

## School Council - The first meeting of 2019



The School Council meeting had lots of different year groups attending. Some people were Form Captains and others were just students who wanted to talk about their school. We got into 4 groups, each group had a sixth former to help keep the debates moving. After that, the Head girl (Toni in Year 13) introduced herself and told us what we were there for. We were going to be representing students views and feedback to our Principal what we would like to change and make work better around the



college. Our main concentration for the first meeting was for the Council to find a focus point to be improved this year.

In my group, we talked about the fact that we felt the number of school trips could be higher. A Year 11 student brought up the fact that trips to foreign countries with your friends are remembered with more detail than lessons in a classroom which we all agreed on. So we brought this to the whole council as our point.



Another group asked for a chance to compete against other local schools, a chance to try and challenge themselves. They talked about the fact that girls teams as well as boys should get a chance to compete in games against other schools which enforces our college rules of equality and respect.

Group 3 talked about the need of water fountains to be put in place around the college. They brought up the fact that if you drink all your water before lunch, you have to wait to fill your bottle up from the jugs that aren't covered or buy water. This could affect our studies as dehydration affects mood, memory and concentration.

Finally Group 4 talked about academic pressure. They talked about how some times there might be too much homework given to students. Teachers expect you to finish a piece of homework as well as other pieces we are given to do. This is starting from Year seven.

The meeting ended with us sharing our ideas and voting on which one of these topics should be focused on throughout the year; we are going to focus on helping arrange more trips this year.

I feel that this was a good chance for younger students to meet and speak to older students with more experience. It was fun and, at the same time, good to bring all these different ideas to the college's attention. - *Crystel G. Year 7S*

## Year 8 path to stardom



Big Congratulations to Olivia S (Year 8) who was second girl in the 3.5 fleet with the Docklands Dugongs windsurfing team from Docklands Sailing & Watersports Centre (DSWC).

She took a big leap with the Team15 windsurfing programme together with other 8 youngsters who went to the National Windsurfing Championships on 7th-8th September at Grafham Water for their first time.



RYA Team15 is a network of windsurf clubs and centres across the UK for young windsurfers who want to share their passion and improve their skills, and the Docklands Dugongs started in April 2018. Having competed in just four Team15 inter club competitions this year and one last year, the National Championships seemed like a big step for the Dugongs. However they felt it was achievable and something they wanted to be a part of.

Team coach James Hardy takes up the story: "The weekend was absolutely epic with a great breeze on both days. We went with the aim of just being there, representing DSWC and giving it a good go, and we actually exceeded expectations. The team got better and more comfortable after each race and everyone was smiling and having a great time. They relished having so much space to windsurf, having only windsurfed mostly on the dock." The Dugongs came twelfth out of 23 Team15 clubs from across the country. James added: "This is pretty special considering we have only been running regular youth Team15 windsurfing for two summers. It was amazing to be a part of something so huge with 159 junior entries over the weekend, which is the biggest in years. It's opened the Dugongs eyes to the wider world of windsurfing, making them hungry for more which is fantastic, helping create windsurfers for life. We will definitely be back next year."

For the full article go to <https://www.rya.org.uk/newsevents/news/Pages/young-docklands-windsurfers-relish-national-championships.aspx>



### A warm Welcome to the new Year 7

My experience at St Michael's College is that there is always someone there for when you're sad, or having a hard time. All the teachers are lovely;

I absolutely love the school I couldn't have picked a better secondary school.

On my first day at St Michael's, we were all given biodegradable balloons, and then Ms Corcoran told us to close our eyes and make a

wish for this year. My wish was to succeed this year, to always try my best no matter what, the sky is the limit. I hope I can have a successful year at St Michaels and to make lots of memories that will never be forgotten.



### Year 7 welcome Mass at the Holy Trinity Church

Canon Alan from Holy Trinity Church led us in the Mass and prayed for all our new students and new parents. Students, staff and parents sung together "All our welcome" and "Give me joy in my

heart". The first reading and responsorial psalm were read by students and the gospel read by Canon Alan. The Year 7 students read out their own bidding prayers and took part in the offertory procession. The Year 7 students later joined their parents and members of staff in a sign of fellowship by shaking each other's hands and receiving communion together for the first time at the College. The Mass was a lovely way of welcoming the new students and parents to our college community. Students were also assigned to the house they belong to and each bidding prayer was dedicated to a house Saint.



### GCSE RESULTS 2019

Our Year 11 students have achieved excellent results in their GCSE examinations this year.

Students performed exceptionally well and the College has achieved its highest ever Progress 8 score.

30% of grades were 7-9, 80% of grades were 4-9 and 85% of students were entered for the EBacc.

A significant number of



students achieved grades 7-9 across all of their subjects, as a result a record number were eligible for St Michael's Prestigious Sixth Form Honors Pathway. These successes are due to the hard work of students and the dedication of all staff at St Michael's.

It is always wonderful to see so many students make such exceptional progress and fulfil their potential.





### St Michael's Catholic College A' Level and Technical results 2019

St Michael's is delighted to congratulate its students for an exceptional set of A Level and Technical results. Students were awarded A\* and A grades across all subjects including English and English Literature, History, Geography, Maths and Further Maths, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, French and Spanish to name just a few. Over 40% of all entries gained an A\* - B grade with nearly 20% at A or A\*. For the technical awards, the average grade was Distinction \*. St Michael's congratulates students who will be taking up undergraduate places at Imperial, King's College, Edinburgh, Durham, Warwick, Nottingham, Queen Mary, Loughborough, Surrey, Sussex and Kent universities to study subjects ranging from Law, International Relations, Psychology, Electrical Engineering, Marketing and Management, Computer Science, Architecture, and Economics. Students have also secured apprenticeships with prestigious institutions such as Barings Bank, Bloomberg and Cisco Systems.



Students were both delighted and relieved to have been so successful: Emmanuel Dadzie who is attending Kings College and studying Electrical Engineering said that he was delighted to be the first person in his family to get this far. Zion Darko who achieved 5 A grades and have taken up place at Imperial was pleased that he had been able to make his parents so proud. These results not only reflect the magnificent efforts of the students but the support of their parents and the outstanding work of the staff at St Michael's Catholic College.



### 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 displayed on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd of October (half term time) and then due to lack of space we will dispose of them.

Please, encourage your child to come and look for their lost items and to write their names on the labels of their items.

### 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

