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# THE LINK

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

*Issue 200—5th May 2022*

## Year 8 Local History Walking Tour of Bermondsey

Before the Easter break our class were given a special treat by Mr Magnoff and we went on a walking tour of Bermondsey with local historian Rowan Freeland.

We walked along the Thames from Llewellyn Street all the way to Rotherhithe and then back to school along Jamaica Road. Even though the river is only a few minutes away from the school, many of us had never been down to this section before.



We learned about the area's industrial past and how this shaped the long roads with rope walks, as well as how the large cranes were powered by water. We also learned about the area's connection to the Transatlantic Slave Trade and how many people in the area and in the country became rich through the suffering of others. We even walked past the same pub that an enslaved boy had escaped from that we had learned about in class the week before. We also learned about some of the local social History, including the Salter family who helped campaign for the poor, fought for women's rights and had a daughter that died of scarlet fever. I really enjoyed this trip and it allowed me to see the streets around the school in a new way. It gave me a first person view of the topics we are learning about in class and helped me to put some of these things into perspective. If you haven't been down to the river yet, you should go!

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*Sebastian J, 8D*



## A new award for St Michael's

St Michael's is delighted to announce that we have been awarded **Google Reference School** status.

This is in recognition of the many ways we use Google for Education tools to better provide for our students and wider community. In becoming a reference school, we join a small, selected group of UK Schools.



Google for Education  
**Reference School**

Reference School status means that the college will be a go-to place to train - and offer advice - to staff from other schools about Teaching and Learning through technology, showing St Michael's as a hub for innovation in education. We would like to thank all the staff that made this possible, from office administrators to class teachers and support staff. *Ms L. Casey*



## Excelling at our first Model United Nations conference



Students from St Michael's made a big impression at their first Model United Nations (MUN) conference in early April. Following the relaunch of Model United Nations at St Michael's and after attending a training workshop, the MUN team was invited to their first MUN conference!

Our fantastic Year 10 students (Adrian N, Angelica R, Ryan B, Emily D, Rowlanda K-W and Jayden F-M) spent the day at St Marylebone's School in central London acting as delegates for the United States, Brazil and Norway. They debated topics including sanctions for human rights violations, the conflict in Ukraine and providing grants to support lower income countries with sustainable development.

Ryan tells us that: "It was an eye opening experience into the world of international relations and diplomacy. I was inspired by the keynote speaker from the British Government who was organising post-Brexit trade deals with countries such as Australia. I can't wait for the next opportunity to attend a MUN conference".



Despite it being their first conference, all the delegates performed fantastically well. They spoke with confidence and conviction and inspired fierce debate in their committees. A special well done to Angelica, Ryan and Jayden who received awards in each of their committees.

Well done to everyone - we are incredibly proud of you all and can't wait for the next conference to see what you do next. The sky's the limit for the St Michael's MUN team! –

*Miss Stewart and Mr Walker.*



## The Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers' annual ceremony



Congratulations to Year 13 student De-Winton P. who was one of the prize winners at *The Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers'* annual ceremony.

The prize winners were invited to attend and exhibit an artwork at Painters' Hall where they were presented with a book and a certificate from Master Warden Lewis Cohen



The Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers is the fifth oldest of the 110 Livery Companies in the City of London. The company, comprising fine and decorative artists, received its first Royal Charter from Queen Elizabeth in 1581 and today its energies are directed in the support of education in arts and crafts.

*"I had the privilege of exhibiting my artwork at the Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers.*

*As a Schools Prize winner, I displayed an example of my artwork and received an art book of my choice. My piece was a mixed-media drawing from my Fine Art A-level portfolio.*

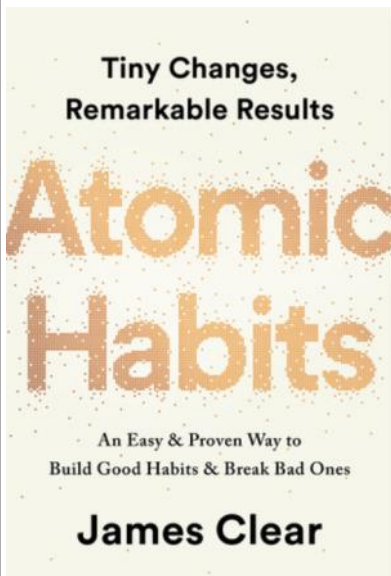
*It was an honour to share my piece and see the high-quality work produced by other students. Furthermore, the ability to speak about my artwork is a skill I developed at this event and is something that I will use in future when undertaking my architectural studies at University. Overall, this was a fantastic experience, and I look forward to seeing future art students participate in opportunities like this." De-Winton P.*





## Atomic Habits by James Clear

Atomic Habits is a very informative read, and surprisingly managed to retain my full attention by James Clear's comedic and personal tangents.



