



THE LINK

*A fortnightly Newsletter for the pupils, parents and staff of
St Michael's Catholic College
Issue 204 - 15th September 2022*

Welcome message from the Principal

It has been wonderful to have the St Michael's community back together again for the new academic year and to welcome our new Year 7 and 12 students to the college.

The start of a new academic year is a time where we can celebrate the success of the Year 11 and Year 13 public examination results and also where we look forward to the year ahead by asking what are our goals for the year and how are we going to contribute and serve our community? These are questions I asked St Michael's students in my start of term assemblies encouraging them to live out Salesian and Gospel values in both their words and deeds, which I know are what makes St Michael's such a special and welcoming place to be and to learn.



The start of term has also been of course marked by the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and we have paid our respects at St Michael's in a number of ways. A Requiem Mass was offered in the chapel for the repose of the soul of the Queen and students prayed together in form time ahead of reflecting on the Queen's life and how they can be inspired by her example to follow the message and teachings of Jesus Christ. The chapel has remained open for prayer and reflection during the national period of mourning, so staff and students can write messages and prayers of condolence. Finally, two Year 8 students, Mirabel and Yousef were invited to Green Park with Mr Pillai Head of Media Studies to take part in an obituary programme about the Queen for Sky News. The students took the opportunity whilst they were there to leave a floral tribute and prayer of condolence on behalf of the college in the memorial garden at Green Park.

Earlier in the year the college celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with students reflecting on the Queen's life and reign and also on how our local area has changed during those 70 years. House display boards were made as part of our celebration and I was so pleased to see that many students had made the Queen's Christian faith a focal point of their displays. Personally, I believe there is so much we can learn by the way in which the Queen bore witness to her faith. In her Millennium message the Queen said, 'To many of us, our beliefs are of fundamental importance. For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life. I, like so many of you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ's words and example.' These important and wise words should inspire us to live out our Christian faith and to recognise that in an age of superficial celebrity and social media how much more substance and happiness can be brought to our own lives and to those around us by living out the Gospel values in love and service to others.



Therefore, we give thanks to God for Her Majesty's life and service to our country, May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Ms F. Corcoran, Principal

A Levels, CTEC and GCSE Results 2022

St Michael's Catholic College would like to congratulate all of our Year 13 and Year 11 students on their exceptional performance in their A levels, CTEC and GCSE qualifications this year.

We are delighted with the results of the first set of external examinations since 2019 and are incredibly proud of each and every student and how they have navigated their way through the challenges and disruption to their education during the last two years as a result of the pandemic.



It is important to remember that the Year 13 are the year group who had their GCSE exams cancelled in 2020, which makes their success even more impressive. These students have shown such resilience and determination and approached their studies and exams with a positive mindset and deserve this success. It has been a privilege to support and guide them during this time and we would like to thank them, their families and our staff for working together in very challenging circumstances, it has been a true community effort. We are very pleased that our students are now able to progress to top universities including Cambridge, Imperial, Kings College, Manchester, St Andrews, Queen Mary and to apprenticeships with JP Morgan and the Metropolitan Police. We know they will continue to fulfil their potential as they move to the next phase of their lives, we wish them well for the future and will keep them in our prayers.

Our Year 11 students approached their learning with similar determination and good humour and we thank **them for contributing so positively to the St Michael's community**, it has been a privilege to work with them. These fantastic GCSE results were only made possible by our teachers and support staff doing their utmost to ensure students were supported and cared for every step of the way, St Michael's is truly blessed to have such dedicated staff. We would also like to extend our thanks **to all of our students' families for working together in partnership with us since Year 7 and for the support they have shown to the college, especially during the pandemic.** We wish all the Year 11 students well with their next steps and are delighted that many of them have progressed to our 6th form. *Ms Corcoran, Principal*



