



THE LINK

*A fortnightly Newsletter for the pupils, parents and staff of
St Michael's Catholic College
Issue 220 - 15th November 2023*

Year 10 Students go to the University of Cambridge!

This term twelve Year 10 students visited Pembroke College at the University of Cambridge. During their visit they attended lectures, spoke to academic staff and students and toured the grounds of one of the oldest and most prestigious places of learning on earth! They even managed to meet St Michael's alumnus Lauren Stewart, who started her Veterinary Studies course at Cambridge this month. Who's up for the challenge next? Please find Lorenzo L.'s thoughts below. - *Mr Magnoff*

On Thursday 5th October, we visited Pembroke College, which is part of Cambridge University and is also the third oldest college in Cambridge. A dozen St Michael's students attended the trip, along with other students from other secondary schools. We received an introduction to Pembroke College which was immediately followed by a Q and A session with three students from the college, which helped us to understand what life might be like for us if we attend Cambridge University in the future. We were then given a tour around Pembroke College by one of the volunteering students, including the laundry facilities and the layout of the dormitories. After the tour, all students were provided with a free lunch voucher which meant they were entitled to a free main, side and dessert in the Pembroke College Hall, surrounded by paintings of famous, pioneering ex-students.

After lunch was finished, we attended a lecture on Anglo-Saxon and Viking treasure that included details of medieval customs and burial culture. A few short quizzes and games on this topic were given to students to complete which were all great fun. The lecture ended with a debate. The debate was over the question; "Does History affect the present and the future?" Students were asked to stand on one side of the room if they agreed and the other side of the room if they disagreed. All of the students immediately flocked to the 'Yes' side of the room, and only one History teacher (ironically) stood alone on the 'No' side of the room. Many points were made by both sides of the debate with the vast majority of the points from the 'Yes' side coming from St Michael's students and Mr Magnoff. By the end of the debate, the 'Yes' side clearly won and this was in large measure due to the gifted students of St Michael's.



I had a very positive experience at Pembroke College. I learned a lot of very useful information on my post-16 choices. Personally, I would like to attend Cambridge for a Law degree in order to become a lawyer in the future. I learnt that Cambridge and most other universities don't require any specific A-levels, however, essay based subjects such as History and English would likely help get into universities for a Law course. - *Lorenzo L (10DA)*



St Michael's Students Win Southwark Elections!



Congratulations to Gibson E. (13 SA) and Chindima O. (9 SA), who were elected to the Southwark Youth Parliament this month. Both candidates delivered outstanding manifestos that drew a majority of votes not just from St Michael's students but from young people across Southwark.

Southwark Youth Parliament is a group of young people, elected by young people to represent the voices of young people through their schools and local area. With the aim to give young people an opportunity to influence on council decision-making and work alongside council officers and elected members on addressing priority topics that matter most to the young people of Southwark.



Please visit the St Michael's "More Able" webpages for more details: <https://sites.google.com/stmichaelscollege.org.uk/challengeandmoreable/elections>

"With my seat on parliament, I have taken an oath to operate with integrity, honesty, and in the best interests of all students in all years at St Michael's Catholic College. I appreciate and thank all students who voted for me." - *Gibson E., 13 SA*

"Hello, my name is Chidinma O. and I am one of your Southwark Youth Parliament representatives. I am happy to be a part of the team and I will help us as a school to become an even better community. Let's make our school proud!"

Chidinma O., 9 SA

St Michael's Students Perform Live on National Radio!

Congratulations to all the SMCC students (Irati A-G, Julia M and Paul G) who took part in the Inner Voices concert that broadcast live on BBC Radio 4 on Sunday. This music will, amongst other things, have helped to keep the sailors awake on the nuclear submarine HMS Vanguard, where this radio station is kept on permanently!

