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# THE LINK

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

*Issue 191- 30th October 2021*

## Heritage School Award

The History department at St Michael's is delighted to announce that the school has received the "Heritage Schools Award" from Historic England. This is in recognition of the transformative work on the History curriculum and provision since 2014. This has included the interweaving of local histories throughout Key Stages 3, 4 and 5 and an expansion of immersive walking tours for students throughout Bermondsey, Southwark and the wider London region. It is also in recognition of our separately award-winning curriculum on Holocaust education and our leading approach to diversity, Black History and identity.

Come to the History Society every Tuesday at 3.30pm in S08 to find out more!

Congratulations everybody!

*Miss Tengra*



## Black British History at



St. Michael's Catholic College

## Black History Month

For Black History Month this October, Mr. Burton and the History department led a week of assemblies centered around the themes of identity and Black British history in London and beyond.

The students were made to reflect on Black British identity in the past and the present, considering how far things have changed, and what still needs to be done. The assembly provoked questions of what we can do as a school community to celebrate our differences and embrace all parts of our history and identities

The same themes will be continued into next half term's CPSHE topic, which will explore in more detail what it means to be both Black and British. The History Society will also be producing projects based on the same themes. The society's focus this term is on Black British history in our capital city. Using TFL's Black history tube map (pictured below) as a starting point, students from across different year groups will be producing online and physical projects about Black history in London.

**Mr Magnoff**





## 'Heaven is not closed' with photographer Aisha Seriki



On 20<sup>th</sup> October, Art and Media Studies students attended a “Challenge” seminar with Aisha Serike titled “Heaven is not closed.” We were able to learn about the History of photography with the camera obscura method as well learn about some Black photographers like Omar Diop and about how she first got into photography through her father and through her GCSE art which inspired her. We first looked at some of her work that she took - she uses black models who often look strong yet vulnerable as in the media, black women are rarely portrayed in that light and are usually over masculinised or sexualised by the media. She then proceeded to show us photographs taken by white explorers during the colonisation of Africa. She talked to us about the ‘Scramble for Africa’ in the year 1884 and how Africans were dehumanised by the Europeans. We saw the difference in the photographs taken by the explorers, without the Africans’ consent, and then the photographs taken by Africans of

other Africans with consent. We were able to see the change in expression and life in the photos. One African photographer, Malick Sidibé, said he wanted to give them “positions that brought something alive in them” which was the complete opposite of the Africans’ position in the photos taken by the explorers. It was an interesting experience for many pupils which allowed us to get an insight into black representation in photography as well as its History. **Victoria D.**

## Year 8 Rugby Festival



Our Rugby Academy programme in partnership with London Irish began 5 weeks ago and it is already proving successful.

Fourteen Schools are signed up to this years championship and St Michaels started the season superbly by winning all three of their matches to place us top of the league table. Please congratulate our Year 8 students for a superb performance at the Southwark schools Rugby Festival.

**Mr R Gavin**

Captain and MOM Matteo

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October the PE department took 15 Year 8 boys to their first rugby festival of the school year. The festival was a great success and the boys won all 3 of their matches.

They came up against some tough competition from other schools but were able to come out on top on the day, and now lead the league above 13 other schools.

All of the boys played amazingly but special mention needs to go to the captain and man of the match Matteo B.V., along with a handful of his teammates, including; Stephen M.-C., Joshua O.P. and Hadrian K., who scored some of the vital tries we needed to be victorious on the day. The team have 5 more rugby festivals coming up over the next few months, where we hope to repeat this tremendous success. Please wish the team both congratulations for their recent success and good luck for their future performances.

The following Year 8's were part of the team on Wednesday; Andrew Leo A. O.; Daniel A.; Emmanuel A.; Matteo B. V.; Weyere E.-A; Dominic J.; Joshua M. B.; Sebastian J.; Esteban M. ; Joshua O.P.; Lennard A.; Oluwatobi R. B.; Hadrian K. ;Stephen M.; Joshua Z.C.

**Mr Brett-Roberts**





### Chaplain's Corner

#### *The Word of the Lord*

Mark 10:34-45 (abridged)

Jesus summoned the twelve and said to them,

"You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles

lord it over them,

and their great ones make their authority over them felt.

But it shall not be so among you.

Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant;

whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all.

For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

#### What's been happening in the faith life of the school?

We celebrated the first ever DaCosta feast day (13<sup>th</sup> October) and charity week with lots of exciting events taking place to support those needier than ourselves. Events included, Bake Sales, Sponge Throw at teachers and guessing how many sweets are in the jar. Heads of House Ms Yon and Ms Hayden are still tallying up the totals!

We have been enjoying sessions in the Chapel to reflect on the Rosary month, inspired by the words and work of CAFOD

We've been continuing to collect food and toiletries for South Foodbank

#### *A reflection on this...*

Jesus understands all the underlying human inclinations and layers motivating James and John as well as the reaction of the other ten listening in. He recognises that initial responses will be developed over time as understanding deepens. He accepts His disciples where they are at with their journeys and uses this moment to teach them about the importance of service, rather than glory. He patiently draws them towards greater purity of intentions and motivations, modelling with His life what He has explained to them in words.

Based on an understanding of how God operates, we can confidently offer our desires but surrender the response, trusting that God knows fully what is best for us and those we love, as well as how we need to grow in the moment. When we don't get what we were hoping for, with confidence we can say, "Jesus, I trust in You," even as our hearts are breaking at the closed doors we were so certain would be opened.

Take a second to think - How can you look back at a previous disappointment with greater understanding for how God was operating in your life to provide you what you really needed or to support your on-going growth?

*Miss Casey*

*Head of Chaplaincy*



### Lost property

Please make sure your child's property has their name on, this makes it easier to reunite lost property to its owner.

Please don't bring expensive property to school;

Please note that all lost property that is not collected will be disposed of at the end of each half term.

### 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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