

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Date: Thursday, February 8, 2024

Issue: 029

SPRING 1, 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

We welcomed in the New Year with excitement for the opportunities that lay ahead; students have settled in well after the return from their Christmas holiday, with many of them taking part in subject-focused events and excursions. Our Year 11s have returned with optimism for their next challenge, and they have been busily preparing for their mock exams, which begin after half term.

Throughout this half term, our school community has been reminded of how we show Christian unity. The Bible teaches us (1 Corinthians 12) that, as a school community, we are one body, we all have different God-given gifts, talents, and abilities and we are all unique. Yet, we work together to show love to others; demonstrating care and kindness to all in our community; valuing what we have and sharing this with others. We in turn enable everyone to achieve their full potential, and this is at the heart of our school vision.

Thank you for the continued staff and parental support, enabling our young people to have a wealth of opportunities beyond the curriculum. I would like to remind parents and carers that breakfast club is available for all students, from 8:00 am until 8:30 am every morning.

I wish you all a wonderful half-term break. God Bless.



Mrs Handy-Rivett, Headteacher

UPCOMING NEWS & EVENTS:

Friday 9 th February	Students break up
Monday 19 th February	Students return to school
Thursday 29 th February	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Friday 15 th March	Option forms deadline
Thursday 21 st March	Year 11 Final Countdown Evening
Friday 22 nd March	Students break up

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

St Michael's Church of England High School • Rowley Learning Campus • Curral Road • Rowley Regis • West Midlands • B65 9AN
Telephone: **0121 561 6881** • Fax: 0121 561 6882 • Email: contact.staff@st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk

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



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.*

NEW YEAR

At the start of a new year and a new school term, it gives us time to reflect on the year that has just been. Maybe, for you, the year was full of many great memories and full of joy and happiness, or maybe it was full of more challenges than triumphs. Whatever has now been a time to reflect but also a time to press forward, take the next steps into the year that lies ahead.

As a school, the year ended with a fantastic celebration in our whole school Christmas service. Students amazed us with their talents and gifts through a range of dances, vocal performances, and dramas. The students truly did us proud and, as we considered the story of Christmas, we were reminded to take time to pause and ponder the real reason for the season of Christmas and encouraged not to allow the busyness of Christmas to blur our vision of the baby in a manger and the purpose for which He came.

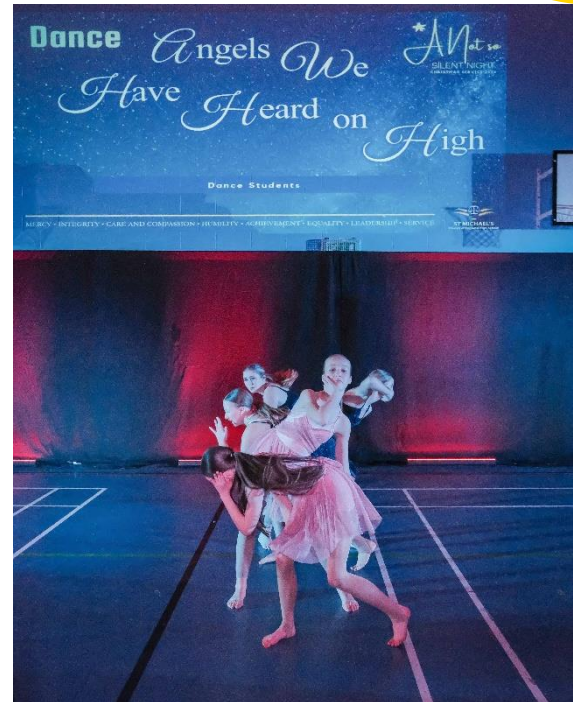
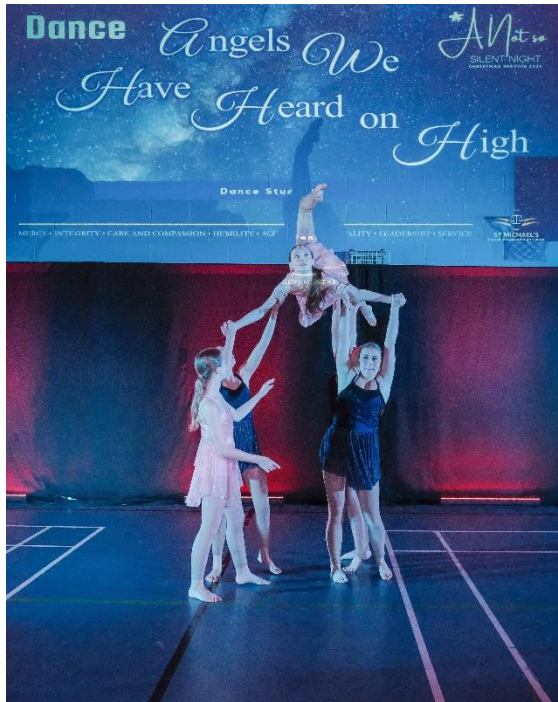
The Christmas service also saw many of our students presented with our St Michael's wings. The St Michael's WING is the highest award and commendation that the school presents. It rewards those students who embody the school values through their words, actions, attitudes, and character over the course of a school term.

