

St Michael's Catholic College

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THE LINK

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

Issue 140 December 2017

St Michael's New House System

Bosco

Savio

Mazzarello

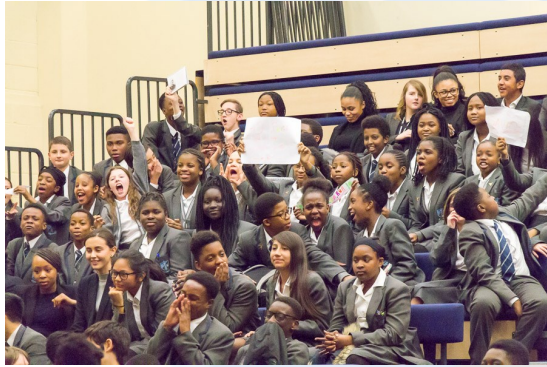
Vicuna

Rua

A house system has been launched at St Michael's and is already proving a huge success. As well as the current system of year groups and Leaders of Learning, the college decided to create a house system to promote achievement of the students in its widest forms in a totally positive way, from the classroom to the sports field and helping out around the school to drama productions. The house system supports two Charities: the local Charity Southwark Crisis and an international Education charity and so provides a fantastic opportunity for our students to demonstrate their faith in action.

The five houses are all named after Salesians and are: Bosco, Mazzarello, Savio, Vicuna and Rua. Every tutor group has been allocated vertically to a house and students can win points for their house in lots of ways – through the competitions held but also through excellent attendance, work in lessons and a contribution to the wider life of the college.

The Spelling Bee



House competitions have generated huge support and interest.

The Spelling bee held at the end of November was standing room only as crowds came to support their representatives boldly attempting to spell ever



increasingly challenging words. Competition was fierce (and good natured, of course) while words ranged from 'flexible' to 'voluminous' via 'piteous' getting harder as the spellers were eliminated.

The Bake Off



This week has been the Great St Michael's Bake off. Each house was allocated a day to sell cakes at break and lunchtime to raise money for Southwark Crisis – and the amount collected has been phenomenal. **£1,448.00 !!!**



There are three more competitions between now and Christmas- a card competition, a carol singing competition and last, but by no means least the Christmas jumper competition on the last day of term.



Trip to the Festival Hall- London Jazz Festival- Keturah Evans- Year 10

Year 10 and 11 pupils that study GCSE Music were taken to “The Jazz Voice” concert, broadcast live by the BBC, which was an amazing experience!

We went to the grand opening of the London Jazz Festival on the 10th November and it was impressive to see a big band as well as an orchestra playing a part in Jazz music where it made the overall effect sound so much more sophisticated.

The concert was a great way to see different aspects of Jazz, Motown and soul music and the performers/singers were absolutely amazing. They had such enthusiasm, which made us all feel the same way.

The introduction of the whole concert started with music that sounded like it would have been used in thriller movies and horror films! It began with a very dark approach but swiftly changed from tense and dramatic music to swing jazz.

The change to jazz was introduced by an incredible drummer, who used the whole range of his drum kit to wow the audience. The first performer was Vanessa Haynes who sang “I’m Going To Live Until I Die”.

One of the artists had taken a different approach compared to the others, Miles Mosley. This performance was especially interesting because he played the double bass, whilst singing and used an “effects pedal” to create distorted sounds from the cello, which actually ended up blending well with the song he performed, “Ain’t No Sunshine”- originally sung by Bill Withers. He used the instrument and the effects pedal to create different sounds, specifically during the instrumental of the song.

Overall, the concert was delightful and the terrific arrangements by Guy Barker, who also conducted the concert, made full use of the orchestra and big band on stage made up of some of the greatest musicians in the world. Listen to the concert here:



A prayer for Christmas

Lord, in a season when every heart should be happy and light, many of us are struggling with the heaviness of life’s burdens.

Many disasters and tragedies ruin the gift of joy that you give to us over the Christmas.

Many go hungry, cold and lonely over this period.

