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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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Another Fabulous Duke of Edinburgh Expedition



The Duke of Edinburgh expedition this year proved to be extremely tiring yet infinitely satisfying.

We went to Chesham, Aylesbury; to Braidwood Campsite and to Tour End Farm Campsite.

I doubt any of us were physically prepared for the hike resulting in it being a draining experience, yet the fact that the sights which accompanied us throughout the three days were a stark contrast to London meant that it was a fulfilling and special experience to discover a world so unlike our own.

The first day was the shortest at 16 kilometres, however, it matched the second and third day's difficulty as our inexperience and lack of knowledge resulted in us losing our way and being too liberal with our breaks. The evening of day one proved to be the more enjoyable of the two. After we set up the tents and finally managed to cook something we were still full of energy meaning we stayed up until 10 playing rugby and enjoying ourselves. Sleeping in the tents was terribly uncomfortable however, the fatigue meant that everyone slept for at least a few hours.

The second day was the longest at 26 kilometres however, we became far more efficient through walking at a faster pace and taking breaks to recover physically and nothing else. This resulted in first three checkpoints being done with relative ease whilst the last two checkpoints proved to be more challenging as our physical abilities were being put to a test. The second evening was defined by terrible weather and fatigue. After we managed to make some food we gravitated to our tents due to the fact we were tired but also due to the fact that we then knew the troubles of a 20+ kilometres hike and we wanted to have the most energy possible for the final day.



Day three was cut by roughly a third as we walked too much during the first two days. The knowledge that the comfort of our beds and somewhat decent food was only one day away motivated us to push through the last day. The gap between the fourth and fifth checkpoints was probably the most painful as the strain from the previous two and a half days made itself apparent however, once we reached the station we were all happy to be going home yet deeply appreciative of the experience the expedition proved to be. - *Bartosz M., Year 12*

A thrilling play at Almeida Theatre

On Wednesday 13th June, our brilliant year 12 drama students enthusiastically made their way to the Almeida Theatre in Islington for a performance of "Machinal" by Sophie Treadwell. As this is a specification set text for A

Level, students were interested to see how their in depth knowledge of the play would

sound out against director Natalie Abrahami's take on this expressionist masterpiece. They were not disappointed, the director remained admirably faithful to the play's origins, yet our students particularly appreciated Abrahami's decision to experiment with the time period, setting the last scene in the present day rather than its original 1928. This has subsequently sparked interesting discussions in class about how this tale of an "everywoman" is as relevant to us today as it was then. *Mrs L. Murtagh*



**ALMEIDA
THEATRE
MACHINAL**

BY SOPHIE TREADWELL
DIRECTED BY NATALIE ABRAHAMI
4 JUNE — 21 JULY

Sports Day

On Friday the 6th of July, years 7,8 and 9 - as well as year 12 - participated in the annual St Michael's sports Day event.

Aside from the usual events, in which year 7,8 and 9 brilliantly performed, the sixth formers also took part in the two additional events of egg and spoon and sack race. While each year group was represented in the House Tug of War. Each year was split into their respective houses - Savio, Bosco, Rua, Mazzarello and Vicuna - and students contributed to house points by participating. The annual event did not only consist of sports events, but also other enjoyable activities that raised house points such as dance routines, cheers and mascots. All these were made possible due to the efforts of each house during the week prior to sports day. - Careers and Enterprise week.

The day ended with Bosco winning Sports day closely followed by Savio who were behind by only a point!

Overall, it was an enjoyable and fun day for everyone involved. - Mutya B., Year 12



The London Youth Rowing Experience



As part of our partnership with London Youth Rowing year 9 students have been receiving weekly rowing coaching at Surrey Docks aquatic centre. The students have been learning key techniques for propelling, stopping and turning on the water. After two weeks of practice the students were finally set free to explore the dock. As you can imagine the students have been making a splash in more ways than one. Martin McDonagh 9BE said,

"I'm the only one who hasn't fallen in yet!. It's been a great experience and I can't wait to come again next year".

London Youth Rowing LYR are a charity who work with St Michaels to engage young people and to provide them with opportunities. A big thank you to Isobel Turner at LYR

Mr. Robert Gavin, Head of Physical Education



Music Department Concert



On the 9th July we had the opportunity to put on a concert for pupils, parents and teachers in the College Hall. We had 84 pupils performing from Yr.7 to 13 and there were a range of ensembles involved.

They played to a completely packed out hall.

Performing in a concert brings all kinds of different pupils with diverse backgrounds and musical needs together and to share with the audience what we all felt about music and its importance in college life, Agne, Gabriel and Besrat shared a poem called “Unity” after Kate had said a prayer.



We started with an uplifting band number- “Green Onions” and the programme also included “Seven Nation Army” “Hawaii 5-0” and “Feeling Good” which the band played with great flair. The Yr.10 GCSE Music class were able to show off their ensemble skills in performances of work by Adele and Sam Smith. They sang and performed their instruments with great skill! The Yr. 7 band got everyone clapping along with their rendition of Tequila and the Yr. 8 band performed “Impossible” musically and with confidence. The Yr. 9 group performed “Tubular Bells” as well as “These Days” that included a rap parody philosophising on moving up from KS3 to 4-which was very apt and humorous.



