

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Date: Thursday, July 20, 2023

Issue: 026

Summer 2, 2023


Dear Parent / Carer,

As we approach the end of the academic year, we can reflect back on what has been a jubilant year for St Michael's. In June, following our successful Ofsted inspection and nomination for a King's Award, we were announced winners of the Pearson Silver National Teaching Award for Secondary School of the Year - Making a Difference.

I am so very proud of St Michael's staff, students, parents and carers for your continued support. But what makes St Michael's truly special is that we are a family, bound by a shared commitment to uphold our ethos and values, whilst striving for excellence both inside and outside the classroom.

I would like to thank all parents and carers for your support and feedback on the Mobile Phone Policy, which comes into place in September. Ending the year with such positivity leads me to pray that you all have a fantastic summer and that you can relax and prepare yourselves for a fresh start next term. I look forward to seeing Year 11s in August and the whole school in September.

I wish you all a wonderful Summer holiday. God Bless.



Mrs Handy-Rivett, Headteacher

UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS:

Friday 21 st July	Students break up
Thursday 24 th August	GCSE Results Day (9am -12noon)
Monday 4 th September	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 5 th September	Staff Training Day
Wednesday 6 th September	Year 7 and 11 students return to school
Thursday 7 th September	All students return to school
Thursday 14 th September	Year 11 Success Fair
Wednesday 20 th September	Open Evening
Thursday 21 st September	Open Day
Thursday 28 th September	Year 7 settling in evening & Year 10
	GCSE preparation 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, NPQH

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



Holiday with Humility

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 we begin the summer holiday, let's take some time to plan what we will do, and, how we plan to do it. Summer is an ideal opportunity for us to think about who we want to connect with and the spaces that we want to explore locally, nationally and internationally.

When taking on the action of exploring unfamiliar places, it would be ideal to get on board any mode of transport with the special value of humility in your luggage. If you bring this along with you, the benefits to humankind are plenty. Travelling with humility extends the powerful qualities of compassion and empathy to those that we encounter on our journeys. We can extend these virtues during the many daily conversations that we might have and in the many different places that our natural curiosity takes us to.

During this holiday season it is important that we are humble and are not over run with pride, boastfulness or vanity: we need to proceed with caution and not form negative behaviours, as they can conjure up tendencies to belittle any environment different to what we are used to, or any person that is different to whom we are used to.

Instead, it is important to travel around with a spirit of modesty, an approach which allows us to begin that of understanding our human place as individuals who don't know everything that we need to know - even if we think we do! Being humble also has the potential for us to become more attuned to the feelings and needs of others within our global community. When we travel, we should seek to take the time to recognise the needs of the citizens wherever we go. We can then take this knowledge and try to become more active in helping these citizens, some of whom are likely to be different to ourselves, by using the kindness of our hearts without the expectation of anything in return.

It is true that any holiday can provide us with the gift of broadening our perspectives, especially when we discover new territories and attempt to break free from our comfort zones. So, as you pack your suitcases for whatever trip is planned for summer 2023, please do so with the inclusion of the carefully placed value of humility in your kilograms of luggage. Another suggested item that you may like to bring along is a pair of sunglasses. These glasses can provide you with a fresh vision and the power to see life differently and to some extent - redefine its meaning; what a view you would see, it's well worth a snap!

Enjoy.

Winner of Pearson Silver National Teaching Award for Secondary School of the Year: Making a Difference



On 21st June 2023, the staff of St Michael's Church of England High School were selected from thousands of nominations to win a Pearson National Teaching Silver Award for Making a Difference - Secondary School, for their outstanding commitment to changing the lives of the children they work with every day.

St Michael's Church of England High School has now been shortlisted to win one of just 16 Gold Awards, which will be announced and celebrated at a gala ceremony in London on 25th November and televised on the BBC, with winners showcased on The One Show.

The award was announced on National Thank a Teacher Day, an annual event celebrating the role of educators across the UK for the valued role they play in communities and shaping young people.



