



THE LINK

*A fortnightly Newsletter for the pupils, parents and staff of
St Michael's Catholic College
Issue 207 - 15th November 2022*



Meeting the Mayor

On the 30th of September, I had the opportunity to meet the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan. Over a portion of the holidays, I was part of a summer program at my local youth centre, the "Blue Youth Centre". Over the course of the program, we partook in a range of different activities and one of the more regular ones was cooking at the local kitchen.

These skills came in handy when I was asked to cook and present our creations to the Mayor when he visited the Blue Space. We spent around two hours in the kitchen before the Mayor arrived. There was an unruly group, cursing at the politician when he first arrived in the square but the location was changed to a quieter car park nearby. There were around 9 of us and we all took turns introducing ourselves and those who didn't carry plates of food shook Sadiq's hand.

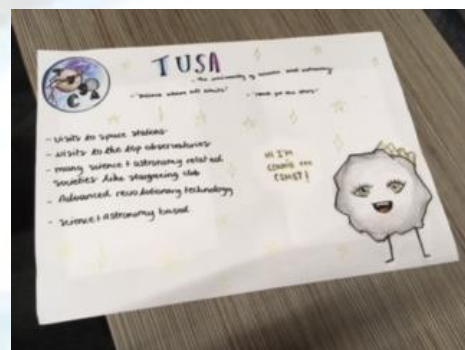
It was a good experience meeting someone with such a high political status, he was pretty down to earth and casual so it wasn't awkward or anything. He left quite quickly soon afterwards, anxious for his safety in the midst of the rowdy crowd I mentioned earlier. Overall, I'm really glad I went; meeting a famous politician was an interesting experience.

Isioma A., Year 10

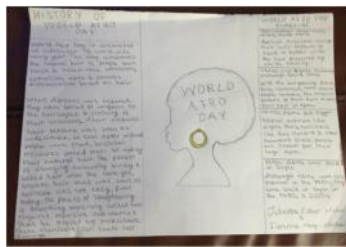


Year 8 King's Scholars Design a University Day

On Wednesday 2nd November, the pupils a part of the King's Scholars programme took a trip to King's College in the Strand. On this trip, we learnt about what it is like to go to university, what different subjects we could take and what it is like to study abroad. We learnt that there are many different courses and subjects you can take in university, such as contemporary circus and ethical hacking! At the end of the trip, we created our own universities and presented them to our peers. *By Rubie Rose R.*



St. Michael's Black History Month 2022



Over the past few years at St. Michael's, we have made conscious efforts for our Black History Month celebrations to be more meaningful and inspiring to our students, with a focus on identity and issues that may have an impact on our students directly.

It's important that our students can bridge the gap between their experiences and those faced throughout the world; this year has been an appreciation of and raising greater awareness of a particular aspect of Black identity – afro hair. This is a topic that has been widely debated, fought over and protested for, throughout the world for decades, but it is one that many of our students

grapple with each and every day. For some, it is central to their identity and they wear their afro hair with pride, but for others, it can be a traumatic experience.

Through the Black History Month assembly this year, students were led through the history of the afro, highlighting the trials and tribulations that many have faced over centuries. Students were shown how the traumatic past of the slave trade and subsequent European standards of beauty, led to a damaging shift in the black perception of their natural hair; this is something that many people still experience to this day. But the journey of afro hair has come a long way since then, as the assembly went on to show how it has been fought for and how much of an influence it has on the world today. We are in an age of unapologetically embracing natural afro hair, with it receiving greater recognition throughout mainstream media. This is having a positive impact on our young people, as they see themselves more in the world around them.



This year, we saw an opportunity to begin celebrations early, by taking part in the celebrating of World Afro Hair Day on September 15th. As always, Black History Month at St. Michael's centres around our students and their contributions; students and teachers have been encouraged this month to share their own experiences of afro hair. We received a number of entries that we are proud to share with our community:

One of our senior students, Victoria D, went to great lengths to produce a presentation of her own, expressing not only her views on afro hair, but also the views of her peers. Victoria gathered the thoughts of her school community to discuss issues of black identity and put forward constructive suggestions of school rules around afro hair: Sadly, the presentation highlighted the ongoing struggle that a number of our young people still face, that their identity can be tarnished with negative stereotypes. It is important that we continue to challenge these narratives when we are faced with them, whilst also continuing to uplift and equip our students to also do this themselves.

