



THE LINK

*A fortnightly Newsletter for the pupils, parents and staff of
St Michael's Catholic College
Issue 233 - November 2024*



Dulwich College - Philosophy Circle

Along with other schools, we were given a tremendous opportunity to attend a Philosophy lecture at Dulwich College by Dr Spinney (Dept of Philosophy - UCL). The lecture explored the intersection of language and philosophy, delving into the power of language over our thoughts and feelings, and the ultimate effect this entanglement can have on a society. Ludwig Wittgenstein, an Austrian-British philosopher, dedicated his work primarily on the philosophy of logic of which the 'philosophy of language' is encompassed. Wittgenstein claimed that "Philosophy is a battle against the bewitchment of our intelligence by means of our language", by which he states that it is our misuse of language that can have negative implications on our philosophies. In his work Wittgenstein claims that it is human nature to create and foster conflict. Therefore, as our language, the way we shape meaning and semantics, changes all the time, permanent resolution is difficult and so conflicts take on cyclical patterns. Wittgenstein proposes that the solution to language being a barrier to philosophy lies in understanding the limitations and functions of language itself. He suggests that philosophical problems often arise from misunderstandings about the use of language. By clarifying how language functions and recognizing the diverse ways in which it is used, Wittgenstein believes we can dissolve many philosophical confusions and problems. Thank you very much to Dr Spinney for giving up his time to deliver this lecture and immerse us in the world of philosophy and to Dulwich College for such warm hospitality!

By Laura B, Year 13



England Lionesses Game vs Germany

Under the stars and bright lights of Wembley stadium, it was in fact our SMCC Girls' football stars who had the brightest lights in their eyes. We took 24 students to Wembley to watch the England women play Germany in a friendly. This felt anything but a friendly as the energy was electric and truly a showcase of women's football at the highest level. With Ms Casey and Ms Hayden controlling the "midfield" these girls were given the freedom to explore so many different emotions. Elodie, Omosefe and Dami all agreed that "this was a very memorable experience and definitely was a roller-coaster ride but they loved it!".



Half Moon Theatre trip 2024

On the 24th October Year 10 and 11 drama students attended our annual trip to the Half Moon theatre for 'Careers in the Theatre day'. Students were able to become sound designers, light designers, set designers and stage managers while creating their own original piece of theatre. Students were impressed by the theatrical equipment and, usually hidden, backstage area and it was eye opening how much goes on behind the scenes! The group ended the day with a performance of the piece on the impressive professional stage at the Half Moon. The piece was moving and thoughtful and was fully supported by the design elements that all came together to create an impressive and memorable experience for the audience.

Ms B Coulbeck



Poppy Appeal



Nancy and Frankie participate every year in the community project of making poppies and selling them in our local area (The Blue Market) for the Poppy Appeal.

This year Nancy has not only supported the appeal but also attended the West Lane Memorial for the Remembrance Service with the local Girl Guide Group.

Attached photo shows their participation in today's service.

Kind regards
Manor Estate Tenants & Residents
Association



SSLP Student Conference: AI and Creativity

St. Michael's recently attended the Southwark Schools Learning Partnership student conference at Kingswood House in Sydenham Hill, London, where we explored the intriguing future of artificial intelligence. The conference featured talks from guest speakers: Rob Campbell, Dr. Kitty Hung, and Tony Guillan. Campbell emphasised the crucial skills needed for a tech-driven world (such as adaptability, collaboration, and problem-solving). Dr. Hung shifted the focus to the potential uses of AI in humanitarian and social contexts, highlighting how technology can address global challenges and improve lives. Finally, Tony Guillan provided an industry perspective, discussing AI's role as a tool to enhance, rather than replace, human creativity.



A key highlight was the chance to partner with students from James Allen's Girls' School on a unique inter-school project. Together, we are planning to organise a student-judged art competition that will include both human-made and AI-generated artworks. This initiative aims to explore student views on AI's role in the arts, and provoke discussion about the boundaries of creativity in a tech-influenced world. The conference gave us valuable insight into AI's growing influence and how it is shaping the future, particularly within the creative sector - and the competition will allow us to engage with these ideas in an analytical, interactive way.

...

AI generated texts are rather convincing, no?

Yousef, Delina, Mirabel, Sophia M, Angelica W; Year 10

Year 8 Borough Market Business Project Meet the Judges 13th November

30 Year 8s were selected to represent the College in the Borough Market Business Project. Our students firstly competed in form groups to come up with a creative business idea, under the guidance of Southwark Schools' Business Advisor. Last week these groups travelled to 240, Blackfriars to pitch their ideas to the CEO of Borough Market and associated business partners and entrepreneurs. Each group had drawn up a detailed business plan, including product design, marketing, sales and finance, as well as developing an impactful business pitch.