Mrs Handy-Rivett, Headteacher, says: *"I am extremely proud of Student Voice and the plethora of student-led initiatives in school. I am elated that our student-centred approach to making a difference for the community has been recognised through receiving this prestigious award".*

Goldsmiths' Community Engagement Awards

We attended the finals of the Goldsmith Community Engagement Awards in London on Tuesday 27th June. The students prepared and delivered an exceptional showcase to demonstrate commitment to supporting our school and wider community. Sadly, we did not win, however, our students were recognised for making it to the final 8 out of almost 180 schools across the country. Our Year 7 boys were the youngest representatives that day, but they held their own against other Year 13 students, speaking eloquently and confidently about projects.



Capital Breakfast Studios

A group of students visited Capital Breakfast studios on the Friday 26th May. They had a brilliant time with the hosts, Roman Kemp, Chris Stark and Sian Welby, who gave us a glimpse behind the scenes. The students had chance to record intros, use the soundboard and even got to watch a zoom interview with Sir Elton John. In true Student Voice style, we were sure not to miss an opportunity and managed to share two of our campaigns with the breakfast team - #21AOK and #amimanlyenough. We also bumped into Myleene Klass on our building tour, the kindness didn't stop there as we gifted starfish and bumble bees to members of the public and palace guards.



Year 11 Leavers' Service

The Year 11 Leavers' Service took place on 23rd June and was a joyful event. We invited students, along with their parents/carers, to the church hall afterwards for refreshments. It gave students the opportunity to say their goodbyes before they begin their next exciting chapter. We wish Year 11 luck and we can't wait to see them on GCSE results day which is taking place on **Thursday 24th August between 9am -12pm.**



Careers Fair

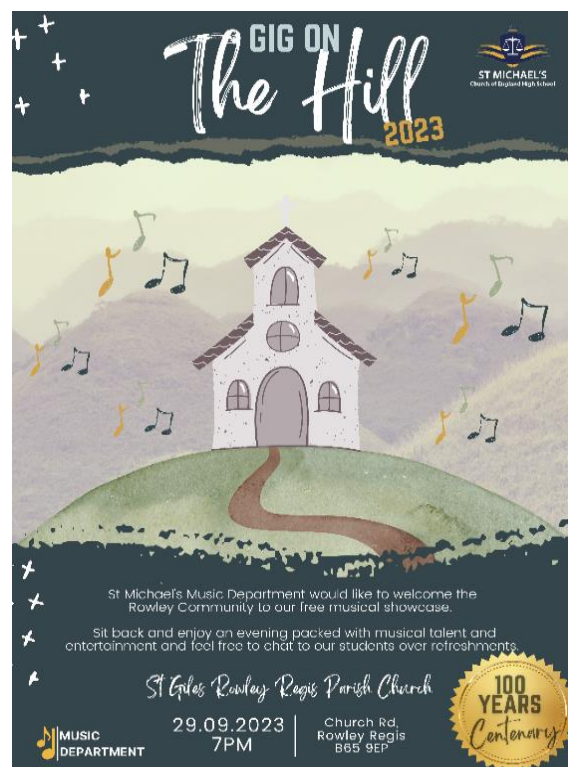
As part of Year 10 Aspirations Week, students took part in a careers fair. It was an excellent opportunity for students to speak with representatives from local colleges, as well as gaining more information about apprenticeships.



Bell Ringing



Mr Johnson, Mr Robinson and Mrs Hopson visited St Giles church where they learnt the art of bell ringing and the history of the bell tower. This is to tie in with the church's upcoming centenary celebrations. To help mark the occasion, Mrs Hopson will be selecting 5 students, one from each year group, to experience the art of bell ringing and provide the opening call to the 'Gig on the Hill' event which will take place on **29th September 2023**.



Science

In science, Year 7s have been studying the Earth Unit and they created some amazing 3D models of volcanoes. They all erupted splendidly. Mrs Malhi would like to express her congratulations to all students involved.