As we move into this new term, I encourage us, like the students celebrated below, to live out those shared school values and incorporate the school vision of showing love, care, and kindness into our community into our daily lives.

God Bless,

Mr Dix, Lead on Ethos

CHRISTMAS SERVICE







ST MICHAEL'S WING AWARDS

The St Michael's WING is awarded to those who embrace and adopt the values of mercy, integrity, care and compassion, humility, achievement, equality, leadership, and service all bound within a spirit of Christian love and action. Students carry their values cards as a daily reminder of what the school esteems and teaches them to be. As staff, we are encouraged to look out for opportunities when students demonstrate aspects of the school's ideals and principles, and the Christmas service gave us a time to celebrate with those who have shown at times moments of great character over the autumn term.

The WING is not a mark of an 'I have made it' attitude and at times, these students will not always get it right, but the wing is a sign of growing maturity, developing adulthood, and a reputation for virtuous living.

The following students achieved their bronze, silver, or gold wing and, alongside this, received a certificate, 100 house points, and a commendation letter from the Headteacher.

Bronze Wing



Back line: Keysha Wahome, Elsie Wahome, Evie Gardiner-Atkins, Leah Dudley, Mia Kendrick, Mrs Handy-Rivett, Ahmed Ishag, Daniel Lango, Lyla-Mae Orton, Ameila
Front line: Jack Smith, Karina Kumari, Vicenza Decola, Ruby Colclough, Kelsey Ball, Codie Aston, Tia Thompson, Thalia Robson, Amelia Harper, Chloe Hall, Jayce Gilbert, Thomas Elliot, Bradley Yates, Lily Abbott, Elliemai Markham, Kian Tague, Willow Phillipowsky, Isabelle Fox, Eve Bennett

Silver Wing



Jack Barnbrook, Vicenza Decola, Daniel Lango, Mrs Handy-Rivett, Ameila, Joshua Cope, Abigail Piper, Kian Tague

Gold Wing



Joshua Tipper, Isabelle Butt, Mrs Handy-Rivett, Abigail Piper

YEAR 7 AWARDS AND HOUSE ASSEMBLY

On the 18th of December, Year 7 celebrated the fantastic start students had shown with a variety of different awards received. Students celebrated their success in their recent grades with the highest performers and progress made being recognised with certificates for each subject. The top three students with the most positive points and 98% attendance or above received a £10 Amazon gift voucher, and our warrior and champion were crowned, TG and David Lango. Form tutors nominated two star students for their excellent start to St Michael's as well as their demonstration of the school values.

Mrs Faulkner would like to extend her thanks to all the form tutors and Miss Preston for their hard work during autumn term. A big thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support. All of Year 7 students have worked really hard and made a fantastic start at St Michael's.



Students with Top Grades

Back row: Paige Taylor, Ahsan Javid, Eleanor Hunstone, Phoebe Danks, Casey Mersini, Mrs Faulkner, Head of Year 7
Front row: Amelia Hacket, Sienna Kaul, Lily Spencer, Edward Willetts, Shareese Conroy



Top Three Students

Lily Abbot, Ahmed Ishag, and Chloe Hall



Champion

David Lango awarded by Armani Gill



Warrior

Awarded by Caiden Francis



7E Award
Lily Abott and David Lango



7C Award
Alfie Emery and Maddison Baggott



7L Award
Mia Kendrick



Library Award
**Neve Aldridge, Khadijah Pereira-Campbell,
Amelia Gadd-Furlow, Belle Parkes**



7I Award
**Madeline Howl & Holly Barnsley
with Mr Malone**



**Most money raised at Just Dance
Charity event - Roman Rogers**



7M Award
**Logan Peters-Williams & Katie Loat
with Mr Clarke**



7S Award
**Khadijah Pereira-Campbell & Kian Tague
with Mrs Croft**



7H Award
**Ezme Johnson & Jairaj Moman
with Mrs Walker**

House champions (most house points)

