



THE LINK

*A fortnightly Newsletter for the pupils, parents and staff of
St Michael's Catholic College
Issue 227 - 19th April 2024*

Successful Drama Production: "10 Things I hate about you"

On the 19th and 20th of March St Michael's students put on their first whole school production in many years: '10 Things I hate about You'.

Creating the show included a huge amount of hard work from both students and teaching staff involved: the students on stage, backstage, drama, art, music departments and many more. I would like to thank all involved, it was a total smash of a show which really showcased the amazing talent we have here at St Michael's...5 Stars from me!

We asked some of the cast and back stage crew to sum up their experience.—*Ms. B. Coulbeck*



“The school show was about the 2000's movie “10 things I hate about you”.

I got involved on a whim after mentioning wanting to audition to a friend, who then convinced me to give it a go.

The audition process was a little different for me because my partner couldn't make it to the original time, so we had to do ours separately before school had started, I think I was more nervous for that than the opening night.

My favorite moments from rehearsals had to be Ryan practicing his Australian accent, the slapstick fights, or dancing with people silently in the wings during the blackout music. The learning curve for everyone was learning about acting and general live

theatre. Being a part of the crowd who was older and more experienced made it more fun to see the younger students learning - most specifically the slapstick fights. The cast didn't really bond together until our first performance to the Year 7's, before that everyone stuck to their crowds, but while waiting in the wings people began to get nervous so we'd all help each other out.

On both opening nights everyone was always nervous before going on to the stage, but after getting the first scene done and out of the way it always calmed everyone down because the worst was over. As soon as we were backstage after our final performance everyone was loud and happy for each other. A lot of people were crying, mostly due to all the emotions and the fact that it was our last time together as a cast, there were a lot of hugs and tissues being given out.

Now it's over. It's a little weird going home at a regular time and not rehearsing scenes and re-doing dance numbers over and over again, it's like a love and hate relationship, but at the end of the day you just reminisce on all the friends and memories that've been made. Everyone still smiles and waves at each other in the corridors - being in KS5 it's the only time you ever see the younger cast members, but it'll never be the same as rehearsals. If any student wanted to get into a school play backstage or cast member - they should 100% do it, at the end of the day no matter what role anyone is given they're always an essential part to the production. I was a background character and was only in 6 scenes throughout the whole play, and it was still an amazing experience.

Ultimately if you get the gut feeling to audition - no matter what role it is, you should always do it, and remember to never touch the prop table because backstage members will hunt you down and kill you. *Evie, Faculty Chorus*



Successful Drama Production: “10 Things I hate about you” (continues from previous page)



My favourite moment from rehearsals was seeing everyone grow more attached to their character and begin to grow out of their shell. I remember in the beginning everyone was shy and didn't want to dance or act as their character, but by the end, they embraced their characters. The biggest learning moment during rehearsals is how much detail and pride go into plays, even if they are relatively small. I think that the cast bonded well. By the end of the play, most of us were crying, sad that it was over. It felt like we had formed a small family for some time. The opening night was terrifying but exhilarating. So many nerves were about, but in the end, we were all so proud of ourselves and I think many couldn't wait to do it all again. It's very sad that it's over now. Post-performance blues were hitting hard, but I'm looking forward to the next performance. My overall experience was stressful of course, but it was so amazing to be a part of. There was never a dull moment for the back stage crew. I would definitely recommend doing these drama performances it truly is super fun. *Olivia, Stage Manager*



I remember that I came back to St Michael's two weeks into term (long story), I heard from a friend that the Drama Department was putting on a production- Ten Things I Hate About You. I'd never heard of it before, but after my previous stardom (with roles like 'Telephone Box' in Year 7 and 'Captain Hook' in Year 8), I knew that I HAD to take part.



My favourite moment was our tech rehearsal: it was the first time that we were all in costume, the staging had arrived, and the lights were all functioning. That was the first time it felt real.

