

St Michael's Catholic College

Spring Term



RESPECT | UNDERSTANDING | AFFECTION | HUMOUR

RUAH

“The breath of life that animates the soul”



LENT: ASH WEDNESDAY

This year four members of the Year 12 Chaplaincy Team led our Ash Wednesday Services, the first ones we were able to have in over two years. Thank you to Juliana, Janice, Joshlyn and Maria.

I am not always the type of person to stand in front of the entire year and carry out an assembly, however the opportunity and the role that was given to me, encouraged me to be braver and become more confident. The Ash Wednesday ceremony that was carried out this year was incredibly special as members of the chaplaincy team, including myself, had the chance to mark a cross with ash on the foreheads of those in attendance to symbolise the death and repentance of sins and purification, this allowed us to be a step closer to our community. It was a very enjoyable ceremony and I was happy to be part of it.

Maria M-G – Year 12



LENT: RECONCILIATION SERVICES

We haven't been able to run a full series of Reconciliation Services since 2019, as they were cancelled during Lent in 2020. It was incredibly special to welcome back many of the Priests in our local college community to come and spend time with our young people.

Pupils across all years of the College were given the opportunity to confess their sins during reconciliation.

Before the reconciliation I had time for self-reflection and consideration, so I knew what I would like to speak to the Priest about, going to see him feeling prepared. The reconciliation took place in the school hall. Sometimes if you are in church this is undertaken behind a screen, but at school this was face to face. I felt comfortable and welcomed by the Priest. What I liked also, just by coincidence, the Priest I spoke to was actually my own Parish Priest.

When it was my turn to speak to the Priest, I was welcomed by him, the sign of the cross was made, I confessed my sins, a prayer was said and the priest told me ways of which I can overcome my sins. This reconciliation period was very nice as I felt inner comfort and peace but also I felt reassured that I had been forgiven for my wrong doings by God. I knew that whatever I told the Priest he would not judge me, and he wouldn't tell anyone, he was just there as a messenger between myself and God. By speaking to him it felt like something that I was worried about and unhappy with, with myself, was lifted off my shoulders, and I felt that I was forgiven.

This act of reconciliation made me reflect on something which before I saw the Priest, I was concerned, unhappy and worried about and it made me think about why I did this, why it was wrong and why I wouldn't do this again. Speaking to the Priest and him listening to me made me feel like a better person.

I think people should reconcile because it allows us as Catholics to put things right with ourselves and God and assures us of God's forgiveness. It made me feel a better person and made me feel closer to God. This was a great opportunity to speak to a Priest at the school as it allowed myself and other pupils the opportunity to spend time with God privately and to clear worries and doubts. This was great timing before Lent on the lead up to Easter.

Matthew M - Year 8

WORLD RELIGIONS FOCUS: HOLI



Just as before Christmas, we have had a large focus on World Religions across the college to honour and reflect our multi-cultural location. This term we got to spend time celebrating the Hindu festival of Holi.

This was special for many reasons, for the first time in over two years we were able to mix a large group of pupils in the hall for the celebrations. We also spent time decorating the school with paper chains to symbolise the colour burst this festival incorporates. But also, the message of this festival is of equality and good overcoming evil, which is also the motto of our school.



During the week, pupils in KS3 learnt about Holi in special lessons led by the RE department and were integral to creating the paperchains we decorated the school with. Then, the decorations began led by the Year 10 and Year 12 Chaplaincy teams, with help from the Year 9 Faith in Action Group.



Finally on the Friday itself, we arranged for the kitchen to serve an Indian tasting platter for lunch and then we partied. After school all were invited to come and have popcorn, a traditional snack, plus we had parachute games, bubbles, sweets, music and culminated in a few group dances led by the Year 12s and a fantastic display of how it's truly done by Ms. Mansoor.



This was a brilliant and incredibly fun event.



HOUSE COMPETITIONS

THE BAKE OFF COMPETITION



Hello, my name is Vlad and I'm a student of St Michaels. I like to play football; I mean I have been playing it for 7 years! For me, this should sound unbelievable but the first time in school I took a house competition which was called 'Bake-off competition'. When I made my cake, I didn't think that I would win. And also, I did it only 1 day before my birthday so I thought it was going to be fun and I was happy to have the cake on my birthday! However, what is funny in there was that I was sick before the results and I forgot about this competition. After that when I came back to school like always but the only difference was that I was twelve, everyone start coming to me and said 'You won the Bake-off competition, You won the Bake-off competition' and I was like 'what, no way I don't believe you' but when I saw my name on the board I started to laugh because actually my cake was looking so small. Now I think to take part of competition is fun because you don't know who is winner or who is loser but you only can guess and my advice is take part of competition because is fun.

