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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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Metro Bank: Day to Amaze

On Thursday, 25th November, a group of Year 10 pupils visited Metro Bank's Headquarters in Bloomsbury to attend their 'Day to Amaze' programme. The students learned that banking is not just about maths skills. Several members of the bank's 'People Team' (HR) explained how Metro has sought to carve out a unique reputation and culture in British banking by prioritising customer service and interactions. They gave lots of examples of this such as their longer business hours, ensuring helpline callers get to speak to a real person within minutes, and welcoming dogs into their banks. They explained how these 'culture goals' influence the qualities they are looking for in potential employees. Their job interviews almost always involve doing role plays, so skills from subjects like Drama and English are important too! The host for the day said he had been a professional comedian before coming to work there.



The pupils took part in a number of team-building and learning activities that explored what is involved in good customer service. They also had the chance to learn about personal budgeting and CV writing. The day concluded with a member of the bank's senior executive team sharing her story of struggling in school but ultimately overcoming dyslexia to become an advertising expert and company leader. She challenged the students to not let anything get in the way of their ambitions. She said that whilst grades are important, good companies also want to hire people with the right spirit and character. **Mr Walker**

"The trip to Metro Bank was an enlightening experience. It gave all who took part a glimpse into an area of work that we might pursue in the future. From 'people team' personnel to a marketing executive, the Metro Bank team that led the sessions shared with us their insights about how to succeed in the real world. We also learned about some highly applicable life skills such as CV writing and budgeting. The knowledge shared by the team such as the star interviewing technique and suggestions for job applications will hopefully propel all of us in our future career journeys." **Jayden FM**

Year 7 Brilliant Scholars



This term, twelve Year 7 students have taken part in the Brilliant Scholars Programme. In addition to a guided tour of Oxford University, these students have been working with Dr Wattam from the University of Manchester on a graduate-level project on "Literary Theory." On completion of this project in the New Year, these students will attend a graduation ceremony at a central London Russell Group venue. Good luck everybody!

Mr Magnoff



Meet my future self

I was one of twenty other students in Year 10 who attended a zoom call, the theme was “Meet my Future self” and was centred around Inspiring women to do well and to aim high in your future careers. We were given the opportunity to listen to guest speakers and former St Michael’s students, Hannah Awonuga and Ese Eniwumide - an award winning online business coach and educator who works with female business entrepreneurs. Ese stressed to us the importance of playing to your strengths and passions when wanting to start a business or pursue a certain career, as this allows you to put all of your drive and focus into it. I found listening to Hannah and Ese made me realise it is possible to achieve anything no matter who you

are in life, as long as you have the determination.

One thing I will take away from this experience is the motto “Fail Fast, Fail forward”, as it made me realise how important it was to have a positive mindset and resilience to achieve success in what I do. If there was one thing I would like to tell other people about this experience it would be that you can be that CEO, or the next prize winning entrepreneur, as long as you have a passion and willingness to learn from mistakes you can achieve. **Scarlett M**



Year 7 Retreat—Friendship

Across two Thursday mornings, the 18th and 25th November, this year Year 7s had the chance to reflect on what it is to be a good friend.



We spent time at first considering how we can make friends and what friendship means to us. There were lots of different and great ideas of how we can not only display friendship, but how we can recognise these great qualities in others.



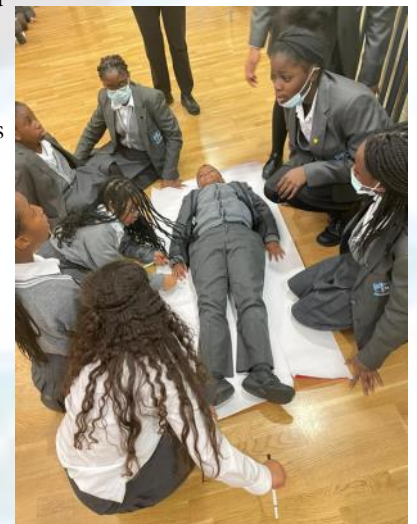
The pupils had a fantastic time creating the ‘ideal friend’ – drawing around a willing volunteer and showcased in their decoration that it was clearly on the inside that matters, not the outside. Pupils were able to compare their ‘ideal friends’ with one another and it showed us a range of viewpoints.

After break we looked at how Jesus displayed the age old ‘Love thy neighbour’ and what he taught those around him. Year 7 really enjoyed taking the statements from Jesus and adapting them into roleplays to match their modern lives, they were also really keen to share these.

