

**St Michael's Catholic
College**

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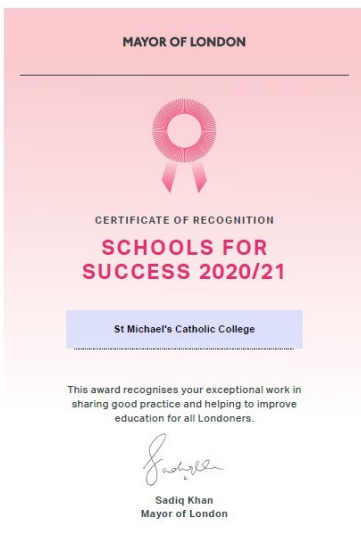
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THE LINK

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

Issue 179– 30th November 2020

Exceptional achievements of St Michael's Catholic College recognised by the Mayor of London



Dear All,

I am delighted to report that the college has received recognition from the Mayor of London for our exceptional outcomes and as a result has been identified as a 'School for Success'.

Please see the press report below, for more details. It is so positive for all in our community when the college is recognised in this way and is only possible due to the ongoing hard work and commitment of all of our staff to ensuring the highest standards of education and care for all students. **Ms Corcoran, Principal**

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has celebrated the exceptional performance of St Michael's Catholic College in Southwark as part of his Schools for Success programme. The school has been honoured for its commitment to reducing educational inequality and attaining exceptional results for children previously struggling academically.

St Michael's has been awarded a certificate for 'Ensuring Excellent Outcomes for all Students'

Created in 2017, the Schools for Success programme was formed to enhance the support given to children from disadvantaged backgrounds. The programme acknowledges primary and secondary schools that prioritise progress for their lowest attaining pupils, are

excelling in their performance overall and sharing their work with other schools through a series of webinars made available to all London schools. Approximately six per cent of London schools are eligible to be members of the Schools for Success programme

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, said: "I'd like to congratulate the staff of St Michael's Catholic College for their exceptional work. We created Schools for Success to recognise the positive impact that teachers, headteachers, teaching assistants, support staff and governors are making every day to support students and reduce inequalities, and this school's commitment to being supportive and inclusive sets a great example. Covid-19 has presented unforeseen challenges across our city but St Michael's Catholic College has done a fantastic job in maintaining excellence during a very difficult time. Working together we can make sure that no young Londoner is left behind".

For more information visit www.london.gov.uk/schools-for-success

Unloc Student Leader Event – Year 11 House Prefects

On 18th November, I attended the Unloc Student Leaders Event hosted on Zoom by Christ the King's College along with five of my fellow senior prefects. I was selected to attend because I am the House Prefect for Vicuna House. We started off with an ice breaker to get to know more about the day and the participants. We then went into a session learning more about teamwork and did an online 'escape room' where we had to solve a puzzle as a group and we reflected on what it showed us about how we solve problems. This activity allowed us to step up and take turns leading our group. The reflection was important because it let us think about how we approach problems as leaders. We also had the chance to

listen to previous prefects/head pupils talk about their experience of school leadership. We learned about how leaders communicate to their fellow pupils effectively and heard about how they had to think strategically about problems because other people depended on them. We also had a session in which we looked at the power of positivity in how we influence others. We looked at how positive approaches could make a difference in various scenarios in our lives. Overall, I think today has helped me to think about how I approach situations as a student leader, how I can communicate better with my peers, and how I can become an even better role model for other students. **Lamake H., 11VI**





Introduction to the Diversity Ambassadors

We were appointed as Diversity Ambassadors in order to ensure that we create a safe and stable environment for students to learn and explore new things where race isn't an issue, and following the BLM movement, we have decided to make a change to our own community, starting in our schools. We thought it would be a great opportunity to teach every student at St. Michaels about the importance of diversity and inclusion. So we have collaborated with the teachers and alumni students to adjust the curriculum, making it matter more to us, and arrange more fun and engaging activities to celebrate our races and where we came from - bringing what we have learned here at St. Michaels to the outside world.

