

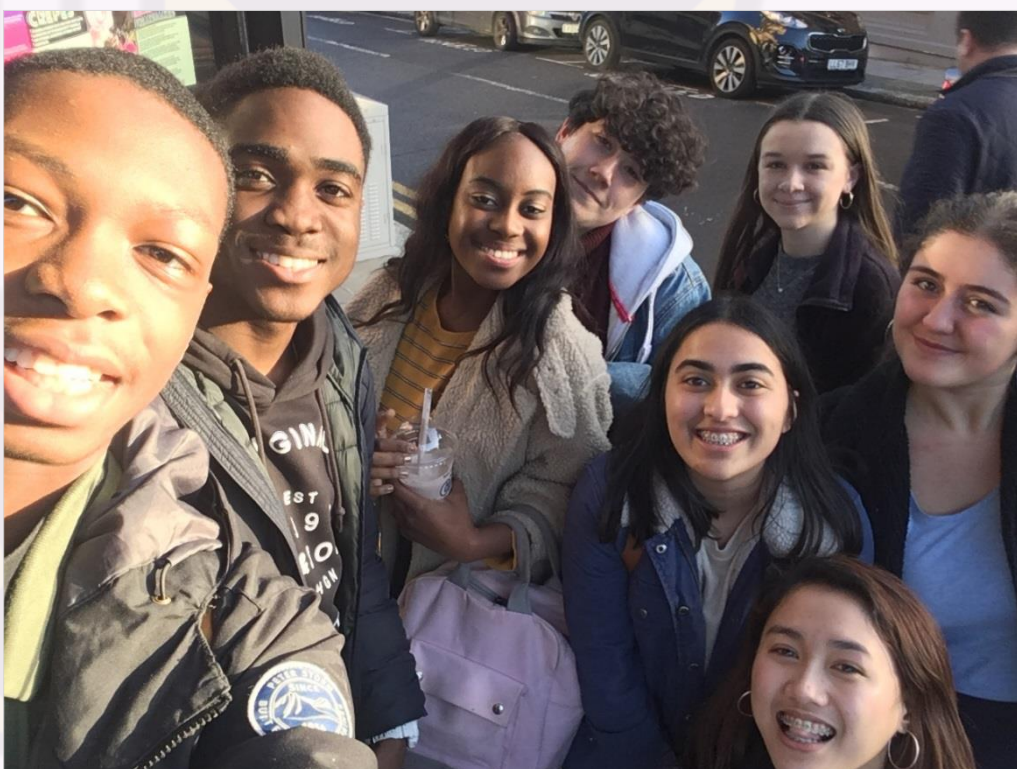


St. Michael's Catholic Grammar School



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HEAD GIRL UPDATE: AUTUMN TERM REFLECTION



Dear All,

As the Autumn term comes to a close and Christmas draws nearer and nearer, we are prompted to reflect upon the past year, and be grateful for all of the opportunities that we have been given, and the lives that we are so fortunate to lead.

Years 12 and 13 Economics students were recently given the opportunity to attend a series of lectures, led by individuals from the MPC, HSBC and Tim Harford the author of The Undercover Economist. The lectures were inspirational and solidified many students' desires to study Economics, Finance and Business Management at University.

In other news, I along with my Purple Ink co-editor Charlotte McCarron, would like to congratulate the winner of the 2018 Purple Ink Autumn Competition - [Matilda Nedyalkov in 9S](#) - for her incredible story about how much life can change with time.

Each entry was superb and we were so pleased with the amount of effort that went into all of the work produced. All entries were published and are available to read in our brand new January Issue at www.purpleinkmagazine.blogspot.com

The new Head Team were elected this term (Gabriel, Reine, Iyo and Julia) and as per St. Michael's tradition, we had a chance to take them out to lunch and pass on the baton. We wish them all the luck and success, and have every confidence that they will be an incredible Head Team.

I would like to conclude by wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

May 2019 be filled with positivity, productivity and kindness.

