



THE LINK

*A fortnightly Newsletter for the pupils, parents and staff of
St Michael's Catholic College
Issue 218 - 26th September 2023*

Welcome Message from the Principal

Welcome to the first edition of The Link for this academic year.

It is wonderful to have the St Michael's community back together again and to meet our new Year 7 and Year 12 students who have made a very positive start to the new term.

I am delighted to report that over the summer students in Year 11 and 13 achieved fantastic results in GCSEs, A Levels and CTEC examinations and we are very proud of them all. Results across both year groups were significantly above national averages in every measure and continue the track record of academic success for St Michael's students.

At the start of the new year it is always vital that students and staff reflect on the responsibility we all have to demonstrate the Salesian values of respect, understanding, affection and humour in all that we do. This ensures that St Michael's is a safe, organised, happy place where everyone is loved and respected for who they are and allows all students to grow in faith and achieve their academic potential.

I can assure you that all of the staff at St Michael's are committed to ensuring students are brought to the fullness of life through high quality education, pastoral support and faith formation.

On the first day back in September which was an inset day, staff demonstrated their commitment to upholding the Salesian ethos of St Michael's through the sharing of the following prayer:

'Lord, with all the faith that we have and with all our skill and energy we commit ourselves to work consistently and generously for the good of young people, especially those most at risk.

We promise to work together to bring young people to the fullness of life and to do no harm to others, but to go the extra mile in serving the needs of our students.

We set ourselves to live the ideals of St John Bosco and to follow the pattern of the Good Shepherd, in teaching and guiding the young through the changing years of adolescence.

We ask for the support of each other, the understanding of family and friends and the inspiration of the Spirit, as we take up this role for the good of young people.

May the prayers of this Salesian school community, the support of colleagues and the energy of young people, keep us faithful day by day. Amen.'

We look forward to another busy and successful year at St Michael's and we know that we can continue to build a happy and successful Catholic community through the sharing of our gifts and talents and by demonstrating our faith and Salesian values in both words and deeds.

Best Wishes

Ms F. Corcoran
Principal



St Michael's Year 9 and 10 Students reach SSLP Debating finals



Huge congratulations to Holly C, Ruta J, Tamara N, Bryant U and Sedonna H who represented St Michael's at the SSLP South London Debating Finals. All of our students were picked out for high praise by the judges and were only knocked out of the competition by a team from Year 13!

Please find Sedonna's reflections below:

We were proposition for the first debate topic 'This house would argue that protests are the most effective means of change'.

I was second proposition, and we lost against the St Saviour's and St Olave's secondary.

Although we lost, we received important feedback which helped us get used to the new style we were debating in which allowed us to win our next debate against the Elmgreen secondary team.

I was first opposition for the topic 'This house would not fear the rise of robots', which means I started the debate and introduced all of our points that we will make.

Although I was nervous at first, once I got into my argument I relaxed a lot more. We all worked together to win and the team we chose for this debate (Bryant as second opposition, Zak as third opposition and Tamara as summary) really supported each other to come up with an argument in the twenty minutes we had before. However for the next debate, we lost against the sixth form Charter team.

We were opposition for the topic 'Humans should focus on building a civilisation on another planet', and although we won on the content of our points and the cohesion and focus on the topic that we had, Charter had more experience than us and were able to organise themselves and their points better.

Although we didn't make it to the finals, we all gained valuable competition experience and developed our debating skills. This will help us in any future competitions. We also gained really useful feedback like sticking to a PEEL structure (point, evidence, explain, link) in our debate to help us get more points. Overall, I enjoyed the day and working with my team mates to do the best we could.



Careers Conversation

A monthly article where we profile the careers choices and experiences of Sixth Form students. This month, Elizabeth in Year 13 is in conversation with Mr Davis about her experience over the summer, when she did a four week paid internship with BP. First of all, tell us a bit about BP.

BP is one of the world's leading international oil and gas companies. They operate or market their products in more than 80 countries, providing their customers with fuel for transportation, energy for heat and light, retail services and petrochemicals products for everyday items.

It sounds like an interesting place to do an internship, but what role did you adopt?

While working with BP I was in the diversity and inclusion team this meant working with a variety of clients and preparing documentation for meeting with employees, validating reports and capturing actions from DE&I meetings.

That sounds like a big leap for you – what were your first impressions?

On my first day I was feeling nervous, however once there I felt good and met my team who were all really nice and made me feel welcome. If I'm being honest, I applied for something else through the Career Ready programme. When I heard I was getting this internship I was a little sceptical as it had nothing to do with my future career path. However during the course of the process I started to understand that this is an opportunity that not many people get to experience.

Tell us a bit about the project you developed

The project I worked on was the Gender strand within businesses and how they represent it within their company. I researched information from many different companies including BP and how they could improve as a business. I was able to hand over a body of work to the company.

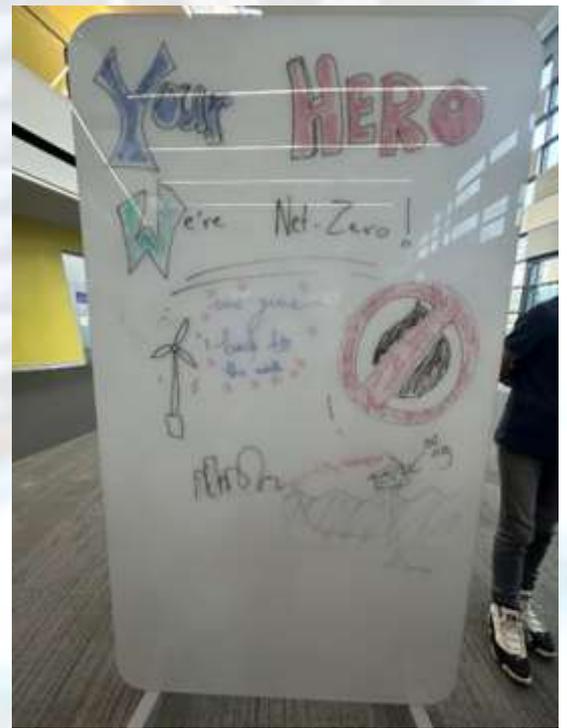
This in turn empowered me, as from this experience my business skills improved, for example presentation skills, meeting new people and my speaking skills as well as improving my knowledge of how big institutions operate.

Where is this all going, and what are the next steps for you?

My future career path is not to go to university as I would prefer to do a degree apprenticeship as a chartered surveyor. I would advise a person applying for a Career Ready placement to take everything as an opportunity, meet new people and network as much as possible. Don't stop asking new questions and also enjoy your internship as well as starting to understand and get an idea of the future career path you want to take.

If you are a Year 12 student, over the next few weeks Mr Davis and Miss Wiltshire will be rolling out the application process for the 2023-24 Career Ready Programme.

Mr I Davis



Chaplain's Corner

The Word of the Lord

Matthew 18:1-3

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.



A reflection on this...

We remember that Jesus said in order to truly understand and be welcomed into the Kingdom of God, we must strip aside our pride and insecurities and trust in the Lord. We focus on the goodness we see around us and where we can try and make the world a better place.

At the start of this new year, we are all reminded of the joy of youth and the privilege it is to come back once again as a school community

All staff and students are reminded of the school's RUAH Values and the Principles of Catholic Social Teaching as we begin this new year in order to make our college environment as special as it always is.

What's been happening in the faith life of the school?

Year 7 were welcomed into the college community by way of their Year 7 Welcome Mass led graciously by Canon Alan at the Most Holy Trinity Church at Dockhead. Mr and Mrs Laurence supported Miss Casey in rehearsing for the hymns and some fantastic volunteers read during the service itself across all of the Year 7 form classes. It was a wonderful celebration and a chance to come together as a new part of the college community.

Applications have been welcomed to set up for the new Year 10 and Year 12 Chaplaincy teams

The Year 13 Chaplaincy team are starting to prepare for the St Michael's Day celebrations, hopefully supported by the new teams in the younger years. *Miss R Casey, Chaplaincy Coordinator*

Welcome Mass



On Tuesday 5th September 2023 we were once again, as a college community, welcomed into the Most Holy Trinity Church at Dockhead and shared in this year's welcome Mass for Year 7. Canon Alan graciously led in a celebration of the new year and the journey our Year 7 cohort will be embarking upon. Our readings were reflective of the joy of youth, the innocence of the unknown and the importance that younger people have in our ever-changing world. As a college community, our ethos the RUAH values is present in all that we do, and coming together for this reflective time was another chance to remember this, as was highlighted in our prayers of intercession. Varying pupils from across Year 7 read impeccably well and were able to voice the stories and morals we were listening to with perfect ease. At different points, we shared in song, led by Mr and Mrs Laurence – opening with the roof lifting 'All Our Welcome' – which is always a beautiful and symbolic way to begin the Mass and the start of the Year.



Ms Corcoran ended the service with a final message and an official welcome to all the Year 7s and their parents, some of whom were in attendance. It was a lovely service with many wonderful contributions to make it a great success. We thank all of those involved. *Miss R Casey, Chaplaincy Co-Ordinator*





Safeguarding Officers



**Designated
Safeguarding Lead:**

Ms Jo Nottage

Contact: 0207 237 6432 or
j.nottage@stmichaelscollege.org.uk



**Safeguarding officer &
Deputy Designated Lead:**

Mrs Debbie Freegard

Contact: 0207 237 6432 or
d.freegard@stmichaelscollege.org.uk



Safeguarding Officer:

Ms Tania Rughooputh

Contact: 0207 237 6432 or
t.rughooputh@stmichaelscollege.org.uk



Mr Allan Daly

Contact: 0207 237 6432 or
a.daly@stmichaelscollege.org.uk

Overall Responsibility:

Ms Felicity Corcoran - Principal

Contact: 0207 237 6432 or
Email: contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk

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.

AUTUMN TERM 2023-2024

OPEN DAYS

6th Form:
Thursday 30th November
4.00pm-6.30pm

INSET DAYS

Friday 20th October 2023

HOLIDAYS

HALF TERM

Monday 23rd October 2023
To
Friday 27th October 2023

CHRISTMAS

Friday 22nd December 2023
To Friday 5th January 2024

Lost property

Please make sure your child's property has their name on, this makes it easier to reunite lost property to its owner.

Please don't bring expensive property to school;

Please note that all lost property that is not collected will be disposed of at the end of each half term.



Contacting the College - Direct parents access to college via email
contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk

For absence please phone: 0207 237 6432 Option 1

