



# St Michael's Catholic Grammar School

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FEBRUARY 2012

## ST. MICHAEL'S 'TOP OF THE FORM'

I hope that you all had a chance to take note of the official school performance tables issued by the Department for Education on 26<sup>th</sup> January. St. Michael's was the top performing state school in terms of the new English Baccalaureate which is awarded to pupils who obtain GCSE passes in all the following subjects: Maths, English, Double or Triple Science, a Modern Foreign Language and either History or Geography. This reflects the emphasis on a traditional broad education which, I believe, is a solid foundation for the University choices to which St. Michael's pupils aspire. Mr. Ward's interview in The Telegraph is included below.

*Coalition reforms designed to promote tough academic subjects in all schools are based on a "misguided notion of equity", a leading head teacher warned.*

*Julian Ward, associate head of St. Michael's Catholic Grammar School in North Finchley, London, said the "fixation" on an academic curriculum risked failing pupils with an aptitude for practical skills. He said the nation had had to abandon the idea that "every student ... is going to go to Oxford or Cambridge" and reintroduce technical schools for those with different interests.*

*His comments came as league tables showed that St. Michael's, a selective girls' grammar, achieved better results in traditional academic disciplines than any other school. Some 97 per cent of pupils gained good GCSEs in English, Maths, Science, a foreign language and either History or Geography.*

*The new standard – referred to as the English Baccalaureate – is intended to mark out schools providing a rigorous education and reverse more than a decade of downgrading of core subjects.*

*Nationally, just 15.4 per cent of children in state schools reached the new target last summer.*

*Mr Ward said these subjects were important for the pupils at St. Michael's but he condemned attempts to push other schools in the same direction.*

*"We have some misguided notion of equity. Equity doesn't mean that you treat everyone the same; it means that you treat everyone according to their own interests.*

*"We have got to get away from the idea that every student follows an academic curriculum and is going to go to Oxford or Cambridge."*



Continued overleaf...

## Top Ten Schools in Barnet

Of greater significance is the School's success in the Value Added figures which measure how much pupils progress over and above what would normally be expected. Therefore I include a copy of the performance tables from The Times which lists the top 10 schools in Barnet.

**Miss U.M. Morrissey**  
Headmistress

THE TIMES | Friday January 27 2012

	6th form		GCSE*		†inc maths & English	
	A-level points	Pupils at end KSA	GCSE points	% five plus A*-C passes† (2011)	English Baccalaureate	Value added
<b>Barnet</b>						
St Michael's RC Gramm Sch, VA	1116.8	96	449.7	1036.5	97	100
The Henrietta Barnett School, VA	1097.6	93	448.1	1038.8	95	100
Queen Elizabeth's Sch, Barnet, ACC	1139.5	179	448.3	1039.1	93	100
King Alfred School, IND	777.2	53	404.5	-	79	100
The Mount School, IND	772.4	18	424	-	78	100
Wellgrove School, IND	338.1	8	379.3	-	50	100
Susi Earnshaw Theatre School, IND		7	441.7	-	0	100
Mill Hill School Foundation, IND	840.1	148	396.1	-	68	93
St Martha's Senior School, IND	744.2	48	371.7	-	44	88
Hasmonean High School, VA	796	154	381.7	1037.5	53	84

### NEW MUSIC FACILITIES

At the end of last term work started on stage 1 of the Music refurbishment. At a cost of almost £200,000 a new Music media technology suite will be completed by the end of term. In the meantime, Music lessons are located in a temporary classroom/portakabin and in the old Convent building.

Without the support of parental contributions to the Archangel Trust these sorts of projects would not be possible.

**Mr. Julian Ward**  
Associate Head



## Luanda Update...

We would like to thank all of you for your generous donations last year for the Luanda project. Both in school and out of school, we managed to fundraise £18,000 for the project which included the cost of travel and accommodation, and also nearly £3,000 donations for our five partner projects in Kenya. These donations went towards computers for Ebukhiliti Primary School and the Ebukuya School for the Deaf, filling the library in the Ebukuya Primary School, a floor for the new science laboratory in the Ebusiratsi Secondary School and improving the catering and accommodation facilities for the St Joseph's Rehabilitation Centre (a project for streetchildren).



A teacher at Ebukuya School for the Deaf gives an ICT lesson



School for the Deaf. These letters will hopefully be the beginning of communication between the two groups of students and we hope to extend this opportunity to other classes in the school. Below is a photograph of the students from Luanda with the letters they have received.

Tasmin in 7T has written about how she felt writing the letters.

***'Last term, 7T wrote letters to the children in the deaf school in Luanda. In the letters we wrote a bit about ourselves and many of us included photos and sweets. Mrs Holton, our RE teacher, has told us that they have now sent us back some letters which are on their way. We all enjoyed writing the letters and hope our Kenyan friends did too.'***

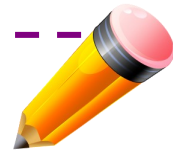
The money raised from last year is also funding the postage for the responses back from Kenya.

For more information please email Mrs Holton (formerly Miss Piddington!) at [kpiddington@st-michaels.barnet.sch.uk](mailto:kpiddington@st-michaels.barnet.sch.uk).

