

St Michael's Catholic College

Autumn Term 2024



RESPECT | UNDERSTANDING | AFFECTION | HUMOUR

RUAH

“The breath of life that animates the soul”



Our cover artwork has been created by Anuluwa O – a Year 9 student
The illustration of Mary, embracing her new born child, Jesus is a reminder of the true meaning of
Christmas.

WELCOME BACK TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

I believe, Lord.

*I believe that each of my students is your child.
I believe that they are a reflection of your love.*

*I believe that each child possesses special gifts and talents,
that you are entrusting me to help them discover these gifts
and nurture those talents.*

*I believe that each child is trying to find you,
And that I can be a model of how to look,
How to live, how to pray.*

*I believe that my job is actually a mission, a ministry;
That you have chosen me in this time and in this place
To be there for these kids.*

*I believe that there is nothing haphazard about my day,
About my experiences with my students or with their parents.
It is all part of your plan.*

*I believe that you have chosen me, Lord.
I believe.*

As with each year, we welcomed new staff at the college.

The Science department has been joined by Mr Cavallaro and Mrs Stephens, in English Miss Reeves and in PE Mr Laribi. Finally, returning is Ms Belvett as cover supervisor, and Miss Vella has returned to SEN and Inclusion and we are delighted to also be joined in this department by Miss Stewart and Miss Reid.

A short, but special service was held on the 1st day of term to welcome our new staff members in the Chapel. Miss Casey led this as part of the new staff welcome, with a special focus and intention for a prosperous new year.

YEAR 7 WELCOME MASS

On Tuesday 3rd September, our new Year 7 gathered together at Dockhead Church alongside their Leaders of Learning Miss Hayden and Ms Roshier, their form tutors and senior staff. It was a wonderful opportunity to be together and give thanks for the new community that we have formed. Canon Alan said Mass for us and many students took part in the Mass supported by Miss Casey; in the choir, as readers and during the offertory. Ms. Corcoran spoke to pupils and parents about new beginnings and the achievements that we have to look forward to. We gave thanks to God for our school community and prayed for the year ahead. As a college we have decided that 'All Our Welcome' will be our school song, and this was sung beautifully by all of our new students in their very own welcome Mass.

As a new Year 7 student I wanted to help out in Mass but felt a bit nervous as I wanted the Mass to go well. I tried my best to make everything go smoothly and to do a good job. I felt so grateful to read at Mass as a new student at St Michael's. I felt good being one of St Michael's ambassadors.

Mary-Oriane – 7RU





ST MICHAEL'S DAY



This year on Thursday 26th September we marked the Feast Day of St Michael a few days early due to the Feast day falling on a Sunday this year, and even despite the rain trying to dampen the festivities we still held a successful St Michael's Day Hoopla. During the day we once again shared an opportunity to contribute to the wings of St Michael's in the hall and all members of the College Community were invited to write messages of hope and praise.

In the afternoon the Hoopla, run by the 6th Form Chaplains commenced, with a range of games, prizes, treats, karaoke and of course 'sponge the teacher' which culminated in Mr Kelly being drenched by the 6th Form!

All in all, we managed to raise nearly £400 for CAFOD; we look forward to working hard again next year in celebration of our Feast Day and continuing to support CAFOD and the important work they do.





MASS AT ST MICHAEL'S

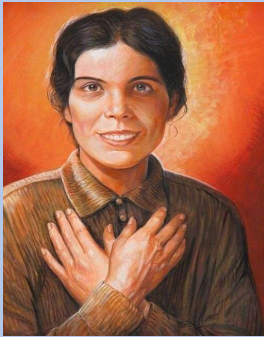


Since September we have once again had weekly Mass in the college Chapel kindly led by Father Keith from Saint Mary's and Saint Michael's Church. The first Year 7 group to have Mass, on Friday the 29th November was 7 DaCosta (shown below). The focus of these Masses at St Michael's is to give students a chance to have their input and actively play a role in Mass. The Year 7 students made decorations to adorn the Chapel, reflecting on their patron Blessed Alexandrina DaCosta, they selected their hymns of choice and helped to write the Prayers of the Faithful. Each week, no matter the form group, Mass has been well attended – with special Masses marking the Feast of St Michael and the Feast of Blessed Alexandrina DaCosta.



HOUSE CHARITY WEEKS IN THE AUTUMN TERM

DACOSTA



Classes across DaCosta house came together to arrange a host of events to help raise money for charity. The events included a tuck-shop, guessing the sweets in the jar and bracelet selling.

In total DaCosta house raised over £160 for Catholic Children's' Society.

