

St Michael's Catholic
College

Llewellyn Street
London SE16 4UN

Tel: 020 7237 6432

www.stmichaelscollege.org.uk
contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk

THE LINK

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

Issue 194 - 15th December 2021

Donation from JP Morgan



The school has received an incredibly kind donation from JP Morgan, which has seen students receive a personal laptop to use throughout the year. This has allowed numerous students to continue with work through difficult and uncertain times, for use both at school and at home. Students are able to use these laptops in homework clubs and for extracurricular activities, as well as taking the laptops home for assisting their learning more remotely. This has ensured there isn't a shortage of laptops at home for the students who might otherwise be waiting for parents to finish working from home, before they can even engage with their learning.

Students have praised the laptops for giving them additional abilities to pursue their learning where it would have otherwise become impossible. They are able to continue with school work even through half terms.

JP Morgan have really helped to make a difference for many of our students' lives and we thank them greatly for it.

To J.P. Morgan :

My name is Adrian and I was lucky enough to receive one of the Chromebooks you generously donated to the school. Thanks to your kindness, I will now be able to produce a better quality of work on the laptop, given that the previous laptop I was using was slow and restricted me from performing to the best of my ability, and it will also mean that my family do not have to continuously sacrifice their devices for me.

Downing Street Advent Reception.

On Wednesday 1st December 2021, the Principal Ms Corcoran attended a reception hosted by the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street to mark the start of Advent. Christian Leaders from across the country were invited to the event in thanks for the work undertaken in their communities during the Covid-19 pandemic and the Catholic Education Service nominated Ms Corcoran to attend to represent St Michael's and Catholic Education. At the reception Ms Corcoran met politicians including the Prime Minister as well as Christian charity, education and faith leaders including the Archbishop of Canterbury and Pope Francis's representative in the UK, Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti the Apostolic Nuncio. It was a wonderful opportunity to share some of the brilliant work staff and students at St Michael's are involved in at such a prestigious occasion.

Ms Corcoran



Psychology trip

On Wednesday 1st December, the Year 12 psychology students attended a Science and Psychology Conference at the Friends House in Euston. The day consisted of a series of talks by leading psychologists on a variety of fascinating topics.

Firstly, Professor Phil Banyard gave a very interesting talk about pseudoscience. He asked the audience to answer fact or fiction questions and demonstrated how convincing fake news can be. Next up was Cara Flanagan, the organiser of the conference and one of the most respected authors of psychology textbooks. Her talk about “What is the point of science?” discussed the use of the scientific method in psychology. She introduced some of the key concepts, such as falsifiability, that students will study in year 13 as well as recapping theories such as the “weapon focus effect” that the students are already familiar with. Following Cara’s talk, Mike Cardwell, the previous senior examiner for AQA psychology outlined “Bad Science”. He explained how “The Monster Study”, a controversial experiment by Wendell Johnson, tried to provoke stuttering in orphan children, leaving some children with ongoing speech problems for the rest of their lives. He gave an insight into the idea of ethics in psychological research.



The rest of the day entailed some lively interactive lectures including Professor Lucy Clements on how dance can improve cognitive processes. The students took part in a dance experiment to see if they had more creative thoughts after dancing to some music. Oliver Meech, did a lively talk on psychology and magic. He explained how suggestible we all are, due to the idea that we see with our brain rather than our eyes, demonstrating this with some weird optical illusions. The day finished with a hypnotist showing and talking about how given the right conditions we all can be conditioned to perform tasks. The students who fell under his influence carried out some bizarre actions, such as thinking they were on a plane and using their shoes as emergency air masks. The students thoroughly enjoyed the conference and it gave them a valuable opportunity to learn more about some of the psychology that is not covered in our syllabus. Hopefully, it will inspire them to do some extracurricular reading to broaden their knowledge.

Mrs Cook



Eronisa being hypnotised



Student Comments about the day:

“ I thoroughly enjoyed the conference as the presenters were able to keep it informative as well as engaging which helped me learn more”
Amelie D.- B.

“ The engagement from the lecturers. It was exciting, fun and active” **Ryle P.**

You Said, We Did! Parent Focus Group update



St Michael's Catholic College sees parental engagement as an integral part of working with families to enhance all we do within the college. For parents or carers, it provides an excellent opportunity to get involved in school life. We meet each half term with the Principal to discuss and focus upon whole school priorities that benefit everyone in the school community.

Here are the latest changes in light of parent/carers feedback since October:

You said: Arrange with the Finance Team the option for parents to make discretionary donations via ParentPay with no obligation.

We did: Our finance team have said that there is already a "Governors fund" option in Parent Pay. Please feel free to contribute to help some of our students and families that require support in this way.

You said: Arrange an option for the £30 laptop deposit as a donation to the college.

We did: Our Finance Team have said once the £30 Y10 & Y11 laptop locker deposits have been made, the payment disappears from the screen on Parent Pay. We can make the donation an option at the end of Y11/13 when locker keys are returned. We will communicate with parents/carers to inform them of this choice and then the amount can be refunded/donated as appropriate.