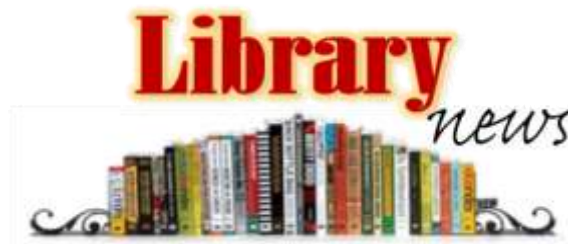
St Paul's Cathedral



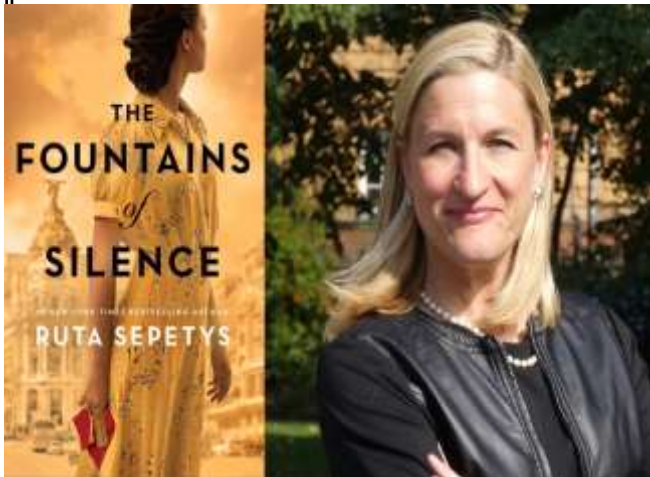
As part of our summer activities week in July, our Year 10 students walked over to St Paul's Cathedral. The students had the opportunity to explore the crypt sub-level and to explore the wider cathedral, including the tombs of John Donne, the Duke of Wellington, Christopher Wren, and Alexander Fleming.

Tomb of the Duke of Wellington (1769-1852)





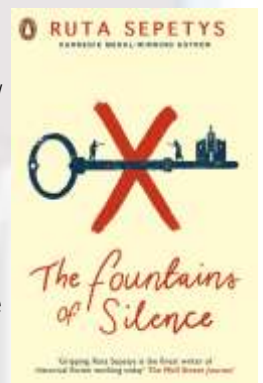
The Fountains of Silence



This book is historical fiction, set in Madrid during the Facist Regime under Franco.

It follows the stories of Daniel (an American who has come to spend the month in Madrid), Ana (the hotel employee) and her family, Rafa and Fuga (two aspiring matadores) and Puri[ficacion] (a nun working at an orphanage).

The plot is far too thick to keep track of. But, summarised a lot, Daniel and Ana try to work around the strict rules surrounding love and relationships, Daniel also works on a photography competition, capturing the 'fear' in people. Ana tries to help him understand how life is, but "it's hard for an outsider to understand" (which could be applied to anything in life, but they repeated this a lot).



Rafa and Fuga are gravediggers, who discover a darker side to things happening under the regime, and try to earn money by becoming matadores in order to support their families and the poor of Vallecas. However this leads to Fuga's fall (which was very dramatic and I did not like reading) and Rafa to be in jail.

Puri works at the orphanage that Rafa and Fuga suspect is lying to people. She finds confidential information, and starts to piece things together, and then realises the truth about her whole life (also very dramatic). At the end, they all come together in a very strange way and it's very confusing. I feel like there was a lot more that could be said as the ending was very unclear. by *Ruta S.*

Year 7 Mass

On Friday 2nd September, our new Year 7 gathered together at Dockhead Church alongside their form tutors, senior staff and parents. It was a wonderful opportunity to be together and give thanks for the new community that we have formed. Canon Alan said Mass for us and many students took part in the Mass led by Miss Casey; as in the choir, as readers and during the offertory.

Ms. Corcoran spoke to pupils and parents about new beginnings and the achievements that we have to look forward to. We give thanks to God for our school community and pray for the year ahead. *Mrs Bryant*



How it felt to read on my first day at St Michaels Catholic College!

On Friday 2nd September, I was fortunate enough to get to do a reading with some of my other classmates. I was very proud to open the year by reading in front of the priest, parents, teachers, and friends, my family was very proud of me, especially my mum. I hope I can do more things like this in the future, I owe a gigantic thank you to Miss Casey and my classmates for helping and encouraging me to do this. *Zachary, 7DA*

St Michael's Wins Prestigious National Award for Outstanding Teaching and Learning!

I am absolutely delighted to announce that St Michael's have become one of only 21 schools in the UK to be awarded the Quality Mark in Holocaust Education by UCL's Centre for Holocaust Education at the University of London. This is in recognition of many years hard work from staff and students.



