

# ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**Date:** Tuesday, January 3, 2023  
**Issue:** 022

## AUTUMN 2 2022 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parent/Carer,

At the start of this academic year, our community had to adjust to changes in routines, re-establishing those pre-pandemic expectations. As we near the end of the autumn term, I thank all parents/carers for your continued support, especially for ensuring that your child's attendance exceeds the 97% target.

Throughout this term, staff have diligently provided a range of activities and initiatives to support students' experiences beyond their curriculum. Our new KS4 termly rewards assemblies have received positive parental praise, and I truly thank you for the optimistic feedback.

The generosity of our local community is humbling. Despite the current economic climate, your continued support has ensured that charitable fundraising events have continued throughout the term. Staff within school enacted our value of justice, raising a significant amount of money to help cover postage costs for the Samaritan's shoe box appeal, ensuring all 105 shoe boxes were delivered. This is one example of how our amazing school community demonstrates our school's values of care and compassion.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and understanding of encouragement. I wish you all a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year. God Bless.



**Mrs Handy-Rivett, Headteacher**

### UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS:

<b>Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	Students return to school
<b>Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Year 8 Parents' Evening
<b>Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Flu Immunisations for Years 7, 8 & 9
<b>Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Year 9 DTP/MenACWY Immunisations
<b>Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Year 11 mocks begin
<b>Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> February</b>	End of Term
<b>Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Students return to school
<b>Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	Year 11 mocks end

### 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**

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](mailto:contact.staff@st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk)

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

## ETHOS MATTERS

# VISION STATEMENT

*To show love, care and kindness to all in our community.*

*To value what we have and to share with others.*

*To enable everyone to achieve their full potential.*

As a Church of England school, we follow the teachings of Christ, and the ethos of the school is at the heart of our teaching and learning. We encourage and develop both Christian and moral values. Our core aim is to instil values of mercy, integrity, care and compassion, humility, equality, achievement, leadership, and service, all bound within a spirit of Christian love and action.

At St Michael's, we encourage character development through a variety of activities and events. Some experiences act as a 'window'. These give students opportunities to become aware of the world and themselves in new ways. While students grow and thrive we recognise that there will be many layers to their identity, and our hope is that the events they engage with will act as 'mirrors', which give our students opportunities to reflect and meditate on characteristics we deem valuable to attain and embed into our life.

We believe the character of our students is ever evolving and the holistic development of a child should harness love and the process of teaching them to accept themselves and enjoy good relationships with each other. We believe that our students should be supported with taking an interest and delight in the world around them; they are open to what lies beyond the everyday existences that surround them in their usual localities. Some of these exposures may manifest itself in faith or belief in God. Our hope is that St Michael's students are able to express and understand their feelings rooted in a strong moral sense and a love of what is good. We strive to find the space within their daily lives where they are able to enjoy quiet and stillness, possess an active imagination, and show joy in creativity and discovering new skills and new visions of the world we all inhabit.



## REMEMBRANCE DAY



On 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022, St Michael's held a two-minute silence in remembrance of people who fought in the First World War and of other people who have fought for the United Kingdom to support democracy and freedom.

Jonathan Dixon made a flawless performance of The Last Post and Reveille for Remembrance Day. He is currently playing solo cornet in Sandwell Youth Band, first trumpet in Sandwell Youth Concert Band, solo cornet in The Salvation Army and first cornet in The West Midlands Divisional Youth Band. Jonathan shows real promise for the future of going far in the brass band world and aspires to be a teacher himself.



## DRAMA TRIP



The Drama Department took their Year 10 Performing Arts group to the Birmingham Alexandra Theatre on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November to watch 'Noughts and Crosses' in preparation for their Performing Arts BTEC coursework. The student's behaviour was exemplary. They were excited to attend the theatre and very complimentary of the performance. Hopefully, this will have inspired any of our students who are budding actors. The Drama Department looks forward to organising more trips to the theatre in the future.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

St Michael's staff and students participate in the Samaritan's Operation Christmas Child every year. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to show God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Since 1990, more than 186 million children in over 160 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child.



