



ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC GRAMMAR SCHOOL

JULY 2010

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Year 9 Finance Master Class

Year 9 enjoyed a terrifically exciting morning on **Tuesday 25th May** meeting a selection of business volunteers and learning about finance. We would like to thank the following for coming in to work with the girls: Barnet Homes, Cinnamon Executive, Barclays Bank, Ernst & Young, Pentland Brands, Purple Marketing, Abbey Santander, Natwest Bank, McDonald's Restaurant and Barnet Education Business Partnership. A small selection of the girls' comments follow:



Year 9 enjoying the day!

Different ways of borrowing money. It taught me many new things such as mortgages.

I have learnt what a loan shark is and that they're not good to do business with.

Budgeting and marketing in the real world.

How to create a business and manage money.

What investors look for in companies.

I learnt how to plan and create something using finance and pitch it to an audience.



The Master Class winners!

This valuable conference adds to the girls' knowledge and understanding of the work related curriculum and it was delightful to witness them getting so much out of the event. *Mrs O'Sullivan.*

Year 8 Poetry



I wrote this on the school trip to Hatfield House. We had to imagine we were Elizabeth I on finding out she was Queen; it is supposed she found out she was monarch while sitting under a tree reading.

Stephanie Andrews 8T



The branches span
The sky above,
It's this oak
That I really love.
The bark is cold
In the heat
And the flowers bloom
Amongst my feet.
I rise to greet my visitors
Who bow and kiss my hand
They proclaim me Queen of England
My that title's grand.
I compose myself, drop to my knees
And speak a psalm in Greek
Mary's dead and I am Queen
What joy I cannot speak

St Michael's Vegetable Garden!

Many of you will know that the Technology Department has a wonderful vegetable garden. The raised beds were built last year and this is the second year that we have all been able to enjoy the 'fruits' of our labours. Four Year 7 pupils are our 'Gardening Girls'.

During their lesson last week the Year 10 Food group harvested a variety of lettuce and rocket. They prepared a huge bowl of mixed salad leaves. Each girl had made her own salad dressing and we tried these with the salad as part of a blind tasting. That means that whilst tasting none of us knew who had made each of the dressings, only afterwards did we discover that Roberta Mazzi (10P) had made the most popular dressing. The photos were taken during the lesson. Developing tasting skills and the vocabulary to describe food is an important part of the work we do in KS3 and 4 Food lessons. Many other classes have had the opportunity to pick their own herbs to use within their cooking. We are all enjoying using ingredients that we have grown ourselves. *Mrs Caistor.*



Year 10 French Exchange 13th – 17th April 2010

On Tuesday 13th of April, twenty Year 10 students met Madame Bevan and Mademoiselle Allée at St. Pancras International. It was an early morning for us, but we were all excited, despite the lack of sleep. We took the Eurostar to Paris, and from there the Métro to arrive at 'Hotel Alhambra'. Once there we were off again on the Métro to the Eiffel Tower. During our stay in Paris we visited many other tourist attractions including the Louvre, Notre Dame de Paris, Champs-Élysées and the Musée d'Orsay. We also went to the Sacré Cœur, where we listened to a busker named Youri. He was very talented and even encouraged our interesting representation of England through a poor collective knowledge of John Lennon lyrics.

It was an educational visit, and so we learnt a lot of French at the school of languages we visited each day, putting it into practice on unsuspecting waiters and shopkeepers.

By Saturday it was time to go home and everyone was tired out from all the excitement. We still didn't want to leave and had a fantastic time, with many of us already planning to return in the future.

Merci beaucoup Mademoiselle Allée and Madame Bevan.

Lauren Donaghy and Ellen Adjei



Science Trips in 2010

Galileo Visits St Michael's

Earlier this year Galileo spent a day in school. He explained something of his discoveries and controversial life, back in early 17th century. Peter Casey from Liverpool is a trained actor and he maintained Galileo's full character all day. Dressed in period clothing he brought along a model early telescope and a large, ancient map of the world.



Galileo gave presentations about his life to Years 9 and 10. Professor Stephen Hawking says, "Galileo, perhaps more than any other single person, was responsible for the birth of modern science". We were fascinated to learn about his contributions to our knowledge of astronomy even though he faced such criticism and ended his life under house arrest for publishing his findings.

Royal Greenwich Observatory Y7

In May Year 7 visited the Royal Greenwich Observatory. The observatory was originally built for the purpose of finding Longitude at sea. The Observatory is the home of Greenwich Mean Time and the famous Prime Meridian of the World-Longitude 0°0'0". The Observatory is a museum of time and astronomy. We attended a show on Star Life in the new Planetarium. We saw the 8th largest refracting telescope in the world and in the interactive astronomy galleries, the mysteries of the universe were explored.



