



THE LINK

*A fortnightly Newsletter for the pupils, parents and staff of
St Michael's Catholic College
Issue 244 - November 2025*



Steve Backshall's Royal Adventure Premiere

Sixth Form students of Geography and Media Studies were delighted to meet legendary diver Joe MacInnis and director Marshall Corwin at the premiere of the new ITV documentary 'Steve Backshall's Royal Arctic Challenge' at the IMAX Cinema in The Science Museum last month. The school was also invited to ask Steve Backshall about his experiences of making the documentary via a live Zoom connection with the renowned explorer himself.

The feature-length documentary retraces the future King's 1975 adventure in the Canadian Arctic. Before heading out to the Arctic himself, Steve spoke to King Charles about his recollections of the Royal trip: how it helped shape His Majesty's love for the natural world and his concerns about the impact of climate change. They also shared more lighthearted moments, enjoying some extraordinary archive footage which reveals the King's keen sense of humour.

Exactly fifty years on, Steve set out to discover how this stunning land is changing. Warming three times faster than the rest of the planet, how are the people of the Arctic and its iconic animals such as polar bears and caribou being affected? And what measures are scientists and conservationists taking to help the frozen frontier?

Steve attempted to recreate some of the young Prince's extreme adventures, from high-speed skidoo driving to a dive beneath the Arctic ice. Among the remarkable people he met was celebrated undersea explorer Dr Joe MacInnis, who led the perilous Royal diving expedition. Now 88 and living in Toronto, Joe MacInnis was delighted to meet our students and pose for some photos to promote the environmental messages of the documentary to younger audiences.

'Steve Backshall's Royal Arctic Challenge' will be shown in the UK on 18th December on ITV1 and ITVX.

Mr S Pillai



Year 12 SC1 Pathfinders: The Next Generation of Life Sciences

Ayomide D, 12B

During the SC1 Pathfinders Life Sciences event, St Michael's, as well as other schools, looked at a quantum exhibition, participated in a DNA workshop, conversed and discussed in a lengthy meeting and talk about future careers in life sciences and university careers. After all of this, we then networked and were offered additional beverages and hospitality by the hosts of the programme. Here is an overview of everything that was done: During the DNA practical, we used apparatus to extract tomato DNA by breaking down its membrane with ethanol. And during the quantum exhibition, we learnt about superposition, and the immeasurable shapes and forms particles in the universe can take up. Finally, during the talk with the panellists, we learnt how each of them specialized in different fields such as medicine, innovative medical device design, research in bias in A.I, and some were even awarded PhDs! They gave us an insight to what they do for a living and what courses are essential for those careers. Although all of their achievements and talk about what they currently study was interesting, they also described the fundamental social, problem-solving and learning skills that are useful when exploring and learning more about these different pathways. Overall, it was a genuinely enjoyable experience, and what I found the most important to me was the opportunity to participate in the first instance alongside my peers.



Chimuamanda E, 12A

On 20/11/2025, my classmates and I had the opportunity to attend the SC1 Pathfinders Life Sciences event hosted by the Science Gallery, KCL. Initially I was not sure what to expect but by the time we had left, I had gained new skills and insights on careers. We toured around different exhibitions in which we were introduced to the idea of quantum physics and superposition. This was very interesting to me as someone who had never really taken an interest in Physics. Additionally, we participated in a DNA workshop where we extracted tomato DNA as well as attended (my very first) open panel where we listened to professionals with careers in the life sciences. Throughout the event, there were many opportunities to develop new skills such as communication through networking and discussions with other schools and group activities where we discovered skills that we may not have known about ourselves. In this event, I was able to contact a professional in my desired work field and expand my knowledge on the industry and widen my connections on LinkedIn. Overall, I loved this event a lot and wish to attend similar events in the future.



Year 12 SC1 Pathfinders: The Next Generation of Life Sciences

(Continued)

Oluwagbotemi O, 12A

Our trip to The Science Gallery to attend the SC1 Pathfinders event was a real eye opener to the diversity of employment opportunities in STEM fields. We started off viewing some physics exhibitions, seeing models of black holes and their collisions, and even getting to see a model of a parallel universe, which still blows my mind how this can be theorised scientifically. This portion of the exhibition has inspired me to do reading on concepts such as these should the opportunity arise. There was a life sciences workshop, in which we were tasked with extracting the genetic material of a tomato. It was a nice revisit to science practicals, and even provided a link to our Membranes topic in Biology. There was a panel discussion in which we got to see people who actually worked in life sciences talk about how exciting but equally stressful their lives were, and this really highlighted just how broad STEM is, as well as just how many doors it opens. Finally, there was an activity in which we found out our strengths based on personality, an activity to remind us that the field of STEM has need for all types of people, as well as getting us to really hone in on what we can already do and what we need to improve on. Overall, the event was a real eye opener for us, not a big scary eye opener that makes us feel as if we should have been revising foundations in Biology since Year 2, but an eye opener to the fact that we already have the grades, that we have the potential to get more good grades, and should we do so, we can truly do whatever we want.



