

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 80 - 20 December 2013

PARENT-PARTNERSHIP DROP-IN SESSIONS

Every Thursday from 10.00am to 10.50am.

As you know, we are continually trying new ideas to improve parent-partnership. One idea we have further improved is our 'drop-in' sessions and in this way it is hoped that your child will achieve their potential both academically and pastorally.

From January 2014 *Mrs D Carr* and *Mrs J Chilton-Higgins*, experienced members of the Inclusion team, will be running these sessions to offer practical ideas, guidance & support. Come along to discuss any concerns about your child's *attendance, behaviour* or *learning*.

Just phone 020 7237 6432 ext. 730 or email d.carr@stmichaelscollege.org.uk to let us know you're coming.

Sixth Form Trip to Harry Potter Studios

On 25th October first year A-Level students had the privilege to go to the Warner Brothers Harry Potter Studios. Once we arrived the fan-girling and fan-boying began, like little children in a playground we ran wild and free.

From Fluffy's slobber, unicorn blood to Severus Snape's costume and Death Eaters at Diagon Alley, you name it we saw it. Standing in the same place that Harry, Ron and Hermione once stood felt magical and you could feel the spirit of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. It was almost as if you were part of Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, Slytherin or Gryffindor House waiting for the Sorting Hat to choose your next house member.

As we moved further into the Studios, it began to get more and more emotional. Seeing Dobby made everyone's heart break and shatter into little pieces "Dobby is a free elf. Dobby has no master", his last words, were said as we all looked into the glass case with Dobby in it. Sadly all good things must come to an end and so did the tour with a scale model of Hogwarts and the final stamp for our passports, the experience was a fantastic end to a term of hard work.

Antonia Krupa Yr 12



Free School Meals Don't miss out—Do you think your child/children might be eligible for Free School Meals? You could save more than £350 per year. Please call Mrs Burden or Ms Shaw on 0207 237 6432 to apply or discuss eligibility.

Essay Competition



As part of their enrichment, Year 12 students were asked to enter an essay competition run by 'The Worshipful Company of International Bankers'. The title of the essay was:

Should the UK maintain its overseas aid programme in times of austerity?

On Monday 2nd December, our winner, Monica Rafla, went to the ING Building to be awarded her certificate and a prize of £100. Brandon Joseph Fulgence was the runner up, receiving a prize of £50. The Worshipful Company of Bankers also matched the prizes with a donation to the College. Congratulations to Monica and to Brandon.

Peer Mediation at St Michael's



Peer Mediation and Peer Mediators were introduced to the College a few years ago, however some students may be unaware of what this is and who they can go to if they have any problems in college or outside of college.

Peer mediators are students in Year 11, 12 and 13 who have taken part in training to help them

provide support and advice to younger students.

The idea of having peer mediators is so that younger students in the college have the alternative to confide in older students as we think they may feel more comfortable speaking to them if they have concerns about bullying, group conflicts and personal issues. We can be recognised by the red peer mediator badge that we wear and mediating sessions are available at break and lunchtime so please come and see us to discuss any matters that you may need help with.

Tina Wetshi Year 12 Peer Mediator

Congratulations

Congratuatuons to Miss Nottage, Mr Redwood and Mr Kinal who took part in the London Bikeathon for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.

They cycled 52 miles to raise awareness and money for this great charity.

Ms Sayed



Prefect Support for Year 7 Tutor Groups



As a Year 11 prefect I believe that supporting Year 7 Form groups in tutor time each week has been very productive. We have been able to guide the new students of St Michael's to be more mature and independent as learners by organising spelling tests, book reviews and quizzes for them.

By spending time with Year 7 in registration we have also been able to answer any questions or queries they might have about their first term at St Michael's and help them settle in. I believe that prefects supporting Year 7 students in registration is very beneficial as it means that Year 7 can get to know older students who they will hopefully aspire to be like in the future!

Alexander Mendoza Year 11 Prefect

The Student Academic Board, What is it? How Does it work? Who does it involve?

The Student Academic Board is where student leaders from the 6th form and Year 11 prefects panel other pupils who may need extra assistance to improve their grades. The idea was first trialled by prefects with Year 7 in the summer term and this term the board has panelled students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11. The student leaders and prefects have been thoroughly trained in how to make the interviews effective and work in teams of 3 to interview students, help set them targets and give them advice about how they can make more progress academically.

The feedback from the students who have attended board meetings so far is that the students found their interview helpful and saw this meeting as an opportunity to get ideas and advice about how to improve their grades in the future. The Student Academic Board have now fed back about their work to the Principal and Governors and due to the success they have had so far they plan to continue to support students with their academic progress next term.



Jessie Attram Year 12 Student Academic Board

Multicultural Menu St Michael's Catholic College

Caribbean Lamb Curry
Piri Piri Chicken
South African Chick Pea and Sweet Potato Fritter

Jollaf Rice

Fresh Vegetable Medley

Pineapple Upside Down Cake
Fresh Fruit Platter
Mango and Pineapple Smoothie



Student Focus Group- Come and get involved and tell us what you think!

