

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2 2022 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parent/Carer,

Easter is a time for new beginnings, Jesus Christ brings the promise of new life and love to all. As the new Headteacher of St Michael's, I would like to offer an extended welcome to you all on page 2.

I would like to extend a truly heartfelt thank you for the overwhelming messages of hope and support since taking up my new post. It was wonderful to see so many parents/carers back in the building for Year 9 and 11 parental events. All staff have been long awaiting the time when normal activities can resume and, as we enter the summer term, more opportunities will become available.

As we begin our preparation for supporting Year 11 in the final countdown towards their GCSEs, can I remind Year 11 parents of the Easter School provision (page 10).

We look forward to all students returning promptly in the Summer Term, focused and fully prepared for their final term of the academic year. Thank you for your continued support and I wish you all a wonderful Easter holiday. God Bless.



Mrs Handy-Rivett, Headteacher

UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS:

Thursday 7th April	Students break up for Easter
Friday 8th April	Staff Training Day
Monday 25th April	Students return to school
Friday 29th April	Year 9 DTP/MEN ACWY vaccinations
Monday 2nd May	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 27th May	Students break up for half-term
Monday 6th June	Students return to school

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



Headteacher: Mrs C Handy-Rivett, BA (Hons), MA, NPQH

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HEADTEACHER'S EXTENDED WELCOME MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Mrs Handy-Rivett pictured with Junior Leadership Team members, Paige McGeoch, Jessica Postings and Zach Bell



I am delighted to be able to write this welcome message as the new Headteacher of St Michael's Church of England High School. I feel extremely honoured and privileged to have been chosen to continue to build upon the success already achieved under the leadership of Mrs Jayne Gray, until her untimely passing last October.

I was born in Sandwell, attending local secondary and further education establishments. I am proud of my local heritage and I believe and trust in the community I serve. I joined St Michael's in September 2006, having previously taught for four years at a secondary school in Birmingham. I have held various roles throughout my sixteen-year career at St

Michael's and I want to assure you all that it is my intention to forge ahead with the vision and strategic direction in getting our school to Outstanding.

At the heart of my vision for St Michael's is a commitment to uphold our Christian values and the desire to strive for excellence; both within the curriculum and beyond. I make the pledge to you and our young people that all staff will work with commitment and passion, drive and determination to ensure that St Michael's is a school where everyone is able to flourish and achieve their full potential.

As the parent of a teenager, I understand the difficulties and challenging circumstances faced by our young people due to disrupted learning over the past two years. As the new Headteacher, I look forward to working in conjunction with you to ensure that normality resumes, high standards and expectations are upheld and school attendance returns to the pre-Covid level of 97% or above.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support and I look forward to working with you over the coming years.



Mrs Handy-Rivett, Headteacher

PE NEWS



Year 7 have had a great start to the **Sandwell Netball league**, winning both their matches comfortably against Stuart Bathurst and George Salter Academy. A big well done to Erica Narthey who received player of the match.

On Monday 4th April, the team took part in a tournament at George Salter. They played 4 matches against schools across Sandwell, not conceding a goal until the semi-final, when they lost 1-0 against Shireland. The girls showed excellent team work, communication and resilience throughout all their matches; Mrs Faulkner and Miss Dowler

are very impressed with Year 7's commitment and skill level and are excited about future league games after Easter. A special mention to Ashanti Timmins who received Girl of the Game for every game in the tournament and Eve Bennett who captained the team to a bronze medal.

Pictured above: Eve Bennett (Captain) Erica Narthey (Vice Captain), Isabelle Fox, Sophie Platt, Hanna Szworaska, Ashanti Timmins, Tahlia Robson, Mae Sadler, Isabelle Lawrence

St Michael's hosted the **Key Stage 1 School Games football tournament** on 23rd March. It was a beautiful sunny day and an enjoyable event overall. 10 Sandwell Primary Schools entered, including Rowley Hall, Temple Meadow and Oakham from our Rowley Regis Learning Community Primary Schools. It was a very tight competition with Rowley Hall beating St Paul's Primary in the final.