The judges were very impressed with all presentations and felt that all the products were viable. The winners were 8 Bosco, as they were judged to have costed their product most carefully. All enjoyed the experience, as well as the amazing views over London and the Thames from the 19th floor.

Our winning group will now manufacture their product and put the finishing touches to marketing and sales strategy. On December 4th they will sell their product at Borough Market. They will be competing against 6 other schools in Southwark with the winning group awarded money to donate to a charity of their choice.

Mr P Viscovich



Congratulations to Year 7 Girls Team winning the Millwall Community Cup Championship

"I can be changed by what happens to me. But I refuse to be reduced by it." - Maya Angelou

On the 14th of November, Mr Laribi and Mr Parker took 10 Year 7/8 girls to the Millwall community cup tournament at the Den (Home of Millwall). During the day they battled in an intense group stage to become the 3rd placed team out of 7 teams. The girls ended up drawing the top team in the semi-final, where they would lose to the eventual winners (a team they managed to beat in the group stages.) Bearing in mind this team was built of mainly Year 7s in a Year 7 & 8 tournament they definitely held their own and made Mr Laribi and Mr Parker very proud.

Although there was some initial sadness, there was a glaring sign that this is a team for the future and many successes will be heading their way. Little did we know how fast this would come around.

Fast forward a week, the girls were back on the astro playing in a South London schools' competition with 14 other schools present. Once again, they battled it out in the group stage where they finished the top seeded team of the tournament with an undefeated record of 3 wins 0 losses, 6 goals scored and none conceded. They made it to the semi-finals where they won their semi-final match to make it to the final. Already so much progress shown, making it a step further than they did last tournament. However, the girls' hunger and passion is what fuelled them in the final game of the day where tired legs were present. In extra time, after drawing 0-0 in normal time the girls managed to score the winning goal which clinched the tournament win for them.

Looking in from the outside, many people were impressed with the way they conducted themselves showing RUAH values to everyone (Even if it was the opponents.)

They have made everyone at SMCC very proud.

Mr M Laribi



Rugby Festival

St Michael's went about their business in the second rugby festival at Burgess park, hosted by Southwark Tigers, with a 5 – 0 clinical victory over Sacred Heart. This was followed by a 10 – 0 victory over Haberdashers and a hard-fought 15 – 10 victory over Bacons College. It means that St Michael's continues to top the table after the second round. A special mention to players in Year 8, Myroslav, Paul and Darren for their exceptional effort and vital contribution to winning the games.



The big challenge from here will be to maintain this winning streak which won't be easy with schools such as Bacons who are the other most consistent team, with a 5 – 5 draw with ARK All Saints and a 10 – 0 win over Harris Boys which cements their 2nd place in the league having only lost once in 6 matches. The next festival will be just before Christmas and this time it'll be even more exciting as the teams will get their first taste of contact rugby.

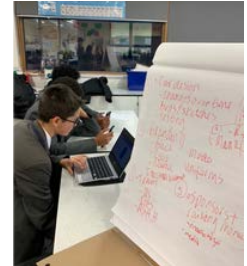
Mr H Brett-Roberts



The St. Michael's F1 in Schools Team (Valere Motorsport) are well underway with designing their model F1 car in collaboration with Aston Martin, which they have been collecting sponsorships for. The team (four Year 10 and four Year 9 students) have been fundraising to help them design their car on CAD Autodesk software, which will be 3D printed at UCL, and then raced alongside other schools in the South London area. The money raised will go towards the cost of the printing and purchasing the wheels. The team must not only win the race but also have to present to judges who will give prizes to the best presenters, brand identity, engineering, and more. We wish them the best of luck in the regional finals on 7th Jan!



Miss P Parr



Valere Motorsport Donation Appeal

Valere Motorsport has been the College's latest venture this Academic Year, as the Science Department begins preparations to compete in the renowned Formula 1 in Schools competition.

With guidance from the likes of Miss Parr and former-champion Mr. Khairi, 6 students in Year 10 have been tasked with designing a Formula 1-style team, ultimately culminating in the production of a F1 model car (designed entirely by students) - which will race against the creations of other schools at the Regional Final.

