



**St Michael's Catholic College**

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# **THE LINK**

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

**Issue 168 - December /January 2020**

## **A Kind Way to Close the Year**

The Senior Citizen's Party that took place on the 17th December and was once again a great success.

As always our students were the stars of the show, acting as fantastic ambassadors, hosts and performers for our guests- true faith in action, showing the very best of St Michael's.

A huge thank you to all staff who contributed to fund this.



## **Last day before Term**

Moments of fun and devotion characterised the last day of school before the Winter break. Students and teachers joined in the celebration with cheerful spirits and moments of reflection.



## **Christmas Doors competition**

Congratulations to the students of the following houses for the best Christmas Door decorations:  
Year 7 and Year 11 Rua; Year 8 Bosco; Year 9 Mazzarello and Bosco; Year 10 Savio; Year 13A.







### Sixth Formers' Christmas meal at Vapiano

Our sixth formers, mentored by Lawrence Tijjani from *Just A Guy Foundation*, attended a Christmas meal at Vapiano in Tower Bridge.

This is the second year of this mentoring programme with the foundation, which supports our students to maximise their success at A-level and beyond. As well as focusing on improving their academic progress, the programme also works to develop communication skills, confidence, problem solving and other life skills as students take their next step.

The students thoroughly enjoyed their delicious, family-style meal at Vapiano as they reflected on their previous mistakes and ambitions for the future.

We would like to say a big thank you to the *Just A Guy Foundation* for organising the event and *Vapiano UK* for sponsoring.



### Metro Bank Trip

On 27th November the business department took 6 pupils to the headquarters of Metro Bank in Holborn for a day to promote thinking and employability skills. Whilst there the pupils gained valuable budgeting skills and also investigated employability skills such as interview techniques and CV writing. They also had fun working in teams, competing on activities such as compiling and performing a song about how great it is to work at Metro Bank and meeting pupils from different schools. Students had the chance to network with bank employees and find out about apprenticeships offered, one of the pupils, Mackalia Grocher said "this was a brilliant opportunity introducing us to the world of work and learning outside the classroom".



### Rugby Tournament Success

On 11th December our students from across KS3 represented St Michael's in a Southwark rugby tournament. This was the 1st time that St Michael's had ever played a competitive fixture and the 1st time that the rugby shirts were actually used for rugby!

The tournament was aimed at emerging schools with all teams involved only recently having started playing. Due to this only two of the teams involved were ready to play contact, ARK Woolworth and ourselves. Our 1st match was a touch game against Bacons College. Both teams struggled with the offside rule but in keeping with the nature of the tournament the referee allowed the match to flow nicely. Our speed and power saw us through this match and it was on to the next match.

Match number two was against ARK Woolworth (Touch). Again the boys played really well against the Woolworth boys running out winners once again.

Two from two and looking strong.

Our third and final match was against another team from Woolworth. This time it was what our boys had been waiting for. FULL CONTACT! This was also to be the deciding match between us and them to see who would come out as competition winners. Some very good Rugby was played in this match. And considering our boys had never played a competitive contact match they did us proud. St Michael's pulled away from Woolworth scoring 4 try's to their 2. To get everyone on the pitch for as much time as possible Bailey and Gibson played the last few minuets for Woolworth. Relishing the challenge of playing against their friends they both played well for the opposition with Gibson even scoring against us!

With the final whistle St Michael's had done it. Three wins from three and Tournament winners.

There will be a few similar tournaments coming up in the new year and hopefully we will have the same kind of success.





## Korean Exchange Programme

On 28<sup>th</sup> November 19 St Michael's students from Years 9-11, Miss Hayden and Mr Daly travelled from Heathrow to Seoul.

Here is an article by one of the students:-

From the moment we arrived and left the airport we were all in awe over how beautiful Korea looked and excited for the week to come. During our time there we were split between 4 schools.

We were all really excited to be reunited with our Korean partners and meet their parents and siblings for the first time.

The next day, I had to get up at 6am to get ready to go to a theme park called Lotte World. It was extremely fun and after we all said our goodbyes I went shopping with my host family.