Ranyechi Udemezue
(Head Girl)

DECEMBER
2018

FROM SOUTH EAST ASIA TO EUROPE: CHINESE VISIT TO ST MICHAEL'S

Three weeks ago, Barnet contacted schools in the borough to ask if we could welcome within 10 days, even for an hour, 10 Chinese students, coming from the province of Yunnan who were visiting the UK, thanks to the fantastic work of the Anglo-China Education Foundation.

It is a non-profit association led with passion by Jing Aarons and her husband Graeme Aarons, dedicated at sharing culture and language through educational programmes and events between the UK and China.

St. Michael's Catholic Grammar School said yes enthusiastically! We wanted them to feel welcomed in their first trip to Europe and welcomed and valued in a Catholic school with students very similar to them. They were high achievers like our students but coming from very humble backgrounds in the deep mountains of China.

We thought that this shared experience would be beneficial for both communities and yes it was!

On the 29th November, our community received them for a full day with enthusiasm, respect and curiosity and the entire school worked together to offer them a taste of St Michaels.

Our guests were welcomed in the morning by Mr Stimpson, our Headteacher at St Michael's, myself, Mrs Gray, Head of Languages, our Mandarin speakers and students with Chinese heritage.

They spent the entire day shadowing our students in Maths, Science, Art, Drama and Music. Our Mayor, Reuben Thompstone gave us the honour of his visit, greeting them and attending a wonderful special assembly where the two cultures met.

The outstanding St. Michael's orchestra and Jazz band led by Daniel Daly, Director of Music gave it all while our guests honoured us with mesmerising traditional dances and music. It validated our intuition at St Michael's, that while we can believe in this interconnected world that we have access to everything, everyone, everywhere, real communication and interaction truly happens in its simplest and deepest form through a smile, a piece of music or simple gestures and the recognition in someone's eyes that we are all the same, children of God, expressing through our culture and language the genius of human creativity.



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FESTIVE CHALLENGE: BAKE-OFF SHOWSTOPPER

The year 10 GCSE Food & Nutrition students made and decorated chocolate logs in a Bake-Off style showstopper challenge for Christmas.

The results were fantastic and very festive. Congratulations to Ylva Oppold of 10T who won the challenge!



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¡VIVA ESPAÑA!: YEAR 11 SPANISH EXCHANGE



On the 21st September, after a hectic journey to the airport, we finally managed to board our flight to Malaga, Spain. Reaching the beautiful city, we started our weekend spending time with our exchanges' families and our friends.

On the Saturday, our exchanges took us to the beach, famously known as Costa del Sol, and after a few hours of enjoying the Spanish sun and sand, we all ate at a well-known fish restaurant. On the next day, some of us spent time with our exchanges and their families and others went shopping.

Our first weekday was spent at Molino de Madaura, which was an activity centre. We had a very fun day because we were able to bond with our exchanges and we experienced activities such as rock climbing and paintballing.

On Tuesday, we embarked on a journey to Seville, a pretty city which was extremely hot and informative. We visited Plaza de España and we had a tour guide of the royal palace, allowing us to expand our cultural knowledge.

On Wednesday, we went on a guided tour to the Picasso museum where we were greatly informed on the background story of this great painter and we felt privileged to experience his amazing artwork.

On Thursday, we went to Cordoba, a place which is filled with historical and religious background, an example of the three religions living together.

We visited the mosque, cathedral and the Jewish quarters. That evening, we spent our last night with our exchanges who threw us a goodbye party.

Our most memorable part of the trip was learning about the cultural facts and being able to have an insight into a Spanish lifestyle.

We, as Year 11, would like to thank Señora Zinchiri and Señor Zinchiri, who organised and accompanied us on this unforgettable trip!

By Alannah Hoey, Tamara Okhiria, Alessia Rimini

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SCIENTISTS IN THE MAKING: VISIT TO GLAXO SMITH KLINE RESEARCH LABORATORIES



On 20th September a group of Year 13 Biology and Chemistry students visited the Glaxo Smith Kline (GSK) research laboratories in Stevenage. We were privileged to be shown around the state of the art facilities at GSK's main research centre in the UK.