The biggest learning moment for me was probably one of the first rehearsals we had, where we're blocking Patrick's first speaking scene and Mrs Hart goes "can we try it with the accent?". I had never even attempted an Australian accent before, but I did not want to disappoint, so the next few months were spent binge watching 'H2O Just Add Water' and 'The Traitors Australia'. I like to think that it wasn't too terrible, but I'll leave you to decide. They are all such wonderful people, and incredibly talented- I'll always remember how enthusiastic everyone was for rehearsals. Closing night was definitely a rollercoaster of emotions- relief, joy, and melancholy. I've listened to the playlist from the show more times than I'd like to admit. **Ryan B, Patrick Verona**



St Michael's Students Visit Auschwitz



This year two St Michael's students were selected to join a handful of delegates from across the UK to take part in the Holocaust Education Trust's "Lessons from Auschwitz" project. This included bespoke teaching from the HET, interviews with a Holocaust survivor and a visit to the death camps themselves in Poland. Victoria and Emily will now take this project further by sharing their experiences and reflections with the wider school community. Please find further details from Victoria below: - *Mr D. Magnoff*

As part of the Lessons from Auschwitz programme, on the 29th of February 2024 Emily D. (12 MA) and I, Victoria D. (12RU), had the privilege of going to Oświęcim, Poland to visit Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II-Birkenau. During our time in Poland we saw the remains of the Holocaust and it was a profound and emotional experience that left us with a deep sense of reflection of our current world. Our visit helped us to understand more about the suffering that we only heard about. Through this experience we were able to visit and see the horrors caused by the perpetrators, collaborators and bystanders. From the book filled with lists of whole generations who had been killed, to the videos of the lives the victims lived. It helped us to recognise the significance of commemorating the innocent lives lost and was an eye opening and powerful visit that will remain with us. After the visit, we were able to speak to a survivor and learn more about her and her family's story. Now we are concluding the project with our own reflections of how we felt. I will be doing this through a presentation on 'Why should we learn about the Holocaust' and a poem. Emily will write a play that focuses on the lives of young modern-day Jews and their journeys through their faith as they take on their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. - *Victoria D, 12 RU*

Neurodiversity Academic visits St Michael's: Identity and Difference

We were delighted to welcome Dr Chris Bailey, an expert in neurodiversity, from Sheffield Hallam University to the college to deliver a talk to students after school as part of the "Big Ideas" lecture series. Dr Bailey generously shared extensive details of his own research into neurodivergent lived experiences as well as examples from his own life. Dr Bailey travelled all the way from Yorkshire just to speak to our students following an invitation from Shania M (13 MA), who had independently studied his ground-breaking research into "Neurodivergent Literacies."

Dr Bailey says of his experience at the college:

"I'm not exaggerating when I say it was one of the best things I have ever done as an academic and it was a genuine honour to meet the students. They listened so intently, made amazing contributions and asked such nuanced and interesting questions - I was taken aback by their generosity to me - thank you! There is a wonderful, welcoming atmosphere in your college."

Dr Chris Bailey, Sheffield Hallam University

Please find Shania's reflections on the lecture below:

"Having Dr. Bailey share his vast knowledge on the area of Neurodivergence gave me a hugely different perspective on some of the traits surrounding autism. His work on Neurodivergent Literacies, provided thorough explanations on how different neurodivergent people communicate in comparison to neurotypical people. I am grateful that Dr Bailey was able to come to the college and share his experiences and spread greater awareness around neurodivergence. I found the most interesting aspect of the lecture the deconstruction ideas surrounding "special interests" in relation to autism and their reclassification as "ruling passions" instead. This perspective gave me a wider understanding of autism and helped to break down the stereotypes that are still in place around it today." *Shania M (13 MA)*



Dr Bailey's research as well as a copy of his lecture are linked below:

<https://sites.google.com/stmichaelscollege.org.uk/challengeandmoreable/lectures-and-research>

<https://rulingpassions.wordpress.com/2023/11/07/research-informed-handbook/>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cGqO3q9cYXV74a7H1Oe6nzbdc3IOOnOO/view>
Mr D. Magnoff

St Michael's Student Published in Academic Journal!

