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# THE LINK

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

*Issue 86 - 4th June 2014*

## St Michael's College Science and Engineering Week Special Edition

St. Michael's National Science and Engineering Week was from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2014 and it held a range of interesting and innovative experiments.



For example, on the Monday a big demo was displayed of a helium shark that could move by directing the air that flew through it with a fin at the back. It was extremely entertaining watching the teachers trying to control the floating balloon as it swam over the lunch hall, and almost collided with the staff themselves.

On Tuesday we could participate in creating fiery bubbles. We would collect a mass of bubbles and whilst in our hands light them on fire. It was exciting and a lot of fun

to watch the reactions of others as they "caught" fire in their hands.

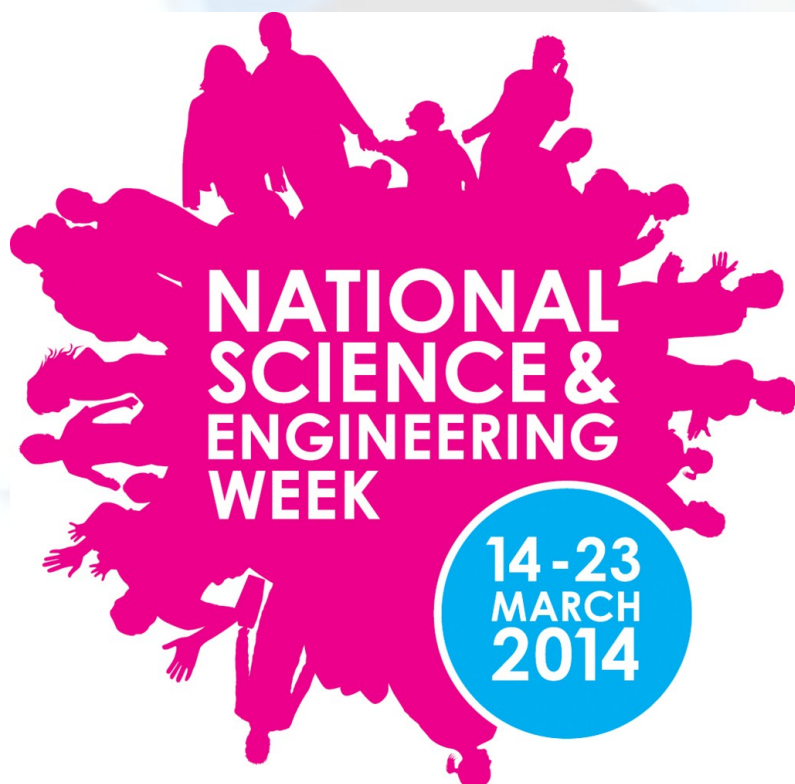
On Wednesday there was an experiment called "Pavlov's Dog". Year 10 and 11 were asked a range of questions and every time they got one wrong they received a mild electric shock!. The question is, did it improve their learning? On Thursday the staff used dry ice to produce excessive amounts of fog that was so thick you could cut through it with a knife. Also on Thursday we had the chance to make slime by using borax, water and glue. It was extremely addictive to play

with the slime once it was created and many people had fun sculpting the slime into different shapes and sizes.

Finally, on Friday, Year 7 created and displayed science models, experiments and presentations to others. There were all sorts of stands from water pressure to space and there was even a stand which could test the human capacity for spice. It was hilarious to watch some of the staff's reactions as they tried to consume different types of spices.

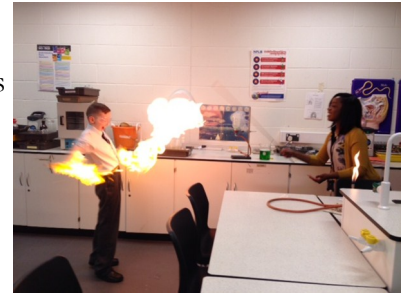
Overall, Science Week was a spectacular event which I and many other students enjoyed and I think it is fair to say that many of us are looking forward to next year's National Science Week.

*Jed Young 9S*



**Break time activities**

Throughout the week, various lunchtime activities took place, including Swimming the Helium Shark across the dining hall, making Slime, and Fire Bubbles!



