

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Date: Friday, May 26, 2023

Issue: 024

SUMMER 1, 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Summer 1 has been a wonderful way to start our final term. There are many examples of St Michael's generosity of spirit in action throughout this half term's newsletter. I hope that this edition will bring a smile to your face and joy to your heart.

In June, our Student Voice will represent St Michael's on the stage at Goldsmiths' Hall, London, for the finale of the Goldsmiths' Community Engagement Awards. Additionally, we were shortlisted for the Pearson National Teaching Awards, Secondary School of the Year: Making a Difference. I am so very proud of all the incredible work that takes place within our community.

Yet again, through the hard work of our school community fund-raising initiative, we have received recognition for our charity work through Birmingham Children's Hospital 100 Heroes Award. To date, we have raised £53K for the hospital and we are focused on reaching our £60K milestone.

The Year 11 exam season is well underway, and students are continuing to receive high-quality revision. I have been amazed by their strength and motivation, as well as their resilience to ensure they are thoroughly prepared for the exams. Equally, their commitment and resolve to stay in school at the end of the day for a daily intervention is commendable. Our Year 11 students are all truly incredible individuals who deserve the very best outcomes this summer.

I wish you all a relaxing and peaceful half-term holiday.



Mrs Handy-Rivett, Headteacher

UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS:

Monday, 5 th June	Students return to school
Thursday, 22 nd June	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Friday, 23 rd June	Year 11 Leavers Service
Monday, 26 th June	Year 9 HPV – 2 nd dose
Monday 26 th – Tuesday 27 th June	Grease! The Musical
Thursday, 29 th June	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Friday, 30 th June	Year 11 Prom
Friday, 21 st July	End of Term

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

COMMITMENT TO CARE AND COMPASSION

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.

In life, we have or will experience the unfolding of care and compassion as a response usually to suffering. Have you ever wondered why it unfolds in some situations or settings but not in others, especially as these values are core virtues for any community that we belong to? Would you describe yourself as a consistently caring and compassionate person? Let us hope that you are, maybe not at all times, but, hopefully, most of the time. It is believed that, as a society, we are the most compassionate when we are well-rested and not in a hurry, or, when we are around certain people in our lives to which we are closest. This is a great start and an encouraging beginning.

As a society, we all need to move towards raising our conscience to orient our thoughts more consistently towards the feelings and needs of others and not just ourselves. This starting point exists within us all and, as a country, we often learn about matters that are brought to our attention by what we see in the media or experience on a local, national, or global level. We have an awareness of how to recognise suffering. This recognition will always start the process of feeling compassion for others, especially when what we see is based on aspects of division and hardships; we all have the instinct to help others, and this is wonderful. However, if the truth be told, there are times when it can be mentally challenging for us to turn our thoughts and efforts towards others. It is almost as if to be caring and compassionate we first need to know what effort is required because, at times, we have a weaker compassionate response, a weakened response to strangers, a weakened response to matters of mass suffering or, dare we say it, even a weakened response to our loved ones.

When dealing with matters requiring a compassionate response, we must become more consistent with our approach. Typically, when we see suffering in many different forms, we feel emotionally moved and wish there be a relief. As a society, we need to have a readiness to take action at ALL times. We must consistently take on the virtues of care and compassion with a mass effort. Interestingly, many people have likened compassion to be like a muscle that, like any other, can be strengthened with relevant exercises or can deteriorate. In other words, our capacity for compassion can expand, if we choose to work on it. So, as we step into the summer season and aim to get fit for all that we hope to do and begin to embark on new exercise routines, let us pick up the weight of care and compassion – it is amazing what it can do for our bodies and everybody.

EASTER SERVICE

At the end of every term, St Michael's celebrates together in a whole school service. At Easter, we invited the students to consider the story of Easter and posed the question, 'believe it or not?'.