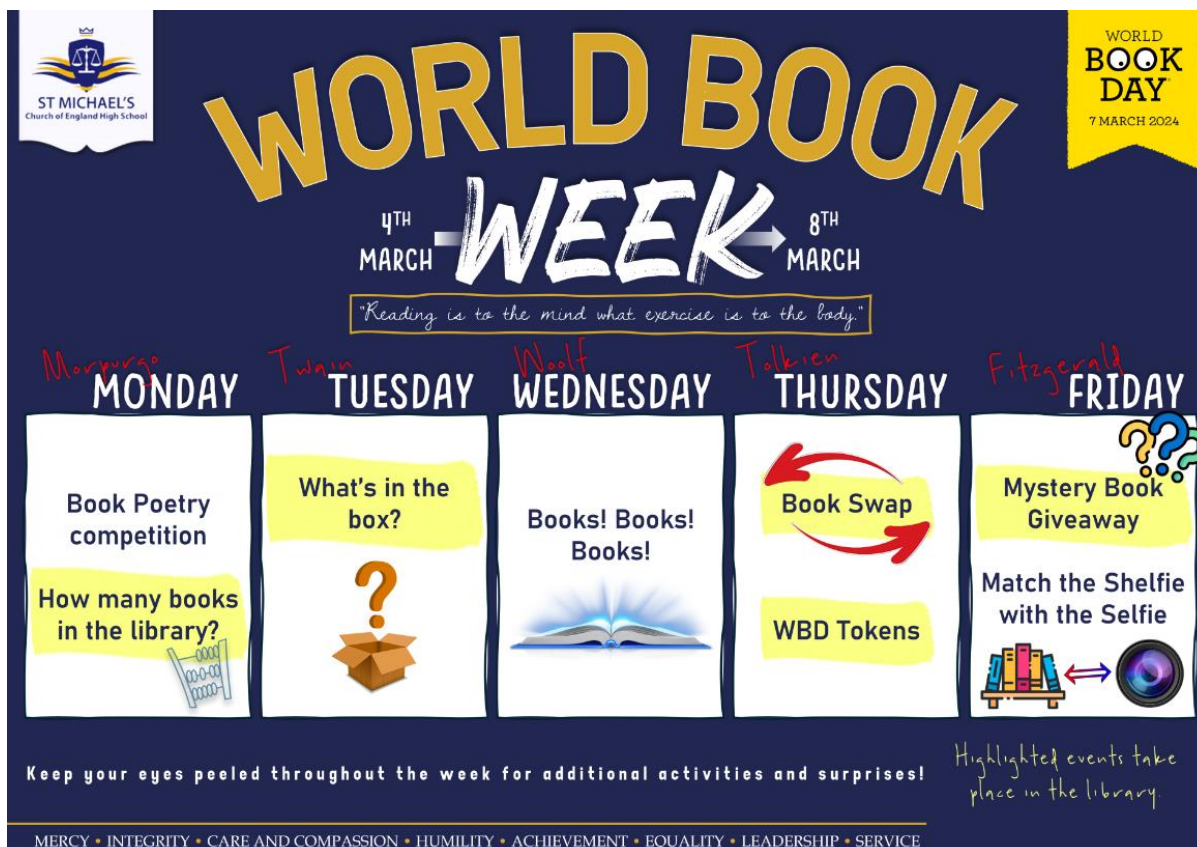
Griffin: Dulcie Bates, 7A
Kirin: TG, 7E
Pegasus: Mia Kendrick, 7L
Wyvern: Logan Otto, 7S



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


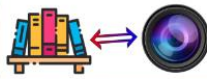


EXPLORING THE MAGIC OF WORLD BOOK DAY AT ST MICHAEL'S



WORLD BOOK WEEK
4TH MARCH - 8TH MARCH

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."

<i>Morrison</i> MONDAY	<i>Twain</i> TUESDAY	<i>Woolf</i> WEDNESDAY	<i>Tolkien</i> THURSDAY	<i>Fitzgerald</i> FRIDAY
Book Poetry competition How many books in the library?	What's in the box? ?	Books! Books! Books! 	Book Swap WBD Tokens	Mystery Book Giveaway Match the Shelfie with the Selfie 

Keep your eyes peeled throughout the week for additional activities and surprises!

Highlighted events take place in the library

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

As the literary world gears up to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday, 7th March, the excitement is palpable here at St Michael's. Join us by participating in an array of engaging activities and events throughout the week. This year promises to be a celebration of words, creativity, and the boundless imagination that books inspire.