UCL Reviewer Dr Nicola Wetherall MBE, said:

“We are delighted to award St Michael's Catholic College with the UCL Centre for Holocaust Education ‘Quality Mark’ and re-designate your Beacon School status for a further three years. Your impressive provision for and quality teaching and learning about the Holocaust and your innovative and ambitious commitment to local history is remarkable. We congratulate Mr Magnoff and Ms Corcoron, the staff, students and governing body for embracing this programme, giving it the status, time and support necessary to ensure such highly impressive outcomes. This report does not do your students’ justice – without exception, those observed classes, and student voice group, were remarkable – they were articulate, engaging, thoughtful and reflective. Without doubt incredible ambassadors for your school and the quality for provision and experience of Holocaust teaching and learning – it was a privilege to converse with them – they speak to the impact of the relationships, culture, and teaching at St Michael's. They are each beacons the whole community can be proud of.”

“Student experience, outcomes and regard for Holocaust education, their teachers and value of this History was extraordinary. Student voice panels showcased the impact of this work and its significance. St Michael's students are informed, engaged, inspired, and empowered by this deep learning experience and their insights were revealing, thoughtful, powerful – they are the school and Beacon School programmes' best advocates.”

“The student panel discussion was rich, mature, varied, and powerful. It is a conversation that left a lasting impression on the reviewer. These voices deserve to be heard widely. Lesson observations and student voice also spoke to the strength of student/teacher relationships across the school and the regard for all within the St Michael's community. Student substantive knowledge was shown to be sound, their use of subject specific terminology excellent. St Michael's students can offer sophisticated and nuanced insights to complex Holocaust themes and sensitive questions. They are genuinely interested in and enthused by teaching and learning about the Holocaust, as well as other genocides and human rights issues. In short, they ‘enjoy’ studying these subjects, and want to know more. This can only be the result of good teaching practice, which – of course – is itself dependent upon curriculum design, adequate training, and strong leadership, to name but a few prerequisites.”

The full report can be viewed here:

<https://holocausteducation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/St-Michaels-Catholic-College-QM.pdf>

The entry on UCL's website is here:

<https://holocausteducation.org.uk/2022/05/25/st-michaels-catholic-college-our-21st-quality-mark/>

Well done everybody! *Mr Magnoff*

Year 10's Graduate Brilliant Scholars Programme at Royal Holloway University



Challenge yourself! We are delighted to announce the graduation of twelve Year 10 students from the prestigious Brilliant Scholars Programme - a national university access project. This year students had a STEM focus, exploring the regeneration of skin in laboratories. These students were encouraged to think and work independently across seven tutorials with a subject expert PhD researcher. They then completed a challenging final essay which was given a university-level grade. All twelve students graduated with the highest grades and were singled out for praise from their PhD tutor, Dr Elena Drudi:

"The whole group was excellent and engaged throughout all the tutorials. The students showed great essay writing, clearly communicating their ideas for their own regenerative skin therapy and debated really well on ethics in science. It was a real pleasure teaching them and I am sure they will go on to do great things. They were, by far, the best group I have worked with"

As a reward, these students attended a prestigious graduation ceremony at Royal Holloway College, University of London. Adrian N. and Jayden F.M. further distinguished themselves by delivering articulate and inspiring speeches to an audience of academics, undergraduate students and other schools. Adrian's speech is included below. Please do congratulate all these students when you see them! *Mr Magnoff*

The Brilliant Scholars Programme was such an eye opening and refreshing course for those who took part; through it, we were able to learn in greater depth far more about the field of science and how it has the ability to truly improve and better the lives of people across the world. In the course, we learnt about gene and cell therapy, and how the two can be used in order to repair and rejuvenate the skin, one of the body's most vital organs. I would like to take the time to thank Mr Magnoff who is here with us today - throughout the course's duration, She ensured that everything ran smoothly and that the experience was as enjoyable as it possibly could be. I would also like to thank our tutor, Elena Drudi, for taking the time to teach us about skin regeneration, a small piece in the much larger puzzle of science. Allow me to now share with you the closing paragraph of my final essay, which I believe positively reflects my time in the course:

Pemphigus, the autoimmune skin disease, can do untold damage to people's lives. Even though it is rare, the effects of it prove to be damaging and detrimental nonetheless. With the use of gene and cell therapy, people suffering from this disease now have a viable means of treatment available for them, as well as ensuring that the disease can no longer wreak havoc on so many lives.

