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THE LINK

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

Issue 200—26th May 2022

The Moon Comes to St Michael's

Between 1969 and 1972, six manned Apollo missions successfully landed on the Moon, allowing the Astronauts to collect samples and bring them back to Earth for study. 382 kilograms of lunar material were returned to Earth and the college was lucky to receive a box of samples from NASA and the Science and Technology Facilities Council. Staff and students were able to view the lunar samples and hold a variety of meteorites, including one from Mars. A house competition also ran during this time and some fantastic entries were submitted in the model, poster and photograph categories. Congratulations to all the winners!

The Year 9 GCSE astronomy society is now half way through their course, they will complete their final assessments at the end of Year 10. Recruitment for the next cohort of astronomers (new Year 9 in September) will begin in the 2nd half of the summer term.

Mr Ferguson



The Moon House Competition



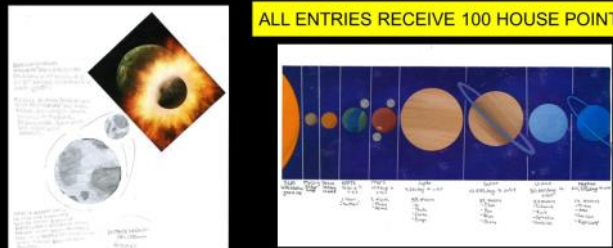
The Moon House Competition Entries and Winners

- Category 1 – Poster Competition
- Category 2 – Model Competition
- Category 3 – Staff Prize

ALL ENTRIES RECEIVE 100 HOUSE POINTS

Category 1 – Poster Competition Entries

ALL ENTRIES RECEIVE 100 HOUSE POINTS




Fardat Gift A. A. 8MA

Evie H. 10MA

Category 1 – Poster Competition Entries


ALL ENTRIES RECEIVE 100 HOUSE POINTS



Jesse A. 8BC

Kellyanne W. 8 VI

Category 1 – Poster Competition WINNERS



Luiza L. 10DA

Kellyanne W. 8 VI

Stephanie C. 8VI

1st Place
1000 House Points
£10 Amazon Voucher

2nd Place
750 House Points

3rd Place
500 House Points

Category 2 – Model Competition WINNERS



Kimora-Lee H. 8 MA

Stephanie M. 8 SA

Onyekachukwu E. 7 BC

Leila F. 7BC

1st Place
1000 House Points
£10 Amazon Voucher

Joint 2nd Place
750 House Points each

3rd Place
500 House Points

Category 3 – Staff Prize

Ms C. Sayed

The Moon photographed through a telescope in the Dubai Desert.

1st Place



Book review: All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr



This novel follows the story of Marie-Laure and Werner, who both live during World War II. Werner has a talent for maths and science and engineering, while Marie-Laure is an avid braille reader and excellent at solving her father’s puzzles for her birthday. When Paris is bombed, Marie and her father flee to the coast, while Werner attends an elite school for talented German boys. Over the years their stories intertwine so beautifully and I love the way Doerr writes about this.

The simplicity of the novel and their stories makes it complex to fully understand in my opinion, especially with the short perspective changes; it makes you want to keep reading and finding out more and more.

I highly recommend this novel and I think it's so beautifully written and quite deep that I recommend reading it with someone. I read it with my best friend and we both realised small things throughout and later crop up as the story progresses, yet again making it a wonderful read. If you're a fan of historical fiction that immerses you fully in the story, I certainly recommend this book.

By an anonymous Year 8 student

Trooping the Colour 2022



I arrived at school 7:50am, far earlier than I usually do. Myself, and 26 other students as well as Mr Parker, Mrs Hillman and Mr Mullik, all set out, at 8:30am. We walked to Bermondsey Station and caught the Jubilee line to Westminster station. We arrived early, and waited in the grounds. Everything was quiet and the first thing I saw, was 2 of the queen's guards. After that, there was a huge procession of guards and guards on horseback, there were also guards playing instruments. The instruments being played, were bagpipes, trumpets and drums, some were even being played on horses. Mrs Hillman explained the procession as it went on. I could feel the excitement in the air, from the crowd and the men and women trooping the colour. They carried out the dress rehearsal with such pride, and tried hard to make sure everything was perfect.



I felt happy, to have been chosen to witness the historical dress rehearsal of the longest living monarch.
Kimora -Lee., 8MA

Jubilee Super Bloom workshop: Understanding the role of bees as pollinators

Pupils from Gardening Club, the STEM Club and the Eco-Committee attended, and through a craft project, understood the role of bees as pollinators.

Here the words of the Coordinator:

Dear Bill, Amanda and Annette as well as Rosie,

big thanks for a superb Superbloom session yesterday and making us so welcome. The children made beautiful little bugs.

Good luck Bill with your new garden and the trip to the Superbloom moat in July. Judging by the enthusiastic reaction from the children it will be a great visit!

Very best wishes, Gwen



Inner Voices Choir

innvoicesyouthchoir
Durham, Durham



: Inner voices is the choir that myself and two other friends of mine attend. It has been the most amazing experience and has presented us with so many opportunities.

