

Duke of Edinburgh Expedition



19 Year 12 students finally completed their Bronze Award Expedition. They all walked for more than 5 hours in the sweltering heat on Saturday and more than 3 hours on the Sunday. One group walked for a little longer after taking a 3 hour detour to avoid the wild horses in their way!

The students who went on the expedition were: Bailey Masson, Billie Wilson, Dominik Pyska, Esme Bolter, Francesca Ramos, Jack Smith, Katharine Duff, Kevin Lopez, Patrick McNeely, Teresa Camacho, Francisca Santos, Edivania Van-Dunem, Jed Young, Ruby Brightwell, Ryan Long, Tonney Vincent, Bryan Amores, Danielle Ogbechie, Katharine Duff.

A huge thank you goes to Miss Knopp, and Mr Smith who gave up their weekends for this trip, Mr Deane and Miss Roberts who gave up their weekends a few weeks ago for the practice and Mr. Gilchrist for his local knowledge. - *Tom Parker*

took part in it.

Caterham, 10-11th June: Over the past weekend, a small number of pupils in Year 12 alongside Mr. Parker, Mr. Dean and Ms Roberts took part in a short camping trip in practice for their up-coming Duke of Edinburgh Expedition. Upon arrival at their destination at Caterham, the students split into two groups that would individually make their way towards the campsite based at Purley John Fisher Rugby Club, whilst taking a predetermined route and completing a number of "objectives" with the additional help of Mr. Gilchrist. The town of Caterham, whilst abundant with hills and slopes to traverse, was a very peaceful and calming location - a welcome stress reliever from the recent exams Year 12 had sat. We assume that Caterham is quite a common location for Duke of Edinburgh expeditions to occur, as along the way students were occasionally asked by local residents about the expedition they were currently conducting and were eager to share past experiences of their own during their years of the D of E programme.



After the tiring six-hour walk, further burdened by the equipment each participant was carrying, we were relieved when we finally



approached the campsite and tried to quickly begin the construction of our tents, which unfortunately took several hours to complete, due to some confusion regarding the components of the tents and their construction. After the task was completed, the students indulged themselves in a couple of games of rounders which both ended in draws, much to the chagrin of the two teams; though the occasional mishaps of small accidents and humorous ball handling provided much entertainment for the group. Tired from the day's activities, students retired to their tents and attempted to cook a meal using Trangias (portable stoves), which suffice to say, resulted in "barely edible" food, which was perhaps to be expected, due to cooking inexperience, especially with camp cookers.... Shortly after, students began to return to their tents to sleep for the night, or until early morning - *Jed Young*

Jazz Big Band Workshop at James Allen Girls School



On Tuesday 20th June I was invited to participate in a Jazz Big Band workshop led by Mr. Armstrong, Musical Director of the National Youth Jazz Orchestra, with a selection of Southwark Students that were grade 6 standard or above at James Allen Girl's School in Dulwich.

Mr. Armstrong showed the group how to approach jazz rhythms and the correct approach to phrasing the music. The day was an incredible journey allowing me to develop an understanding of jazz theory and how to listen out for specific features to improve ensemble skills on my instrument, the alto saxophone.

The NYJO drummer, bass player and pianist sat patiently and played along with the rest of us

when directed and we learnt how playing the blues reflects the logic of blues lyrics and how they are sung in the African tradition. We were also made to understand how human nature likes repetition, and in jazz this is structured carefully to signal where to change to a new section in the music or to end a piece. Most importantly, I understood the importance of having a good grounding in music theory, which is applied more in jazz performing than in other musical styles because it is needed to navigate through solos. We all learnt about "light and shade" in jazz and how to play the jazziest harmony which is the amazing combination of major and minor chords played at the same time. Conversational soloing between instruments was another major topic we explored, awareness of harmonic rhythm and how to approach soloing like a kind of rhythmic drum! Mr. Armstrong told us some wonderful jazz stories, such as the one about Bobby Hackett, a trumpet player in the Glenn Miller Band in the 1940's, whose solos were so famous from the recordings the public had listened to and that he'd made, that he had to play them exactly the same (as on the recordings) at every concert- the opposite of what people normally expect to hear from a jazz musician when they improvise!



Once again, St Michael's and its Music Department has granted me a brilliant opportunity to grow as a musician and to meet more like-minded people. All I can hope for is that I grow into a musician like Mr Armstrong, with his amazing knowledge and skill in jazz.

