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THE LINK

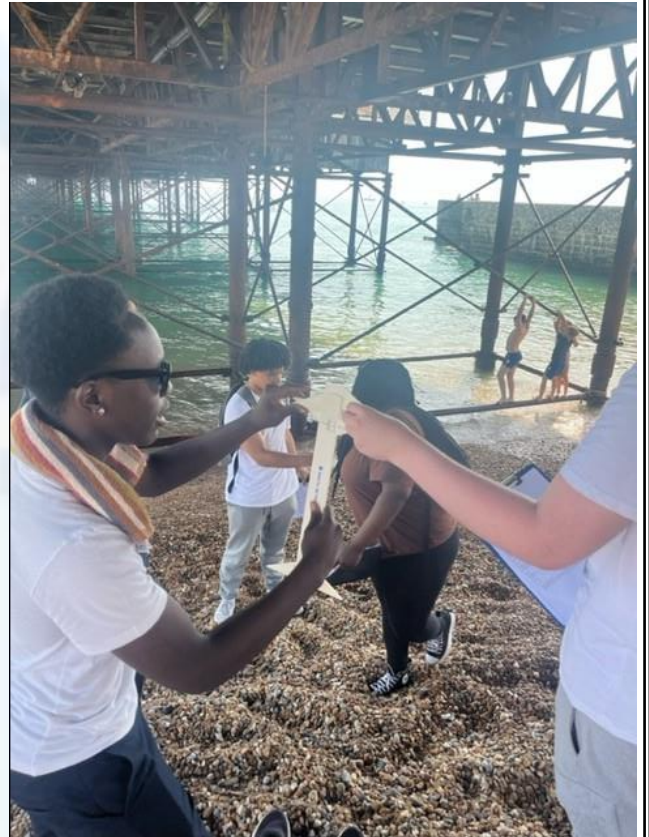
A fortnightly Newsletter for the pupils, parents and staff of St Michael's Catholic College

Issue 203— 15th July 2022

A trip to Brighton

Our Year 12 Geographers enjoyed the best of the weather last week for their Geography fieldwork in Brighton. The morning was spent investigating their sense of place in Brighton's North Laine where the students were commended by the public for their polite manner whilst completing questionnaires. The afternoon was spent investigating coastal processes at the beach. The data collected is part of their NEA which they will complete next year.

Miss Hayden



Bedlam Trip

On Monday 4th July, the Year 12 psychology students visited the Museum of the Mind within the grounds of the Bethlem Royal Hospital (or as it was commonly known, Bedlam). The psychiatric hospital has existed since the 13th century in various locations all over London, before finally being established in Beckenham. The students explored the museum looking at various pieces of artwork (mainly created by former patients) including some carvings by Ben Silcock, who when suffering a manic episode climbed into the lions enclosure at London Zoo and was subsequently mauled. There

were also numerous real objects such as the hospital register with details of former patients, letters and streams of consciousness written by patients as well as medical artefacts including straitjackets and restraints. Students were able to sit in the historic boardroom, where over the years patients' lives have been discussed and decisions made on whether they should be admitted to hospital or released back into the community. The objects gave a glimpse into how patients with mental health issues have been treated in the past and how attitudes have changed. It was a very thought provoking visit that highlighted the complex issues of dealing with mental illness. **Kittie Rose P. 12B**



Winners of St Michael's Essay Writing Competition



This year, students from across Year 12 and Year 10 competed in St Michael's first essay writing competition. Over the course of the Spring and Summer Terms, students demonstrated enthusiasm, resilience and significant intellectual curiosity, attending a series of workshops with Mr Magnoff and Ms El-Janbey, as well as conducting extensive independent research. All the students involved proved themselves to be exemplary representatives of the school and our Salesian RUAH values and have taken important steps in improving both their technical essay writing skills as well as expanding their thoughts about the wider world. All of this will help them to achieve their exam goals in

2023.

Students were required to contemplate "The Purpose of Education" and to support their arguments with reference to philosophical and historical texts as well as current political contexts. Students were judged on style, structure, argument, balance and originality. Here are the results:

Overall Winner:

Nathan A. – 1000 House Points + £20 book token

Excellent attempts to ground the argument in a range of academic research. Additionally, Nathan's essay raised interesting points about the impact the education system has on the well-being of young people. His essay also raised important philosophical questions about whether the emphasis of learning should be on the moral education of a young person as opposed to their academic education.