Vlad M – Year 7

BASKETBALL COMPETITION

I never really played basketball nor was interested in it - until that house competition. Although we lost, I and surely a couple others found something that we can enjoy. The cost of this? Nothing but time. We strengthened bonds, represented our house and won house points; helping us cement our lead above all the other houses in the overall scores. Even if you think you would be bad at sport - you will never know until you try! There are also many other ways to support your house and many different types of competitions, like spelling bees, fundraisers and soap runs? So go out! Ask your form tutors what other competitions there may be and get involved.

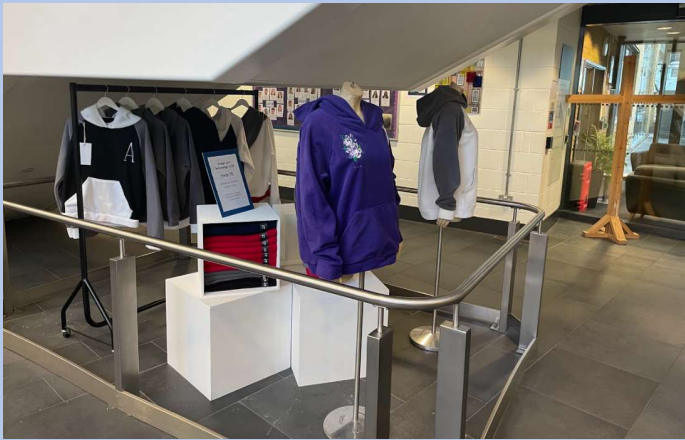
Now I have a new passion and am getting involved in basketball matches with other schools!

Victor T – Year 10



EVENTS AND VENTURES ACROSS THE COLLEGE LIFE

YEAR 10 TEXTILES COURSEWORK



My experience creating these hoodies felt unfamiliar yet rewarding. Similarly to others in my class, I had never even thought of creating a piece of textiles myself but creating these hoodies allowed me to learn new techniques and the difficulties of the textile industry as a whole. Throughout the whole process, we tried to produce as little waste as possible by doing or changing small habits as simple as using already cut out pattern pieces or fabric.

First, and probably the most important step, is to use the pattern pieces given to determine and cut out the sizes of our fabric. To me this is the most essential step because if our cutting was not precise, it would affect the entire outcome of the product. It was useful to learn about the different parts of pattern pieces such as notches and cut on fold.

Next step was to sew all the separate pieces together (the hardest step). Despite this, it was satisfying to see the hoodie come together and see my vision come to life. From sewing the first piece to the last piece, gradually (after many weeks) the hoodie was almost complete.

The last step, and my favourite part, was to use the embroidery machine to embroider my design onto my hoodie. I chose to do my initial with colours that stood out from the main body of the hoodie. This step really completed the hoodie and made it more unique and distinctive from the other hoodies.

Overall, the process of creating this hoodie was challenging and beneficial. I would recommend (in your spare time) trying to create something worthwhile - who knows you might just be good at it.

Alma N-G – Year 10



LANTERN PROCESSION



On the 4th of March, the Year 10 band and some students in Year 9 took part in the lantern festival. When we had been told that we were going to play at the lantern procession after school I wasn't exactly looking forward to it. I thought about how it would be a Friday evening, how I could just be at home and relax, but looking back on our trip I don't regret a second of it. Weeks before the procession, we had spent our lunch times practising in the music room with the whole samba band, it was quite funny how we had to constantly walk around in a circle while playing.

When Friday had arrived and we finished lessons, we all went to the music room to prepare our instruments and get ready to leave to go to St James' Church, where people had been getting their lanterns prepared. Then at around 5:30pm, everyone gathered outside of the church with their lanterns and then the band began leading the way towards Southwark Park. Unfortunately, the weather wasn't the greatest. When the procession started, it had started to drizzle and it was quite cold so I couldn't feel my fingers at all. The music had sounded really good, as we were walking down streets people left their houses to watch and record what had been happening. At some points we were asked to stop - the first time when we had been stopped, we were confused as to why, but when we turned around, we saw a huge amount of people trying to catch up, more and more people joining in.