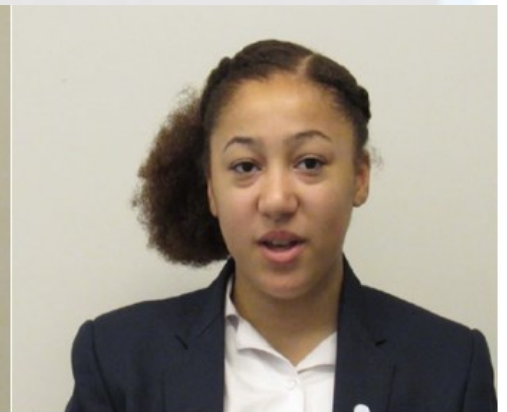
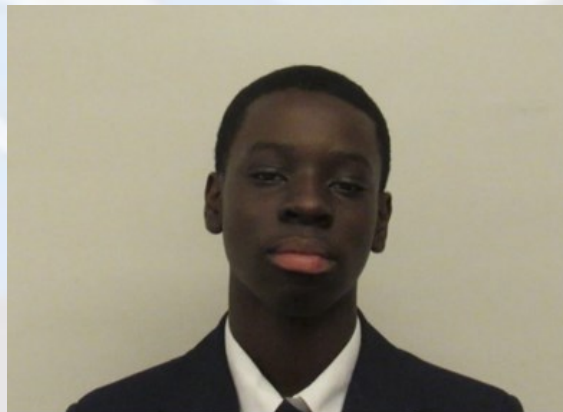
From the beginning of the school term, we have started with planning out ideas leading up to Black History Month. Making it more engaging to students and for them to be able to voice out and contribute to the event. We have gone around every single form, from Year 7 all the way to Year 12 to ask about what each year would like to learn about. First we asked a select few from each form about what they think Black History Month is to them, then gave them a space where they can offer what they actually want to know about, instead of the school giving out the materials for us. In receiving every single opinion, we managed to plan out a good specification that would be unique to each class during CPSHE.

And using one of the many good ideas given by the students about using House Competitions to motivate the students, we eventually did create a competition where not only the individual winning poster would be awarded, but also the form that worked collectively for the most posters, will also be given prizes.

Our plan from now on is to create a foundation for what we do, such as recruiting more passionate students who are up for a challenge to improve the school environment, and to start adding more fun events such as International day or competitions. This would further help us in creating an opportunity for change within our school and as a diverse community, that would make a difference to the new generation to come. *Sydney SS, Alysandra L.*

Anti-Bullying Week 2020

Last week I created a short video for national anti-bullying week with my fellow prefects Tyrese, Cameron, Amelie, and Beatrice. This was shown to all the form groups in their weekly assembly period (as normal assemblies are currently on pause due to Covid-19). Our message for younger students was that bullying is not acceptable. Almost half of children and young people say they have been bullied at some point and even more feel that they have been cyberbullied. A recent study also found that bullying led to increased anxiety in 41% of students. We told our fellow students that they don't need to put up with it. Students should talk to a friend, family member, teacher or Leader of Learning if they are being bullied. They should also let someone know if they see it is happening to someone else. We concluded our presentation by reminding students what Jesus said about caring for one another: we should do unto others what we would want them to do to us.



Bullying statistics

- The most common type of bullying was verbal, with cyberbullying the least common
- Of those bullied, 33% said that they had suicidal thoughts, while 41% were left feeling anxious
- Some 62% were bullied by a classmate and 37% by someone at school they did not know
- Nearly two-thirds (59%) believed attitudes towards their appearance were the likely cause of bullying
- In the majority of cases, male respondents were more likely to exhibit negative attitudes than females

Tia B 11VI

St Michael's Chaplaincy provision

Our Chaplaincy provision has been incredibly vibrant during these extraordinary times. Due to the circumstances, much of our provision has been digital with a focus on ensuring a strong focus on The Year of the Word. We welcomed our Year 7s with a Liturgy specifically dedicated to them and their families. This was well attended. We have also offered a range of activities to support the spiritual and moral



development of our students:

Friday devotional word and prayers

St Michael's online prayer book- filled with staff and student prayers

Online Wednesday Word

Student Chaplain opportunities for Year 12

CAFOD leadership training for Year 12 chaplains (1year programme)

Year 8 Faith in Action

Harvest Festival activities

Remote Rosary and prayers

Rosary house competition

The team is currently preparing for Year 12 form time Chaplaincy stilling and leadership activities which will be

led by our student Chaplains; our Christmas jumper day; OAP fundraising for Christmas hampers; Advent weekly prayers recorded/led by our Faith in Action and Year 12 Chaplaincy team and an end of term Christmas Liturgy celebrated virtually.

This will be live streamed to all classrooms and all in our community with have the opportunity to end the term by reflecting on the Christmas story..

If any of our students / families would like to become involved in any of our Chaplaincy activities, do not hesitate to contact Ms Hagan.



Southwark Foodbank Harvest Appeal



We are so pleased our Harvest Festival Food Bank collection resulted in a phenomenal 239.02kg of food and toiletries being donated by St Michael's to Southwark food bank.