20 Year 9 student leaders (Abbie Siverns, Miah Beech, Lily Portman, Alexia Menegatos, Aneyah Bennett, Ellie Louise Tibbetts, Freddie Thompson, Joshua Poame, Jack Woodall, Kathen Evans, Myles Durham, Harvey Kataria, Katie Wroe, Chloe Yates, Grace Popoola, Kareena Cheema, Emelia Ali, Caitlin Hall, Bethany Taylor, Ella Howles) helped run the event with Felix Cawsey, Erin Yule, Jodie Jem, and Amelia Day refereeing all the matches. Students were fantastic role models to all the primary pupils, whose confidence grew in their communication skills as well as their football ability.



A massive well done to Freddie Thompson and Jack Woodhall who led their team to victory.



On 4th April 2022 four local Primary schools (Oakham, Temple Meadow, Springfield, and Rowley Hall) attended the annual **Dodgeball Tournament** held at St Michael's. The primary schools were superb ambassadors for their schools, showing excellent St Michael's values, especially "honesty" in terms of rules during the games. The skill level was very high with some very strong throws being shown; lots of hard work and perseverance.

13 Year 8 students acted as leaders with a variety of roles being undertaken, including warming up the primary teams, score keeping, umpiring and side line coaching. It is fantastic to be holding these events again and seeing our leaders thrive and flourish, learning important new skills, in situations that they have so desperately missed during lockdown. Staff from the primary schools commented on how our students were fantastic role models and they were very impressed with their maturity and communication skills.

We hope there will be a lot more opportunities in the future with a judo workshop, flag football festival and a primary sports day already in the calendar for next term.



Year 8 leaders:

- Lily Marlow
- Savanah Cresswell
- Aisha Gayle
- Stella Masiya
- Liberty Henderson
- Eden Ball
- Leah Blake
- Alfie Nock
- Ben Givargidze
- Joseph Jackson
- Luke Flavell
- Liam East
- Jackson Newell

GEOGRAPHY TRIP

On Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd March, Year 10 geography pupils went to Carding Mill Valley in the Shropshire Hills to collect river data for their GCSE Geography course. The weather was amazing and all pupils had a fantastic time.

It was lovely to see pupils back out on fieldwork and they were all a credit to the Geography Department and the school.



RE NEWS

During the Spring term, Year 10 RE students have gathered as a year group to undertake some dynamic and in-depth teaching from key religious leaders in our community.

Reverend Bridge from St Giles Church joined us for a session on The Holy Communion, when students were given a copy of the Church of England order of service and Reverend Bridge then unpacked the significance of the practice, giving both meaning and context for the students.

Pastor Wright presented the following week on water baptism – another important rite in the Christian faith. Students really engaged with the presentation, even role-playing a *Christian service* as it would unfold in some Christian church denominations. Pastor Wright presented water baptism from a variety of Christian perspectives and included insight into his own personal experiences and practices in his church.

Both sessions made what can sometimes appear to be foreign and symbolic concepts fun, approachable and relatable for students.

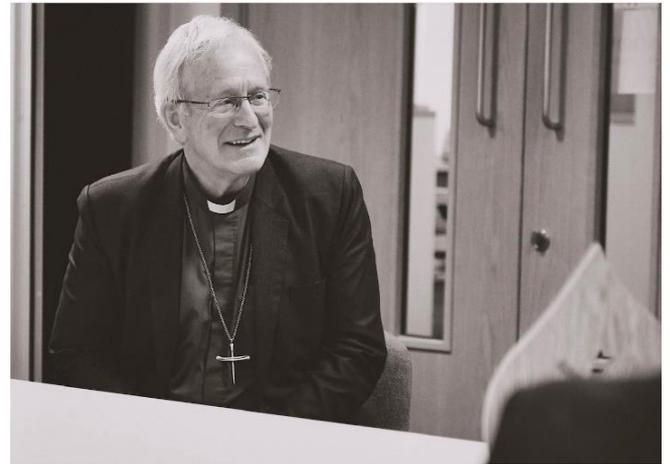




PRESENTATION OF THE BISHOP'S AWARD

On Wednesday 2nd March, we welcomed some very special guests into school: The Right Reverend David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham; Sarah Smith, Diocesan Director of Education; and Reverend John Bridge, our School Chaplain.

