



THE LINK

***A fortnightly Newsletter for the pupils, parents and staff of
St Michael's Catholic College
Issue 222 - 15th December 2023***

Year 11 Geography Trip to Epping Forest



On Friday the 11th of November the Year 11 Geography students embarked on an excellent adventure. Departing the concrete jungle of South London they made their way via coach to the lush surrounds of Epping Forest. Awaiting them was a myriad of activities, clean air and expert guides from the Field studies centre. After navigating the various junctions, traffic snarls and roundabouts of East London we arrived to the centre and were briefed on our day.

Students were treated to a knowledge workshop that brought them up to speed with the Rivers topic and consolidated any learning we had done prior to the trip. New knowledge was acquired and any burning questions were responded to. The Field studies centre then offered the students the use of Wellington boots to guard off the liquid invasion that would occur when the students were completing their fieldwork. For many this was their first experience of full leg

protection and brought them a new sense of confidence about completing their fieldwork in the surrounding rivers. We headed out from the Field studies centre and observed the different landforms that have been created by the upper, middle and lower course of rivers. The students relished being in an ancient woodland full of various oaks, beeches and birches. At last the students could witness the nutrient cycle in front of their own eyes and could turn paper based knowledge into real life experience.

We then headed back out onto the coach off to Debden Brook. This was the location chosen for our fieldwork which was an exemplary case study on how rivers change over their course. Students engaged in intense fieldwork across three sites using techniques that included measuring velocity, width and depth. We also completed field sketches for the students to make their own observations on how the river changed as it progressed. Again the students were enthused by seeing what we had learnt in the classroom becoming practical in the real world. They took countless data collections and make various inferences from the river that they were looking at. This experience makes Paper 3 of the Geography GCSE much more accessible for our students.

We then returned to the Field studies centre, cleaned up and began preparations to depart back to the nation's capital. For the students this was an invaluable way to bring fieldwork to life and absorb the natural surroundings in one of the most well protected forests in the world. We are eagerly awaiting our trip next year to show our current Year 10s!

Mr P. Fellows



Careers Stories

A regular look at the lives of some of our older students on their Careers choices

This month Mr Davis is in conversation with Ibitola, a Year 13 student on her paid internship over the Summer of 2023

You managed to get an internship with BUPA – **for those who don't already know**, what are they?

Bupa is a private health insurance company that runs on reinvesting profits into the company as opposed to having shareholders. Bupa's ultimate purpose is helping people live longer, healthier, happier lives and making a better world. They do this by providing a broad range of healthcare services, support and advice to people throughout their lives.

Where were you based within the company?

Throughout my time in Bupa I worked with the Human Resources team specifically in the inclusion & wellbeing team with the director Julie Stevens as my manager. I was able to investigate real issues concerning equalities within the organisation, which was a real insight

What were your big gains from this experience?

Networking : I really enjoyed the networking event as it helped me to gain further knowledge on different parts and teams in the company and it also helped me showcase my ability to ask questions and remain curious.

Sustainability: I really loved seeing and hearing about what various companies at the Eco – D event produced in order to remain environmentally friendly and reduce their carbon footprint. I especially loved hearing about the lady that created a children's game to help teach them how to tend to the environment and be sustainable through examples such as picking up litter and disposing of it correctly.

Working with a team: One of the main things I wanted to get out of this experience, was working in a team to gain insight to how different roles interlink to bring about wonderful ideas. I enjoyed joining the team meetings and talking about things like gender roles within the organisation and the various plans and objectives to ensure a higher percentage of women in higher roles within the company.

Meeting new people: I was really happy when I initially found out there were other people my age also doing an internship at Bupa. I've loved having conversations with them and finding out their roles and sharing information about ourselves and hopefully we all stay in contact after.

It really sounds like you got a lot out of this. How differently do you see the business world now?

In comparison to before the internship, I now understand that working in a corporation is hard work and that not every company has a hybridised working environment.

I also learnt that the different parts of the organisation often intersect when working on projects.

Lastly I learnt that making professional relationships is very important as it helps with exploring pathways and things that you never knew you could do

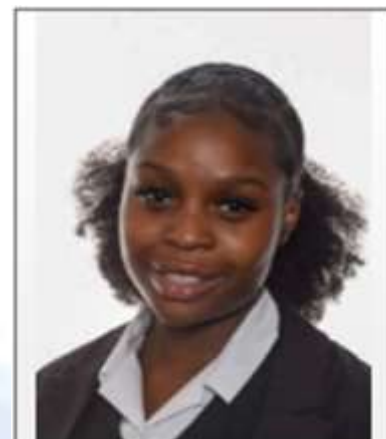
Where you see your career path – university or direct to employment?

After A-levels I hope to go to university and study Business Management/Finance to be able to one day work in a corporate company within the Human Resources or the Marketing team.

Bupa did offer to have me back in there company at anytime to I would love to go back for another summer internship and explore other components such as Marketing in their company to gain more experience before university.

