



Date: Friday, February 17, 2023

**Issue:** 017

# **SPRING 1 2023 NEWSLETTER**

Dear Parent/Carer,

At St Michael's, we welcomed the New Year with excitement for the opportunities that lay ahead, and this half-term has been exciting for a variety of reasons. Our students are flourishing, and we have been afforded many opportunities to showcase the marvellous talents of our school community: some students' literary work has been selected to be published in a book; Student Voice has presented a regional event; and our Dancers performed on a national platform, at Union Chapel in London.

Furthermore, we were joined by His Majesty's Inspectorate on the 17th and 18th of January for our Ofsted inspection.

I would like to thank all governors, staff, students, and parents for taking their time to speak to the inspectors, share their stories and complete surveys. I will write to all parents as soon as the inspection report is released.

Our Year 11 programme of extracurricular intervention and support is a real strength of St Michael's. Year 11 students are currently sitting their mock exams, and we wish all students continued success in the run-up to their formal examinations.

I would like to thank you for your continued support, and I wish you all a wonderful half-term break.

Mrs Handy-Rivett, Headteacher

# **UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS:**

Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> January –

Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Friday, 10th February -

Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Monday, 27th February

Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March

Friday, 31st March

Friday, 31st March

Monday, 17th April

Y11 Revision Challenge

Y11 Mocks

Students return to school

Year 9 Parents' Evening

**End of Term** 

**Teacher Training Day** 

Students return to school

OUR SCHOOL PRAYER

What does the \_\_\_\_\_\_ask of you?

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

Micah 6vs.8



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# **MERCY MATTERS**



As a community, we know it is not right for anyone to be left hungry or in extreme poverty. I think we can agree that at this difficult time of global economic crisis, we are all feeling the pinch and together, we are all experiencing the effects of the crisis, albeit in differing ways.

Within Sandwell, we are thankful that there are a wide variety of services accessible to its citizens. Within the St Michael's school community, we consistently witness true compassion within the services that the school offers to our students and the families to which they belong and within the services in the surrounding areas; we all act from a position of compassion, with the aim of seeking and supplying dignified support to those in need.

With large numbers of people all needing access to various services, it is evident that individuals can often find themselves in a space of reflection where they process some of the following questions: "What about me and my family?", "What about our needs?", "Why are we not considered for services like these?".

The reality is that, during times of crisis, we can start to look at others as the enemy, and we need to be mindful that, unfortunately, this can lead to merciless thoughts. The act of mercy is essential during difficult times, so, as we start the new year of 2023 with new hopes and silent heart desires of what we would like to achieve for ourselves and our families, let us all consider how to become more merciful.

We could begin this by considering merciful thoughts and actions at those times when we glance over and look at what others have, or do not have. It is important that while we glance we place our 'metaphoric glasses' on to look around through a 'lens of mercy'. This kind of lens is valuable to many. If we choose mercy, we choose to act and see situations with a lens of kindness, especially when it might be within us to be harsh with our words and our actions towards others.

So, as we step into the new year of 2023, let us think about wearing the glasses of mercy; this is a wonderful accessory that goes with everything and looks good to everyone and on everyone.

Have a merciful 2023.



# CHURCH OF ENGLAND NATIONAL CONFERENCE



A big well done to the twenty-three pupils that performed at the Church of England National Conference 2023: Flourishing Together. This was held at Union Chapel in London on Friday 27th January 2023 where the pupils performed in front of the Education Secretary, The Archbishop of York, and numerous other official guests. The pupils worked hard in rehearsals to put the performance together and performed two dances on the day. They were on the coach for 5:30 am and overcame hurdles brilliantly on the day. "The pupils were professional and a true credit to St Michael's - well done!", said Miss Amy Weaver, head Dance Teacher.

Jill Stolberg, Church School Distinctiveness Adviser, provided this congratulatory message to our dancers, following their performance in London: "The dancers performed beautifully, in an inspiring way, (the ropes!), but I particularly admired the way that they coped with the size of the stage, and their adaptation of the content to use the stairs to reach further space, maintaining the pose throughout the performance. Congratulations to the dancers. They were a real tribute to St Michael's."















