

St Michael's Catholic
College

Llewellyn Street
London SE16 4UN

Tel: 020 7237 6432

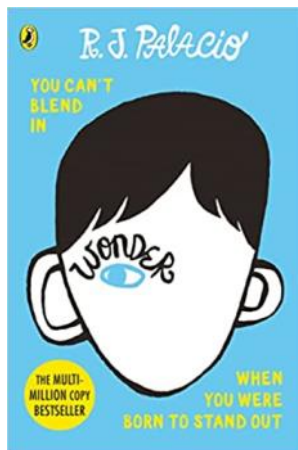
www.stmichaelscollege.org.uk
contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk

THE LINK

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

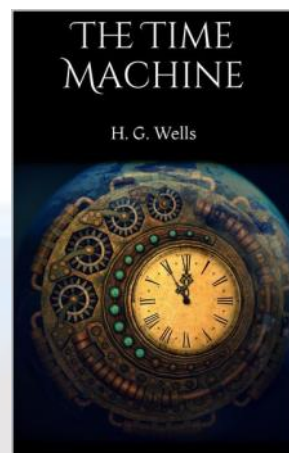
Issue 195- January 2022

Reading for Pleasure

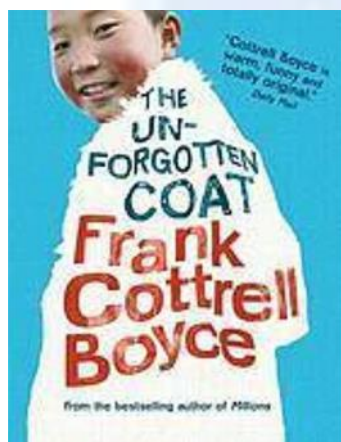


We all know how wonderful it is to get lost in a great book! Reading is important for so many reasons. It helps us to relax, it expands our vocabulary, it allows us to get lost in new and interesting worlds. In College, Year 7 have been reading the novel 'Wonder' by R.J Palacios together during Friday registration and really enjoyed the opportunity to listen to their teacher read aloud to them as well as reading aloud themselves.

I am pleased to announce that starting this term, Year 8 and 9 will start reading a novel together. Year 7 will continue with some short stories by David Almond after they have finished their current book. Year 8 will be reading 'The Time Machine' by H.G. Wells and Year 9 will be reading 'The Unforgotten Coat' by Frank Cottrell Boyce.



It is so important that all our students are reading regularly at home as well as in College. For parents, it can be tricky to help your children to pick new books to read that are both age-appropriate and suitably challenging. To support parents, we have set up a new website which you can look through with your children. It has information about the benefits of reading, some videos from our wonderful students explaining what they love about reading, specific advice for parents and lists of recommended reading for different age groups. It also gives information about where students can borrow books from in school.



Please use this link to access the website (works best when opened on a computer/tablet): <https://sites.google.com/stmichaelscollege.org.uk/readingforpleasuresmcc/the-amazing-benefits-of-reading>

Going forward, in each edition of the Link, we will be publishing a book review written by different students in our College. Students, you can enter a book review using the link above. Just select the tab 'Book Reviews'. You will see a Google form at the bottom which you can add your book review to in order to win your house 50 points! If you don't want to write a book review, you can enter an alternative blurb, an alternative ending or a letter to the author of a book you have read! These entries will also be awarded 50 house points.

Keep your eyes peeled for the first book review in the next edition of the Link.

Happy reading!

Mrs Keane (was Miss Horsburgh)

Award Winning Teacher

Congratulations to Mr Bourke, Head of English who recently won the prestigious Linen Hall Michael McLaverty Short Story Award for his story 'The Catch'.

The award was set up to foster and encourage the tradition of the Irish short story and has run biennially since its inception in 2006. One of the adjudicators for this year's competition, the multi-award winning writer Donal Ryan said Mr Bourke's novel "is a gleaming piece of work, an elegantly crafted study of the tension between tradition and pragmatism, as the young hunter strains against the bonds of convention. Place and action are rendered and melded so sublimely that the writer's hand disappears completely, leaving the reader alone to witness and share the hunter's defiance, her transgression and her triumph, to hear 'each passing second as it sought to set itself, the tightening coil of the present moment preparing to move out against the future world.'"