You said: Check that uniform donations are possible through liaising with Public Health and then setting up dates/times for submission by parents. Setup of a uniform event.

We did: Mr Arda has liaised with Mr Martin about setting up a Year 12 Eco-Committee. They are collecting old, clean uniforms from students with a view to making them available for families who need them. This collection will occur every morning when the students line up for registration in the morning by our dedicated volunteers!

You said: Are there any sewing activities?

We did: Mr Arda spoke with Ms Arjan, Head of DT. There is a house competition scheduled for January to upcycle the school uniform with any clothes not reusable due to wear and tear. It continues the theme of sustainability within the college with the new Year 12 Eco-Committee, while helping to raise students' awareness and develop their skills.

You said: Asking parents with transferable skills – to add to a survey for parents.

We did: Parents with transferable skills have been added to the parents survey. The college is keeping a list of volunteers with various skills and will be contacting them in due course.

You said: Identify events through the college calendar. Additionally, to find out how feasible it would be to deliver a 30 mins concert at Christmas with Mr & Mrs Laurence.

We did: The music department have been approached for a virtual event this autumn term with students and a short music recital through a YouTube video, to be shared to parents on week beginning Mon 13th December via EduLink.

Thank you to our Parent Focus Group for their contributions, which makes a real difference to everyone at St Michael's.

For more information about the Parent Focus Group, please see: <https://www.stmichaelscollege.org.uk/parents/parent-focus-group/>

Merry Christmas and have a wonderful festive break! **Best wishes, Mr Arda**



Rugby

Final rugby festival of the year



On Wednesday 1st December we once again took an excited group of Year 8's to the last rugby festival of the year. The team showed extreme determination and continued their unbeaten streak by winning 3 of their games and drawing 1, the team went up against schools such as Nauticle (4-0), Kingsdale (4-0), Walworth (5-2) and St Thomas' (4-4).

The squad were put up against some new challenges, not only facing different opponents but also their first ever full contact games. However, the team were able to come away on top, meaning that they are still the only team to remain unbeaten so far over the 3 festivals and an extraordinary 7 games. Special mentions must go to team Captain Matteo for his incredible runs and for scoring several crucial try's on the day, Joshua O also scored along with Weyere and Josh Z.

The team were extremely brave on Wednesday and showed the highest forms of courage and teamwork, not faltering in the face of full contact rugby. The PE department is extremely proud of the rugby team and their accomplishments so far, we hope the boys will continue this extraordinary feat after the christmas break. 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: Matteo B.V.; Stephen M-C; Lennard A.; Esteban M.V.; Joshua Z.C.; Joshua O.P. ; Joshua M.B.; Hadrian K.; Dominic J; Sebastian J.; Oluwatobi Ruben B.; Roger J.; Daniel A.; Weyere E-A.



Carbon Offsetting

How much does it cost to plant a tree?



ES will plant a tree sapling >

As one of the new initiates asked for by the Eco-Committee we are investigating ways the school can begin to offset our carbon footprint...

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/plant-a-tree>

Two trees planted will offset the energy used to run both the projectors in the lunch hall and 6th form canteen for their lifetime

Certificate of Thanks

Thank you

St Michael's Catholic College

For the donation of 20 trees to offset the carbon footprint of the school's energy usage.

Thank you for your support in helping to reduce the school's carbon footprint and for planting your trees to help offset the school's carbon footprint.

Name: _____

Date: _____

2021



Tuck shop results

After lots of hard work in a quick turnaround by the Yr10 Chaplaincy team to arrange their fundraising event,

thanks to the keen purchases of our students and some generation donations from staff.

we raised **£215** for the OAP Hampers!!



The Word of the Lord

Zephaniah 3:14-18 (Third Week of Advent)

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away.
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.
When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:
Zion, have no fear,
do not let your hands fall limp.
The Lord your God is in your midst,
a victorious warrior.
He will exult with joy over you,
he will renew you by his love;
he will dance with shouts of joy for you
as on a day of festival.

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

Yr10 Chaplaincy raised £215 for items for our hampers for OAPs in the local parish – they ran a tuck shop which was really successful.

We celebrated the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in Assembly lead by our Leaders of Learning.

Preparations continue for our Christmas Services on the last day of term.

Our interactive advent calendar went live, with messages being shared daily of missions for the day alongside the Christmas story.

Chaplain's Corner

A reflection on this...

The third Sunday of Advent traditionally has a focus on joy. And, indeed, almost all the texts for this Sunday speak of joy.

Our reading from Zephaniah sets the tone: "Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!" (3:14).

The prophet piles on the exhortations to joy: exult, rejoice, sing, shout!

This prophecy reflects nicely on the idea of us waiting for the saviour and links to the arrival of Jesus arriving into Jerusalem at the start of Holy Week.

It shows us the idea of waiting for something joyful to happen and teaches us that anticipation is not always a bad thing .

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
contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk For absence please phone: 0207 237 6432 EXTN. 708