Our time at the choir began at the start of September of this year. To begin with, naturally, I was very nervous, as I had heard such great things about the choir and truthfully felt quite overwhelmed and intimidated. It was truly incredible how fast we all felt welcome and were able to relax and just collectively enjoy singing together.

I had never been part of such an amazing and well-organized choir and just felt really glad and proud to be part of something so incredibly remarkable.

The choir has without a doubt improved my confidence and allowed me to make wonderful friendships outside of school. We have been given so many opportunities to sing in beautiful venues such as St Paul's and Durham Cathedral. On our latest trip up North we were able to stay two nights in the gorgeous city of Durham, it was there where I personally felt the most part of the choir.



When we arrived there we all went around and re-introduced ourselves and said what music we enjoyed listening to. We were then put into our room with friends and finished the first evening off with a hilarious balloon building competition. The next morning we had our rehearsal and in the evening we brought our trip to a close with a breath taking performance in Durham Cathedral. Our trip was amazing because of the wonderful people that were part of the choir, our conductors and the midnight chases we had around the hotel.

Every rehearsal is one to look forward to because it is guaranteed that we will have a laugh, learn about music and genuinely have a great time. Even for the rehearsals with the difficult pieces to learn we are challenged and the stunning results make it all worthwhile.



Innvoices has so far been one of the most sensational communities I have been part of. I genuinely love it and I am so extremely grateful for the opportunity that was given to us to join the choir. I am so excited for all the fun concerts, trips abroad and learning experiences along the way. **By Irati A.G, 9BC**

Year 13 French & Media 'Playground' Screening and Q&A



Students of A Level French and Media Studies attended a special screening of Belgian film 'Playground' which was followed by a talk and Q&A session with the director Laura Wandel.

The film tells the story of a little girl's first few weeks at school and the cruel playground politics that she must quickly adjust to. After the film, the students and teachers had the opportunity to ask the director a few questions about the filmmaking process and the significance of the film's story.

French student Elmina found the event "*captivating and emotionally moving*" while Nikoletta from Media Studies said that this was

"an immersive experience, to watch a French film and learn about the production process".

"It was incredibly enlightening to be able to view a film from another country and to experience such a meaningful message that was explained to us by the film's director" commented Mackalia from A Level Media Studies.

Laura Wandel's feature is out now and we all highly recommend it! (Miss Carr and Mr Pillai)



SSLP Debating Finals: 4th May 2022



This House proposes the introduction and enforced usage of a universal language

Yesterday afternoon, after a hard fought contest against the home team, The St. Michael's Sixth Form Debating team came second in the SSLP competition finals held at James Allen's Girls School, Dulwich.

Congratulations to our very able Debating team: Amarachi I., Janice K.,

Emmanuel E., Joshlyn E., Stella O. and Nathan A., all of Year 12.



Easter Reception at Downing Street

During the Easter holidays Ms Corcoran was very fortunate to be invited once again to 10 Downing Street to attend a reception hosted by the Prime Minister to celebrate Easter.

The reception was for Church, School and Community Leaders from a variety of different Christian denominations in recognition of the work undertaken in their respective communities.

It is a good thing for St Michael's to be invited to events like this as it provides the college with an opportunity to share the work we are doing and to celebrate the success of our students. It also opens doors to further opportunities for the college as a result of the connections made. On this occasion the Archbishop of Westminster Vincent Nichols, Head of the Catholic Church in England and Wales gave a speech along with the Prime Minister. The Archbishop focused on the meaning of Easter and the activities that many schools, charities and parishes have undertaken to raise funds and welcome refugees from Ukraine in recent weeks. He explained that these were wonderful examples of faith in action and the message of Easter being lived out by those being a light at a time of darkness. It was a privilege to meet members of Ukrainian churches and organisations at the reception and to share with them the details of the fundraising work the college has been doing to support victims of the war in Ukraine. **Ms F Corcoran**



Chaplain's Corner

The Word of the Lord

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

Then the angel departed from her.

A reflection on this...

- Mary was an ordinary woman who was picked to be the mother of God, the Queen of Heaven.
- She was humble and loyal to God, she didn't question the message of God, she took on this challenge without faltering

We can ask ourselves, how can we be as compassionate and understanding as Mary was and how we can find inspiration in her, the Model Disciple

Ms R. Casey, Head of Chaplaincy

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

- Ms Bryant led assemblies about Mary and the message she had for us. Ms Bryant focused on the virtues and qualities which she had which led to her being chosen by God
- Year 7 and Year 8 had drop down lessons to learn about the Islamic festival of Eid to mark the end of Ramadan. They shared in learning about the reason for the festival, decorated worksheets and got a sweet treat at the end of the lesson
- Year 11 and Year 13 had a leavers service led by members of the Year 11 prefects and the Year 13 Chaplaincy Team alongside Jonas and Lauren, Head Boy and Head Girl
- Miss Casey has been leading services in the Chapel for the month of May for the Rosary.



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

