



# THE LINK

*A fortnightly Newsletter for the pupils, parents and staff of  
St Michael's Catholic College  
Issue 230- July 2024*



## King's Graduation

On 26th June, 20 of our Year 9 King's Scholars graduated in a ceremony held at King's Strand campus. The students have participated in three years of activities led by King's Widening Participation Team and King's Undergraduate student Ambassadors. These have taken place both in college and at King's and have supported the students use of metacognitive skills to help them learn as well as giving them experiences such as attending lectures on Dentistry at Kings and a careers fair.

The occasion was wonderful; students wore gowns and mortar boards, there was an apple Juice reception and a motivational speaker. Adam P. was named a scholar of the year and Ruby H.S. was given the award for Star Student.

Congratulations to all the scholars – we couldn't be more proud. - *Ms C Sayed*



## Year 10 Students Graduate from King's College, University of London!

Congratulations to all the Year 10 students who graduated with distinction from the Brilliant Scholars programme. This term, students worked closely with geneticist Dr Jacob Knyspel on “Finding Clues to Causality in Medical Research”, with research focused on the links between genetics and mental health.

Dr Knyspel says:

"It was an absolute delight to teach this term's Brilliant Club cohort. Over a period of five weeks, students completed a challenging university-style course about medical research. They performed exceptionally. Everyone submitted excellent final assignments, achieving the highest average grade of any school I have tutored. This was a true testament to the students' hard work, commitment, and curiosity. They and their families should be incredibly proud."

As part of the programme, these students attended a prestigious graduation ceremony at Guy's campus, King's College, University of London, one of the top seats of learning in the UK. Szymon K further excelled by delivering a speech on his experiences to an audience of academics and students - please find link below.

Please also find the reflections of Asiri CK here:

On Wednesday 3rd of July the Brilliant Scholars went to King College, Guy's Campus for our graduation. It was a campus none of us had previously visited, and the tour definitely helped us get an understanding of a university's layout, and how students navigate this. The day also entailed us reflecting on our achievements during the programme, which helped me find a new appreciation for the skills I had learnt and refined throughout, showing me how to apply them beyond an academic setting. The day ended with our graduation ceremony and student speeches from a range of schools. I liked how this showed the range of students the programme caters to and how the benefits of a programme like this vary. I think the day, and programme as a whole, allowed us to explore our capabilities as students, and how there is something university can supply for each of us, despite our differences and preconceptions. - *Asiri CK, 10DA*

Please click the link for further details and video:

<https://sites.google.com/stmichaelscollege.org.uk/challengeandmoreable/brilliant-club>





## Junior Kangaroo result 2024

The Junior Kangaroo is the follow up round for students who achieved excellent results from their Junior Maths Challenge (92 marks and above).

The competition took place on 17th June 2024.

This year, St Michael's has 4 qualifying students in Year 8:

1. Kassandra G 8MA
2. Marcel H 8RU
3. Filip S 8VI
4. Mikyias F 8BC

who achieved excellent results from their Junior Maths Challenge (92 marks and above).

4 students from Year 7 and Year 8 who were close to be qualified (but didn't make the threshold) also took part in the Junior Kangaroo 2024 (nominated by Miss Nguyen).

They are:

1. Isabella C.-B.7 BC
2. Deandre B V 7 MA
3. Adeoluwa (Michael) O. 7 MA
4. Adham A. 8 MA

The table has turned as this time Adham brings victory to St Michael's maths team as the only student who achieved 'Certificate of merit' (awarded to top 25% of the country). To achieve merit, a score of 103+ is needed and Adham achieved 106. This is the only maths Kangaroo merit achieved within the last 4 years at St Michael's.

Finally, Year 7 teams have performed well in the Junior Kangaroo, scoring high 70s and 80s marks with Michael O. achieving best in Year 7 award.

- *Ms Nguyen*



Filip and Mikyias



Marcel and Kassandra the perfect duo



Adham, from not being qualified for Kangaroo to 'Certificate of merit' award holder, and also best in school award.



From left to right, Isabella, Michael (best in Year 7), and Deandre.