An introduction by the Director of Bio-imaging, Steve Hood, explained the detailed and extensive process involved in the development of new medicines. There was a particular focus in the production of better drugs for helping those with respiratory illnesses though GSK has produced a range of widely used drugs such as Zantac for reducing stomach acidity. They also produce vaccines and even the mouthwash Corsodyl.

We learnt how their chemists produce new drug molecules which are then tested by their biologists to examine the effectiveness and side effects of new potential medicines. If a new drug turns out to have some toxic effects then research will progress in another direction.

It was explained to us that although animals are involved in the testing process there is an increasing focus on the 3 'R's (Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement) as scientists endeavour to use fewer animals in the development of new drugs.

During our visit we were told about the opportunities for work experience at GSK as well industry placements and future career opportunities.



It was an enjoyable visit and we gained an impressive insight into the world of GSK, its impressive and inspiring vision and the dedication of the employees.

Thank you to Dr Lappin and to Mr Cooper for arranging this very interesting trip.

Chai Chakradeo, 13D

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LUANDA 2019: FUNDRAISING FOR ANGOLA

Luanda Team 2019 would like to inform everyone that there are seventeen students and four members of staff who will hopefully be leaving for Kenya around the 10th of July until the 28th of July 2019.

We have started fundraising and need to individually raise a minimum of £1600 which will cover the cost of flights, accommodation and vaccinations.

We are looking forward to fundraising in and outside of the school with family and friends.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity towards this worthy cause.



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SPORTS NEWS

BADMINTON

Congratulations to our **KS4 St. Michael's Barnet Badminton Champions** who worked so hard to secure first place, beating Henrietta Barnet in the final. Credit must go to our amazing Badminton Coach Dava for doing such a splendid job in coaching and preparing our students for these tournaments.

Team 1: Kasia Bryl, Isabella Porcopio, Johanna Liwag, Angela Serra

Team 2: Allysa Versoza, Sofia Pavarani, Elisha Dias, Amara Nwankwo

Congratulations to the St Michael's KS3 badminton students, who also recently participated in the Barnet Badminton Tournament against many other Barnet Schools.

All three teams did tremendously well securing 2nd, 3rd, and 5th position out of 12 teams.

The A team narrowly missed out to Henrietta Barnet in the final. The B team came third and the C team came fifth despite being the only C team in the competition.



Congratulations to the following girls:

Jelani (9S), Isabelle (9S), Cara (9M), Sherlyn (9M), Gabriella (9S), Albina (9T), Nicole (9T), Matilda (9S), Isobel (9M), Francesca (9M), Thaniha (9M) and Riya (9S).

DANCE

Our Yr7 and 8 students are thoroughly enjoying our after school Dance Club with Mrs Vainella who is currently preparing them for a dance competition on 24th January at East Barnet School.

Congratulations to the St Michael's Dance Team who won 'Best Female Sport Team of 2018'!!!

These girls choreograph their own dances, organise the music and costumes. They have been extremely successful in their dancing achievements to date.

They were also asked to close the show with a thoughtful dance about struggles facing refugees called 'Cry'.



Dance team:

Lucie (13D) Katie (12W), Lauren (11S), Jace (11T), Natalie (11S), Kerry (11S), Zoe (10M), Ylva (10T), Allysa (10T), Lola (9S), Hannah (9M), and Glenise (9S)

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SPORTS NEWS

NETBALL

Our Years 7 and 8 Netball teams played tough games against Wren Academy.

The Wren beat us this time but we'll come back stronger next time. The Wren postponed Years 9 and 10 Netball match until January.

Our Year 11 and Senior Netball team lost to Henrietta Barnet. All credit goes to Henrietta Barnet for being worthy winners and pushing us to the max.



SPINNING

Year 9 students have been working hard during their spinning classes led by Mr Barrow at Burnt Oak LC.



HOME RUN: BARNET CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Thursday 6th December Mrs Innes took 16 girls to the Barnet X Country Championships.

Our fabulous St Michael's Cross Country runners ran a superb race in their category during the Barnet Cross Country Championship.

