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THE LINK

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

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Victoria D. Wins Local Architecture Competition





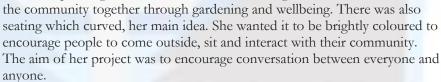
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beyondtheboxconsultants As part of the Tustin Estate Designers & Makers week during October half term, the young residents had a studio day... more

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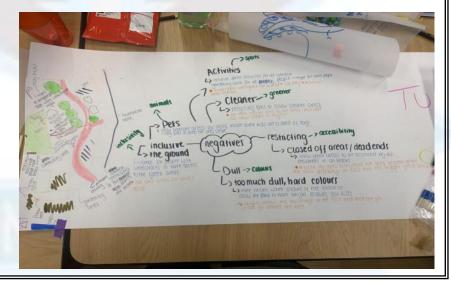
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Over the half term, Year 10 student Victoria D. participated in a competition in her local Southwark neighborhood. She worked with a photographer, architects, landscapers and artists and secured a work experience placement at dRMM architect studio and the top prize of £450. Victoria's design approach was to make the refurbishment of her estate have a good, environmentally friendly outcome. Her carefully considered design entitled 'Fragmental Eco Living' focused on making the area green, using recycled materials, planting and flowers that aimed to bring



Fr Victoria also understood the benefit of multi-use play spaces, with considerations for space for girls on the estate. Victoria designed retractable nets for volleyball and other sports like badminton that the net can also be used for. The net would be retracted so the area can be used as a basketball court. She also thought about floor materials that would be soft but durable for young people so the sports area can last for a long time but also minimize any potential injuries. The design was pulled together with well lit areas throughout the estate to form a welcoming neighbouhood.





PE department supporting Black History Month

To support black history month the PE department have partnered up with the ACE Charity. The ACE Programme was launched by Surrey County Cricket Club in January 2020 in response to the decline of the black British professional players by 75%, and the participation of less than 1% playing recreationally. The ACE Programme was designed to engage young people of African and Caribbean Heritage and a talent search was launched.

Our involvement with ACE is focused primarily on girls' participation and is designed to increase participation and identify talent. Yesterday our Year 8 students received their first coaching session from coach Shemar.

Mr Gavin, Head of PE



EBONY-JEWEL RAINFORD-BRENT - CHAIR



Ebony-Jewel Rainford-Brent is a former England Cricketer, World Cup Winner, Broadcaster, Surrey County Cricket Club Board member and the first Black woman to play cricket for England.

Ebony's career as a player spanned nearly 20 years, where she captained Surrey Women, and at the highest level was part of the successful England Squad that won the ICC Women's World Cup, World T20 and Ashes in 2009. Since retiring, she has gone onto a successful career in the media as a Broadcaster and now cover's international men and women's cricket for Sky and BBC and has travelled the world covering major tournaments. In January 2015, Ebony returned to her home club and became the first Director of Women's Cricket for Surrey County Cricket Club and joined the Board. During her time she has overseen a period of increasing professionalism for the domestic women's game as well as founding the ACE Programme.

Ebony's has also been passionate about Sports development, early on worked as a coach for 10 years in the community and became one of the first Chance to Shine Ambassador Coaches.

During her time at The Lord's Taverners she was instrumental in the developing of The 'Wicketz' Programme designed to support disadvantaged groups to access cricket as well as Super 1's to create more competitive opportunities for disabled young people to access the game. Ebony sits as a Trustee on the Chance to Shine Board.

Ebony now uses her platform and voice to support underrepresented groups in the game. She is passionate in particular on wanting to increase the engagement with the Black and African and Caribbean heritage communities with the game of cricket, as well as moving the dial forward with a positive narrative.

Trip to Sands Films





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Trip to Sands Films



On the 5th of November 2021 the pupils in Year 10 and 11 GCSE Music classes took part in a jazz workshop at Sands Films in Rotherhithe. Pupils spent the day working with jazz educator Mr Nicholas who guided the pupils in techniques and performance styles found in jazz performance. The photos show the beautiful setting inside Sands Films which further inspired all those involved to take musical risks as well as a leap of faith into the unknown in terms of jazz improvisation in a large group. It was very encouraging to see the pupils working together so creatively in this jazz workshop, especially after a long spell of issues with covid, interrupting the chance for pupils to perform live together, and below are a few reports from pupils of their experiences.

"The trip to Sands Films was an amazing experience for all of the students. The venue was a beautiful quaint studio with a theatre and small audience; it looked like it had been taken out of the 18th century. We spent the day learning new skills for each of our instruments as well as having a great amount of fun. Mr Nicholas, the leader of the workshop, was an experienced jazz musician who taught us all a thing or two about improvisation. Not only was it great practice for our ensemble pieces (an important component of the music GCSE portfolio), but it was also a new skill to incorporate into our compositions. I can now say I have a greater appreciation for jazz, as some parts were challenging and I had to really focus to get things right without sheet music. I thank Mr Laurence, the Music department and Sands Films Studio for the trip!" *Ryan B.*

"Our trip to Sands Films was a unique and very enjoyable experience. I had never heard of the place beforehand so I was not expecting much from it and so it definitely exceeded my expectations. [...] we found out that they made the costumes for Harry Potter there! Mr Nicholas was an amazing soprano saxophone player and very enthusiastic with his work, teaching us how to improvise freely. It was completely different to reading music and it felt like we were all part of the composition. This session made us learn music by ear, which was something that I



never really thought I could do. Before this session, I didn't know how to improvise at all, and I had so much anxiety over playing something unprepared but I managed to build my confidence and improvise pieces that got longer as we went through the day. We did a call and response improvisation and choosing our own notes to play in the group which was challenging and it was really important to help each other out by listening carefully to each other. Overall, it was a very new experience and I feel that I have learnt a lot from this trip." *Bezawit*





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Chaplain's Corner

The Word of the Lord

Revelations 7:2-4, 9-14 (Feast of All Saints)

I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel.

After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.'

One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

A reflection on this...

We honour those holy men and women who have gone before us in faith and have done so in a glorious way. As we honour these great champions of faith, let's reflect upon who they are and what role they continue to play in the life of the Church.

We can reflect on this today and consider...

We understand this day to be a day to remember those who martyred themselves so that we might live in Christ today, and we will see those whom sacrificed themselves sitting and waiting alongside Christ at the end of time.

Miss Casey, Head of Chaplaincy





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

Pupils and staff have been adding names of lost loved ones to the November Prayers for the Dead scrolls – this way we can remember those we have lost this year and keep them in our prayers in Mass

We celebrated an appreciation of Diwali in school, hosting a small party with music, lights, food and a presentation

All Saints and All Souls Days were marked

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.



