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THE LINK

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

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King's Scholars Spring Up School at King's College

20 of our Year 8 King's Scholars spent four days at the King's College Waterloo campus experiencing a wide range of subjects that are offered at the university such as Medicine, Dentistry, Law, History and Politics, Languages, English literature, Geography and Science as well as continuing to build their King's Scholars skills.

Each day began with an inspirational talk from a range of speakers such as: Maggie Alphonsi C.B.E who was the captain of the England woman's rugby team when they won the World Cup in 2014, Breis, an international rapper and founder of Student Life Hip Hop workshops, and Ryan Wain a former KCL Student union president.

Each day students got to explore two subjects in depth, led by PHD students and academics from King's College.

In Dentistry the topic was: what do teeth tell us about their owners? During this session, students looked at skulls as well as teeth, learnt about tooth decay and about how animals teeth have adapted to their diets. In Medicine, we learned about DNA and the new methods of treating hereditary conditions, considering whether it is ethical to modify genetics. Did you know that humans share 50% of their DNA with bananas? In History and Politics students asked why Donald Trump won the 2016 US Presidential election and in Law, they questioned 'the stop-and-search' rights. In Languages and English they looked at google translate and whether anything is 'Lost in Translation'. Finally in Geography, students were shown how it is possible to identify environmental pressure through ecology.

Two students who, throughout the week, showed the best use of their King's Scholars skills were awarded with a day out for them and their family – so our congratulations go to De Winton Parker and Nicoletta Vargas.

Students will be building on what they learned over those four days by producing an extended essay on one of the topics. Our thanks go to King's College Widening Participation for organizing such an amazing experience for the students!

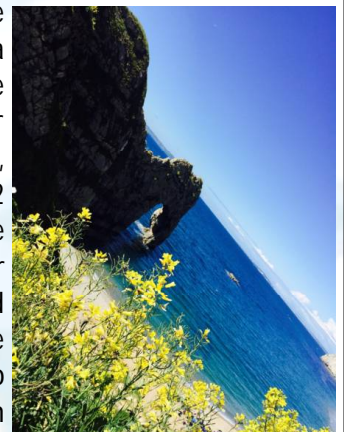


Year 10 Geographers Venture to the Jurassic Coast



"This looks so much better than the pictures" exclaimed Libby Brown as she cast her eyes on the magnificent limestone arch of Durdle Door.

10 GCSE Geographers were fortunate enough to undertake a fieldwork investigation along the beautiful Dorset coastline. Their aim was to investigate how humans and nature affect each other in this popular tourist destination. The trip involved a challenging hike involving beaches, bays, headlands and ridges where students observed a range of coastal features first hand. On day 2 students familiarised themselves with a range of fieldwork techniques and did well to pluck up the courage to ask questions of members of the public. Students had a great chance to practice their photography skills too - it was hard to take a poor photo in Lulworth Cove as we were blessed with beautiful weather (at least on day 2 and 3). Many took the opportunity to dip their toes in the water and some students were already planning their next visit. It was great to see students who were fascinated by the landscapes and I have no doubt this experience will have left its mark on our students. - *Mr Jankowski*, Teacher of Geography



SCIENCE

Talking about the Universe



On our return from the Easter Holidays Dr Catriona Jackman, a female scientist came to our school to give a talk to Year 7 students about outer space and life in our solar system.

Before the assembly began Dr Jackman gave us sheets to fill in about what came to mind when we thought of a scientist, planets and aliens with drawings.

After that, Dr Jackman explained how there was a possibility of life on other planets, particularly Mars or one of Saturn's moons. She asked for volunteers to hold up inflated planets and went through each one clarifying why they couldn't possibly have life on them, some were too cold, too windy, too hot and the list goes on. We also discovered that there was life on Earth because we were neither too far from nor too close to the Sun, our Solar System's star. In addition to this, Dr Jackman showed us a diagram of how many of each planet could fit into the sun or a different planet.

Finally, we were told that there is the potential for living things on other planets, but these living things would be different to humans. There was a picture of biotic bacteria, underground crawlers and bugs. This gave me, and hopefully others, a new insight into what other living things exist. When Dr Jackman had finished telling us about these wonderful things, we were asked to illustrate again what came to mind when asked about certain objects. Our final results had changed from the first because we had been given new information that changed how we viewed it. This allowed us to realise that we need to observe things less narrow-mindedly.

- Rachel Rwehumbiza. 7G -

Trip to the Science Museum

Recently the students of 7G went to the Science Museum. It was really fun! We got to explore and we learned loads. We even met a scientist, called Paula, who explained to us her exciting job of creating artificial tissue. The activities varied from learning about a robotic sleeve that helps the heart to function, to finding objects in one of the galleries. The one thing that they had in common was that we had the best time. I really enjoyed this experience and I am excited to go back.

- Isabelle Monteza - 7G



Glee Day at Kingsdale Foundation School



Mr and Mrs Laurence took pupils from Years 7 and 8 to the Glee Day at Kingsdale Foundation School organised through SSLP, which included 200 pupils from several schools in the Borough of Southwark.

An amazing day was had by all! The choir leader was the Head of Singing from Dulwich College- Mr Ludford Thomas who taught the choir popular songs including ones by Adele and Sam Smith in a very special way. The aim was to learn how to sing in harmony and pupils enjoyed the experience of performing with enthusiastic pupils from other schools at this event which ended in a concert."

Mr. Laurence—Head of Music

Chaplain's Corner



The month of June is traditionally dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

The Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the Friday following the second Sunday after Pentecost. In addition to the liturgical celebration, many devotional exercises are connected with the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Of all devotions, devotion to the Sacred Heart was, and remains, one of the most widespread and popular in the Church. Our Friday Mass on the 23rd of June will be dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Fund Raising for the Red Cross

Excited! Nervous! Proud! Thousands of emotions rushed through my head like a river. It was the morning of the dance competition! The dance troupe had been waiting for this day for months, but the day had finally come. We practiced our dance at school for 30 minutes before leaving for the theatre. Everyone was nervous but we put all of our effort in, even though it was a practice.

Once we arrived, many groups were already there and practicing, and they were all older than us! I felt intimidated, yet confident. We had been practicing for months. We were ready. After arriving, we stretched, rehearsed and our minds were full of irrational thoughts; "what if I fall over?" "what if I forget the routine?".

You know when you shake a bottle of coca-cola? All of the liquid inside fizzes up, but then it explodes! That's what I was like. All these nerves and worries I had bottled up inside of me exploded into something amazing on the stage. We all danced with fluency, control and pride. It felt phenomenal! After the performance, we had to go onto the stage again to receive our awards for raising money and other prizes, and we won a certificate for raising over £800 and for having the most creative performance. We didn't win overall, but that's not the point. We had fun and that's all that mattered. - *By Lauren Stewart*



Fund Raising for XLP at the Merchant Taylor Hall

Our Year 9 Drummers offered an impressive performance at the Merchant Taylor Hall in the City. They had been invited to perform at the XLP charity fund raising event, aimed at securing funding from private donors in order to help under privileged children in London.



The venue was very plush and the CEO of XLP, in front of the packed audience of sponsors, interviewed Dylan after the performance and he spoke from the heart about how XLP had given them the opportunity to challenge people's perceptions of young inner city kids.

A huge congratulations to Dyrel, Ben, Daniel, Clement, Campbell, Roland, Jason, Dylan and Luis: they really performed at their very best and represented the College admirably.

Mr. Laurence—Head of Music

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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