In March 2021, St Michael's received the very first Bishop of Birmingham Award for Living the Christian Vision and we were delighted when the lifting of Covid restrictions allowed the prestigious award to be presented to us personally by Bishop David.



In his address to Student Voice and Year 7 students, Bishop David referred to a time before he joined the Church when he met Mother Teresa in Calcutta and, during a conversation, she asked him "Are you all for Jesus?". He suggested this could be answered by looking at the inspiration that was behind the values of this school and how, through the "multiplication of ideas" that had been put into practice, students and staff had demonstrated "in practical and vivid ways" examples of living, love and self-giving which could make the world a different place; "if we can do more of this here, why can't that be multiplied across the Black Country and Birmingham" and beyond? He described the school's fundraising achievements as "absolutely staggering" and said a gold standard had been set.

The Bishop's Award is a beautiful wood sculpture made by Jonathan Hemingray and engraved with the school's name.

Bishop David said that he did not think there would be another school in his time that was going to get anywhere near St Michael's achievements so he was really pleased that we were the first recipients. He closed his address by suggesting that, before they leave St Michael's, Year 7 students might even win another one!



ARTIST'S WORKSHOP

On Thursday 24th March, 25 Year 8 students took part in an artist's workshop, creating a range of expressive pieces of art. Emily Motto, a contemporary artist based in London, came into school to work with our students for the day - all the students rose to the challenge of producing a contemporary installation.

Emily was overwhelmed by the students' enthusiasm and work ethic throughout the day, as well as the amazing clean up from 6 year 9 students!





We entered our Year 9 and 10 students into **the Intermediate UK Maths Challenge** despite COVID-19 issues. They competed against students nationally who are in Year 9, 10 or 11.

This year's thresholds are as follows: (Bronze: 50+) (Silver: 65+) (Gold: 81+):
Year 9:

Student First Name	Student Last Name	Total	Certificate
Kaitlin	Calloway	50	Bronze
Lewys	Doyle	64	Bronze
Jaymie	Gilbert	56	Bronze
Ella	Howles	51	Bronze
Ryan	King	50	Bronze
Taylor	Leech	70	SilverBiY*
James	Seymour	56	Bronze

Year 10:

Student First Name	Student Last Name	Total	Certificate
Robin	Draper	71	SilverBiS**
Izzy	Joesbury	55	Bronze
Leia	Kindon	55	Bronze
Shannon	Lovesey	62	Bronze
Edward	McGee	58	Bronze
Travis	Parry	61	Bronze
Kaitlyn	Roche	57	Bronze
Christopher	Taylor	50	Bronze
Joshua	Williams	70	Silver
Peter	Willmott	50	Bronze
Chloe	Winwood	71	SilverBiS**
Benjamin	Yates	71	SilverBiS**

* Best in Year

** Best in School

NUMERACY

Well done to the following students who progressed the most in last half term's form time numeracy challenge. This is a fantastic achievement over the half term: Daisy Goldby-Timmis 7H, Ajay Singh Aktar 7C, Macie Taylor 7C, Callum Miller 7C, Luke Flavell 8M, Joseph Jackson 8A, Fionn Smith 8M, Ezra Bell 8M, Joshua Poame 9A, Faye Durrant 9ST, Brooklyn Hedges 9A, Cameron Aston 9I, Zach Byfield 9S, Lucas Martin 10M, Kara Quarry 10S, Ellie Williams 10C, Leah Stevens 10L, Liam Cochrane 11S, Adam Uddin 11S, Layton Brown 11S, Rhianna Garner 11H, Ryan Blake 11C and Warren Johnson 11C.