St Michael's has donated 105 boxes of presents and raised over £500 to pay for the postage of the boxes. Students donated items, contributed to delivery, and packed their shoe boxes. We also raised money by hosting a fantastic Biscuit Bonanza. The students were incredible and donated generously. We are proud of our school community and could not have done it without your support.

A special thank you to Mrs Burchell, Ms Khan, and Mrs Robinson for managing this process, and Ellie Belton, Ashleigh Brinton, Heidi Cogger, Marley Ebanks, Charly Lewis, and Savannah Whitehouse for helping us on the delivery day. Well done to everyone.



## WINTER FAYRE

On Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> November, St Michael's held its Christmas Fayre for the first time in three years. Despite the dodgy weather, 100s of people came out to support the event. There were lots of stalls to wander around, and a selection of food stands including a stall by our very own Mrs Hussain and Mrs Malhi. The school band sounded fabulous and treated our guests to some festive tunes.



### PAMPER BEFORE **SANTA**

The professional team at *Identity Hair & Beauty Salon* will be offering free hair cuts and plaits from 6-8pm in return for a voluntary donation to Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity



We were thrilled to have Identity Hair & Beauty Salon, who offered free plaits and cuts at the Winter Fayre in return for a voluntary donation to charity.



Thank you to everyone in our community who helped us set up and run the fayre and to everyone who came on the night. You helped us to raise £2430 for Birmingham Children's Hospital and £405 for Jayne Gray's Bursary Fund.





**ST MICHAEL'S**  
Church of England High School



The amount raised was an amazing £2,430.00 on the night. We have now reached over our £50,000 target for Birmingham Children's Hospital.



## JOLLY JUMPER DAY

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of December, we held our Jolly Jumper Day to raise money for Birmingham children's Hospital, Birmingham Women's Hospital and the Jayne Gray Bursary fund. We raised over £550! Thank you to all of the students who made the wonderful choice to wear their Christmas jumper to school: Evie Basterfield, Eve Bennett, Erica Narthey, Thomas Calvert, Luke Flavell, Xander-Solomon Grosvenor, Kodi Edwards, Elissa Ball, Chloe Brittain, Robin Draper, Joshua Williams, Georgia Whiteman, Jayden Chandler, Harmony Prescott, Rhyley Preston, Oscar Siviter, Leah Blake, Layla Rudge, Esme Lloyd, Lacey Overton, Connie Bates and Bethany Birks.



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

Last Thursday, we hosted The Calm Before Christmas - A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Child student event. The focus was on students' mental health over the festive period and ways to remain calm when things can get a little too much. We also had external agencies attend including Murray Hall, Decca, Brook, and the Youth Bus with their go-kart beer goggle challenge.

The students really enjoyed the event and interacted with the agencies really well.

Chloe Gleadall



JJ O'Meara



Kayde-Jai Young



**Back row:** Nathan Smith, Sofia Thorp, Robin Draper, Cleo Woolley, Chloe Marshall, Mia Raybould, Lily Marlow, Sophie Gleadall

**Front row:** James Potter, JJ O Meara, Chloe Gleadall, Jack Whiteman

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

We hosted the Scholastic Book Fair in the library between Monday 26<sup>th</sup> – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> of September, and students were able to visit before school, during break and lunchtime, and after school.

The book fairs are always a great way of supporting reading for pleasure and encouraging a culture of reading within the school, as there is always a wide range of quality fiction and non-fiction books available to buy, with books starting from as little as £1.99.



There is always a great buzz in the library whenever we host the fair and the students really enjoy browsing the wide range of fiction and non-fiction books. We raised £335.21 which meant that gained 25% commission from the book fair to spend on books for the school library, which is fantastic.



It was lovely to see so many students taking an interest in the book fair and getting involved in the activities that we had running alongside the fair, including a Book Fair raffle which was over £25 worth of gifts to win.

A big thank you to everyone who continues to support the library by visiting the book fair, buying from the fair or promoting it and encouraging students to attend. We really appreciate your support!