Congratulations to Ryan B.(12 DA), who was this month published in The Historical Association's Spring Magazine. This is a prestigious publication normally aimed only at History academics and professionals - it is highly unusual for 6th Form students to be printed in this format and it is a great honour for both Ryan and the St Michael's community. Please find below Ryan's reflections on former Mayor of Southwark, Sam King, The Windrush and identity in 21st Century Britain. Well done Ryan! - *Mr D. Magnoff*



'The truth is finally being told'.

These are the words of the Reverend Michael King on the 75th Anniversary of the HMT Empire Windrush arriving at the Port of Tilbury, bringing over 1027 migrants (primarily from the West Indies) to help rebuild London after the Second World War. Perhaps a message of triumph, of optimism, of hope. That we are making progress, and finally unlearning the centuries of racist, imperialist, jingoist narratives which have permeated British society. This event is now commemorated, thanks in part to King's father, Samuel Beaver King MBE. Today, I present the case that Sam King deserves greater recognition as a historical figure.

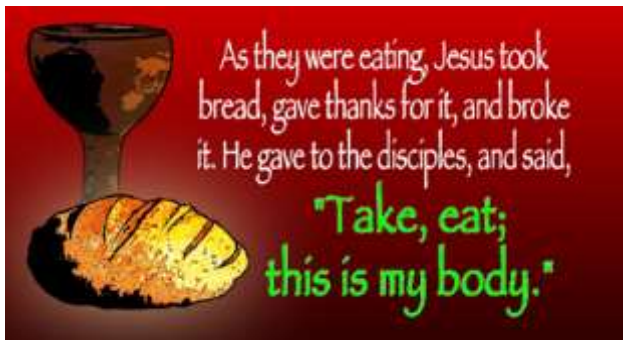
To define someone as 'deserving' greater recognition is to argue that they are a significant historical figure. Namely, that they contribute to ideas which are still being developed and upheld today, and helped to open up a difficult conversation which did not end with their passing, but continues to be had. In the case of Sam King, that conversation pertains to the competing visions of British identity: the idea of British exceptionalism, which fuelled British imperialism for centuries, and stayed ingrained within the mindset of many for long after that, contrasted with the struggle for a more inclusive multicultural society, where heritage is celebrated and hardship of others acknowledged, in the name of mutual respect and tolerance.

Firstly, I will outline the significance of Sam King in the context of his own life. His contribution to the UK arguably began when he, like many young Caribbean people in the 1940s, joined the RAF and served for "the Mother Country", at RAF Hawkinge, going on to several more postings, ending as an aircraft engineer at RAF Dishforth in 1947. Immediately, this contribution to the war effort should be honoured, working diligently as a cog in the machine of war which fought against European fascism- this would not be King's last encounter with facistic ideology. He later returned to the UK under the Nationality Act 1948, part of the migration which was called upon by the British Government to serve and rebuild the "Mother Country". Here, King demonstrated resilience in the face of discrimination, fighting against the rise of Powell's fascism in the 1960's through his mere existence and living his life. His application to the Metropolitan Police was rejected in spite of his decorated military career, but this did not deter him- rather, he started a long and prosperous career at the Post Office, serving his community through this role, eventually ending up as the Executive Manager for London's South Eastern Postal District. Throughout his life, he served his local community, but also set the precedent for other Caribbean migrants: that whilst discrimination was a sad reality in 20th Century Britain, it did not have to dictate one's life or quash one's ambitions.

