



THE LINK

*A fortnightly Newsletter for the pupils, parents and staff of
St Michael's Catholic College
Issue 226 - 19th March 2024*

St Michael's Musicians go on tour to Florence

After the past 3 years in Inner Voices, I was given the opportunity to go abroad and perform in the magnificent city of Florence, Italy. Our tour guide, Luigi, is and always will be a fantastic guide, being relatable, funny and overall a great person to be around. The first concert, being in a church close by to the theatre, was great, with the acoustics of the place adding a more orchestral atmosphere to the group of songs we were singing. Even on the first day, we travelled to nearby tourist attractions such as the Uffizi Gallery, where three of Da Vinci's paintings reside, we also went to a family-owned vineyard in the beautiful and appealing countryside. I believe, in large part, because of the close bond between the members of the choir, our concerts sounded ethereal and transcendent - bringing a new meaning to beautiful. At least it did for me! Overall, I loved the trip greatly and I hope to see new faces in the crowd for upcoming events. *Paul G*



Enlightenment in Berlin

During the half-term break, I had the wonderful opportunity to visit Berlin for the first time, and I must say, it was an incredibly enjoyable and enlightening experience. Not only did I immerse myself in the city's rich food and culture, but I also deepened my understanding of its history.

Upon arriving in Berlin, it became evident that the trip would be action-packed from the start. There was no time for rest as we immediately hopped onto the public transportation system, which I found surprisingly similar to that of London's TFL.



Our first stop was the Soviet War Memorial in Treptower Park. The memorial's striking statues and solemn atmosphere left a lasting impression as I reflected on the city's tumultuous past. But, in particular, I would say the most impactful statue of them all had to be the Soviet soldier holding the child in his arms. This statue held arguably the most impact to the memorial itself, not only did it show how the Russians viewed themselves, but it serves as a reminder for the people of Berlin of the mistakes of their predecessors and will stand as a constant reminder to Germany of the death they caused.

Soon after, we made our way to the infamous Berlin Wall, which I would argue was the best physical manifestation of what the Cold War actually was – two sides that were just divided. The Wall contained some incredible art and was honestly a somewhat surreal experience as it really makes you think about the

impact that the wall must have had on the millions of people and their lives. Though my favourite part of the Wall, I would say, is a piece of artwork that says 'The Big Kremlin's Wind' and I would say it is my favourite piece because I found the art itself quite compelling but also the message it sends really goes to show the decisions of a few can have such an everlasting impact on the lives of many.



Later on in the day, we went to none other than the Berlin Tower, which I would say was a much more calming and less gloomy experience compared to the first two sites we visited. The tower itself was insanely tall to the point where when I used the elevator to go further up the tower, my ears began to pop. Despite all of this the view itself was stunning. I got a great view of the city and was able to see all of its best locations like the Reichstag Building and the Brandenburg Gate. Which put an end to a highly interesting day.

Day two started at the same fast pace as we continued to move, keen to see more that Berlin had to offer. We started our day off by going to another Soviet memorial in Tiergarten. This memorial was less in magnitude than the last one, but just as notable. Though similar to the earlier memorial, the placement of two Russian tanks seemed to draw attention to the USSR's control of East Berlin rather than its involvement in World War II. This served as a reminder of the USSR's long-lasting effect over the city.



We had an interesting and educational visit to the Stasi Prison later in the day. While guiding us through the jail, our guide provided us with information about the difficult conditions and cruel treatment that the inmates had to face. The most important lesson from the Stasi Prison, in my opinion, was how far the USSR was prepared to go in order to guarantee that residents of East Berlin adhered to communist ideology.

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Enlightenment in Berlin (Continued)



But our visit to the Reichstag building was the real highlight of the trip. The structure itself was a work of architectural wonder, and whilst touring its interior I got to learn a lot more about the origins of the building itself as well as some political and general history about Germany as a whole.

On the final day, we had another tour called 'Dark World', which was a previous WW2 bunker beneath a train station. Our tour guide talked about how the conditions of the bunker actually were and how the Nazi regime at the time spent massive amounts of money on bunkers which were futile.



We learned that these bunkers contained neon paint as a means of light in case of a power outage and more often than not did not have enough resources to keep people after a certain amount of time, and in reality were not able to defend the people inside it from harm. This tour in particular was in its own way fun and like most of the tours on this trip intriguing.

