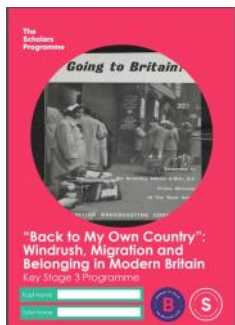


## Brilliant Scholars Programme



On the 10th of May, 12 Year 7 students started their journey with the Brilliant Club, on a programme designed to stretch students who have the capacity to go to an elite university should they choose to. Asiri, Josh A, Josh O, Abi, Callum, Elijah, Aleks, Lennard, Sophia, Simona, Jessica and Lena had a live launch event with Queen's College, Cambridge. They found out about the collegiate system, about what university is like and the opportunities for students. After the launch, students started their studies - an intense programme of face-to-face tutorials with a PhD student that will run until the end of June. Their topic? *Windrush, Migration and Belonging in Modern Britain*, a blend of History, Geography and Sociology to take them beyond the average curriculum. We wish all the Brilliant Scholars the very best on the course and look forward to seeing them 'graduate' it in July. **Ms L. Casey**

## Former Head Girl and Current Cambridge University Student Visits St Michael's



On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June we were delighted to welcome back Toni Iheonye, former Head Girl who is currently studying Human, Social and Political Sciences at Churchill College, Cambridge. Toni gave a talk to current Year 11 students to launch Sixth Form induction activities and shared her experiences and advice with them as they prepare to embark on the next stage of their education. Toni also found time to meet with a group of Year 8 students to talk to them about being a student at Cambridge University and to meet and mentor Honours Pathway students in Year 12 who are preparing their Oxbridge applications and she will also be helping them with interview practice in the autumn term. We thank Toni for giving up her time to share her success and advice with our students and inspiring and motivating them to aim high and to value and make the most of their education and the opportunities at St Michael's.

**Ms Corcoran**  
**Principal**



## Activism and Protest - Taking Creative Action



Year 8 pupils have been busy exploring the power of contemporary protest through art! Students have identified current social- and environmental issues of climate change, structural racism and the refugee crisis, and how these can be addressed through art. After studying a variety of established and anonymous contemporary protest artists, students were able to identify and promote their own cause. Year 8 students designed, printed and wore their own call for awareness! **Amelia, Year 8**

"I chose to raise awareness for climate changes to save our planet from rising temperatures, then we can save many animals and trees from the rising temperatures". **Mr C. Lomax**



## Diversity and Inclusion at St Michael's Catholic College



**Year 12 Diversity Ambassadors Alysandra and Lyndsey**

During the week of the 7<sup>th</sup> June I delivered remote assemblies to all students exploring if St Michael's is a Diverse and inclusive community. In the assembly I posed the following questions:

Do we all respect the presence of Christ in every person we encounter?

Do we all value and celebrate diversity?

Do we all allow others to be comfortable in being themselves and in expressing their identities?

Do we all know it is wrong to use discriminatory language towards others e.g. racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic language?

Students were reminded of our Salesian ethos and Catholic social teaching which tells us that God is

present in every human person, regardless of religion, race, culture, nationality, sexual orientation, gender or economic standing.

I was also able to share some of the ideas the college has implemented:

### 1. To improve diversity, equality and inclusion as a result of student voice.

- Creation of Diversity and Inclusion Ambassadors
- Changes to the CPHSE curriculum to include units on Black Lives Matter, Black British History and Respect for Women
- Review of College Hair Policy and decision to adopt the Halo hair code for schools.
- Participation in Southwark Schools Anti-Racism project (Diversity Ambassadors)
- Design of new College PE kit
- Research into a new additional House Saint/Blessed that reflects diversity of the college
- Creation of an international celebration day on 6th July to celebrate cultural diversity.