RUA

RUA Charity week was raising money for help the homeless. As part of RUA's charity week the Year 9 ran a very successful bake sale where students brought in home baked treats to sell at lunch time. The Year 11's ran a guess the number of sweets in a jar of hero's. The answer was a shockingly low 60, but the prize was split between two winners. The other year groups ran successful tuck shops throughout the week and helped raise lots of money.

Mr Devine – 11RU



Rua Charity Week Update



Raffle Winner is Tommy in 10DA
Ticket number 359

Prize is a selection gift box of biscuits and Haribo combo.

See Mrs Weatherley to come and collect your prize



Thank you for all the generosity given by staff and students to support Rua charity week

The tuck shops were a great success as well as the basketball shoot out competition and raffle

Thank you to all the Rua students for selling and organising.

Total Money raised so far is **£267.19**

More still coming in..



THE YOUNG SALESIANS



This year a new chaplaincy program has been introduced at St Michael's, one which is founded on the RUAH values we hold dear in our everyday lives and in and around the college. The program now runs from Year 7 up until Year 10, with badges awarded at the end of each year which will eventually spell out RUAH. It is a wonderful new program and each team has already been hard at work.



Joining Year 7 was very exciting yet worrying at the same time. What societies are there? Which one do I join? How do I join? Were questions that instantly came into my mind. But as soon as I saw the application to become a young Salesian I was hooked almost immediately. I saw pictures of some Sixth-formers who are/were a part of the Chaplaincy team and how happy they looked helping others that were less fortunate. I thought about how delightful it would be to give back to the community, to help fundraise for charity and to help run fundraising. All that seemed exciting and at the same time it was for the good of our brothers and sisters all around the world. That inspired me, so I applied to become a part of the young Salesians.

Elizabeth R - 7SA





THE YOUNG SALESIANS



My faith has always been a strong part of my life and identity. Sometimes, I feel like I could be doing more to connect with God and build a closer relationship. I decided to join chaplaincy in Year 10 because I came to a realisation that I wanted to take part with my faith and the community within school. I saw a quote that stood out to me. It was in James 2 : 14 which said: "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?" This stood out to me as I knew that I could be doing more with my faith and actually putting it into action. By being involved in chaplaincy, I can get involved in different events, masses and have different opportunities to demonstrate my faith in day to day life. This year, I've attended my form Mass and supported fundraising at the tuck shop. I look forward to participating in more chaplaincy activities next year.

Esther E – 10RU



Before we became the 'Young Salesians', we were involved in the Faith in Action programme throughout Years 7 and 8. It was a big change from Faith in Action to Young Salesians as we no longer have to follow the rules of those running Faith in Action. Personally, I prefer being a part of the Young Salesians as it is easier to fill out the tracker and get the new RUAH badges to show how much we have done in this club. I enjoyed being in Faith in Action, but Miss Casey decided to base what we do to serve our school on RUAH Values, and at times I found The Faith in Action tracker harder to work out what I have done. Now the work is in line with RUAH and Miss Casey has provided examples of how to track and reflect on what we have done. Despite all this, both programmes are a very good way for young people to convert their beliefs into their behaviour.

Elayne A – 9RU





THE SALESIAN EXCHANGE IN LONDON



During November, I took part in the Salesian Exchange with our partner school in Italy. I got to have an exchange partner, which was fun because I got to sit next to her in all of my lessons and I could find out things about her daily life in Italy. For example, she doesn't get as many half terms as we do. We also went on two trips with the school and the Italians. First, we went to St Paul's Cathedral, which was fun because I had never been there before and I got to experience seeing lots of London from the highest point on St Paul's Cathedral with my new friends. We also got to spend half an hour writing what it means to be part of a Salesian exchange, which was nice because I got to see the exchange students writing in Italian and one girl was really good at drawing and drew a few of her favourite things. Overall, I really enjoyed the exchange because I got to meet new people and have lots of fun on the trips we did together.

Maia B – 8SA

The Salesian exchange program to Italy has truly opened my eyes to the world. This experience offers a unique opportunity to dive into Italian culture while enriching my educational journey. I'm excited to immerse myself in the history, art, and vibrant traditions of Italy. That said, I know that meeting new people can be quite nerve-racking. It's normal to feel anxious about stepping out of my comfort zone and making connections with others. However, I believe that through this program, I'll gain a deeper understanding of diverse perspectives and forge lasting friendships with people from around the globe. I can honestly say that this exchange will be a transformative adventure for me. It's sure to broaden my academic horizons and nurture my personal growth and adaptability. I wholeheartedly believe that participating in this programme is a rewarding experience that every student should consider.

