



# THE LINK

*A fortnightly Newsletter for the pupils, parents and staff of  
St Michael's Catholic College  
Issue 219 - 16th October 2023*

## Winners of Deputy Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy Elections!

Congratulations to Adrian N and Angelica R who managed to win the popular vote among their fellow Year 12 students, staff and SLT. Although the results were very close, both candidates are worthy and clear winners who managed to appeal to a broad cross-section of the St Michael's population with messages of hope, optimism and innovation. Please find brief extracts from their winning speeches below:

"I am here to listen and help. I will prioritise improving the school and guiding my peers through their issues and academics. By all means I'm not perfect, but I think I'm very organised and trustworthy. My experience from Model UN, my GCSE grades and the skills I've gained from being a Year 11 deputy head prefect, surely reflects my ability to go beyond. First impressions of me might be shy and quiet, but trust me when I say I am very approachable so you can confide your worries.

Overall, I'm very happy to act as the voice of this community; to listen to everyone's opinions and initiate change. My parents always told me "if you're not doing it properly, there's no point in doing it at all."

Here as deputy prefect I would love to be the best version of myself for you and for me.

Fortunately, my parents were always my number 1 supporters and hopefully by being head-girl, I can support each and everyone's paths to success." - Angelica R.

"To me, becoming Deputy Head Boy is not just a role, but a service.

In my time here, I have undergone a continuous journey of personal growth thanks to the help of the teachers and staff here, and most importantly, thanks to all of you sitting before me. To those of you who were here before, it was through the content of your character that I was able to progress from a young, naive - and painfully arrogant- boy to a slightly older BUT yet still young male. A person who, I can confidently say, is more receptive, more open, more compassionate. Someone who every single day, is attempting to atone for his past mistakes and wrong doings by being more responsible. To the external students, through building relationships with you all now and in the foreseeable future, you all now hold a space in my heart and mind: you all are now part of the journey of my personal growth into adulthood, you all are responsible for showing me who I can be." - Adrian N.:



### St Michael's Debating Team Defeat Eton...AGAIN!



Congratulations to the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Debating Team who represented St Michael's at the Dulwich Schools Debating Championships this month. Not only were they the only non-private school there but Zach S. and Ryan B. took the event in their stride, beating Eton, Highgate, Putney and Latymer along the way.  
*Mr Magnoff*

Please find Ryan's reflections below:

St Michael's 6<sup>th</sup> Form Debating Society was back for its second competition, the venue this time at Dulwich College. We fought a heated four debates with various private and grammar schools, even receiving a shoutout as the only non-selective state school present. Many controversial topics were raised, including inheritance tax, as well as the political left wing domination of feminism. We were forced to adapt to the whims and regulations of British Parliamentary debating, and got through without losing a single debate. The Society is proud to announce that we were SMCC 2 - Eton 0.



## Library news

### Book Review: September Winner - The Book Thief by Markus Zusak.

by Asiri C. K. Year 12

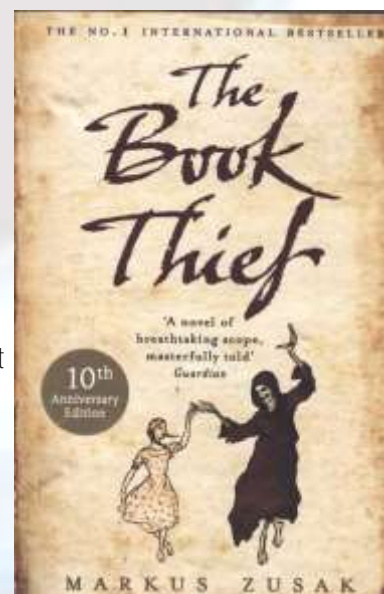
Asiri wins a book and House points for her House!

The Book Thief is a WWII book, set in Germany, and follows the story of Liesel, narrated by death.

Death is busy collecting the souls of the departed, and Liesel is busy being a child during Hitler's rise and regime.

I absolutely loved this book. It follows a lot of similar themes to another book I love too. Death definitely left me thinking about my own life and helped me appreciate all of the small things, and also helped me re-acknowledge my love for books and writing. Like Liesel, I find that my life also is "made up" of many books, especially the stories behind them. Like her, I recognise the immense power words have and I both love it and hate it. I think that's one of the things Death and Max, Liesel's close friend, touched on too, that humans aren't rational. We love things, like words in books, that have absolute power and control and can cause immense damage, like Hitler's mass massacre of the Jews. That was all down to his words. But then there are people, like Liesel, who Max pointed out, have the power to use words in a better way.

There are a lot of points made like this by Death that give this book its originality. I highly, highly recommend. It's historical fiction, but I think there's also some philosophy in there and that's what made it stand out for me.





### 'Mule' Private Screening Review

On Saturday 16th of September, I had the honour and the privilege of being invited to the first ever screening of the movie 'Mule,' which was produced by Little Tree Productions and the Media Studies department at St Michael's, led by Mr Pillai.

The film featured many St Michael's students from Years 7 to 13 at the time it was filmed, including the main characters, Chris and Layla. The film followed the journey of the oldest sister Chris, working as drug mule for her emotionally abusive stepfather. With her mother hospitalised with a mental disorder, Chris has to look after her younger sister Layla while trying to study for her GCSE exams. Chris embarks on a journey of self-discovery to find out about what happened to her dead father, and in the process, tries to free herself from criminal burden.