### 2. To change the curriculum to ensure it better reflects the diversity of the college:

- New units on Racism in the 21st Century, Institutional Racism and Black British History e.g. the murder of Stephen Lawrence added to the CPHSE curriculum.
- New units on Consent and Respect for Women added to the CPHSE curriculum.
- The History Curriculum now includes topics on pre-colonial Africa and Migration and highlights the role played by people from Africa, the Caribbean and South Asia in the World Wars. The department and another members of staff are also participating in the UCL Beacon Schools Holocaust Education Project.
- More diverse plays/texts taught in KS3 Drama e.g. Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman.
- Developed and launched a new Sex and Relationships Education policy that promotes respect and inclusion for all sexual identities and discusses LGBTQIA+ experiences and rights.
- Cross curricular English-History project which includes studying the novel 'Things Fall Apart' by Nigerian Writer Chinua Achebe.

The assembly was followed up with a student survey asking what ideas do students have to further promote diversity, equality and inclusion across the college and what actions they will personally take to support diversity, equality and inclusion. I have been impressed with the very positive responses received so far and look forward to sharing these with the Diversity Ambassadors and Student Parliament members to inform future college actions.

Furthermore, during the week of 14<sup>th</sup> June in recognition of Pride month the life and work of Alan Turing, celebrated mathematician and code breaker will be celebrated in assemblies. 6<sup>th</sup> form students were also invited to a screening of the film 'Pride' based on a true story, the film depicts a group of lesbian and gay activists who raised money to help families affected by the British miners' strike in 1984.

Thanks to all students, staff and Governors who are working with us on this important area.

The College is committed to ensuring our ethos, curriculum, policies and practices reflect, support and celebrate the diversity of our community.

**Ms Corcoran**  
**Principal**



**Salesian Values**  
**RUAH**

**Respect the presence of**  
**Christ in every person**

### Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010

- |                                  |                          |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Age                            | • Pregnancy & maternity  |
| • Disability                     | • Race                   |
| • Gender reassignment            | • Religion and/or belief |
| • Marriage and civil partnership | • Sex                    |
|                                  | • Sexual orientation     |





### Year 11 Farewell



On 27th May St Michael's said farewell to its Year 11 pupils. The afternoon farewell began with a Leavers' Service put together by the Year 11 Prefects and hosted by Juliana and Mackalia. The service started with an end-of-school reflection with Ms Hagan, the College's Head of Chaplaincy; this was followed by several awards,



recognition of the form tutors, and a video showing thank-you messages from members of the cohort as well as highlights of the year group's time at the College. It was amazing to see how the Year 11s have grown in both size and personality during their time at the College. The video was followed by speeches from Mr Lewis and Mr Walker, then finally from Ms Corcoran, the Principal. Ms Corcoran talked about the remarkable obstacles this year group has overcome and celebrated the accomplishment of all their hard work whilst at the College. After the service, the students were given biodegradable helium-filled balloons and released them together outside - just as they had done on their first day at the College in 2016. The students then had the opportunity to sign one another's leavers' shirts before enjoying a socially-distanced outdoor celebration party with food, drinks, and music. Special thanks are due to the music department, the speakers, Mr Kelly for all of his help organising the day, Meghan for creating the Year 11 thank-you/memories video, as well as the organising committee: Ruth, Nancy, Natalie, Ben M, Amelie, Kweku, and David A.



### Note from the Leaders of Learning

It has been an absolute privilege working with these Year 11s. Due to the unexpected circumstances of the last year and a half, this year group's successful completion of their GCSE studies has been especially hard won. Much of this comes down to their determination, resilience, and positive attitudes. We have watched these students over several years carry themselves and one another through

thick and thin. We are incredibly proud of everything they have survived, overcome, and accomplished, and we wish each of them every success in the next stages of their lives. **Mr. Lewis and Mr Walker**



### Year 13 Farewell

Having written their last assessment points, returned text and Chrome Books, said goodbye to teachers and other members of staff, it was time for our beloved Year 13s to say goodbye to each other! And that was done in such fine style below the ***Class of 2021*** banner. They feasted on the delicious spread so invitingly laid out and rocked to the music which played out, signing t-shirts and holding back tears not shed in six long years. We wish them well as they on their journey go!

**Mr M. Ludlow**





## EduArtsFest



Whilst many of our students thrived academically during national lockdowns we were always conscious of the opportunities that we were unable to offer due to the restrictions associated with the pandemic. Since returning to the school site in the Spring term, staff have been planning opportunities for our students so that they can safely engage in our creative curriculum. As result, we were active participants in the online Arts Festival #EduArtsFest where we showcased our students' artistic achievements on Twitter using the hashtag #EduArtsFest.