Aceline P – 8SA



CAFOD TEAM AND YEAR 12 CHAPLAINCY



There are over 30 students in the Year 12 Chaplaincy team who are excellent role models for the college. They each bring unique talents and strengths to the work that they do. Each student looks after a different area of the chaplaincy, for example assemblies, the creative work needed, Mass formation and leading fundraisers. There have been a number of occasions where they have represented the college both in and after school and have shown themselves to be role models. Students had a large impact on the Year 13 led St Michael's Day Carnival, they supported in the creation and running of the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur celebrations and have spearheaded the Advent projects.

7 of these students are also the school CAFOD Representatives on behalf of the whole team, and the work they all do is to support the work CAFOD do worldwide.

I wanted to join the chaplaincy team at St Michael's Catholic College because it was a great way of giving back to the school community and also strengthening my faith. I was fortunate to be a part of chaplaincy during Year 10 and 11 and amidst my experience, chaplaincy enables me to support students (and adults) in their spiritual journey, to help in the organisation of events, and to contribute to making the school a happy and welcoming place. I see it also as an opportunity for personal growth, developing leadership skills, and living the values we teach, being our RUAH and Salesian Values. The chaplaincy for me is all about trying to make that difference, no matter how small, in people's lives and trying to keep the Catholic faith at the heart of school life.

Bryant U – Year 12

Joining chaplaincy in sixth form really appealed to me because I wanted to make a positive impact in my school community. It's a chance to be there for my peers during tough times and offer support when they need it most. I also think it's important to promote inclusivity and understanding among students, and being part of chaplaincy allows me to help foster that kind of environment. I also find that engaging in conversations about faith and values can help me grow personally. It encourages me to reflect on my own beliefs and understand different perspectives. Being involved in chaplaincy feels like a meaningful way to contribute to my school and help others while also learning and growing myself.

Azarai C – Year 12





ROSH HASHANAH AND YOM KIPPUR



As part of our ongoing tradition at St Michael's to reflect and learn about the world around the college, we held a celebration in honour of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

These are two separate Jewish Festivals that sit over a 10 day period. Annabel O (12A) shared a presentation about the two festivals and the differences between them; with Rosh Hashanah being a celebration and Yom Kippur is more solemn.

We had fruit sticks and grape juice as is usual at Jewish celebrations, there was also arts and crafts available after the presentation.

When I participated in Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur I felt a sense of belonging, sitting at a table with all my friends listening and learning to the teachings of the two events. The food that was provided was also delectable and it made me feel proud knowing I was experiencing and learning about other cultures. Finally the drawings that were provided accentuated the enjoyment of the evening as it occupied me and my friends and we coloured in drawings of symbols and art that related to the two events. So in conclusion, taking part in Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur was very fun and will definitely be a core memory for me and I 100% suggest others to come along to the next event and join in the world religions celebrations

Kobby B-A – 9DA





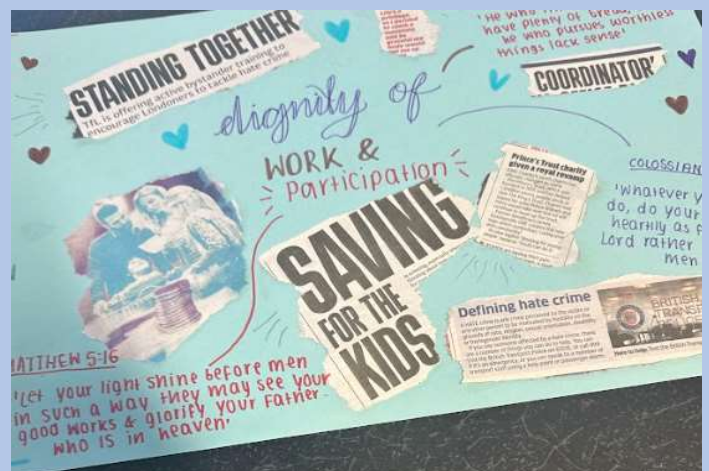
YEAR 12 RETREAT



Students in Year 12 were invited to spend an afternoon in October analysing the reasons they chose to be a part of our College Community. We explored what it was to be human and to be in unity with not only those around us but in our entire world.

They explored our RUAH Values, of Respect, Understanding, Affection and Humour; as well as the 7 Principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

After prayerful reflection, words of admiration and affirmation and spending time with students they hadn't got to know yet, students were asked to create posters of the values we had been studying. We were inspired by the media of the day to see how these values are not just school themes, but worldwide human themes.