Runners-up:

Adrian N. – 300 House points + £10 book token

Fluently written, powerfully argued and well-structured. Adrian utilized contextual contemporary sources to question not only the purpose of education but also how the knowledge acquired through education should be used in society.

Tyler-May M. – 300 House points + £10 book token

A well-structured essay that made good use of rhetoric to elevate the argument being made. Tyler raised important questions about what constitutes 'real art' and how these ideas (and judgements) are reflected in the school curriculum.

Annelisa A.-K. – 300 House points + £10 book token

A refreshingly optimistic perspective on the education system and what it can offer. Annelisa made a compelling argument about how the education system offers young people more than just academic learning, focusing on how education can influence young people socially, emotionally and spiritually, in order to flourish as adults.

Join us next year for your chance to win BIG and expand your mind...

Mr Magnoff & Ms El-Janbey

Professor William Doyle Visits St Michael's

We are delighted to have welcomed back Professor Doyle for his first in-person lecture at St Michael's since 2020. Professor Doyle is the world's greatest living authority on the History of The French Revolution and one of the most important academics of the last half century. In memorial of American Independence Day, on Tuesday 4th July, Professor Doyle delivered a fascinating lecture on "The Desacralization of the Monarchy and its role in the Collapse of Ancient Regime France." This session will be of central importance to the Year 12 students in attendance as they complete their History coursework on The Origins of The French Revolution. Professor Doyle deliberately took the time to praise the St Michael's for their engagement and questioning:



"It was a pleasure to be back at St Michael's again yesterday. The students, as always, were a delight. The questioning was as tough as I've experienced all year! Salut et fraternite, as the French revolutionaries used to say.." - **Mr Magnoff**

Year 13 Prom



The exams were over.

Notes, books, flash-cards, anxiety and stress were cast to the side.

Dresses, suits, dark glasses, beaming smiles, freshly done braids and flawlessly applied make-up were now making their way to one destination –

The Doubletree Hilton Hotel!

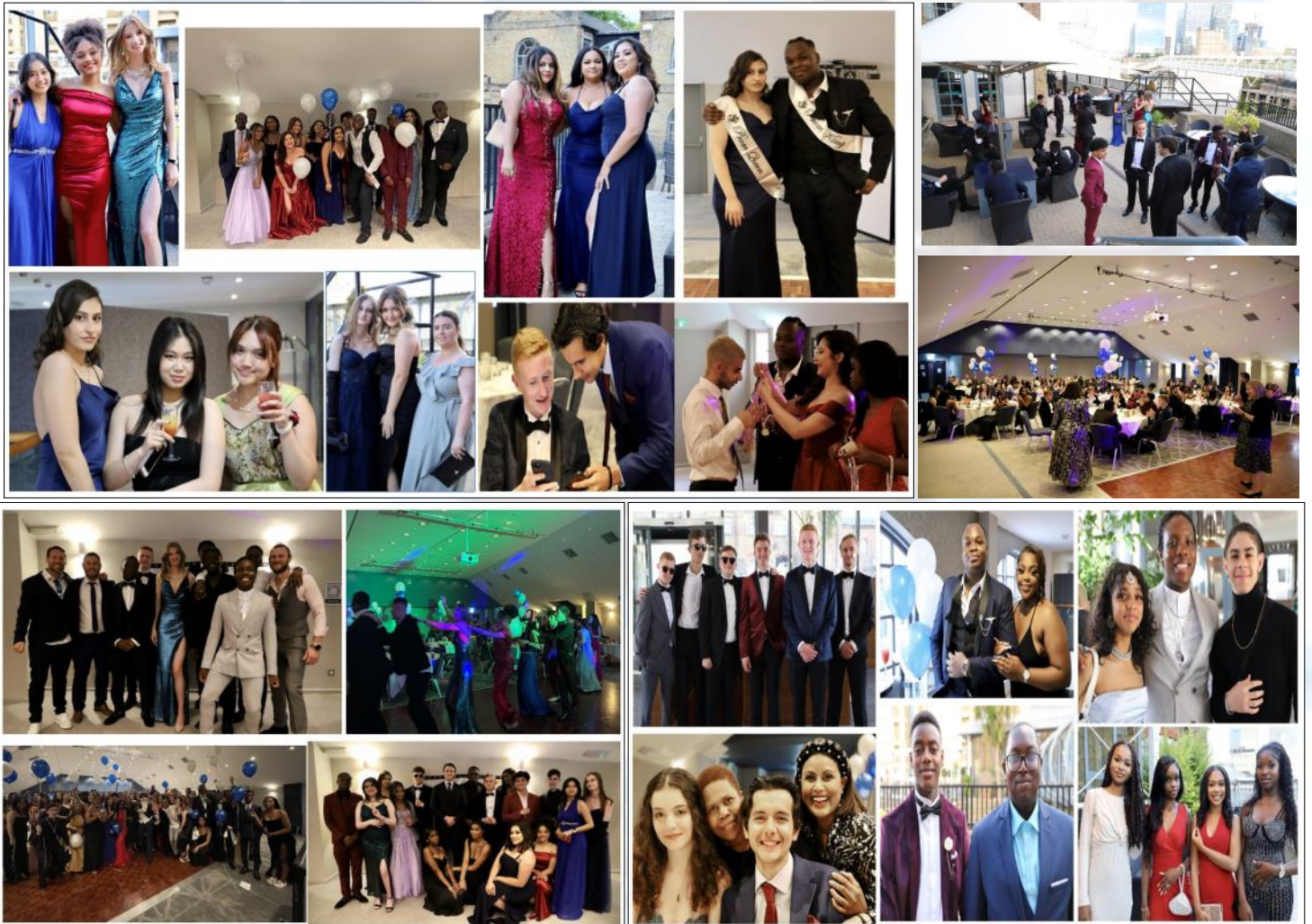
June 30th 2022 was going to be unforgettable unlike the cast-off notes and flash-cards. June 30th 2022, was their night!