## Year 7 St Michael's Student Wins London-wide Art Competition

We are thrilled to announce that Karolina of 7SA is the winner of the Southwark Schools neurodiversity art competition. Congratulations to Karolina for creating an outstanding piece that captivated both the judges and the audience with its creativity, depth, and powerful message. Her bold, yet sensitive work gets to the heart of the complexities of our varied brain chemistries and lived experiences.

Karolina K was selected in first place from hundreds of student entries across schools in South London to win the prestigious SSLP Neurodiversity Art Competition. The competition saw many impressive entries, each offering a unique take on the theme and highlighting the importance of inclusion and understanding.

Her artwork showcases incredible digital artistic skill and beautifully encapsulates the essence of neurodiversity, celebrating the unique perspectives and talents that come from diverse neurological experiences. The judges stated that they 'love the bold images and strong colours of this image. The flow between senses is so powerful and important in the learning journey and this image demonstrates the link perfectly.'

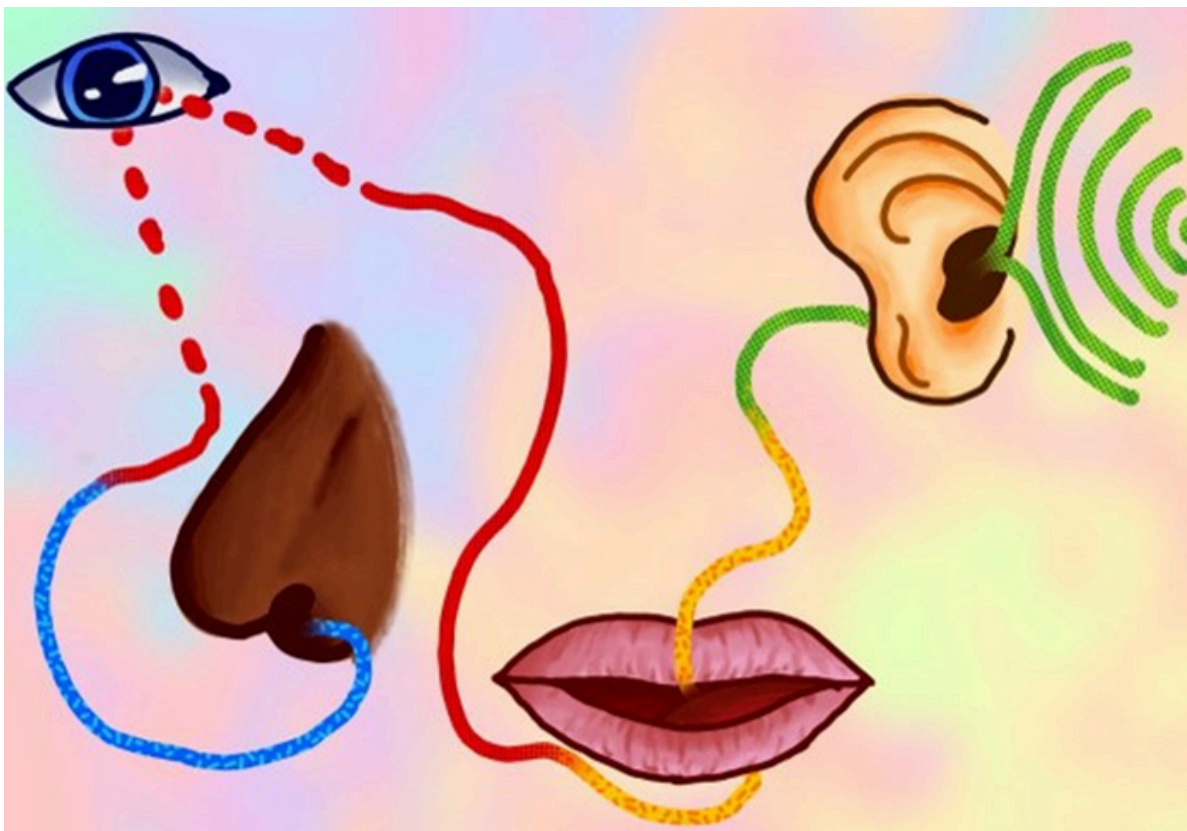
We are proud of all our students who participated and shared their creativity and insight through their art.