The Yr.7 choir sang a beautiful rendition of “Sing” and the senior choir sang “See You Again.” After a range of small group pieces from Y11’s and solos from pupils including Yr.13’s, the concert came to a close with the finale- “This Is Me” from the film “The Greatest Showman” which combined the choir and band together.

Mr Laurence asked pupils:

Why is it important to do a concert in the college?

Alexander O. Year:8: It is important to do a concert because it allows the musicians to play their repertoire developed over a period of time to friends and family as well as teachers. It also allows us to share our musical gifts to an appreciative audience!



Sam S. Yr.9: Music at St. Michael’s and preparing for a concert has given me the opportunity to work with fellow pupils from all year groups and I have learnt many things from the older pupils. I have also had the opportunity to mentor pupils in Yr.7 and 8 during rehearsals, which has been a rewarding experience.

The Music Department is very proud of all the pupils that took part and their achievements really shone. Learning is through doing!

Mr. D. Laurence, Head of Music





Trip to SOAS:

On Friday 15th June 2018, three other students and I from Year 9 visited SOAS University in Central London to see our results from a language challenge we entered earlier on in the year.

We were all given categories, and in these we had to complete a challenge, or do an activity related to it all together, but it had to be in any language other than English. For example, we all baked cookies at my house, and wrote the recipe in Spanish. Together we made a PowerPoint and nominated one person to speak as the voiceover to the slides and pictures.

On the day of the trip, Alysandra, Nikoletta, Weronika, and I were very nervous as only 2 of the 5 languages we used in the challenges were spoken fluently amongst us! However, we put in as much effort as we could and asked friends to help us translate, and the end result was worth all of our efforts. On arrival, we were invited into a lecture theatre, which was a unique experience for all us as we got a sense of what university would be like in the future. Then we were welcomed by the organisers of the program and some students at SOAS University. I found it interesting that at SOAS, the languages taught there are not typical modern foreign languages like Spanish or French, but they taught less common languages from Africa and Asia like Yoruba and Hindu. Prior to the final results being revealed, we were given a tour of the university. It was so unique, as there was a mix of the modern and the old, different paintings from 100s of years ago, but the most extraordinary part was by far the library. There must have been over 100,000 books there, and over 4 floors. It was a truly amazing experience.—*Lauren S., Year 9*



A crêpe making session for Year 7 during Careers & Enterprise week

“During C and E week, there were many MFL activities running including a day trip to Boulogne, France and crepe making sessions with year 7, 8 and 9. Year 8 also participated in a language and business workshop where 6 speakers from companies such as Bloomberg, Box and SOAS university explained how they use languages in their workplaces and answered students’ questions.” *Miss R. Horsburgh, MFL*



A Trip to Boulogne

On Monday 2nd of July, year 7 had the amazing opportunity to go and visit France.

Many of us went and I am sure anyone could say it was an opportunity of a lifetime! We visited many places including Boulogne town centre where we explored the history of the town. We also visited Nausicaa

aquarium, which had amazing technology and I would say that was the best thing about the day trip. After visiting the aquarium we went to eat lunch on the beach by the sea, the breeze was very refreshing. In Boulogne, we started the day at the bakery where we had the chance to bake croissants and taste them. They were delicious! There was a scary and funny baker



who made us repeat words in French, many of us were scared and some of us weren't. Yr7 also had the chance to go to a massive shopping centre called Cité Europe to shop. Many of us visited a big store called Carrefour. Even though the trip was only a day, we still did a massive amount of activities. Not to mention we had a very luxurious coach with a TV and comfortable seats. - *Jordan B., Year 7*





OpenDoors Investment Banking Trip

On Monday the 3rd of July I was selected to attend the Breaking Barriers Opendoor event at the investment bank Nomura. The event is designed for to attract more Females into the Banking industry. Students from all over London were asked to apply, upload a CV and answer questions online to judge their suitability. I was thrilled when my application was successful. The event was really empowering to attend as top female investment bankers from the City of London and New York presented their experiences in financial services. We had the opportunity to network with bankers from Nomura, HSBC, Duetsche and The Bank of America. They advised on routes into banking, CV writing skills and interview tips. I did not really consider banking as a viable career option, after the event I feel banking will be an option for me to explore.

Princess S., Year 12

Whitstable retreat

On June 6th 30 students from year 8 went to St. Vincent's retreat centre in Kent. The theme was 'building community'. It gave students times to reflect on their lives and the impact they can have on their peers. The retreat was a great success, giving the students time to be in a quiet and prayerful environment.

Here is the experience in the words of one of the students:

On Wednesday, 6th June 2018 my school mates and I left the school with an unexpected journey ahead of us. When we arrived at the retreat centre we met the team, they were so nice. We all saw our rooms and had lots of fun. Before bed, we had prayers and asked that our faith would be greater in our lives. The next day we all had breakfast together and sang to say thank you for our meals. We then got into groups and did many activities that brought us closer together.

We had a blast together, even those of us who don't normally spend much time together. After mass we had lunch with the priest who sang a song too. We went to afternoon mass with the priest for the first time and sang songs and danced and I even saw Miss Caden and Miss Kate dance a little. We all settled in again for the night.

After breakfast on the final day we went into little groups and had discussions. I actually learned lots and thought about some ideas that I feel that will help me in school and the future. My friends too. Going on retreat has been one of the greatest experiences I've had as a St Michael's student. -

Prince E., Year 8



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.



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