

# ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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## AUTUMN 2 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parent/Carer,

We break up this week after a difficult but hugely successful autumn term.

We've staggered entrances and exits; zoned and bubbled; seating-planned and masked; tested and traced and, unlike any other secondary school in Sandwell, have managed to reach the end of term without having to send home an entire year group or close the school. This is thanks to our amazing staff; your fantastic children and the wonder of you.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support; your encouragement; your understanding and your optimism. Sincerely, I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

With kindest regards,



Mrs Gray, Headteacher

## OUR SCHOOL PRAYER

What does the  
*Lord* ask of you?

To act justly, to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your  
God.

Micah 6vs.8

### Upcoming News & Events:

Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Service Students break up for Christmas
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Staff Training Day
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Students return to school
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Year 11 Virtual Parents' Evening
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Students break up for half-term
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Staff Training Day



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## REMEMBRANCE DAY

On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November, we commemorated Remembrance Day in our usual, very special way. From 11.00am a series of whistles are blown throughout the school to mark the beginning and end of the two minutes' silence; remaining in their classes, students stand to observe the silence. This is followed by a performance of The Last Post, played over the school tannoy system.

Thank you to Pia Pugh in 10L for a lovely rendition of this very difficult piece. What has now become a St Michael's tradition never fails to evoke much spine-tingling emotion throughout school. This year's tribute felt all the more poignant as so many people were unable to take part in the usual Remembrance Day services.



We hope that this powerful experience will remain with St Michael's students throughout their lives to help ensure that they never forget the sacrifices that were made.



## KS3 CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

As part of our programme of events for Anti-bullying week in November, we ran a KS3 creative writing competition.

Students were asked to explore the idea of identity and what identity meant to them and they worked on their entries during literacy lessons (Week B).

Congratulations to the competition winners:

- Year 7: Lily Marlow 7H
- Year 8: Polina Samsonik 8S
- Year 9: Libby Flavell



## KINDNESS IS POWERFUL



Many of you will remember Harvey Kataria (Year 8) launched a petition for an annual NHS day earlier this year. His determination caught the attention of Sandwell Council and he was interviewed by local news channels.



Harvey is back with a new campaign called *Kindness is powerful* and he is appealing for schools to support Black Country Foodbank in the run up to Christmas. Harvey has made connections with St John's Ambulance, who agreed to help with the collection of donations. Thank you to all St Michael's staff who donated items to Harvey's foodbank campaign. Harvey is pictured here with Head Girl, Holly Palmer.

## AIMHIGHER PLUS

### What is Aimhigher Plus?

Aimhigher Plus is a partnership of universities, schools and colleges. We help students make educated decisions about their future, including further and higher education, through a free programme of mentoring, events and workshops. This year, St Michael's Aimhigher Plus Ambassador is Amber Smalley, so please feel free to contact her if you have any questions at [a.i.smalley@bham.ac.uk](mailto:a.i.smalley@bham.ac.uk).

### What were we up to this term?

Students have been involved in a range of activities this term. Highlights include Year 10's Christmas themed "12 days of Careers", where students learned about a new interesting career each day of December. This involved insights from working professionals, with guidance on career paths.

Congratulations to Emma Hynes in Year 11 who won the STAR Challenge competition. This event challenged high performing students to push themselves further and increase attainment, widening their future opportunities. Enjoy your £10 Amazon voucher, Emma!

### What's next after Christmas?

After Christmas this year's MyTutor programme will commence. This activity offers selected students the opportunity to study Maths, English or Science with Russell Group undergraduates. Keep an eye out in the newsletters for future workshops and activities.



## GETTING INTO THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

With the current restrictions in place, many of our usual activities in the lead-up to Christmas have had to be cancelled. However, our resourceful students and staff have come up with other ways to lift our spirits and bring a little Christmas sparkle into school!



*Year 11 form groups had a Christmas tree decorating competition*



Year 7 form groups have embraced a Christmas themed fundraising challenge for Birmingham Women's Hospital Woodland House Appeal to support bereaved families. Well done to Year 7 student, Lily, who wrote a beautiful letter to our Headteacher, signed by representatives of each form group, to ask for a Christmas Jumper Day fundraiser to boost funds for the appeal.



*Following a suggestion from our staff & student wellbeing groups, Christmas music has been broadcast around the school during the last week of term. This has been playing, as low-level background music, in each hub area and in the main reception and has certainly helped to lift our spirits during these very strange times!*

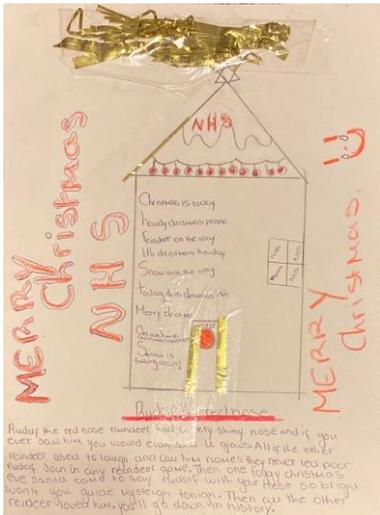


Year 7 students responded to the recent appeal by Sandwell Hospital for laminated pictures that could be displayed around the wards, due to their ban on Christmas decorations as a result of COVID.