Team Transition

We really enjoyed meeting our new cohort of students on the transition days earlier this month. Team transition carried out a fantastic job of visiting Primary Schools with Mrs Handy-Rivett, Mrs Faulkner and Miss Preston to prepare students for their transition days which were on Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th July. We hope all of Year 6 are excited to start at St Michael's in September.

A big thank you to all the students involved. They were excellent role models with immaculate uniform and confidence in the St Michael's values and ethos.



Group One

Erica Nartey
Jude Sidaway
Callum Denning
Ryley-Luke Glennon
Isabelle Butt

Group Two

Zoe Edwards
Layla-Paige Hemming
Charlie Smart
Freddie Hadley
Joshua Robinson

Group Three

Miya Yau
William Molnar
Troy Standen

Well done Team Transition!

School Uniform

At St Michael's students continue to wear their school uniform with pride and have been a credit to you and our school; our uniform allows our students to feel part of the school community and have a sense of belonging. The Summer break is a great opportunity to update your child's uniform, if required, and in September we will continue to be very vigilant about ensuring our students wear their uniform correctly.

To help you prepare for September, the Uniform Policy can be found using the link below:

[SM-Uniform-Policy-2023-.pdf \(st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk\)](https://st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk/SM-Uniform-Policy-2023-.pdf)



School Uniform Donations

As we approach the end of the school year, we would like to request donations of any school uniform items that may no longer be of use to your child or a sibling.

We are keen to promote the practice of recycling school uniform, where possible, from an environmentally conscious point of view, as well as to support those in our community who are struggling financially through these very difficult times.

If you would like to support this initiative, we would welcome any unwanted items of uniform to be brought into Reception during school hours and would ask that all donations are clean and in good condition.

Thank you for your support.

Hospitality

Year 10 students have been completing their Hospitality mock exams in preparation for the actual exam. Students who study Hospitality develop transferable skills which are important in working life. They experience team working when planning and delivering a function or event. There are many factors they have to consider and adjust to on an ad-hoc basis.

The students were excellent; they worked very well and overcame challenges along the way. Here are some snippets of their work, they have done an amazing and very professional job and we are so proud of them all. **A massive well done and congratulations to all students.**



Grease

Grease is our second full-scale musical; we pulled out all the stops this time! This year has been a whirlwind of a ride. We started auditions in September and were blown away by how much talent we were faced with. This made our job very difficult to decide on our final cast. We did, and we made the right decision. This show has had its challenges though, with snow days, strike action, bank holidays, and last-minute changes in the cast.

However, we would like to take this opportunity to say how deeply proud we are of every single member of our cast. It has been an absolute honour to put on this performance with them all and see them all shine as the stars they are. We hope they all take this experience with them into the future, and we hope to see them all become successful as every single one of them is an incredible performer.

We have had the honour of watching all of them grow, we've laughed together, cried together, and we have seen how strong they all are. There will be no team like the Grease team! It has been a pleasure to work with them.

Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported our show; from backstage crew to front-of-house support. Finally thank you to you, our audience – our wonderful parents and guardians. Thank you for your ongoing support, without which the show could not take place.

Watch this space for the next whole school production!





Student Voice Celebration Evening

Student Voice Celebration Evening took place on Friday 7th July. It has been our busiest year to date, so we are very excited to share our journey and celebrate our achievements. From reaching the milestone of raising £50,000 for Birmingham Children's Hospital to taking part in filming for a BBC documentary, we have managed to pack a lot into twelve months. The evening was the perfect opportunity to showcase our successes and celebrate them with our family, colleagues and visitors.





Student Voice Celebration Evening

English Writing Stars

KS3 Writing stars have entered a number of competitions this academic year and we've had some fabulous work published as a result! The following pupils have had their short stories or poems published in books over the course of the year: Rebecca Willetts, Ben Heath, Ella Peake, Jerin Joji, Fionn Smith, Matthew Comery and Brook Siviter. In May, we submitted entries for the Divine Beauty: Birmingham Cathedral Poetry Festival and entries will be displayed in the grounds of the Cathedral over the summer. In the National Literacy Strategy competition - 'Wicked Writers', Faith Jarvis in Year 7 was shortlisted for her writing about ocean pollution. One of only 16 pupils selected nationally, we are very proud of Faith's achievements!

