



## St. Vincent Retreat Centre

On Wednesday 21st to Friday 23rd November, 26 Year 10 and Year 9 pupils along with 3 members of staff went to St. Vincent retreat centre in Whitstable. We were greeted with smiling faces and were quickly made to feel at home and shown to our room. Throughout the course of our stay we did many activities such as team building exercises, bowling, a visit to the beach, making art pieces and much more. We started each day with a new way of praying and ending our fulfilling day showing our gratitude and appreciation to God with a prayer.

The main focus of this retreat was Self Discovery and Identity and the way we

treat others. I learnt that God has a plan for me and for everyone else and it is alright if we are unable and get stuck trying 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 many 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 me.

I truly believe that for each and every one of us this retreat was a very worthwhile and a valuable experience. The memories that we made, we will always look back on as most enjoyable and meaningful time we shared together in God's presence as from Year 8 pupils to now in 2018 Year 10 pupils.

I would 100% recommend this retreat to anyone who is struggling, doubting or questioning their belief in God.

**Sydney S. S. and Golddust A-M, 10MA**



## Year 9 reward cinema trip

On Friday 9th November, St Michael's Year 9 went to the cinema. Everybody was happy about this because as a year, this was our first reward trip as a year group. We luckily got the best seats.

The movie that we watched was called Ready Player One. Its genre was based on games and adventure. At first I didn't think it was going to be good because it was Rated 12. It was a story about a boy in a virtual reality world who plays video games. There was a special place in the VR world called the Oasis where he had to get all three keys first to win the event and at the end he won. Everyone got excited when there were kissing parts and cheered loudly which was fun.

We all had fun and I would like to thank on behalf of Year 9 our Head of Years (Mr J. Lewis and Mr J. Walker) for planning this amazing trip and we would also like to thank all the teachers who escorted us to the O2 and looked after us. - **Benjamin N. 9MA**

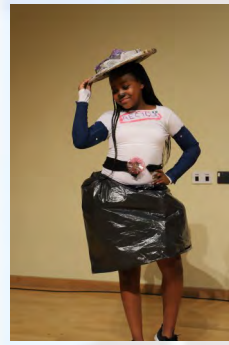




### Upcycle challenge article

In our disposable culture, fast-changing trends and cheap manufacturing mean we can throw things away without a second thought. The result is a waste crisis. Plastics clog the ocean, landfill sites expand. To raise awareness of this we had an upcycling challenge house completion. The aim was to create an outfit from recycled materials and model it down the catwalk.

There were many entries which creatively used all sorts of materials, from newspaper and tin cans, to bottle tops and binbags. My team entered an outfit made from an old top, a paper circle skirt and binbag peplum, decorated with tinfoil pompoms. It was a great opportunity to get creative and showcase how much you can do with waste material. **Jordan B, Year 8**



### Canadian Delegations report on Model United Nations

The Model United Nations has been running for four years and it takes place at Ricards Lodge School.

I decided to take part in MUN because I'm interested in Politics and thought it would be a good opportunity - to learn more about the UN and for my University Application. All of the people were very welcoming, it was mainly the students that ran the whole event and they were very well organised, busy running around with motions and timetables.



We started with a welcome conference. A visitor who was a reporter in Iraq gave a very moving speech on why the UN is needed, this was followed by the local Labour candidate who gave a speech on the importance of the UN and world peace. I was part of the Canadian delegation and on the Security Council. Unlike the League of Nations that failed to stand up to Hitler, the UN has actually managed to help stop some wars and helped some of the people that are suffering from famines and natural disasters. It doesn't always work though. At the moment, China and Russia are unwilling to work with the USA to stop the war in Syria. Canada has been involved in most wars but decided to stay out of the Vietnam War and Iraq invasion.

I took part in many debates on global issues such as the Israeli - Palestinian conflict, but we were unable to come up with a solution everyone agreed on. Consensus decision making made this very tricky. We then moved on to decide about the formation of a European army which might become more useful if Donald Trump decides to not protect Europe through NATO anymore. Although I was representing a minor country (Canada) I played a crucial role in the debates by helping other countries come to a compromise and this meant that in the end I won an award for the most well researched work-- **Joseph R. Year 12**







### Night at BBC Radio for a Jazz Concert

On 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Mr Laurence took a group of GCSE students, Year 10 and some Year 9's (including myself) to the opening gala performance of the London Jazz Festival at the Royal Festival Hall.

This concert was completely packed out and that meant that there were at least 2500 people in the "full house." The BBC also recorded the performance live in Radio 3.

