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# THE LINK

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

*Issue 83 - 26th February 2013*



## A Day in the life: as a journalist

Joining the BBC school news report team has given St Michael's students a multitude of interesting opportunities. The latest of these saw Shammai Dawit, Francis Aigbe, Merci Frimpong, Holly Lancaster and myself, Derek Obaseki, trotting along to the BBC Broadcasting house in order to interview the renowned journalist Jeremy Paxman regarding his new documentary on WW1.

Having followed the sacred rules of all journalists and done our research, we were all nervous about meeting Mr Paxman, as he is well known for an aggressive journalistic style that can leave grown politicians trembling at the knees - but we tried not to dwell too much on

that, instead enjoying the hustle and bustle of BBC Broadcasting house as soon as we arrived. Once we were in the building the wonderful members of the BBC who were to be our guides greeted us. The building itself was exciting, with several reminders of where we were staring at us on significant billboards: giant replica daleks and various posters for 'The One Show' adorned the space. As we strolled past the commotion of the workers (pacing down hallways to meet a deadline) our guides took us to a quieter and calmer part of the building so they could brief us on the interview and go through our questions. It was from here that we filmed the first and final segments of the interview piece and learnt about a plethora of journalistic tricks such as how to use mics effectively and the crucial nature of editing.



Yet we couldn't put it off for long – it was time to shoot the actual interview with Mr Paxman. He is known for his abrupt style of journalism and he certainly didn't hold back on us despite our age! Yet he did try to put us at ease when he first arrived, and helped us to reformulate questions throughout the interview. When politics came to the forefront of a question he became quite challenging which encouraged us to hold our own and think about intelligent responses; a learning curve for us all. It was particularly eye opening to hear about the war from his perspective and we felt that it was like a huge history lesson, prompting us all to consider the war in new ways. It was an amazing day and a great opportunity because



we were then taken on a tour of “the largest news studio in Europe” in which we saw a few familiar faces like former blue peter presenter Andy Akinwolere and pop star Angel (who gave us a wave!). Now as I watch back on the footage of the interview I laugh at how nervous I was but none of us betray our nerves and I'm amazed at how the professionals have seamlessly stitched our report together. I think we left the experience having learnt so much about ourselves, journalism as a craft and professionalism in the work place. We held our own with Jeremy Paxman and lived to tell the tale – a fantastic introduction into an industry that is becoming more important by the day.

*Derek Obaseki 9S*





### Numeracy

The new Numeracy noticeboard has been launched! This will feature puzzles and problems for pupils to get their teeth stuck into! For example: How many seconds are there in a week? Can you run 1000 metres in 1 minute?

The board will also feature numeracy competitions with the opportunity for pupils to develop and use their numeracy problem solving skills with prizes to be won. Yoan Leussa (8S) was looking forward to the competition and said "I think it's interesting that pupils will get to develop their maths ability and have fun at the same time".

*Mr Irvine*

### South London district Football

Gabriel Kabia (9A) recently represented our College and South London District Football in the quarter final of the South East England Cup against North Kent. The game was truly a game of two halves in more ways than one. The first half saw South London come in at half time 1-3 down following hail stones and thunder. In the second half, the sun came out along with a few tactical changes. The team managed to get the score back to 3-3. South London was in the ascendancy, but North Kent managed to score against the run of play to make it 3-4. With ten minutes to go, South London stuck to the now enforced counter attacking game play, and managed to score two late goals to claim the win and their place in the semi-finals of the competition. Gabriel's contribution in the centre back position was key in this achievement. Well Done Gabriel.

*Mr Heasman*

### 6th Form News

At St Michael's Sixth Form we have a 'Scholars Scheme' for gifted and talented students whereby students are supported in securing places at Russell Group universities and internships with high profile companies in fields/careers in which they have an interest. Each student on the scheme has an e-mentor and is given advice on academic and career paths as well as practical help with applications and CVs. As part of the scheme students can apply for highly competitive internships that provide opportunities for them to experience the world of work in prestigious companies. These internships can be paid or unpaid and vary in terms of length and activity. To be considered for a place students have to provide high quality letters of application, CVs and personal statements evidencing their suitability. All internships are sought after with many more applications than placements available. Therefore we are delighted that Tina Wetshi and Michelle Nwaesei have secured internships at Morgan Stanley and Herbert Smith - Law respectively.

*Mrs Smith*

### Updating Your Contact Details

If you move house or change your landline or mobile telephone numbers then please do let the office know. It is important that we can contact you in an emergency and that you can receive correspondence from college.

*College Office*



### Chaplain's Corner

This week we have had some volunteers from CAFOD visiting our assemblies encouraging us to "Dig Deep" for Lent and to sign a petition for their "Hungry for change" campaign, which will be sent to

the Prime Minister. CAFOD highlighted the fact that 1 in 8 people go hungry daily and this is NOT due to a food shortage but to an unfair distribution of the world's resources. The response in tutor groups was overwhelming with the majority of students agreeing to sign the letter. One volunteer used an old Ethiopian proverb which states "When spiders unite they can tie up a lion". At St Michael's College we are uniting to challenge injustice. Feel free to join us and show your support <http://www.cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Take-action-today/Hungry-for-change>



### KEY DATES FOR YOUR

#### DIARY

- 15-20 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
- 17-21 Mar - Science Week
- 18 Mar - Yr 8 Parent's Evening
- 28 Mar-4 Apr - Yr 11 Mock exams
- 31 Mar-4 Apr - Yr 7-10 Exams
- 2 Apr - Yr 10 Celebration Evening
- 7-21 Apr - Easter Holidays

#### Direct parents access to

college via email

[contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk](mailto: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>