Congratulations to **Faith Rayment in Year 11** for winning the Scholastic Book Fair raffle!

### Introducing our new student librarians

A big hello and a warm welcome to our newly appointed student librarians!



They will be taking part in a wide range of tasks to help with the day-to-day running of the library as well as contributing ideas on the library's development and helping organise Library events and activities. Students applied to become Student Librarians and were invited to attend an interview on successful application. They should all be extremely proud of themselves for being selected to represent the school as an advocate of the library.

**Year 7:** Harmony, JJ, Mollie, Emily, and Crystal **Year 9:** Mia

## Virtual Author Event - Jeffrey Boakye

### Celebrating Reading, Music, and Black History Month

A Year 8 Music class attended a virtual author event in the library. The session incorporated them thinking of a song that reminded them of a particular time in their life, some of the ideas they came up with are below:

- Perfect - Wedding
- Coming home - end of Year 6 prom
- All I want for Christmas - decorating the Christmas tree
- Busted - during lockdown
- Midnight memories - going on holiday

Students then watched a video of Jeffrey Boakye, author, educator, and broadcaster. He spoke a lot about how music, black history, literature, and various subjects all interlinked and how he wants his books to assist readers in gaining new perspectives. The students enjoyed the session and its thought-provoking content.



## Year 7 Book Quiz

Year 7 students were asked to read a book each and remember as much detail about the book as possible. As well as answering questions on the four books, they were also quizzed on their book general knowledge. There were prizes for the runners-up and a trophy for the winners. The aim was to provide some fun and competition amongst the students. It was a fantastic opportunity for the students to get involved with reading before the Christmas holidays commence.

The four books we chose for the students to read this year were...

- *The Night I Met Father Christmas* by Ben Miller
- *Bad Dad* by David Walliams
- *The Creakers* by Tom Fletcher
- *Mr Stink* by David Walliams

Isla Haddleton, Emily Gould, James Potter, and Jack Whiteman from 7M were well-deserved winners; it was a close competition throughout the final with only a few points between 7M and 7E.

**Congratulations to the winners: 7M**  
**Well done to all the students who competed!**



## LITERACY AND NUMERACY



Students continue to flourish in the form-time Numeracy Challenge. Well done to the following forms who progressed the most to win a prize in Autumn 1:

- 8C (+19% improvement)
- 9H (+14% improvement)
- 10M (+8% improvement)
- 11E (+35% improvement)

### Senior UK Maths Challenge:

We regularly participate in the UK Maths Challenge at the Junior level (we enter Year 7 and 8 students) and the Intermediate Challenge (we enter Year 9 and 10). This has been extremely successful in raising the aspirations of our students and enabling our students to aspire to improve even further. For the academic year of 2022-2023, we have trialled the Senior UK Maths challenge with some of our Year 9 and 10 students. This challenge is aimed at Year 13 students (A-level) and below. Our students achieved some fantastic results considering their age in comparison to the national age at which it is aimed.

Student Firstname	Student Last name	Total	Certificate Bronze: 48 Silver: 62 Gold: 76
Sienna	Jones	60	Bronze
Jack	Woodall	60	Bronze
Manpreet	Singh	55	Bronze
Jack	Hughes	54	Bronze
Isabelle	Abbey	50	Bronze
Esme	Cogger	50	Bronze
Parison	Messenger	50	Bronze



The Mathematics Department also runs a range of extracurricular sessions including Lego Club, Board Games Club, and three Sparx homework support sessions. Please check with your maths teachers for up-to-date times.

## SANDWELL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROGRAMME

The Holiday Activities and Food Programme bookings are now live for parents to book free activities over the winter holidays.

[Book Here](#)

These activities are aimed at children in receipt of benefit-related free school meals.



### Register now for FREE Winter events

We are planning an amazing programme for the winter holidays and there is a real range of exciting things to get involved in for school aged children between 4yrs and 16yrs.

You will be receiving a HAF voucher with a 16 digit unique code which will allow you to book your children on to FREE activities and make memories over the winter holidays.