Well done to the following students who achieved full marks on the form time numeracy challenge (last half term): Kayden Warren 7L, Tiree Whitehouse 7L, Joseph Jackson 8A, Fionn Smith 8M, Ezra Bell 8M, Mollie Penzer 8E, Grace Mandet 8A, Jessica Lovesey 9S, Harry Parker 9M, Connor Lawrence 9ST, Emily Starrs 10S, Liam Cochrane 11S, Michael Garcha 11S, Lauren Hadley 11M, Ameeta Bahra 11S, Archie Taylor 11S and Holly Lowe 11C.



LIFE IN A SUITCASE

How did you feel when the war in Ukraine broke out? I felt saddened to see so many people having to pack what they could grab into a small suitcase and run for their lives.

10 days into the war, I had the opportunity to help with some humanitarian efforts at one of the border crossings and also witness how the churches in Poland were helping the refugee crisis.

After landing in Warsaw, Poland on a Thursday night, I spent the next 36 hours making my way to the Ukraine border, stopping off at various warehouses, churches and homes that were now housing the never-ending line of Ukrainian women and their children. The churches had transformed their sanctuaries to shelters. Refugees could access safe accommodation, as well as food, medicine and toiletries.

After many hours of travel, I finally arrived at the border itself, where I witnessed first-hand the help the Ukrainians were receiving when making the crossing. I was blown away by the kindness, compassion and care these refugees were receiving. The light of the Polish people was clearly outshining the darkness from which families were fleeing.

I saw the generosity of people, from all around Europe to complete strangers, was making a difference. It was so inspiring to witness. I saw people being a 'good Samaritan' to the Ukrainian people and I am so pleased to say that St Michael's played a part in the relief efforts too. Students have been making financial contributions, as well as bringing in needed items from home.

Well done St Michael's for being the good Samaritan to strangers.

Mr Lakin,
Teacher of Science & Ethos Leader





YEAR 11

Well done to all of Year 11 for their hard work and conduct during the recent two-week period of mock examinations. We are now full steam ahead in the final stretch of the journey towards the summer examinations. We look forward to celebrating the success of all our Year 11 students and seeing all their hard work pay off in the coming months.

MONDAY 11TH APRIL

9AM TO 12PM
ENGLISH
9am -10.30am - Language revision
10.30am-12pm - Literature revision

12PM TO 1:30PM
COMPUTER SCIENCE
Paper 1 Topics

HISTORY
Focus - USA - Elizabeth -
Medicine



ST MICHAEL'S
Church of England High School

TUESDAY 12TH APRIL

SCIENCE
9am - 10:30am 10:30am - 12pm 12pm - 1:30pm
Focus on Paper 1 topic areas for Biology - Chemistry - Physics

WEDNESDAY 13TH APRIL

ART
9am - 10:30am 10:30am - 12pm 12pm - 1:30pm
Work on PLCs and complete key pieces of coursework

TUESDAY 19TH APRIL

MATHS
10:30am - 12pm
Carousel of revision sessions

THURSDAY 21ST APRIL

DANCE
10:30am - 1:30pm
GCSE dance practical rehearsals in preparation for final exam.
Set phrase / Choreography / Duet

EASTER SCHOOL

Revision sessions to support with upcoming exams

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

Winter is often viewed as a time for hibernating, storing energy and reflecting on the past year. However, the clocks have now changed, Spring has sprung (well, kind of) and now is the perfect opportunity to put that conserved energy to good use.

Looking after ourselves and our wellbeing has never been more prominent and there is no end of hints and tips to help us live better lives.

YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

Spring and summer are a great time to incorporate more fresh, in-season fruits and vegetables into your diet, like mushrooms, bell peppers, zucchini, and berries. All are packed with micronutrients the body needs and thrives on. Focus on getting healthy fats from produce and whole foods like avocados, nuts, and seeds - rather than from refined oils and fried foods.



When it's warmer outside, your body can lose more moisture through sweating, even if you don't feel yourself getting sweaty. Dehydration can pose serious health risks if severe — and even if you're just mildly dehydrated, it can cause fatigue, low energy, and headaches. To help prevent dehydration, it's important to take proactive steps to drink enough water throughout the day, such as by keeping a water bottle handy at all times.