# **YEAR 11 REVISION CHALLENGE**

We have launched the Year 11 Revision Challenge to provide structure and support for students in the run-up to their mock exams. The Revision Challenge is the Year 11 homework until after the mock exams. Students will have their homework checked once a week by their class teacher in each subject to ensure they have completed it. This provides flexibility for students to complete subjects on a different day if they are unable to complete the tasks on the day set. Teachers will sign your child's A5 Revision Challenge each week to confirm they have completed it. We have also listened to student feedback and spread the same number of tasks over a longer time, so students have more time to do them.

Year 11 Mock Exam Revision Planner Feb/March 2023 – All subjects							
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Week 5B	6 <sup>th</sup> Feb English Literature 6	7 <sup>th</sup> Feb Religious Studies 5	8 <sup>th</sup> Feb Maths 9	9 <sup>th</sup> Feb Biology 6	10 <sup>th</sup> Feb Exams Spanish AM History PM	11 <sup>th</sup> Feb Chemistry 5	12 <sup>th</sup> Feb Biology 7
		OPTION B Session 6	English Lang 5	OPTION A Session 5	OPTION C Session 6	English Literature 7	English Literature 8 & 9
Exam Week	13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	18 <sup>th</sup> Feb	19 <sup>th</sup> Feb
	English Lit P1 exam	Maths P1 exam AM	DT exam AM Dance exam AM	History exam AM	Maths P2 exam AM	Maths 12	Physics 3
	Maths 11	DT/Dance Option A/C	History German	Geography Option A/B/C		Religious Studies 6	OPTION A Session 6
Half-Term	20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	21st Feb	22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	26 <sup>th</sup> Feb
	English Lang 6	Physics 4	Religious Studies 7	Physics 5	OPTION B Session 8	Chemistry 6	Chemistry 7
	OPTION A Session 7	OPTION B Session 7	Maths 11	Geography Option A/B/C		French/German/Sp anish Geography Option A/B/C	English Lang 7
Exam Week	27 <sup>th</sup> Feb English Lang P1 exam AM	28 <sup>th</sup> Feb French exam AM English Lang P2 exam PM	1st Mar Geography P2 exam AM Computer Science P2 exam PM	2 <sup>nd</sup> March German exam AM Maths P3 exam PM	3rd March Physics P2 exam AM French/German/ Spanish exam PM	4 <sup>th</sup> March	5 <sup>th</sup> March
	French/German/ Spanish	Geography	Maths 14	Physics 6			

The full Year 11 Revision Challenge and subject-specific tasks can be found at the following link: https://stmichaels.sandwell.sch.uk/curriculum/year-11-revision-challenge/

# **CAREERS QUALITY STANDARD**

St Michael's has achieved the Quality in Careers Standard for the 10<sup>th</sup> year. Congratulations to Mr Stafford, our Careers Leader. The Quality in Careers Standard is the single national quality award for careers education, information, advice, and guidance (CEIAG) in secondary and special schools, colleges, and work-based learning.



Kerry Whitehouse, Michele Squire, Peter Stafford, Christina Handy-Rivett, Jo Loucas



# **WELLBEING TAKEOVER**



To mark Children's Mental Health Week, we hosted our third Wellbeing Takeover from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2023. Students helped to create their vision for the week, which included a range of activities such as meditation, music, and the return of Undercover Kindness. The week also promoted activities linked to the 5 steps to wellbeing: connect, be active, take notice, learn, and give. Special thanks to the Wellbeing Champions for their help with creating the timetable to raise awareness and signpost support strategies and services.













# **LIBRARY**



SORA the reading app is available for all students to access; they can read from the array of books available on SORA on their tablets, phones, or laptops. All students should have their login information written in their planner; however, if your child still needs their login please email

<u>library@st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk</u> or, alternatively, ask them to come to the library for further assistance.

#### **Scholastic Book Fair**

The *Scholastic Book Fair* will in school from **Monday 20**<sup>th</sup> **March until Friday 24**<sup>th</sup> **March**, students are welcome to browse the book fair, before school, during break, during lunch and after school.

The Book Fairs are always popular with our students and have been a massive success in previous years, so we are looking forward to hosting it once more. Every book you buy helps get FREE BOOKS for our school library! The Book Fair also helps with promoting reading for pleasure, which in turn has a positive impact on their studies as well as on a personal level.

There will be over two hundred titles to browse through, with fantasy, thrillers, romance, non-fiction, comedy, and lots more starting from only £2.99 on offer. Please send students to school with cash, as we are unable to accept card payments in school. You can also pay online for any books using the QR code.