This is when our work during CPSHE really matters, by engaging with these issues of identity and providing a space for our students to discuss, share their experiences and make sense of the world around them. The session gave students the opportunity to explore perspectives from different backgrounds, about hair and it's importance to them. From here, they were able to branch out into wider aspects of identity. It is vital that Black History Month is not an isolated experience, but that it relates to everyday experiences and to those outside of the black community also; our work at St. Michael's will continue throughout the year to ensure that these topics are explored deeper and discussions can continue to grow.— **Mr A. Burton**

INTRODUCTION

I do not want to find issues with rules that St Michael's have implemented to help promote inclusivity for many cultures in the community but instead I want to focus on how these efforts made by the school should be able to help students. The voice of each student who have issues with some policies should be recognised and addressed so that it may benefit all. In this presentation I am talking about the importance of black hair and why and how it is important to many people and their identity.

What it means to be black is subjective to who you ask. Being black means different things. Being whatever you are means something different and special to you. However it is important to recognise how we should not define ourselves and others which is in a durkheimian constructed way - defining ourselves by what we are not. Doing this can be damaging to ourselves and others by making us conscious about how others view us instead of how we view ourselves.

I want this presentation to encourage all of us to express ourselves creatively, Black or not. I believe that no one should restrict how others express themselves because: you are not your hair colour. You are not your weight or job or choice of clothing. You are not defined by the things that make you human, otherwise seen to some as 'flaws' These are just physical descriptors that make you easy to identify but they don't define you.

You are what you bring to the world. You are how you treat other people. You are anything and everything that makes you happy and touches your soul to the core. Most importantly you are you and should embrace that.

RULES STUDENTS WOULD LIKE

01

Hair Lengths

- Natural Hair length and volume should be respected and treated fairly like white counterparts - natural shouldn't be told it's too big if the Halo Code says we can wear our hair in afros.

02

Hair Colour

- Braids should be allowed to be two toned natural colours eg. brown as brown is also a natural hair colour for many people who's hair aren't black - no crazy colours

03

Hair Dye

- Hair dye can be natural e.g brown. As many peers have had dyed hair but since its 'unnoticeable' they have not been noticed or in trouble for it. Dyeing your hair is a way to express creativity and not rebellion.

04

Taking out hair

- If you are told to take out your hair the reason should be justifiable. Doing our hair is expensive and is protective. It's unfair to be told to 'take it out' after spending a lot of money to do it.



Student 7

Being black is my identity - E



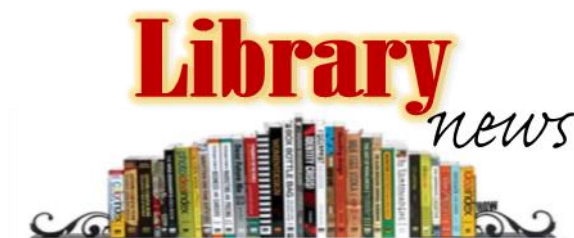
Student 8

Being black is saying 'black is beautiful' when I shouldn't have to.



Student 9

Being black is being accused of looking suspicious or like 'a gang' when i'm with my friends. - A



Mr Bourke at the Cheltenham Literary Festival.

On Wednesday 12th October, Mr Bourke (our Head of English) gave a talk at the Cheltenham Literary Festival about his novel, LINE.

He was part of a panel called “Roddy Doyle’s Next Generation of Irish Writers” and the event was billed by the Dublin Book Festival as “highlight[ing] some of the most exciting emerging Irish writers. Roddy Doyle, one of our most popular and acclaimed voices, will host a panel of exciting new Irish writers including Suad Aldarra, Niall Bourke and Aingeala Flannery. Suad Aldarra is the author of a powerful memoir about her ten-year search for belonging after leaving Syria *I Don’t Want to Talk about Home* (Penguin); Niall Bourke is a poet, English teacher and author of the novel *Line* (Tramp Press) which is described as ‘A Grapes of Wrath for the [digital] age’, and Aingeala Flannery, whose novel *The Amusements* (Penguin) is a luminous story of small-town communities and roads not taken.”



The event was attended by over 90 people and there was a book signing by all the panelists afterwards in Waterstones. It was hosted by Booker Prize winning author Roddy Doyle, who has written films and West End musicals as well as a whole host of novels, including ‘The Commitments’ and ‘Paddy Clarke, Ha Ha Ha’.

Mr Bourke said: “It was great a experience to meet other writers and get to speak to such a knowledgeable audience about my work. The whole event was fantastic, it was really well organised. The audience questions ranged from topics such as how to start writing and how to get an agent to the queue for the queen’s funeral! It was great to be able to go to Cheltenham and fly the St Michael’s flag!”

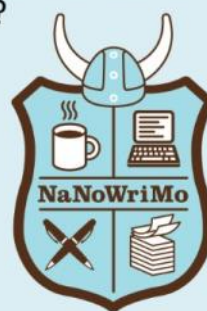


Are you a wannabe writer? Have you ever wanted to have a go at writing a novel?

