



THE LINK

*A fortnightly Newsletter for the pupils, parents and staff of
St Michael's Catholic College
Issue 228 – 15th May 2024*

St Benedict Catholic Academy Trust

St Michael's is one of four founding schools in the St Benedict Catholic Academy Trust which opened on 1st April 2024. The Trust was formed following years of high-quality, strong, collaborative partnership work across the founding schools St Michael's Catholic College, Bonus Pastor Catholic College, St Anthony's Catholic Primary School and Our Lady and St Philip Neri Primary School.

The St Benedict Catholic Academy Trust vision is as a family of schools to be a beacon of exceptional Catholic education. Our mission is inspired by the Trust patron St Benedict, to live, learn, pray and celebrate together. The St Benedict CAT has recently recruited a Chief Executive Officer to lead the work of the Trust. Headteachers, Governors and students from the founding schools were involved in this important process to ensure full stakeholder representation. Angelica R and Adrian N, Deputy Head Girl and Boy in Year 12 were invited to be part of the interview process with the Principal Ms Corcoran and Chair of Governors Mrs Bannister on Tuesday 23rd April, Angelica R has written the following reflection about her involvement.

St Benedict Catholic Academy Trust CEO Recruitment and Student Voice

The St Benedict Catholic Academy Trust is an excellent opportunity to enhance the strong sense of community between the different schools and promote Gospel values, which inspire students to make positive contributions both inside and outside of school.

I was pleased to be involved in the interview process to select the new CEO of this Trust which allowed us to see if the values of the Trust could be personified in a worthy candidate. This process involved interviewing potential CEO candidates alongside other students from the founding schools in order to provide a student voice to the process across a diverse range of year groups, as they outlined strategies which would play a central role in shaping our community of schools. Furthermore, we had gained insight into the candidates' individual goals, visions and values and asked how they would bring us together as a community and prioritise student welfare. It was very inspiring to hear the candidates' commitments to putting students' needs at the centre and fostering an environment where all students are given a voice to be involved in the things they are passionate about. This involvement, along with **optimistic and resilient leadership** by the CEO, will enable our school communities to thrive, with all the schools' unique aspects valued and celebrated.

Therefore, I am excited about the growth of the St Benedict Catholic Academy Trust and how the values of the newly appointed CEO Mr Ronan will influence the founding schools and our individual relationships with each other. I believe prioritising and embodying student voice closely aligns with our ethos, providing a future where all students' needs are met and valued.

Angelica R Deputy Head Girl, Year 12



St Benedict
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

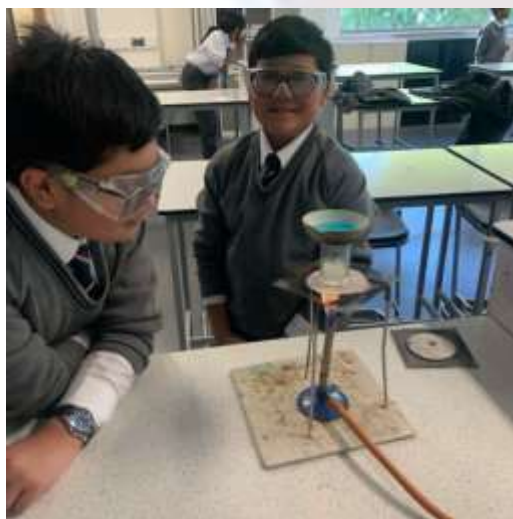
Experience during the medical taster day with KCL



Throughout the medical taster day with King’s College London, I was constantly amazed with new information. For instance, the MDT (Multi-Disciplinary Team) session showed my class that doctors work alongside other healthcare professionals such as nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, radiographers, and many more in order to positively impact lives that need it most. Additionally, the sessions were really interactive through competition with various teams on diagnosing disorders and biological abnormalities, which I found engaging. Perhaps the highlight of the day was the CPR practical exercise which I took pleasure in participating in, and learning about the procedures when discovering an individual in need of CPR (DR ABC). To finish off the day, I was really curious about how to take blood sample, and when I did one on a demonstrative apparatus, I was fascinated with reference to the sharp needle and rapid blood flow of the vein. I would like to thank King’s College London for the great experience, Miss Parr, Ms Ahmed and all of the teachers organising this informative experience.’ *Roger J, Year 10*



In the Science Department



KS3 Science Club have been enjoying a variety of practical activities across biology, chemistry, and physics. Recently, we have made blue copper sulphate crystals using a variety of scientific techniques such as filtration and heating using bunsen burners (see below). We have also simulated volcanic eruptions (as seen in the photo below), made an electric train, designed water rockets, built and tested bridges, and looked at how to survive on a desert island.