The Focus Group is made up of 7 students in Year 10; Michael Rokosu 10I, Kevin Bonsu 10A, Rachel Atampugre 10A, Deborah Maforikan 10A, Yasmine Sylla 10A, Danielle Ubuane 10O, and myself Karlon Bonsu, 10V who volunteered for this role. The motivation of the Focus Group, is to give students at St Michael's a chance to say what they think about things in the college and how they feel any problems should be solved in order to make the college a better and safer environment.

Since we formed the Focus Group we have introduced a student surgery, where every 3rd Friday of the month, students are able to come and talk to us at break time about any issues they would like to raise. We have also worked with the college caterers to organise half termly themed multi-cultural menus made up from a variety of different foods around the world giving students a chance to try foods that they may have never tried before.

This term we have carried out surveys to find out what students think about their learning and teachers' marking and what kind of feedback they prefer to get from teachers and we have delivered assemblies to all year groups. So if you have any ideas or suggestions don't hesitate to contact one of the Focus Group members and we will be sure to help.

Karlon Bonsu 10V

Sports Round Up

Year 7-8 Girls Football

On Thursday the 14th of November we (Year 7-8 Girls) played our first set of 5 a-side Football games at Bacon's College. In the first game everyone was linking up their passes from the get go. We won our first match against Charter 2-0, with beautiful goals coming from Linda Martins (Year 7) and Benedicta Oparinde (Year 8). The second match against Bacon's was a 0-0 draw. Although our St Michael's team was fit and ready to face Globe in the third game, they came late so we called it a draw 0-0. Considering it was our first set of games, everyone played incredibly well. Players voted Nneoma Anokam player of the matches. Thanks to the Team— Jharylin Quiceno-Cardona, Lufadejo Bisola, Elsa Paja, Eta Rose Agbaw, Chloe Crawford, Maya Gisonno, Cameron Mark, Esther Adeyemo, Maria Famotibe and Hannah Vallance. Great start girls!

Nneoma Anokam. Year 7

South London District Football

Gabriel Kabia in Year 9 was selected to represent South London District Football in our game against Maidstone on Saturday. Gabriel played fantastically well in the centre back position and was influential in helping us secure a 2-8 win. Gabriel will be representing South London again in January in the South East England quarter finals. Well done Gabriel and good Luck for January.

Mr Heasman

Badminton



On Friday 22nd November Year 8 took part in St Michael's Annual Badminton Competition following week's of lessons and training. As always, the tournament was a fantastic spectacle with pupils attending from all form groups. All played fantastically well, but it was Oscar Chukwumah and Zion Darko who finished top of groups A and B, with Andrew Alabi and Samie John (8S) finishing second of the respective groups.

The semi-finals resulted in some very memorable matches. The first Semi-final between Zion and Samie had a number of lengthy rallies and flamboyant returns. In the end, it was Samie who took the win 5-11. The other semi-final was a more closely contested affair with last year's semi-finalist (Andrew) matching up against last year's champion (Oscar). Oscar's variety of shots appeared to have Andrew on the back foot for most of the game, however Andrew's clever use of shot placement proved to be the deciding factor in the tie. Andrew took the win 11-10 and secured his place in the final to play

Samie. The final was fantastic. Andrew's great use of shot placement was again causing his opponent difficulties. However, it was Samie's forehand smash that seemed to be the most influential factor in the final and allowed him to narrowly claim the victory, 15-14 and title of the 2013-2014 Year 8 Badminton Champion.

Mr Heasman

Chaplain's Christmas Corner

On the Eve of Tuesday 10th December, the community of St. Michaels College gathered together to reflect and to take some time out before Christmas.

The doors opened just before 6pm to the sound of the band playing reflective Christmassy songs to set the tone.

As the evening went on, the students led a variety of Carols, readings and reflections that inspired us all. These included a reflection on "The Carol of the Drum", Christmas readings by Senior pupils and "Oh Holy Night" led by the Year 7 Gospel Choir. The students read, played and sang beautifully and even played roles in welcoming parents and friends at the door.

Once we had all reflected we were invited to enjoy refreshments in the dining room where, once again, Christmas music was playing and everyone enjoyed meeting new friends and chatting to old.

Due to your generosity we raised a total of **£158** for our chosen charity, which is Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. Many thanks to those of you who contributed to this total, to those of you who attended and those of you who participated in it, but also thanks to those who were thinking of us and joined us in spirit. All of your support is very much appreciated.

Miss Gammon - College Chaplain



KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 20 Dec - Last day of Term
- 6-7 Jan - Inset Days
- 8 Jan - Students return
- 8 Jan - Yr 11 Mock Results Evening
- 20 Jan - Yr 9 Celebration Evening
- 20-24 Jan - MFL Speaking Exams

Direct parents access to college via email

contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk

Absence Text: please respond by text or phone on

0207 237 6432 EXTN. 730

Calling all Parents!

We have an e - suggestion box on our website where you can post any helpful suggestions that you have or any feedback on our policies or procedures to help us to improve. We would be grateful for any constructive suggestions that you give. The e – suggestion box can be found in the 'Contact us' section of the College website.

suggestion@stmichaelscollege.org.uk Follow link to view: <http://www.stmichaelscollege.org.uk/contact-us>