



St Michael's Catholic Grammar School

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DECEMBER 2011

Jack Petchey 'Speak Out!' Competition!

It was a cold, dreary morning on 17th November. Despite this, we (the Year 10s) had a reason to smile. Why? On that day, we took part in an all-day public speaking workshop, run by The Jack Petchey Foundation.

We learnt how to introduce ourselves, how body language influences the way that people see us (and how to use this to our advantage in job interviews), how to entertain and speak to an audience without notes, and many more useful life skills. At the end of the day, we had a competition, in which we performed two minute speeches. Everyone had improved so much (especially Megan and Jessica, both 10P, who won the "most improved" awards) and gave amazing speeches. The winner and the runner up, Trea



McAuley and Catherine Ogbechie (both 10D), will represent the school in a Barnet final in January. We had a lot of fun and we learnt a lot during the workshop.

Thank you to Ms. Bohan and Mrs. Majid for organising the day, and Joe, who was our coach from SpeakersTrust for the day.

Hannah El-Hawary Year 10

St Michael's Sports News...

The girls continue to excel at sport, not only has the School achieved many fine results in a wide variety of activities but the Department has provided the opportunity for a great number of pupils to take part in extra- curricular activities. There have been clubs offered in Trampolining, Volleyball, Badminton, Football, Table Tennis and Netball. The Netball clubs have been particularly well attended with as many as 60 Year 7 pupils and 40 pupils from Year 8 and above. All pupils in Year 7 who have attended the club have been given the opportunity to represent the school in at least one netball match. Many pupils also take advantage of the opportunity to play informally in the Sports Hall at lunchtimes.

The fitness room continues to be very popular with pupils in Years 9 and above during the lunchtimes. Many thanks go to Dr Peak and Mrs. Waldron for supervising the pupils at lunchtime.

Sports Leadership

The Department is very pleased to see members of the Sports Leaders Award course in Years 10 and 11 also giving of their time in offering activities to pupils in the lower years. Calisha Allen and Sarah Jennings are to be commended for organising dance auditions and the training of 20 pupils for entry into the Barnet dance festival. They hold regular practices throughout the week.

Also Grace Brown and Gabriella Bailey displayed excellent leadership skills when they organised an inter form Netball competition for Year 7. Other Sports Leaders who helped to make this event a success, were Madeleine Tichbourne, Helen Males, Lauren Dee, Katia Mendonca, Jessica Aloe and Christina Kerr who took on a variety of roles such as umpiring

The school has entered all Barnet competitions that have been organised by the newly formed Barnet School Sport Association with 14 pupils from Years 9 and 10 volunteering to join the borough Leadership Academy and Sports Ambassadors scheme. This will involve promoting the ideals of the Olympic Games and assisting in the running of sporting events within the borough.

Results

Badminton

Teams were entered for the Key Stage 3 and 4 Badminton competitions and both were successful and will go on to represent Barnet in the next round of the National Centre Parcs competition and the London Youth games at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre. The pupils from Year 9 are Adanna Anomneze-Collins, Stephanie Cheun, Gwenda Gillick and Aoife Shanahan. From Year 10 the pupils are Dorina Lukaj, Weronika Castiglioni, Alice Davies and Emmanuella Nana-Marfo.



Cross Country

As usual this activity has proved popular with St. Michael's entering many competitors. In the league meetings Year 7 won their first race but due to the fact they could not compete in the third meeting they were given an overall placing of third.



Years 8 and 9 finished 3rd and the senior team was 1st



More St Michael's Sports News...

Sports Hall Athletics



Year 7 excelled by winning the Barnet Sports Hall athletics competition in fine style. They will now go on to represent Barnet in the North London regional final. They are to be commended for their enthusiasm, hard work and team spirit.

Team- Chisom Odoemene Isobella Phillips, Sian Pareja, Megan McAteer, Anna Ramey, Anita Sharkey and Caitlin Haberlin-Chambers.



Volleyball

A very enthusiastic team from Year 10 took part in the first ever Barnet Volleyball competition and came first and will go on to represent Barnet



in the London Youth Games. A fine achievement! Team - Weronika Castiglioni, Dorina Lukaj, Beth Hassan and Emmanuella Nana-Marfo, Katrina Gaffey and Ophelia Michael



Netball

Netball continues to be very popular and of a high standard. Year 10 have taken part in the annual Barnet tournaments against 16 other schools. They played brilliantly winning all of the games in their section to reach the final. After a closely contested game they were narrowly beaten by one goal just before the final whistle to finish as runners up. Teams from every age group are currently taking part in the league matches and are enjoying considerable success, in particular Year 9 who were borough champions last year and who remain unbeaten so far.

Team: Emma Broderick, Aoife Shanahan, Kiara Callender, Isobelle Oliver, Gwenda Gillick, Sara Dziadiak, Cameron McNally, Monica Aghadiuno



Table Tennis



St. Michael's entered the Barnet table tennis tournament for the first time and played well to come 2nd. As a result they went on to take part in the North London final funded by the Jack Petchey foundation held at the London Academy. The A team were successful and will now go through to the regional final to be held in Redbridge in the New Year.

The girls are to be congratulated as this is a new activity and they have learnt a lot by taking part in the competitions and are rapidly developing their skills.

A Team – Jasmine Chan, Michelle Nwachukwu, Jade Robbins Isabel Balazs

B Team – Chisom Odoemene, Anna Ward, Caitlin Bohan,

Eliza Hoon, Jasmine Hong, Holly Heath, Lois Joel.

Mrs J Blackmore, Head of PE

St Michael's Music News...