In the coming weeks, students in Years 7 and 8 can continue their water rockets project and explore how to tell the time with the stars! Science club runs every Tuesday after school in S36 and has places for new students - all KS3 students welcome.—*Miss P.Parr*



King’s College Experience



I took part in the King’s Scholars programme at King’s College London, which offered engaging taster sessions in dentistry and maths. These sessions, part of a three-year initiative, provided me with practical skills in dental science and deepened my understanding of mathematical concepts. The programme emphasised learning strategies and personal development, preparing me for future academic pursuits.

It was an immersive experience that possessed many qualities that allowed all of us to stay involved with the agendas that we were presented for the day. Throughout the day, the maths course was a warm introduction that used a very interactive way of origami to understand mathematics in a new light.

Also, the dentistry course was completely interactive. Overall, it was a fun and unique experience providing me with a glimpse of university life. - *Milkyas F. and Cassandra G.*



Celebrated Civil Rights Campaigner, Arthur Torrington, visits St Michael’s!

St Michael’s were delighted to welcome Arthur Torrington CBE to the college as part of our commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the SS Empire Windrush in 1948. Arthur Torrington CBE is known for his substantial and tireless work researching, collecting, and archiving the histories of Caribbean people in Britain, and his work as Director and Co-Founder of the Windrush Foundation and Equiano Society.

Arthur was particularly excited to hear about Ryan B’s publication of an article on ex-mayor of Southwark, Sam King (a good friend of Arthur’s) and Adrian N’s winning entry to the 2023 Black History Month Competition that also drew the attention of the current Mayor of Southwark, Michael Situ. As a result of this work, Arthur wanted to come to St Michael’s and speak to our students directly. Ryan and Adrian conducted an incisive and thoughtful interview with Arthur in front of a packed audience in G18.

This interview will be published in full in the 2024 edition of The St Michael’s Review. Stay tuned for a fascinating insight into Arthur’s life growing up in British Guiana and his arrival in the UK, his numerous accomplishments as a long standing Windrush champion, a youth leader and radio broadcaster during the 70s and 80s, and, of course, his ground-breaking work with Sam King. Arthur also expanded on his ongoing research and work as a Historian, focusing on the achievements of Black Britons such as Olaudah Equiano and Ignatius Sancho, and his international connections to commemorate special historic figures including a recent visit to Barbados to help establish a monument to the 1816 Bussa rebellion. Arthur also kindly gifted the college new publications of two books: the first a collection of Windrush generation poetry entitled ‘Tallawah’ (meaning strong, fearless and mighty), and the second a focus text on John Richards, one of the passengers on HMT Windrush. These signed copies are now in the 6th Form Library. - *Mr D.Magnoff*



Junior Maths Challenge 2024 results

JMC 24 results: overall, we have 8 Gold, 10 Silver, 17 Bronze out of 56 students in Year 7 and 8 who took part in the UK Junior Maths Challenge 2024.

Gold certificates (scoring over 86 marks)

Year 7:

Deandre B (best in Year 7)
Adeoluwa (Michael) O

Year 8:

Kassandra G (best in school)
Filip S
Mikyasa F
Marcel H
Justin J
Adham

Silver certificates (scoring over 70 marks)

Year 7:

Kalum L
Hubert J
Noella S
Isabella C-B

Year 8:

Stephanie E
Heidi A
Mar'Yan O
Maia J
Agnes W
Luisjan B



Gold



Gold and Silver

Special mentions:

Based on their high performance (scoring over 92 marks), the following 4 Year 8s are invited to take part in the next round 'Junior Kangaroo 2024' which takes place on 11th June:

Kassandra G	Mikyasa F
Filip S	Marcel H

The Kangaroo maths club will start next Tuesday 14th May after school (3:30 to 4:40 pm) to prepare for the competition.

Bronze certificates (scoring over 57 marks)

Year 7:

Rafael C-B
Daniel L
David M V
Oliver O-C
Maria (Elis) B
Joseph C
Amariah F M
Liam B L

Year 8:

Sara S A
Emily K
Emmanuel Y
Katherine K
Noah B
Aliannah A
Adriel A
Jui T
Shalom O



Bronze, Silver and Gold

St Michael's Students Perform Exciting New Music at St Paul's Knightsbridge

In the recent Inner Voices concert we attempted to capture a modern feel that is opposed to the more classical repertoire we normally perform. The concert was based on an interpretation of an album called "Truth is a Beautiful Thing" by London Grammar. We were joined by a talented youth orchestra with a large string group as well as a synth band that added amazing accompaniments to the vocals of the choir. The keyboard, drumming and electric guitar were truly absorbing and the lighting and special effects were extraordinary. Overall, the concert was an amazing experience and I loved being able to experiment with new forms of choral music. *Jonathan A, 9V*



