



# THE LINK

A fortnightly Newsletter for the pupils, parents and staff of  
St Michael's Catholic College  
Issue 213 - 30th March 2023

## News from the Politics Department :

### Parliament week winner receives reply from Department of Education

Meelane A. Year 8DA is our Parliament Week champion who won an Amazon gift card and 100 House points.

Meelane wrote to his local MP asking Ellie Reeves to question the government about the lack of funding for schools.

He wrote

“Dear Ellie Reeves, Labour MP for Lewisham West & Penge

My name is Meelane A, I live in Forest Hill and attend school in Bermondsey. I am writing to you about a severe issue that may not always be considered as significant. Schools across London need to be given more money to keep paying for all the work they are doing to help young people like myself.

Sometimes students do not have enough money to buy essential things to work with like pens and pencils. Our teachers will often give us the stationary but it can be a bit embarrassing asking for something we should already have. This would also be helpful since we are currently going through the cost-of-living crisis, it would also help families that are struggling to buy their children stationery but are unfortunately unable to afford it. This would help a lot of different children.

Some students get free school meals. This is good because sometimes it is the only hot meal that a child might have. But I know some of my classmates do not have much money at all and they do not get any help to pay for these meals. If all children received a free meal at school, it would mean there is nobody missing out. My school also gives a free breakfast each day, which is toast or porridge. I have friends in other schools that do not get this. If every school gave out a free breakfast, even if it is only toast then it would mean that no London children are hungry at the start of a school day. Children find it hard to learn when they are hungry.

In conclusion, I think you should ask the government about extra money for schools which would mean they are able to run smoothly and teachers do not have to look out for students as much.

Sincerely

Meelane A. Year 8

On the right you can see the reply of His Member of Parliament



## St Michael's Students Rename the Streets!

### RENAMING OUR SOUTHWARK STREETS

Southwark Council are giving you the opportunity to rename your local streets and buildings. This is a simple yet effective way to diversify your community, by putting forward names of people who you feel represent you. Here are some names to get you started! If you would like to contribute a name, please click the button and fill out the form. Don't miss an opportunity to shape your community!

**VIVIANNE WESTWOOD**  
Vivienne Westwood was an influential fashion designer who lived in Clapham. In 2022, Sky Arts ranked her the 4th most influential artist in Britain of the last 10 years.

**'JINI' OLUBUNMI-ADEWOLE**  
Polished Olubunmi Adewole is a resident of Bermondsey, and after growing up along the Thames to meet a woman who had fallen from London Bridge, she has her surname has now been a Blue Plaque at Southwark Cathedral.

**ADA SALTER**  
Ada Salter was the first woman councillor in Bermondsey and one of the first women councillors in London. She fought tirelessly for women's rights, and her efforts have been recognised in a statue by the Thames.

**HAROLD MOODY**  
Harold Moody started his own medical practice in Peckham, having been refused work because of his colour. He went on to campaign against racial prejudice and established the League of Coloured Peoples in 1930.

**DEREK JARMAN**  
Derek Jarman was an English artist, film maker, costume designer, stage designer, writer, gardener and gay rights activist. He raised awareness of homosexuality and AIDS in the 1980s, through his film and art, and has been awarded a Blue Plaque in Southwark.

In February, hundreds of St Michael's students took the opportunity to get involved with Southwark's initiative to both rename existing streets in the borough as well as to suggest names for future buildings and monuments. Our Diversity Ambassadors have done a tremendous job in spreading awareness and encouraging students to research our local History. Several students in Year 8 have also been inspired to use this initiative as a basis for this term's art project. Please find some of their early work attached. Please also find Ash G.-O'D. (Diversity Ambassador) reflections on the process below.

Mr Magnoff

We, as the people of Southwark, were recently given the exciting opportunity of suggesting names for the public buildings and spaces around us. Southwark Council, as part of the Southwark Stands Together initiative, is looking at our streets and shared spaces and how they can be changed to celebrate diversity, in the hope of reflecting the rich culture of our community. As a school, we contributed hundreds of responses - with the help of Mr Magnoff and Mr Burton, as they put together a shortlist of people who helped to shape our future and organised a time for us to put forward our ideas to Southwark Council. A chance like this was truly special and the prospect of having ourselves and our identities reflected in the architecture around us serves as an important reminder of who we are. Taking pride in the History of our streets is a step toward a better future. This is just one of many projects that we as the Diversity team are working on in order to make our school and local area a place for all people to live, learn and grow.

This survey is still open until 31st May 2023! If you would also like to contribute, please follow the link to promote diversity and positive change within our borough:

Suggestions: <https://73se.short.gy/Southwark>

Application: <https://consultations.southwark.gov.uk/housing-community-services-department-community-engagement-team/namingplaces/>

Ash G.-O'D, 10RU, Diversity Ambassador

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**BOB MARLEY**  
The famous musician inspired many across the world, but had a connection with the people of Battersea and Peckham, where he played football and performed at Peckham Manor School in 1972.

**ANNIE BESANT**  
Annie Besant was a political activist from Clapham, who campaigned for human and civil rights. She led demonstrations by 'match-girls', who worked in dangerous factory conditions with little to no rights.

**WILLIAM CUFFAY**  
William Cuffay, of mixed heritage, was one of the organisers of the large Chartist rally on Kennington Common on 10 April 1848, in an attempt to secure more voting rights for the working class.

**CHARLES MOODY**  
Charles Moody was the son of Harold Moody and a soldier in WWII. Aspiring to become an officer in the British army, he was denied due to his race. Charles worked with his father to to remove this colour bar and promote equal rights in the army.