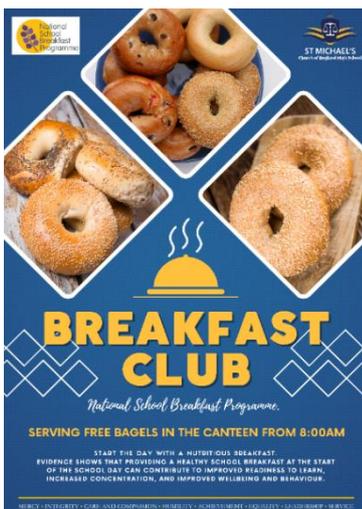
The voucher will have a link to the website where you can book activities – You will also be receiving a postcard in the post next week to remind you of what's on offer and a link to our bright new website.

### What we are providing

The aims of the programme for those children and young people attending are:

- To have access to a healthy food offer over the school holidays.
- To have access to activities during the school holidays that are engaging and fun which they may not be already able to access.
- To learn about healthy foods and nutrition and physical and mental wellbeing.
- To have access to other local services.
- All activities will be delivered throughout the winter holidays across Sandwell some will be pre-book only and booking is already live.

## BREAKFAST CLUB



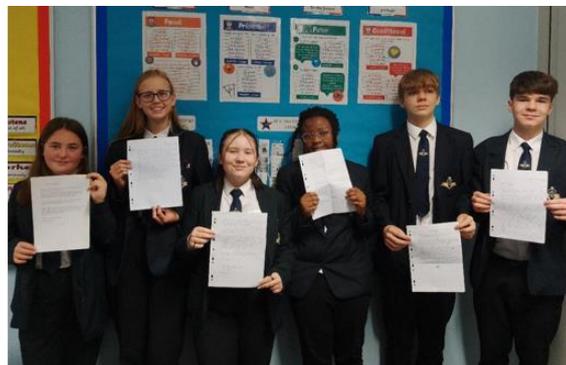
We are pleased to inform you that St Michael's has been successful in its application to be part of the National School Breakfast Programme. This means we receive a subsidy for the food and delivery costs of breakfast provision. From the start of term, there will be a free breakfast bagel available at the canteen from 8:00 am until 8.30 am. All breakfast products offered through the programme meet the [school food standards](#).

## BONJOUR CHER CORRESPONDANT!



International links have been made this year with a secondary school near Paris. Twenty-four very excited Year 10 students received their first-ever penfriend letter from France!

Collège du Parc Frot, Meaux, France



Our responses are all ready to go and we look forward to continuing and strengthening this link.

### MFL REWARDS

Our Co-Chair of Governors, Kerry Thornton, came into school to reward twenty students who have excelled in MFL during the first half term.

Congratulations to all the students and thank you to Mrs Thornton for coming in.

Eden Goldby-Timmis

Jajji Bajwa, Rebecca Willetts, Phoebe Hooper, Kerry Thornton, Faye Jeffreys



Jenna Sohail



Hannah Davis

Mustafa Yasir

Grace Mandet

Maria Brown





**ST MICHAEL'S**  
Church of England High School

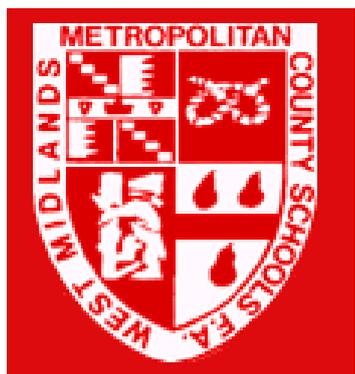
## SCHOOL GAME AWARD

Big news!



Mrs Wright is pleased to announce that the PE department applied for the Schools Game Award, and it has been confirmed that the school has been awarded a silver level. This is an excellent achievement for St Michael's, and a lot of hard work and dedication has been processed to achieve this award.

If you would like to know more about the award, please click [here](#). The criteria for the award are available [here](#).



They will play against Bishop Challinor Catholic School in the quarterfinals, in March 2023.

## BOY'S FOOTBALL

The Year 9 boys football squad has been competing in the West Midlands under 14s cup during this term.