It has once again been a busy and productive term for the Music Department, with practices of ensembles and preparations for concerts taking place diligently each week, and also the involvement of students in playing for the opening masses of the year. Within the first couple of weeks our musicians were already hard at work. On the very first day of school around 20 brave year 7 girls' took to the stage to perform in the Year 7 Mass, accompanying the singing of the rest of the year group extremely well. This was closely followed by the St. Michael's Day mass, which included performances by Choirs and a combined Orchestra of over 50 players, another fitting celebration of the feast of our patron saint.

Recent Events

Autumn Showcase Concert – Wednesday 9th November

This year's Autumn Showcase concert included a variety of music from our GCSE groups. Notable performances included ensemble pieces from each year group and all of the soloists were assured and well prepared. Pieces performed ranged from Telemann to Schwartz and reflected the wealth of musical talent our Years 10 and 11 musicians have.

Singing Concert – Wednesday 16th November

Our singing concert this year included an even wider variety of year groups than last years', and was prepared and accompanied by our wonderful singing teacher Maggie Cooper. The standard of singing was very high indeed, and proved a fitting goodbye to Maggie who has been a teacher with us for a number of years. She leaves us for the new challenge of motherhood and we wish her well for the future.

Carol Service – Thursday 8th December

This year over 200 students were involved in leading the music at our carol service. Indeed, at one point in the day we were concerned as to how to fit a congregation into the hall as well! Chamber and School Orchestras joined forces to lead the congregational carols, a task they performed very well. Chamber Choir, Junior Choir, Year 8 Choir and Glee Club took it in turns to perform songs focusing on different parts of the christmas story and delivered music ranging from Benjamin Britten to Gospel arrangements with aplomb. The Year 10 GCSE group led and performed an arrangement of 'Winter Snow' by Audrey Assad, and did so with great professionalism.

All ensembles performed incredibly well and helped to put everyone present in a joyful mood ready for Christmas. A big thank you to all pupils and parents who supported the carol service this year.

Extra Curricular Activities

Whilst many girls are currently involved in the extra-curricular opportunities at St. Michael's, I would like to take this opportunity to invite any girls not currently part of an ensemble to feel free to come along to rehearsals next term as it is never too late to join in! The extra-curricular timetable for each week is

below, and if you have any questions about which group is right for you, do not hesitate to speak to me.

	Before School 8.00 – 8.30am	Lunchtime 1.20 – 1.55pm	
Monday		Junior Choir (Year 7) Music Room	Chamber Choir (Yr 8 and above) Lecture Room / Chapel
Tuesday		School Orchestra (Grades I – V) Music Room	
Wednesday	Jazz Band Music Room	Chamber Orchestra (Grade V+) Music Room	
Thursday		Octavo (Year 8 Choir) Music Room	
Friday		Glee Club (Year 9 and above) Music Room - N.B. 1.30pm	Recorder Group (Mrs Broadbent) Practice Room 1 - N.B. 1.30pm

More St Michael's Music News...



Instrumental Storage

For security and safety reasons, (as well as to make sure regular practice is done!) instruments MUST be taken home on days when they are not needed in school. Storage in the music department is limited and for daytime use only, not overnight (except for larger instruments which may be more difficult to transport on a regular basis). There is simply not enough room to accommodate everyone's instruments every day. Your support in this matter would be really appreciated.

Music Exam News

It is my great pleasure to announce that the following girls have recently passed their ABRSM graded exams! Congratulations to all below:

Singing

Katherine Conlon – Grade 2
 Karen Grant-Davie – Grade 2 (Merit)
 Laura Gallagher – Grade 3 (Distinction)
 Olivia Pini – Grade 3 (Merit)
 Sophie Smith – Grade 3
 Mary Villar – Grade 3 (Merit)
 Amelia Chan – Grade 5 (Merit)
 Caitlin Kelly – Grade 5 (Distinction)
 Eilish Lydon – Grade 5 (Merit)

Piano

Sinead Lucas – Grade 4
 (Distinction)

Theory

Sinead Lucas – Grade 5
 (Distinction)



Music Theory

By popular demand I will be running Music Theory classes after Christmas as an extra activity. This is a good opportunity for any pupil to expand their musical understanding. The lessons will take place on Wednesdays after school and girls/boys will work through theory to prepare for the Associated Boards of the Royal Schools of Music Grade V Theory Music exam, with a view to taking an exam by the end of the year.

If your child is interested in this provision, make sure they collect a letter about the sessions after Christmas which will have the full details on. Please be advised that whilst I will not be charging for leading these sessions, pupils will be expected to buy some of the materials (e.g. Theory workbooks) to take part in the lessons. Again, details of which books to buy will be provided after Christmas.

Arts Depot Showcase *(Please note change of date)*

Every other year the school puts on a musical production, and during the in-between years the school presents a variety performance including dance, drama and music at the Arts Depot in North Finchley. This year the Arts Depot Performance will be on **Wednesday 8th February**. This will provide a fantastic opportunity for all music ensembles to be involved as well as some joint music, drama and dance numbers in each act. There will be some extra commitment needed in the form of Sunday afternoon rehearsals during January for those involved. There will be auditions for some small group numbers and solos after Christmas so all pupils are encouraged to keep an eye out for what's going on and get involved!

And finally...

A massive thank you and congratulations to all involved in the last week of term's events. Some of Year 7 took part in carol singing at a local care home on **Tuesday 12th December**, many thanks to Miss Satchwell and Mrs Cox for leading the outing and to the girls for performing so well in cramped conditions! Chamber orchestra also played a very important part in Speech night on **Thursday 15th December**, this year tackling some Mozart and Dvorak for the celebration. Finally, all of the music ensembles and vocal groups helped to lead a fantastic end of term Mass on the last day of term. Well done to all involved, especially as many of you have had a busy couple of weeks. I hope all our musicians have a happy and restful Christmas, and I am already looking forward to an incredibly musical 2012.

Miss I Bates, Director of Music