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THE LINK

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and staff of St Michael's Catholic College*

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Sixth Form Geography Lecture Day



On Wednesday 8th November, a group of sixth form students went to the Emmanuel Centre in Westminster to listen to an exciting day of Geography lectures. They were linked to the A-Level specification and included topics such as Changing Places and Water and Carbon Cycles. We also heard from Geography legend Danny Dorling who told us that loads of things in our textbooks aren't right and will change dramatically in the future! He showed us the amazing maps he works on at Oxford University. We also heard from other academics about topics such as the importance of dry lake beds: Did you know that the dust from the Sahara desert helps to fertilise the plants and trees in the Amazon Rainforest?? We also got loads of great exam tips!

A great day out, even if the chairs were a bit hard!! -

Ms Folan

Model UN Trip



On the 10th and 11th of November, five keen sixth form students took up places as delegates at a Model United Nations, over a two day weekend conference in Wimbledon. They were allocated a country in advance (Australia) and had to research their country's position on various issues that UN meets about: Security, Human Rights, Politics and Economics.

After giving an opening speech, delegates split into various committees to debate with delegates from other UN countries and form resolutions. The students were a credit to the school and gained a lot from the experience,

including Patrick McNeely who won an award from Outstanding Contribution to his committee. He had this to say.

Sitting on a Model UN is an unforgettable experience where you get given the time to engage in international politics and to view it from another countries perspective as a delegate. It also allows for learning new skills such as diplomacy, public speaking and application of research for into an argument. Overall, a very enjoyable experience and I would recommend the opportunity to any of those interested in taking part.

Patrick McNeely





GCSE Drama Trip to the Half Moon Theatre

Our trip to the Half Moon Theatre was a great experience to learn more about the world of theatre and how there are many other behind-the-scenes jobs that the audience can't see or hear.

First of all, we came to the theatre and there was a sense of nervous excitement as we anxiously waited to find out what groups we were going to be in. In school we had been told to pick between stage management, set design, sound, lighting and of course, acting. So, when I found out that I was in set design

I was happy because I had put it second, after stage management. However, I was quite uneasy because I had never designed a set before so I didn't know what to expect from it. But later on, I realised that I was definitely content with my choice.

Set design was filled with about 18 of us, all from different backgrounds and schools, so it was quite hard at first for all of us because we didn't really know each other. However, once we started getting into it, we were more open to everybody.

We spoke about the themes in the extract that had been read to us at the start and how it would be put into images once we were split into two groups of set design. There was a lot about fractured relationships, so many of the images we created were fractured. An example of this was a fractured Twister game board, which was a game that was being played in the extract. We also got a sense of character, and used the 4 characters and how they were described to create a setting based on this. Afterwards, we made a miniature version of what the set would look like and combined ideas with the other set design group.

When we finished our lunch, we began the real work: putting the set together. Reme and Yasmin and I were in charge of making giant lollipop sticks that were the colour of Twister pieces and also making a spinner that would be overhead.

The process of making it was really hard as we had to use a jigsaw to cut the spinner to shape and saw it down. We also had to find construction poles to hold the spinner and the lollipop sticks up. Since we didn't have enough time to paint them, we decided to use coloured LX tape to colour the sticks and the poles. All of this was possible with a man named Bill, who is incredibly hard working and helped every group to put all their work together.

After lunch we came together to share everything with each other, all the groups. Then we did the finishing touches to our work, before going into the final dress rehearsal. Because it was so much work, we needed extra help from the stage managers to fit everything together in then finally, it was show time. As the staging form was in the round, we had to make sure that everything fitted together for the audience – which was all the other groups and the teachers – for them to be able to see.

A great bonus was that because Bill was too busy with sound and lighting to do filming also, he needed somebody to help him film – and he picked me! However, there was pressure on me to make it look as nice as possible because they only had one take so they couldn't edit it after it was filmed. I had a small practise before the performance started but I was nervous. I didn't want to mess anything up. Luckily, Bill supported me in the performance so that I was pressing the right buttons to zoom in, zoom out and move around. At the end of the performance I was relieved, as I didn't make any mistakes!

Overall, the whole drama trip was such a great experience for me because it taught me a lot about theatre that I didn't know about, and next time I know I will definitely appreciate the set more! - **Benisha, 10ME**

Chaplain's corner

November is the month of the Holy Souls where we continue to pray for our departed loved ones and friends.

There are 5 ways to pray for the Holy Souls:

1. Pray the Novena to the Holy Souls.
2. Offer up your Holy Communion for the souls in purgatory.
3. Have Masses said for your departed loved ones, especially on the anniversary of his or her death.
4. Pray The Way Of The Cross for Souls in Purgatory.
5. Pray the special Holy Souls Rosary. After the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Holy Rosary is the most powerful prayer.

Prayer is food to the soul. As we nurture our body with material food it is no less important to nurture our soul with spiritual food, and prayer provides us with that spiritual nourishment that will help us grow spiritually in this world, and our departed friends and family in the other world.

➤ A prayerful Christian is a powerful Christian.
➤ A prayer less Christian is a powerless Christian.



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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