Eventually when we had reached the park, we saw even more people coming to join us in the middle of the park with these incredible lanterns. There had been a band there, a fire truck, free pizza, a barn dance, it was amazing. Me and my friends all joined in with the barn dance. It was a bit chaotic at the start of the dance since we weren't quite sure what we were meant to be doing, but we got it in the end and had an absolute blast. We also then got offered some pizza which was really nice, and some people got the opportunity to go sit inside the fire truck. I may have originally been hesitant to go on this trip, but it was totally worth going in the end, I had an amazing night, and I don't regret it.

Karolina V – Year 10

DEBATING SOCIETY

Across KS3 and KS5 we currently have a range of debating societies.

One such group is Year 9 who have been mostly together as a team for the past three years and are so keen to showcase the incredible skills they have developed at a competition, hopefully in the Summer term.

As someone who is in the Year 9 Debate Society (run by Miss Casey) I believe that my being part of such a club has been integral for giving me more confidence and has helped with my public speaking, especially on topics I am not comfortable with. As debating requires you to find information and statistics ahead of time, it has made me better at researching and writing speeches, as well as working with a team. All roles, but especially summary, have helped me to increase my note-taking speed and have allowed me to improvise in front of a group of people. Raising points of information during debates has helped me to ask more questions and become more involved in topics I might not typically be interested in.

Debate Societies are most typically found in private or grammar schools and I believe that having them in schools such as St. Michael's offers opportunities for people who otherwise might not have thought themselves capable of talking in front of people or discussing certain topics.

Overall, being a debater has helped me with many things, and I definitely hope it becomes a more widespread practice in all schools in the future.

Ruby T – Year 9

YEAR 10 CHAPLAINCY TEAM



The Year 10 Chaplaincy team have gone from strength this year, since its inception in September 2021. Along with many fundraising activities; they have helped to support with the World Religions festivals and, additionally, some pupils attended a Youth Engagement Board forum with the diocese.

On the 14th of January, myself and Thaccianna T (10 DaCosta) participated in a virtual gathering with representatives of fellow chaplaincy clubs in participating schools.

We participated in this workshop via zoom where we would be handed a set of questions and moved into breakout rooms and discuss with fellow students. These breakout rooms were filled with multiple individuals of different backgrounds but all had one thing in common and that was faith.

Various Questions were asked to us with some notable ones being “During the pandemic what was the most important function of the church”? We believe that while being in the pandemic the church was able to bring communities together who felt alone and isolated in this pandemic, they helped them materialistically with food and coupons and as a way to come into contact with one another due to the lack of interaction and to embody Christian values. We were also asked “And To what extent are parish/school liturgies relatable to young people”?. After conversing with our groupmates in the breakout room we had concurred the answer would be that they create a sense of community for younger people however they are at times less applicable towards the modern generation who may not connect fully towards the meaning of the liturgies.

At the end of the event, we were given the chance to have a 1 on 1 interview with Patrick Harrison. During this interview we were given opportunities to ask 2 questions where we focused on improving our own personal chaplaincy group in our school. We have taken in his advice of involving ourselves with the students and holding interactive events that can show school values and bring the school to be an even closer community. We also had a deep discussion of how the younger generation will leave an impact on the future of Catholicism. He had described the younger generation as “more courageous” and “braver of expressing views” where we can broaden the church's horizons no matter what people believe in or who they are as a person

Overall this experience of interacting with people and discussing views with one another enables us to improve our own group but also other schools groups and learn more about how we can change and impact our school.



YEAR 12 CHAPLAINCY TEAM

The Year 12's have been incredibly busy supporting Miss Casey with many aspects of the faith life of the school. The students have been instrumental in Ash Wednesday services, the running and partying of Holi, plus supporting with the Faith in Action Ceremony. They also completed the first stage of their CAFOD Youth Ambassadors training remotely, with the second session taking place at the Amigo Hall in May. They are planning a big fundraising effort on behalf of CAFOD and as it is still in the planning stages, not too much can be shared. From the day itself they really enjoyed speaking with the people at CAFOD and there was a game they really enjoyed beating the other schools in. Watch this space for many more wonderful things from them, and in fact they have been recruiting some of their friends to join they enjoy it so much.