Over 50 entries to this Year 7 competition were received; other year groups also wanted to be involved and we had an additional 95 pictures from years 8 and 9. In total, over 145 pictures are being sent to Sandwell Hospital to brighten the wards and bring some joy to the patients.



Winners of the Year 7 competition were:



1<sup>st</sup>: Lily-May Khan



2<sup>nd</sup>: Xaymika Herbert-Small



Joint 3<sup>rd</sup>: Martha-May Hinton, and Susie Cartwright

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Staff and students at St Michael's participated in Operation Christmas Child again this year. Shoeboxes are sent to over 160 countries around the world as part of the Samaritan's Purse project.

The response from staff and students was overwhelming and, once again, we were amazed by the generosity of our students, especially during a year that has brought challenge and hardship for so many families.

A simple shoebox gift packed with love can have a huge impact and we would like to say a massive thank you for your contributions, that will make so much difference to a less fortunate child, somewhere in the world, this Christmas.



Hello, This is 7H and we wanted to send you this box of gifts for Christmas. We may not be Santa but inside this box there is Christmas magic that we want to share with you. All the way across the world there are people who want to help you. Even if you think that there is no hope and you can't see the light, there are people across the globe who are here to back your corner. These are scary times for everyone, but this box is here to bring a bit of joy to the world. We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year,  
7H



*Many of our form groups have included a form photo and a message for their Christmas Child*

## MIND FITNESS HUB

Mind Fitness Hub is a lottery-funded initiative providing free webinars to create resilient psychological and emotional well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their online webinars are open to anyone above the age of 18 and cover topics around stress, anxiety, burnout, low mood, depression, strategies and tips to help manage work, life, family, children and other relationships during this difficult time.

Webinars run twice weekly: Tuesdays at 7pm; and Thursdays at 12pm

Simply sign up by visiting [www.mindfitnesshub.com](http://www.mindfitnesshub.com)

## 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY CHILD

Due to restrictions, we have been unable to hold an interactive event for students this term. As a result, members of Student Voice have been working hard to put together something for year 7, 8 and 9 form time on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December. All the content was developed by students to highlight the struggles young people are facing and reassure everyone that it's OK not to be OK.



I like how they gave us apps to use if we aren't feeling the best

I really enjoyed how creative the whole video was



It included information that everyone needs to hear

I liked that it was educational but funny at the same time

I liked that it gave us reassurance that we are not alone and that mental health is important

I enjoyed the fact that it explained all the emotions you or a friend might be going through and how to help



## PE NEWS

### PE Star Students Award Year 7

<b>Kirin</b> 	<b>7M Wyvern</b> Parison Messenger Ezra Bell Thomas Calvert Hannah Davis Brooke Bennett-Chamberlain	<b>7I Kirin</b> Tyler Hoccom Kian Hodgetts Hadia Jahangir Kayden Scott Blake Burton	<b>7C Griffin</b> Callum Nicholls Izabella Byfield Lucie Cole Megan Allen Mason Towler	<b>7H Pegasus</b> Eden Ball Astle Holloway Tia Johnson Breen Cody Curran Jess Travers	<b>Pegasus</b> 
<b>Griffin</b> 	<b>7A Pegasus</b> Leah Blake Connor Colclough Isla Malek Jonathan Harris Malachi Chambers	<b>7E Wyvern</b> Sydney Pritchard Julia Solecka Nathaniel Hanson Jack Dewhurst Sienna Jones	<b>7L Kirin</b> Liberty Henderson Kurtis Phipps Ben Wiggin Cain Cottrell Khian Guest	<b>7S Griffin</b> Christian Flitar Amber Bragg Ben Givargidze Luke Owen Charlie Scrivens	<b>Wyvern</b> 



**Star Student Criteria**

- Leadership Skills
- Overall theory and practical effort
- Rules and Regulations
- Resilience
- Skills and technique



### PE Star Students Award Year 8

<b>Kirin</b> 	<b>8M Pegasus</b> Aneyah Bennett Jacob Greaves Caitlin Hall Oliver Fox Ashton Geraghty	<b>8I Wyvern</b> Samuel Greenfield Mikayla Roberts Kobie Share Riyaad Fadhel Adam Tonks	<b>8C Kirin</b> Larisa Grigorean Blake Bidduph-Perrin Zara Homer Omarion Richards Daniel Cartwright	<b>8H Griffin</b> Lauren Milsom Jacob Wilkinson Owen Ward Brook Hodgetts Alex Martis	<b>Pegasus</b> 
<b>Griffin</b> 	<b>8A Kirin</b> Joshua Poame Freddie Thompson Leah Parkes Rizwan Hussain Keano Cross	<b>8E Griffin</b> Connie Hayward William Bates Amelia Day Natalia Smiga Liam Duckmanton	<b>8L Wyvern</b> Joshua Ongono Muhammad Saeed Lily Walker Jamal Sogbesan Maisie Colley	<b>8S Pegasus</b> Olivia Baker Jack Woodall Criss Liby Abraham Miah Beech Thomas Overton	<b>8ST Pegasus</b> Kathen Evans Demi Deeley Raman Chahal Myles Durham Caleb McBride



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