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THE LINK

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

Issue 81 - 17th January 2013

Poetry by Heart

Congratulations to Victoria Nwasei who will be going to the county finals of Poetry By Heart on January 20th. Poetry by heart is a national Poetry competition established last year by ex poet laureate Sir Andrew Motion. All the competitors need to recite two poems from memory – one pre 1914 poem and one more recent. St Michael's College held its final in the week before Christmas and competition between Year 12 and Year 10 Drama Students was very fierce. In the end, the tough panel of judges had to choose the winner and now Victoria will be reciting her two poems in the county competition against finalists from other schools and colleges in the south London area. We wish her the best of luck!

Ms Sayed



Question Time

On Thursday 9th January 2014 ten History A Level students accompanied by Ms Benson and Mr Ballard had the privilege to travel to Goldsmith's College in New Cross to be in the Audience for the BBC's Question Time hosted by David Dimbleby. The panel consisted of Norman Baker, Chuka Umunna, Nadine Dorries, Paul Nuttall and the Fleet Street journalist, Susie Boniface.

On arrival, there was a demonstration in full swing regarding the closure of the A&E ward at Lewisham Hospital and we had to shove and push to get into the building with many leaflets, pamphlets and petitions being foisted upon us. There was lots of chanting 'Who's NHS? Our NHS!'

Once inside, we were each given cards to write two questions in relation to what was going on in the news that week. We gave these to the Producer who then chose the best questions to be asked by audience members. We then moved into the recording studio and with anticipation we waited for the panellists and host to take their seats so the show could begin. Before the show panellists arrived, there was a warm up and our very own Michelle Nwaesei got to sit in the panellists chairs. During the live debate, Michelle also got to ask a question about the Mark Duggan case and if it was ever right to shoot someone who has been unarmed?

The debates were lively and we learnt a lot.

Overall, it was a great experience and we learnt a significant amount about what other people think about the issues raised. Plus we had all appeared on TV. I would definitely go again.

Antonia Krupa



Numeracy

At the very start of the Spring term, the whole of Year 7 spent a Maths lesson learning about one of the ways in which Maths and Music are linked. Pupils had to create a rhythm by adding fractions together. These fractions represented fractions of a beat and were then turned into musical notation. These rhythms were then used by the pupils in their music lessons as pupils played and recorded the rhythms they had created. Maths teachers reported that pupils really enjoyed the lesson!

Mr W Irvine

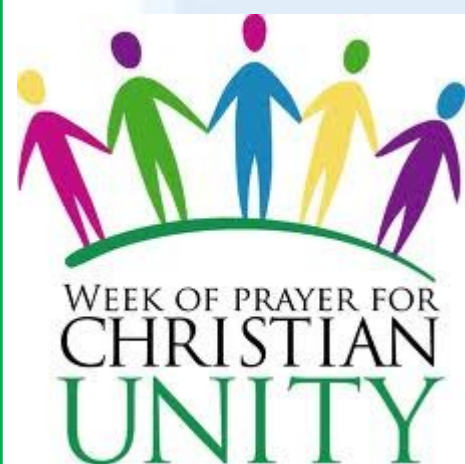
Literacy

The whole of Year 10 are currently embroiled in a form time reading challenge that encourages them to explore the modern gothic genre. Before Christmas pupils were given a choice between three bestselling novels and now have until February half term to complete reading their given novel. In form time there will be a range of activities based on their reading and a chance to discuss evolving themes in the text with their classmates. At the end of the challenge, pupils will have a chance to watch the film version of their novel. This will give them the opportunity to consider how fiction is altered in different forms - from novel to film script - as well as being a positive experience that encourages literary involvement.

Miss A Ballard

Chaplain's Corner

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January - the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul. This year, as a college we have marked this week by having special assemblies running each morning which highlight some of the key Christian Denominations and what they stand for. The assembly also focuses on some video clips which show what can happen when Christians do not unite. We think of Northern Ireland in particular and the

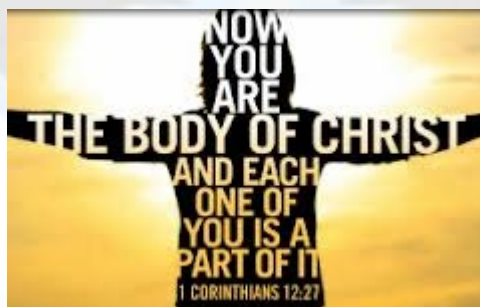


Catholic/Protestant divide and encourage students to reflect on what it would feel like to live in that kind of situation.

We have also used Christian Unity as the focus of our morning prayer in tutor groups, where we have challenged the students to think about their God given gifts and how they use them to promote unity.

We encourage you to join us in prayer that Christians all over the world will one day live in perfect harmony as Christ intended.

Merciful God, as you have made us a chosen race,
a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
so draw us together,
strengthening us to do your will.
Unite us in your name.
This we pray through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.



KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 27-31 Jan - MFL Speaking Exams
- 10 Feb - Yr 10 parents Evening
- 15-21 Feb - China Trip
- 16-21 Feb - New York Trip
- 17-21 Feb - Half Term
- 5-7 Mar - Yr 10 Geography Field Trip
- 10-14 Mar - Yr 12-13 Mock Exams
- 10-14 Mar - MFL Speaking Exams
- 18 Mar - Yr 8 Parent's Evening
- 31 Mar-1 Apr - Yr 7-11 Exams
- 2 Apr - Yr 10 Celebration Evening
- 7-21 Apr - Easter Holidays

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>