



THE LINK

*A fortnightly Newsletter for the pupils, parents and staff of
St Michael's Catholic College
Issue 241 - July 2025*



A Word from the Principal



As the academic year draws to a close, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all in the wonderful St Michael's community for another year of hard work, dedication and shared success.

To our students, you have truly been a credit to yourselves, your families, and our school. Your commitment to your learning, your participation in countless House, enrichment and chaplaincy activities and most importantly, your embodiment of Salesian values in your daily interactions have ensured a positive, kind and supportive environment where all are truly respected and included. We've seen so much progress, kindness, and resilience this year, and each of you has made a significant and positive contribution to the success of St Michael's.

To our teachers, support staff, premises/cleaning staff, Governors and the St Benedict Trust staff, we thank you for your unwavering dedication, passion, and tireless efforts in ensuring the highest academic standards and pastoral care. You consistently go above and beyond, and your commitment to fostering a supportive and engaging learning environment is what makes St Michael's such a special and successful community.

To our parents and carers, thank you for continuing to work in partnership with us in support of your children. Your engagement in your children's education and your trust in the school are invaluable.

This year, we were particularly proud to achieve an outstanding outcome in all categories in our Ofsted inspection. This fantastic result is a testament to the collective efforts of our entire school community, our dedicated staff, hardworking students, and supportive parents and Governors. It affirms our commitment to providing an exceptional Catholic education where all students can be brought to the fullness of life.

Finally, as we head into the summer break, we continue to pray for our Year 11 and Year 13 students who are awaiting their exam results in August. I also want to remind all our students to stay safe. Make good choices, look out for one another and to enjoy a restful break with your families, friends and loved ones. We look forward to welcoming you back in September, refreshed and ready for another successful year.

Ms F. Corcoran - Principal

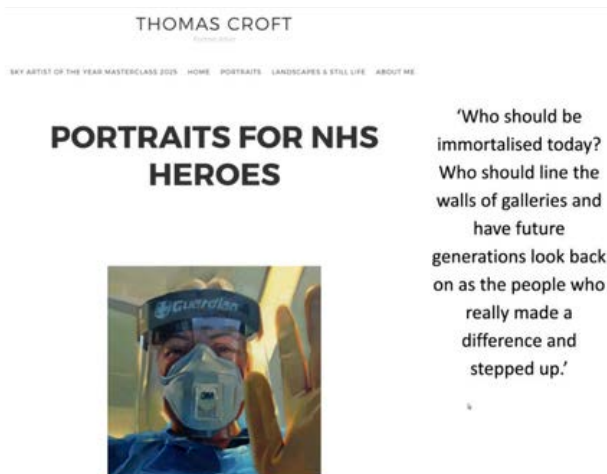
Year 10 Students Graduate from London's Leading Business School!



Congratulations to all the Year 10 students who graduated with distinction from the Brilliant Scholars programme. This term, students worked closely with Senior Research Scientist in Andrology, Dr Daniel Marcu, on reproductive biology.

Please find Ersida D's (10VI) thoughts below:

Our visit to the Bayes Business University in Moorgate was an exciting experience. It was an opportunity for us brilliant scholars to have a taste of what university is really like. We were taken on a tour, and given a lecture, and learnt new things about university life. Lots of things were unexpected, such as a 24 hour open library during exam season and flexible hours - you did not have to go to lectures as they would always be recorded. Overall, the trip opened our eyes to what university could offer us in the future, and how it differs from secondary or 6th form.



Please also watch the video for speeches by Saron G (10SA) and Nathan A (RU):
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1g4CRpp8SamfIPV3k5OtTH7waG3VtDM4J>



World Famous Professor and Friend of St Michael's Visits Year 12 Again!

Professor William Doyle loves coming to St Michael's for stimulating intellectual sparring on the origins of the French Revolution and its varied legacies for the world today. As ever, the students were captivated by the opportunity to learn from and question one of the world's leading authorities on this period of History.



World Famous Art Historian and Friend of St Michael's visits Year 12 Again!

St Michael's was delighted to welcome celebrated author and art historian, Dr Ross King, back to St Michael's for a lecture on revolutionary art. Dr King was not only able to evaluate and analyse the role of public art in the collapse of the ancient regime but was also able to draw parallels with the politics and motifs of the 21st century. Dr King has now even managed to inspire some of our Year 12 students to apply to study History of Art at Cambridge University!