Later in the day we went to the Cold War Museum, and I was quite surprised at the appearance of the museum and was really excited to actually see more of the inside. Something really interesting about the museum is the art work it had. It used a red and blue colour scheme and used a very distinct graffiti art style when it came to drawing important figures. Though, I think the best thing about the museum was just the amount of information we had on everything, since they used interactive tablets as a means to present their information. I really enjoyed this museum, in particular, as it was much different from your typical museum. It had videos, different props, VR and all sorts of different things relevant to the cold war.

I found the whole trip really moving and it helped me gain a whole new perspective on my Cold War studies. I recommend anyone studying History in Year 11 to go in 2025!

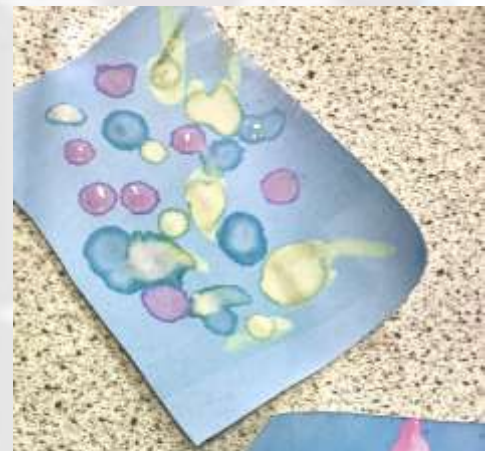
Quadri O, 12RU



Lesson on the pH of household substances

In the practical lesson on the pH of household substances, Dr Leon let red cabbage juice sit for a while until it turned blue. He then made a light wash on card with it and gave the cards to us. Red cabbage has anthocyanin which is a natural indicator. When we painted with lemon juice on paper, it turned pink, showing that it was an acid. If mixed with universal indicator, lemon juice turned orange. I used the lemon juice to draw on card one of my favourite bible verses - John 14:6.1 enjoyed the lesson, and Dr Leon said everyone's cards were amazing and took pictures of all of them. *Anuoluwa O*

In Science, we have been learning about pH and how it matters in everyday life. Recently, we did an artistic practical in which we used household liquids, each with a different pH, on paper coated with a red cabbage indicator. A few of the liquids we used included lemon juice and oven cleaner. Before conducting this experiment, we had to learn about the pH of different acids and alkalis, so that we could determine which colour we would end up with once we used the liquid on the red cabbage indicator paper. We learned that when you use an indicator on strong acid, the indicator would turn red, or when you use an indicator on a strong alkali, the indicator would turn a dark blue/purple. And that using a liquid with the pH of 7 would give you green. Personally, think the practical was very fun and exciting!
Roniah C.- D.



I might be wrong... Charlton Brown Architects inspire students with insightful career talk!

Stephen Mugford and James Bradshaw, esteemed architects from Charlton Brown Architects Ltd., recently came into the college, captivating our GCSE and A-Level Fine Art students with a career talk about the fascinating world of architecture. Their engaging presentation gave us an insight into the process of architectural design, from conception to execution as well as the diverse career paths that architecture could lead to. Mugford and Bradshaw's wealth of experience and passion for their craft shone through as they shared anecdotes and showcased their innovative projects, sparking a wave of curiosity and inspiration among aspiring architects.

“A really informative and in-depth window into not only the architectural profession, but also into the creativity of the mind.” - *Cavalli J (11SA)*

“The lecture had many cool ideas which I could use for my work and what future design could look like with the use of AI and 3D printing” - *Amelia P (11VI)*



Their visit not only broadened our understanding of architecture but also underscored the invaluable role it plays in shaping our environments. Many thanks to Stephen and James for generously sharing their expertise and igniting a newfound appreciation for the art of architecture within our school.

You can find out more about the architects and their work here: charltonbrown.com
Mr Lomax



Imperial Debating 2024

St Michael's 6th Form Debating Society was once again proud to be invited to the Imperial Schools' Debating Competition. Set at the ever imposing goliath like scientific institution in West London. We sent 3 teams of two, welcoming back a St Michael's alumnus to reunite the dream team which beat Eton and won the Novice Debating Final last year.



All teams did exceptionally well, facing formidable opponents (one of which is on the English national debating team) and tackling tricky topics, such as whether the coach of the England Women's National team should take up a position as the coach of the England Men's team if given the opportunity and Star Trek lore. Set amongst the lecture halls and tutor rooms the competitive atmosphere was a delight to be part of and the intellectual ambience was impressive to behold. Suffice it to say, St Michael's took the competition by storm, winning the novice category for the second year in a row. Another crushing blow to the private schools. Ryan B., Zach S., Deidre B., Luiza L. and Tyler-May M. all competed for St Michael's. Another excellent display from the 6th Form Debating team who are going from strength to strength and have improved considerably from their sparring with higher echelon opponents. Onwards and upwards! Ryan B.