Well done to all of our talented young writers!



Watch this space for exciting enrichment opportunities in English next year!

Library

Speaking Volumes Funding for Library Books

The *Speaking Volumes* charity was formed by Cecil Jackson-Cole, an entrepreneur with a passion for making a difference to those who were suffering. Cecil was the cofounder of Oxfam and had opened shops in Oxford such as Age UK; he preferred to stay out of the public eye. When he sadly lost his wife, he couldn't find any books to support the grief process so created a small charity to ensure Christian literature is accessible to everyone; after his death, and over time, part of this has evolved into *Speaking Volumes*. Speaking volumes ensure they "offer grants for books to many diverse places such as prisons, schools, care homes, hospices, churches, community centres, plus many places abroad, ensuring that whenever someone needs comfort, hope or inspiration there's a book that can help them in their moment of need".

In April we submitted a bid for funding and were granted £300 to spend on books for the school library. We are pleased that these are now available in the library for staff and students to loan. A sample of the books purchased with the grant are below.



Year 9 Book quiz

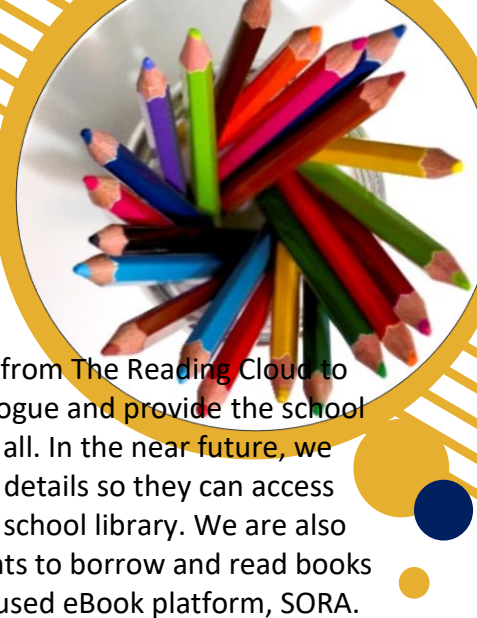
Four students from each form were asked to read the books outlined below and retain as much information and detail as possible. They also needed to brush up on their general book and author knowledge. All of the teams who took part did fantastically well.

The books this year were:

- 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 final took place on Monday 17th July between 9M and 9A and the overall winners of the Year 9 Book Quiz are 9M.





In May, the Library transferred their Library Management system over from The Reading Cloud to Libresoft. The reason for the migration was to update our Library catalogue and provide the school with a more up-to-date interface that is user friendly and accessible to all. In the near future, we are hoping to be able to provide students with their own unique log-in details so they can access Libresoft and browse the catalogue, giving students 24/7 access to the school library. We are also hoping to integrate an eBook platform into the system enabling students to borrow and read books online any place, any time which would take over from our previously used eBook platform, SORA.

Events

Throughout the last term we have promoted and celebrated various events such as Windrush, Pride Month, Empathy Day, Mental Health Awareness week and Author, Emma Carroll. Students have taken part in various competitions and won some books and prizes. There are a few images below.

Windrush Day - 22nd June 2023

The Windrush display created in the library was exhibited for a week as it created a huge amount of interest and a talking point. It allowed students to discuss and understand the information presented to them regarding the Windrush generation and the significance this generation has on Britain's cultural diversity and today's society.