However, no team is provided with a budget by Formula 1, and it is the team's responsibility to raise money in order to fund the manufacture of their car. For this reason, Valere Motorsport is seeking the support of the St. Michael's community in their efforts to fundraise.

The College has been consistently praised for its strong community, rooted in its Catholic identity; it is thanks to the work of staff, students, and parents alike that St. Michael's has flourished in the local area. We humbly ask that you may extend your frequent generosity to support our ambitions of challenging for the World Final. The College has experienced many successes in external competitions, and we hope that your generosity will help extend an illustrious catalogue of College triumphs.

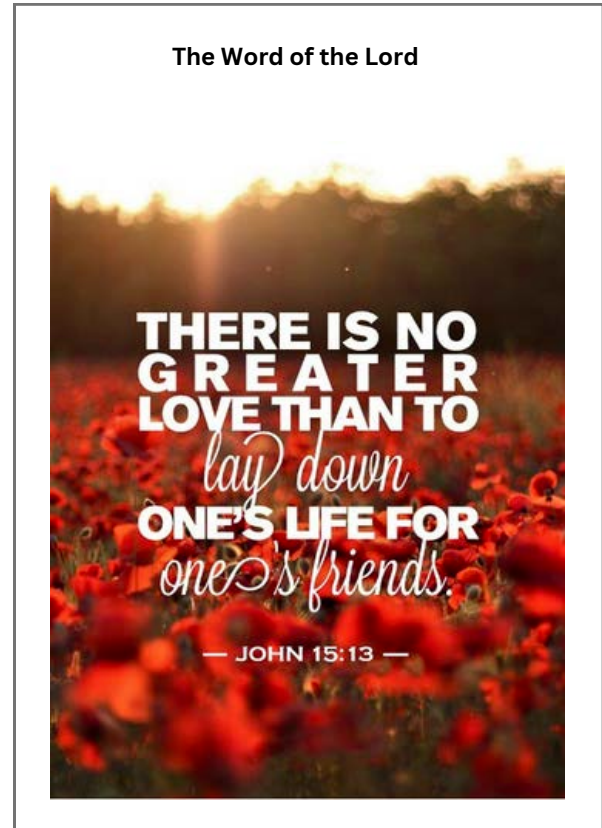
An option to donate is being made available on ParentPay; we understand not everyone can donate in the apparent cost of living crisis, but we graciously accept any form of donation. No donation is too small - and all donations help Valere Motorsport in their strive for victory. We thank you in advance for your plenteous support.

Mr S Khairi

Chaplaincy Corner

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

- The Young Salesians of St Michael's were formally announced following successful applications in Years 7, 8 and 10. Students were welcomed via student notices and will meet with Miss Casey to discuss upcoming planning.
- The Feast of Blessed Michael Rua took place during half term, leading to Rua Charity week taking place the week commencing the 11th November. Their fundraising will support our Christmas hampers for local pensioners.
- Year 12 Chaplaincy led wonderful assemblies, devised by themselves, to highlight the importance of the Food Bank services across the UK and the history of the Trussell Trust. A large collection is due to be delivered to South Food Bank shortly.
- Ms Corcoran led moving assemblies about Remembrance, ahead of Remembrance Day on the 11th November, where Mr Laurence performed the Last Post and a two minute silence was observed by the whole St Michael's community.
- November marks the month where we remember those close to us who have died, we shared the scrolls of the deceased in the Chapel – 10 Da Costa shared in this Mass helping the formation of the Liturgy.
- All chaplaincy teams are starting to prepare for Advent fundraising, more information to follow



A Reflection on Remembrance

Come into our presence this night, O God, as we remember our loved ones. Come to us with light. Come into our presence this night, O God, as we give thanks for the lives of our loved ones who are now in your loving care.

Miss R Casey
Chaplaincy Co-Ordinator

London Yellow Titanosaurus

Yellow Titanosaurus
 craning above brown concrete squares
 under leaden Bermondsey skies.

They found her resting in the Patagonian Steppe
 But she breathes in our cities birthing storeys: Shards, Bishops and Canary.

Modern metallic Jurassic creature eating every inch of greenery
 Belching up 15 storeys of concrete with glasses on.

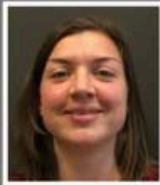
Boom moving
 slowly
 deliberately
 precisely.

And another slab is placed on the growing tower
 punching through London clouds.
 Titanosaurus again walks, swinging its rusty head.

Ms P Belvett

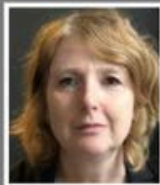


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