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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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New York Trip

Over the half term a group of 44 Year 10 students had the opportunity to visit New York. After flying out on the Friday they enjoyed some free time in Times Square where they could go and get themselves dinner. Unfortunately 90% of the students decided not to try something new and ended up in McDonalds!

On the Saturday we started off by walking to a local Deli where the students were not disappointed with the range of breakfasts they could enjoy. On a beautiful sunny (and cold) day we went on the underground to the Ferry at Battery Park. The students then went on the ferry, past the Statue of Liberty to Ellis Island where some of them took the opportunity to see if any family members had ever passed through on their way into America. Before an opportunity to shop in *Centery 21* mall, students spent some time at the World Trade Centre Memorial.



Sunday provided the opportunity for Mass after the usual Deli breakfast. Mass was conducted in a wonderful Cathedral on 5th Avenue and the students were a credit to themselves. The rest of the day was spent on 5th Avenue, ice skating in central park and ended up at the top of the Empire State Building.

On the Monday students went to Macy's as well as having some final time around Times Square to get those last minute presents for people at home.

Students were genuinely brilliantly behaved and a credit to themselves and the school.

Mr Parker



UK Team Maths challenge

On March 20th Dante (Y8) Leona (Y8) Alexander (Y9) and Lamake (Y9) were selected to take part in the UK Maths Challenge team Final at Bow school. Over the course of the day they faced four 45-minute challenges that required both mathematical skill and teamwork. One of these challenges was the team relay. During this event students were in pairs and spread around the room. It was each pairs job to solve a problem, if correct they received a new question and handed it to the other pair. All four students represented the college with pride and determination. After a successful day, St Michael's came 14th out of 27th, 5 places higher than in 2018. Well done to Dante, Meeka, Alexander and Lamake! ***Mr S Wells***





Year 12 visit to the Bank of England

On Wednesday 6th March 2019, Year 12 Economist and Business students visited The Bank Of England, as part of the course. The day started off at 10am and begin with a talk by Shona.

During the talk, Shona spoke about the origins of the bank and its purpose. We also got to show off our knowledge in inflation as she asked us many questions on the damage that it has on the economy and what the Central Bank does to keep inflation low. We were given the opportunity to ask questions, which allowed us to develop our knowledge even further.

We then watched a video which taught us how the Bank Of England keeps the financial system stable and how they maintain the public's trust and confidence in that the money we use is genuine. It covered the security features of all bank notes such as the finely detailed metallic image of Winchester Cathedral, over the see-through window. The foil is gold on the front of the note and silver on the

back. When you tilt the note, you will see a multi-coloured rainbow effect. Other features include: micro-lettering, watermarks, holograms, the feel of the paper, metallic threading and the ultra violet feature.

One of the most fascinating features that I found out was that on the front of the £10 note there are two clusters of raised dots in the top left hand corner. This tactile feature helps blind and partially sighted people identify the value of the note.

After the presentation, we were handed an activity sheet which had questions for us to answer in order receive a prize. The task involved us having to go off individually, or in small groups to find the answers. There were several rooms each having a specific focus. This was a great way for us to explore the museum whilst learning the different roles of The Bank at the same time. Although the prize was just a pen, we all enjoyed the activity.

The most exciting aspect of the trip was that we actually got to physically hold a bar of Gold. There was this glass sealed podium that had a circular opening for you to put your hand through and attempt to lift the bar of gold. We all were shocked as to how heavy it was. It weighed 13 kilograms but left most of us defeated.

Overall, we all had a spectacular day out. It enabled us to see how all of our learning fits into reality, which isn't something that you can do with every subject. - **Britney D. Y 12**



Thinking about careers

On the 21st of March our King's Scholars group returned to the Strand Campus of King's College London to learn about careers, skills and the requirements for different jobs. Once we arrived we had a quick briefing on the day's schedule, then got straight into it.

First, we worked on our meta-cognitive skills which are at the core of the King's Scholar Skills. We then were guided through research sessions into possible careers such as finance, technology, healthcare, and engineering. We were split into groups for an enterprise 'pitch'.

My group decided to present a pitch to the ambassadors (King's College students) as to why they should invest £100,000 towards engineering projects. We chose engineering because it is vital for low income countries to build modern hospitals and specialist care units if they want to improve life expectancy. Not only that, but as populations increase, airlines are having increased demand placed on them. This means we need to design and build more aeroplanes and transportation. These are just a few reasons why we argued engineering projects should be invested in.

I really enjoyed this day at King's. It made me think about what careers I might want to do in the future. As my Year 9 Options Evening is coming up, I think this experience will help me to make my GCSE choices more wisely.

Juliana C., 9RU



Chaplain's Corner: Preparing for Easter

This year we are breaking up two weeks before Easter! Next week Sunday (14th April) is Palm Sunday which marks the start of Holy Week. Holy Week is the most important and most solemn week in the Christian calendar and culminates with Easter day.

Easter is an important celebration for Christians. This is the day when Jesus Christ has resurrected. Easter Sunday is one of the most important parts of Christian faith. It promises new hope, new joy and new aspirations. Easter Sunday also marks the end of the Lent season (which starts from Ash Wednesday). During the Lent season, fasting, spiritual discipline and repentance are observed. At the end of this season, there will be a celebration as it's believed that Jesus Christ has risen. May you feel the bright, joyful blessings God has to offer you during this Easter holiday. - **Mr O'Sullivan**



Sport's Corner

Inter Year Cup (Football)

	6	14/03/2019	1	
Year 9	Vs	(Ref Mr Lewis)	Year 8	
Year 9 Retain Cup				
	5	26/03/2019	0	
Year 9	Vs	(Walkover)	Year 10	
Year 9 Retain Cup				
		TBC		
Year 9	Vs		Year 8	
TBC				

A big congratulations goes to the Year 9 Football team who won the Inter House Football trophy by beating both the Year 8 and 10 teams. The games were played to a high standard and in good spirits by all involved.

Well done Year 9! - **Mr R. Gavin**



Mental Health Ambassadors



We are pleased to introduce our new Mental Health Ambassadors' team. We believe that our mental health is as important as our physical health. Our role is to support our peers by listening to their worries or feelings. We are offering drop-in sessions once a week and are available for a chat in the playground at break and lunch time. We are planning to organise a 5-a-side football match and a tuckshop; all proceeds will go to a mental health charity. **Jayden D. (8G), Mackalia G. (9RU), Joy N.(9MA), Shae S. (10MA), De-Winton P. (10VI).**

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

