



THE LINK

*A fortnightly Newsletter for the pupils, parents and staff of
St Michael's Catholic College*

Issue 221 - 30th November 2023

St. Michael's at a mock COP 28 conference

Last week, the St. Michael's Model United Nations team attended a mock COP 28 conference at Halcyon School in West London.

They engaged in spirited debate with other schools about various climate issues such as deforestation and taxes on unsustainable goods. Ryan B, 12A, was awarded best delegate at the conference and the whole team are looking forward to the next MUN opportunity! Angelica R, 12A tells us:

"Model United Nations is an amazing opportunity to be exposed to current affairs in the real world, and get a glimpse on how politicians mitigate solutions to these problems.

The experience has been incredibly enjoyable, not only do I get to essentially shout (debate) at other people with justification of course, but I also get to understand how people differ in their views and how world leaders put aside differences in order to come up with resolutions that is best for all people. Model United Nations is a great chance for anyone to develop their skills, whether or not you're shy or outgoing, as can you meet so many new people and learn new skills from others.

Don't be intimidated if you're new because you'll eventually get the hang of shouting at other people, it's quite fun and engaging."



Careers Chat

Over the past few issues we have read the accounts of some of our Sixth Form as they discuss their experiences on summer internships, organised by the Career Ready Programme.

This month Bailey F. in Year 13 discusses his four week summer placement at Investment 20/20 at its Liverpool Street headquarters:

Q: Firstly, tell us a bit about Investment 20/20

A: “Investment 20/20 provides a service to many different investment companies. This service includes Investment20/20 putting on events for their members telling them all the different changes they have made. Depending on how big the company is they could pay more, for example, a big company like Black Rock will pay anywhere in between £30,000- £40,000.

They also find school leavers and graduates for these companies instead of them having to seek these apprentices and trainees. Investment 20/20 make job descriptions and advertise their partners' opportunities through their website and social media.”

Q: Did you hit it off with the company straight away or was it a daunting experience?

A: On my first day I didn't think it was that bad. But I didn't like the fact I wasn't talking to loads of people just due to me being extremely shy (even though I'm normally quite talkative). My journey was not long to the office so I felt as if I had nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Q: Well done for sticking with it, what exactly was your role?

A: My role was a “Careers and Arresting Intern”, this included me making social media posts advertising trainee opportunities and apprenticeships. Some posts to target graduates and some for school leavers. Also, I spoke to many different staff members in The investment association. This thoroughly helped me gain knowledge and experiences that I wouldn't gain if I didn't complete this internship.

Q: What did they gain from having you there?

A: I was tasked with spearheading a social media campaign to reach out to school leavers who the company are trying to recruit for careers within the company. I was asked to present in front of senior people within the company, a 10 minute presentation, showcasing my campaign over the 4 week process.

Q: That sounds nerve racking, how did you prepare?

A: Coming up to the presentation I had presentation practice with a colleague who worked there because she used to work as a TV presenter for ITV. This really improved my confidence and gave me the skill to make a presentation formal but also to ensure that it becomes a conversation. I didn't make my presentation wordy but instead I made it bullet points with images scattered across all of the slides. The presentation was about the improvement of Investment 20/20's Instagram page, I discussed engagement and how that can be explored.

Q: The report back from Career Ready, who had people there at your presentation was of all the Interns in London, yours was the best one they saw. What was your number one secret?

A: One thing I did which they loved, I asked if I should wear a suit to the presentation and they said I should come in casual clothes. So to make humour of my final day I wore a full suit and black crocs. My slogan was crocking and rocking! So my advice to anyone is do something original that gets you to stand out from the crowd



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Careers Chat (continued from previous page)

Q: Where is all this taking you? What are your plans after you leave St Michael's?

A: After this experience I have realized that joining their programme and applying for apprenticeships through them would give me a big chance of getting it as they said they would refer me to make sure I have a very good chance of securing the role. I have applied to University as well, and at the moment am still making my mind up

Q: Have you got any City secrets?

A: I learnt a lot about the city in general. For example, the city is always very quiet on a Friday because a lot of people work from home on Fridays. The maddest thing that happened to me on the internship was the free coffee! I never like coffee coming into the internship but... when it's free it's even better! But seriously....For anyone applying for the career ready programme I would say just throw yourself into it because I was so nervous beforehand but after I finished I wanted to go back!

Career Ready Update – This year after a record number of applicants, all of a really good quality, St Michael's has managed to secure places for 23 students in Year 12. We wish them the very best of luck on their journey over the next 12 months. *Mr I Davis*



St Michael's Alumni Awarded MBE

Congratulations to St Michael's alumni Bejay Mulenga who received an MBE from Prince William at Windsor Castle last week for his services to entrepreneurship and to tackling food poverty.

It is wonderful to see Bejay's hard work and support for those in our society who are most in need recognised in this way and it is a real inspiration to St Michael's students. Bejay attended St Michael's from 2006 -2011 and was always actively involved in business and enterprise activities, he credits St Michael's with inspiring him to be an entrepreneur. His website www.bejaymulenga.com details his career pathway and achievements *Ms Corcoran*



Harbour Energy - STEM Careers Event



Visiting the Head Office of Harbour Energy in Victoria was a highly insightful, educational and enjoyable experience. I learnt so much about geology within the oil and gas industry, the process involved in extracting the oil and gas safely, responsibly and efficiently. All of the people I met were passionate, friendly and happy in their jobs, and were very willing to answer any questions we had. Most of all I enjoyed the trading oranges activity, where my group had to make the right decisions to achieve maximum profits in the face of unpredictable events in the market. The day was intense but very exciting. *Natasha J.*

Ms Roshier and the Year 12 students would like to thank Harbour Energy and their STEM ambassadors for organising an amazing STEM Careers event.