Karolina received a £30 gift voucher and her artwork has been on display in Dulwich College and has been turned into a limited edition postcard.

Well done Karolina!

Please see the Challenge and More Able website for further details:

<https://sites.google.com/stmichaelscollege.org.uk/challengeandmoreable/competitions>





## A Trip to Florence



Going to Florence this year with my friends was a great experience and I had a lot of fun with her and my teachers. I made many memories with the Italian students and they were all lovely and very welcoming. I really enjoyed doing the quiz with them in the game room where I was chosen to do the skipping on one foot even though I came 2nd. The Italian students were a very good sport and I had a lot of fun with them that day. The food was always delicious and the movie nights were very fun and lively. I most enjoyed visiting that prison with the 300 steps because we got to see a lot of Italy that day allowing us to have some gelato and the man serving us was incredibly kind and funny. I also enjoyed the Mass services in Italy because I was able to see how similar they are to us in terms of faith and how highly they valued it. Despite me not understanding anything the priest was saying, I was still engaged with the service on Sunday. Another thing that we did in Florence that I enjoyed was going to the Pizzeria on the first day. I had fun with everyone and I got to know some of my peers better and I can call most of them my friends now. We also visited the leaning tower of Pisa where I took many photos with my friends and had a taste of Italian McDonald's. I prefer the English one since they did not have the milkshake I liked. We visited a very large Cathedral and we also climbed a hill to the top of somewhere with many shops to buy interesting souvenirs from but I do not know where it was. I truly had fun on this trip and I hope to go on another one soon. - *Elayne A, Year 8*





## St Michael's Students Discuss Post-Truth Britain with World Famous Professor

Just before the half term holidays, I attended a lecture at St Michael's by Professor Saul Newman from Goldsmiths University on Radical Politics in a Post Truth Britain. Leading on from this, we were also grateful to attend Goldsmiths University for a follow-up workshop on university life, a campus tour, and another Politics lecture.

The lecture at St Michael's focused on the concept of "fake news" and the impact of personality on a politician's success - something that is evidently important in today's political sphere with figures such as Boris Johnson and Donald Trump gaining success through personality and charisma. As someone studying A level Politics, I was fascinated by the topic and the opportunity to think about material beyond the exam curriculum.

Professor Newman was pleased enough with us to invite us back to Goldsmiths for a further taste of university life. A workshop on student practicalities allowed us to learn about finance at university (how much you pay, all about scholarships, bursaries), student life (unions, socialising), transport (the added benefit of a London university is accessibility to transport) and accommodation (on campus or at home, cost, location). Even as someone who has had an older sibling attend university, I still found it very helpful to learn exactly about how all these different aspects of university work. The things that stuck out to me during the campus tour was the free parking for those living in student accommodation right outside, and the fact that you could rent out a small treehouse in the park for 2 hours to do work or even sleep. Ending the visit, we all attended a Politics lecture on whether UK politics and democracy is in a crisis. I found this lecture particularly interesting given the local and general elections taking place this summer. Overall, the visit was amazing and I am thankful that I was able to learn all about a new university right in the heart of London. -

*Ciara L., Year 12*



## General Election July 2024 - St Michael's Votes!

Following the success of the school's Mock London Mayoral Election in May, St Michael's had another chance to stage its own ballot for the General Election in July 2024. Student participation in the democratic process was even better than in May at 62%, and higher than the official election across the UK. As in the official nationwide election, Labour won with a comfortable majority.

For a full breakdown of the results across Year Groups and a comparison to the wider London vote, please see the slideshow here:

### Who won the real election?

The Labour Party won a landslide victory (i.e. a victory which is not close at all). This means Labour's leader Keir Starmer becomes the Prime Minister.

The Conservative Party lost more than 250 seats and its leader Rishi Sunak has said he will resign.