Our partnership doesn't end there however, and we have our team of students and teachers ready to fundraise for and work with our partners in Luanda in July 2012. We have already made a fantastic start to our fundraising efforts, raising around £300 at the Christmas Bazaar as well as nearly £600 through the Luanda Christmas Gifts. These gifts of stationery, teacher's salaries and so on will be available throughout the year.

Our partnership is about more than fundraising, it is about learning with and from each other. To this end, class 7T have written letters to children from Ebukuya

## Jeanette Barnes: Drawing Workshop



On the 5th of December, I took part in the Jeanette Barnes Drawing Workshop. During this workshop I learnt any new skills and practised many others.

We started off by drawing 5 buildings, some smaller and some larger. This was the basis of our learning for the day. We then moved on to do a series of mark-making on pieces of paper which showed us all the different ways we could use charcoal to create tone and variation. This was very useful to our next drawings as we used these marks to create our pieces. The first of the two drawings was from our imagination; we were read a story by Jeanette Barnes and we were then asked to draw it. As there were many components to the story we drew the things that stuck out most in our minds and therefore afterwards when we looked at everyone's drawings there was a great variation of what they included. The second of the two drawings was drawn from photographs; we were asked to choose three different types of photos which



we would then draw. Firstly Jeanette explained to us how to select our favourite and most interesting buildings or other items from the photographs, we were then asked to draw a scene incorporating the contents of all the different photographs, By doing this we learnt how to place different things in the foreground and the background, which made our drawings much more interesting.

I learnt a lot from the workshop; however I feel that the most important thing that I learnt from the workshop was how to use the charcoal in different ways to create a 3D effect and also to create shadows and tone. I found that by turning the charcoal on its side, I was able to draw the sides of buildings and by using the tip of the charcoal I was able to make very clear outlines or make more objects bolder so that they could stand out more.

The thing I enjoyed the most in this workshop was when we drew from the three photographs. I felt this allowed us to be creative but in the same way have some help and inspiration from the photographs. I did enjoy all the aspects of the workshop; however I feel that this was the most exciting and creative part of it.

During the workshop we looked at artists such as Dennis Creffield and of course Jeanette Barnes herself. These artists inspired me as I drew as I tried to incorporate their different ideas about how to use different tone and also how to vary my line, using the charcoal in different ways. The artists were very influential especially Jeanette Barnes as she taught us how to create drawings which were realistic and also looked very busy and exciting.

Overall, I think this workshop inspired me greatly to further increase my knowledge of tone, variation,



how to use charcoal and to put it into practice whenever I draw.

**Kate  
McDaid 9S**

## February Sport News...

### Cricket

The Year 7 and 8 Girls Cricket Competition took place at East Barnet School on Monday 23rd January. Five teams competed; East Barnet, St Michaels x 2 and Copthall x 2. These schools had all received expert coaching from England and World Cup Winner Beth Morgan. There was some fantastic batting and fielding throughout the event and some very close games.

Well done to St Michaels who were the overall winners! They will be representing Barnet in the U13 Lady Taverners competition.

Well done to all the students that took part!



### **U13 Outer Borough's Cricket Finals**



Green, Michelle Nwachukwu, Ella Wyras, Jade Robbins, Katy Munford, Josephina Abuah, and Emma Sakikabaro.

**Well done!**

*(continued overleaf....)*

After successfully winning the above cricket competition a team went down to West London to represent Barnet in the Outer Borough's cricket finals. All the competing teams were split into 2 pools. St. Michael's played two games winning one and losing the other narrowly. When the results for the pools were announced we were delighted to hear we had won it. We then went on to play the losers of pool B and in an exciting match we narrowly lost by two runs. The next game was to decide who came 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>. In a nailbiting match with lots of good hits, catches and fielding unfortunately we narrowly lost by one run. The team improved during each match and showed great promise. Here's to next year!

The team consisted of – Tyla Mace, Lois Joel, Holly Thornton, Madeleine Gauci-

## More Sports News...

### Cross Country

The cross country teams are to be congratulated on their performance in the Barnet schools annual championship with year 7 winning the team event and the Year8/9in the u15 age group coming 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Lauren Dowling ran exceptionally well to become borough champion in the under 15 age group, an amazing achievement as she has another year in this age group.

Other outstanding performances were by Lauren Dee, Monique Sapla (Year 11)and Sorcha in (Year10) who finished 3<sup>rd</sup>,5<sup>th</sup> and 8th respectively in the under 17 age group.



As a result of their performances the following girls have been selected to represent the Borough at the Middlesex Cross Country Championships at Harrow Public School In February.

Year7- Isobel Phillips, Kathryn Kahill, Anna Ramey, Megan McAteer.

Year 8- Lauren Dowling

Year 10 -Sorcha Jackman

Year11 Lauren Dee, Monique Sapla.

### Football

The Year 7 girls took part in a tri 5-a-side football event successfully beating Friern Barnet 3-0 and drawing with Ashmole 3-3. An excellent achievement against some tough competition.

**Mrs J Blackmore**