#### **Scrabble Club**



We have launched a scrabble club every Thursday at lunch in the library. The student librarians organise the club and are encouraging other students to participate. scrabble supports students in improving their vocabulary, math skills, and teamwork as well as being fun. All years are welcome, come along a join in!

# **Competition winners**

Congratulations to Evie Rose Martin, 7E, and Emily Gould, 7M, for taking part and winning the Valentine competitions



**Emily Gould** 

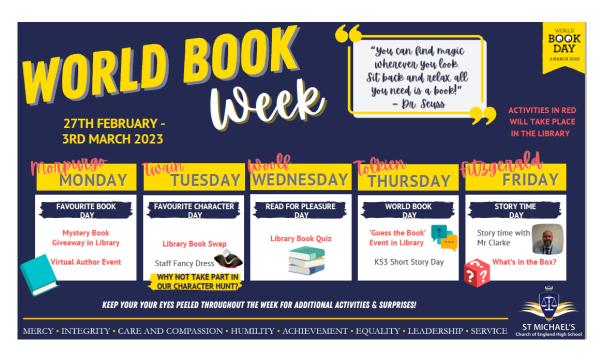
#### Next half term...

Keep an eye out in the next newsletter for World Book Week photos, the Year 8 Book Quiz winners, Easter competitions and more!











World book day tokens are changing this year, from paper to digital tokens.

Use your mobile phone to scan the QR code and download the token, you can then use your token to purchase any of the world book day books below from you local participating bookstore or supermarket.

Digital tokens are valid from Thursday 16 February until Sunday 26 March 2023.

Any queries email:

Library@st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk

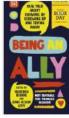


















# **STUDENT VOICE**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February, Abigail Caffrey, and Robin Draper from Student Voice opened the local authority Secondary Development Day with a presentation showcasing the power of Student Voice and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Child. As always, they represented the school wonderfully and received high praise from the audience.







# **WRITING STARS!**

KS3 Writing Stars students at St Michael's entered a competition to write a 100-word story based on a number. Not only did the winners receive a certificate and a bookmark, but the winning 100-word sagas will also be published in a book! Our winners this time are:

- Ella Peake, Y7
- Ben Heath, Y8
- Jerin Joji, Y9
- ♣ Rebecca Willetts, Y9

Well done to them all!





# **MUSIC STARS!**

The following students have all passed their music exams in their chosen instruments. A huge congratulations to:



Ryley Searle passed his Grade 3 Electric Guitar exam with a Merit



Sophie Darby passed her Grade 1
Piano exam with a Distinction



Charlotte Burt passed her Grade 4
Flute exam with Pass



Peter Willmott passed his Grade 6 Tuba exam with a Distinction



Reegan Jenkins passed his Grade 6 Tenor Horn exam with a Distinction



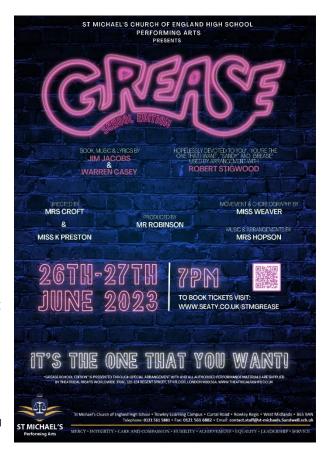
# **GREASE! THE MUSICAL**

St Michael's Performing Arts are proud to present our 2023 whole school production, the world's best-loved musical, Grease (school edition) from 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

After a whirlwind summer romance, leather-clad greaser Danny and girl-next-door Sandy are unexpectedly reunited when she transfers to Rydell High for senior year. But can they survive the trials and tribulations of teenage life and find true love once more?

With its phenomenal score, bursting with hits including "Summer Nights", "Greased Lightnin", "Hopelessly Devoted to You", and "You're the One That I Want", this thrilling new version is brought to life by a fresh young cast who brings energy, vitality, and passion to this ultimate musical classic.

Reignite your passion and get ready for an explosion of summer loving. Round up your Burger Palace Boys, pick up your Pink Ladies and re-discover why Grease is the one you want this year!