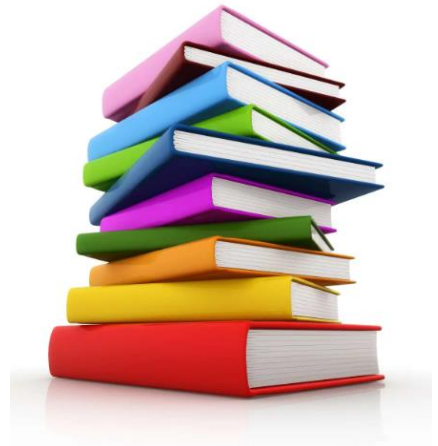
One of the highlights of our World Book Day festivities is the House Poetry Writing Competition. Inspired by the poignant poem "Just a Book" by Joshua Seigal, students from all houses are encouraged to channel their inner wordsmiths and craft original poems that explore the magic and significance of books in their lives. This competition not only fosters creativity but also encourages students to reflect on the profound impact literature can have. In addition to poetic endeavours, students in Year 7 will add a personal touch to their reading experiences by creating custom bookmarks, serving as reminders of the adventures awaiting within the pages of their favourite stories.



Furthermore, World Book Day provides a platform for developing oracy skills, as we will engage in lively discussions about the books that have left an indelible mark on our hearts and minds. From timeless classics to contemporary bestsellers, these discussions offer a glimpse into the diverse literary landscape that enriches our lives. For those with a keen eye for detail, our **"Match the Shelfie with Selfie"** competition offers a fun challenge, testing students' observational skills as they pair bookshelf snapshots with corresponding selfies of avid staff readers.

Our school library, a treasure trove of knowledge and imagination, will buzz with activity, featuring competitions like "Guess How Many Books Are in the Library" and thrilling mystery book giveaways. Additionally, Year 7 and 8 students will receive World Book Day tokens, granting them £1 off a book of their choice, encouraging further exploration and discovery through reading.

World Book Day at St Michael's aims to be not merely a celebration but a testament to the transformative power of literature. It is a day when we come together to revel in the joy of storytelling, to ignite our imaginations, and to reaffirm our commitment to the written word. So, let us embark on this literary journey together, where every page turned is a step closer to a world of endless possibilities.



Just a Book? By Joshua Seigal

It's a letter in a bottle
bobbing blindly in the sea,
it's a verdant leaf in summer
Changing halfway up a tree,
it's a pebble sleeping softly
in a gently flowing brook
but it's never, no it's never,
no it's never just a book.

It's the topping on your pizza
as it sits upon your plate,
it's the fish that you've been after
as you hook it with your bait,
it's a cupboard of ingredients
all waiting for the cook
but it's never, no it's never,
no it's never just a book.

It's a soldier in a battle
as he launches a grenade,
it's a hunter in a forest
as she sharpens up her blade,
it's a playmate, it's a bully,
it's a policeman, it's a crook
but it's never, no it's never,
no, it's never just a book.

It's a parcel of ideas,
it's a package full of tools,
it's a field full of freedom,
it's a folder full of rules,
it's a fancy flight of fantasy
so come and have a look -
see it's never, no it's never,
no it's never just a book!



YEAR 9 Guided Options



On Wednesday the 31st of January, we hosted the Year 9 Guided Options Evening. Mr Bending, Assistant Headteacher, delivered a presentation in the main theatre to support our students and their families in making well-informed choices about the courses available to them in Key Stage 4. As part of this, the subject leaders of modern foreign languages, history, and geography shared information about their course content, and how this is assessed at the end of Key Stage 4.

Local college information stalls were set up in the dining hall with staff on hand to offer advice on the courses they offer, and their entry requirements. Parents/carers were also able to speak with subject leaders to find out more about each of the courses that we offer at St Michael's.

On Thursday the 29th of February, we will be holding our Year 9 Parents' Evening. This is an opportunity for parents/carers to meet with all of their child's subject teachers to discuss the progress they are currently making. They will also be able to ask further questions about the courses their child would like to choose.



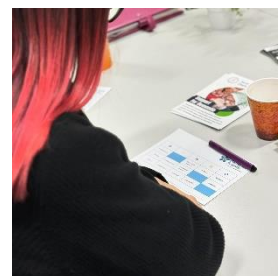
The deadline for completing the online Guided Options form is Friday 15th March.