Adrian N., 11DA



St Michael's Student: how sport helped me gain self-confidence and respond to bullying

St. Michael's is delighted to hear that one of its Year 11 students, Olivia S., is continuing to collect one success after the other in windsurfing and sailing.

After completing a First Aid Course at the beginning of July, Olivia came second in her inter club competition.

Olivia has taken part in:

London East and South East Regional windsurfing Championship - 3rd girl.



UKWA open water cup in Christchurch - 3rd girl

London Youth Game regata representing Tower Hamlets, sailing double handed Pico - 1st place: great personal achievements and the team winning the London Youth Games the cup.

Olivia had a very busy summer training and competing in preparation for the International Championship in Cyprus. We are proud of her and look forward to hearing from her of new victories.

Mr Walker

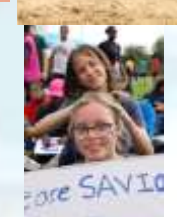


Sports Day

GLAD TO BE BACK! After a prolonged disappearance, the bells and whistles sounded the cheers of joy for the return of the famous Sports Day; a day of great importance of games and sports for the students.

We had record breakers all across the board and it was glorious! From sprinting to high jump, there was an aura of defying the odds. Young Wisdom, now in Year 8, impressed everyone on the field with his majestic strides blowing past his competition.

Ultimately, the house with the most competition wins was Da Costa. They stormed through the events and laid victory on the first Sports Day post-Covid. *Mr Murungi*



Chaplain's Corner

The Word of the Lord

Matthew 18:1-3

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

A reflection on this...

At the start of this new year, we are all reminded of the joy of youth and the privilege it is to come back once again as a school community.

Sunday 11th September was Education Sunday – a day for all to celebrate the delight it is to teach and be taught.

All staff and students are reminded of the school's RUAH Values and the Principles of Catholic Social Teaching through assemblies on Salesian Values by Ms Corcoran and through House assemblies on human dignity and a celebration of World Afro Day given by Heads of House.

Miss Casey, Head of Chaplaincy

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

- * Year 7 were welcomed into the college community by way of their Year 7 Welcome Mass led graciously by Canon Alan at the Most Holy Trinity Church at Dockhead.
- * Mr and Mrs Laurence supported Miss Casey in rehearsing for the hymns and some fantastic volunteers read during the service itself across all of the Year 7 form classes. It was a wonderful celebration and a chance to come together as a new part of the college community.
- * Each form room received a prayer table and a personally made prayer book, written by pupils of the form, to better steer prayers and reflection during AM and PM registrations.
- * Miss Casey launched the Year 10 and Year 12 Chaplaincy teams once again, with lots of applications.
- * Miss Steward launched the new Year 7 Faith in Action team, once again with lots of interested parties.
- * The College Chapel has been open for prayer and reflection following the death of Queen Elizabeth II and a requiem Mass was offered in the Chapel for the repose of her soul.
- * The Year 13 Chaplaincy team are starting to prepare for the St Michael's Day celebrations, hopefully supported by the new teams in the younger years.



Welcome
accept one another
just as Christ
accepted you in order
to bring praise to God
Romans 15:7





Safeguarding Officers



**Designated
Safeguarding Lead:**

Ms Jo Nottage

Contact: 0207 237 6432 or
j.nottage@stmichaelscollege.org.uk



**Safeguarding officer &
Deputy Designated Lead:**

Mrs Debbie Freegard

Contact: 0207 237 6432 or
d.freegard@stmichaelscollege.org.uk



Safeguarding Officer:

Ms Tania Rughooputh

Contact: 0207 237 6432 or
t.rughooputh@stmichaelscollege.org.uk



Mr Allan Daly

Contact: 0207 237 6432 or
a.daly@stmichaelscollege.org.uk

Overall Responsibility:

Ms Felicity Corcoran - Principal

Contact: 0207 237 6432 or
Email: contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk

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.

AUTUMN TERM 2022-2023

OPEN DAYS

In order for our staff to set up for the School Open Days the College will be closing to all students on Friday 23rd September at 2:15pm.

INSET DAYS

Friday 21st October 2022

HOLIDAYS

HALF TERM

Monday 24th October 2022
To
Friday 28th October 2022

CHRISTMAS

Monday 19th December 2022
To 2nd January 2022

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.



Contacting the College - Direct parents access to college via email
contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk

For absence please phone: 0207 237 6432 Option 1

