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THE LINK

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

Issue 143 - 23 February 2018



BUGSY MALONE

Preparation for the much awaited production of "Bugsy Malone" started in October 2017. The families and staff of St Michael's were entertained by the diverse talents of the students on the 30th and 31st of January . Each and every one of the cast, stage hands and staff were thanked by the Principal for their hard work and dedication which made "Bugsy" in the words of the Principal "an absolutely fantastic show."

"It was so wonderful to see such a wide range of students take part in something that they will remember for years to come. It truly showed off the very best of St Michael's and demonstrated why opportunities for enrichment in this way are so key to students' education."

Special thanks go to Laura

Murtagh, Nicola Rule, Georgina Viveash, all those in the drama and music department and all those staff who helped out behind the scenes for creating such a wonderful experience for the students involved and all those who came to watch.

Here below we can find some of the students' own words:

On the first rehearsal of Bugsy Malone, the atmosphere was slightly awkward as no one knew each other. I remember looking around at all the awkward and shy faces. It was hard to imagine that we would one day be performing in front of everyone together. To prepare for our performance we had to rehearse after school and on our Saturdays - which was sometimes frustrating as all I wanted to do was sleep in - however it was all worth it in the end. Knowing the outcome of this play, I wouldn't mind getting up at 6 am on a Saturday!

Bugsy Malone required a lot of hard work and dedication. As well as the actors rehearsing, the technical team were each assigned very important roles in this performance - roles such as lighting, costume and back stage. Across the course of 6 months we had to work together as a team to make this production a reality. There wasn't much time for the awkwardness to linger.

Moments before the performance began, I recall everyone huddling backstage nervously, we were even more nervous than that moment when your parents return home from parents' evening, but at least we were all together. Our nerves faded throughout the performance as we remembered we were working as a team. Although it was quite stressful, we were able to trust one another to improvise when something went wrong and when it did, the audience never knew. My favourite moment was our last song where we all stood united. I looked along the line at my fellow cast mates who 6 months ago were only strangers.

After the performance I felt a huge relief, and have come to the realisation that this performance helped us develop our skills in different areas: it was

my first time controlling the lights but through this performance I was taught how to use them and by the end it was to my surprise that I was controlling the lights throughout the entire show.

Bugsy Malone allowed me to explore my creativity with more confidence. It is my highlight of the year and the feeling we felt at the end was amazingly unforgettable. It was bittersweet because it felt like a huge relief and we felt proud for what we achieved together, however, it was quite emotional for some of us because it felt like something big and extraordinary was over. Nevertheless, then bond between us will still remain

Not only were we able to develop our skills, but our friendships with one another too. We didn't want it to be over, hence our group chat 'family'. - *Diana Tran, 10GA*



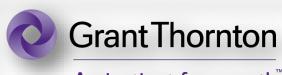






You will find more pictures of the play on the website: http://www.stmichaelscollege.org.uk/image-gallery/bugsy-malone-2018/

Page 2 THE LINK



An instinct for growth

Grant Thornton Experience

"On January 23rd one of our Business & Enterprise partners – Grant Thornton - invited our students to a workshop with its volunteers" to learn more about the business world.

Below are one of our students' own words about the experience:

The workshop with volunteers from Grant Thornton was a very interesting educational experience. It was interesting because the people that worked there taught me how to work in a team to present my work clearly and confidently to choose money wisely, to start a successful business and to be kind to customers.

What I liked about that experience was how they were giving us a chance to start our own successful business by giving us £50 and all the information we needed to know to start it.

On the day we had an assembly in the hall with almost all of the staff from Grant Thornton. They inspired me when they told me about this man who used his grandmother's jam recipe to create his own business. He went to a shop called Waitrose to try and sell the product there, but he didn't have a good enough logo so he got someone to design one and Waitrose took his product and started to sell it.

After the assembly we had a lesson with a speaker who talked about how he got into Grant Thornton. He talked about growing up in Hawaii and at 17 he moved to London to go to College and University and after that he became a member of in Grant Thornton Staff.

Later we talked about what our business was going to be about. In my business we were going to sell slime and we were going to cover the boxes in rhinestone. If we won we'd get £50 to start off our business and try and make it successful. - *Keyara Ward, 7MU*

Chaplain's corner

As the period of Lent approaches, let's reflect on the spiritual meaning of the fast with the inspiring words of our dear Pope Francis.

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

pietrafitness.com

House competitions results

Fundraising of St John Bosco

During Bosco charity week £305.35 was raised by students of St John Bosco some of which (class 7DA) took part in a sponsored silence for a day, during which they communicated via a whiteboard all day, and some others participated in "splat the teacher" and how many sweets in the jar. - *Miss L.Main*





House debate

Congratulations to all the participants in this year's inaugural History debate. The standard was very high and all the debaters should be proud of their contribution to a stimulating and often heated discussion of the relative merits of five designated ancient civilisations. Special praise for Adrian Aninakwa (Savio) raising interesting points about cultural diffusion in Rome, Mattia Rastelli (Rua) for his robust criticism of the other teams whilst representing

Greece, Kachi Anyamele (Vicuna) for his bold attempt to spin Ancient Egypt as a pioneering platform for 20th century feminism, Dante Reed (Mazzarello) for considering important issues

regarding the Ottoman Empire's contribution to inclusive societies and Tasnim Ince (Bosco) whose detailed consideration of Aztec culture and criticism of eurocentrism helped to push Bosco to victory.

Final Results are as follows: 1st Place – Bosco; 2nd Place – Mazzarello; 3rd Place – Vicuna; 4th Place – Rua; 5th Place – Savio

Good luck next year! - Mr D. Magnoff



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 contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk For absence please phone: 0207 237 6432 EXTN. 730

