

Building Lanterns for the New Chinese year



We were tasked with the challenge of making large lanterns out of willow and special wet strength tissue paper. This year, the theme was 'trees', and so we designed around this. We chose to make birds, bees, butterflies, caterpillars, mushrooms and flowers.

In small groups, we bent the willow into shape, used tape and twine to hold it in place, used wet strength tissue paper, and soaked it with a mixture of water and PVA glue. Any excess was removed and the paper was extended across the structures tightly and in thin layers. It was very tedious and would stick to our hands and fingers. Smaller pieces would be used to fit better, especially for structures like the flowers. After we covered each structure, we left them to dry, because we will have to add the lights inside the lanterns.

Making a flower



Lena and I decided to go with a simple flower design. We started off by creating the petals. We cut the willow and taped the ends together, creating a generic petal shape. Once we had the petals together, we focused on the pollen ball in which the lights would go in. We curved the willow round and taped it together once we had a circle. We did this twice. After we had both circles, we taped them together and attached the petals too. We used twine and then tape to make sure they would be secure and not fall off. After we had the main flower done, we were given a bamboo rod and had to attach that too. We then used the wet strength tissue paper, but we had to cut it up due to the size of the flowers compared to the tissue paper. Eventually we were able to cover the entire thing, and left it to dry for 24 hours. Once it's dry, we will have to cut an opening and put the lights in.

Lena and Asiri

Making a parrot- Sophia and Daryl (written by Sophia)

We chose our parrot after considering what we had designed beforehand. We used flexible willow sticks and created the shape by adjusting the length of the sticks, and then bending it to the shape of the body of the parrot. We repeated this process 2 more times to allow the shape to be more 3D and then used tape and string to overlap them and keep it stable. After we did so, we made 3 circles using the middle pieces of the willow, as they are both strong and flexible, and put them inside the structure of the parrot. This supported its shape and made it stronger. After that, we used another 3 willow branches to make the shape of the head, and one purposely made so a certain point stuck out. We did this so we could attach the beak easier, as it made an easier shape to be stuck to using tape. For the final features of it, we attached the beak, a string attached to the top of the head to secure it, and a bamboo stick through it horizontally for it to be held at the lantern festival. **Ms Arjan**



Rotherhithe Illuminations 4th March 2022

On Friday 4th of March, the Music and DT Departments joined forces to contribute music and lanterns for a community procession starting at St James's Church and finishing at the Southwark Park Bandstand. Visiting professional lantern makers visited the College to assist Year.8 pupils in making lanterns that were used during the walk. These lanterns were very colourful and made a great contribution to the procession. Many thanks to Miss Arjan for organising this.

The College Band and Samba Band, supported by Mr. and Mrs. Laurence also worked very hard to prepare some music and to lead the community procession for the walk to Southwark Park with the assistance of Mr. Wright. This turned out to be tremendous fun and quite a responsibility as explained by Bezawit T. in Year 10. "We had to make sure that our tempo and rhythms of the melodies matched the walking speed of the procession and we were directed where to start and stop, keeping an eye on the large community procession behind us" Bezawit continued "we had learnt some catchy melodies to play with the samba rhythms and the overall effect felt like being at a carnival, although the weather could have been a bit kinder- the rain was thankfully only light and it didn't put us off our mission." Fifi L.P. Year 9 added "we had to keep the beat steady throughout the procession but I felt we did a good job and the organisers and the rest of the procession gave us a big cheer when we reached our destination- we all felt very pleased with ourselves!"

After we had finished, we were treated to hot pizza and a live Ceilidh Band playing Scottish folk dancing music and their "caller" taught us how to do the barn dancing with their band playing on the bandstand while we all danced. Large groups of the procession got involved with it, and we finally finished at 8.00pm. A great evening of music and dance and a wonderful way to make a contribution to the spirit of the local community. Well done to all involved. **Mr. Laurence**



Reading events for World Book Week

On Tuesday 1st March, I went to the book reading of 'Noughts and Crosses' by Malorie Blackman. I really enjoyed the short extract that was read to us and I was completely immersed in the talk we had afterwards. I was presented with a new perspective for looking at the world through books. I learnt how to connect the book world and the real world.

I then went to the reading of 'Wuthering Heights' by Emily Bronte. It was nice to hear about a classic novel which seemed more approachable. I liked the themes that were explored in the book and the way those ideas were presented.

The last book reading I was able to go to was Mr Bourke's novel 'Line'. I liked the storyline and I liked how Mr Bourke explained the process of writing. I found it really interesting to know how he wrote out of pure pleasure and how this writing then became a published novel. I've always imagined writing a book and the approach Mr Bourke explained made it seem more possible and less scary.

I asked Joshua, who also went, what he liked about 'Line' and he said, "I liked it because it felt like it aged well with the pandemic and university, how some people queue up because society thinks they should, like some people going to university when they actually don't want to."