STUDENT VOICE

Despite this half term only being five weeks long, the Student Voice team has been working as hard as ever! The New Year saw the launch of the new timetable, including lunchtime and after-school meetings such as fundraising, community engagement, and UnMuted Radio.

On the 11th and 31st of January, we held Dementia Friends training workshops for members of Parent Voice, as well as our intergenerational group with members of St Giles Church (LINKS). Moreover, we held a visioning workshop for our upcoming 21st Century Child event, which is themed around Barbie. This will explore themes such as gender, body image, and stereotypes - watch this space for more updates!

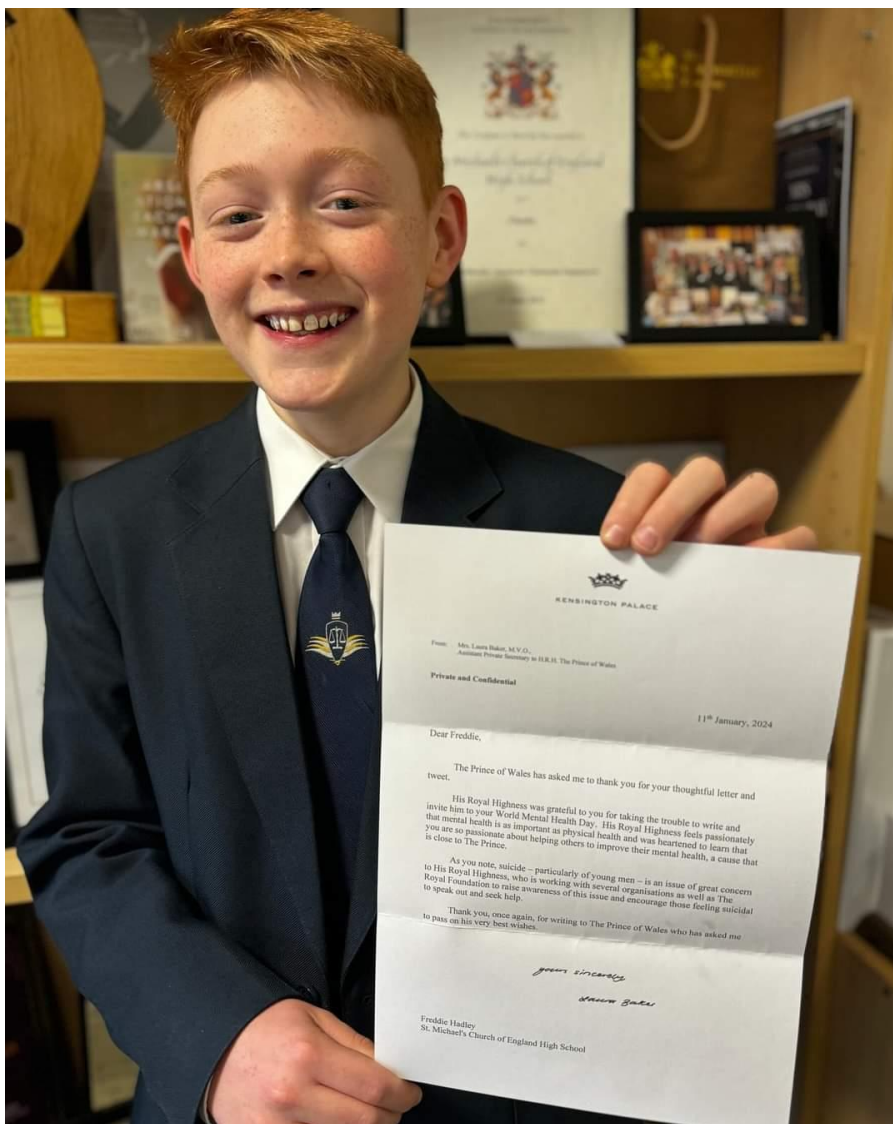


We also held a Student Voice Showcase on the 31st of January: school leaders from across the country came to see how Student Voice works behind the scenes, in hopes of applying some of our practice into their own school settings. Finally, we received news that we have won our tenth '100 Heroes Award' from Birmingham Children's Hospital for our fundraising efforts in 2023. We are extremely proud of this achievement and hope to achieve the same in 2024.



A VERY SPECIAL LETTER

On the 16th of January 2024, Student Voice received a very exciting post! It was a special response from Kensington Palace on behalf of HRH Prince William. It was so lovely to capture Freddie Hadley's reaction when he spotted the royal stamp.



"His Royal Highness was grateful to you for taking the trouble to write and invite him to your World Mental Health Day. His Royal Highness feels passionately that mental health is as important as physical health and was heartened to learn that you are so passionate about helping others to improve their mental health, a cause that is close to The Prince."