STEM Week

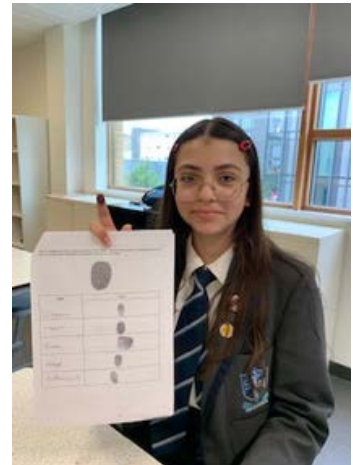
At the end of May we saw the return of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) Week at St. Michael's, with a variety of activities and lessons taking place throughout the final week of half-term. Year 7 had the opportunity to participate in a Treasure Hunt around School, and search for answers to science questions using clues provided. A big well done to everyone who took part. The winners were drawn in a raffle - congratulations to Lexie and Oluwatomwa who claimed their prize last week! The Year 7s also participated in a week-long range of activities to debate 'should we send a human mission to Mars?', in which students enjoyed playing STEM games and discussions.

Year 8 completed their forensics project, which focussed on how science can be used to solve different types of crimes, using fingerprints, DNA, footprints, and handwriting. They also conducted experiments to analyse unknown substances in the science laboratories. Year 9 worked in groups to design and make a Lunar Landing Rover model which was tested in class. Throughout the week, KS3 and KS4 students could visit various lunchtime experiments, which included controlled explosions, heart dissections, and modelling the solar system.

We also had visits from external workshop providers, who helped students make new games with Everfi, discover their STEM personality, and design a Mars Rover. Well done to all students who represented the school excellently during these workshops.

We look forward to extending the STEM provision in school next academic year!

Ms P Parr



A Meeting with Pope Leo XIV!!

As part of a Catholic Education Service Pilgrimage, Mr Devine and Mr McCabe travelled to Rome at the start of July with a member of staff from Bonus Pastor Catholic College and teachers from other Catholic Schools across the UK and on their trip they were given the great honour of meeting Pope Leo XIV.

Their places on this prestigious trip were sponsored by St Benedict Catholic Academy Trust.

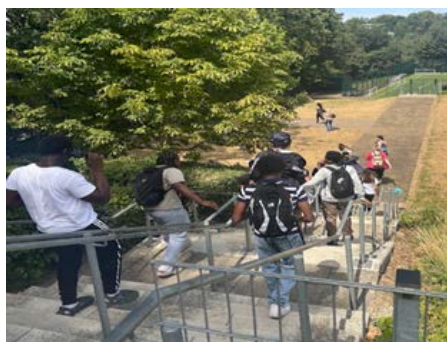


St Benedict Trust Jubilee Pilgrimage Walk



The pilgrimage we undertook to Bonus Pastor was one of community strength and certainly a group struggle. Nevertheless, it was a memorable experience, one that the Chaplaincy team will never forget. Firstly, we came to school and got registered, disconnectedg from our devices and social media and engaging with our surroundings. Carrying a miniature baby Jesus alongside allowed us to reflect on the struggles that Jesus himself went through. The weather was hot. The sun was burning, but we persevered. As we walked, talked, and sang, the company of the fellow members of the Chaplaincy team inspired us to continue to our final destination: Bonus Pastor. We took a pitstop at Deptford High Street and then set forth. The walk continued until we reached St Matthew's Academy, where we took our lunch break. This is where the community spirit started to bubble up. A few games of Mafia and silly accusations of who could be the impostor led to the creation of fond memories with students from the other schools. Finally, after lunch, we continued to walk until we reached Bonus Pastor. Overall, it was a lovely experience and one I will hold dear for a long time to come.