The story of Jesus' crucifixion and death is a harsh reality of how the Romans dealt with whom they presumed to be guilty of a serious crime. Although the Roman governor Pilate could not find any evidence to put Jesus to death, he bowed to public pressure and ordered his execution. However, unlike any other crucifixion, Jesus's life didn't end on that cross. He rose again 3 days later from the dead, proving he was whom he said he was – The son of God.

Our service used dance, song, drama, music and spoken word to illustrate the story of Easter.



As ever, our student performers were phenomenal and showcased their talents brilliantly. A special thank you to Mr Robinson, Mrs Hopson, Mrs Croft, Mr Dix, Mr Johnson, Mrs Gould, Miss Weaver, Mr Carriere, Mr Greenwood, and Mr Lakin for pulling together and helping St Michael's celebrate Easter well.

The question for us all to consider is, do we believe it or not?





AIMHIGHER



On Friday the 31st of April to the 1st of May, fifty Year 11 students attended an Aimhigher residential trip at Newman University. Students took part in multiple English, maths, science/RE revision sessions at the university, as well as enjoying a visit to Rush trampoline park.

Thank you to the parents that supported students in attending the trip and the staff that gave up their time to run the sessions and support the residential. A massive thank you to Aimhigher for funding and organising this fantastic opportunity for our students!

The students participated well in the sessions and made excellent progress. Well done to the Year 11 students that attended!



Pearson National Teaching Awards

The Pearson National Teaching Awards are the 'Oscars' of the teaching profession!

We are thrilled to announce that we have been shortlisted for The Award for Making a Difference – Secondary School of the Year. This award is for a secondary school that can demonstrate its power and effectiveness in transforming the life chances of local children and, at the same time, enriching the local community. We recently participated in a virtual judges visit which involved a schedule of interviews with staff, parents, and community partners and Student Voice showcase. We feel very humbled to have reached this point of the process and will find out whether we have made the next round on National Thank A Teacher Day on 21st June 2023.



BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL 100 HEROES REWARD

We had the pleasure of attending the Birmingham Children's Hospital 100 Heroes Awards to accept an award in recognition of our fundraising on Sunday 21st of June at Birmingham Library.

We never take these awards for granted and our fundraising achievements would not be possible without you! Thank you to all staff, student, parent, carers, and the community's support. We are aiming to reach our £60K milestone within the next two years.



Here's BGT finalist, Eva Abley and social media influencer, Ashley Cain showing their support for #21AOK



STUDENT VOICE EASTER ACTIVITIES

During Easter, members of Student Voice visited St Giles coffee morning and took part in Easter-themed activities including a code breaker egg hunt. The students were excellent ambassadors for the school and the local community.



ST GILES CHURCH SUMMER FAYRE



ST. GILES CHURCH, ROWLEY REGIS
(CHURCH HALL, HAWES LANE)
Fun for all the Family

SUMMER FAYRE
SATURDAY 3RD JUNE 2023
12 noon to 3.00 pm
Food/Refreshments
Variety of Stalls and Games
www.stgiles-church-rowley.co.uk

GURA NANAK GURDWARA TRIP

On the 16th and 17th of May, 154 of our Year 10 RE students went by bus to the Gura Nanak Gurdwara in Smethwick. Here, students experienced everything that they have been learning in RE lessons on the Sikh religion. A tour guide ushered them through the temple explaining the various rooms, practises, and beliefs of Sikhism.

The tour concluded with our students sitting down to partake in a langar - a free meal provided by Sikhs performing 'sewa' - meaning selfless service.

This learning opportunity brought to life what our students are often told about. They got a first-hand taste of people practising Sikhism, and one they will remember!



DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD EXPEDITION

Our DofE students took part in their first practice expedition weekend, which was a fantastic and amazing experience for them. They were a true credit to the school, and worked brilliantly as a team, also independently throughout. With the weather so warm, they managed to complete both days in excellent time with the parents showing great support at the end. The main issue was the weight of their rucksacks, as some packed to go travelling for a month!