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK TRIP

Mrs Croft, Mrs Lisbie, and Mrs Shaw had the pleasure of taking the Year 10 Performing Arts group to Birmingham Hippodrome on the 16th of January to watch the pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk.' Our student's behaviour and representation of the school was excellent, and they all enjoyed the show.



GROWING GREAT GEOGRAPHERS!

Year 9 students visited the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham to study the ecosystems of the world, which links into their next unit of work. If they choose to opt for geography, it also acts as a foundation for their studies at GCSE. Students completed an orienteering exercise where they used maps to navigate the gardens and complete a treasure hunt, visited the hot houses, experienced what different ecosystems of the world are like, and had an animal handling experience where the students had a chance to hold and learn about different animals found throughout the world. The students were a credit to St Michael's, and members of the public complimented their exemplary behaviour. Students and staff had an amazing time!



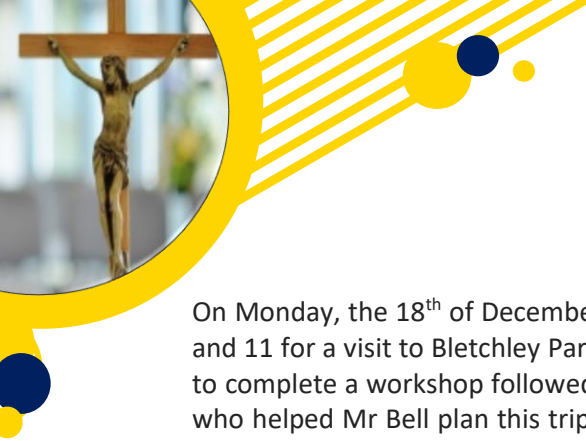
Reuben Peakman, 9H



Isla Steed, 9H



Charlie Smart, 9H



BLETCHLEY PARK TRIP

On Monday, the 18th of December, Mr Bell had the pleasure of taking ninety-six students from Years 9, 10, and 11 for a visit to Bletchley Park. Students chosen for computing, history, and maths had the opportunity to complete a workshop followed by a guided tour of Bletchley Park. A massive thank you to all the people who helped Mr Bell plan this trip and all the staff who helped on the day (especially Mr Smith for carrying the first aid kit all day).



YEAR 7 CHRISTINGLE MAKING



The RE Department would like to congratulate the Year 7 students for their amazing participation in making their own Christingles. In preparation for the Christmas break, students learnt about the meaning behind the Christingle service before making their own.

In true Christmas spirit, many students shared their resources with each other and helped one another with their creations. We would also like to thank the parents and carers for supporting us with providing the necessary items. Fun was had by all.



Yunus Ahmed, 7S



Bradley Whitehouse, 7A



Maddison Slattery-Orme, 7S



Reece Lucock, 7A

“Whodunnit”



Congratulations to Brooke Parker, 7I, and Mia Lovesey, 7M, pictured below with their prizes.



World Book Day is rapidly approaching; we will be celebrating this in the library on Thursday 7th March. There will be competitions, a book swap, activities, and book giveaways too.

In the lead up to World Book Day, all students in Year 7 and 8 will receive their £1 token, which can be used towards the cost of a book or to buy one of the books outlined in the image. The £1 tokens can be redeemed in most supermarkets and book stores before 31st March 2024. Students in Year 9 and above are also welcome to come to the library and collect a £1 book token if they wish.





Library Clubs reminder



Library Clubs

Monday

Puzzle Club
Lunch time

Homework Club
3-3.45pm

Tuesday

Early Bird Book
Group 8.15am

Games Club
Lunch time

Homework Club
3-3.45pm

Open to all years

Thursday

Scrabble Club
Lunch time

Homework Club
3-3.45pm

Friday

Manga Club
Lunch time

YEAR 11 MOCK TIMETABLE

Year 11 students are busy preparing for their mock exams. We are extremely proud of their commitment to after-school study support. The St Michael's community wishes all Year 11 students all the very best in their upcoming mock examination assessments, which run from Monday 19th February until Friday 1st March 2023.

Date for the diary: Year 11 Final Countdown evening will be held on Thursday 21st March 2024. Details of the event will be confirmed closer to the date.