We were well represented in each of the three categories:

Year 7 = 2.5 kilometres

Years 8 & 9 = 3 Kilometres

Years 10 - Seniors = 4 Kilometres

However, a special mention must go to Joanne Miranda in Year 10 who absolutely smashed the Senior race coming 1st over all.

Not only did she beat all Year 10, Year 11, Year 12, and Year 13 competitors, but she did so in glorious fashion, crossing the finish line completely alone and unchallenged.

Mr Innes said this of the performance:

"I have watched Joanne running since Year 7 and I'm so proud to have witnessed her remarkable talent, dedication, progression and success."

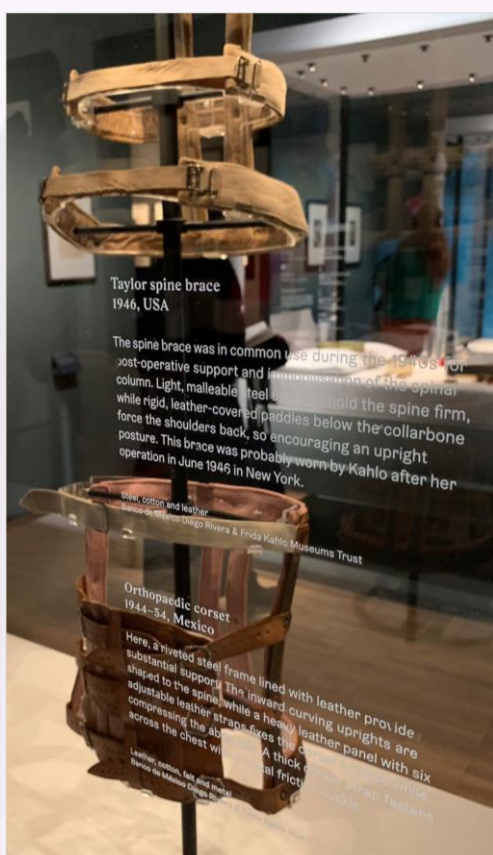
Joanne beat many runners today who have won in previous years, this is as a result of continued dedication and hard work. Joanne will now go on to represent Barnet in the Middlesex Championships. We wish Joanne and the Barnet Team every success.

Mrs Innes is so proud of them all for representing St Michael's in superb style and completing the course in challenging conditions.



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YEAR 11 ART TRIP: FRIDA KAHLO: MAKING HER SELF UP



On Tuesday 9th October 2018, Year 11 art students set out to see an exhibition at the Victoria & Albert museum detailing the life of iconic Mexican artist, Frida Kahlo.

The exhibition was unique as, as well as showcasing her artwork, it included many of Kahlo's previously unseen, personal belongings.

Her make-up, jewellery and clothing, were all used to build a picture of her life, touching on her family, socialist leanings, complex medical history and fierce love for her country and its culture.

We had the opportunity to learn intimate details about her through the things and people she surrounded herself with and see how they directly influenced her work.

As Kahlo started painting out of boredom following debilitating injuries, she obtained in an accident in 1925, her physical disabilities are a clear source of influence in many of her works, like 'The Broken Column' (1944) which depicts the artist's anguish after a spinal surgery she underwent to correct problems from her significant traffic accident.

She was also eager to communicate her maternal Mexican heritage, painting herself in Tehuana costume and wearing pieces inspired by traditional motifs from number of regions.

Though Kahlo had many challenges in life-her fragile form, the miscarriage she suffered and her volatile marriage to Diego Rivera to name a few- but she remained strong in the face of adversity and vibrant throughout.

The way in which she was able to take the most traumatic aspects of her life and translate them into sincere self-portraits, and thus showcase herself, will be very inspiring to all of us in the portraits we create ourselves this term.

By Annabell Nadiwa 11M

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OUTWARD BOUND: YEAR 7 STUBBERS TRIP

On Friday 21st September Year 7 went on a school trip to Stubbers in Essex.

We travelled through two coaches and were split into 10 groups. The journey to reach the destination was roughly one hour and we all had a chance to talk to the people on our coach so we could make new friends.

