

St Michael's Catholic College

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THE LINK

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

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Black History Month Review

This year has seen major events unfold before the world, from the pandemic that has gripped countries from all continents, to the increasing cries for justice in America in the face of police brutality. It has been a challenging year to navigate. Nevertheless, Black History Month has given both teachers and pupils a focus and an outlet for their experiences throughout the lockdown period.

Black History Month at St Michael's opened with an assembly led by Mr Burton and a number of Sixth Formers: Bless N., Tasnim I., Melissa A., James M., Mary N. and Damoya A-R.; this assembly addressed the UK's response to the injustice of the black lives taken in America, at the hands of police brutality. The assembly highlighted the importance of Collective Responsibility that we as human race have for one another and that issues faced in America should be tackled not just by Americans, but by all that believe in the sanctity of life. This brought forth the importance of Collective Responsibility both in the Catholic faith and in the College, as calls for student and teacher involvement in discussions and projects in St. Michael's were made. This will take the form of projects created in the History Society, an after school club that is also run on Google Classroom, that allows for all students to contribute to raising awareness about issues faced throughout the world, and learn more about histories that are not currently taught in the curriculum.

This assembly sparked further discussions and desires to do more at St. Michael's, as Ms Phillips led a further assembly that celebrated the achievements of Black people, using the likes of Burna Boy - an African musician that celebrates his culture in his music and highlights political issues in Africa - to encourage students to embrace their culture and use whatever platform they have to educate and enthuse those around them. The assemblies left students feeling invigorated and inspired.

Black History Month 2020, has also seen the launching of the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation, a charity established to

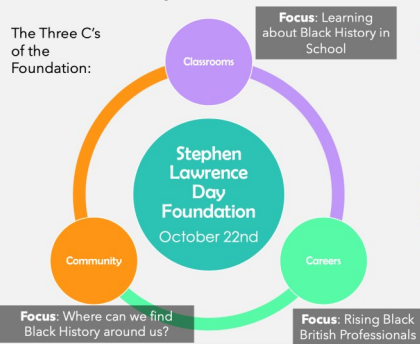


support the next generation of young people. It has been built on the Three C's, as it aims to support young people in the Classroom, their Communities and their Careers. This presented an opportunity for a House Competition to be run in celebration of this launch, where students have been tasked to produce a creative piece that embodies the Three C's, as they share their experiences of Black History in the classroom, they explore the rising Black British professionals and research where black history can be accessed in their communities.

This competition opened the door for an important discussion to be had across the school in CPSHE. Students had the opportunity to look at the story of

Black History Month House Competition

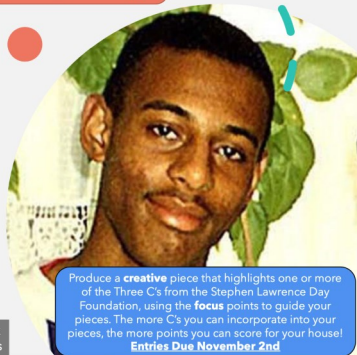
The Three C's of the Foundation:



News Report
Interview
Leaflet/Brochure

Advert
Creative Ideas
Video

Poster
Map
Blog



Produce a **creative** piece that highlights one or more of the Three C's from the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation, using the **focus** points to guide your pieces. The more C's you can incorporate into your pieces, the more points you can score for your house!
Entries Due November 2nd

Stephen Lawrence, allowing them to appreciate the significance of the new charity. They were also given the opportunity to discuss the important issue of racism and its effects here in the UK; students were engaged and ready to share their thoughts and experiences on these difficult issues.

This Black History Month at St. Michael's has started very important conversations that teachers and students will continue beyond the month of October, with the hope that students can begin to affect change in their own communities. **Mr A Burton**



St Michael's Awarded Beacon School status by Centre for Holocaust Education, UCL

The History Department is delighted to announce that St Michael's has been selected as one of only 15 schools nationally to be a "Beacon School 2020-21 by UCL's Centre for Holocaust Education. This status is both in recognition of the work by the History Department to date and the ongoing work this year. This is a whole school initiative, with all staff involved in training and delivery. St

Michael's is proud to be a dynamic hub for Holocaust Education serving a network of local schools in partnership with UCL to improve teaching standards, raise pupil achievement, and strengthen SMSC provision. Updates on the progress of this project will be published in The Link over the course of the academic year.



History Students attend private lectures by world famous historians, Professor William Doyle and Dr Ross King

History students were privileged to attend two rare and bespoke lectures this term with Professor Doyle and Dr King. Given the national restrictions, this was not only a pioneering virtual lecture series for the St Michael's 6th Form students but also Professor Doyle's worldwide debut on this platform. William Doyle is Professor Emeritus of History at Bristol University and is the world's leading expert in 18th century French History and, in particular, the origins of the French Revolution. Dr King is a lecturer of Art History at UCL and best-selling author, specializing in the art and History of Italy,

France and Canada. Both academics were suitably impressed with the St Michael's History students:

Professor Doyle said: "Many thanks to you and your colleagues for making me so welcome. I really enjoyed the session. A really great bunch of students with some searching questions. Do send them my best wishes."

Dr King said: "Excellent questions from the students. They've obviously been thinking about a lot of issues related to the period."

Both academics are committed to attending next year. Let's hope next time it can be in person!

Mr Magnoff

They Took The Lead

Did you know that Clapton Orient, now known as Leyton Orient, based in East London, were the first English club to sign up to the Footballers' Battalion. Three of their members, Richard McFadden, William Jonas and George Scott lost their lives at the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

THE FORMATION OF THE FOOTBALLERS' BATTALION

Following the outbreak of war in August 1914, a heated debate took place about the consequences of professional football during a time of national crisis. Clubs and supporters alike were criticised for taking part in leisure activities that diverted the energies of 'fit young men' from the armed services. Players in particular were vilified by large sections of the press as ungrateful strikers who put their own interests before those of their country.