Labour	326	Conservative	127
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326 for majority\*

Dem	SNP	SF	Others	Reform	DUP	Green	PC	SDLP	Alliance	UUP
2	61	9	38	70	7	1	5	5	3	4
3	4	3	2	4	3	4	2	20	10	1

### Year 7 Results

Labour won the most votes amongst Year 7s, with the Greens in second place. Reform UK came third.

Votes Cast in Year 7

Lib Dems	Reform UK	Greens	Labour	Conservative
5	11	31	46	5

This is in some way reflective of South London constituencies like Peckham or Lewisham North, though the Reform vote is much higher.

London 2024 2nd Place Party

### Year 8 Results

Amongst Year 8s, Reform UK strongly outperformed both its national and London vote shares.

In Year 8, Reform won 42% of the vote. In the real General Election, it won 14.3% and in our constituency of Bermondsey and Old Southwark, only 9%.

Votes cast by Year 8s

Lib Dems	Reform UK	Greens	Labour	Conservative
3	45	17	34	8

### Year 9 Results

Labour won a convincing victory in Year 9, with around 48% of all votes cast.

This is substantially higher than their national vote share of 33.8%

Votes cast by Year 9

Lib Dems	Reform UK	Greens	Labour	Conservative
13	30	9	54	6

### Year 10 Results

In Year 10, Reform was first and Labour second.

This was the same pattern as the mock London Mayoral election, but turnout has gone up.

Votes Cast by Year 10s

Lib Dems	Reform UK	Greens	Labour	Conservative
4	40	8	24	2

### Year 12 Results

The Greens won a plurality of votes in Year 12.

This perhaps reflects that the Green Party's support base is more youthful than other parties. For example YouGov estimates the median Green voter is 39, compared to the median Conservative voter being 63.

Votes cast by Year 12s

Lib Dems	Reform UK	Greens	Labour	Conservative
4	8	20	16	1



## Chaplaincy Corner

### The Word of the Lord

*Matthew 16:13-19*

Jesus went to the territory near the town of Caesarea Philippi, where he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

“Some say John the Baptist,” they answered.

“Others say Elijah, while others say Jeremiah or some other prophet.”

“What about you?” he asked them. “Who do you say I am?”

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

“Good for you, Simon son of John!” answered Jesus. “For this truth did not come to you from any human being, but it was given to you directly by my Father in heaven. And so I tell you, Peter: you are a rock, and on this rock foundation I will build my church, and not even death will ever be able to overcome it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven; what you prohibit on earth will be prohibited in heaven, and what you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.”



### St Peter and St Paul Prayer

O God, whose right hand raised up blessed Peter, when he walked upon the water and began to sink, and thrice delivered his fellow Apostle Paul from the depths of the sea, when he suffered shipwreck: graciously hear us and grant, by the merits of them both, that we also may attain unto everlasting glory: Who lives and reigns world without end. Amen.

**Miss Casey , Chaplaincy Co-Ordinator**

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

- Ms Corcoran, Mr Kelly and Miss Casey accompanied students in Year 8 to Florence for their part of the Salesian Exchange. Students were able to be immersed in the Italian Salesian School of Florence and explore the city. Amara P and Amy G read in the first Mass they attended for the Feast of Mary Help of Christians
- Year 11 had their final day of main exams, followed by a service to celebrate the work and journey they have been on. Thank you, Ms Stewart and the music department, for supporting
- CAFOD Year 12 Young Leaders attended their graduation accompanied by Miss Stanley to congratulate them on work well done, the final part of their year of service will take place in September on St Michael's Day
- Year 7 Faith in Action have completed their final project and are looking forward to graduation
- Year 8 Faith in Action are finalising their prayer book as their final piece and are also looking forward to Graduation
- 7 MA held the final form Mass of the year in the college Chapel led by Fr Keith
- Miss Casey led assemblies on St Peter and St Paul the cornerstones of the Church.
- The All Are Welcome Team led a range of events to celebrate respect for all and Pride on Friday 28th June at the college
- Chaplaincy teams across the school came together to lead a World Religious Festival in the school hall to celebrate the Jewish festival of Shavuot, with Year 7, 8 and 10 acting and Year 12 supporting the refreshments. Thank you also to Ms Coulbeck for assisting Miss Casey with her stage decoration!!