Opeoluwa O, Year 12



Mathematics Challenge Results

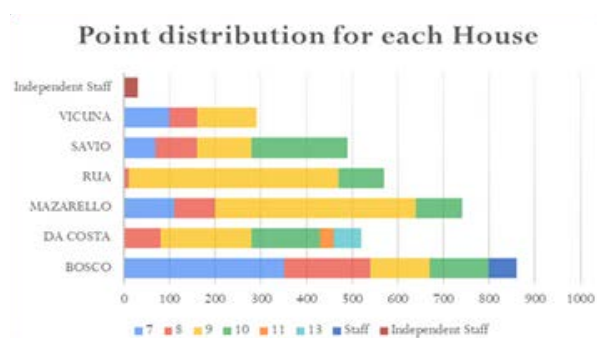
2025 International Year of Quantum Science and Technology



Winner of the Special Prize for RUAH

'This is Werner Heisenberg and he created the Uncertainty Principle. His work is celebrated in 2025 because it marks his death after 50 years. In a quote by Werner, he said: "The first gulp from the glass of natural sciences will turn you into an atheist, but at the bottom of the glass God is waiting." In this quote he shows his respect to God, linking together both RUAH values, religious education and the study of science.'

Tija B, 9RU



Headlines

Top Scoring House: BOSCO
 Top Scoring Tutor Groups: 9RU, 9MA and 7BC
 Top Scoring Year Group: Y9

Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle

$$\Delta x \Delta p \geq \frac{h}{4\pi}$$

Δx = uncertainty in position
 Δp = uncertainty in momentum
 h = Planck's constant
 π = number pi

TOP Scorers

VICUNA	Mya V-J	100%	7
BOSCO	Scarlett M	100%	7
MAZARELLO	Marco J	100%	7
BOSCO	Kevin K	100%	7
RUA	Jayda S	100%	9
RUA	Marcel H	100%	9
RUA	Elayne A	100%	9
VICUNA	Maia J	100%	9
SAVIO	Mar'Yan O	100%	9
DA COSTA	Adriel A	100%	9
MAZARELLO	Agnes W	100%	9
MAZARELLO	Kasandra G	100%	9
RUA	Tija B	100%	9
DA COSTA	Michelle K	100%	9
MAZARELLO	Katherine K	100%	9
RUA	Michael I	100%	10
DA COSTA	Mirabel M	100%	10

Thanks for the support of the following:
 Mr Bourke, Mr Devine, Mr Kelly and Miss Monerville

All Are Welcome at St Michael's

St Michael's hosted 3 events for Staff and students as part of the 'All Are Welcome Group' raising awareness and supporting the LGBTQ+ community at St Michael's during Pride month. These were supported by the London Jesuit Centre and LGBT Catholics at Westminster.

STAFF CELEBRATION

Fr. David Birchall SJ (Director of London Jesuit Centre, LJC) led a reflection for staff. It was an opportunity for staff to get together in celebration of our diverse community in Pride month.

The session was really insightful and a great opportunity to bring light to the importance of celebrating our diversity and making the LGBTQ+ community feel welcome. We were able to have discussions on different examples in the Bible that show diversity and inclusion, talking about what they mean to each of us and how it can be taught to others. It was a great event and I thoroughly enjoyed participating!



Staff Member

Presentation: Faith, Love, and Belonging: My Journey as an LGBTQ+ Catholic

Greater representation of women within the Church and better inclusivity of the LGBT community – these are some of the big issues the Synod process is addressing. Synodality was a key element of Pope Francis' vision for the Church, aiming to foster a more inclusive and participatory Church. Pope Leo wants this continued. Dr Janet Obeney-Williams from LGBT Catholics at Westminster is involved in the Synod process here and in Rome. She talked to Year 7 and to Year 9 about the process and listened to their opinions on change, greater representation and shaping the Church of tomorrow.

I learnt that we should all respect each other and be nice to each other because that's what makes us better people. Segregating a community isn't great because it causes hardship for the people in the community, such as being excluded and more.

Year 9 Student



Y'all Better Quiet Down': learning from Sylvia Rivera

The story of Sylvia Rivera. She is best remembered as a key figure in the Stonewall Riots in 1969, but she was also a true pioneer when it came to speaking up and advocating for the rights of the disfranchised such as transgender people and LGBTQ youth. Dr Nicolette Burbach is the Social and Environmental Justice Lead at the London Jesuit Centre. She returned to St Michael's to deliver a 'university level' taster session on Liberation Theology and the story of Rivera and why her activism is studied within Social Sciences.