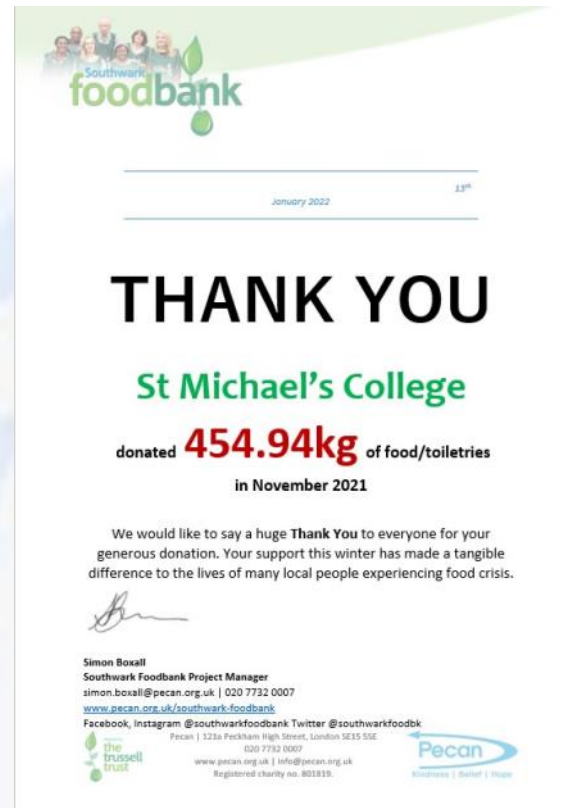
This is a fantastic achievement for Mr Bourke, setting a wonderful example to St Michael's students. *Ms Corcoran, Principal*



Left to right: runner-up Sadhbh Moriarty, winner Niall Bourke and runner-up Dawn Watson

Outcome of St Michael's Donation to the Food Bank

The contribution of our St Michael's community to the Food Bank collection has been wonderful. Here is the thank you letter from the Food Bank manager.



Natural Dyeing



Year 10 participated in a Natural Dyeing workshop with Miss Loy. In this workshop pupils used an ancient technique of using natural substances to dye fabric.

Dye came from boiling a range of kitchen staples including food scrapes, onion and avocado skins, red cabbage and spices, turmeric and chili flakes inside squares of fabric. Natural dyeing is a great way to recycle and a non toxic form of dyeing.

Pupils learnt what product would create what colour, some of which were very surprising. For example while many would expect avocado to create a green colour it actually creates a peach. Applying this new knowledge, students took the food, skins and spices to create their own pattern before binding the fabric in string. The bundles were then boiled and students will be using their samples to create multimedia art works in the next coming week. **Miss L. Loy**



Chaplain's Corner

The Word of the Lord

The Baptism of the Lord

Luke 3:15-16; 21-22

The people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

A reflection on this...

The New Testament is founded on the Old Testament, both its main stories and its language and themes and ideas: To understand who Jesus is requires us to understand the Old Testament better also.

We are reminded that our faith is a public and political faith. Jesus came to bring in the Kingdom of God which would challenge the kingdoms of the world, the Romans, Herods, the chief priests. His baptism is a public, outdoor event and our faith needs to be public and outdoors.

We may wish to think again about what our baptism meant and means. Was it a nice event (many years ago), or is it the signing up to following Jesus, living in the way of God?

John the Baptist is the culmination of the Old Testament prophets, the hinge to Jesus as it were, God has not gone silent since: how do we as individuals and as churches live out and act out God's call in today's world, always pointing people beyond us to the one who is "more powerful".

An interesting episode in the life of Jesus, or a reminder to us of God's call on our lives?

Miss Casey, Head of Chaplaincy

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

As we start the new term Ms Corcoran has been reflecting with students in assemblies about the feast of the Epiphany and how we can be inspired by the 3 Kings to seek out the wonder and mystery in the world, to follow the light of Christ and to be a light in the darkness.

Miss Casey has also been leading assemblies on Catholic Social Teaching and the importance of these messages in our college lives and in the hearts of young Catholics.



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**