Week A	Monday 19 th Feb	Tuesday 20 th Feb	Wednesday 21 st Feb	Thursday 22 nd Feb	Friday 23 rd Feb
Before School (Maths & Sci Hub)	Breakfast Club Revision	Breakfast Club Revision	Breakfast Club Revision	Breakfast Club Revision	Breakfast Club Revision
8.50 am	Science Biology 1 hr 15 mins 1 hr 45 mins	Maths Paper 1 Foundation – Cal Higher – Non-Cal 1 hr 30 mins	Maths Paper 2 Foundation – Non-Cal Higher – Cal 1 hr 30 mins	Geography 1 hr 30 mins	German Reading/Listening
10.45 am					
Lunchtime (DTIT)	Quiet Revision Space	Quiet Revision Space	Quiet Revision Space	Quiet Revision Space	Quiet Revision Space
1.00 pm	English Lit Component 1 Shakespeare/Poetry 2 hrs	English Lit Component 2 Modern Drama A Christmas Carol 2 hrs 30 mins	French Reading/Listening	RE 1 hr 45 mins	History 1 hr - USA 1 hr 15 min - Medicine
After School Study Support	Maths	No Study Support	1. Geography 2. RE 9 students ITCO	1. German 2. History 99 students (Form-tutors share)	English Language

Week B	Monday 26 th Feb	Tuesday 27 th Feb	Wednesday 28 th Feb	Thursday 29 th Feb	Friday 1 st March
Before School (Maths & Sci Hub)	Breakfast Club Revision	Breakfast Club Revision	Breakfast Club Revision	Breakfast Club Revision	Breakfast Club Revision
8.50 am	Science Chemistry 1 hr 15 mins 1 hr 45 mins	Science Physics 1 hr 15 mins 1 hr 45 mins	Maths Paper 3 Foundation – Cal Higher – Cal 1 hr 30 mins	Geography 1 hr 30 mins	French/German/ Spanish Writing
10.45 am					
Lunchtime (DTIT)	Quiet Revision Space	Quiet Revision Space	Quiet Revision Space	Quiet Revision Space	Quiet Revision Space
1.00 pm	English Language Paper 1 Fiction/Imaginative Writing 1 hr 45 mins	English Language Paper 2 Non-Fiction/ Transactional Writing 2 hrs 5 mins	Spanish Reading/Listening	DT 2 hrs	Computer Science 1 hr 30 mins
After School Study Support	Science	1. Spanish 2. Maths	1. DT 2. Geography 3. Computer Sci 4. Fre/Ger/Span 80 students Maths/Sci Hub for General Revision	Y9 Parents' Evening No Study Support	No Study Support

Study support will resume as normal on Monday 4th March 2024 (Week A)