**Primary School Visits**

Year 5's from local primary schools joined in science week, visiting St Michael's to take part in a special science week lesson on the Chemistry of Colour! Pupils were wowed by the Rainbow Tube Demo, and had the opportunity to make and test their own chemical indicators using red cabbage. St Michael's Sixth Form Scientists assisted the Year 5's with their experiments, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



**Science Week Competition Winners**

During Science Week, KS3 pupils competed to win the Science week Expo Competition. To enter, pupils had to come up with an interesting science project or demonstration, and



**Runner Up  
£10**

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£10**

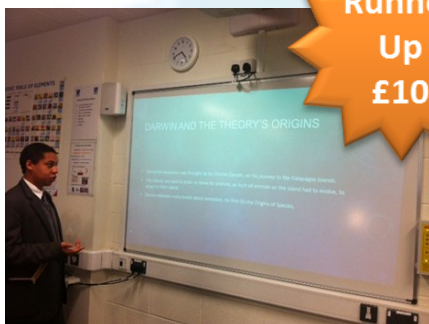
**Runner Up  
£10**

then showcase their work at the Science Fair at the end of the week. The variety of entries received was excellent (from dry ice bubbles to model robots to presentations about the Big Bang), and it was a difficult decision for the judges to make.

The winners received a prize, and certificates will be awarded for the other Highly Commended Entries. The Runners up were: Jed Young 9S: Darwinian Evolution, Bruno Batista-Grou 9S: The Big Bang Theory and the Origins of the Universe, Sara Oluwole 9S: the Solar Cooker, Devonte Sackitey 7BA: Micro-Organisms and the overall winner was Jessica Ghandour 8S: Frothy Volcanoes.

**1st Prize  
£30**

**Runner Up  
£10**





### Science Residential Masterclass

Over the holidays, I had the opportunity to go to a Science Residential Masterclass in Pembroke College at The University of Cambridge. I was randomly selected to go out of 13 triple science students. Even though I did not know any one else who would be there, I couldn't turn down this amazing opportunity!

The three days staying on site at Pembroke College were event packed days. Each day we experienced a different science. For example we walked to the Cavendish Laboratories to do some physics experiments, a treasure trail around Cambridge which included real life complex physics equations and a few lectures - one being a very interesting one about the history of teenagers and how our brains evolve through the years and another - an evening with Galileo, a hysterical lecture where an actor dressed up as Galileo and gave a summary of his life accomplishments. Also, we got into groups of four to be given several brain teasers, that were really challenging. By Wednesday we had to pick one and present it the most 'elegant way' we possibly could.

Setting aside the science of the Masterclass, on Tuesday we went to a formal dinner in the college dining hall where everyone dressed smartly, and where waiters served you your food. You got a chance to talk to students learning a particular science and lectures, who shared some very useful information about student life, exam management and also, of course, Science!

The only thing that could have improved this Masterclass was if it had lasted longer! It was a fantastic, challenging experience where I met new friends, learned how to apply my scientific knowledge and learnt about teamwork.

*Alex Johnson 10S*



## Is Magic Science, or is Science Magic?

Students from the Year 7 Science Club became masters in the art of trickery, amazing a captive audience with a range of magic tricks. Tricks included, "The Magic Flower shop" (with colour changing carnations), the "Amazing Colour Changing Blue Bottle", the "Disappearing Water trick" (which involved filling one cup with water, mixing them up, and then "pouring" them over an audience members head) and finished with the Finale of "Walking on Eggs".

It's not



It's



## Think Forensic

The Think Forensic day was great for learning about the science and technology behind investigating a crime scene. It included many activities, like getting to use different kinds of techniques to look at your own fingerprint, using a small camera to observe different kinds of hair fibres, and dressing up in forensic scientist outfits to investigate a fake crime scene of your own. I



enjoyed the latter the most because it was fun to see my friends and me dressed up in puffy white suits with hoods, while taking samples of hair from a fake corpse and swabbing a baseball bat covered in fake blood. Overall, it was a good learning experience which showed me some of the more complex aspects of forensic science – like the varying features of fingerprints and how precise an investigation actually has to be.



