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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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God and the Big Bang

The Year 12 Philosophy and Ethics class attended the God and Big Bang conference to discuss how Religion and Science can work hand in hand.

Here are the words of one of the students who attended.

Taking part in The Big Bang programme was very insightful and interesting. Doing the workshop I gained knowledge about how Science and Religion can fit together, and a person can believe in both without it being a completely illogical contradiction. I hadn't known that there were many Christian scientists as I assumed they would be looked down upon, but the Q&A conference at the end of the workshop helped me make the links and connections that if you just interpret the Bible in your own way and not literally, you can definitely have both in your life.

I particularly enjoyed hearing about how Alison Morgan came to the conclusion God existed after years of being an atheist. The workshop I loved doing most was the magician one with Matt Pritchard, due to the fact he really made me think about perspective and how everyone sees everything differently and takes a different perspective of the world based on their own experiences and knowledge.

Overall, this workshop was definitely helpful in regards to my Philosophy and Ethics studies; I was able to get a taste of different people's positions on a wide, compelling topic of God and Science. - **Jade D. Year 12D**



Trip to Imperial College for the Science Ambassador Day

On the 8th of March 2018, 10 students from St Michael's Catholic College went on a Science Ambassador trip to Imperial College London to expand our knowledge on Physics.

Once we arrived, we were mixed together with a few other schools to create 5 small groups to work with each other for the day. Our first task was to create a 3D model on our group's scientist name, then we did the main activities.

My first activity was using play-dough to find out how big planets in our solar system were. It turns out, our Earth is way smaller than expected compared to Jupiter!

The second activity was to get paper and roll it

on a straw. We got the paper and rolled it on the straw. We covered the top of the paper and blew from the straw and the paper would fly away.

The third activity was fizzy rockets. We got a small tube and put blue tack on the lid and added a vitamin C tablet. We put water in the tube, closed the tube and shook it. We were waiting for a while but nothing happened.

The tube was meant to pop and go up a meter.

The fourth activity was the expanding marshmallows. We put them in a jar and got a tube which took out air. After pumping, the marshmallows would get bigger due to air pressure.

To end the day, each group presented what activities they liked best. - **Rojand T. Year 8S**



The Bloomberg experience

As part of an on-going language mentoring programme. Pupils from St. Michael's are mentored in French and Spanish for one hour with a native speaker employed at Bloomberg. Bloomberg is one of the foremost financial institutions in the City and has a worldwide reputation and pupils receive a certificate at the end of the programme to say that they have attended language mentoring sessions at



Bloomberg. The mentoring sessions have had a really positive effect on our pupils not only in terms of improving their MFL speaking skills but also in raising their aspirations. Many pupils off the back of the Bloomberg sessions decide that they would like to pursue a career in a business related field. Pupils are split into two groups with group 1 attending one week and group 2 on a separate date. Each group does 6 sessions over the year.



Here are their own words:

We are very fortunate to be able to take part in the educational scheme for language: Bloomberg. We attend Bloomberg for an hour every four weeks. This program helps us to develop our knowledge for MFL. The program also allows us to develop our confidence in speaking French/Spanish. Group one and two are able to go to Bloomberg, and practice either their French or Spanish for their GCSE's. By having French or Spanish mentors, we are able to have experts' advice on how to get more

marks and improve our speaking techniques. On the 1st of December, we went to the National Theatre as a reward for taking part in the Bloomberg programme. We had the privilege to be able to watch "Pinocchio" with other schools; it was amazing! The production was outstanding: it included musical numbers such as 'Give a little whistle' and overall had a very fun theme. It was full of creative backgrounds and mesmerising puppets that were brought to life in a unique way. This is shown through the fact that people are physically holding the puppets up with ropes and metal poles. For example Pinocchio's father was a puppet as seen here on the right. **Gabrielle P. Silvia D. Keturah E. Year 10**



What is Palm Sunday?



Palm Sunday is the final Sunday of Lent, the beginning of Holy Week, and commemorates the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, days before He was crucified.

Palm Sunday is known as such because the faithful will often receive palm fronds which they use to participate in the re-enactment of Christ's arrival in Jerusalem. In the Gospels, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a young donkey, and to the lavish praise of the townspeople who threw clothes, or possibly palms or small branches, in front of him as a sign of homage. This was a customary practice for people of great respect.

Palm branches are widely recognized symbol of peace and victory, hence their preferred use on Palm Sunday.

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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