STAY HYDRATED

GET OUTSIDE, GET ACTIVE, GET SOME SUN!

The longer days and lighter nights are perfect for getting more active. We're not talking marathon running here, just a stroll around your park or neighbourhood. We're genetically programmed to enjoy the outdoors. It engages all of our senses, and it has a big effect on our mood and self-esteem. Getting outside can boost vitamin D levels, thanks to the sun (remember sun screen) And if you're walking on uneven terrain, it can engage more muscles and improve your balance compared with moving on a flat surface.



Meditation isn't about sitting crossed legged under a tree chanting 'om'. It isn't about becoming a different person or being a better one. Meditation is about focus and being present in a moment. You may wish to focus on your breathing as a simple starting point. Meditation is a skill, and like any skill the more you practise, the better you become at it. If you are new to meditation, try doing it first thing in the morning when you wake up. Make yourself comfortable (lying down, sitting up... whatever works best for you) and focus on your breath as your breath in and out. Be aware of your body and how it feels, from your toes to your head. Any intrusive thoughts, acknowledge them, then come back to your breathing and your body. Start with a couple of minutes per day and slowly increase your time as you get better.

MEDITATE, GO ON... GIVE IT A GO

Sources

www.headspace.com
www.everydayhealth.com

LIBRARY NEWS

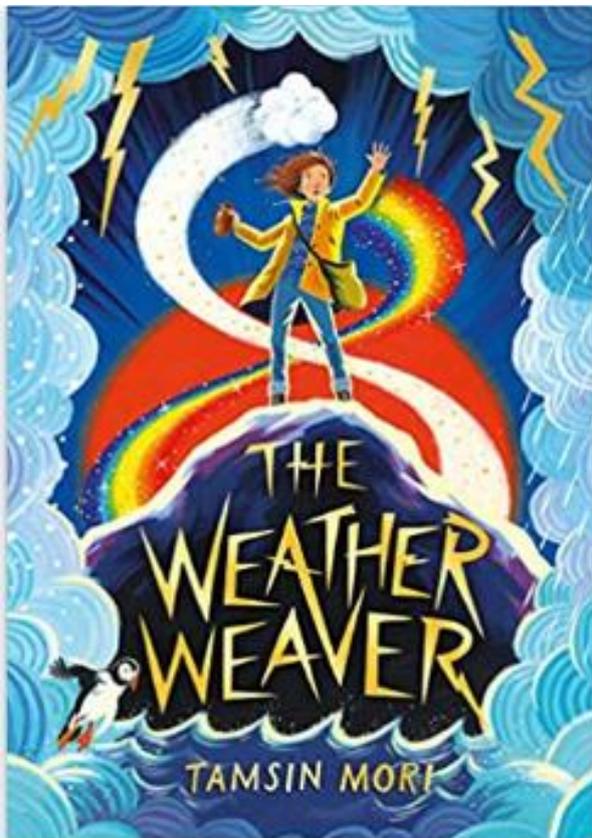
Dudley Children's Book Awards 2022

On Tuesday 22nd March, we took our Early Bird Book Group to Dormston Mill Theatre to attend the Dudley Children's Book Awards 2022 (DCBA). This was an exciting opportunity for the students to meet some of the authors that had been shortlisted for the DCBA; six shortlisted books had been chosen from a longlist:

1. The Weather Weaver by Tamsin Mori
2. The Island by C.L. Taylor
3. The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh by Helen Rutter
4. The Small Things by Lisa Thompson
5. When the Sky Falls by Phil Earle
6. City of Rust by Gemma Fowler
7. Don't Doubt the Rainbow: The five clues by Anthony Kessel

The students, who had read the books before the event and had been involved in the voting process, really enjoyed seeing the books brought to life by the authors themselves, who spoke about them and their inspiration for writing them. Four authors were present at the ceremony, with the others sending over a message virtually. Students were given the opportunity to purchase the shortlisted books and get them signed by the authors who were there. There were also some photo opportunities!