The film was very raw, emotionally charged and provocative. Although it wasn't the happiest or most uplifting movie I've ever watched, it made me contemplate on my current stage of life, and I saw myself reflected in some of the characters. Considering none of the actors were professional or had prior experience, they all did an amazing job in conveying the narrative and emotions in a realistic way, and the strong relationships between the cast members that were built whilst filming was evident. The scenes in the film were filmed between 2019 and 2021, but post-production was disrupted by Covid-19. Therefore, I think that despite all of the setbacks and problems that the creation of this film faced, it is a huge success to see it finally finished and professionally done. Being one of the actors that featured in the film, I can proudly say that it felt surreal to see myself on the big screen of the Ritzy Cinema in Brixton, and I really valued the experience.

Over 150 guests were invited to the screening, including the cast, crew, parents, staff and students of St Michael's. The atmosphere was really exciting and many of the guests were thrilled to finally see it on the big screen. Some commented on the movie, with one calling it "an exceptional masterpiece of talent and skill." 'Mule' will hopefully be entering the film festival circuit next year and opportunities to see the film at future screenings will be published through the school's social media platforms in the coming months. Natasha J.



### **Fund Raising for World Alzheimer's Week and CAFOD**

Understanding more about my grandma's Alzheimer's and how to help her through the Alzheimer's Society's 'Dementia Friends' initiative', I was inspired to spread awareness about the prevalence and realities of living with brain disease. With the confidence I and my friends have developed as sixth formers now, our Year 7 selves would never ever have thought of speaking in front of loads of people and taking the lead on assemblies. But I am genuinely grateful for this opportunity, to remind others that there is support for carers and those who live with dementia.

Key points that we covered to remember and to tell others about include:

Dementia is not a natural part of ageing  
Dementia is caused by diseases of the brain  
Dementia is not just about memory loss  
It is possible to live well with dementia  
There is more to a person than dementia

Remember that each person's symptoms and experiences with dementia are different, we shouldn't make any assumptions about a person with dementia's level of understanding without engaging with them first. As we spend time with them, it is essential to recognise that they (like any other person) have the right to be treated with respect and dignity.

We could help people with dementia in their everyday lives with the simplest actions. For instance, someone who is hesitating to cross the road may be very overwhelmed and confused at that moment, one could help by crossing together. Asking yes or no questions makes it easier for them to reply, we should take the time to reassure and explain in a way they're comfortable with. It can also be very helpful in using photos albums or cue cards to trigger memories which would stimulate their brain and improve their cognitive function. Having a conversation with them and showing our genuine curiosity or getting them involved in things that they've always liked can make all the difference.

One of the key takeaways that resonated with me was in one of the videos we watched when a child had asked a woman with dementia for life advice: 'We should make sure we tell the people we love that we love them'. Being with people we care about is such a blessing we can easily take for granted, so we should show compassion and appreciation for one another, especially our family and friends. Even when our loved ones may forget, beyond the disease, they know in their heart the immense love we have for them and the immense love they have for us.

St.Michael's Day Carnival on Friday 29th September fundraised for both CAFOD and the Alzheimer's Society donations which allow for research funds as well as dementia advisors to facilitate daily living so that it is not as difficult all by themselves. This chance to raise awareness and fundraise is something I am incredibly proud of being a part of. It really proved to me that together, we can make a difference for those devastated by dementia, providing a strong support system to help them feel happier in their day-to-day lives.

If you are looking for any advice in school or someone to talk to, the sixth-form mental health ambassadors and student leadership team are there to help... we aren't as scary as you might think! - *Hermey C, Year 12*





## Chaplain's Corner

### The Word of the Lord

#### Revelations

And there was a great battle in heaven, Michael and his angels fought with the dragon, and the dragon fought and his angels: And they prevailed not, neither was their place found any more in heaven.

And that great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, who seduceth the whole world; and he was cast unto the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying: Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: because the accuser of our brethren is cast forth, who accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of the testimony, and they loved not their lives unto death.

Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you that dwell therein.

#### A reflection on this...

Who is St Michael? – we look to him as our guide, our victor, our leader.

We look to the inspiration of overcoming evil with goodness in the world. Where we see malice or injustice, we speak up and say something, we make sure the meek become the mighty

We as a college are so welcoming of all, may the Spirit move through us in all we do

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

- We have had assemblies focusing on a range of enriching topics; Mr Magnoff shared a reflection on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Windrush in honour of Black History Month. This was wonderfully supported by sixth form Diversity Ambassadors Natasha and Adrian. From the Year 13 Leadership Team, Hermy C shared the personal story of her grandmothers Alzheimer's journey and the impact this has had on her family during World Alzheimer's Week. Finally we had Miss Casey leading assemblies with the Year 11 Leadership Team on the Feast of St Michael. We reflected on the message of walking in the footsteps of God inspired by the Archangel Michael.
- We celebrated Mass for St Michael's Day, attended by over 80 students and staff in the Chapel, led by Fr Keith. We decorated the wings of St Michael in the hall, sharing messages of hope for the upcoming year. Finally we had the St Michael's Day Carnival led by the Year 13 Chaplaincy Team, supported by the new recruits in Year 12. Through many ventures and in an exciting 2 hours, we raised over £450 for charity sharing this between CAFOD and the Alzheimer's Society.



Ms R. Casey,

*Chaplaincy Co-Ordinator*





# 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](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.

## AUTUMN TERM 2023-2024

### OPEN DAYS

6th Form:  
Thursday 30th November  
4.30pm-6.30pm

### INSET DAYS

Friday 20th October 2023

## HOLIDAYS

### HALF TERM

Monday 23rd October 2023  
To  
Friday 27th October 2023

### CHRISTMAS

Friday 22nd December 2023  
To Friday 5th January 2024

### 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