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed going and I would love if there were events like this more often as I think they encourage reading more and open people to new books they might not have thought about trying.

A special thanks to all the teachers who helped set it up and to Mr Bourke for presenting his book.

By Asiri, 8DC



Sixth Form Debaters' Trip to US Embassy



On Friday 25th February 2022, Amelie and I were nominated to represent St Michael's at the annual 'Frankly Speaking' debate competition hosted by Benjamin Franklin House and the US Embassy.

The two heats and the semi-finals of the competition started at Benjamin Franklin House in Charing Cross – a nondescript townhouse with an antique interior unchanged since the time of Franklin's residency and notable crooked stairs. The rooms were so small that during debates we sat right next to our opponents with the Judges and Invigilator opposite us.

As well as St Michael's, the competition hosted a mixture of state and private schools: Camden School for Girls, Swakeleys Girls School, Southbank International, Winchmore School, and, the previous winners, Saint Cecilia's C of E school.

After the heats and the semi-finals, we made our way to the American embassy where we were checked in and led to a 'foyer' where we spoke to US diplomats and Embassy staff who spoke about their work in the embassy and their experiences living in the UK. Strikingly, were the walls in the foyer celebrating the work of African-Americans in the UK for American Black History Month (February); there were profiles of artists and designers and displays of their work.



Upon the arrival of all teams, we were invited into another room that had been set up to watch the finals between Swakeleys Girls School and Camden School for Girls. The motion was 'This house believes that social media had the duty to police information of their sites' - both teams debated were seasoned and debated well, making for an engaging performance. Swakeleys Girls School won the 2022 competition, with the highest-scoring individual receiving an all-expenses paid place at US-based Perdue University's intensive Summer School about American Culture.

US Ambassador (Interim) Philip T. Reeker, closed off the day, by expressing his joy for debating, noting that Benjamin Franklin himself enjoyed debating. Ambassador Reeker encouraged all participants to continue enhancing their debating skills. Lady Anelay, a Conservative in the House of Lords, also spoke about her joy of hearing us debate and congratulated the winners for their hard work. She ended by expressing her gratitude towards the US embassy and Benjamin Franklin House - reminding the audience that the UK is truly America's closest ally.



Overall, the day was very enjoyable and as new debaters the heats were daunting – especially having learnt that our opponents had been debating for far longer than ourselves, with some even making the British debating team. Whilst this raised some considerable challenges to overcome, this day didn't diminish my interest for debating, instead I spent the day absorbing what was on offer, taking mental and written notes to return to our debating society at school in order for us all to become even greater debaters. I learnt that preparation is key and not only preparation for the side we are arguing but also the opposition, so that we don't get stumped by any rebuttals they may have. I learnt about a 'debating character'; the idea of becoming a different person while debating to ease nerves and enhance the style of one's debate. But most of all, the greatest point I learnt, was to have confidence and have fun doing it - this makes the experience so much more enjoyable whilst gaining new friends and contacts, whether you win or not. ***Amarachi I.***



Bar Mock Trial article



“On Saturday, 26th February, our Sixth Form Bar Mock Trial team went to University of Kent in Canterbury to participate in the southeast of England regional heats for the Bar Mock Trial competition run by Young Citizens. This is a competitive court case competition for students across our part of the country where we try to successfully prosecute or defend fictional court cases before real-life judges.

Not only did the tournament enrich our learning, it provided insights into how British rule-of-law and common law systems work in practice. It was also lots of fun. The judges took some time at the end of each trial to give us feedback and to answer questions about their own experiences and careers in law. We performed to the best of our abilities and this paid off. I will not hesitate to participate the next time around and I look forward to coming back next year.” - **Theresa A**

The future faces of British Law

Perspective from Dalena D:

“The tournament consisted of back-to-back trials, with competing teams cross-examining and questioning every move we made. I’m sure everyone that participated has learnt a great deal about English law and I’m proud to say that our preparations and rehearsals certainly paid off. Everyone on our team were determined to do their best. If I had one regret about this day it is that I didn’t get a chance to try on one of the judge’s wigs. I sincerely recommend this programme to anyone curious about the law as it is a great opportunity to learn more, discover, and have fun.” **Dalena D**



Comment from Mr Walker:

“The students at St Michael’s are consistently well-organised, well-presented, and well-spoken. This tournament was no exception. They were ably led by Year 13 veterans and team captains Jonas K, Sydney S, and Adrian A, who each excelled in their respective roles. Notably, Jonas gave a stirring closing speech in the first case that was one of the finest of the whole competition. Other up-and-coming stars were Year 12 barristers Peter K Benjamin M, Deborah O, and defendant Dalena D. As a result, our team won our first two trials before being beaten by an impressive and very experienced team from Kent in the third round. St Michael’s will be back next year.” - Mr Walker