Oscar Asevando 10KN

The Barbershop Chronicles

The Barbershop Chronicles was a relatable and fun performance that had me thinking deeply about life; but also laughing non stop.



It had just about everything ranging from comedy to serious drama and even politics.

As soon as we entered the theatre you could just feel the buzz and hype. Everything was just perfect. In fact we were even taken on stage as part of the performance where they gave us a free trim.

But all jokes aside, it was a very captivating show that made me think about true relationships as well as culture and all the different types of dialect like Jamaican, British and African.

All in all, it showed the significance and general unity that something as simple as a barbershop can offer to a community.

Simply sensational. - *Michael Ezeb. Year 10*

St Michael's at Lord's

The Year 7 Cricket team qualified for the London School Games Cricket tournament at Lord's on June 23rd after winning their Southwark borough competition at Oval. The Year 7 team were competing against top Cricket schools being drawn in a tough group with Wimbledon College & Chingford High School. Despite this, St Michael's College Year 7 team held their own competing with all teams they played against. St Michael's College finished 6th overall which is quite an achievement considering that only two of the team had previously played Cricket and none of the pupils having played a competitive Cricket game before!



Barcelona Trip in a nutshell

In June some of the Year 9 students had the great opportunity to visit Barcelona. This included cultural moments as well as relaxing, funny and adventurous experiences. They saw the Magic Fountain of Montjuïc; visited the stunning Sagrada Familia, Parque Guell and admired the beautiful church of Sagrat Cor and the breath-taking landscape around it from the Tibidabo mountains. They also visited the beach and the Camp Nou Stadium. They enjoyed window shopping, swimming in the hotel pool and going to a rollercoaster at the Tibidabo Mountains. The trip was a perfect escape from routine, where students returned refreshed and energised to take on the last month of school with its demanding final exams.



Chaplain's corner

Lord God, Creator of all things,
guide our steps and strengthen our hearts,
during these months of summer and vacation
days.

Grant us refreshment of mind and body.

Take time to claim your strength;
they are gifts of God.

Take time to have fun;

it's God's way of teaching you your strengths.

Take time to grow yourself;
only you can grow you.

Take time to trust yourself;

God trusts you.

Take time to be self-reliant;
it is better than being dependent.

Take time to share with others;
they will bless you, and you will bless them.

Take time to have hope,
you are a child of God.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Sport's Day

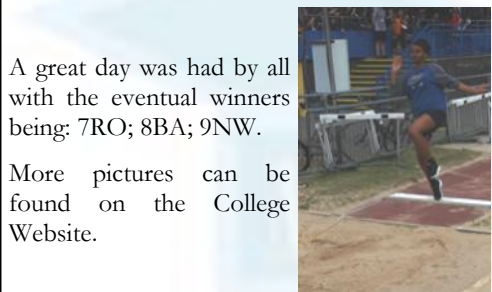


On Friday 30th June Year 7, 8 and 9 travelled to Mile End Stadium for the Annual Sports Day.

All students played their part and earned points for their forms across the events which included high jump, long jump, relays, javelin and shot put.



School records fell throughout the day (a list of which will be available soon)



A great day was had by all with the eventual winners being: 7RO; 8BA; 9NW.

More pictures can be found on the College Website.

Celebration Mornings

Year 7

Year 7 won over 80 prizes between them at their recent Celebration Morning, including prizes for subject, music, attendance, Leader of Learning and Jack Petchey given to outstanding students. The Celebration was delighted with a 30 piece choir singing the Bob Marley classic "Three Little Birds" as well as amazing keyboard/guitar/flute/saxophone and drum playing by the Year 7 band performing Summertime and rock numbers.

Year 8

The Year 8 Celebration Morning held on Thursday June 29th 2017, saw a hall full of proud and excited parents and even more excited Year 8 pupils celebrating the effort and attainment of over 49 pupils with another 15 pupils being awarded prizes for 100% attendance since entering the college. A further 13 pupils received certificates for having successfully passed their music exams. Year 8 tutors who have been instrumental in supporting, inspiring and nurturing their tutees also presented prizes to the most outstanding tutees. This was a new and welcomed addition to our celebration morning.

The morning's proceedings began with a lovely piano solo by our talented Katie Wilson. This was followed by a poem written and recited by Sydney Simms, which summed up how the year group has grown over the course of the year. She stated: "We grew stronger in our belief, trust and faith in God: for He gives us hope and helps us to see the light at the end of the tunnel when we are unable to see it." These fitting words embodied the spirit of Year 8 – growing stronger in faith.