The Festival of School and College Arts was a joint initiative between ASCL and the Association of Colleges (AoC), Confederation of School Trusts (CST), the Independent Schools Council (ISC), National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT), the NASUWT teachers' union, National Education Union (NEU), the National Governance Association (NGA), and the Sixth Form Colleges Association (SFCA). The festival was also supported by the Cultural Learning Alliance which champions a right to arts and culture for every child.

There was an influx of contributions from a range of departments. Our Art department showcased a huge variety of student artwork including numerous entries to *The Royal Mail Stamp competition*. The Department for Education complimented the artwork we tweeted and subsequently asked for permission to retweet selections from Jacqueline's 'Fine Art' portfolio, based upon capturing a moment in time. Jacqueline will be going on to study architecture once year 13 concludes officially. ASCL also 'liked' and retweeted a number of our posts.

Royal Mail stated "Millions of key workers have kept the country going when most of us were told to stay home for our own safety. And there have been many people who volunteered to help people in their communities who needed help or support. We think that what these people have done makes them heroes, so Royal Mail wants to honour them by producing a set of eight stamps." The stamps will feature designs created by eight school-aged children and will be sent to Her Majesty The Queen before they can be printed and issued.

Our Music department also showcased a huge variety of groups, bands and choirs with a range of genres catered for from jazz to classical pieces. The students thoroughly enjoyed recording the live performances. They are currently in the throes of preparing for our Enrichment and Arts week. We also showcased some fashion designs from Textiles; trampolining, lacrosse, short tennis from PE; clay work from DT and our Year 10s shared their own devised performance on current social issues that they feel passionately about. During this week, staff began the early stages of planning for our Laudato si' prayer garden project which will allow many in our community to actively demonstrate their Salesian values during our Enrichment and Arts week.



If you have not had the opportunity to see our contributions, I do recommend looking at our Twitter account @StMichaels\_SE16. **Ms K.Faherty, Vice Principal**



### Chaplain's Corner

As we enter the second half of the summer term, we look forward to learning together and sharing in our RUAH values. Let us maintain our positive attitudes this week as the weather continues to be great!

#### Matthew 5:38-42

(The Word of God)

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you."



#### Some thoughts on this scripture and reflection:

Jesus teaches non-violence against the person, but does not rule out moral victory over evil. In my prayer I will ask God for the grace to stand up for what is right.

It would be next to impossible to help every person we meet begging in the street. But I could pray for God's grace to be a more generous and less judgemental person.

I try to listen to these words of Jesus not as law-giving, perhaps not even as a sermon, but as a message that is given for my freedom. Jesus wants me to be free of limits that I may have set upon myself by imagining others wrongly. I pray that attitudes and actions may change by my acting in the freedom that Jesus gives.

I often look to God for what I want and often receive what I need. I think of how I might be generous to those who look to me.

Jesus calls us to look beyond the limit of the law. We need to be generous and imaginative if we are to rise beyond the restrictions that life presents.

I think of how I might be free from the constraints I find by acting from a generous spirit. I ask God to inspire and help me.

The law and duty will provide basic guidelines but won't be enough for a disciple and certainly not enough for one who wants to be a friend of Jesus. Where do I need more generosity or freedom to respond to the vision that Jesus put before me?

To answer violence with violence or unreasonable demands with resistance is to do the expected thing. Jesus calls me to imagine my life differently and thus prompt others to see themselves anew.

Do I use laws and rules to protect my security or to promote justice for others?

**Ms Hagan**

#### Prayer for the week

Loving God,  
May we recognise that we are all part of one global human family  
and we are all equal in your eyes.  
In the spirit of gratitude and solidarity we ask you to increase the awareness of  
both the gifts and needs of those around us.  
Open our hearts, minds and doors to the gifts of every person.  
Help us to ensure St Michael's Catholic College is a welcoming community where  
everyone can find their place, where everyone is respected, where everyone is  
celebrated.

Amen

### 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. 708

