



ST MICHAEL'S
Church of England High School

Date: Thursday, October 26, 2023

Issue: 027

Autumn 1, 2023

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parent/Carer,

At the end of the summer term, we were excited to celebrate our students flourishing in the end of year service, some of which is highlighted in this edition.

In August, we were delighted to celebrate the 2023 Year 11 cohort's amazing GCSE results; the school achieved a Progress 8 figure of +0.42. Students at St Michael's achieved the third highest GCSE attainment in the Local Authority. This puts our students in an exceptionally strong position when moving on to future learning and employment as they compete for further education opportunities in the local area.

A record number of families visited the school on Open Evening, leaving extremely positive feedback, which is a clear indication of our growing reputation within the community. We are incredibly proud of the exemplary work we do, both within our school and our local community. I wish you all a happy and safe half-term break.

Mrs Handy-Rivett, Headteacher

UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS:

Thursday 26 th October	Students break up
Friday 27 th October	Staff Training Day
Monday 6 th November	Back to school
Monday 6 th November	Start of Year 11 Mocks
Friday 17 th November	End of Year 11 Mocks
Thursday 23 rd November	Winter Fayre
Thursday 7 th December	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Thursday 21 st December	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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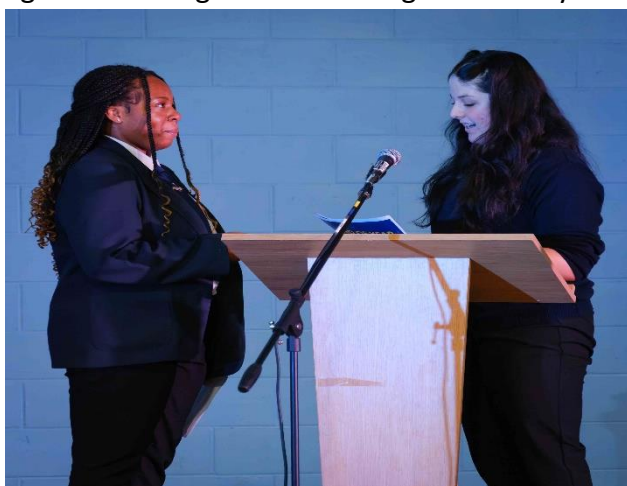
MERCY • INTEGRITY • CARE AND COMPASSION • HUMILITY • ACHIEVEMENT • EQUALITY • LEADERSHIP • SERVICE

SUMMER SERVICE: CELEBRATING HUMAN FLOURISHING

During the last day of term for the 2022-23 academic year, we said goodbye to Mr Lakin, who left St Michael's after 22 years of service in order to take up a new post as an ordained Minister of his own congregation. The St Michael's family wishes Mr Lakin all the very best of luck and success in his new venture.



Abigail Caffrey, Deputy Head Student from 2022-23, handed over the student leadership baton to our new Head Student, Grace Popoola. As Abigail said her goodbyes to St Michael's, Grace pledged her support as the new Junior Leadership Team will represent the voice of students within our school community. St Michael's will support Grace and the Junior Leadership Team to flourish and become agents of change in our thriving community.



Grace Popoola: Head Student 2023-24

During our Summer service, students enjoyed performances from the cast of Grease:



The students studying Dance and Music gave an inspirational performance. Even members of our own staff joined in with a musical band performance:



ST MICHAEL'S WINGS UPDATE

St Michael's 'WING' is the highest award and commendation that the school presents. St Michael's WING rewards those students who embody the school values through their words, actions, attitudes, and intrinsic worth over a course of time. The St Michael's WING is awarded to those who embrace and adopt values of mercy, integrity, care and compassion, humility, achievement, equality, leadership, and service, all bound within a spirit of Christian love and action. All our students carry values cards that are a daily reminder of what the school esteems and teaches them to be. Our staff are encouraged to look out for opportunities when students demonstrate aspects of the school's ideals and principles and award students a wing badge to wear on their blazers. There are grades of the WING, which enable our students to work towards this huge achievement throughout their school life with us. The wing is a sign of growing maturity, developing adulthood and a reputation for virtuous living. At the end of the last academic year, we awarded 24 bronze wings, 11 silver wings and 7 gold wings. We were thrilled with the number of students living out the school's values.

BRONZE WING AWARDS

- Year 7:** Evie-Rose Martin, JJ O'Meara, Joshua Robinson, Star Perks, Jack Whiteman, Amelia Yates, Lilly-Mai Swanson, Elle O'Leary, Elli-Mae Farrier, Ellie Hopkins and Josiah Messer
- Year 8:** Zoe Edwards, Jessica Bano, Jude Sidaway, Sophie Platt, Megan Ordway, Phoebe Saunders, Abigail Piper, Tiree Whitehouse and Navroop Kaur
- Year 9:** Ruby Tromans and Gurleen Kaur
- Year 10:** Gurneet Hayer



SILVER WING AWARDS



Top row (left to right): James Potter, Isabelle Butt, Edir Cardoso Dos Santos

Bottom row (left to right): Joshua Robinson, Jasmine Rickard, Harmony Prescott, JJ O'Meara

GOLD WING AWARDS



Row (left to right): Lea Price, Erica Nartey, Joshua Robinson, JJ O'Meara, Daniel Williams, Sophia Thorp

END OF YEAR AWARDS

There was an awards ceremony celebrating the students and their amazing achievements this year, and the announcement of the winning house team for 2022-2023.



Contribution to School Life: Sofia Thorp



Best Sports Person: Kaitlin Hogan



KS3 Curriculum Award: Japji Bajwa



Best Start Award: Freddie Hadley



Harmon Kang Award: Riley Thomas Hall



Outstanding Achievement in Focus Provision: Lexi Murray-Walker



The Jayne Gray Memorial Award: Lily Marlow

Attendance awards

Year 7: Michelle Nimo

Year 8: Mercedes Heyes-Mills

Year 9: William Beswick

House champions (most house points)

Griffin: Chloe Gleadall

Kirin: Erica Narthey

Pegasus: Charlie Owen

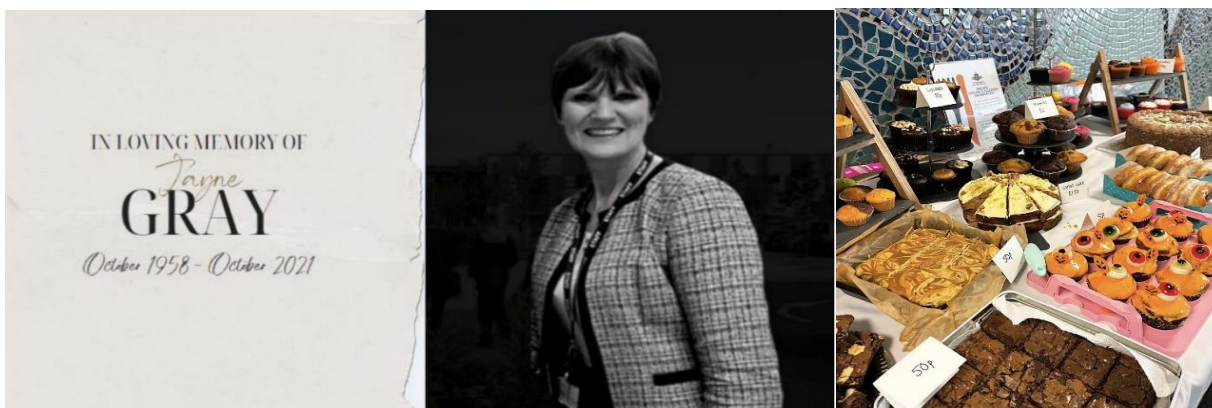
Wyvern: Heta Panchani

Congratulations to Pegasus who gained the most house points and won the House competition.



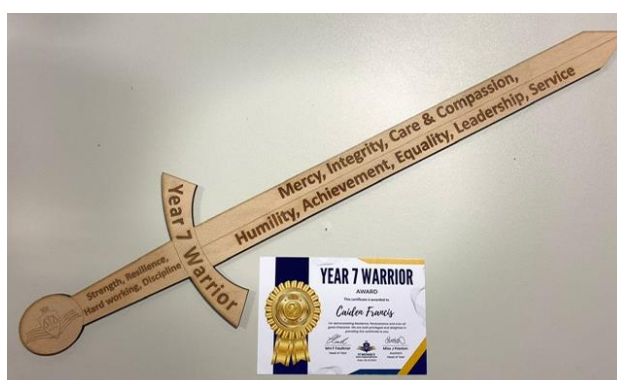
REMEMBERING MRS JAYNE GRAY

On the second anniversary of the sad loss of our previous Headteacher, Mrs Jayne Gray, our community came together to remember the contribution Mrs Gray made St Michael's. On the 12th of October 2023, students ran a bake sale in honour of Mrs Gray, with the proceeds going to the *Jayne Gray Bursary*; we raised £188.85. A huge thank you to staff, students, and parents who baked or bought cakes!



YEAR 7: HEAD OF YEAR AWARDS

The 26th of October was the Year 7 awards. Eighty percent of the year group gained a subject nomination with some students gaining up to eight nominations in total. Year 7 has had a positive start to the year, with students settling into the St Michael's family, showing the school values in abundance. Well done to all the students who received an award, and a special mention to Armani Gill, 7M, and Caiden Francis, 7E, for receiving the prestigious "Warrior" and "Champion" awards.



ST MICHAEL'S DAY SERVICE

On Thursday 26th September 2023, Year 7 were invited to our local church, St Giles, to participate in a very special St Michael's Day service. Mr Robinson and Mrs Hopson from the music department ensured that the school hymn, 'Here I am Lord' was a roaring success and our very talented soloist, Josh Millard Lloyd, Year 11, beautifully played and sang 'Angels' by Robbie Williams. Reverend Bridge, the school chaplain, spoke about the story of Archangel Michael and encouraged the year group to be God's representatives and bring about positive change to their peers and families. The church was beautifully decorated in preparation for its 100th year celebration, which had taken place on 1st October 2023.



LZ7 PERFORMANCE

During September, we had the band LZ7 in school performing to all year groups throughout the day. Their performance was a mixture of music and messages of hope and faith, which seemed to go down well with the students who sang and danced in the theatre.



RACE FOR LIFE

On Wednesday 19th July, St Michael's hosted our annual Race For Life event for Years 7, 8, and 9. It was amazing to see so many students enjoying themselves whilst running for some personal reasons. The students were competitive and gave members of staff a run for their money.



RACE FOR LIFE WINNERS

Year 7

- 1st Noah Westbury and Yasmeen Algwer
- 2nd Lewis Waterhouse, Fred Nkeumetue, Ella-Mai Davies and Emily Gould
- 3rd Kaelan Smith and Amelia Blick

Year 8

- 1st Niko Gieros and Isla Steed
- 2nd Stan Thompson and Laci Antcliff
- 3rd Ryan Taylor and Tahlia Robson

Year 9

- 1st Keyan Graham and Savannah Cresswell
- 2nd Xander Grosvenor and Mayzie Jones
- 3rd Charlie Scrivens and Hannah Davis



E-SPORTS TRIP



At the end of last academic year, the Computing department took 28, now Year 10 pupils, out to Halesowen College to play Fortnite or a team game of Rocket League. In Fortnite, they competed against 30 other pupils from 3 other schools; these pupils being older than them. Nathan Smith came 3rd out of all of those that played and Omid Basir came 1st, both winning goodies from tech company: Corsair. Well done to Nathan, Omid and all that competed. In the Rocket League 3 out of 6 of our teams qualified for the semi-finals to be played soon, they were: Carson Rowland, Kian Hodgetts, Leo Evans, Tyler Hoccom, Ben Givargidze, Max Treadwell, Andrew Richards, Jack Tolley, and Dylan Marais.

All students really enjoyed themselves, and they were a true credit to St Michael's.



PE – SPORTS DAY

On the 17th July, the rain held off for our annual sports day, one of the highlights of the school calendar. Students from every form and house competed across a range of both traditional athletic events and different sporting competitions culminating with our eagerly contested Tug of War events. It was a real celebration of the sporting ability of our students and the house spirit within each form. The behaviour and school values that were demonstrated by all students across the day was excellent to see.



Year/position	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
1st	Pegasus 271	Kirin 236	Wyvern 237
2nd	Wyvern 255	Griffin 233	Pegasus 222
3rd	Griffin 218	Wyvern 232	Griffin 187
4th	Kirin 200	Pegasus 218	Kirin 162

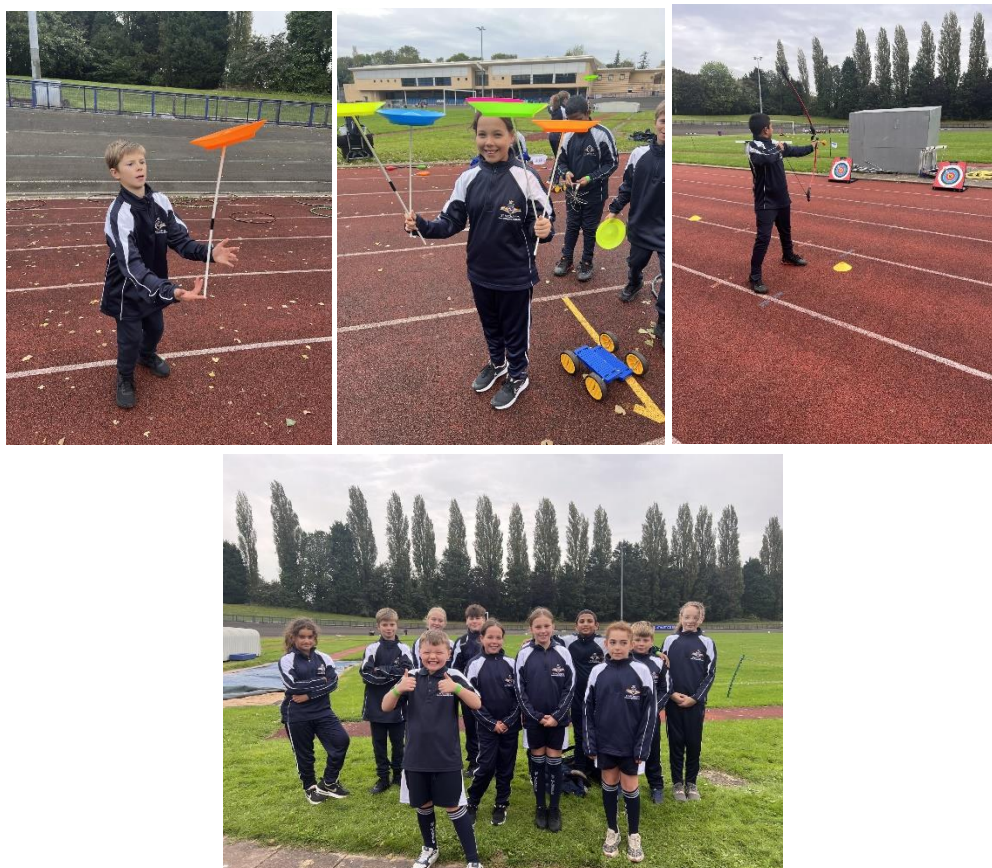
YEAR 7 FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL LEAGUE

During the summer term over 30 students have participated in the weekly league where they achieve points every time they attend. The atmosphere at the end of each week has been brilliant to experience and all students have done themselves proud. Special mention to Fred who has encouraged all students every week to do their best and most importantly enjoy the 'beautiful game'.

1 st Place	Fred Nkeumeteu	84 Points
2 nd Place	Jamie Beckett	82 points
3 rd Place	Yusuf <u>Sulaiman</u>	76 points
4 th Place	Blake Hinton	75 points
5 th Place	Kody Edwards	70 points

BLACK COUNTRY SCHOOL GAMES INSPIRE EVENT

On Thursday 28th September a group of 12 year 7 students attended the Black Country School Games Inspire event experiencing a variety of different sports, ranging from archery to circus skills. The students represented St Michael's with a positive attitude and all had a fun filled day.





ST MICHAEL'S
Church of England High School



West Midlands Metropolitan County Schools
Football Association
Under 16 Boys Final Trial



Myles Durham in Year 11 has been selected to represent West Midlands in County football this academic year, a massive well done from the PE department.

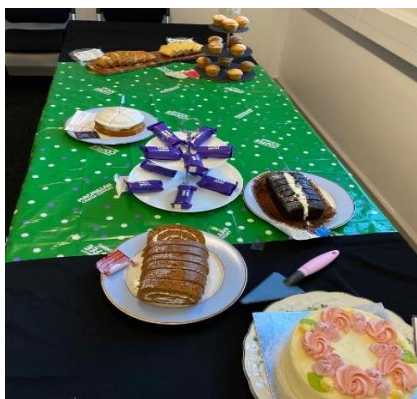
Netball

On Thursday 5th October, Year 7-10 girls attended the Q3 Langley netball tournament. The girls have been attending Tuesday netball club and worked very hard to improve their skills. This was evident during the competition. All the girls played really well and both teams finished in 4th place.



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

The money raised with the cakes we sold will support Macmillan's vital work. It helps the charity fund the amazing Macmillan nurses, answer calls on their Support Line, give financial support, and more. We raised a total of £250. A huge thank you to everyone who donated cakes, and the Admin Team and Miss Walker for all of their hard work!



LIBRARY

Summer Reading Challenge

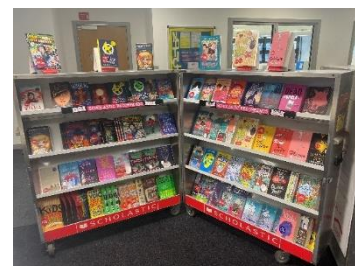
Congratulations to Emily Gould 8M for taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge. Students were asked to read and complete activities included in the pack over the summer holidays and return them to the library in September. Emily completed the challenge with flying colours and demonstrated her love of reading with her outstanding reading diary, completed activities, and a beautiful bookmark design. Well done Emily!



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The library hosted the Scholastic Book Fair during week commencing Monday 25th September. Students and staff were able to visit the book fair at break, lunch, and after school where they were able to browse the collection of books and stationery available.

The book fair is always a popular event and is invariably a talking point for our students. Hosting the book fair enables students to view the latest titles and purchase copies. This has always been a great way to encourage reading for pleasure and nurture our love of reading within our school. We will be hosting our next book fair in November 2024 so keep your eyes peeled for news!



HARRY POTTER DAY



October 12th was Harry Potter Day, (formally known as Harry Potter World Book Night). Harry Potter Book Day is a chance for fans around the globe to celebrate JK Rowling's iconic series with events and other festivities. The theme for this year was Magical Places. From platform nine and three-quarters to Hogsmeade, The Burrow to the Ministry of Magic, there is a whole wizarding world to explore. We designed a display in the library to promote the day, which consisted of activities where students could have a go at winning a copy of The Goblet of Fire.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month is a time to celebrate the contributions of Black people to the UK and highlights those unsung heroes, making the world a better place for others. We have dedicated our display table to highlight Black History Month, making information to our students available and accessible, enabling them to learn all about why it is such an important part of history. and how understanding the past can help us to make the world a better place.



ART

The Art Department is running a Christmas Card Competition and we would love as many entries as possible from Years 7, 8, and 9.



CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION 2023

THE WINNER OF THE COMPETITION WILL HAVE THEIR DRAWING PRODUCED ON THE FRONT OF JAMES MORRIS'S MP CHRISTMAS CARD.

THE WINNING CHRISTMAS CARD WILL BE SENT TO OVER 300 PEOPLE, INCLUDING LOCAL AND NATIONAL PRESS, SENIOR POLITICIANS, INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER, AND CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS.

AS WELL AS A £50 ART PACK THAT INCLUDES LOTS OF ARTISTIC MATERIALS!

- * Open to years 7, 8 & 9
- * Entries to be completed on A4
- * Entries to be handed into Mr Murphy or Mr Malone
- * Entries can be handed in anytime before the closing date which is Monday 6th November

Art Celebration Evening

The Art Department hosted our second Arts Celebration Evening on Wednesday 25th October from 4 pm – 6 pm to showcase and celebrate the successes of our artistic students throughout 2022/2023.



arts award ST MICHAEL'S Church of England High School

The Arts Celebration Evening

To celebrate the successes of our Year 9 Bronze Arts Award students and our GCSE Art & Textiles students

DATE: 25/10/2023 ● TIME: 4 - 6 PM



STUDENT VOICE UPDATE

On the 10th of October, we celebrated World Mental Health Day in many ways, the first of which was our amazing visit from the mental health charity, Kaleidoscope. During break time, energy levels soared when pupils were surprised by the gigantic, mood-boosting dinosaur, Kali, Kaleidoscope's mascot, who aims to break down stigma surrounding mental health, hence their name: The Stigmatasaurus.



On this day, we were also so excited to officially launch our #AmIManlyEnough? campaign at our first 'Matrix Morning' of the year. Our campaign aims to break the stigma surrounding male mental health. This involved the 'Am I Manly Enough?' merch drop, where male members of staff and some of our amazing supporters received a pink travel mug with our hashtag, and pink pens promoting the phrase "it's just as hard to be Ken as it is to be Barbie". The idea behind the mugs is that, because they are bright pink, male staff may be questioned on why they have one, because of the stereotype that pink is for girls and blue is for boys. In this way, they act as a conversation starter to explore the topic of male mental health, aiming to break down the stigma.



Alongside this, students could show their support for mental health by wearing a pink and/or yellow ribbon: pink representing their support for male mental health and the yellow ribbon showing support for Young Minds' mental health campaign, 'Hello Yellow'.

Our campaign launch was incredibly well received: many students and staff took pictures with the campaign's new mugs and photo board. However, the greatest reaction to our campaign was from none other than Prince William. About a week before our campaign was launched, Freddie Hadley, Year 8, sent a letter to Prince William on behalf of the Matrix team, inviting him to our launch event. Sadly, he was not able to attend but, after posting the letter to Twitter, he sent a personal reply expressing his apologies:

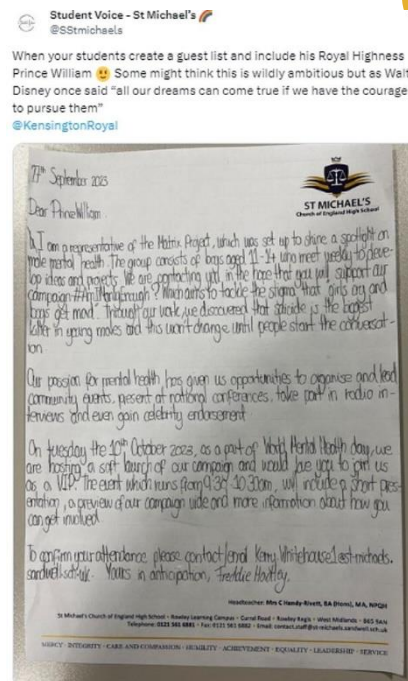
"Good afternoon Freddie, I'm so sorry Catherine and I can't be with you and the rest of the students at St Michael's today. Tackling mental health challenges and stigmas head on is so important, please keep up this important work. W"

This response was the highlight of the campaign launch - our original tweet now has over 285,000 views, and we are so glad that the campaign is reaching such large audiences to spread awareness about the stereotypes and stigmas surrounding male mental health.

On Wednesday the 11th of October, representatives of the Wellbeing Champion and Matrix teams presented at the Youth Suicide Prevention Conference at Villa Park. Attendees and presenters included school senior leaders, medical staff, and business owners. We led workshops surrounding our new male mental health campaign and preventative initiatives we have at school, such as the 21st Century Child, Wellbeing Champions, and Feel Good Friday. We also used imagery to spark conversations in small groups and show attendees how we brainstorm ideas for our own events and initiatives.



Do not forget to follow Student Voice on Instagram (stmichaels_studentvoice) and Twitter (StMichael's) for regular updates on our work!



Student Voice



WINTER FAYRE

We are thrilled to announce that our most popular community event is back! On Thursday the 23rd of November, we will be hosting our indoor marketplace where you can get into the festive feel and shop until you drop. Student Voice, raising funds for Birmingham Children's Hospital (BCH), will lead the event; we hope the Winter Fayre will help us to reach our goal of £60,000 for BCH.

We will also have dedicated stalls to raise money for the Jayne Gray Bursary. If you would like to book a stall, please contact Kerry Whitehouse at kerry.whitehouse1@stmichaels.sandwell.sch.uk