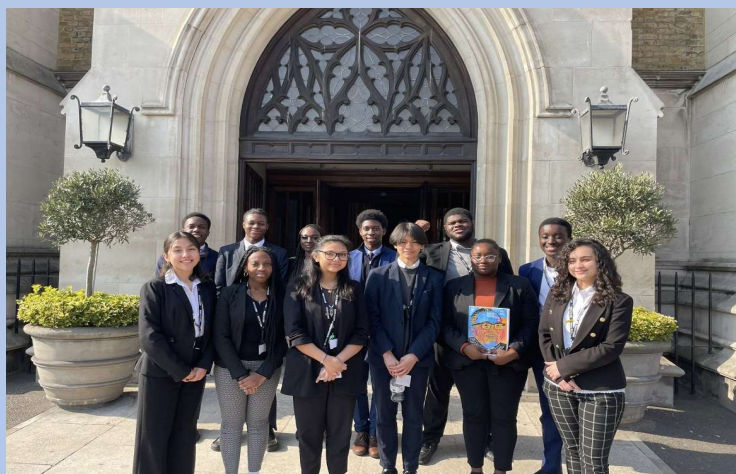
OSCAR ROMERO MASS

On Thursday 24th March the Year 12 chaplaincy team went to St George's Cathedral with Miss Casey for the anniversary of the assassination of St. Oscar Romero. We went in the school minibus and it was funny to see Mr. Kelly driving! When we got there, there were several other schools but I'm certain we were the only sixth form there. There were many priests and it was a very engaging mass; the main message that the Archbishop shared that I really liked was that "the Spirit is the microphone of God, the Church is the microphone of the Spirit and we are the microphones of the Church". It signifies our importance in the Catholic community and that it is our duty to spread the word of God and mirror the work of Romero. The priest asked the congregation what being a microphone meant to us and several responses were things like 'respect and honour your parents', 'help others' etc. and to be 'stewards of God'.

St. Romero fought for human rights and to end discrimination towards the poor and this mass contributed to the continuation of the legacy that he started. It was a lovely mass that I hope inspires people to work with integrity for an end to violence and poverty.

We were also asked to take part in the Mass, giving out memorial cards at the end which was such an honour and privilege.

Janice K – Year 12



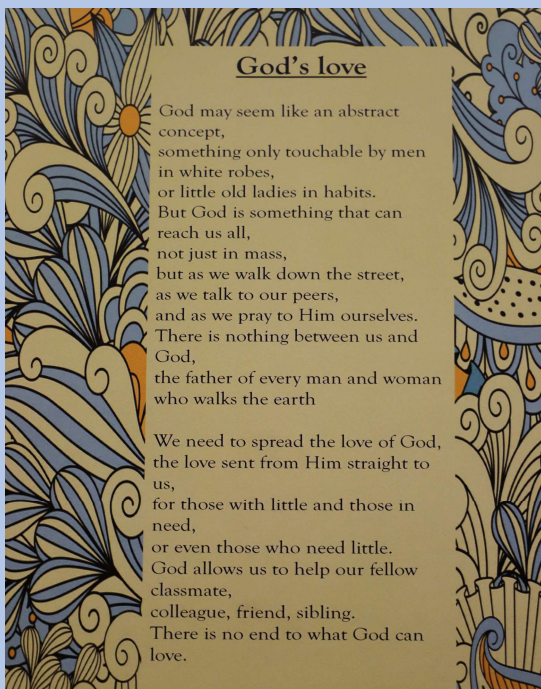
FAITH IN ACTION GRADUATION CEREMONY

Since we launched the Faith in Action program in September 2019, a core group of now Year 9's, began on their journey as an integral part of the faith life of the school. With the pandemic, their volunteering and evidence moved online, but they remained dedicated. With the support and guidance of Miss Stanley, and much liaison with the Faith in Action trust, the pupils have now finally graduated with their Bronze award, with Silver and Gold soon to come later this year. We were delighted to welcome Canon Alan into the college to oversee this event.



This month, I finally had the opportunity to receive my silver award for Faith in Action with my friends, who were also receiving their awards, parents, teachers as well as the Principal, future faith-in-actioners in Year 7 and Canon Alan. I felt very honoured that I was able to be part of the very first ceremony for Faith in Action. I really enjoyed the experience, and what made it even better, was that my mum was able to attend to see all the work accomplished so far. With the help of the amazing Year 7's, a wonderful board was created to showcase all of the final pieces we completed to receive our silver award which I really liked as it was a fantastic pop of colour that added to the whole atmosphere when sitting in the hall. One part of the ceremony I felt was very rememberable was the candle procession ceremony. It made me feel very holy and like all my hard work has paid off.