The STEM Ambassadors - Natan (Petroleum Engineer), Aruna (Geoscientist), Teresa (Geologist), Jacqui (Mathematician and Trader) and Jamie (Lawyer)



Trip to Richmond Park



8D went to Richmond Park to research the answer to the question 'Is there any difference between red and fallow deer being found under trees or out from under the trees?' Red and Fallow deer are two different species which live in Richmond Park and 8D wanted to find the answer to the question by sampling the two different habitats and suggest reasons to explain their results. Before we left 8D researched the main features of both species to use this information to make these suggestions. However, nothing in science is easy and the students had to assess how reliable their answers to the question were by evaluating their sampling techniques and then using their research to suggest explanations for why the two species are found where they are - which led to some very tricky discussions. The more they thought about it the more reasons they came up with and the more criticisms they had for the sampling. Here below Gladys shares her experience of the trip *Mr Murray*

On the 3rd of November Year 8D travelled to Richmond Park to see the wonderful deer at the park. Many of the deer were in groups huddling together, and some were alone. Surprisingly we saw two male deer fighting which was very funny. Everyone participated really well and took pictures of the deer and scenery. Overall the trip was really fun and I enjoyed the time spent. Before we left we went to try to look through a telescope which can show a church. Richmond Park is a lovely place to visit and I would definitely go again. *Gladys*



Illuminate Rotherhithe

On Friday 24th November the Music Department performed with their Samba Band and College Band at the annual Illuminate Bermondsey & Rotherhithe festival for local residents, inspired by the histories of the Thames, the docks, and migration. Local schools and community groups created their own lanterns at artist-led workshops, and everyone gathered with their illuminated artworks in the Blue, Bermondsey Market Place at 5 pm on Friday, November 24, 2023. The parade departed as darkness fell, for Southwark Park Bandstand, which will be adorned with illuminations when the parade arrived. Caspar G. in Year.12 commented "The Samba drummers and band created the right atmosphere for the procession with the loud steady rhythm of the drums and the familiar pop melodies like 'Seven Nation Army' and we all felt a sense of responsibility to the hundreds of participants as we led them through the streets of Bermondsey to our destination in Southwark Park, where members of the Lewisham Concert Band were performing wonderfully on the bandstand. We all felt a sense of pride as we were led onto the bandstand and performed to the gathered crowd who gave us a big cheer!"

The overarching theme for the Illuminate event was the local history of migration, from the Mayflower to the transient London population of today. This year's parade theme was 'Food and The Blue'. Rotherhithe and Bermondsey has a celebrated history as a bustling dock, where food for the city would arrive by ship for storage and processing in the vast warehouses and factories, Bermondsey became known as London's Larder. The Lantern Parade narrated the story of boats arriving by water in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe, bringing food from all corners of the globe, along with people and culture. Here was Britain's first Tin Can Factory, and the famous Peak Frean's Biscuit Factory that employed thousands of local people. While the factories and warehouses are now homes and workspaces, people from all over the world still come here to sell and share their food in local shops, cafes, and marketplaces.

The Music Department were happy to be part of a local community event that brought so many people together and that had such an important role to play in the history of local area. *Mr D Laurence, Head of Music*



Chaplain's CornerThe Word of the LordA reflection on this...

When asked by the teachers of the Law which commandment to follow, Jesus said simply – Love God, Love Your Fellow Man – and if you can do this, you can do all as the Lord wants with ease.

Our RUAH values rest so well onto the idea of the Greatest Commandment; in that all we do should be for the good of God and the rest of the human race no matter who they are *Miss Casey Chaplaincy Co-Ordinator*

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

- Year 8 Faith in Action threw a celebration for Diwali, supported by Year 12. The students in Year 8 acted out the story of Prince Rama and Princess Sita returning to the village lit by the villagers to assume their roles as King and Queen. It was a wonderful afternoon of lights, drama, food and music.
- Year 7 Faith in Action have begun their programme and are working their way towards Bronze. Years 8 and 9 are shortly to receive their Bronze and Silver awards for their excellent service both in and out of school. A celebration for this will be held soon.
- The whole of Year 8 were able to have a workshop and retreat organised by Mr Mullik from the charity Diversity Role Models about how we can show love and kindness to our peers who are LGBTQ+ in a Catholic environment. Each session was followed by a prayerful reflection of the Greatest Commandment from Christ.
- DaCosta charity week took place raising £280 for Sickle Cell Charity in light of Black History Month, they had tuck shops, sponsored silences and many other engaging activities which supported them in raising money for their chosen agency





Safeguarding Officers



**Designated
Safeguarding Lead:**

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Mr Allan Daly

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Overall Responsibility:

Ms Felicity Corcoran - Principal

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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; we will not hold any responsibility for any item lost.

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