Leandro Diaz and Ruben Tolentino Ferreira amazed the audience with their accordion solo and drum accompaniment. Such talent was truly worthy of celebrating. The music department outdid itself with 'The Magician' which was wonderfully performed by the Year 8 band. Each member contributing to the rhythmic rendition, which was warmly received.

The morning ended with the Principal's thanks to the Leaders of Learning, tutors and indeed the parents who continue to support the growth year 8 pupils.

Year 9

The Year 9 Celebration morning was a tremendous success with over 50 students receiving an award for their diligence, attitude or contribution to school. We were treated to a barnstorming opening performed by the school African Drumming group as well as hits from Marvin Gaye by the Year 9 vocal group, and a solo from the musical Dream Girls by Jack Carr. The ceremony was the crowning glory to a successful year for Year 9.

Year 10

The Year 10 celebration morning saw over half of the year group achieve a prize for a wide variety of reasons, including subject prizes, attendance prizes, tutor and Leaders of Learning prizes, and Music and Dance prizes. The morning began with the band in great tune and voice and they shared 3 performances including a rendition of "Valerie". Students, parents and staff shared a truly celebratory occasion together.

GOODBYES

Year 11 Prom

The Year 11 Prom took place at Millwall conference centre where we said goodbye to the pupils.



The evening started at 6 pm and finished at 12.00am. It included a leavers video, a balloon release, voting for the prom King and Queen, a three course meal and was crowned by tireless dancing all night. It was a great evening and I am sure all the students will have happy memories.

More pictures can be found on the College website.

Year 13 Dinner

On Monday 3rd July 2017, Year 13 enjoyed a meal at a restaurant overlooking the River Thames to commemorate their time within the College. The evening was filled with hearty food and culminated in awards for all students. We wish Year 13 the best of luck for the future!





Year 8 Retreat

On Wednesday 7th June, 27 Year 8 pupils along with 3 members of staff went to St. Vincent retreat centre in Whitstable. We were greeted with big smiling faces and were quickly made to feel at home and shown to our rooms. Throughout the course of our stay we did many activities such as team building, bowling, a visit to the beach and making a movie. We started each day with a new way of praying and ended our fulfilling day by showing our gratitude and appreciation to God with a prayer.

The main focus of this retreat was Self Discovery and Identity. I learnt that God has a plan for me and for everyone else and it is alright if we are unable to figure out what God is telling us or what direction God is trying to point us in, as long as we trust in God and confide in him he will show us signs throughout our lives to help us fulfil the plan he has for us. I also learnt about our identity, it is really important as children of God that we protect and look after the people around us. Also that there will be a lot of people that are different from ourselves and may try to change us but as long as we stay true to our identity, God will always be on our side.

Our team building exercises really brought us together and made us feel like one big happy family, as God intended us to be. We learnt more about the true meaning of supporting, connecting and caring for each other and how powerful we can be when we work together. It also showed us how to recognise each other's talents and strengths and the importance of ensuring that we are all included and made to feel valued in our daily accomplishments.



The retreat allowed me to feel closer to God and gave me time to self-reflect and feel his presence and know that he was truly listening to my different thoughts and prayers. I knew that God was guiding me throughout the three days, and further extending my faith, trust and belief in Him that will always remain with me.

I truly believe that for each and every one of us, that this retreat was a very worthwhile and valuable experience and the memories that we made, we will always look back on as a most enjoyable and meaningful time that we shared together in God's presence as Year 8 pupils. I would 100% recommend this retreat to anyone who is struggling, doubting or questioning their belief in God.



SOAS Languages Challenge

On Friday, the teams who took part in the Languages Challenge got the opportunity to visit the SOAS University for the awards ceremony.

Once we arrived, the tables were beautifully laid with the extravagant work of other groups from schools in England. One group even came from outside London!

The ceremony began at 10:00 am and we learned about what university is like and the cost of it. After this had ended, we took a short tour of the university. It was really cool and had a lot of history behind it.

Finally, it was time to announce the winners. Our group, Tongues of Magic, won the prize for the best "Ancient Tales" entry. We were all really pleased with ourselves and really enjoyed the trip as a whole. We received a certificate and are proud to have participated. It was a great experience and now we all have a deeper understanding and appreciation of languages.

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
contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk For absence please phone: 0207 237 6432 EXTN. 730