Adrian accepting recognition on behalf of the school

Jonas returning a verdict

Amelie DB trying on a judicial wig

International Women's Day 2022

International Women's Day 2022

A presentation by Elmina Year 13

"We are not victims, we are victors"

"We press for change"



"Knowing the wind not by where it is, but where it is blowing"

I gave an assembly to all year groups at the start of this half term about respect for women, the impact of sexism and the importance of promoting gender equality and introduced the theme of this year's International Women's Day which is 'Break the Bias'. In the assembly students were asked to look at how they could promote equality, tackle sexism and bias and also to celebrate the achievements of women they know who have had a positive impact on their lives and made them who they are today. I explained that this was not about excluding boys or men but ensuring there was equality for all and the role everyone has to play in this. The assembly reminded students about how we all have equal value in the eyes of God, Catholic social teaching about human dignity and our responsibility as Christians to uphold and promote these values.

The celebration of women's achievements is this month's House competition where students and staff can submit an entry to celebrate a woman who has made a difference for them. The entries will then be used to create a display in the college which can be enjoyed by everyone.

On International Women's Day itself a presentation created by Elmina K in Year 13 was shared with all students to mark the day and further promote the idea of breaking the bias, challenging stereotypes and encouraging healthy conversations. Elmina completed her presentation with a fantastic poem to remind all students of the importance of the day and of promoting equality and respect for women. We are blessed to have very talented and creative young people like Elmina at St Michael's who are such positive role models for our students.

Ms F. Corcoran, Principal

A Poem for International Women's Day:

International Women's Day.
Women stand proud of who they are, as on this day awareness is raised
Confronted by inequalities but yet, unphased.

Prejudice, bias and stereotypes intended to bring girls and women down, have failed in making us simply
melt down

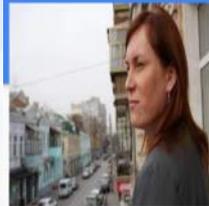
Determination, strength, resilience and power, have saved us in history and even recently in our darkest hours

International Women's Day,
It doesn't exclude men from having a say.
Gender equality requires us all.
Equality in schools to equality promoted by those in law who rule,
These are all crucial tools in this global call.

Break the bias.
Motivate the women that stand beside us
And continue with the fight that may sometimes seem tireless.

On this day, awareness is raised
So that throughout the year we remember women need to be praised.

Women who have famously fought for equality



Anastasiya Yeva Domani - a transwoman in Ukraine where transwomen face a range of discrimination. Anastasiya became an activist for transgender rights and one of the most visible transgender women in the country



Ruth Bader Ginsburg - served on US Supreme Court since 1993. She was known as a "feminist folk hero" during Obama's administration. She fought laws that discriminated on basis of gender basis.



Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie - An award winning writer including her book and speech "We Should All Be Feminists".

What actions can I take this IWD and beyond?

- Call out sexism and harassment
- Challenge stereotypical notions of gender
- Teach girls their worth
- Healthy conversations amongst each other



Career Ready

Over the course of Year 12, twelve of our lucky Business and Economics students have been taking part in the Career Ready Program, which is a year long mentoring process connecting students with the world of work, providing workplace experiences, career insights, and a network of support.

Our support mentors this year come from a broad range of top companies, including NatWest, Aviva, Mountain Warehouse, Savills and Wells Fargo Bank, among others. In each case these experiences will lead to a summer internship within the company, and can only strengthen the skillset and general contextualization of working in Big Business.

We are incredibly lucky to have such a partnership, and are very proud of the way our Year 12 students are representing the College. We would encourage any interested Year 11 students who wish to find out more about the process for next year to approach Mr Davis or Miss Wiltshire. *Mr I. Davis*



Chaplain's Corner

The Word of the Lord

Joel 2: 12-14

“Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.”

Rend your heart and not your garments.

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.

Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing—grain offerings and drink offerings for the Lord your God.”



A reflection on this...

- Lent is a time to think not only of what we can do to better ourselves, but what we can do for the betterment of others.
- The tenets of Lent are Fasting, Charity and Praying; we can use these as our guides at this time.
- We consider how we can spend this time of Lent for the sake of others and improve our relationship with God.
- Lent is a time for a spiritual ‘spring-clean’

Miss Casey
Head of Chaplaincy



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

- Lent kicked off with Ash Wednesday services led by students in the Year 12 Chaplaincy team. A big thank you to them for leading the service and serving the College Community.
- Reconciliation services recommenced for the first time since the pandemic, it was so lovely to be able to run these and have priests return to the college to hear the confessions
- The Faith in Action Year 9 group graduated from the 1st and 2nd stage of their programme in a lovely ceremony led by Miss Stanley
- Miss Casey has led assemblies on the importance of Lent and how to use this time to help others
- Look out for lots of events upcoming across Lent to raise money for the Ukraine appeal .



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