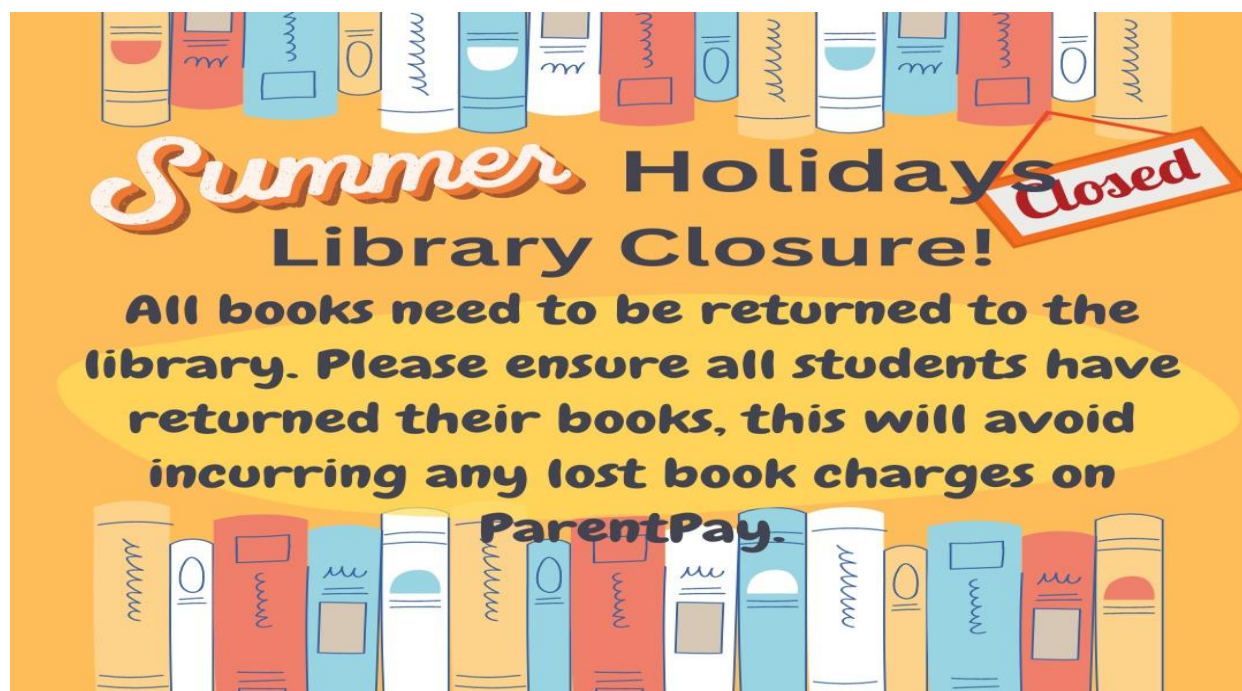
THE READING AGENCY



The Reading Agency sent St Michael's Library some promotional materials to promote 10 years of **Author, Emma Carroll**. The Library showcased her books and created a display with the materials such as bookmarks, activity sheets and a word search competition with students that participated being entered into a prize draw. Students also had the opportunity to read and take out Emma Carroll's books.

Summer Reading Challenge

Every year the library promotes a Summer Reading Challenge; this aims to keep students engaged in reading over the six weeks holiday. This year students in years 7, 8 and 9 are encouraged to read 6 books over the holiday and complete the reading challenge booklet; once this is handed in in September the students who have taken part will receive a prize and house points. The Summer Reading Challenge is also accessible to Year 6 students who will be attending St Michael's in September. If your child would like an information pack and booklet, they can pop into the library or email Library@st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk



Mental Health Awareness week

Mental Health Awareness Week is an important campaign led by the Mental Health Foundation that gives an opportunity to learn more about the issues surrounding mental health and ways to improve mental wellbeing. In support of this we spent the week promoting mindfulness activities, mindful colouring in, as well as promoting the books in our library catalogue which are aimed at supporting students and giving ideas and tips for dealing with Mental Health issues.



