

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Date: Thursday, December 19, 2019
Issue: 005

AUTUMN 2 NEWSLETTER

Since returning from half-term holiday, we have had a very busy few weeks with Year 11 and Year 9 mock exams, GCSE Certificate and Awards Evening, and the school production of *Oliver!*

Our Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) took place during the first week in December. A new framework was introduced in September 2018 which makes it far more challenging for schools to achieve the highest grade of "Excellent". We look forward to being able to share the results of the inspection in the next Newsletter.

On behalf of the governors and staff of St Michael's, may I wish you and your families a joyous Christmas and a happy new year.



Mrs Gray, Headteacher

Upcoming News & Events: Spring 2020

Monday 6 th January	Students return to school
Mon 6 th - Fri 17 th Jan	Year 10 Mock Exams
Thursday 9 th January	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Thursday 6 th February	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Thursday 13 th February	Students break up for Half-Term
Friday 14 th February	Staff Training Day
Monday 24 th February	Students return from Half-Term holiday



**"What does the Lord
ask of you?"**

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

(Micah 6: Verse 8)



Headteacher: Mrs J Gray, MSc, NPQH

St Michael's Church of England High School • Rowley Learning Campus • Curral Road • Rowley Regis • West Midlands • B65 9AN
Telephone: 0121 561 6881 • Fax: 0121 561 6882 • Email: contact.staff@st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk

MERCY • INTEGRITY • CARE AND COMPASSION • HUMILITY • ACHIEVEMENT • EQUALITY • LEADERSHIP • SERVICE



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

St Michael's students and staff supported The Samaritan's Purse project, Operation

Christmas Child – contributing shoebox gifts, filled with fun toys, school supplies and other items, for distribution to children in need around the world. For many of these children, the gift-filled shoebox is the first present they have ever received.



The appeal was launched in school as a form competition and linked to the values of *Mercy* and *Care and Compassion*, with forms receiving house points for each box they made up. Staff within school who co-ordinated the event were overwhelmed by the generous donations and beautiful boxes.

Students and staff have been invited to visit the Operation Christmas Child Distribution Centre in Oldbury.

MUSIC MARK



St Michael's has been awarded the Music Mark, following a nomination by SIPS Education Music and Arts Service. The Music Mark is awarded to schools that meet, enhance and exceed curriculum requirements, enabling all children and young people to experience creative and inspirational learning within music and the arts.

Rob Hayward (left) from SIPS Education Music and Arts Service presented the award to Mr Robinson and Mr Jarvis on 8th November.



ST MICHAEL'S



CODE YOUR FUTURE



Year 10 Computer Science GCSE students had a wonderful opportunity to learn about Artificial Intelligence (AI) at University College Birmingham's "Code Your Future" event.

This inspirational event was led by Kari Lawler, a teenage entrepreneur from Birmingham who has set up her own AI consultancy business called YOUTH4AI.



The event, which was organised and funded by Aim Higher Plus, started with an overview of opportunities in higher education. Then Kari led a workshop which gave the students a brief look at the history of AI, starting with the birth of the term AI at the 1956 Dartmouth conference. This explained how AI has evolved throughout its brief history so far and, most importantly, gives context and background to the type and capabilities of current machine learning. Students then created their own AI environments using a block based programming language and a live IBM environment.

Finally, Kari led a discussion about what the future of AI as a whole might look like and how it may affect young people. Kari also offered excellent careers advice for a world that includes AI.

St Michael's students were, as always, a credit to the school and gave very positive feedback on the insight they had gained into university life, as well as the coding industry; they found it a really valuable and motivating experience.

YEAR 11 BOYS' FOOTBALL

Congratulations to the Year 11 Boys' Football team who are now through to the quarter finals of the West Midlands County Schools' Cup. They beat Barr's Hill 3:2. A late goal by Harvey Portman sealed victory in another battling performance by the team.

Good luck in the next round!



UNDER 14s NETBALL

On Saturday 23rd November, Mrs Faulkner and Miss Dowler took 12 girls to the South Staffs County Schools' Tournament after beating six local teams in the Sandwell finals.