I would recommend the book to anyone who feels as if their day to day life is unstable, and is in search of a more organized way of living. I would further recommend this book because of how versatile it is in use; the book rather than giving lone examples, provides systems for building better habits, hence the title. The title foreshadows James Clear's ideas of improvement and success; every little change, improvement (or slump), and action - ie, habit - can significantly change the trajectory of your life, or even just your day.

The book is divided into four main sections (or laws), the 1st, Make it Obvious, the 2nd, Make it attractive, the 3rd, Make it easy, and the 4th, Make it satisfying. All 4 laws are the basis of the habit building system, and are good foundations for slow but impactful change.

I enjoyed this book because the message rather than being to work hard, is to work smart. For example, the author throughout the 3rd law talks about designing your environment. Instead of starting a habit by resisting temptation, create an environment where it is easier to start the habit than it is to end it. For example, if you want to read a book every night, set the book at your desk or wherever you normally read. Firstly, this makes it easier and prevents the need to go and pick up your book; and secondly after a while, your brain will associate the action of reading with the action of moving to your desk, or to your bed, making it easy.

And even further, you can invert the law on other bad habits, such as an addiction to Netflix. For example, after watching, you can unplug the switch, or if you want to be extreme, place the tv back in a cupboard after every use. You therefore make it hard.

In conclusion, the book is well written and provides an easy yet effective system to create and retain habits, trying to make it easier rather than working harder. **By Joshua-A. A**

## Bryony wins at Millwall

I was gifted two tickets to a Millwall vs Barnsley game by the school, as an achievement for getting no negative points throughout the whole school term. I took my dad with me to the game and it was a good experience and the atmosphere was really good. This is not the first time me and my dad have been to a Millwall game together. My dad and I love going to the games to support our local club that we have both grew up supporting. The first game we ever went to I was very young and I remember ever since that game I knew that I would want to go again. My dad and I have been to loads of games. Since then, even if we don't win we are always still so supportive and love to go and show our support to the club and players.



I wanted to go to this game as me and my dad didn't manage to get tickets for it, but the school were kind enough to give us some. The New Den stadium is so welcoming. As soon as you enter the gates you can hear chants and it lifts your spirits to see so many people coming together to support Millwall. My dad's favorite moment would definitely be the Millwall vs West Ham game. This was in the past when I was very young but my dad really enjoyed it.

Millwall ended up winning 4-1 against Barnsley. After the game was over it is such a great experience that you want to do it all over again, and makes you want to keep on coming to support the team. It was a really good way to reward students this term, and a good way for St Michael's to show their appreciation to those in the college that do well. I hope to be able to participate in more achievements like this as it was a good opportunity. **Bryony 10RU**

Thank you to Millwall Football Club for generously donating 50 tickets and to Mr Gavin, our Head of PE, so that our students and parents could enjoy a Championship game treat.

### Chaplain's Corner

#### *The Word of the Lord*

Jn 20:19-31

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord."

But he said to them,

"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them.

Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe."

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me?"

Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

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

- Sometimes we have to believe without seeing, sometimes this means believing in something which seemed impossible.
- We have to have faith and trust in God that we might be able to achieve that which we thought not possible or too hard.

#### *Prayer*

*We now commit ourselves to You for the day. It may not bring us all sunshine, gladness, and ease. It may have clouds, and pain, and hardship. But, Father, we want to make it a sweet, beautiful day — whether it shall be bright or dark. Give us much of Your Spirit, and may we live near You all day. We ask all in Jesus' precious name. Amen.*

**Miss Casey, Head of Chaplaincy**

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

•At the end of the Spring term we were able to welcome for the first time this year all pupils to Lenten services led by Canon Alan at Most Holy Trinity Church Dockhead. Pupils from across the school read and the choir, band and music department kindly led us the singing of hymns. The last few weeks of term were busy fundraising for Ukraine through various activities, raising over £2400 as well as encouraging students and staff to donate items for Ukrainian refugees in Poland. Thank you to all staff, students and their families for giving to such a good cause which will make a difference.

•Assemblies were led by Heads of Houses on Stephen Lawrence Day and Justice and the importance of Stephen's story.

•Savio Charity week is currently taking place with a range of activities designated to raise funds for the Catholic Children's Society.



### 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 Option 1**