In late November 1914 the FA and PM Kitchener realised that something had to be done. The following month the FC Hon. J. J. H. Jones raised the Footballers' Battalion (17th Middlesex) at a meeting in Fulham Town Hall with 35 professional footballers setting straight away. Over the next few months, another 300 or so professional players joined from across fifty football clubs. The battalion was formed through a process of mutual consent.

It became one of the best-trained battalions in the army and was the only one to be awarded the Victoria Cross for its actions in the Battle of the Somme.

Footballers were not in action with World War I footballers. Footballers (Clayton's) and Richard McFadden (Clapton Orient) who had been awarded the Victoria Cross. Many received their medals when they returned to their clubs.

They are all gone but not, as we see that are left behind. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them.

November's Month of Remembrance

As part of November's Month of Remembrance, the college have paid tribute to the Footballers' Battalion by way of creating this display. The display features a large-scale painting produced by our student Prudence B alongside some text about the Footballers' Battalion as well as some reproductions of the posters used to enlist players and supporters. Many players from clubs local to the school and London (such as Millwall, Crystal Palace, West Ham and Leyton Orient) signed up.



YOUNG MEN OF BRITAIN !!
THE GERMANS SAID YOU WERE NOT IN EARNEST

Extract from *Frankfurter Zeitung* - "The British showed a greater desire to express their long limbs on the football ground rather than to engage them in any sort of work in the service of their country."

"We knew you'd come -"

and **GIVE THEM THE LIE !!**
PLAY the GREATER GAME
and **JOIN the FOOTBALL BATTALION**

"PLAY THE GAME"

SHARPEN UP 'SPURS
COME FORWARD NOW
TO HELP TO REACH THE GOAL OF VICTORY
SHOOT! SHOOT!! SHOOT!!!
AND STOP THIS "FOUL PLAY"

Join the **Football Battalion OF THE DIE-HARDS**
(17th Middlesex)

MEN OF MILLWALL

Hundreds of Football enthusiasts are joining the Army daily. Don't be left behind. Let the Enemy hear the "LION'S ROAR."

Join and be in at **THE FINAL** and give them a **KICK OFF THE EARTH**

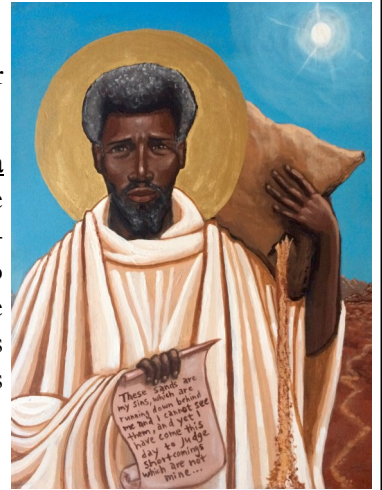
Apply: West Africa House, opposite National Theatre, Kingway. IWM

The Footballers' Battalion, officially known as the '17th Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment', was initially formed when 35 men from 11 football clubs signed up to fight for their country. In all around 300 professionals served in the Footballers' Battalion from the 4,500 men who made up its ranks. Of these around one in five never returned and a further 2,000 were wounded. *Mr Lomax*

Chaplain's Corner

As we conclude the second week into term, we continue to pray for our deceased, our relatives, loved ones, friends and all souls in purgatory.

Today, the Church celebrates **the feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome**, the oldest and highest ranking of the four major basilicas in Rome. The Basilica of St. John Lateran is the cathedral of the diocese of Rome, the official ecclesiastical seat of the Holy Father, the Bishop of Rome, not St. Peter's Basilica as so many mistakenly believe. The Basilica is also called the Church of Holy Saviour or the Church of St. John Baptist. In ancient Rome this was the church where everyone was baptized. It the oldest church in the West, built in the time of Constantine and was consecrated by Pope Sylvester in 324.



Gospel: Luke 12: 13-21

Prayer for the week

Our life span is short, at any moment to be taken from us.
Free us from greed, and fill us with generosity.

Release us from insecurity and restore us to contentment with the treasures
of your realm.

Strip us of our fear and strengthen us to love one another as you have loved
us.

Thanks be to You, Creator of the heavens and the earth, to whom all things
belong.

Amen.

And one of the multitude said to him: Master, speak to my brother that he divide the inheritance with me.

But he said to him: Man, who hath appointed me judge, or divider, over you?

And he said to them: Take heed and beware of all covetousness; for a man's life doth not consist in the abundance of things which he possesseth.

And he spoke a similitude to them, saying: The land of a certain rich man brought forth plenty of fruits.

And he thought within himself, saying: What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

And he said: This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and will build greater; and into them will I gather all things that are grown to me, and my goods.

And I will say to my soul: Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years take thy rest; eat, drink, make good cheer.

But God said to him: Thou fool, this night do they require thy soul of thee: and whose shall those things be which thou hast provided?

So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich towards God.

Some thoughts on today's scripture:

In our Western society, we are driven to acquire more wealth, more possessions, more status. Today, Jesus reminds us that, when we leave all this behind, we will be asked what spiritual riches we have accumulated. Our good deeds are the only thing that will outlive us. What treasure will I accumulate that I can carry with me to the afterlife?

What are we, in fact, living for? The demands of our way of life can make it difficult to put first things first. It is only in our relationship to Jesus, that we can discover who we truly are, and the person of value he sees us to be.

Friendly reminder that "doing your best" does not mean working yourself to the point of a mental breakdown.



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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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