Congratulations to the students who attended the expedition:

Japji Bajwa	Thomas Calvert	Martha-May Hinton	Jenna Sohal
Tyler Beecham	Matthew Comery	Ruby Norgrove	Andrew Richards
Ezra Bell	Brodie Crump	Luke Owen	Ruby Tromans
Amber Bragg	Hannah Davis	Ethan Owen	Mustafa Yasir
Charlotte Burt	Jacob Hill	Sydney Pritchard	Rebecca Willetts



RAINBOW CORRIDOR



During the Whitsun holiday period, we will be installing a rainbow corridor in the Humanities hub using coloured vinyl, which will create an immersive rainbow as the sun shines through. Over the past few months, Jessica Posting, the Student Voice Ambassador, has been exploring with students the many different meanings behind the rainbow, and the hundreds of things that they can represent, including Greek mythology, pride, diversity, and joy, as well as the strong link to our Christian ethos. This concluded with a recent collection of assemblies led by the Wellbeing Champions and our Ethos Lead, Mr Lakin, to introduce its installation and ensure a whole school understanding of its purpose.

We hope that the corridor will provide a boost to both staff and student wellbeing, as well as provoke inspiration, creativity, and reflection in all who walk past.

GREASE! THE MUSICAL



Just a reminder that tickets are on sale for our whole school production of GREASE THE MUSICAL – SCHOOL EDITION.

This show is going to be bigger than ever and is the first time we have produced a full-scale musical in a long time!

We are currently 51% sold across the two nights so tickets are selling but it would be great if we could sell out.

Please use the link below if you wish to book some tickets. You can do so by placing an order at our online box office:

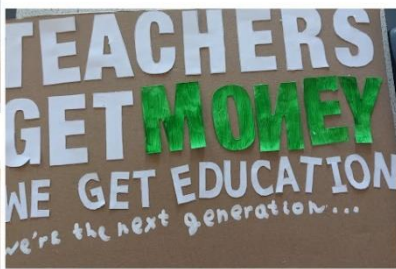
<https://www.seaty.co.uk/stmgrease>

PROTEST ART WORKSHOP

On Wednesday, 19th April, we had a visitor come into school and run an art workshop with twelve Year 8 students. The students selected had the opportunity to produce a protest banner related to a subject matter they feel passionate about.

The visitor commented on how exceptional the student's behaviour was throughout the session and how they were a credit to St Michael's.

Thank you, everyone, for your support and making the workshop possible, especially, Ms Banno, Mrs Whitehouse, Mr Murphy, and Mr Greenwood.



LIBRARY

'I, Spy: a Bletchley Park Mystery' Book Promotion



The library was sent a promotional pack of reading material from the Reading agency to promote the release of *I, Spy: a Bletchley Park Mystery* by Rhian Tracey. A display was created for students with information about the book including information about Bletchley Park and its importance during WWII with code breaking. Activities for students, including a Wordsearch and a code breaking activity were available for students to take part in for a chance to win a small prize. We promoted the book on our Library Instagram page and as a result we now have the Author, Rhian Tracey following our Library page!



Congratulations to Esme Cogger and Mia Leadbeater 9M who were the lucky winners.



King Charles III Coronation

The library celebrated the King Charles III's coronation at the beginning of May, new books about the King were purchased, the library was decorated and there were various activities for students to take part in.