Monday: English Study Support

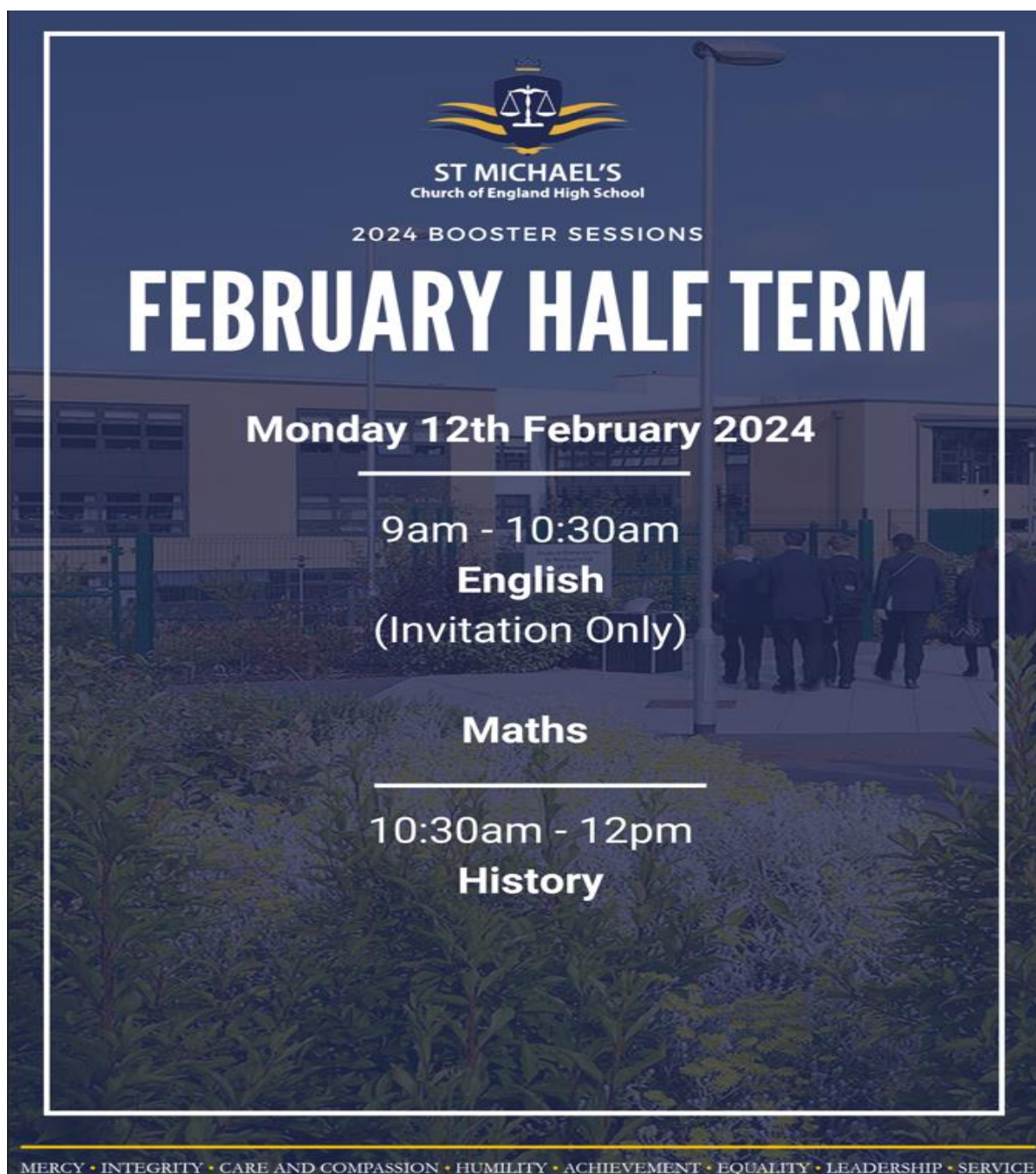
Wednesday: Mathematics Study Support


Friday: Science Study Support



YEAR 11 HOLIDAY STUDY SUPPORT

During February half term, study support is available for Year 11. Please see the sessions advertised below:




ST MICHAEL'S
Church of England High School

2024 BOOSTER SESSIONS

FEBRUARY HALF TERM

Monday 12th February 2024

9am - 10:30am
English
(Invitation Only)

Maths

10:30am - 12pm
History

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

PE

Basketball

Thirty-one Year 7 students attend a very competitive basketball tournament, on the 6th of February, which went down to a sudden-death free-throw shootout. Everybody who attended received two positive events on G4Schools, which links well with the Easter rewards trip (launching in assemblies this week).

Year 7 Results

- 1st Pegasus 75 HP
- 2nd Kirin 65 HP
- 3rd Wyvern 45 HP
- 4th Griffin 20 HP



Congratulations to Wyvern who won the Year 8 House Basketball Tournament, which saw twenty students attend. Some excellent teamwork was shown by Wyvern, to make them deserved winners. Pegasus and Kirin came joint second.

Year 8 Results

- 1st Wyvern 80 HP
- 2nd Pegasus 50HP
- 2nd Kirin 50 HP
- 3rd Griffin 0 HP

Football

Two seven aside Year 7 boys' football teams played away at Four Dwellings Academy on the 30th of January. Each team played two games. Overall, the teams won three games and drew one with an aggregate score of 13-0 to St Michael's. All the pupils that participated were excellent! Their effort, determination, and teamwork were a pleasure to see. A special mention for Freddie Barnsley 7H who scored nine goals and was unstoppable in front of goal. Well done lads.

YOUNG CARERS

The Sandwell Young Carers Centre is now available as a welcoming warm space between Wednesday and Friday until the end of March.



WELCOMING WARM SPACE



**Wednesday 10 am until 6pm
Thursday and Friday 11 am until 6pm**

(until 31st March 2024)

Come and join us at the Sandwell Young Carers Centre for a safe and accessible space open to all of our families to come along and socialise, have some company and get involved in some activities while in a warm place!

Our Short Breaks, Support Work and Promotion Services are still running as normal.

0121 525 7667

**Sandwell Young Carers Centre
44 Bratt Street, West Bromwich B70 8SB**

**Sandwell
Young Carers**
Supporting children & young people in their caring roles
Tackling loneliness together





ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

St Michael's Church of England High School • Rowley Learning Campus • Curral Road • Rowley Regis • West Midlands • B65 9AN
Telephone: **0121 561 6881** • Fax: 0121 561 6882 • Email: contact.staff@st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk

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