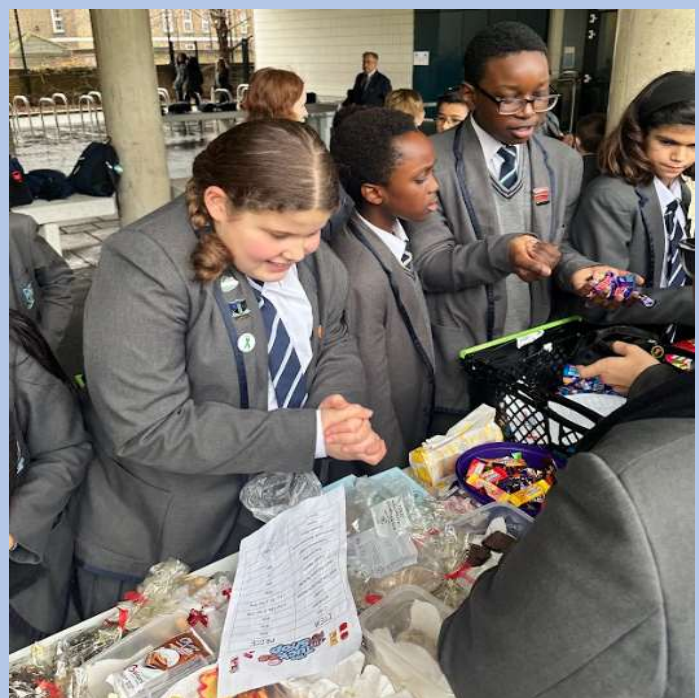


ADVENT



This December, me and other members of the new Young Salesians team (along with the support of Miss Casey), came together to raise money for this year's Christmas Hampers. We did this by setting up a tuck shop selling sweet treats and drinks for students during lunch time to earn as much money as we could to create wonderful hampers for our community. Delicious homemade cakes were made that sold the fastest and brought many new customers as well as ones that returned for more! Many smiles and giggles were shared in this event which is our duty as representatives of Young Salesians in supporting one another and sharing the goodness. This made me feel happy and honoured to make a contribution this Advent. In a matter of hours, we had raised around £240 which was classified as a success for our team's first Christmas Fundraising!

Maja – 10DA



I took part in the Advent cookie decorating event. Although I wasn't decorating the cookies but rather helping out, I still found the event fun and wholesome because I was helping other people have fun and get into the Christmas spirit. Helping out with the cookie decorating event made me realise that it can be enjoyable doing something helpful for other people because it was rewarding to see the Year 7s enjoy the cookies and helping out to make sure it was a successful event. It also helped me with my RUAH tracker and I can reflect under the Affection and Humour titles.

Angel O – 9DA



ADVENT



As a part of Young Salesians, I baked a biscoff - flavoured cake, to contribute to the advent tuck shop that took place on Thursday 5th Dec. We sold a variety of sweets, popcorn, drinks, milkshakes and baked goods, provided by Miss Casey and other Young Salesians. I was shocked and surprised by the amount of people buying and enjoying my cake out of all the things on the table. In addition, I liked helping with the tuck shop and watching as others gave money to help a great cause. All in all, we raised around £240 and I am so thankful to everyone who bought my cake.



Whitney K – 8VI





A WORD AND A PRAYER

A Christmas Morning Prayer

Loving God,
During this holy season of
Christmas,
we ask for your blessing on
all in the St Michael's
community and their
families and loved ones.
Let Mary's openness to
your wondrous ways be an
inspiration to place all trust
in you.
Let Joseph's courage
provide hope
during times of anxiety and
uncertainty.
Let Jesus' life ignite us all
with a spirit of light and
love.
May the grace that
encircles the Holy Family
widen to embrace all
families.
For this we pray.
Amen.

Ms. F. Corcoran - Principal

God of joy,
remind me to rejoice.
Wrapped up in my Christmas gifts,
tied down in my debts,
I have forgotten.

God of peace,
remind me of your calm.
In my anxiety
and in my haste,
I have forgotten.

God of all,
remind me
of the true light of Christmas,
of your gift shared.

God of joy, remind me
to rejoice.

*Miss Casey
Chaplaincy Co-Ordinator*

As the Bulletin goes out before the end of term, here are some of the events taking place in the last week of term:

- Advent Services at Most Holy Trinity Church
- Christmas Lunch
- Year 11 Retreat
- Cultural Trips and Enrichment Day
- Rua House Reward Afternoon
- Christmas Door Competition
- Delivering our homemade Hampers for the Senior Citizens in our community
- Christmas jumper day in aid of Southwark Pensioners' Organisation