On Sunday, we went skating and shopping and we were amazed at how inexpensive everything was compared to London! We ended the day watching a movie, having dinner with all the other families, and playing Jenga.



Monday was the day we had all been anticipating as it was our first day at Gongju Middle School. In the morning when we arrived we introduced ourselves to our form classes and all the students and teachers were extremely welcoming and polite. We were then given a tour of the school which was very interesting as we learnt about schools in Korea and experienced a different culture and way of teaching. We met with the third graders (Year 11s) and we were interviewed by them. We answered lots of questions and spoke to them about our way of life, our school, and how it is similar or different to theirs. In the afternoon we went to a museum and learnt about Korean Kings and their artefacts. Later on, we learnt how to make traditional Korean books and dishes. We all had a fantastic day and we experienced and learnt so much more about Korean culture. After school, we all went to the karaoke room and had a lot of fun.

On the following day we met with new students and were interviewed again. It was really fun to meet lots of new people

and teach them about my culture and learn about theirs. In the afternoon, we met with all the St Michael's students and their Korean partners and went to the Korean Independence Hall. It was really interesting to learn about their history as in school we are not really taught about history within Asia. It was really insightful and intriguing to learn about how palaces were built and the struggles faced by Koreans and their past conflicts. Following this we went for dinner and went to watch Frozen 2.



The next day we visited a bamboo forest where we learnt about the uses of bamboo and how a lot of the land was also used to plant green tea. We also went to the Lee Lee Nam Art Centre which was full of beautiful pieces of art work. Later on, we went to a bamboo museum. We saw beautiful pieces that were exhibited. In the afternoon we attended a tea ceremony and learnt how to make traditional Korean tea and learnt formal greetings and bows. We also learnt how to make a traditional Korean snack. Both the snacks and tea were extremely tasty.

Friday was our last day in school. We learnt how to play a traditional Korean instrument and wore traditional Korean

clothing called hanbok. As it was the last day at the school it was very emotional as we had to say goodbye to our form classes. In the afternoon we gave our presentations to first graders (Year 9) about British culture and our school. In the afternoon I visited Diana's academy where she goes to study English everyday after-school. It was also my last day with my host family. It was lovely, we had a big meal and then I packed and got ready for bed.



On Saturday morning we had to say goodbye to our host families, it was very emotional leaving them having been part of their family for a week. We then travelled to Seoul where we went to Gyeongbokgung Palace, and then Myeongdong Cathedral. We were then given an hour to go shopping and it was really fun shopping in the capital city. In the afternoon we went up Seoul tower and got fantastic views of the city. We then got ready for the early start the next day to go back home.

On Sunday we arrived at the airport and said our goodbyes to the Korean exchange students. It was a very emotional day as we had to part with our Korean partners and it was very difficult to say goodbye to them.

We all keep in touch with our Korean partners and hope to return to meet them again. I can say that we all had an incredible time and were able to learn and experience so much. We have made lifelong friendships and have learnt new skills which we will keep with us forever. I strongly recommend this trip to anyone who is able to go. Korea is so different to England and is truly an amazing country - **Silvia D.**





### Chaplain's Corner

2020 is the 10th anniversary of *Verbum Domini* – Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord' and the 1,600 anniversary of St Jerome's death. These dates have inspired the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to dedicate 2020 as a year of focus on the Bible and "The God Who speaks".

We are delighted to have launched the Year of the Word at St. Michael's Catholic College. Throughout 2020 we will be exploring scripture as a community. We are particularly focused on taking messages we learn relating them to society and how we can put this into action to help others. Students can contribute to the year of the word in many ways in St Michaels.

You can Help to raise money for Charity.

Year 10 and 11 can come along to Miss Hagan's Bible study group

Lead prayer in lessons, assemblies and tutor time

Get involved in Fairtrade week.

Get involved with CAFOD family fast day

Reflecting on the word of God in RE lessons and at home

*"Scripture is at the centre of everything the Church does. The Word of God shapes our prayer and worship. The Bible shows us how to understand the world, how we are called to live and relate to each other."*



### 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.



### 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*



### 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 until the end of each term after which, due to lack of space, they will be donated to local charities.

Please, remind 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  
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