Finally we reflected on everything we had done and each pupil was given a star, on it they were to write their name and the quality they think is most important in a friend. We placed these folded into bowls and witnessed how they all opened up and merged together, showing there is not one perfect friend quality, we can all bring our own reflections to the bowl.

Overall the Year 7s seemed to really enjoy this and it was a joy to allow them this space to explore what friendship means to them.

Miss Casey, Head of Chaplaincy



Year 8 rugby festival article- continued success



On Wednesday 10th November we once again took an excited group of Year 8's to their second rugby festival of the season. The team were able to overcome all odds and continue their success by winning all 3 of their games once again, this time the team beat schools such as Kingsdale (8-2), Habdashers (4-2) and Bacons College (4-2).

The 12 man strong squad were put up against some new challenges, not only facing different opponents but also the addition of semi contact rules. However, the team was able to tackle anything that came their way, meaning that they were the only team to remain unbeaten so far over the 2 festivals. Special mention must go to: Team Captain Matteo for his incredible runs and for scoring at least 7 tries on the day; Joshua O. who made some incredible stops when defending, Stephen, Daryl, Lennard and Andrew for making some near unstoppable runs through the opponents defense.

The real challenge comes in a few weeks time when the boys will face their first full contact games in their 3rd rugby festival.

The team will be training hard over the next 2-3 weeks to be ready to face the opponents and retain their unbeaten streak. Please congratulate the team and wish them good luck for their next festival.

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.; Joshua M. B.; Sebastian J.; Joshua O. P.; Lennard A.; Oluwatobi Ruben B.; Daryl G.; Stephen M-C.

Year 10 Football SMCC vs Sacred heart

On Thursday 18th November the PE department took 15 Year 10 boys to their first football game of the school year, playing in the south London school cup competition. The game was a great success and the boys won the match 6-1. The boys came up against some tough competition to begin with as the team went 1-0 down within the first 15 minutes of the game, however, they were able to persevere, not giving up, meaning that a few minutes later we were able to bring the score back to 1-1 and then again before the end of the first half making it 2-1 to SMCC. The rest of the goals came in the second half where the boys were truly able to show off their skill and ability, both as individuals and as a team.

The team had some incredible performances within the game, special mentions go to our defenses capabilities on the day, who apart from allowing one small mistake were outstanding on the day. This was only reinforced by the incredible performance from the goal keeper and those playing up front scoring the goals.

The team will now move on into the next round of the competition to play against another school who is yet to be determined. Whoever the opposition is, though, the team can be confident in themselves and their ability to come out on top.

Mr H Brett-Roberts, Teacher of PE



Chaplain's Corner

The Word of the Lord

John 18:33-37 (Feast of Christ the King)

33 So Pilate went back into the Praetorium and called Jesus to him and asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?'

34 Jesus replied, 'Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others said it to you about me?'

35 Pilate answered, 'Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?'

36 Jesus replied, 'Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. As it is, my kingdom does not belong here.'

37 Pilate said, 'So, then you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'It is you who say that I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this, to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.'

A reflection on this...

In these times of fake news and alternatives facts, it is so refreshing to hear Jesus solemnly proclaim that he was born and came into the world to testify to the truth.

The basic truth is that God is love and loves the world he created so much that he sent his own Son to save it. It is key to ask yourself - 'what is an important truth for me, and to what extent am I committed to find it and live by it?'

'My kingdom is not from this world'.

From the rest of Jesus' words and especially from his actions it is obvious that he does not mean that his kingdom is totally other-worldly, having nothing to do with matters of this world. He means that it is not built on power-seeking at all costs and on violence, like most 'kingdoms' of this world, but on other values, mostly on love, mercy and universal solidarity. Consider how much your faith in Jesus influences my decisions in the concrete world. **Miss Casey, Head of Chaplaincy**

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

The scrolls for the dead were placed in the Chapel and by the main entrance, it's important as a school we reflect on those whom we have lost.

We held a one-minute silence to mark Remembrance Day. The Year 12 and Year 13 Chaplaincy team have been busy preparing for Advent. Preparations are underway for the Christmas Liturgy.

Assemblies were held by Mr Arda to celebrate the feast of Christ the King.

There was a house competition to improve the form boards in each tutor room – they needed to have a faith and student focus. Winners to be announced soon!!



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. We currently have several coats and PE kits that have not been claimed.

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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