**FRANCIS SPENCER**  
Francis Spencer, a retired 61 year old, who also has deformed hands, jumped into the Thames to rescue a drowning woman in 2007. His son completed a fundraiser swimming 36.5 miles in 365 days for Macmillan Cancer in loving memory of his father who died in 2022.

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**JOCELYN BARROW**  
Jocelyn Barrow was the first Secretary of Campaign Against Racial Discrimination (CARD) and the first black woman to serve on the BBC Board of Governors. She was also the first patron of the Black Cultural Archives in Brixton.

Year 8 art students were given the task of producing an illustration children's book about the life of someone we could rename a Southwark street after.

Here are some details from the books produced. Full books will be uploaded to the website soon!

## CTEC Sports Games Officer visit

As part of our current CTEC course in Sports organisation, Mrs Weatherley arranged for the Sports Games Organiser (SGO) to come in and deliver a talk to the class to embed our knowledge and understanding of sports development in final preparation for our Exam in May. He came and spoke to us in our lesson time to provide us with knowledge of his on hand experience within this field.

George works with primary schools, secondary schools and with children who may need additional support. He spoke to us all about the struggles yet also the benefits that he gets from working with these children. A huge benefit that we spoke about is seeing the development of these children and how their levels of fitness drastically improve over time. He spoke about the importance of keeping children active because it will also help them as they get older. He supports children which means that he holds the responsibility of organising competitions/festivals for children to enjoy. This can also link in to school activities such as inter house competitions which allow all children to compete against one another in a fun and enjoyable environment. His role means that he has to work with everyone, meaning all kinds of people such as children, teachers, religious groups etc.

He also went into detail about some of the struggles of his field of work. A main one being that they suffered from a cut of funding in 2012 which meant that they no longer had any sports partnerships. When funding gets cut not only his work gets affected but the children also get affected. This is because if there is no funding, then there is no way that he would be able to host these events due to lack of equipment but also, he wouldn't be able to pay the staff. This is why it is important that he may need the use of volunteers to support him, just like us. This will have a huge negative impact on the area because the children will no longer be able to keep up with the fitness levels expected of them, if they aren't taking part in physical activities. Another struggle he mentioned was that not a lot of children have the appropriate kit to be taking part in activities in certain conditions. For example, if it is raining some children might be left out as they don't have the right footwear to play in the rain as it could lead to injury which would leave him responsible. There are also struggles for parents in certain aspects because there may be times where they need to provide some of the funding in order to help them actually get some events up and running.

Overall, George's talk was extremely useful for us because he provided us with great ideas and the knowledge of what to expect if we choose to go down that route. He also gave us the opportunity to actually be volunteers at his place of work so we can see how his job works first hand. The talk was great and we are coming away from it with huge amounts of knowledge of the fitness and teaching industry.

Below there are some pictures of the practical session Declan and George did as part of the project:-



## Chaplain's Corner

### *The Word of the Lord*

Luke 14:25-34

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'

"Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

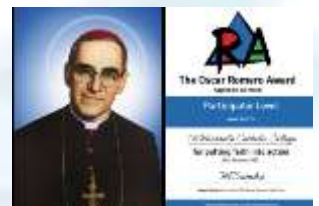
"Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.

"Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."



*A reflection on this...*

St Oscar Romero gave his life so that others might be able to hear the glory of the Word of God. We must remember, especially at this time of Lent, that self-sacrifice for faith is a small price to pay when we consider the sacrifice of the saints and Christ before us. May we all be inspired to be more like St Oscar Romero in our everyday lives and to carry with us our RUAH values whilst at St Michael's and in all that we might face in our lives to aspire not to have more, but to be more.



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

- Preparations have been underway for the Lent services on the last day of term, Miss Casey has been rehearsing with readers and the choir have been preparing with Mr and Mrs Laurence
- Ms Coulbeck and Mr Kose have been working hard on preparations for a reflective performance of the Stations of the Cross on the last day of term for all students to watch
- Our Italian exchange commenced as we welcomed students from the Salesian School, Florence. 25 of our young people spent the week both in and out of school exploring London and getting to know about our school life at St Michael's. The 30<sup>th</sup> March sees our students travel to Florence to visit our counterpart Salesian school.
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March saw the feast of St. Oscar Romero and a special mass was said by Fr Keith to also say good-bye, for now, to our Italian exchange students. 7 Mazarrello led the formation of the Mass and we shared parts of the Mass in Italian
- On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March St George's Cathedral held the annual St. Oscar Romero Mass, where for the first year we have won the award. Miss Casey and members from Year 8 Faith in Action attended the service to pick up the award for showcasing the principles of Catholic Social Teaching in all we do at St Michael's
- At school on the 24<sup>th</sup> March form captains shared a special reflection of St. Oscar Romero during form time to remind us all of the work of this great man and to inspire us to live out the principles of Catholic Social Teaching in our lives.





# Safeguarding Officers



**Designated  
Safeguarding Lead:**

**Ms Jo Nottage**

Contact: 0207 237 6432 or  
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**Safeguarding officer &  
Deputy Designated Lead:**

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**Safeguarding Officer:**

**Ms Tania Rughooputh**

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**Mr Allan Daly**

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**Overall Responsibility:**

**Ms Felicity Corcoran - Principal**

Contact: 0207 237 6432 or  
Email: [contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk](mailto: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.

## SPRING TERM 2022-2023

## HOLIDAYS



### 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**



### EASTER

Monday 3rd April 2023

To

Friday 14th April 2023

Bank Holidays

1st May

8th May (King's Coronation)

### 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](mailto:contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk)

For absence please phone: 0207 237 6432 Option 1



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