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# **THE LINK**

**Newsletter for the pupils, parents and staff of  
St Michael's Catholic College**

**Issue 164—July 2019**



## **A special trip to the Haberdashers' Aske's Boys School**

On the 3rd of July, the Year 12 Economics students embarked on a long, tiresome but eventually fruitful journey to the prestigious private school of Haberdashers' Aske's Boys School where we received a talk from both the renowned Allister Heath the editor of The Sunday Telegraph (in the picture below) and Sir Lloyd Dorfman founder of Travelex the global foreign currency chain.

The talk from Mr Heath was riveting. In lay-man's terms, he informed us of the current state of the world economy. The slow rate of economic growth in the UK and the high possibility of a recession. Now before you jump the gun and blame it on Brexit, Mr Heath explicitly stated that the whole of the Eurozone is suffering from low construction and manufacturing output. On a brighter note unemployment is at an all-time low at 3.8%.

Sir Dorfman's talk can be described as inspirational and motivational. Starting with his failing of his Economics A Level at St Pauls due to his innate desire to do business, to his multi-billionaire dollar company from a small shop in Central London. He didn't fail to mention his failings, trials and tribulations. He emphasised the importance of resilience and persistence when pursuing your goals.

The last session was a debate from multiple schools about the most important macroeconomic objective that the new Prime Minister should focus on. The Year 12 audience voted that low and stable inflation was the most important.

All in all, it was a great educational trip and the Economics class would like to thank Mrs Kaur Hender for planning this trip and Mr Merrigan for accompanying and all of the Economics Department from Habsboys. - Omenwaen O. Year 12



## **Meeting the Mayor**

Our Year 12 Government and Politics class were able to take a trip down to the London assembly which is located along the river just by Tower Bridge.

We were able to, with thanks to our elected assembly member Florence, sit in on a question time discussion with the London Mayor and were able to get a sense of the real proceedings of politics within our college borough. Furthermore, we were able to fortunately, take pictures with not only our assembly member but also the London Mayor himself, Sadiq Khan. Going into the discussion we had the chance to sit amongst other watchers and members of the general public to watch a number of assembly members from various areas of London question Mr Khan.

He was questioned about a multitude of issues as well as his work and general hopes, for the future of London. Some examples of what was spoken about was knife crime and transport, both very prevalent issues in our society. In addition, we were also able to hear his opinions briefly on wider national politics, especially with the conservative leadership race amidst.

It was a brilliant experience for young politicians and was extremely interesting to see the way in which local politics operates and hence affects us as students and Londoners. There was also the great tea in the café of course.

Lauren S. Year 12



## Brilliant Scholars—Cambridge Trip



On the 11th of July, the current crop of Yr 7 Brilliant scholars 'graduated' their programme at Downing College, Cambridge. The students had spent a term studying with a PhD tutor, Helene Olsen of Kings College, about the theory of war. Having done pre-reading and writing every week and attending university-style seminars, they wrote a 1500 word essay on undergraduate level ideas. Their essays were graded, using university-style classifications. All the students passed, with Caspar Glemser gaining a first. The trip to Cambridge was an inspiring end to the program, with Phillip Amushan giving a short speech for the graduating class. **In the words of Nicole L.** "We were all looking forward to this day and were very excited. We'd like to congratulate all the students on their successful participation and completion. Ms L. Casey



## King's Scholars Graduation



A huge congratulations to our Year 9 King's scholars who graduated from the programme with a ceremony yesterday at the Strand campus of King's college London. These students have been scholars since Year 7 and have undertaken a range of activities to prepare them for University, including developing their metacognitive skills.

Ms C.Sayed



## Artificial intelligence at the Barbican – Year 12 Psychology trip



The whole of the Year 12 Psychology cohort (16 students) were present and correct at the Barbican for the exhibition "AI: More than human?" The purpose of the exhibition was to explore artificial intelligence inventions through time and take a closer look at the desire of human beings to create such increasingly realistic replicas of themselves. It attempted to answer the questions – *Why do we make robots? In what ways can they outperform humans? What are the implications of artificial creations? Where is artificial intelligence heading?* While these questions are of course not actually answered by the exhibition, the students thoroughly enjoyed pondering them and browsing the historical examples of man-made human

replacements, ranging from early 'golems', to Frankenstein's monster, to modern day computer technology. With an abundance of interactive activities (even including a 'live wall' where you could make art using robotic technology) showcasing the almost limitless potential of artificial intelligence, the students were fully engrossed throughout the exhibition. There was even time afterwards for the students to enjoy a McDonalds from Liverpool street station – ordered using the touchscreens of course! Who says technology isn't taking over. Mr N.Cook

## Mental Health Ambassadors for Charity Week

Our Mental Health Ambassadors worked tirelessly last week to raise awareness on mental health and collect funds for a mental health charity. A tuck-shop run throughout the week as well as a KS3 football tournament.

