

St Michael's Catholic
College

Llewellyn Street
London SE16 4UN

Tel: 020 7237 6432

www.stmichaelscollege.org.uk
contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk

THE LINK

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

Issue 126 December 2016

Maths trip

On the Friday 25th November, Year 12 A-level maths students went to London's Gielgud theatre to see 'The Curious Coincidence of the Maths in the Day Time': a series of lecture shows based on the best-selling book 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time'.

We were entertained by the jokes of presenter Matt Parker and intrigued by the BBC's Hannah Fry's mathematics presentation of mazes. Hannah also calculated how many cars she would most likely pass on her way to work and the probability of her seeing 4 yellows cars in a row, as main character Christopher Boone considers this a bad day in the novel, which as you can imagine was slim to none ('unless of course you live in New York'). The show also featured the incorporation of mathematics within music- demonstrated by Ben Sparks and his not quite up to standard vocals- and the repetition of prime numbers on a keyboard to form the whole theme song of the theatre production.

In the second half of the show, we met the actor who plays Christopher Boone in the theatre production- Thomas Dennis. Although his character loves maths, Dennis told the audience how, to solve the area of a right-angled triangle Christopher's way, he not only memorised the lines, but also sat down and worked out how to do the maths. The lighting and effects people behind the show displayed a vivid and luminous presentation of his calculations on both the floors and walls of the gridded stage. We later found out that stairs also grew out of the floor and there was an invisible trap door within the stage. The day was not only fun, but showed a new way to look at situations that you may think do not even involve maths whether it is trying to get out of a maze, a musical piece or three biological siblings being born on the same day, but in different years.

Brenda Etemewei and Sarah Oluwole - Year 12

Trip to see the Lion King

On Tuesday 13th of December, pupils from Year 9 and 11 went on a trip to see the West End show "The Lion King" to learn about African Accapella singing for the GCSE Music course and general understanding of world class Musical Theatre.

Jack Carr -Year 9 commented on the stunning show: "It was amazing to see giant sized lifelike elephant puppets walk past me in the stalls! The show was really exciting to watch with so many unusual dramatic effects and wonderful music. There were singers and other puppet animals parading through from the back of the auditorium onto the stage. So much work must have gone into creating this amazing show!"

After the performance, Miss Vallade and Mr Laurence took the pupils on a guided tour backstage by Mr. Morgan, a member of the orchestra. We were shown all the technical aspects of the show and how it all works. Keturah Evans commented on this "We were shown all the props and puppets, which was fascinating!"

Kirsten Braga Yr. 9 commented on the wonderful singing "The songs were sung in such a beautiful and authentic way. It was such a privilege to hear amazing African songs sung in a professional performance setting and I loved the experience"



Sky Sports – Living For Sport Programme

On Friday 28th November eleven students from Years 8 and 9 took part in the Sky Sports – Living For Sport Programme where they had a visit from Paralympic Swimmer Kate Grey and 400m Indoor Champion Michelle Owusu and undertook a variety of exciting team activities. Students were able to engage in question and answer sessions with the athletes as well as playing a range of practical games which focused on the six keys to success: mental toughness, hunger to achieve, people skills, sports and life knowledge, breaking barriers and planning for success.

It was fantastic to see so many of the students interacting enthusiastically with students from other years and showing excellent communication skills to help them

achieve success in their tasks. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and many of them were still talking about it after school at Rock Climbing!

Miss Knopp - PE

Chaplain's Corner

Parents, staff and students might like to say some of the flowing prayers during this Holy Season of Advent as we get closer to celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ Our Lord and Saviour. May you and your family have a Happy and Holy Christmas and find time for the Christ child in your hearts this Christmas and every day.

Some Christmas Prayers

1. Faith – Father God it is by Your Grace we have been saved, and through our faith – this is not from ourselves, but a gift – not by our works, Ephesians 2:8-9
2. Hope – May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in Hope. Romans 15:4
3. Love – Help us to love because You first loved us. 1 John 4:19
4. Forgiveness – thank you for being faithful and just in forgiving us our sins and thus purifying us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:19
5. Mercy – Let us be merciful, just as our Father is merciful. Luke 6:36
6. Kindness – Let us be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as through Jesus, you forgave us. Ephesians 4:32
7. Generosity – Let us be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, and to give the glory and thanks to you Lord. 2 Corinthians 9:11
8. Compassion – Let us live in harmony with one another, be sympathetic and compassionate, love as brothers, and be humble. 1 Peter 3:8
9. Joy – Let us be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12
10. Salvation – thank you for providing Jesus who is the way, the truth, the life and the only way to You. John 14:6
11. Obedience – Help us to not merely listen to Your Word, and so deceive ourselves. Help us do what it says. James 1:22-25
12. Life – Thank you for coming that we may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10

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.

Onside Promotional Event at The Guildhall

Last Thursday saw an evening for Onside at The Guildhall, promoting the charity and its work to members of the business community. Onside is a charity organisation established in 2008 by Bill Holroyd. Their main goal is to help create youth zones all over the UK: a youth zone is a state of the art youth centre which can cost 6 million to initiate, plan and build. Open 365 days a year their motto is: Somewhere to go, something to do, someone to talk to. Onside provide young people with a chance for change. I have been involved since I was in Year 9. Helping with promotional events and running outreach I've gained a lot more confidence; and I've done things I never would have thought possible as a result. I pitched a new logo I had created with



SEA design for Croydon's youth zone; I'm regularly on stage promoting; and I've met and talked with important people, such as ex-mayor Boris Johnson (we have meetings every Wednesday in City Hall in which we discuss our progress). I also enjoyed meeting Sir Clive Woodward, who presented the event on the 18th November. Youth workers from across the country were involved in organising and presenting alongside Sir Clive and other speakers.

I was host. The evening raised money for the charity organisation and we spoke to millionaires and council members and explained to them what we do in London, as well as showing them how youth zones have impacted young people's lives.

Alex Smith - Slatton - Year 12

Antibullying Prize Poem

We had some brilliant entries to the Antibullying Poem Competition but Krystian's excellent poem won first prize.



The Person...

The person you called four-eyes,
The person you laughed at while they cried.
The person that you called four-eyes,
Is now smashing their glasses at home.

The person you called fat,
Who you insulted whilst they hid.
The person you called fat,
Isn't eating their food today.

The person you stole money from,
Who you relentlessly chased whilst they ran.
The person you stole money from,
Couldn't come to school today.

The person you sent a racist e-mail to,
Who you wouldn't stop bothering.
The person you sent a racist e-mail to,
Is now trying to change themselves.

The person YOU kicked and punched,
Who you beat bloody.
The person YOU insulted today,
Who you wouldn't leave alone.

The person, who YOU have bullied for years,
Couldn't come home today.

Oxford University Interviews for two Students

Having successfully navigated the Law National Admissions Test (LNAT), one of our students, Thomas Mulligan was invited up to St. Edmund Hall, Oxford for interview last week.



Emily Byrne, with a strong application and History Aptitude Test, (HAT) behind her, also attended interview at Hertford College, Oxford. Both students had been impressive in intense pre-interviewing sessions at St Michael's.

Tom also visited DLA Piper in their offices in the Guildhall to speak with one of their partners, Mr Leon Taylor, about developments in the law; and to look through Tom's personal statement. Mr Taylor was impressed.

We wish both Tom and Emily well in their applications and I am sure their hard work will take them far.

Mr Smith - Assistant Principal - Head of Sixth Form



New Build

Construction is well underway on the New Build which will help to house the higher number of students that we will be admitting in the next academic year. - September 2017.

We will keep current and future parents and students updated as work progresses.



Dates for the Diary

The last day of term is 21st December and students will be dismissed at 2.30pm. The Spring Term begins on 3rd January 2017 which is an INSET day and so students will start back on 4th January 2017 at 8.50am prompt. There is another INSET day on 9th January.

Direct parents access to college via email

contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk

For absence please phone:
0207 237 6432 EXTN. 730



Scholarships and Top offers for our Sixth Form students

Ryan Pitaluga has been offered a full scholarship to study Biochemistry at Imperial College, London, the world's foremost science research facility. Ryan is currently on track to meet the required AAA in Biology, Chemistry and Maths. If Ryan is successful in the summer, he will join last year's highest achieving student, Daniel Mota, who achieved A*AAAB and went on to study Biological Sciences at Imperial.



Jake Fernandes, with five grade A's at AS level, and last year's top performing Year 12 student, has also applied to Imperial for Computer Science and is currently awaiting an offer. A true renaissance scholar, Jake will aim for five grade As (or A*s) again at A level this year – alongside his entries in Maths, Further Maths, Spanish and Italian, he is also entering a British Economic History essay for EPQ.

The very best of luck to both Ryan and to Jake and our warmest congratulations on their achievements thus far!



Sixth Form Football

Yesterday the sixth form Football team played their first game of the season against City of London Academy (COLA). The game was played in fantastic spirit. St Michael's took an early lead through Daniel Ewing from an excellently played ball from Seun Laja. At the start of the second half, COLA made it 1-1. However, Ikenna Okechukwu made it 1-2 to St Michael's midway through the second half via a superbly struck free kick on the edge of the eighteen-yard box. The game finished 1-2 to St Michael's. The players voted Gabriel Kabia player of the match due to his fantastic leadership skills and performance in the sweeper position. The sixth former's next match will be against Arch Bishop Tenison's Secondary School in January 2017. Well done to all.

Mr Heasman -Head of PE

Kings Scholars



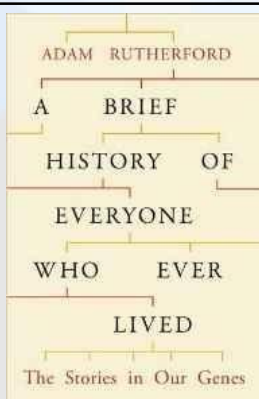
The second year of our partnership with King's College London has begun brilliantly. This is a three year partnership with St Michael's working alongside this prestigious Russell Group University to support our students in aiming, from the very start of their secondary careers, to attend the best universities in the country.

In November, 24 Year 8 students went to Kings College Strand Campus for a day. They had the opportunity to design a University, thinking about the style of architecture of the buildings to the research specialism they would have. In addition to this they were taught key study skills and had to utilise these in their groups as they designed their University.

In December Joe Collin from Kings came into College to speak to the parents and students from our Year 7 who have been selected to be part of the programme. The evening was a great success and all the students will be visiting the University for a day in January., while the Year 8 students will undertake the second phase of their King's Scholars in school experience.

Biology Trip

On Thursday 1st December, a keen set of aspiring biologists attended an academic talk led by Dr Adam Rutherford discussing his new book on the history of genetic evolution. The talk consisted of Dr Rutherford explaining how scientists managed to confirm the 'car park corpse' that was recently excavated in Leicester to be that of King Richard III. Dr Rutherford explained how they managed to achieve this with the stories and legends concerning King Richard III and evaluations of certain of



individuals which were confirmed to be descendants of his family.

The talk then described how scientists have been able to establish that some famous people in 2016 are descendants of royalty such Richard Branson being related to Charlemagne, (Charles the Great) king of the Franks and Christian emperor of the West; and Danny Dyer being related to William the Conqueror. It was also said that in 800 AD there was a person whose genetics involved all ethnicities meaning that everyone in the world is related to that person.



Overall the talk was inspiring because Dr Rutherford was able to enlighten us in the fact that even though we all come from different families and countries, different faiths and cultures we are all related and the proof is in our in genes!

By Diego Casa and Mercy Frimpong

Goodbyes Sadly we have to say goodbye to some of our brilliant staff. Mr Heasman who is going into the world of commerce, Miss Higgs the singing teacher who is leaving for personal reasons, Miss O'Flaherty who is relocating to Brazil and Mr Buckley the Vice Principal who, after being at the College for more than 20 years has resigned also for personal reasons. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work and to wish them the very best for the future. Needless to say they are irreplaceable.



Wishing you a merry Christmas and a happy new year from the Science Department with our Chemical Christmas Tree.





12th December 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

We are nearing the end of a very busy Autumn term and the students and staff have all worked very hard, not only academically, but also for 'The Common Good'. Throughout the term many enrichment opportunities have taken place which have been highlighted in the 'Link' while time has been spent helping those less fortunate than ourselves. Indeed Students and families have been generous with their time and resources.

Advent

We are pleased that many of our students and staff have attended the Advent services and Mass every Friday morning while our special CJM day which was music based enabled all of Year 8 to celebrate and be messengers of joy and hope. Students and their families also enjoyed the Catholic Music Concert on Thursday 15th December where many from our Orchestra played creating a very festive atmosphere, while members of our School Choir sang beautifully.

We will be holding our **Whole School Advent Service on Wednesday 21st December** followed by an early dismissal at 2.30pm. At this service, and throughout the day gifts and money will be donated so that food hampers can be delivered for the homeless.

"The most important thing is what God does for us: he takes us by the hand and helps us go forward. And this is called hope! And with this hope, with this trust, it is possible to walk day by day. And with this steadfast love, which accompanies us, hope never lets us down, truly!"

May the peace and joy of Christmas make your celebrations with family and friends a happy time in the knowledge that with Jesus' birth came hope.

Mrs Grabowski
Principal