The whole day was an insight into how the astronomers find the answers to questions like: Will our Sun live forever? How big is the Universe? Does life exist on other planets? Everyone enjoyed the day especially touching the oldest thing that we will ever touch- a 4.5 billion year old meteorite.

Kew Gardens Year 8 Trip

On Friday 28th May year 8 went to Kew Gardens. The weather was very kind to us and the girls were able to take in the wide variety of trees and flowers growing throughout the park. A particular highlight was the Princess of Wales Conservatory where we were not only able to see 10 different climatic zones and a variety of unusual plants, including carnivorous ones like the Venus fly trap and honey dew plant, but also hatching butterflies and the occasional lizard.



We were also able to go up on the new tree top walk which, despite the frightening wobble, afforded some beautiful views across the park. We were also treated to a talk on sustainability and had the opportunity to learn some of the amazing things that we obtain from plants; food, building materials, medicines and clothing to name just a few.

London Zoo Y9

On a hot Friday in July Y9 spent the day at the zoo to learn more about animal conservation, natural habitats and endangered species. We went to an educational talk about sustainable living and about how the rapidly expanding world human population is having a significant impact on wildlife.

One highlight was the gorilla enclosure. A lot of effort had gone into providing an appropriate enclosure for these large mammals. We also enjoyed the amazing leaf cutter ants working so hard carrying tiny bits of leave along a rope walkway.

Our only disappointment was that our coach back to school was not air-conditioned!



Year 10 Artists and Illuminating Cultures with the Tate Gallery

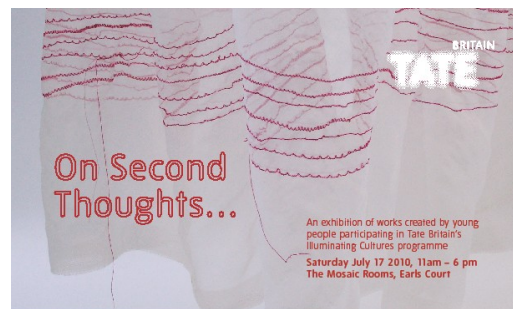
Over the past year, the year 10 GCSE art students have been studying the theme of art from the Middle East, starting with a visit to the Victoria and Albert Museum to look at traditional themes and subjects addressed through the making of textiles, ceramics and other craft works. With this grounding the students were then introduced to the artist Aya Haidar who over a period of 8 weeks came and worked with the girls in their art lessons. With Aya they addressed contemporary art from this part of the world, particularly looking at human rights issues through Aya's art work and the work of other artists whom she shared with the students. This allowed the girls to address contemporary issues of their own choice including racial issues, war and conflict, and migration, through their work ultimately creating highly individual and personal pieces of art. A range of media was explored with students making installations, constructions, embroidery, cutting and weaving of found objects amongst other things.

Two students, Niamh McIntyre and Ciara Kreshan were invited to a 'Falafel Feast', a performance art work by Oreet Ashery and Larissa Sansour. Here the artists visited restaurants in London which served falafel and discussed with the public the cultural background of this food. This raised issues of ownership of this food and ultimately the politics of the Middle East.

Yr12 and 13 students also met and worked with Aya who generously invited the Yr13 art students to visit her studio and see her practice there.

The whole project came to a climax this weekend with seven year 10 students, Beatrice Ogunkoya, Ellen Adjei, Sarina Diab, Emma Sheaff, Kimberley Ton-Tran, Ola Peisert, and Natasha Jalonen having their work exhibited in a show called 'On second Thoughts' in a gallery organised by the Tate in Earls Court.

The whole project has been a huge success and well done to all the students who have been working with Aya and the Tate Gallery on this exciting and innovative project. All have created highly stimulating and individual works which have addressed many important political issues in a sensitive and mature way. Very well done.



Young people from six secondary schools across London worked with artists to explore contemporary art in a global context with a specific reference to the Middle East

Artists Aya Haidar, Maria Khierkhan, Shiraz Bayiso, Saeed Tajj Farouky, Daniele Gensadi, and Falza Butt worked with Year 10 and Sixth Form students from St Michael's Catholic Grammar School, Pimlico Academy, Clapton Girls Technology College, Rokedy, Henrietta Barnett, and Latymer to explore a number of themes inspired by contemporary art from the Middle East region and its diasporas.

Getting to the exhibition:
A. M. Gifford Foundation
Tower House, 226 Cromwell Road
London SW5 0DR
Tate's Court
020 74 228 11, 13

The Illuminating Cultures programme at Tate Britain was generously supported by the A.M. Gifford Foundation





Language College News



As a Specialist Language College we aim to enrich and support the learning of languages, both within the school and in the local community.

We hope you enjoy reading about some of our activities!