Julia M – Year 9



FUNDRAISING FOR UKRAINE

At St Michael's we have been shocked, as most of the world has been by the recent events which have unfolded between Ukraine and Russia. We have been inspired by the call of charity during this Lenten time and have organised several events between staff and students to help during this time. In a really quick turnaround, we organised a jam packed Vicuna Charity week, a Faith in Action Café, cross school fundraising events and a Year 10 Chaplaincy Fundraising week. All of this money will go towards the Salesians in Ukraine.

YEAR 7 FAITH IN ACTION: CAFÉ FAITH



I may not be someone who is eager to start a job at such young age but Cafe Faith is something a whole lot different. And yes, a cafe I hear you ask? Well at the beginning I was doubtful too thinking this would be a waste of my morning routine but hey... looking over the bright side I have done something to help my community and others around the world plus seeing our customers joyfully holding a cup of our hot chocolate.

During this event, we were selling sweet treats and raising money for a charity called CAFOD but (since we are a Salesian school and have strong RUAH values) we felt we had to donate to a Salesian charity in Ukraine. And we did!

We had a system that each day, a couple of students would come to help set up the cafe and help working in it too! This was optional but I obviously had to put myself forward. It was a blast! We raised over £200 pounds! How crazy is that!? I cant wait for more events like this! Who knows... maybe you will be the next person taking part in these fun activities.

Maja N – Year 7

VICUNA CHARITY WEEK

I have never had much interest in trivial things such as the lottery or summer-fair raffles, never having much luck in them either. However this year I had the opportunity to lead the Vicuña charity week raffle for Year 10. This was a truly eye-opening experience; walking into a form, hamper in hand, seeing the excitement gloss over the children's eyes darting over the various chocolates in the basket. The whole experience made me come to the realisation that it's not all just about winning, but it's about the heart-stopping wait until the ticket draw, the exhilarating feeling on the day of the draw and above all just giving to charity. From the raffle alone we raised over £75. Teachers and students competed in the raffle however it was won by Salome in Year 8!! Over the course of the week other events were also held such as: the tuck shop (handmade cupcakes were a big hit) and guessing the amount of jelly beans in Year 9! Over all Vicuña, as a house, have managed to raise well over £450 pounds! All this money will be going towards helping the children and people who are being affected by everything currently happening in Ukraine.

Laura B – Year 10

YEAR 10 CHAPLAINCY TEAM FUNDRAISERS

The Year 10's were given a simple challenge, raise money in a simple and effective way which will make hundreds very quickly.

They came up with two tasks which have had success in the past for the groups. A teacher sponge throw and a tuck shop.

For the teacher sponge throw, they organised it really well with a ticketing system and approached members of staff they thought would garner 'attraction'. Many thanks to Mr. Arda, Mr. Daly, Mr. Walker, Mr. Martin, Ms. Roshier and Miss Casey (drenched below) for giving up a little bit of face in the name of charity.

The group also arranged a tuck shop, and given they had run one in December they knew what to buy to sell. They organised a price list and delegated roles. They had SO MANY products they will also be selling into the next week. As it stands they've raised approximately £250 with more to come!



SCHOOL WIDE FUNDRAISING FOR UKRAINE



On Friday 25th March students and staff were encouraged to wear blue and/or yellow to go alongside their normal uniform/outfit to show a mark of respect and solidarity for those in Ukraine. Students and staff were also told to bring in some form of donation, be it monetary or vital items needed to donate those displaced by the war. All items donated will be going to the Lewisham Polish Centre in Forest Hill who will be taking these to those who need them.

Our fundraising is going on right until the end of term, so stand by for a final tally.

UPCOMING

As the Bulletin goes out before the end of term, here are some of the events taken place in the last week of term we will update you about in the Summer term.

- House Tulip Competition Deadline
- Year 10 Chaplaincy Final Fundraising Events
- 31st March Donut Day – all proceeds go to the effort for Ukraine
- Lent services; the first time all pupils will be able to attend mass at Most Holy Trinity Church at Dockhead for nearly two and half years

A WORD AND A PRAYER

CAFOD: A prayer for Ukraine

Loving God,
We pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them.

We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.

We pray for the world that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways so that peace and justice
become a reality for the people of Ukraine and for all the world.

Amen.

Ms. Corcoran - College Principal

**WISHING ALL THE
STUDENTS AND
STAFF OF
ST. MICHAEL'S A
HAPPY AND HOLY
EASTER HOLIDAYS.**

Miss Casey – Head of Chaplaincy