And what a night it turned out to be. Some of the Year 13 were beautifully unrecognizable. Our young men and women who for two years sat in lessons or behind their screens (during covid isolation), had now earned a well-deserved celebration.

They chose their own music, chose their prom Queen and King, but best of all, they chose to dance as they had never danced before, dancing like they would never dance again - together at their leaving Prom. And their teachers danced too! Though they lacked the energetic jump of youthful legs, they tried to show the youngsters that only yesteryear they too were teenagers.

When the music stopped and it was time to say good bye, the tears started because some would never meet again, but what was sure, was that they would forever remain in each other's hearts and thoughts; for whatever was to come, they had on that dance floor as they had in class rooms and the 6th form study area, strengthened that Salesian bond which neither time nor distance could rend.

Good Luck Class of 2022! *Ms Belvett*



Chaplain's Corner

The Word of the Lord

Galatians 3:23-28

Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

A reflection on this...

International Week is a reminder that we are not alone in this world and the world is so beautiful because we are different. As a school we should celebrate that which makes us unique and how we can best share that with those around us.

The scripture also reminds us about the dignity of all being made in the Image of God as we are taught in Genesis, and that not one person is any better than another in the eyes of God and we are all equal.

Miss Casey, Head of Chaplaincy



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

The Year 12 Chaplaincy Team led special lessons on behalf of CAFOD to Year's 7 and 8 about the importance of equality of food and profit in the world. The Year 12's additionally ran assemblies to the whole school to share the importance of this message that we all need to 'Step Up To The Plate' and implore our government to make the production of food and sharing of the wealth equal across the world

International Week came around again with a week of special meals provided by the Kitchen Staff for all staff and pupils to share, leading to assemblies led by Miss Casey at the end of term to highlight the Church in communication with the rest of the world Mrs Bryant ran trips to St Paul's Cathedral, a major Church of England Cathedral for Year 10 to showcase the similarities and differences in denominational worship.

Prayer

At the end of this year we ask the Lord to guide us and remind us to...

Take time to claim your strength; they are gifts of God.

Take time to have fun; it's God's way of teaching you your strengths.

Take time to grow yourself; only you can grow you.

Take time to trust yourself; God trusts you.

Take time to be self-reliant; it is better than being dependent.

Take time to share with others; they will bless you, and you will bless them.

Take time to have hope, you are a child of God.

Let's put ourselves into the hands of the Lord, and pray that God will bless us and our families during the wonderful months of summer.

May we all help make our home a place of relaxation, joy, love, peace and safety.

May we be generous and considerate, not thinking only about ourselves, but helping others enjoy the blessings of summer-time.

Lord God, Creator of all things, guide our steps and strengthen our hearts, during these months of summer and holidays.

Grant us refreshment of mind and body.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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 Option 1