Stocktake

The Librarians will be undertaking their annual stocktake before the summer holiday. If your child has any books from the school library at home please ask them to bring them into the library or hand them to their form tutor. Whilst the library is closed for the stocktake, your child can continue to loan books via the SORA reading app. Students can obtain their login details by speaking to their form tutor or emailing Library@st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk



Library Clubs	
Monday	Tuesday
Puzzle Club Lunch time	Early Bird Book Group 8.15am
Homework Club 3-3.50pm	Games Club Lunch time
	Homework Club 3-3.50pm
Wednesday	
Homework Club 3-3.50pm	
Thursday	Friday
Scrabble Club Lunch time	Mindfulness Club Lunch time
Homework Club 3-3.50pm	
<i>Open to all years</i>	

Year 9 Book Quiz

Year 9 students have been invited to take part in the book quiz which will take place after half term. Each form group will nominate 4 students to read the books and take part, the books for year 9 this year are:

- Nick and Charlie by Alice Oseman
- The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon
- They Both Die at the End by Adam Silvera
- Terror Kid by Benjamin Zephaniah

The book quizzes are hugely popular, so keep an eye out in the next newsletter for the winning form!

PE

Year 10 BTEC Sport Moderation

Below is the list of students who were outstanding during the recent moderation process where they had to plan and perform warm-ups and be assessed on their performance.

BETHANY TAYLOR
DARCEY EVANS
DOMINIK NASKRIT
MIHA BEECH
GRACE MASON
LACEY TOTNEY
GRACE POPOOLA
ELLE-MAI WILLIAMS
HARVEY GRIFFIN
EMMANUAL OKAIJAH
HAYDEN BALL
FELIX CAWSEY
MYLES DURHAM

SANDWELL SCHOOL FOOTBALL CLUB

During April and May this year, St Michael's hosted and participated in the Sandwell School Football Cup. This has involved teams from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. We hosted group stages on the 25th of April and 9th of May. From this stage, our Year 7 and Year 10 teams won their groups and proceeded to the finals day where they will play Woodgreen and Phoenix respectively.

Our annual House Sports Day is taking place in July. Friday Football League is running weekly, where prizes will be announced for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places.



Year 7 Friday Night Football League

Week 3 League Table
5th May 2023

Name	Points	Goal Difference
FRED NKEUMETEU	28	+12
JAMIE BECKETT	28	+12
BLAKE HINTON	22	+4
MIHAI BARSAN	21	+4
LUCAS COMMERY	21	+4
YUSUFF SULAIMAN	20	-4
JOSHUA WHICKETT	20	0
IZIAH GROCE-KESS	20	0
TYRELL SMITHEN	18	-4
KODY EDWARDS	16	-8
LENNON CLARKE	15	+6
NOAH WESTBURY	13	-6
HAYDEN MADANY	13	-4
ZACK FOSTER	11	+6
LEWIS WATERHOUSE	11	+6
JAMES CHATER	10	+2
JOSHUA TIPPER	10	+2
SURYANS TIWARI	8	-2
NIAMH BRENNAN	7	+4
MAX WILLIAMS	3	-4
KEELEY BOOKER	3	-4
JACOB HALL	3	-4

Star player



Fred Nkeumateu

Both our Year 7 and 10 football squads are through to play in the cup finals:

- Thursday 11th May Year 10 v Phoenix at Woodgreen
- Tuesday 16th May Year 7 v Woodgreen at St Michael's

Last night, the Year 7s needed to beat OSCA in their last fixture and scored in the last minute of injury time to win 2-1. Well-done boys!

UNDER 14'S AND UNDER 16'S NETBALL LEAGUE

Both the Under 14's and Under 16's netball teams have participated in the South Netball League with students from years 8-11 involved. Students have been training since September to ensure their skills and fitness are improved each week. The students have shown excellent commitment and perseverance throughout. Year 11 students have also been committed through their final GCSE year. They have been excellent role models to each other and worked together to train and improve skills. We have worked on attack, defence and shooting in training sessions as well as fitness in netball. The students have shown all the St Michael's core values especially care and compassion and leadership during training and home and away games.

Mrs Faulkner would like to say a massive thank you and well done to Kitty Hill and Amy-Leigh Tolley who have played netball since year 7 and are due to take their exams in May. Good luck girls from the netball team at St Michael's; you have both been excellent role models for the future netball stars!!

