copy of our Safeguarding Policy on the College Website.

A hard copy of this is available in the College Office.



Contacting the College - Direct parents access to college via email
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