In total, £317.65 was raised which has been donated to Young Minds, a charity which helps young people with emotional difficulties. Mrs L. Chabaud

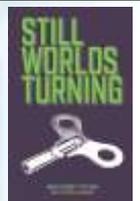


## New Publications



This week, the college produced the first edition of the new student magazine called 'The St Michael's Review'.

If you like short stories, you will not want to miss Mr N.Bourke's one called 'The Hands of the Andes' published in the following new anthology: <https://www.noalibispress.com/title/still-worlds-turning>



## Mule Film Project



During the half term break in May, shooting began on the film project 'Mule' featuring cast and crew from St Michael's. The week was spent filming most of the school scenes from the story. These included an inspiring Year 11 English class led by Ms Casey, an amazing Year 8 Art lesson on the theme of 'the seaside' and an exam hall scene invigilated by Mr Cook! The crew, comprised of students from the Media Studies department, were able to learn the essential skills of film production during their 4-day work experience placement, led by Mr Pillai, co-producer Helen Sett-Wong and cinematographer Joe Douglas. The cast, including the two lead actors Leia Wasike-Ginn and Layla Przeklasa, were able to gain valuable experience in front of the camera while supporting cast members contributed with professionalism throughout, performing exceptionally well to recreate the unique atmosphere we have here at St Michael's.

On behalf of Little Tree Productions, I would like to thank all of the students and staff who have given their time and efforts to getting this production off the ground.

Filming continues and concludes over the summer and we look forward to screening the first trailer of the film at the school in the Autumn term. More details to follow in September. - Mr S. Pillai



## Year 7 visit Tate Modern

On Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> of June, 7MA visited the Tate Modern art gallery joining 1500 pupils from other schools across London. Pupils, teachers and helpers took over the Blavatnik Building of the Tate and used the day to champion the arts in schools. ASSEMBLY aimed to amplify the agency and voice of young people asking pupils for ideas, opinions, and actions.

The Tate wanted to know what an arts rich future might look like for young people and pupils were invited to support and have a say. Everyone attending on the day was invited to bring with them a banner in answer to the theme *Why Study Art?*

"I participated in a number of activities learning about new and different techniques to use in my future work in class as well as editing work I have already done, I also learnt that anything can be considered a

piece of art work, from a new design of a shoe to a photographic landscape of a desert. The trip went amazingly well and I hope we all get to have incredible experiences like this in the future to help nurture our creativity." - Evie H of 7MA



## End of the Year Concert

Some of you will have been at the Summer Concert after school on 15<sup>th</sup> July and seen the amazing performances by a wide range of students from all Year groups. It was a wonderful concert and we are fortunate to have such talented students and a dedicated team of staff in the Music department who foster this talent and encourage such high levels of participation, so thanks to Mr and Mrs Laurence and the team for all their hard work to prepare for this event.



## Chelsea Trip

Our trip to Chelsea provided a great experience overall, my peers and I were able to have fun, observing how the players would get ready for a match and have a tour around the stadium where matches were held, we were also placed in the perspective of the audience watching the match being seated in the sizeable stadium. Another thing we were able to do was to make reference with what we were taught at school and understand the necessities in promoting their company in order to generate a greater amount of income. The experience was unmissable and I urge anyone who receives the opportunity to take it as it is both educational and entertaining.. Kirsty E. Year 10



## COLA canned by dominant St Michael's



What a performance.

Every member of the energetic 12-person squad played their part in a thumping 5-2 victory over a COLA side who looked thoroughly de-caffeinated.