*Eleni Christofi 10S*

## Building Bridges Project

This year, the 7G science class are taking part in the Building Bridges Project, which aims to raise students' science literacy and engagement with STEM subjects by offering them a range of inspiring and exciting activities. These activities are themed around science communication and use the Science Museum's unique collections to put science in a context that is

relevant to students' lives. Below is a student account of a recent outreach day when staff from the science museum came to deliver a show and workshop for our students.

*Miss O'Leary.*

## Building Bridges Outreach Day

On Friday 7th March, kind people from the Science Museum came to our college to deliver a Science Show: Danger High Voltage! It was all about electricity, complete with detailed

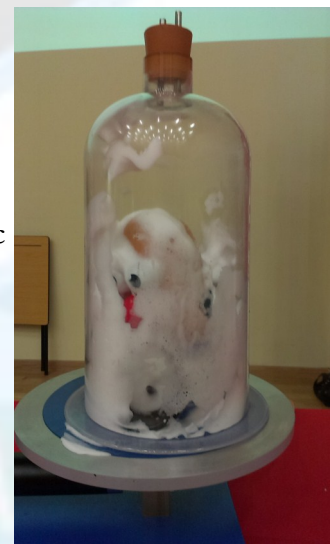
explanations and exciting demonstrations involving volunteers from the audience! The science show lasted from 10 am to 10:40 am and us as the audience had nothing but compliments to hand to the wonderful people who amazed us with the power of science. Happily, they educated us, entertained us and had fun themselves too!

Later on in the afternoon, instead of attending scheduled

lessons, 7G took part in a special workshop to deliver our own presentations about important scientific objects to the rest of the class. During this event, we gave a scientific demonstration and explanation. We learned the importance of certain strategies which we needed in our presentations to make it educating, scientifically accurate and fun for the audience to watch, listen to and take part in.

The class really enjoyed the day and learned a lot from it. When asked what his least favourite part of the day was, Oscar Asewando said, "When it ended... Being part of the science fair and workshop is a great opportunity ...that I really hope we get again."

*Joe Mulligan 7LA*



### Numeracy

A lot has been happening in numeracy since the last update in The Link. The Grand Tour of Algebra (GTA) competition is progressing nicely. At the halfway stage (mission 5) the first three students to have successfully completed missions 1 to 5 were each awarded a £10 Amazon voucher. They are Shadrach Doghor Year 11, Mercy Frimpong Year 10 and Kathleen Phillips Year 9. The next major prize will be awarded to the first person to complete all 10 missions.



At the time of writing this, pupils in Year 7 are engaged in a cross-curricular activity with English. Pupils are often asked to prepare a presentation in English, but often prepare too little or too much material. In Maths, we are doing a few calculations to work out the average amount of time taken for pupils to deliver three bullet points. This will hopefully give them a better idea of how many bullet points they should prepare for their presentations in English – and indeed other subjects across the curriculum!

*Mr Irvine*

### Chaplain's Corner

In this sometimes stressful time for our students, I hope you all had a restful half term break. For all of you in the midst of exam season, here is a short Salesian prayer you might want to use. God Bless x

#### Prayer for Preparation to Study

Lord, I know you are with me and love me.

Give me peace of mind as I prepare for this time of study.

Help me to focus on my books and notes,

keep me from all distractions so that I will make the best use of this time that is available to me.

Give me insight that I might understand what I am studying, and help me to remember it when the time comes.

Above all, I thank you for the ability to be able to study and for the many gifts and talents you have given me.

Help me always to use them in such a way that they honour you and do justice to myself. Amen

**Direct parents access to**

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**0207 237 6432 EXTN. 730**

### KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

12 Jun	- Yr 9 Parents Evening
19 Jun	- Yr 12 UCAS Evening
23-27 Jun	- Whole College Exams
24 Jun	- Last Day of External Exams
26 Jun	- Yr 11 Celebration Evening
27 Jun	- Yr 11 Prom
30 Jun-4 Jul	- Business and Enterprise week
30 Jun- 11 Jul	- Yr 10 Work Experience
1 Jul	- Yr 6 Parents Evening
2 Jul	- Yr 6 Induction Day
7 Jul	- New Yr 12 Parents Evening
7-8 Jul	- New Yr 12 Induction
10 Jul	- Yr 7 Celebration Evening
15 Jul	- Summer Music Concert
17 Jul	- Sports Day
18 Jul	- Last Day of Term

### 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>