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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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## Science Week: Zoolab Visit



In the week beginning on the 14th March St Michael's took part in the Science Week by hosting Lottie from the Zoolab.

She brought in a sample of her 600 exotic animal collection featuring a tarantula, a giant snail, a constrictor snake, a big scorpion and a small gecko. All these animals were rescued from unhealthy circumstances and found a new loving home under the care of Lottie and her team.

Lottie was able to give students and staff a real insight into the lives of these incredible creatures in the wild as well as the responsibility and commitment it takes to be a pet owner to one of these wonderful creatures.

All students and staff members that had the chance to see the animals and touch them were fascinated with the experience.

Many of the students were amazed at how smooth and soft Daffodil the snake felt with many students wanting to get a pet snake. Lottie informed students of the space and feeding habits snakes have, such as needing a 5ft by 6ft enclosure costing around £800 and having to keep dead mice in the freezer! This allowed students to really learn about the importance of information before choosing a pet.

Students also learnt about the geckos from New Caledonia, who are able to drop their tail as a distraction in order to get away from predators. This particular species of gecko cannot regrow its tail, therefore students had to be very quiet in order not to scare him.

Students were amazed with him and he never lost his tail and Lottie loved visiting St Michael's college, highlighting how wonderful all the students were with very thought provoking questions.

We look forward to having zoo lab visit us again next year! - **Miss S. Vasquez, Head of Science**



## Model United Nations Society

St Michael's has recently relaunched its Model United Nations Society. The MUN programme is an opportunity for students to learn how global diplomacy works. The students compete in tournaments as representatives of UN-member nations to collaboratively solve real-world problems like how to finance climate change responses and how the international community can respond to the Ukrainian Crisis. This year, the school is being represented by Year 10 students Adrian N, Angelica R, Ryan B, Emily D, Rowlanda K-W and Jayden F-M. These young diplomats recently took part in a training workshop at St Marylebone's School to learn the rules and procedures of the competition. They are now preparing to represent the USA, Brazil, and Norway at a competition hosted in central London at the end of the month. - **Miss Stewart & Mr Walker**





## UKMT Intermediate maths challenge 2022

Every year the UKMT Intermediate maths challenge 2022 takes place for mathematically gifted students all over the UK.

This year our Year 9 and Year 10 were among the winners with the following results:

### Year 10:

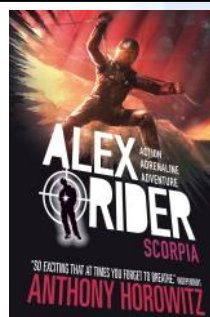
1. Albert James M. GOLD (also receives 'Best in school' title)
2. Jayden F-M. GOLD
3. Caspar G. BRONZE
4. Natasha J. BRONZE
5. Ryan B. BRONZE
6. Alma N.-G. BRONZE

### Year 9:

1. Olivier H. BRONZE  
– also receives 'Best in year 9' title
2. Ash G.-O'D. BRONZE
3. Aron V. BRONZE



## Book review



SCORPIA. Stands for Sabotage, CORruPtion, Intelligence and Assassination.

Rahim (not the same as the one in Crocodile Tears) is in charge of an operation to force the British into returning a Greek statue to Greece for a large sum. He also plans to take revenge on Alex Rider for all the losses he caused for SCORPIA. Alex Rider is taken to Egypt and is working with his very much loved housekeeper Jack Starbright. He is in a school in Cairo undercover to prevent the assassination of the US secretary. The problem is the assassin is an old nemesis - the greatest nemesis of Alex Rider and my most favourite antagonist in this whole series.

Julius Grief is alive. He wants the most revenge and he is used to frame Alex and expose MI6's idea of using a teenage spy. Alex was mentally tortured by Rahim - he made Alex watch Jack Starbright get exploded in a car. Then Alex made his very first two deliberate cold-blooded kills: he killed Julius Grief and Rahim for permanently wounding him.

I give this book a 5 out of 5. This is the greatest in the series I have read as it includes the doppelganger again and for once Alex has been weakened. Yes, some people may see that as a bad thing but, I consider it a good way to get revenge.

*Albert, 10DC*

## Year 8 rugby festival

On Wednesday 2nd March we attended the penultimate rugby festival with our Year 8 rugby team. The team played the best rugby of the tournament so far against some much improved opponents. The team won all 3 of their games, this time beating schools such as Haberdashers (6-3), Nautical (5-2) and our toughest opponents STAC (4-2).

### Team selection

1. Matteo BV
2. Stephen M-C
3. Lennard A
4. Esteban M V
5. Joshua Z C,
6. Andrew Leo AO,
7. Oliver S
8. Sebastian J
9. Oluwatobi Ruben B.
10. Ronan M-P
11. Daniel A,
12. Weyere E-A,
13. Joshua O P
14. Hadrian K,
15. Iyamu W

The 15 strong squad put in an incredible team performance, with both St Michael's and the other schools playing the best rugby that we have seen in the competition so far. Teachers and London Irish coaches were extremely impressed with the standard of tackling, ball handling and making runs with the ball.

They also had the additional challenge of having rucks introduced to the game, but even this didn't phase the team.

Special mentions must go to Stephen M-C for taking control of the game and receiving man of the match, Matteo B. V. for his continuous successful runs against the opposition, Joshua O P and Andrew L. made some incredible stops when defending including some crucial ones to stop tries being scored.

The team will be training for their final festival over the next few weeks, taking place at the end of the month. The boys will face increased pressure as there will be the introduction of line outs and mini scrums in the game. 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.



*Mr Brett-Roberts*

### Chaplain's Corner

#### *The Word of the Lord*

Galatians 5:1

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.

Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

#### *A reflection on this...*

In these trying times, we remember and are grateful for our freedom of our lives and of expression.

We seek to ensure all people have respect, love and dignity

We consider how we can spend this time of Lent for the sake of others and improve our relationship with God

*Miss Casey*

Head of Chaplaincy

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

- The Faith in Action Year 7 group were successful in raising over £200 for the efforts for those displaced by the war in Ukraine
- In collaboration with National Science Week, Ms Vasquez led assemblies and reflected on the dialogue between religion and science, linking nicely to our promotion of Catholic Social Teaching across the college
- Our Reconciliation services continued, with time to spend talking to the generous priests who have given their time to listen to the prayers, hopes and confessions of our young people
- Mr Magnoff and Ms Tengra led assemblies on the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. It was a stark reminder of the fact that in our past and in our lifetimes there are people who have not received the dignity we all require and expect.
- Holi, the Hindu festival of colour took place on the 18<sup>th</sup> March. The school was decorated with a burst of colour in the week leading up. Eventually on the day itself we had a party in the hall led by the Year 12 Chaplaincy team with snacks, music, dancing and a brilliant festive vibe .

#### Lenten Prayer

GOD OF GOODNESS AND MERCY,

HEAR MY PRAYER AS I BEGIN THIS LENTEN JOURNEY WITH YOU.  
LET ME BE HONEST WITH MYSELF AS I LOOK INTO MY HEART AND SOUL,  
NOTICING THE TIMES I TURN AWAY FROM YOU. GUIDE ME AS I HUMBLY SEEK  
TO REPENT AND RETURN TO YOUR LOVE.

MAY HUMILITY GUIDE MY EFFORTS TO BE RECONCILED WITH YOU AND LIVE FOREVER  
IN YOUR ABUNDANT GRACE.

TRANSFORM ME THIS LENT, HEAVENLY FATHER. GIVE ME THE STRENGTH TO  
COMMIT MYSELF TO GROW CLOSER TO YOU EACH DAY.

AMEN.



### 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