### Results

E		St. Michael's High School Sandwell	6 - 3	Q3 Academy Sandwell	
		Match *Result played on 19/09/2022			
P		Wombourne H.S. Brierley Hill & Dudley	1 - 4	St. Michael's High School Sandwell	
		Match *Result played on 17/10/2022			
D		St. Michael's High School Sandwell	5 - 0	Stoke Park Coventry	
		Match *Result played on 14/11/2022			

Many congratulations to the football team:

Jared	Bower Crandon	Joseph	Jackson
Henry	Bridge (Vice cap)	Aiden	Niblett
Connor	Colclough	Elliot	Saba
Liam	East	Charlie	Scrivens
Luke	Flavell	George	Sherwood
Christian	Flitar	Mason	Towler
Ben	Givargidze (Cap)	Thomas	Woodall
Keyan	Graham	Mustafa	Yasir

## DANCE EVENT



On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, the PE department hosted its annual Just Dance Event. The students danced for around 2 hours in total and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The theme for the event was Christmas and all students dressed up in their Christmas attire and looked fantastic. In the evening, the students enjoyed a pizza delivery, and some prizes were also awarded for the best outfits and best dancers.

A massive thank you to all the families and friends that sponsored their children/relatives and supported this event. There were around fifty students taking part on the evening and the total amount raised was a massive £703, with still some to be collected. Many thanks for all your support and have a lovely Christmas, from the PE Department.



## NETBALL TOURNAMENT

On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November, our under-14's netball team represented St Michael's in the South Staffordshire County Netball Tournament. It was a very well-represented tournament across all the Black Country boroughs. The level of netball was exceptional, and our students played some incredible teams. They held their own throughout the tournament keeping big smiles on their faces and their heads held high.

Even though they did not win one game, their positive attitude and thirst to improve did not waiver. As their teacher and netball coach, both Mrs Faulkner and Mrs Dodd were incredibly proud of these players for showing great resilience and perseverance throughout.

A massive well done to the team, and we look forward to attending in the future as the sport develops further at St Michael's.

A big thank you to all the parents/carers for ensuring their daughter was ready on time for the event; we cannot do the event without all of your support. Also, to Mrs Dodd for giving up her Sunday morning to coach on the day.

**Top row:** Erica Nartay, Karolina Atanassova, Grace Mandet, Kaitlin Hogan, Isabelle Lawrence  
**Front row:** Eve Bennett, Isabelle Fox, Rayne Cox





## GIRL'S FOOTBALL COMPETITION

On 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022, we hosted the Year 5 & 6 School Games Girls Football competition. Nine primary schools were in attendance and competed in a points league event where the top three teams would go through to the Black Country Finals. The winners were Grove Vale who received 23 points, with Rowley Hall gaining 2<sup>nd</sup> place to Shireland Hall in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, who were divided by a four-goal difference. We would like to say a massive well done to all the teams involved. It was fantastic to see so many girls playing football on our Astro, and we are excited for other events in the future.

A massive well done to our sports leaders who provided excellent referees, coaches, scorers, and all-around role models for our younger children. All primary teachers were so impressed by the student's knowledge, patience, perseverance, and confidence. A special mention went out to Katie Wroe, Isabelle Lawrence, Isobel Menegatos, Sydney Pritchard, and Kaitlin Hogan, who were the morning referees and had some difficult decisions to make. All the students' value cards were signed, and house points were given out for their excellent efforts.

Emelia Ali  
Japji Bajwa  
Grace Darby  
Kaitlin Hogan  
Isabelle Lawrence  
Alexia Menegatos

Isobel Menegatos  
Grace Poopla  
Sydney Pritchard  
Abbie Siverns  
Ellie Tibbets  
Rebecca Willets

### UPCOMING GIRLS FOOTBALL EVENTS:

U14s - 26<sup>th</sup> January at Sandwell Academy

U16s - 9<sup>th</sup> February at Sandwell Academy



# ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

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](mailto:contact.staff@st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk)

---

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