Thanks to Ms Hagan and the 6th form Chaplaincy team for all their hard work in organising this and to all the students, families and staff who donated. This will make such a difference to many in our community and is an excellent example of our collective faith and Salesian values in action.

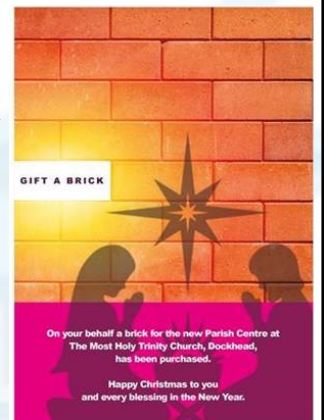
Ms Corcoran

Most Holy Trinity Church Community Centre Appeal

St Michael's is supporting The Most Holy Trinity Church in Dockhead's appeal to build a community centre which is much needed locally and would be a space the College could also benefit from. The Church has launched a buy/gift a 'brick' campaign so that anyone who wishes can support with the build by buying/gifting a brick for £5. 'Bricks' are available to purchase on parent pay and all monies go to the Parish Centre Appeal.

In lieu of the 'brick' you have purchased you will receive a card which can be kept or sent to someone as a Christmas gift.

This year you may prefer to gift something that serves the community.



Chaplain's Corner



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

This week we celebrate CHRIST THE KING Solemnity. On the last Sunday of the liturgical year, Catholics celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. It was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925 as an antidote to secularism, a way of life which leaves God out of man's thinking and living and organizes his life as if God did not exist.

The feast is intended to proclaim in a striking and effective manner Christ's royalty over individuals, families, society, governments, and nations.

Sunday's Mass establishes the titles for Christ's royalty over men: 1) Christ is God, the Creator of the universe and hence wields a supreme power over all things; "All things were created by Him"; 2) Christ is our Redeemer, He purchased us by His precious Blood, and made us His property and possession; 3) Christ is Head of the Church, "holding in all things the primacy"; 4) God bestowed upon Christ the nations of the world as His special possession and dominion.

Sunday's Mass also describes the qualities of Christ's kingdom. This kingdom is: 1) supreme, extending not only to all people but also to their princes and kings; 2) universal, extending to all nations and to all places; 3) eternal, for "The Lord shall sit a King forever"; 4) spiritual, Christ's "kingdom is not of this world."

Gospel: Matthew 25: 31-46

31 And when the Son of man shall come in His majesty, and all the angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the seat of His majesty.

32 And all nations shall be gathered together before Him, and He shall separate them one from another, as the shepherd separateth the sheep from the goats:

33 And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on His left.

34 Then shall the King say to them that shall be on His right hand: Come, ye blessed of My Father, possess you the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

35 For I was hungry, and you gave me to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me to drink; I was a stranger, and you took me in:

36 Naked, and you covered me: sick, and you visited me: I was in prison, and you came to me.

37 Then shall the just answer Him, saying: Lord, when did we see thee hungry, and fed thee; thirsty, and gave thee drink?

38 And when did we see thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and covered thee?

39 Or when did we see thee sick or in prison, and came to thee?

40 And the King answering, shall say to them: Amen I say to you, as long as you did it to one of these my least brethren, you did it to Me.

41 Then He shall say to them also that shall be on His left hand: Depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire which was prepared for the devil and his angels.

42 For I was hungry, and you gave me not to eat: I was thirsty, and you gave me not to drink.

43 I was a stranger, and you took me not in: naked, and you covered me not: sick and in prison, and you did not visit me.

44 Then they also shall answer him, saying: Lord, when did we see thee hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister to thee?

45 Then he shall answer them, saying: Amen I say to you, as long as you did it not to one of these least, neither did you do it to me.

46 And these shall go into everlasting punishment: but the just, into life everlasting.

Some thoughts on today's scripture

Jesus is very clear about the criteria for knowing whether I am a sheep or a goat - how have I loved, how have I cared for other especially the poor, the needy and the marginalised?

Looking back over the last day or week, recall times when I have acted as Jesus asked, and give thanks. Also recall times I have failed to act as Jesus asks, and seek forgiveness. Is there anything I can do to try make good the harm my failure may have caused? Only the Spirit of Jesus will help me to see what Jesus says, to recognise how, in my life, I embody the actions that express Jesus' attitudes. I pray that the Holy Spirit guide me to recognise the good that God is doing in my life and that I not fall prey to any poor spirit that makes me gloomy or judgemental. Both the good and the bad need the character of their actions pointed out to them, both are unaware of how they serve or do not serve. Even if this parable motivates me, I pray that my actions be sincere and come from my heart. May whatever good I do be an expression of my gratitude to God who does so much for me.

Ms Hagan

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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