Despite good opening play, St Michael's found themselves 1-0 down, but were then on the right side of a fortuitous breakthrough. The ball broke in the area towards the COLA keeper, who, distracted by hurricane Messenger bearing down on him, spilt the ball rather than gathering. Messenger duly tackled it into the empty net. 1-1. The second breakthrough came on around the 30-minute mark: Jake F weaved past a couple of challenges and struck the

ball hard across his body into the corner. 2-1. Half time came and both teams were refreshed by the encouraging smile and cut up oranges provided by superfan Iwobi.

The start of the second half saw St Michaels' worst period in the match seeing COLA striker pouring through the St Michaels' midfield and past the defenseless Arda from close range. Cometh the hour cometh the unkempt Psychology teacher Cook cut inside their midfielder and curled well beyond the reach of the COLA keeper. 3-2! Shortly after the tireless Messenger put the game to bed. He played a nifty one-two with the keeper, before a splendid low finish into the middle of the empty net. 4-2.

With COLA looking warm and drained, it became a victory march for St Michael's, as they recycled the ball around the midfield of Ludlow, Cook and Jake F. The cherry on the COLA victory cake was provided by Wells. He burst forward from his left back position, skipping past the tired legs of the opposition, he curled the ball past the COLA keeper, who could only get a couple of despairing fingertips to it as it went in. 5-2.

Man of the match: Rob Gavin, showing surprising professionalism, maturity and calmness to draw top performances from his defenders, (including a great display from Mook).

Overall the energy, communication and mental strength of the team were first class on a day that should have the local schools shaking in their staff rooms (or at least willing to give us a game...). Mr N.Cook



## Sports day

On Tuesday 9th July St Michael's annual sports Day was held at an exciting new venue. The London Marathon Community Track would this year host the event. With a new format to the day students spent the morning creating house banners, songs, dances and mascots, before travelling over to eat their lunch in the shadows of the Olympic Stadium.



records being broken left right and centre.

A great day was had by all. Thank you to all of the staff and students who made this a very memorable day. *Mr Parker*

In the afternoon the events took place with



## Aiden O'Brien Millwall and Republic of Ireland International visits St Michaels



On Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> April, Aiden O'Brien the Millwall and Republic of Ireland international footballer came to St Michaels college to speak to Year 7 and 8 students about his career and experiences of life growing up in Inner London.

Aiden was in excellent form and answered all questions about his life as a professional Football player. St Michaels pupils were intrigued to know about his relationship with other players and managers and the dedication to health, diet and fitness he maintains. Aiden also talked about the sacrifices he made to make his dream come true to play and score for his country.

Aiden was the subject of a Times newspaper article in which he described his experiences of rejecting gang violence and culture to follow his dream of becoming a professional athlete

A big thank you to Aiden and Millwall FC for organising the visit. *Mr Gavin, Head of Physical Education*

### Chaplain's Corner



#### Giving Thanks For Summer

Father, Creator of all, thank You for summer!  
 Thank you for the warmth of the sun  
 and the increased daylight.  
 Thank You for the beauty I see all around me  
 and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy  
 Your creation.  
 Thank You for the increased time I have to be with  
 my friends and family,  
 and for the more casual pace of the summer season.  
 Draw me closer to You this summer.  
 Teach me how I can pray  
 no matter where I am or what I am doing.  
 Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence  
 and light my path with Your Word and Counsel.  
 As I enjoy Your creation, create in me  
 a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You.

#### Summer Blessing for Families

May we make our homes places of relaxation,  
 joy, love, peace and safety.  
 May we be generous and considerate,  
 not thinking only about ourselves,  
 but helping others enjoy the blessings of the summertime.  
 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.  
 May we constantly strive to make a meaningful difference  
 in the lives of our  
 loved ones and in  
 the world around  
 us as we enjoy the  
 warm days of  
 summertime.



#### Scrap Fabric needed

If you have any spare scrap fabric that you'll be willing to donate to the textile department we will be very grateful.



*Miss R. Davies*



#### MEALS DAILY CAP UPDATE

On the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019, the students daily cap for meals increased from £4.50 to £4.75.

This is just a small increase to allow them to enjoy both breakfast and lunch.



#### Lost Property Collection

A great deal of lost property has been handed in and we would like to give students and Parents/Guardians the opportunity to collect it.

The items will be kept for three months and then due to lack of space we will dispose of them.

Please, encourage your child to come and look for their lost items before the end of the Academic Year.



#### 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