SMCC passes the UN Climate Change Learning Partnership

Congratulations to the Year 12 Geographers for passing the UN Climate Change Learning Partnership's specialised course on cities and climate change! The course focused on the transformative role cities can play in achieving green and climate resilient development, how our urban areas contribute to climate change and how climate change adaptation and mitigation can be considered in urban planning. *Miss C. Hayden*



Sport Success

Mr. Murungi's leadership and the players determination propelled the U15s boys and girls to an unexpected victory in the London Youth Games Futsal Tournament. With his guidance, both teams surpassed expectations, displaying remarkable skill and teamwork throughout the tournament. Their determination and passion on the court earned them the coveted trophy, crowning them as the kings and queens of London Futsal. In a single season, Mr. Murungi and the PE department achieved what seemed impossible, ending a 30-year drought and bringing glory to the school. Their achievement will be remembered as a testament to hard work, dedication, and the power of effective coaching. *Mr J.Murungi*



Under the guidance of Mr. Murungi and Mr. Sesay, the sixth form team reached another final within two years, determined to rewrite history after the agony of their previous loss. Learning from past mistakes, they approached the final with unparalleled focus and determination. Their resilience and strategic play led them to a triumphant victory, clinching St. Michael's first South London Cup win in a decade. Mr. Murungi and Mr. Sesay's coaching prowess, combined with the team's unwavering dedication, propelled them to success, bringing honor and pride back to St. Michael's College. *Mr J.Murungi*

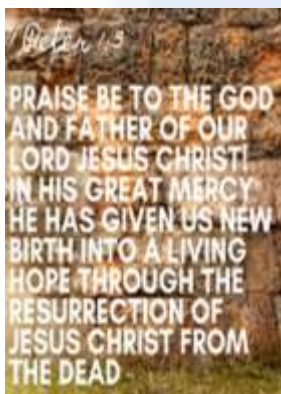


Chaplaincy Corner

The Word of the Lord



Prayer to reflect on the Resurrection of the Lord



Reflection on the Ascension of the Lord

Jesus, I honour You on the feast of Your Ascension into heaven. I rejoice with all my heart at the glory into which You entered to reign as King of heaven and earth. When the struggle of this life is over, give me the grace to share Your joy and triumph in heaven for all eternity. Through Your grace, give me the courage of perseverance for You have called and justified me by faith. May I hold fast to the life You have given me and come to the eternal gifts You promised. You love me, dear Jesus. Help me to love You in return.

Amen

Miss Casey, Chaplaincy Co-Ordinator

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

- We returned to the college to begin the Summer term, basking in the glory of the resurrection of Christ.
- Ms Corcoran led inspiring and reflective assemblies on all the Good News we see at St Michael's and how we as Christians are called to go out and spread Good News and give thanks.
- We welcomed Fr. Tesfa Michael to lead Mass on Friday 19th April, dedicated to the life of Stephen Lawrence – 10 Vicuna helped with the formation of the Mass and members of the Chaplaincy team across the college were in attendance.
- Year 10 Chaplaincy team shared assemblies for Earth Day and the importance of Caring for Creation



- Year 12 Chaplains celebrated the Festival of Ridvan, from the Baha'i faith in a small bouquet making masterclass for Year 7; as well as this, Year 7s and Year 8s in RE learned about the background of this faith and the festival itself.
- Fr. Keith returned to Friday Mass, and joined us on Thursday the 9th May for the Feast of the Ascension which was well attended and led by the students of 8 Savio.
- Mr Burton, as Head of Savio house, led assemblies about the life, faith and devotion of Dominic Savio, supported by Form Captains and Faith in Action Chaplains – Savio house also raised money for charity during their charity week, with events including a football match, tuck shops and much more.
- Masses have been offered for Year 11s and Year 13s who have started their exams, Ascension Mass was offered also for the Year 11s as their GCSE RE paper was half an hour later – we continue to wish all students in exam classes the best of luck.
- The month of May means the month of the Rosary, Year 12 Chaplains have been sharing the mysteries; supported by Miss Casey at break times each week.
- Year 13 had their leavers service on their final day together, reflecting on the past 2 and for some, 7 years.





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

- Pentecost Sunday – Sunday 19th May
- JP Morgan Year 10 MFL trip – Wednesday 22nd May – from 10am
- Yr8/9 Florence exchange trip – Thursday 23rd May – Monday 27th May
- Feast of Mary Help of Christians – Friday 24th May
- Staff Inset Day – Friday 24th May
- Half Term begins – Friday 24th May – Sunday 2nd June

HOLIDAYS

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

