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THE LINK

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

Issue 130 March 2017

Science Week at St Michael's



During Science Week St Michael's students had the opportunity to try lots of interesting Science activities and hear some inspirational speakers. Some of the subjects covered during the week were: Science you can do at home, Para Medicine - experiments Roadshow, Skittles and smarties chromatography, Rockets, Brain Science, Giant Hearts, Home made lava lamps and making prosthetic fingers. Students also had the chance to investigate crumple zones - a competition to see who could cushion an egg the best for the collision to happen over a longer time and decrease the force on the egg.

Building Bridges - students built bridges which were then weight tested. The winning trio consisted of Zachary Krupa 8DO, Jake Loftus 9DO and Alfie O'Riordan. Their bridge was able to take a weight of 7.5kg.

One of the inspirational speakers was Dr Jennifer Castle - who has a PhD in Neuroendocrinology from the University of Bristol, and amongst other topics has researched jetlag in race horses and the control of reproduction of sheep. Alongside her research, Jenny has taught science and was the Bristol co-ordinator for Pint of Science International Festival, which arranges opportunities for Academics to present their research to the public in pubs and restaurants. Jenny now combines work as a science writer and a maths and science tutor, whilst developing her technology start-up.

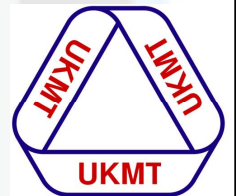


Another speaker was Kevin Robertshaw who is a Signalling Programme Director for Network Rail and was also Head of Engineering within Network Rail. Kevin talked to a variety of students from Year 7 to Year 13! He gave lots of information about the rail industry, routes into different jobs within the sector and provided insight into jobs some of the students might not have considered.



UKMT Maths Challenge

On Tuesday 14th March Matthew Smith, Lionel Okyere, Rodrigo Perez and Daniel Nguyen attended the UKMT team maths challenge at Pimlico Academy. They all worked extremely hard throughout the day and were up against some extremely strong competition. Although they did not do as well as they wanted, they kept going until the end and managed to keep their spirits up and enjoy the day despite not winning. Well done to the boys.



Year 9 Brilliant Scholars trip to SOAS University

Selected students from Year 9 are embarking on a STEM project with a PHD tutor for the next half term. They will have tutorials in a university style, will be set independent work and will complete a 2000 word assignment. They have just had their launch trip at one of the UK's top 30 universities. Here is a recap of the trip by Lashae Julius.

On Monday the 6th of March, the St Michael's Brilliant Club went to SOAS University (School of Oriental and African Studies). Whilst there, we had our first tutorial with our tutor - Fiona Kenny - and we began our study of tissue engineering. We then went on a tour of the university, which was very impressive: there were many floors and the library was humongous. We had a session from a third year student about her degree in International



Relations and later we got to ask other students of the university questions about what university life is like and how to prepare for our future. It was a great experience!

King's Scholar's Tea Party

Parents of King's scholars in both Year 7 and Year 8 have been invited to a tea party at Kings on either Monday 24th April or Tuesday 25th April at the Strand Campus. Letters have gone home with the students and if parents wish to attend they should either complete the form online:

<http://bit.ly/2nK3o3h>

or contact King's college by phone on 0207 848 4989

Languages Challenge

This term Year 7 pupils had the chance to participate in the Languages Challenge, an exciting competition run by SOAS University. The Challenge involves working in a team of up to 5 students to complete various creative tasks and explore foreign languages. Year 7 teams have been working hard to complete five tasks, from science experiments to holiday tour guides to recording film clips, in a variety of formats (video, photo stories, audio recordings etc.) and all in a foreign language!

The MFL department will soon submit the work of each team which will be judged by the university. The teams with the best entries will be invited to an awards ceremony in central London in the summer term. For the pupils involved this has been a chance to explore new languages and cultures (the tasks can be completed in any language) and understand how languages are used in the wider world, while building great team-working and creative skills. The pupils have worked extremely hard and have created some excellent work for their Languages Challenge tasks, ranging from cooking videos narrated in Polish for the Bake-Off task, to a video scene about going to the shops in Spanish, to a detailed poster describing a traditional fairy tale in German. We will be crossing our fingers for our pupils to win!

Miss Roberts - MFL Teacher



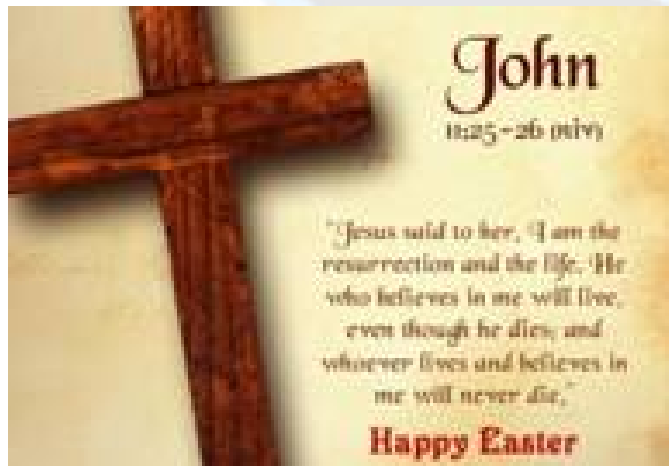
Charity Giving - £126.83 was raised during one lunchtime for CAFOD. Well done to all the students and staff that helped..



Easter Message from Chaplain's Corner

This year we are breaking up two weeks before Easter! Next week Sunday (2nd of April) is Palm Sunday which marks the start of Holy Week. Holy Week is the most important and most solemn week in the Christian calendar and culminates with Easter day.

Easter is an important celebration for Christians. This is the day when Jesus Christ has resurrected. Easter Sunday is one of the most important parts of Christian faith. It promises new hope, new joy and new aspirations. Easter Sunday also marks the end of the Lent season (which starts from Ash Wednesday). During the Lent season, fasting, spiritual discipline and repentance are observed. At the end of this season, there will be a celebration as it's believed that Jesus Christ has risen. May you feel the bright, joyful blessings God has to offer you during this Easter holiday.



Dance at St Michael's

The St. Michael's Dance Troupe are currently working on a dance for the British Red Cross Dance: Make Your Move competition. The students are working very hard every week in preparation for their dress rehearsals and performance on stage at The Greenwood Theatre on Saturday 13th May 2017.



The reason behind the competition is to raise awareness and support the work of the British Red Cross (our dance will be based on their help after natural disasters such as an earthquake) and therefore as part of the competition the students are required to raise money for the British Heart Foundation.

You may have already been asked by some students to sponsor, however if you would like to donate then there are two ways of doing so:

- Sponsoring a student on their sponsorship form

OR - Donating on the just giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/dancemakeyourmove>

Thank you to those of you who have already sponsored and thank you in advance for anyone who would like to donate to the BHF.

Safeguarding - 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.



Contacting the College - Direct parents access to college via email
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