Join us for Nanowrimo!

National Novel Writing Month

- ❖ Email Ms L Casey for a starter pack.
- ❖ Use October to make a plan.
- ❖ Begin writing your novel on 1st November.
- ❖ Finish by midnight on the 30th of November.
- ❖ That’s it – ONE MONTH.



There will be lots of virtual **pep talks**, **writing parties** and **word sprints** through the month to keep you going. There’s also a GLOBAL online community of writers you’ll join via our own **virtual Writers’ Room**.

Join with this code on Google Classroom: **LOQQIMRQ**

<http://ywp.nanowrimo.org/>

Do something amazing – write a novel!



Half Term Trips

Rome Trip

On Monday 24th October 2022 we flew to Rome with our friends. We were so excited about it because it was our first experience in Italy.

When we arrived at Rome we first went and visited St Peter's Basilica it was an eye-opening experience. Afterwards we headed to our hotel to have dinner. We had proper Italian food. It was delicious.

Then on Tuesday, we went to the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore. we had so much fun because we took a lot of pictures and also saw historical buildings. Next we went to the Vatican museum and it was amazing because we got to see the inside of the Sistine Chapel.

Denzel, Year 9



Rome, Italy

Monday 24th – Friday 28th October



Rome was my first opportunity to go to on a school trip abroad which gave me many different memories for the future. Visiting the Vatican city to see Pope Francis was a rare opportunity for us. In addition, we saw some of the most famous landmarks such as: Colosseum, Trevi Fountain and the Pantheon. All these places had historical meanings behind them so we had tour guides which informed us about what happened in the past. Not only that, but most places had some beautiful artwork in them such as the Sistine Chapel which had many different saints and religious stories included in it. During lunch and dinner I got to try out many different Italian foods such as pizza, pasta and lasagne. Overall, this trip gave me the opportunity to visit new places but also allowed me to make new friends. ***Amelia, Year 9***



Developing Cooking skills

The Year 8s have been cooking up a storm in F31. Last Friday delicious smells were wafting around the first floor while Year 8 were busy creating their healthy Stir Fry meal. Excellent knife and wok handling skills were seen throughout. Well done Year 8!!

Mrs Shillito

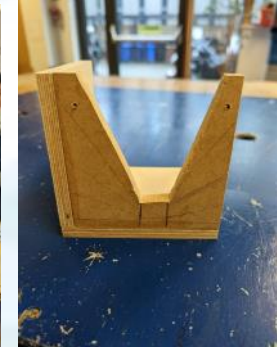
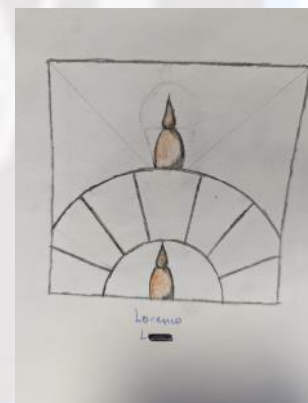
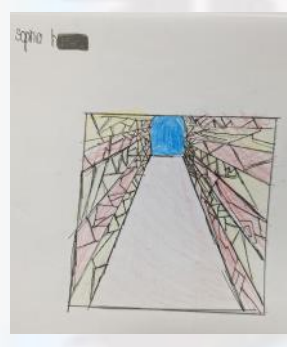
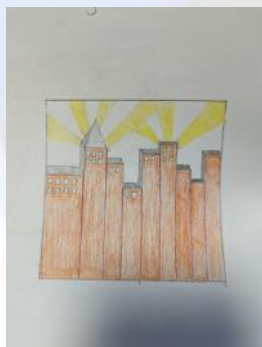


Product Designers at work

The Year 9 Product Designers have been looking to the past for inspiration this term.

Students have been asked to look at either Art Nouveau, Art Deco or Bauhaus. The design eras have influenced the design of the Steady Hand Games. The students are progressing well; the frames and 'faces' of their games are very nearly complete. Next stop is soldering the electronic components to form the circuit of their game!

Great work Team DT! - *Ms Shillito*



Year 8 rugby festival article



On Wednesday 12th October we attended the first meeting of the inner London rugby festival, with our new and eager Year 8 rugby team. The team followed in the footsteps of last year's Year 8 winners, starting the series of festivals as undefeated. The team drew 1 and won 2 of their games, drawing in their first ever game with STAC (1-1) and beating schools such as Haberdashers (3-1) and All Saints (1-0).

The 15 strong squad put in an incredible team performance, with all schools putting in great enthusiasm and displaying some raw talent. Special mentions must go to captain and try scorer Abolaji B.-A for taking control of the team and game. Along with Matthew B.-O., Roy V. D.J., Benjamin L.-P and Ethan C., all of whom scored tries during the course of the festival.