The girls played 5 other teams from around the Staffordshire area; the opposition was very strong, with most girls playing for clubs outside of school. The girls showed great commitment, teamwork and leadership to play some excellent netball; they showed determination and resilience and never once gave up. The team improved in skill throughout the tournament and Mrs Faulkner is looking forward to seeing all the techniques and tactics learned displayed during the remainder of the league.

A special thank-you goes out to Holly Palmer and Sydney Johns-Hartill who gave up their Saturday to go along to coach and lead the students, acting as fantastic role models throughout the day.



WORLD KINDNESS DAY

World Kindness Day is celebrated annually on 13th November. On this day, participants attempt to make the world a better place by celebrating and promoting good deeds and pledging acts of kindness, either as individuals or as organisations.

We embraced World Kindness Day as part of Anti-Bullying and Inter-Faith Week. Students were invited to write a message of kindness on the dining hall windows at lunchtime; they engaged really well and wrote some lovely messages either for a friend, a member of staff or even someone whom they had not even befriended yet!



KEY STAGE 4 AWARDS EVENING

On Thursday 28th November, the KS4 GCSE Certificate and Awards Evening took place, when the school acknowledged and paid tribute to the hard work of current and previous students. This year's guest speaker was the inspirational Mel Clarke who, despite suffering several major health issues in her life, has continued to strive for and accomplish multiple world records, world championships and Olympic medals.



PRIMARY DODGEBALL COMPETITION



On Thursday 28th November, the annual Primary Dodgeball Competition was hosted at St Michael's. Eight local primary schools competed for the best team in Sandwell. The Year 4s and 5s all enjoyed themselves and took part in several games of dodgeball in our Sports Hall. The overall winner was **Highfields Primary School**, who were very humble winners. All

students received a sticker and certificate for their efforts and will be awarded these in their school assemblies. We are looking forward to inviting these schools and students back for our annual sports awards in the summer.

Nine Year 9 students acted as leaders during the event, each allocated to a school to ensure the rules and regulations were outlined and enforced throughout. They also welcomed schools on arrival, looked after the students and staff and awarded students with stickers and "top performer" certificates for excellent sportsmanship, skill and hard work during the competition.



Three Year 10 students kept the scores for each game and calculated the overall positions in the competition. These students were excellent role models for Years 4 and 5 and our Year 9 students throughout, due to their organisational skills and empathy towards others. Mrs Faulkner would like to thank all the students involved: Charlie Veal, Honor Cartwright, Paige Harvey, Paige McGeoch, Amina Tunkara, Ameerah Ishola, Lucy Clifford, Bethany Allen, Skye Weston, Maisie Marks, Chloe Gladwin and Tai-Lilli Hodkiss.



SPONSORED DANCE

On 16th December, around 50 students took part in a sponsored "Just Dance" event. Student danced the afternoon away to various songs and raised £500 for the PE department. Mrs Faulkner and Mrs Wright would like to thank all the students who took part and also their parents for supporting the event with very generous sponsorship.



OLIVER!

Thank you to all who joined us for this year's musical production of 'Oliver'. It was an absolute privilege showcasing the truly talented individuals of St Michael's.

We commend our cast on their commitment to character, their dedication to after-hours rehearsals, and above all, their adaptable attitude and willingness to work as team.

From the beginning of the production process, our shared goal has been to instil in our students a love for performance, skills in group collaboration, and a new found confidence in themselves as they tap into the wonderful people that they are!

From costumes, to hair and makeup, to staging, to sound and lighting, to music, 'Oliver' was the product of team spirit, and a whole lot of fun!





GOOD SAMARITANS!

On 11th December, two West Midlands Police Officers came into school to meet and congratulate students who stayed with, and offered comfort and support to, an elderly gentleman who had collapsed by Britannia Park. The officers praised Oliver Fox, Ella Meredith, Freya Meredith, Olivia Dudley, Joseph Newey, Jacob Greaves, Nav Kang and Callum Gharu for their compassion and willingness to go above and beyond by staying with him in the cold and rain for two hours until the ambulance arrived.