World Book Day 2024

We had a great week of celebrations for World Book Day.

On Tuesday 5th March, Mr Toledo held a seminar on Miguel Cervantes' seminal work 'Don Quixote', as part of the College's *Found in Translation* programme. It examined the unique contribution Cervantes made to the development of the novel, and culminated with a reading of chapter 6. It was attended by students from Year 7 to Year 12.

On Thursday 7th March, Mr Bourke ran a *Write Your Fantasy Bestseller* workshop. It was a great event where students looked at the opening of *Harry Potter*, and identified the key components of what makes a great work of fantasy. They then used these components to help them draft the opening of their own fantasy novel. Students went away to type them up, and the best ones will be published in the summer edition of the *St Michael's Review*. Ms Etemewei also did a series of assemblies on Women in Literature (to combine with International Women's Day, which was on 8th March). A copy of Ms Etemewei's PowerPoint is available to view on the 'Reading For Pleasure' page of the college website.

Celebrations culminated with every student being given a voucher for a free book, which were handed out during Form Time reading on Friday morning. *Mr N. Bourke*



Year 8's for the Hot Chocolate Morning

"A 'Hot Chocolate morning' is an event that takes place in St Michaels Catholic College as an award for the pupils who have been well behaved over a period of a half term, and larger rewards for those who are not given any mentions for even longer. I took part in this and have been selected as one of these students, whilst highly enjoying this experience. My closest friends were also there with me, and they have also appreciated this. This event was delightful; we were given lotus biscuits along with hot chocolate. There were approximately 50-70 students that were selected for this reward, which is a large amount that has been significantly increased over a period of a few months. This therefore infers that more pupils at St Michael's are behaving well and are spreading values of respect, understanding, affection and humour (RUAH)."

Maia J 8S, 8VI



BOSCO Charity Week 2024

HUGE thanks to our supporters for donating generously and to members of staff for making the week an enormous success. Evelina's children's Hospital send their heartfelt THANK YOU.

Year 10 V Year 11 Basketball Match

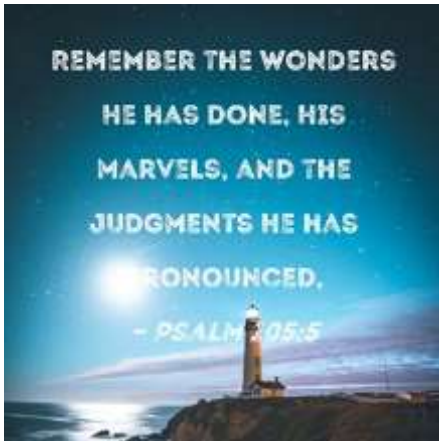


Charity FUN Run
Thank you to Ms Stewart, Mr Lomax, Mr Daly and the participants

Chaplain's Corner

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

The Word of the Lord



Prayer to reflect on the Marvels of the Lord

Father,
all power on earth, in heaven
and underneath the earth,
belong to You,
and You giveth it to whomsoever, You will.

Thank you for the Power
and Authority given to us Your Church
Please accept our thanks
In The Mighty Name of Jesus
Amen

Miss Casey

Chaplaincy Co-Ordinator



- Vicuna Charity Week took place with a fantastic range of events, including Karaoke, Football Competitions and a Tuck Shop, all money raised is due to be sent to the Make A Wish Foundation to enrich young lives no matter the issues they may face
- DaCosta Charity Day took place to raise money for CAFOD as part of the College's Lenten intention of. Events included a Tuck Shop, Guessing the Name of the Teddy, a mini Ninja Warrior Course and Guess the Baby Picture of the DaCosta Teacher
- 7 Vicuna led their first Mass since they've joined the college, in honour of International Women's Day ; there was a wonderful turn out and involvement from almost all members of the form
- Year 12 Chaplaincy members continue to share the Reflective Services for each year group to share in the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent.





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

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.

CLUBS

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



EVENTS & HOLIDAYS

EASTER HOLIDAYS

From Friday 29th March 2024

To Friday 12th April 2024

EVENTS

Year 11+13 mock results Evening: 16th April 2024

Options Evening: 23rd April 2024

Year 9 Parents Evening: 25th April 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; 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