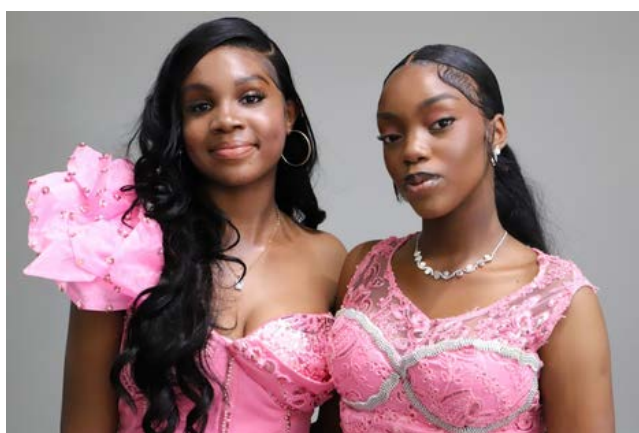
I enjoyed the session with the visitor. I learnt a lot and had confidence to join in tasks and activities. It made me think a lot more about the issues Trans people can face and think about ways to support them. It was very interesting.

Year 10 Student

Year 9 King's Scholars Graduation



Year 11 Prom



Chaplaincy Corner



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

- Year 12 Chaplaincy Students were the embodiment of the Pilgrims of Hope as they made their pilgrimage walked from St Michael's to other schools within the St Benedict's Trust – Bonus Pastor and St Matthew.
- The first official St Benedict's Trust Mass for our schools was led by Canon Victor Darlington at St George's Cathedral with St Michael's leading the music by way of the choir who had prepared a wonderful version of the Jubilee Song. It was wonderful to celebrate our faith together on St Benedict's feast day as a community of schools.

A reflection on this...

Prayer of St Benedict

Gracious and Holy Father,
give us the wisdom to discover You,
the intelligence to understand You,
the diligence to seek after You,
the patience to wait for You,
eyes to behold You,
a heart to meditate upon You,
and a life to proclaim You,
through the power of the Spirit
of Jesus, our Lord.

Amen

Miss R Casey
Chaplaincy Co-Ordinator

The Word of the Lord

Luke

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the
prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the
year of the Lord's favour"

The skip of youth

You hurried past me, taking the escalator steps
with the self-assurance of youth.
A skip escapes your eager legs as you dashed toward the ticket barrier.
And I smiled the smile of understanding; the smile of legs which were young and spring-like so many
years ago.
I smile the smile of the envious wishing that I could still
skip; instead of the gliding
Uncertain gait of one walking on plastic knees.

Away you went half-running half skipping
St. Michael hurrying your joyful feet to school.
And I wondered,
Were your friends already waiting there?

Then I saw you at the gate.
You held open for others.
And then even more patiently for me.
I half-glided and half-shuffled past you.
And smiled with gratitude a soft, "Thank you."
Then I asked your name,
But memory, like shaky knees, immediately forgot your quiet utterance.
But I remember your joyous skip
From Bermondsey Station to school,
Your happy knees
Taking you to your happy place oblivious of the smile you left behind.

I pray that whatever gave you joy will stay within your soul.
I pray that your legs will always be glad.
I pray that gates will be held open for you on each journey you make.
I pray that St. Michael will always be in your wake.

Ms P Belvett





Upcoming Events



September

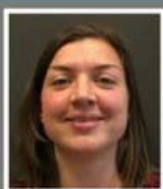
Tuesday 2nd 09:30	Year 7 & 12 Start of term
Wednesday 3rd 8.40	All students begin
Thursday 4 th 17:00	Year 11 Curriculum Evening
Thursday 4 th 18:00	Year 13 Curriculum Evening
Tuesday 9 th 17:00	Year 10 Curriculum Evening
Tuesday 9 th 17:45	Year 12 Curriculum Evening
Thursday 11 th 17:00	Year 8 Curriculum Evening
Thursday 11 th 17:45	Year 9 Curriculum Evening
Thursday 18 th 17:00	Year 7 Curriculum Evening
Friday 26 th 14:15	2.15pm finish for Open Day preparations
Monday 29 th 11:30 & 16:30	Open Morning and Open Evening
Tuesday 30 th 11:30	Open Morning

October

Wednesday 1st 11:30	Open Morning
Thursday 16 th - Wednesday 22 nd	Years 7-13 In -Class Assessments
Thursday 23 rd - Friday 24 th	INSET No Students in the College End of term



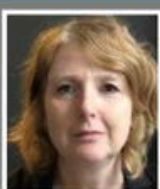
Safeguarding Officers



**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