Did anything faze you during your internship?

Nothing crazy happened per-se however I think meeting the CEO of the company and Deborah Meaden was quite an experience.



Finally.... People could really benefit from a few words of wisdom based on your experience. Can you offer any advice to a person applying for Career Ready.

Make sure to take full advantage of your experience whether you get an internship or not.

If you do get an internship, be curious and be open to exploring different aspects of the company you're in.

Networking is also quite significant. Make sure to ask questions and make new friends and connections.

Mr I Davis

Bar Mock Trial Trip

Taking part in the Young Citizens' Mock Bar Trials was an eye-opening experience into the world of law in England. We simulated the legal process, going head to head with schools like Brampton Manor Academy and The Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls in 'trials'. Everyone played an extremely valuable role, from barristers to witnesses and even jurors. I am very pleased to announce that St Michael's Chambers has a 100% success rate, returning verdicts in our favour on all three cases. Many thanks to Mr Fellows, Ms Dearden and Mr Muir for helping to organise, as well as Catherine Collins- the barrister who kindly gave up her time to help prep us for the day.



Christmas Craft Club

This holiday season, the Art Department is buzzing with creativity as it hosts its annual Christmas Craft Club. A melting pot of artistic talents, the club invites pupils to explore and express their unique visions of the festive season.

More than just a crafting session, the club fosters a sense of community and collaboration. Pupils of all levels come together, sharing tips and learning from one another. Each week pupils create their holiday creations, each piece a testament to the joy of artistic expression.

In the end, the Christmas Craft Club is not just about crafting decorations; it's a celebration of the artistic journey, a reminder that creativity knows no bounds, especially during the most wonderful time of the year. *Mr C. Lomax*



Borough Market Project



5 students from year 8MA; Jui, Agnes, Bernardo, Paula and Riley won a competition against their peers in their year.

They had the opportunity to become entrepreneurs and were given a £250 budget to make their proposed idea of Christmas gift tags which double up as a Christmas decoration. They made their product (1000 in total) keeping to a very small budget equivalent to £47. They were then given the opportunity to compete against other schools to sell their Christmas gift tags at the prestigious Borough market.

The amazing team of 5 excelled: they were the first team to arrive and the last to leave, selling almost 700 gift tags with a profit of £350. They beat the other schools by making the most profit and therefore raising the most money for charity (RSPCA).

They did an amazing job and are excited to take on a similar project at Easter. The remaining gifts will be available to buy at the St Michael's Christmas concert. Well done to the 5 students from 8MA. -Mrs C. Weatherley-



Chaplain's Corner

The Word of the Lord

Luke 2: 4-12 (Second Week of Advent and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception)



Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

A reflection on this...

O Most Holy Virgin, immaculate in body and spirit, look kindly on me as I implore your powerful intercession. O most Holy Mother, receive my prayers as I present them to God. O Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, you intercede for us with your Son. O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, pray for us. *Miss Casey*, Chaplaincy Co-Ordinator

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

- This year's Advent Calendar is literally that, a giant life-size Advent Calendar. Year 7 Faith in Action gathered and collected shoeboxes, which Year 10 and Year 12 Chaplaincy teams turned into the large-scale calendar. Each day we are in school opens with a part of the Christmas story and a prayer, which form Captains in Year 7 and Year 10 are taking in turns to open and share
- Miss Stewart and Year 9 Faith in Action have been leading beautiful assemblies about Advent and the season of anticipation of the coming of Christ
- Fr. Keith led the college in celebration of the feast of the Immaculate Conception – 7DA helped to lead in this service.
- Chaplaincy teams across the school are hosting Advent fundraisers to support the elderly in our local community by way of the Christmas Hampers
- Canon Victor from the Diocese visited St Michael's, observing a few lessons and meeting with our Chaplaincy and Diversity Ambassadors in Year 12, along with Faith in Action students in KS3 – all shared the range of wonderful things they do to put their faith into action!





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
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Safeguarding Officer:

Ms Tania Rughooputh

Contact: 0207 237 6432 or
t.rughooputh@stmichaelscollege.org.uk



Mr Allan Daly

Contact: 0207 237 6432 or
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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.

ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS

St Michael's Catholic College is consulting on its Admissions Arrangements.

Please have a look at the College Website via the link below for details on the consultation and how to respond.

<https://www.stmichaelscollege.org.uk/admissions-criteria/>

HOLIDAYS

CHRISTMAS

Friday 22nd December 2023

To Friday 5th January 2024

Food Collection for Southwark pensioners

On Thursday 21st December you must bring with you to school a food donation towards our annual food collection for local senior citizens.
Donations of £1 will also be accepted – your donations will be collected from you on the school gate when you arrive at school.

TUCK SHOP

MONDAY 18TH DECEMBER

CASH
ONLY!!!

4A and 4B Lunch!

Cakes, sweets, drinks,
CANDY FLOSS!!

St Michael's Chaplaincy Present:
ADVENT

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