British Sign Language (BSL)

When I first started the BSL course, I didn't know what to expect. Many people had said that it was hard, and that I wouldn't be able to manage with all of my school work. At first, that was true, but as I progressed through the course and my knowledge of the whole language became much better, I found it all easier and more manageable. The whole course was very interesting, covering many useful topics. The whole atmosphere of each session was very relaxed. I have learned a lot, not only how to sign, but also about the deaf community and how deaf people live their lives. I now feel that these BSL sessions have opened my eyes and helped me see just how important it is to be able to communicate with everyone, deaf or hearing. Personally, I feel that many people would benefit from these lessons as they provide us with a new way of communicating with others, which is an important skill for life.

Karolina Kasprzykiewicz (year 9)



If you are in Years 8 or 9, and interested in this course, please see Mrs Bevan as soon as possible. St. Michael's would like to thank Summerside School and in particular Barbara and Kate for their support of this project.

Adult Language Classes

This year we have seen another successful group of adult learners complete courses in Mandarin Chinese and Spanish. A big thank you to Clara Marshall and Amy for all their hard work throughout the year.

Adult classes took place in Intermediate Mandarin Chinese and Beginners' Spanish throughout the year. Next year we will be running an Intermediate Spanish course. Please see school website for details.

Mandarin Chinese



When most people think of the Chinese language, they associate it with fast-paced gibberish and nonsensical squiggles that make up the speech and writing. That would be correct, in essence, but from someone who has learnt Mandarin for over a year now, we have come to learn that it is an utterly fascinating language.

Every Wednesday since the beginning of the year, a small group of Year Nines and Tens attend a

Mandarin lesson after school. Over the year we have learnt greetings, how to answer and ask questions about family, pets, ages, food and drink, and have acquired a knowledge and love of the Official Beijing Olympics Song that most people reserve for their national anthem. We have taken to singing it every lesson (even though we haven't the faintest idea what most of it means) and our teacher has even used a recording of us as her ringtone. We suspect she has shown it to her friends who must laugh about our awful pronunciation....

We have learnt about the Chinese culture which is very interesting due to its complete difference from Western European customs.

More practically, the Chinese language is now globally recognised. China has an estimated population of 1.3 billion, and is one of the greatest superpowers, with a growing industry and an increasing international influence. The study of Chinese would look very impressive on your CV, especially in the current climate, which is why one should continue to pursue it, however technically challenging it is.

Most of the lesson is verbal, although we have tried our hand at the art of Chinese calligraphy which, we discovered, requires a lot of patience as well as dexterity with ink and brushes. We were in awe when our teacher explained to us that she was made to do three hours of calligraphy every Sunday as a child.

Even though we have not learned enough to pass as native speakers, we are now able to have a basic introductory conversation with each other and we hope to continue learning more next year and maybe visit China in the near future to test out our new-found skills.

All this is possible thanks to Mrs Bevan who organised the lessons and Amy, our lovely teacher and bagel enthusiast, and we would all like to thank them for this brilliant experience and opportunity to learn such a fascinating and rapidly growing language.

By Florianne Humphrey, Laura-May Nardella and Ellen Adjei (10M)

Please see Mrs Bevan if you are interested in learning Mandarin Chinese after school next year.

Primary Languages

Our recent experience in one of St. Michael's primary partner schools proved to be much more rewarding and interesting than we originally expected.

Madame Pini was always telling us during our language lessons how enthusiastic and willing to learn a foreign language the children at primary schools were. She wasn't exaggerating.

When we offered to help her recently at a French Café at Manorside Primary school we actually thought it would be a relaxing afternoon off school!

When we arrived it was incredible and very different to our own primary experiences. All the junior classes were involved and the minute we stepped through the front door the primary language coordinator organised our time efficiently. The children had already learnt the language required and even the year 3 were able to order food and drink in French. Each child was given a certain amount of Euros to spend and our job was to serve the children. We started by helping to make crêpes in front of all the children and all of the instructions were in French- we had to do this! We then asked the children what filling they wanted (in French again!) and then once they had bought the other things they wanted we gave them a bill. There were lots of food and drink choices available, including croissant, pain au chocolat, bread and different French cheeses.

The most impressive thing I suppose is how the children were already able to speak French and cope in what could have been a real situation. They all managed to make themselves understood and no English was allowed. The school hall had been prepared beautifully with tables, tablecloths and French music playing in the background. It could have been a French Café! We all came away a little tired but inspired at what the young linguists could already do.