U14 Girls South London Cup Success

On the 18th of November on a cold Tuesday afternoon, a group of Year 7, 8 and 9 students competed in a match for the U14 football competition. Our team wasn't sure if we could carry through this, as most of the team was missing, however using our Salesian Values and perseverance, we worked as a team to play our best. Mr Laribi took over coaching, leading us through tactics on how to take down the team of Oasis, while Mr Long assisted with moral support and our team structure and our positions. With her strong sense of leadership and confidence, Agnes W (Sports Ambassador) pushed our team to play their best during the match. We had amazing photos from our team photographer, Janka P, who did what she could to get the best shots.

Our striker, Mary B, led our team to victory by scoring a winning penalty from a hand ball committed by the opposing team. Elizabeth R, Nora A and Neriah F protected our goal well, defending each shot that could be a goal for Oasis. Our youngest players Michaela J, Mavelle P and Leah-Rose were our team's only Year 7, however they played on a higher level. Also leading us to victory were Martha W and Kitty Rae H, who played on the wings and created many opportunities to score a goal. Finally, our keeper Rosie S did a splendid job at the match. When Oasis was given a penalty, we all thought we were doomed but Rosie S saved the match. Although it was very cold and the opposing team had a large number of players it did not stop us from success. Thank you all for participating!

Janka P, 8RU and Elizabeth R, 8SA (Junior Sports Ambassadors)



Poppy Appeal

Well done to Frankie D, 8VI who contributed to an October half term project in the local area to make Poppies from Hama Beads to sell to raise funds for The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2025.



Movember Appeal

Half way through Movember and it's taking shape nicely!

The charity is all about raising money and awareness for men's mental health.

If you would like to donate please follow the link.
https://uk.movember.com/mospace/3102857?utm_medium=app&utm_source=ios&utm_campaign=share-mospace

Mr T Parker

Birds of Bermondsey



I see you perch on the lamppost high
 And I nearly just walked on by
 My thoughts on work and the things to be.
 But your carefree joy spoke to me.
 The thought of missing your simple beauty
 Had me reach within the bag
 To capture you before the spell was broken.
 For soon Bermondsey would have woken
 Two hundred million pixels does not justice do to
 the inspiration I got from you.
 For as you huddled next to your mate,
 I thought of love and banished hate.

Ms P Belvett

Chaplaincy Corner

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

- The Salesian exchange part one took place as we were joined by staff and students from our Salesian partner school in Florence. Students enjoyed getting to know each other and taking part in lessons and trips together. RUAH partnership and faith in action!
- Students in 8DA lead a moving form Mass dedicated to those who are suffering from poverty and anxieties, Olympia also shared prayers in Polish about the House Blessed Alexandra DaCosta
- Students in Mazzarello are busy planning their charity week
- Mr Kelly and Young Salesians prepared for the start of advent with special assemblies and the launch of the advent charity appeal in support of Shelter.



A reflection on this...

Scripture: Luke 19:45-48

Give me courage, like yours,
to confront what is wrong
and to stand up for what is right,
even when it is difficult.
Give me wisdom
to listen to your teaching each day,
just as the crowds in the Gospel listened to you.

Jesus, make my heart a place where you dwell.
Restore in me a spirit of reverence,
of compassion,
and of truth.

Amen.

Miss R Casey
Chaplaincy Co-Ordinator



Upcoming Events



December

Monday 1 st - Tuesday 9th	Year 11 & 13 Mock examinations
Monday 1 st - Friday 5th	Years 7-10 & 12 Revision Week
Monday 8 th - Friday 12th	Years 7-10 & 12 Assessment Week
Thursday 18th	Christmas Trips / Rewards Activities for students
Friday 19th	Christmas Liturgies End of term

Parent Focus Group

Wednesday 10th December | 16:30 - 17:30 at St Michael's Catholic College

Thursday 12th March | 16:30 - 17:30 via MS Teams

Wednesday 3rd June | 16:30 - 17:30 via MS Teams

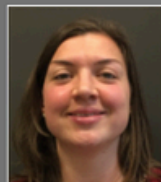
Friends of St Michael's

Thursday 22nd January | 16:30 - 17:30 via MS Teams

Thursday 7th May | 16:30 - 17:30 via MS Teams



Safeguarding Team



**Designated
Safeguarding Lead**

Ms Jo Nottage
0207 237 6432
J.Nottage@stmichaelscollege.org.uk



**Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead**

Mrs Debbie Freegard
0207 237 6432
D.Freegard@stmichaelscollege.org.uk



**Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead**

Miss Venisha Sawyers
0207 237 6432
V.SawyersRhoden@stmichaelscollege.org.uk



Safeguarding Officer

Ms Tania Rughooputh
0207 237 6432
T.Rughooputh@stmichaelscollege.org.uk



Mr Allan Daly
0207 237 6432
A.Daly@stmichaelscollege.org.uk

Overall Responsibility

Ms Felicity Corcoran - Principal
0207 237 6432
Contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk