

# ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**Date:** Tuesday, December 19, 2023

**Issue:** 028

**Autumn 2, 2023**

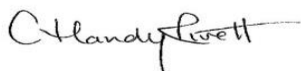
Dear Parent/Carer,

This term has been extremely busy for our school community. We celebrated the success of the Year 11 students and their excellence performance in the summer exams. St Michael's is the third highest performing school in Sandwell for the progress students make. We continue to ensure our high expectations are reflected in all aspects of school life.

In November, Buckingham Palace announced that St Michael's Student Voice is a recipient of The King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS) 2023. This is a phenomenal accolade for members of the Student Voice community, both past and present. I would like to extend my gratitude to parents and carers for supporting Student Voice and allowing our youngsters to act as agents of change, supporting our local community.

St Michael's continues to demonstrate our school's values of care and compassion; this year our Christmas charitable fundraising has seen the community collect and donate items to support Provision House, a Christian charity, based in Dudley (formerly known as Loaves n Fishes). Thank you for the continued support to enable our Christian core values to be demonstrated.

On behalf of the governors and staff of St Michael's, I wish you and your families a joyous Christmas and a happy New Year. God Bless.



**Mrs Handy-Rivett, Headteacher**

## UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS:

Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Students break up
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Teacher Training Day
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> January	New Year's Day
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Students return to school
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	End of Term
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Start of Term
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Y9 Guided Options Evening

## OUR SCHOOL PRAYER

What does the  
*Lord* ask of you?

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

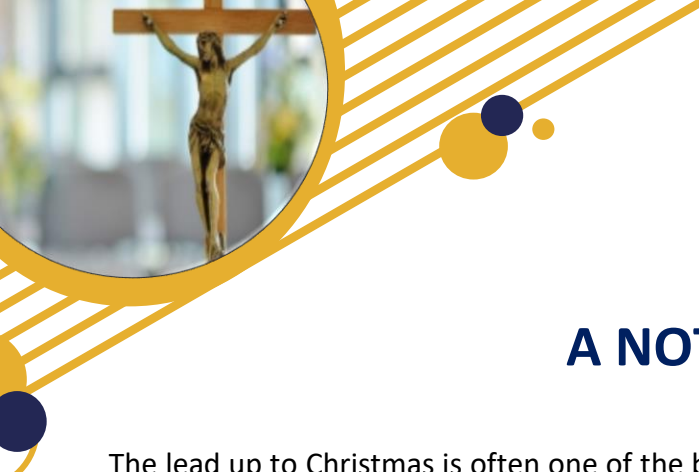
**Micah 6vs.8**



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

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## A NOT SO SILENT NIGHT

The lead up to Christmas is often one of the busiest half terms in the school calendar. We begin with the excitement and festivity of the Winter Fayre, where the community comes together to raise money for charities like Birmingham Children's Hospital, amongst others. Then we launch the big charity drive through our House System, which this year is aimed at donating food items to support the work of Provision House in Dudley. A range of whole school events such as the Winter Sports Day, Jolly Jumper Day, follows this and, of course, finishing on the last day of term with the whole school Christmas service on Thursday 21st December.

Christmas can be an extremely busy time of year for many of us, with all the gift buying, family party planning, food preparation, Christmas light switch on, going to see Santa at Merry Hill and maybe going to a carol concert or two at your local church and then finally this crescendo into the whole experience of the big day on December 25th.

This led me to consider, what if the story of Christmas had been the same hectic experience. What if, when Gabriel visits Mary, her and Joseph are busying arguing about whose turn it is to do the washing up and trying frantically to get through piles of ironing? Gabriel would have ended up just standing there watching, as they both rush around busy with their own life and caught up in the to-ing and fro-ing of a normal relationship. Gabriel would have waited there patiently trying to get his message of hope and joy across to Mary and Joseph, but they would have both been too busy to hear through the everyday noise of life.

I can also imagine the scene on the hillside; the shepherds with their bleating sheep and maybe the odd sheep wanders off so one of the shepherds shouts across the others, 'Shawn's gone missing again!'. The angels suddenly appear in the night sky but the shepherds so caught up looking after their many fluffy woollen animals, that they miss the glory and wonder of the sight they just have to look up to see.

Then, what if the wise men, searching for the baby, had been around today with all the technology of satellite navigation and iPhones. Do you think they would have followed the star or stuck it in Google Maps and ended up at the dead-end of some country lane that had not appeared or updated on the latest version of the map?

I do not think the Christmas story would quite have the same impact across the world if any of those individuals in and around Judea, over two thousand years ago, had been too caught up in the busyness of life to hear the incredible news, that a baby was to be born who would literally change the course of history and change many people's lives forever.

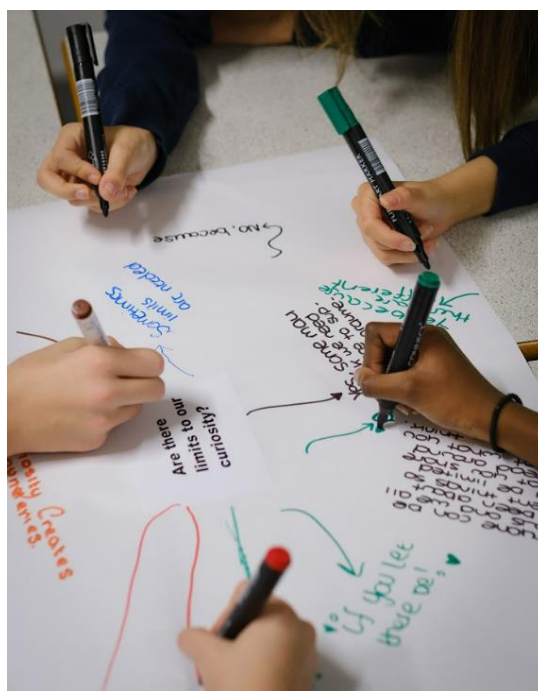
So, as we approach this time of Christmas, I hope that we can find time to be quiet and reflect upon the reason for this season. We can experience the sense of peace on earth that is promised in the verses of the Bible that tell this incredible story. Maybe, just a moment spent thinking of that baby in a manger and who he would grow up to become, may just change our lives forever too.

I pray that all of you have an incredible Christmas and New Year. God bless, Mr Dix, Ethos Lead.

## GOD AND BIG BANG

In December, we had a group of scientists in school, working with the whole of Year 9 on a project called God and the Big Bang. The sessions aimed to show that for many people, science and religion work in harmony, and they are not independent of each other. Our students have been brilliant over the two days, and it has been a pleasure to see them taking part in such challenging activities and discussions. The visitors were also really complimentary of our students.

Thank you to all the staff who supported the sessions; your input has been really appreciated.  
Mrs Rose, Head of RE.







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## REMEMBRANCE DAY

Every year, St Michael's observes the Remembrance Day with a two-minute silence and the playing of the last post by students. This year, Year 10 and Year 11 students also made bread in support of Remembrance Day.





## WINTER FAYRE

Our annual Winter Fayre raised **£2,800** for Birmingham Children's Hospital, **£384.47** for the Jayne Gray Bursary, and **£170.90** for the Matrix Project.

Thank you to all of the students and staff who made this event happen.







## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

On Thursday the 14th of December, we launched our first Duke of Edinburgh Bronze celebration event for our first cohort at St Michael's, which went extremely well! The students were a true credit to school, and we have had amazing feedback from the parents. Another big positive from the night is that two more students have signed up for the Silver award (Ruby Tromans and Jenna Sohal); meaning twenty out of twenty bronze students are attempting the next award!

Thank you to all the staff who have supported the award over the first year, giving up their own free time to ensure that St Michael's students were supported in their remarkable journey.



## SCIENCE ELVES



The Science Department Elves have been spreading Christmas Cheer with personalised crackers to staff, baked treats, and a Wishing Tree, which is full of lovely thoughts and well wishes for the season. Happy Christmas from Science!

Here is Miss Thompson partaking in one of Miss Jones's famous chocolate brownies.



## NUMERACY

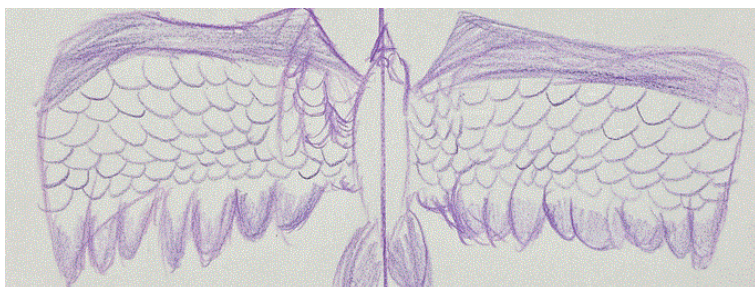
Throughout the recent half term, years 7, 8, and 9 have undertaken a range of numeracy activities within their form groups. They have worked together to complete the challenges and the winning forms are as follows:

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	7L	8M	9S
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	7E	8E	9E
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	7S	8C	9C

All of the forms will earn House Points – well done!

This half term, students also undertook a numeracy House Challenge to draw/photograph symmetrical items they observe all around us.

Well done to Brooke Parker, 7I, Kaiden Carnegie, 8I, and Connor Jones, 8A for winning with their representations of an American eagle, and a Christmas tree. Both students earn ten House Points for their houses.



## 'THE WOMAN IN BLACK' ENGLISH THEATRE TRIP



On the recent excursion to the Malvern Theatre, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November, our Year 9 students had the extraordinary opportunity to witness the hauntingly captivating play, 'The Woman in Black.' A long running play, this version is travelling from the renowned West End and was an extremely high calibre performance.

As the curtain rose at Malvern Theatre, 'The Woman in Black' transported our students into a world of suspense, mystery, and ghostly encounters. The atmospheric production kept everyone on the edge of their seats, eliciting gasps, laughter, and moments of genuine fear, if the screams were anything to go by!

The play not only entertained but also served as an educational experience, aligning with our Departmental commitment to providing a learning environment that fosters a love for literature and the arts. Students were able to witness first-hand the application of Gothic literary techniques studied in the classroom, deepening their understanding of storytelling, character development, and the nuances of dramatic expression.



The English Department would like to thank all staff, parents, and guardians for their support in making this trip possible. Special thanks to the students for their excellent behaviour and engagement throughout the day. The success of such ventures relies on the collaborative effort of our school community, and we are grateful for your ongoing support.

## YEAR 11 'A CHRISTMAS CAROL' TRIP



The English Department gave Year 11 students the opportunity to get into the festive spirit with a trip to the Crescent Theatre in Birmingham, where our students experienced Charles Dickens' timeless classic, "A Christmas Carol," brought to life on the stage.

The adaptation of "A Christmas Carol" was nothing short of magical. The talented cast captured the essence of Dickens' characters, from the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge to the benevolent Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and the more sinister Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. The atmospheric set design, coupled with the enchanting costumes, transported our students back to Victorian England, allowing them to witness first-hand the transformation of Scrooge from a bitter old man to a compassionate soul filled with the true spirit of Christmas.



The trip was not just about entertainment; it was a valuable educational experience that complemented our Year 11 literature curriculum and will kick start the crucial revision that students should be undertaking in readiness for their final exams. The English Department would like to thank parents for supporting the trip and students for their excellent standards of behaviour throughout.



## BUSINESS RETAIL TRIP TO BIRMINGHAM

A small group of Year 10 and 11 students went with Miss Caan and some other members of the staff team to the Birmingham Bull Ring and the Birmingham Christmas Markets on Wednesday 22nd November. This was part of their Business Retail course, covering merchandising and customer service. The students had a fabulous time and were wonderful ambassadors for St Michael's.







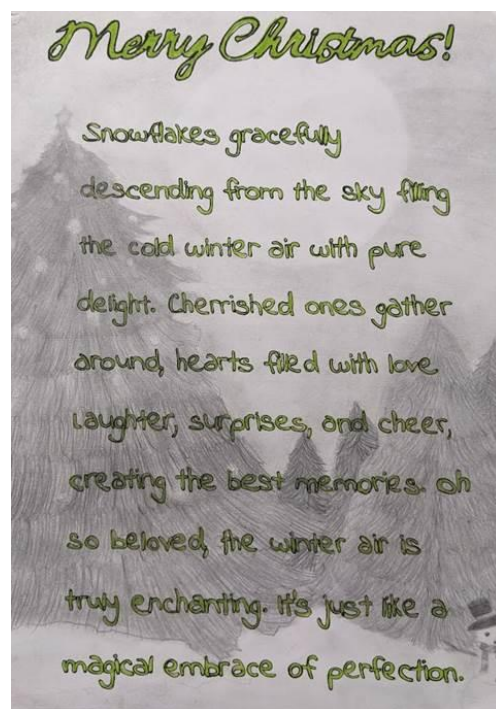
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## CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

We entered our students into a Christmas card competition, run by the MP, James Morris. He came to school on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> of December to present a prize to one of our students, Paige Gough, 9S, who was a runner up in a Christmas card competition. Paige was awarded runner-up out of 900 local entries. Her Christmas card design will be sent to the Prime Minister and the King. A massive well done to Paige and all the other students who handed in an entry. Thank you to Mr Murphy and Miss Banno for supporting this event.



St Michael's staff also had the opportunity to vote for their favourite Christmas card entry, and the card with the most votes was by Chloe Hall in 7E.



Thank you to all students for handing in a Christmas card entry.





## ART

Congratulations to the students who were selected by Mr Murphy and Mr Malone as their Artist of the Month for November and December.

Mr Murphy's Artist of the Month

### November

Year 7 - Roxanne Fowler, 7C

Year 8 - Evie Daly, 8H

Year 9 - Tom Starrs, 9M

### December

Year 7 - Ava Cumberbatch, 7L

Year 8 - Divika Rames, 8L

Year 9 - Teigan Grove, 9L

Mr Malone's Artist of the Month

### November

Year 7 - Broly Holmes, 7S

Year 8 - David Falehin, 8S

Year 9 - Codie Aston, 9H

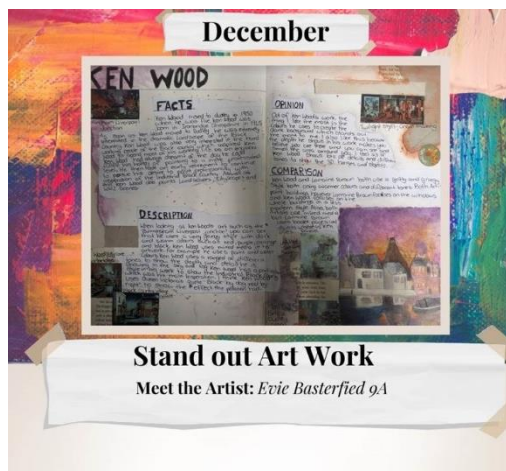
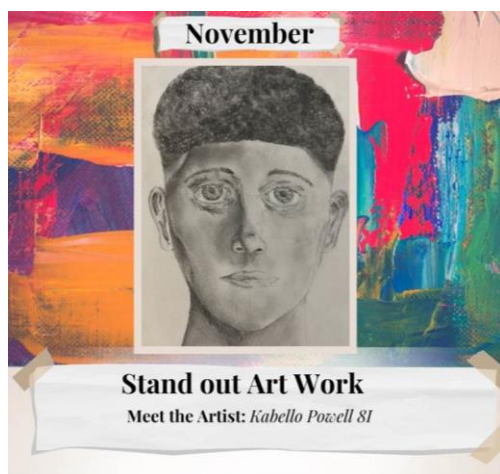
### December

Year 7 - Amelia Gadd-Furlow, 7S

Year 8 - Corey Churchill, 8S

Year 9 - Paige Young, 9E

Congratulations to the four students who were selected by Mr Murphy and Mr Malone for producing an outstanding piece of Art for November and December.



## LIBRARY

### Remembrance Day

Armistice Day, or Remembrance Day as it is also known, marks the very day that World War 1 ended in 1918. We held a two-minute silence at 11 am on the 10th day of the 11th month to remember those who have died in any conflict.

Students in the library marked Poppy Day by sharing stories and colouring in their own Remembrance Day bookmarks. The red poppy is featured throughout as it is a symbol of both Remembrance and hope for a peaceful future. Poppies are worn as a show of support for the Armed Forces community.



### Year 7 Book Quiz

The students in Year 7 have been meticulously reading their book quiz books since half term ready to compete in this year's quiz. This has supported our promotion of reading for pleasure and added some Christmassy fun to it along the way. The books they were asked to read are:

- Bad Dad by David Walliams
- The Creakers by Tom Fletcher
- The Night I Met Father Christmas by Ben Miller
- Gangsta Granny Strikes Again by David Walliams

The final of the quiz was between 7H, 7E, and 7S. Mrs. Croft's form, 7S won the quiz with 24 points! Huge congratulations to everyone who took part!



### Blue Peter Book Badge

One of our Year 7s, Isaac Taylor 7I, applied for his Blue Peter Book Badge by writing about his favourite book. He had to write about a book he had read, draw a picture of his favourite scene from the book, and explain what other books and authors he enjoys reading. He has been awarded a special Blue Peter Book Badge designed by Sir Quentin Blake along with free entry to over 200 attractions across the county! What a brilliant achievement. Well done, Isaac!





## Christmas in the Library



In the library, we have been busy preparing for Christmas by hosting a range of Christmas activities for all our students to take part in. Activities include a display based on Tom Fletcher's 'The Christmasaurus' and a book display promoting the range of Christmas books we have to read in the library, as well as the following Christmas activities, which students took part in to be entered into a prize draw to win some Christmas themed prizes!

### Christmas Activities

- **Book Bingo** - log your progress by collecting stamps. Bring in evidence that you have completed each task. We will put a stamp on each square you have completed. 10 or more stamps to be entered into a prize draw
- **What's in Santa's gift?** - give the box a shake and write down your guess. The person who guesses correctly wins a prize
- **Christmas Quiz** - answer all of the questions to be in with a chance of winning a prize
- **Christmas Word search** - find all of the words to enter the prize drawer



## GIRLS FOOTBALL

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November, the under 15 Girls Football Team travelled to Gospel Oak to play in a tournament against seven other teams. For the first time ever, St Michael's had two teams enter the competition, creating more experience and opportunities for more students in football.

St Michael's Team A had an amazing evening and did not lose a game; they won five games and drew two. This meant they finished joint top but missed out on gold medals by the goal difference of one goal. The girls achieved silver medals. Well done!

St Michael's B Team had a great experience for some students; this was their first-ever school event and these players had never played together before. The girls worked fantastic as a team, coming away with one win and three draws. Well done, there will be many more opportunities to showcase your skills.

A massive well done to both teams that represented the school, demonstrating our school values. It was a pleasure to take the girls along, and their behaviour was exemplary.

### Those involved were:

- ⚽ Layla Wells
- ⚽ Leah Blake
- ⚽ Miley Hadley
- ⚽ Shanice Clayton
- ⚽ Kiera Hazell-Williams
- ⚽ Ashanti Timmins
- ⚽ Isabelle Lawrence
- ⚽ Erica Nartey
- ⚽ Isla Haddleton
- ⚽ Ameila Yates
- ⚽ Yasmeen Alguwer
- ⚽ Phoebe Danks
- ⚽ Edi Ledbrook
- ⚽ Emily East



Well done to our Players of the tournament, Ashanti Timmins, and Phoebe Danks. Massive well-done girls. A big well done to Layla Wells who has been invited by a talent scout to attend the next stage for trials.

Also, well done to the three Year 7 students, Phoebe Danks, Edi Ledbrook, and Emily East, who played against the older age groups for this tournament. The three girls showed amazing talent, and I look forward to their next competition at the WBA Dome. Thanks again to Abbie Sivers (Year 11) for attending the tournament to help coach and lead the girls to success.



On Wednesday 6th December, the U14s girl's football team attended the WBA Dome for the English Football League Girl's Tournament. This event is a very popular girl's tournament with around 20 schools attending. The girls played extremely well and represented the school, demonstrating our school values.

The girls won one, drew one, and lost one in their league games and narrowly missed out on qualifying for the quarter-finals.

The girls involved were Amelia Yates, Sophia Sealy, Edi Ledbrook, Emily East, SJ Tolley, Gabriela Lascar, Alexis Hemmings, and Phoebe Danks.

Players of the tournament went to Emily East and SJ Tolley.

Well done, girls. Mrs Wright is looking forward to more games next year!





## ANNUAL SPONSORED 'JUST DANCE'

On Wednesday 13th December, the PE department hosted their 'Annual Sponsored Just Dance Event'.

The students had a very fun and enjoyable night and raised a massive £1,266.15.

A massive well done to everyone involved; you made the PE department so proud and what a brilliant way to get in the Christmas spirit!





## NETBALL



# NETBALL TRAINING SESSIONS

**COME TRAIN WITH OUR JUNIORS ON A THURSDAY [18:00PM - 19:30PM]**

**ABOUT BRAN-NU:**

We are a strong and skilled team based in West Midlands and currently have 5 teams performing from regional to local levels. Our greatest strength is found not just in our techniques but also in the support and bond we share as a team.

Bran-Nu offers inclusivity, support and skill development for each member. We strive to play as a diverse and friendly team who are now looking to expand and introduce Bran-Nu members to our team and **WE WANT YOU.**

So whether you have great skills and techniques, or even a slight interest, are fresh to the game or want to get competitive, we are welcoming you to train with our juniors and ensure that our excellent coaches will support and help you develop into strong players.

We look forward to welcoming you to your Bran-Nu Netball Club.

**ANY ENQUIRIES PLEASE  
CALL: 07808164657**

**TRAINING DETAILS**

**TRAINING EVERY THURSDAY 18:00PM - 19:30PM**

**PHOENIX COLLEGIATE, CLARKES LANE WEST BROMWICH, B71 2BX**





The school netball team was involved in an external coaching sessions on Tuesday evenings, 4:30 pm – 5:45 pm, with coaches from Bran Nu. The coach, who coaches around the country and also coaches at Severn Stars Hubs, has been so impressed with St Michael's netball players that she has agreed to continue coaching at St Michael's. Coaches have expressed how impressed she is with the students' attitudes towards feedback and improving their game.

The flyer is for any students who would like to join a friendly and inclusive local netball team.

## PE STAFF

The PE department would like to say goodbye and good luck to our two trainee teachers who will be leaving for their second placement at Christmas.

Miss Simmonds, and Mr Shabaan, thank you for all your hard work within the department.



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