We participated in a total of four different activities, each one being extremely fun and challenging. The activities that we completed were: Archery, Teamwork, Laser tag and Climbing.

We were supposed to participate in Paddle boarding as well but due to the terrible, windy weather, it was cancelled for our safety. However, it did get replaced with Laser tag which was also very enjoyable.

Each activity lasted roughly two hours. In laser tag, we were split into two teams and each had our own base and the aim was to shoot out the opposing team to win.

For fun, we had to choose between a game called 'Capture the Flag' where the instructor hid two flags around the course and each team had to search for their flag. The alternative was

to play 'Protect the President' where each team had a president and they had to protect her as if she died, it meant that the whole team died.

In climbing, there was a towering rock and each person had to attempt to get to the top with the help of our group who were guiding us. As an extra game, we played 'Shark Attack' where we had to jump onto the rock when the instructor yelled 'Shark Attack!'.

In teamwork, we participated in a range of activities where we had to communicate and help and guide each other to complete each challenge.

Finally, in archery, we were given a target board and we had to fire an arrow to see how many points we could get. After every activity, we had a short break and we were allowed to take photos, use the toilet, change, eat, or talk.

In our lunch break we also had the extra choice of going into the mini playground to play with our friends. After the tiring day and completing all the activities, we left Stubbers at around 4pm for a more calm and relaxing time on the coach.

By Jewel Sadiwa Webb, 7S



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MAINTAINING THE FAITH: ENRICHMENT AT ST. MICHAEL'S



We have had a busy term with lots happening in terms of the spiritual life of the school and enrichment opportunities for our students. We started the liturgical year with a whole school Mass for the feast of our patron St Michael on the 28th September.

We also held the Year 7 Welcome Mass on the 10th October for students and parents in Year 7 to welcome them to our school community. We had a whole school Mass for All Saints on 1st November. These important opportunities for collective worship strengthen us all and remind us of the blessings we have as a community. During the season of Advent every class has also had the opportunity for reconciliation in our school Chapel during their Advent Reconciliation service.

During November we also welcomed an inspection team from the Diocese of Westminster and had a two day Section 48 inspection of Academic Religious Studies and the wider Catholic Life of the School. It was a very busy time, especially for the RE department but we are very happy with the outcome. The hard work of the last few years was recognised and affirmed by the inspection team.

Year 11 opened the retreat programme for this year with their retreat to the Niland Centre in Bushey, led by the Walsingham House team. The theme for their retreat was God's Plan – Moving Forward and focused around St Paul's message to the Romans 12: 2 – "Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Feedback was



extremely positive and the girls were given an excellent opportunity for reflection and also time to take stock and think about the year ahead and how they will put strategies in place to help them cope with the exams and important choices ahead.

Year 10 went on retreat to the beautiful Highleigh Conference Centre in Hoddesdon on 4th December. Again feedback from the girls was overwhelmingly positive. They appreciate this time away from the busy school day and time to see things from a different perspective and take stock. The theme for their retreat, which was also led by the Walsingham House youth team, was: Who do you say I am? Based upon Peter's declaration at Caesarea Philippi (Mark 8:29) "Then Jesus asked, 'Who do you say I am?' Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah.'" This focused their minds upon recognising their own worth and appreciating the gifts they have been blessed with.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and guardians for their continued support of the Catholic life of the school and the way in which you support the work we do to help your children on their spiritual journey, as well as develop them in their academic studies in Religious Education.

With best wishes for a joyous Christmas and peaceful new year.

Mrs S Ferracane
Head of Religious Studies

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December 2018

ST MICHAEL'S MUSIC FACULTY PRESENTS: AUTUMN CONCERT



Our annual Autumn Concert took place on Thursday 22nd November with performances from the Junior Choir, Chamber Choir, Junior Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Brass Group, Guitar Ensemble, Jazz Band and Recorder Group.

A very well done to all students involved. The next concerts are the Chamber Concert on Thursday 14th February, and the Spring Concert on Thursday 21st March, both at 7pm. We hope to see you there!



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