Tickets are now on sale! To get your tickets please head over to our online box office at <a href="https://www.seaty.co.uk/stmgrease">www.seaty.co.uk/stmgrease</a>

# **SHAPE YOUR TALENT 2023**



SHAPE Your Talent 2023 is a talent competition for young people aged 8-19 years old (up to 25 for young people with additional needs) who live, work, or are educated in Sandwell.

To apply online, please <u>click</u> <u>here</u>. To download an application form, please <u>click</u> <u>here</u>.





# **U14 GIRLS' FOOTBALL TEAM**

Mrs Wright would like to say a massive well done to the U14 Girls' Football Team who travelled to Gospel Oak Academy to play in the Sandwell schools' football tournament. The girls played George Salter, Q3 Great Barr, and Q3 Langley in the group stages and won the group. They then went on to win against Sandwell Academy 1-0 in the semi-finals and drew 0-0 to Gospel Oak in the final at the end of game time, but sadly lost out on penalties. The girls showed fantastic teamwork, effort, and enthusiasm in all games. They were all committed and proud to be playing for St Michael's, and are a huge credit to the school. Well done, girls, Mrs Wright is very proud of you. A big thank you again to Abbie Siverns, who is a massive role model to the girls and follows all their games home and away to lead their sessions and give all the girls support and guidance.

A big shout out to Leah Blake who won the girl of the tournament by making some good decisions and great saves!



#### Girls from back left:

Y10 student coach, Abbie Siverns, Isabelle Lawrence, Layla Wells, Kaitlin Hogan, Miley Hadley, Ashanti Timmins

#### Middle Left to right:

Isobel Menegatos, Shanice Clayton, Kiera Williams-Hazell

#### Front:

Goalkeeper, Leah Blake



The U14 Girls' Football team hosted the quarterfinals of the County Cup on Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of February. The girls had played so well in all rounds to make the quarterfinals, and we knew we had a very tough game on our hands against Bishop Ullathorne. Bishop Ullathorne travelled from Coventry to play the fixture at St Michael's. The girls started off so well, and the game was very close for the first 15 minutes, which ended in the girls losing out of gaining a place in the next round. This was the first game the U14s have lost, and it was against a very solid team who have played together for several years for Coventry City. Mrs Wright said, "a massive well done to all the girls; you should be so proud of yourselves". The Girl of the Game was awarded to Kaitlin Hogan.



# **Back from left to right:**

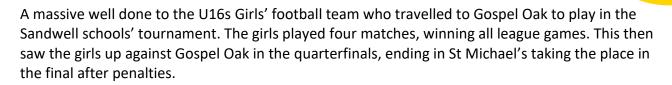
Asma Alguwer, Keira Smith, Isabelle Lawrence, Erica Nartey, Kaitlin Hogan, Ashanti Timmins, Layla Wells

# Front from left to right:

Eden Ball, Miley Hadley, Isobel Menegatos, Leah Blake, Kiera Williams-Hazell, Shanice Clayton







In the final, St Michael's played Phoenix. This was a tough game for our girls, and they knew they had a challenging match to play. The girls all stepped up to the mark and played amazingly, showing excellent resilience, motivation, and passion. After a very close game, the match went into extra time, and Phoenix scored a very lucky goal. Abbie Siverns then went one on one with the keeper and put the ball in the back of the net to score the equaliser, just as the final whistle was blown. The girls all celebrated, but the referee said the whistle had been blown. The girls fully deserved the win, and Mrs Wright was so proud of how each and every one of the players represented the school's values throughout the whole competition. The girls played some lovely football and supported each other throughout each game. Their effort and passion were excellent to see. Well done, girls!

Mrs Wright would also like to say a massive well done to Ashanti Timmins (Year 8), Isobel Menegatos (Year 9), Kaitlin Hogan (Year 9) and Leah Blake (Year 9) who all played for the older age team, playing against Year 10 students. These girls held their own and played solid performances throughout the competition. Brilliant performances by all girls.

The players of the tournament were Aneyah Bennett and Alexia Menegatos. Mrs Wright said, "I am very proud of you all, and you all deserve a special mention. Keep up the good work, girls".



# Back row from left to right:

Alexia Mengatos, Ashanti Timmis, Abbie Siverns, Aneyah Bennett

#### Middle row:

Isobel Menegatos, Kaitlin Hogan

# Front:

Leah Blake



# ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

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