Alessia Silva, Ivana Scatola, Connie McKinney, Francesca Rebello (year 12)



St Michael's Sporting News 2010



It is very pleasing to see so many girls taking advantage of the variety of extra-curricular activities on offer this year. The activities on offer have been cheerleading, football, tennis, netball, kick boxing, dance, cricket and badminton. It has also been an amazing year for the sports teams of the school. Having taken part in a wide variety of competitions they have enjoyed an enormous amount of success. The Year 7s in particular have scooped all the honours in netball, cross country league and championships, sports hall athletics, indoor rowing, rounders, athletics league and championships. We start with rounders where congratulations go to years 7 and 8 who became borough champions with Year 9 achieving 2nd place and year 10 finishing 3rd in the annual Barnet tournament. Pupils who took part are as follows:

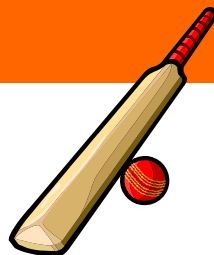
Year 7

Emma Dangerfield
Ayesha Marchant
Jessica Chingwu
Emma Broderick
Kate McDaid
Ines Alexandre
Aoife Shannahan
Sharon Lobo



Year 8

Maleesha Withananchchi
Weronika Castiglione
Beth Hassan
Kasia Poza
Shauna Colins
Mitsuki Nakatani
Dorina Lukaj



Year 9

Hannah Yates
Laryssa Hrabowych
Emma Buchannan
Maura O'Sullivan
Nicola Walsh
Alison Lim
Kaya Woronik
Sonia Abonie
Natalie Samaranayake
Ciara Mahon
Lucy Bracken
Zofia Stepniak
Amelia Chan
Brogan McAuliffe
Natalia Cerdan
Ciara Gartshore
Deepika Alexander
Gabriella Bailey
Lia Shiovone
Charlotte Thorogood
Niamh Green



Year 10

Sarina Diab
Claudia Cordoso
Erin Lawrence
Katia Cardoso
Lara Diab
Ella Redhead
Kasia Chodurek
Lauren Gray
Lucy Hall
Emily Earls



Orienteering

For the first time pupils in Year 9 were given the opportunity to take part in the Sports partnership orienteering competition. The girls displayed great team work and enthusiasm and have gained valuable experience for next year's competition. The girls who represented the school were:



Lily Jackman
Karolina Kasprkiewicz
Amy Lahiff
Eilish Lydon
Maura O'Sullivan
Nicola Walsh
Alison Lim
Kaya Woronik

Sonia Abonie
Natalie Samaranayake
Ciara Mahon
Lucy Bracken
Zofia Stepniak
Amelia chan
Brogan McAuliffe

Natalia Cerdan

Athletics 2010



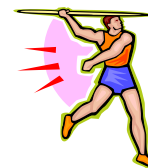
All of the Athletic teams produced a magnificent effort to achieve excellent results throughout the season, with many pupils achieving personal best performances. As mentioned earlier Year 7 not only came first in the Athletic league but also took the trophy for first place at the annual Barnet championships. It was a fantastic team effort but special congratulations go to Year 7:

Monika Aghadiuno became borough champion in the long jump, second in the 100 metres and brought the relay team home in 2nd place in an exciting and very close finish.

Jasmin Okafor was 2nd in the shot put.

Molly Johnstone was 3rd in the Javelin.

Alexandra Purpura was 3rd in the hurdles.



The following girls also represented their School:

Kelechukwu, Cloe Martin, OOnagh Quinn, Fleur Conway, Lara Semungal, Jennifer Luckett, Alison Anumba, Jessica Bull, Ayesha Merchant, Sharon Lobo, Adana Anomneze-Collins, Emma Broderick, Sorcha Craven-Hefferman and Gwenda Killick

Year 8 also excelled themselves managing to come third and fourth respectively in the borough Championship and the league. Special congratulations go to the following:

Sedayah Simpson: second in the long jump

Isabella Ramey: third in the high jump

Ophelia Michael: second in the javelin

Shauna Collins: second in the discus

The relay team was: **Vivian Oparah, Isabella Ramey, Sedayah Simpson** and **Harriet Cahill** who came in third after some stiff competition.

The rest of the league and championship team are:



Caitlin Kelly
Dorina Lukaj
Catherine Ogbechie
Sorcha Jackman
Juliette Rey
Jessica Pattern
Tanya Monica

Stephanie Andrews
Sophie Smith
Madeleine Rocco
Catherine Fleischer
Tolu Akinmboni
Sarah Pettinger
Kasia Posa

Year 9 gave an outstanding performance. The individuals who were in the top three in the borough are:

Harriet Mia-Foncha: third in the shot-put, **Madeleine Titchbourne:** third in the 1500metres, **Lauren Dee:** third in the 200metres and **Monique Sapla:** third in the long jump.

The rest of the league and championship team are:

Calisha Allen
Kathleen McMahon
Ciara Gartshore
Hannah-Mae Todd
Elizabeth Broderick
Melanie Constandinides
Rebecca Dowling
Ellena Jackson

Aimee Lynch-Coleman
Brenda Puvirajasinghe
Hannah Yates
Niamh Greene
Alexandra Jordan
Natalia Cerdan