Y14 Results

Position	School	Points
1 st	Shirelands	21
2 nd	Oldbury	17
3 rd	St Michael's	16
4 th	Forge	15
5 th	Q3 Langley	12
6 th	Perrys/Sandwell	11
7 th	OSCA	9

U16 Results

Position	School	Points
1 st	Shirelands	18
2 nd	St Michael's	14
3 rd	Oldbury/Q3	12
5 th	Perrys/Sandwell	10
6 th	Q3 Langley	12



Back row: Katie Wroe, Bethany Taylor, Amelie Carpenter, Ashanti Timmins, Kareena Cheema, Grace Popoola, Amy-Leigh Tolley, Kitty Hill, Kaitlin Hogan

Bottom row: Isabelle Fox, Erica Nartey, Stella Mesiya, Rayne Cox, Grace Mandet, Karolina Atanassova, Nyah Porter

Year 7 has made an impressive start to the Sandwell League receiving third place overall. The students have been training since September with the under 14's and Under 16's teams. The students have shown excellent commitment and resilience playing very skilled netball players. At training students complete a warm-up and fitness session ran by our netball leaders and then participate in skills and games. Year 7 students have really improved their skills and Mrs Faulkner has been really impressed with how they have progressed. We are looking forward to seeing them next year develop their abilities in the Under 14's league.

Year 7: Laila Thakrar, Rosie Anna Webb, Lilah Jones, Lola Purcell (vice-captain), Yasmeen Alguwer, Lola Keane, Faith Watton, Jess Greaves, Ella-Mai Davies (captain), Lily Saied (may need spellings checking!!!)

Year 9 leaders: Grace Mandet and Rayne Cox



U16s GIRLS' FOOTBALL



On Tuesday 16th May, the U16s Girls' football team travelled to Gospel Oak in Tipton for the final tournament of the Sandwell School Games. The girls played extremely well and shown excellent passion and drive to try and win the tournament. Losing our first game meant the girls had hard work to put in, and they all showed excellent determination to succeed.

Results:

St Michael's	1	3	Gospel Oak
St Michael's	3	0	Wodensborough
St Michael's	1	1	Phoneix

Back row: Lilah Henderson, Ashanti Timmis, Alexia Menegatos, Kaitlin Hogan, Lily Portman, Abbie Louise Siversns
Front row: Erica Narthey, Isobel Menegatos, Leah Blake

Player of the tournament: Lily Portman

A massive well done to the girls for achieving silver medals.

U14s GIRLS' FOOTBALL

On Thursday 18th May, the U14s Girls' football team played in their final tournament of the Sandwell School Games. The girls showed excellent enthusiasm and motivation to want to do well and worked very hard in all games. The girls won the tournament, undefeated, scoring some fantastic goals and not conceding in any games. Well done to Leah Blake the goalkeeper for keeping a clean sheet for the whole tournament.

Results:

St Michael's	3	0	Gospel Oak
St Michael's	6	0	Wodensborough
St Michael's	12	0	Ormiston Forge

Players of the tournament: Ashanti Timmins and Layla Wells

Well done, girls, on bringing home gold medals! Mrs Wright would like to thank Abbie Siverns for her commitment to the girl's football team throughout the whole year. The support she has given to all the girls, and me is outstanding. Thanks, Abbie, and a massive well done! Mrs Wright would like to thank Miss Smith for taking the girls to both tournaments and supporting them all the way!

A BIG Thank you from PE

A massive thank you to Mr Carriere for driving the minibus to and from all the sporting tournaments, so the girls get to participate and enjoy all their competitions. Thank you, the staff and the students really appreciate it.



Back row: (left to right)
Miley Hadley, Shanice Clayton,
Ashanti Timmins, Erica Nartey,
Keira Hazell- Williams, Layla Wells

Front row: (left to right)
Kaitlin Hogan, Isobel Menegatos,
Isabelle Lawrence, Keira Smith,
Leah Blake



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