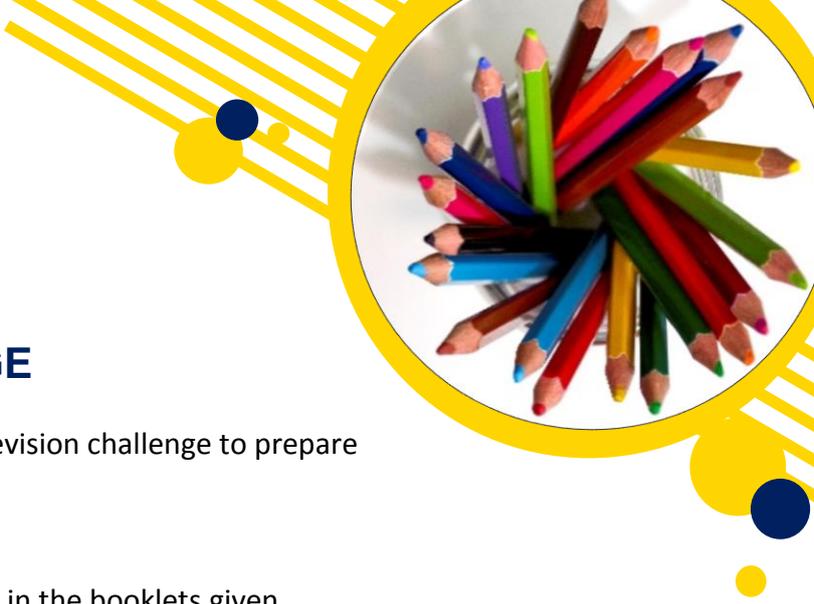
WINTER FAYRE

Our annual Winter Fayre took place on Thursday 14th November and, despite the weather, we welcomed hundreds of visitors. Thank you to the 72 superstar students who helped to run the event – once again, it was a huge success, raising a record total of £2,835 for Birmingham Children's Hospital.



YEAR 10 MOCK EXAMINATION TIMETABLE

	Monday 6 th January	Tuesday 7 th January	Wednesday 8 th January	Thursday 9 th January	Friday 10 th January
Period 1 -2					DT-Graphics 1hr 45 mins Child Dev 1hr
Period 3-4					History 1hr
Period 5-6					Geography 1hr 30mins
	Monday 13 th January	Tuesday 14 th January	Wednesday 15 th January	Thursday 16 th January	Friday 17 th January
Period 1 -2	English Language 1hr 45mins				RE 35mins
Period 3-4		Maths 1hr 30mins	Physics 1hr 15/1hr 45min	Computer Science 1 hr	Chemistry 1hr 15/1hr 45min
Period 5-6	Biology 1hr 15/1hr 45min NOW IN CLASSROOM	Drama 1hr 40 French /German Writing 1hr 10/1hr 20mins Health & Social 2hrs	English Literature 1hr		French/German Listening 35/45 mins/Reading 45mins/1hr



YEAR 10 30-DAY CHALLENGE

Year 10 students have been given a 30-day revision challenge to prepare them for the mock examinations in January.

Revision Tips:

- Highlight key ideas – learn the DETAIL in the booklets given
- Use Post-Its to transfer the key ideas
- Create mind maps
- Highlight key ideas and keep going over them
- Do past exam questions and questions in the revision guide at the bottom of the page
- Check how to write model answers

The full revision timetable can be found on the school website:
<http://www.st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk/y10-mock-revision-timetable>

YEAR 11 EXAMINATIONS

Date	Start Time	Length	Subject
Thurs 9 Jan	09:00	1:15 hr	Child Development
Thurs 9 Jan	09:00	1.00 hr	Music
Thurs 9 Jan	13:15	2:00 hrs	Enterprise (Business) – MOCK
Mon 3 Feb	09:00	2:00 hrs	Enterprise (Business) - EXAMINATION
Fri 7 Feb	09:00	2:00 hrs	Health & Social