We sat down in our seats with excited anticipation for what we were about to hear. We could see a very large orchestra on stage tuning up and getting ready to start the concert. There was an all-star array of singers taking part, and after the overture instrumental the first guest singer came on stage. Lea De Laria from the Netflix show "Orange Is The New Black" sang with expression and a great dramatic energy and her performances included

"Life On Mars" by David Bowie. Legendary Portuguese singer Mariza sang with great flair in her native tongue with her iconic Fado sound- a combination of classical, folk and pop music styles. Lisa Stansfield, famous for her no 1 single 'All Around The World' sang jazz standards, a real step into a new direction for her. Canadian jazz vocalist Laila Biali and Deva Mahal also performed stylishly to an appreciative audience including our selves!!

Also in the line-up, Anthony Strong, hailed as '*a new, genuine, male jazz singer*' by BBC Radio 3, and MOBO best jazz act (Music Of Black Origin) winner Zara McFarlane from East London also took to the stage and spellbound us with her wide range and emotive style. I was also really impressed with the stage lighting, which added to the dramatic effect displayed visually from the large group of musicians. Washing over the audience and orchestra, the pastel colours aided the sense of tranquillity and left us all in awe when combined with the music. The orchestra, conducted by Guy Barker sounded "as one" with the strings playing very beautifully and contrasted well against the bright tones from the brass section playing jazz phrases that complemented the singer really well. I am glad that I attended this concert to experience live jazz performances. **Isabella M K., 9VI**

### Year 7 African Music Project

In Music this term we have been studying Africa and the way that Africans perform using traditional instruments including different types of drums and other types of percussion. We all performed a song together in the class using three-part harmony and we also made our own drums that we used as part of the performance.

Mr Laurence asked the class whether anyone had been to a country in Africa and I was able to share my experience of visiting Ghana with the class.

My family come from Accra which is by the sea and I went there last summer to visit my aunts, uncles and grandparents. While I was there, my uncle took us to a musical celebration after a church service. When one person started singing, everyone else joined in also singing and dancing and musicians played djembes and other

African instruments.

Everyone in

the room was taking part! This is a culture typical of Ghana and is very different from the way music is performed in the UK or Europe or America. Here, we might pay to see a concert and have to sit still and applaud the performers on stage-not taking part unless we are singing and clapping along from our seats in the venue which is also fun but completely different.

I really enjoyed the Music class project and the feeling that we all got from taking part together in the Ghanaian musical tradition.

**Annelisa A., 7I**





### Sport's Corner

#### O2 Greenwich for the World finals of the ATP tour



On 14<sup>th</sup> of November CTEC Sport students from Year 13 visited the O2 Greenwich for the World finals of the ATP tour. The students received court-side tickets for the group game between (eventual singles finalists) (1) Novak Djokovic and (3) Alexander Zverev. A thrilling encounter was played out between one of the greatest players of all time and the future star of tennis. Djokovic won the game in straight sets but in a strange twist went on to lose to the same opponent in the final on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Zverev also defeated Federer on route to his ATP world triumph. William Rose Year 13 said "I play a lot of Tennis and it was a fantastic experience to be so



close to two of the best athletes on the planet".

On the same afternoon, the students were also privileged to watch eventual doubles championship winners Sock and Bryan of the United states win in straight sets. **Mr R. Gavin**

#### Exciting football results for year 8: St. Michael's vs Sacred Heart

Year 8 kicked off their Football season with a crushing victory over local rivals Sacred Heart at Dulwich Park on 15<sup>th</sup> November. Perfect playing conditions enabled St Michaels to play a brand of fast passing Football, which their outmatched opponent just couldn't cope with. The opening goal came from a break through the middle of the pitch which resulted in a stinging shot that was well saved by the goalkeeper. The rebound was tucked away smartly by Taylor and the team never looked back. There were notable performances from Seamus, David, Justin and Samuel. This was a day to be remembered for the team's relentless attacking play. The final score was 9-0 to St Michael.

Team ratings and Line up

Harry GK 7, Christian 8, Kamron 8, Nathan 7, Henry 7, Seamus 9, David 9, Justin 8, Taylor 8, Samuel 9, Jonathan 7. Subs Harvey 7, Zak 7, Jermaine 7.

Goal scorers were David (3), Samuel (1) Justin (1) Seamus (2) Taylor (2) **Mr R. Gavin**



### Chaplain's Corner

**Advent** is a season observed in many Christian churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas as well as the return of Jesus at the second coming. The term is a version of the Latin word meaning "coming". Perhaps the best-known of all Advent symbols is the **Advent wreath**, a custom which originated among German Lutherans but was soon adopted by Catholics. Consisting of four candles (three purple and one pink) arranged in a circle with evergreen boughs (and often a fifth, white candle in the centre), the Advent wreath corresponds to the four Sundays of Advent. The purple candles represent the penitential nature of the season, while the pink candle calls to mind the respite of Gaudete Sunday. (The white candle, when used, represents Christmas.)

### 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](mailto:contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk) For absence please phone: 0207 237 6432 EXTN. 730