In fact, King broke even more barriers, becoming the first Black Mayor in the UK when he was elected Mayor of Southwark Council in 1983 - this, against the backdrop of racial tension in London, with events like the Battle of Lewisham 1977 and the 1981 Brixton Riots, and the rise of the National Front (a fascist organisation), proved a pivotal moment in the history of Black people in Britain. He began to change the narrative of British identity, carving out a place for Black British identity within institutions which had historically oppressed and subjugated people like Sam King. Interestingly, he was commissioned to improve the recruitment of Black police officers, 20 years after having been rejected by the very same police force. His notable work in office includes collaborating with Sam Wanamaker to realise the construction of Shakespeare's Globe, a replica of the original Globe Theatre. In this way, King also championed English culture and heritage, proving his work to be as varied as it was significant. What is perhaps most significant about King is his contribution to the development of the historiography of Windrush migration: much of what we know and celebrate today comes from his work on this topic. He single handedly tracked down the 492 Jamaican passengers on the ship, inviting many to tell their stories on documented and televised interviews, and solidifying their legacies by including their names in his autobiography. He was able to shift the narrative from stigma to understanding, from ignoring to listening, from the "Rivers of Blood" to "the Second Mayflower".

Chaplaincy's Corner

The Word of the Lord



Prayer to reflect on the

Marvels of the Lord

Father, we praise and thank you for sending your Son to bring us to life anew.

Send us the power of the Holy Spirit, that we might be the true witnesses to your saving love.

Lord, we ask that you give us the guidance to love those around us and inspire us to charitable actions.

Empower us to seek the common good for all persons.

Give us a spirit of solidarity and make us one human family.

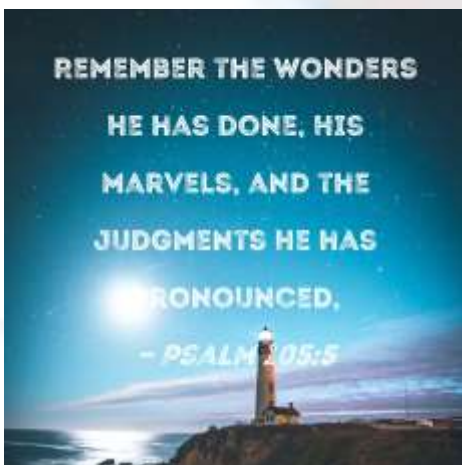
Amen

Miss Casey

Chaplaincy Co-Ordinator

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

- More charity days have taken place to help support the work of CAFOD, with Savio, Rua and Bosco hosting an assortment of activities to raise funds
- Over the course of the Lenten fundraising, students and staff have helped to raise over £1000 for CAFOD and other charities of choice, truly demonstrating faith in action
- Year 7 and Year 8 Faith in Action Representatives attended the Oscar Romero Mass at St George's Cathedral to witness other brilliant schools in Southwark achieve their statuses, we hope to be collecting our Developer Award next year
- Year 10 Chaplaincy and Year 12 Chaplains attended Mass on Saturday the 16th March with Ms Corcoran and Miss Casey to help celebrate the 1st Year Anniversary of Caritas launching in Southwark, Caritas are a charity whose work focuses on the fair treatment and equality of people in our local area
- Year 12 Chaplains led our Easter Services on Maundy Thursday in the college hall, we heard readings from the Gospel of Mark and Miss Casey reflected upon these as the end of Holy Week and the sacrifice of our Lord was upon us.





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.

EVENTS

Stephen Laurence' Day – 22 April

Feast Day of St George - 23rd April

Options Evening 23rd April 2024

Salesian Italian students Exchange:

Tuesday 23rd April – Thursday 26th April

Year 9 Parents Evening 25th April 2024

Baha'i Festival of Ridvan 29th April 2024

Year 12 Parents Evening 9th May 2024

A-Level Exams Start: 13th May 2024

HOLIDAYS

May Day

6th May (*Bank Holiday*)

Half Term

Inset Day Friday 24th May

Monday 27th Friday 31st May

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