Please find Paul's reflections on the experience below. *Mr Magnoff*



BBC Radio 4 Broadcast - Sunday Worship

The main word I would use to describe this experience is: Beautiful! Even though I was dead tired from arriving so early for the rehearsal, our conductor's training methods raised my mood and energy by a mile. The warm ups were quite straining at the start, but it paid off when listening to the recording of the Sunday Worship. The broadcast team were also very active and critical when needed. I can confidently say that we would not have sounded as well without their input and requests with our singing. I really enjoyed this experience and I wish that more people would listen in and partake in these types of extracurricular activities. Paul G., 11 DA

<https://sites.google.com/stmichaelscollege.org.uk/challengeandmoreable/inner-voices>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001ry3d>



Careers Conversation
A monthly article where we profile the careers choices and experiences of Sixth Form students.



This month, Mariana in Year 13 is in conversation with Mr Davis about her experience over the summer, when she did a four week paid internship with Proinsight, a mystery shopping company

Firstly, what is “Mystery shopping?”

Mystery shopping is a highly useful primary market research tool. Businesses use mystery shoppers to gain valuable insights into the quality of their customer service or products from an anonymous consumer perspective. Starbucks was one of the big clients that I worked with.

...so, did you take part in any of the actual shopping?

No. My role was working in sales where I was updating data in documents and searching for potential clients to contact. As well as work in operation where I mainly contacted shoppers who complete the surveys through text, email and calls.

Tell us about your four weeks at work

On my first day I arrived early by 10 minutes (as the phrase goes, on time is already late). I was nervous. I have never done anything like this before. However, over the course of the internship I overcame this, as I grew into my role.

I gained more confidence and stability in my communication skills as I made many calls and text directly with shoppers. I participated in various big projects with international company clients, work which took me on a business trip to Manchester, as well as other placers in London.

So what are your next steps in Education?

I still do not know what career path I will have but I do seem to have gained more interest in operations through my experience. I do intend to spend a year between school and University, where I intend to travel.

What have you taken away from your experience?

Through my experience I learned that businesses are much more interactive than what they seem and that they many events going on throughout the year.

A piece of advice I would give to someone else going into Career Ready is that they should expect the unexpected and to just learn as much as you can while also networking.

If you are in Year 12 and you are interested in the Programme, please see Mr Davis, as the application process is still open



With Olivia Rogers (Career Ready Coordinator)



out with the team

Chaplain's Corner**The Word of the Lord**

Matthew 23:1-12

Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying, "The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses. Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens hard to carry and lay them on people's shoulders, but they will not lift a finger to move them. All their works are performed to be seen. They widen their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels. They love places of honour at banquets, seats of honour in synagogues, greetings in marketplaces, and the salutation 'Rabbi.' As for you, do not be called 'Rabbi.' You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers. Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven.

Do not be called 'Master'; you have but one master, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

A reflection on this...

This is truly a story of practice what you preach.

We can look to all in our lives, and it's the responsibilities of all – students, staff, parents, our local community to model the behaviour we might expect and hope to see in others

The College has showcased their true Salesian Values in action endlessly, showing that they are living in the Gospel

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

- Year 12 began their CAFOD journey and created and led a moving assembly about Fast Day and its history. We were honoured to receive a certificate from Southwark Foodbank celebrating our phenomenal donations this year, meaning many more people are able to be helped. They have also been busy working on plans for Advent.
- Year 8 Faith in Action have been busy preparing for their upcoming Diwali celebrations to share with the college. Years 7 and 8 additionally shared lessons about this in RE, highlighting the importance of embracing other world religions.
- Year 7 had the chance to visit Aylesford Priory for a reflective retreat. They spent time in the grounds of the Monastic Priory of the Carmelite Brothers, as well as working on the values of Catholic Social Teaching creating prayers. They were lucky to be able to walk around, as the sun shone as they embraced their surroundings and the nature around them
- Year 7 Faith in Action officially launched as a new team, with each year group now having a thriving Chaplaincy group.

Ms R. Casey, *Chaplaincy Co-Ordinator*

The Friars, Aylesford Priory, Maidstone, Kent





Safeguarding Officers



**Designated
Safeguarding Lead:**

Ms Jo Nottage

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

Mrs Debbie Freegard

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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

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

HOLIDAYS


OPEN DAY

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

CHRISTMAS

Friday 22nd December 2023
To Friday 5th January 2024

KING'S
College
LONDON

Kings' Scholars – Year 10 
Every Thursday 3.30-4.30pm -
G08

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