Year 9 Visit to the Glass Museum

Eighteen Year 9 students spent the day at Stourbridge Glass Museum for part of their Arts Award qualification. The purpose of the visit to the Museum was to open up a range of resources not available in the classroom, based around the Museum's extraordinary collection of glass, with live glass making demonstrations from the resident glass blower in the Hot Glass Studio. The Museum has a wealth of historic resources to give the students a unique cross-curricular learning experience. The students took part in an air-dry clay activity, they had the opportunity to handle pieces of glass and explore the museum.

The below students attended the trip were a credit to St Michael's and had a fantastic time:

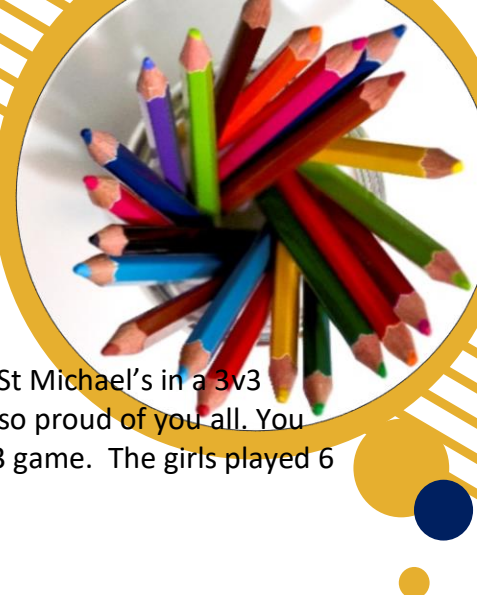
- Sienna Jones
- Ruby Tromans
- Rayne Cox
- Savanah Cresswell
- Thomas Calvert
- Katie Harper
- Joseph Jackson
- Esme Cogger
- Mustafa Yasir
- Heta Panchini
- Sophie Gleadall
- Japji Bajwa
- Bella Byfield
- Brodie Crump
- Maddison Tonks
- Katie Hall
- Rebecca Willetts
- Xander Soloman-Grosvenor



Year 10 Trip to Stratford-upon-Avon

Students in Year 10 attended a cultural capital Stratford-upon-Avon trip. They had to capture a photo during a 'discover the city' mystery treasure hunt, with the hope of being the best photo and winning some chocolates.





A massive well done to a few of our girls' football team who represented St Michael's in a 3v3 tournament at The Albion Dome on Wednesday 28th June. Mrs Wright is so proud of you all. You showed some excellent teamwork and worked so hard in a fast-paced 3v3 game. The girls played 6 games and were undefeated, scoring some incredible goals!

Results:

St Michael's 6-2 Phoenix
St Michael's 1-1 Gospel Oak A
St Michael's 5-4 Sandwell Academy A
St Michael's 7-1 Gospel Oak B
St Michael's 4-3 Sandwell Academy B

Final:

St Michael's 2-1 Gospel Oak

The students were;

Year 8 - Layla Wells, Ashanti Timmins, Miley Hadley,
Isabelle Lawrence
Year 7 - Isla Haddleton



Mrs Wright would like to give a shout out to Isla for stepping up and joining in the Year 8 team, to help lead them to victory. You were amazing! A big well done to all the girls, you should be so proud of yourselves. Looking forward to our new league which starts in September. See you all there, ready for training every Thursday.



Drama

A huge well done to Ebony Bate and Josiah Messer from 7C who went above and beyond for their Drama Puppetry homework, you did an amazing job!



Mobile Phone Policy

In line with best practice and, like many other schools, following the government's 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' updated guidance with effect from September 2023, we are making some important changes to our mobile phone policy.

A copy of the parent/carer letter and Student Mobile Phone Policy can be found:

Letter: [Letter-to-Parents-Re-Mobile-Phone-26-06-23.pdf](#)
(st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk)

Policy: [Microsoft Word - SM Mobile Phone Policy\[95\].docx](#) (st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk)

Please note, from September 2023; St Michael's will be a mobile-free zone. If your child chooses to bring their mobile phone into school, they must be prepared to hand in their mobile phone during morning registration and it will be returned at the end of the day.

Thank you for your support.