We ask that you give them strength and courage to carry on as Jesus did even through the harsh times.

Let us also remember the true meaning of Christmas and how your son was born to us, died and rose again.

Help us refocus our minds to be charitable, caring and giving, just like Jesus taught us.

Amen



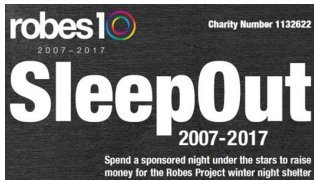
Whitstable Retreat



On November 30th students and three members of staff went to St Vincent’s retreat centre in Whitstable in Kent. The theme of the retreat was kindness. It was an

opportunity for students to reflect on their own lives and how they contribute to the wider community through acts of kindness. The Retreat was a great success the team at St Vincent’s offered a prayerful environment that engaged our students. The students were a credit to the school with exemplary behaviour and cooperation with others. Here is the experience from the pen of one of the participants:

The retreat was one of the best experiences of my life. Not only did it help me to strengthen my relationships with God and my friends, but it also allowed me to make new friendships. It was great to relax in a peaceful environment for a few days, away from the stress in our lives. The team was absolutely amazing: they made us feel welcome and happy during our stay, and they felt like family. I will always keep them and all of the memories we made there, in my heart. - **Kirsten Braga**



Robes Sleep Out 2017

Robes Charity takes an active approach to removing the homeless from the cold streets of London and other parts of the UK, giving them future prospects.

I have recently taken part in an event organised by Robes to raise money to provide a residence for those who are homeless. Over 250 Londoners raised were sponsored by friends and family to spend a full night sleeping outside on one of the coldest nights of the year. The event allowed individuals to immerse themselves into a typical night spent out by a homeless person, and raise awareness for a largely ignored problem - especially in large cities.

I managed to raise £150 in two weeks from, mostly supported by few members of staff from St. Michael's. This appeared to be insignificant in comparison to the auction and entertainment which raised just under £10k in one night.

The contribution made by the community will give many of those who face the insecurity and degradation of being homeless, what they need in order to rebuild their lives. - **Bruno H. Batista**

National theatre Costume hire



On the 29th of November 2017, the year 12 and 13 textiles classes went to visit the national theatre costume hire. This was to help us with our primary research in our course work that we are starting next year, or have already started, as some of us are planning to design and make a costume, but some of us are planning to make normal clothing for example a reversible suit.

The national costume hire is open to theatres, colleges, people who wish to hire for fancy dress etc. Their costumes and props have been used by various organisations, such as: The Royal Shakespeare Company, Punchdrunk Theatrical Experiences Ltd. Curve Theatre, Barbican, Headlong Theatre, Philharmonic Orchestra, Opera Theatre Europe and many more. They get these costumes from over twenty productions coming from the National Theatre each year. All costumes are created in their workshops by their highly skilled staff whose attention to detail and historical knowledge ensures that everything is produced to the highest quality.

Whilst we were there, we took pictures of the costumes and any type of design that appealed to our ideas for design in our coursework. This was so when we got back to school, we could talk about the type of material and how it has influenced us in our costumes etc.

Overall, it was really interesting to see how clothes and the design of them have changed over the years, due to social changes. It was nice to experience learning outside of the classroom, as it included the work we are doing in class as well as things we are going to be doing. It was enjoyable to be able to do independent work there (by finding the costumes we would want to use in our coursework) as well as working in a group to see everyone else's ideas. - **Miss Arjan**



My Karate Competition



Cuprum Cup International karate championships 2017 took place on Sunday, 19th November in Legnica, Poland.

“The Veras Academy squad had a fantastic result finishing in 2nd place out of 47 teams and 6 countries. 10 Gold, 5 silver and 12 bronze.”said my coach, Raphael Veras, the day after.

I received one gold medal in Team Kumite U12.

(In the picture: Team U12 Kumite gold champions (Luca Veras, Jack Walsh, Isaac Gibson and Robert Stanev)



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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.