The team will be training hard over the next few weeks in preparation for the next festival, where we're hoping to see similar or better results. The boys will face increased pressure though, the festivals will become more difficult as both the teams and the game progress to a higher standard. 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: Matthew B.-O; Matthew F.; Max Mce; Abolaji B.-A.; Jackson G.; Jhin O. E.; Vladyslav M.; Roy V. De J.; Ethan M; Evans O; Lemar A.-C.; Ethan C; Benjamin Le-P; George P.; Roderick W. M.

Mr Brett-Roberts



Badminton at St Michael's

St Michael's Vs COLA

Friday 14th October - Girls Singles & Doubles Tournament

Year Squad	Year 7 Girls	Year 8 Girls	Year 9 Girls	Year 10 Girls	12/13s Girls
Doubles	Jui	Saron	Asiri	Tamara	Cecelia
	Julia	Delina		Catalina	

Well done to the girls who played in the first badminton competition in St Michael's recent history. The visitors, COLA, came over with a strong team but it was St Michael's who came out on top winning 15 matches Vs COLAs 11. The girls were a credit to the school and a good evening was had by all.



New York trip

Overall, New York was an extraordinary experience that I would recommend to the younger years. The school organised many activities for us to do such as going to Ellis Island, the United Nations, view from the Empire State building and going to see the Statue of Liberty which was a life changing experience . We were able to learn and understand the difference between the different cultures between London and New York City through our Harlem tour. This allowed us to see how heavily the black community influenced the streets of New York. I would love to go back with my family so that they could share the same content my classmates and I felt when we first visited New York.

Sosna M, Year 10



Chaplain's Corner

The Word of the Lord

Psalms 104: 25-30

"There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number—living things both large and small. There the ships go to and fro, and the leviathan, which you formed to frolic there. These all look to you to give them their food at the proper time. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things. When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust. When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth."

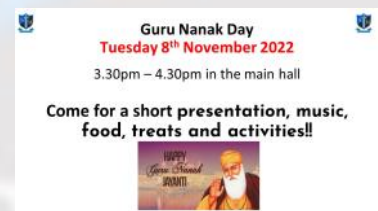
A reflection on this...

God of all,
Open our eyes
to see the needs
of our brothers and sisters.
Open our ears
to hear your words
of hope and compassion.
Open our mouths
to speak up
when people are suffering.
Open our hearts
to reach out in love.
Amen.

Miss Casey, Head of Chaplaincy

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

- The Year 12 Chaplaincy team along with students in Years 7, 8 10 and 11 led assemblies about the origins of Harvest Festival and the impact this has on the world today. This linked nicely to our Harvest appeal for the Southwark Foodbank which once again received hundreds of donations. Miss Casey and Team RE led special lessons on the Gurburab of the Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, once again showcasing the faith life of the school in relation to other world religions. This culminated in a special festival party led by the Sixth Form Chaplaincy and Miss Casey in the hall on Tuesday 8th October.
- Mr Kelly, Miss Casey and Miss Stanley from RE, as well as Miss Yon, Mr Mullik and Mr Devine, accompanied 49, Year 9s to Rome during October half term. This was a fantastic experience for all pupils to visit the centre of the Catholic world and enjoyed time spent at the Vatican, an audience with Pope Francis and visits to many Basilica's.

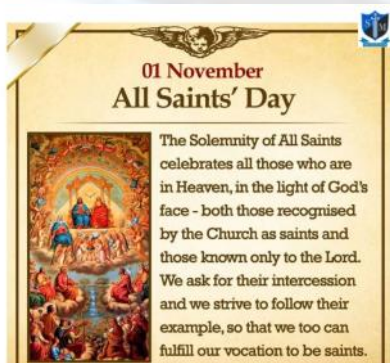


All Saints' Day

Tuesday 1st November 2022

Year 9 attended
Dockhead Church for
mass at 9.30am

All other students
attended mass in the
evening with their
families



All Souls Day

Wednesday 2nd November
2022

Mass on Friday 4th
November was
offered for those of
the faithfully departed





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

HOLIDAYS

6th Form OPEN DAY:

17th November from 4:30-7:00pm

Book your space on our website

CHRISTMAS

Monday 19th December 2022

To 2nd January 2022

MATHS CLUB

Want to revise or be
challenged
with some Maths?



Need help with
a certain topic?

Want to complete your
Maths homework?



**Open to all years (year 7 to year 11)
Every Friday 8:00am – 8:30am in G13 (Ms Mansoor)**



Breakfast Club Reminder

Breakfast club is running from 8am every morning



All students can get **free** porridge or toast

Free fruit now available at the request of the Student Parliament



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