The winner of the DCBA was Tamsin Mori for *The Weather Weaver*. Tamsin is pictured below with Sofia from 7M.





Book Fair in the Library

The Library hosted the Scholastic Book Fair from Friday 18th to Thursday 24th March 2022. The Book Fairs are always a really fun opportunity for our students to browse the selection of new fiction books on sale, and they are also able to buy books from the fair if they wish. We ran a raffle alongside the book fair where one lucky winner

would win over £30 worth of prizes including books from the book fair, an Easter egg, sweets, stationery and more!



Congratulations to Leah Davy 8I for winning the Easter raffle and thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket.

The Book Fair will return in September 2022

Year 8 Book Quiz

The Library runs an annual book quiz for Years 7, 8 and 9 and during March/April it was the turn of Year 8 students to sign up.

Four students were asked to take part and they had to read at least one of the 4 books below. They also chose two reserves in case any students were unable to compete on the day.

The Final took place on Monday 4th April, following a quarter-final and a semi-final.

The four books included in the quiz were:

- **The Midnight Gang by David Walliams**
- **Awful Auntie by David Walliams**
- **The Small Things by Lisa Thompson**
- **Seven Ghosts by Chris Priestly**



All the students who took part were enthusiastic and had fun participating. The winners of the Year 8 Book Quiz are:

- 8M
Charlotte Burt
Esme Cogger
Mia Leadbeater
Hannah Davis

Year 9 Book Quiz will be taking place just before we break up for the Summer holiday.



World book day 2022

On Thursday 3rd March St Michael's staff took part World Book Day! WBD celebrates books, authors, illustrators and encourages students to discover the pleasure of reading and enjoy our mutual love of reading.

With so many staff filling the school corridors dressed as book characters, students were bound to ask their friends who they saw and want to find out more. WBD generally generates conversation round books, characters and reading. This often leads them to collect books from the library they would not normally read.



Throughout the day the library hosted various activities including a Book Swap which was more popular than ever this year.

A few photos from the day:



Read for Good provides a regular supply of brand-new books along with storyteller visits to brighten up the days of children in all of the UK's main children's hospitals. These hospitals include Birmingham Children's Hospital, Good Hope, Alder Hay and Great Ormand Street Hospital. When children are in hospital, books and stories are particularly important - they comfort, distract, re-assure and entertain them. Children unable to leave their beds can choose books from specially designed mobile bookcases. The books are safe for those at high risk of infection, because they are brand new and supplied by people who donate to the charity.

The readathon is all about reading for fun, and staying motivated to read, whilst aiding the charity to continue their fabulous work. In total St Michael's **raised £310.92** to donate to the charity, this will enable them to purchase around 50 books for children in hospital. A special mention goes to **7M** who raised £77.42! (and won the tub of sweets) Also, special thank you to three students who raised a fantastic sum of money by taking part in the sponsored readathon: Emily 9M, Charlotte 8M and Sophie 8S.

A huge thank you to every single person who donated, every donation really does make a difference.



Just a few of the many Student Voice activities this term:
It's so nice to be back! Meetings, projects, networking, wellbeing events...and a whole lot of fun!



**EASTER
TOMBOLA**
FRIDAY 1ST APRIL
MORE THAN
100 PRIZES
RAISING MONEY FOR BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



Congratulations St Michaels C of E High School – you're one of our 100 Heroes!

Thanks to your incredible support over the past year, we're thrilled to announce that you have been named as one of our 100 Heroes for 2022.

We're also absolutely delighted to celebrate with us in person for the first time in three years at our special event in Birmingham – on Sunday 8 May. We'd be honoured if you could join us with our other wonderful 100 Heroes, to pay tribute to the staff who make our hospital a better place for everyone.

As one of our 100 Heroes, you'll be in the front of the line to receive your balloon and your certificate. The text is on the lead for you.

To RSVP, please email 100heroes@bch.nhs.uk before 31st March 2022.

If you have any questions, please call 0121 303 1234. Thank you for your support. Birmingham Children's Hospital.