



St Michael's



Catholic Academy

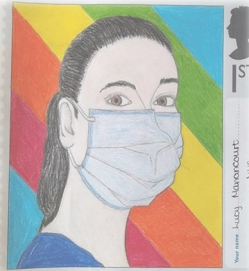
St. Michael's Newsletter—November 2021



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Welcome from Mrs Keough, Headteacher

Welcome to our first Newsletter of the year. We hope you will get a flavour of the exciting and varied student life here at St. Michael's. We are all very proud of our students and their determination to live life to the full. They have embraced their school life with a renewed vigour and commitment following all the lockdowns and their joy and zeal for life is infectious. We hope you enjoy this newsletter and we look forward to our next half term with the wonderful students here.



A new library has been opened

We have recently opened our new school library. It is located immediately through the main school entrance and sits under our Chapel, right at the heart of our school. Bringing the library back to school has proven extremely popular with our students; it is often bustling with life at both break and lunchtime with people checking books in and out, reading and discussing literature. It truly is a joyous sight to see. So many of our older students have volunteered their time at break and lunch to act as school librarians. They are also about introducing a buddy reading system with younger students to aid their reading development alongside our Accelerated Reader programme. This provides a wonderful reflection of their dedication to reading and our school and Catholic ethos. It has been so lovely watching year groups mix socially over a mutual love of reading and hearing them recommend books to each other.



Accelerated Reader

The Accelerated Reader programme is now fully implemented within the school library, so students can select books that are a perfect level for reading within their proximal development zone. They do this by selecting books using an orange sticker displaying a numbered reading level. They then complete a quiz after reading the book, which allows them to gain points for their level to increase. This allows for the



easy progression of reading skills and enhances vocabulary whilst aiding GCSE readiness. Alongside the completion of AR quizzes, the library offers fun competitions and monthly activities for students to participate in if they wish. These are usually relevant to our author or book of the month.



Prom 2021

We were delighted to see our Year 11 students, celebrating their prom at Wynyard Hall. The students of 2021 were able to come together to celebrate their years at St. Michael's. We wish them all the best for the future!





7C and 7A Mass to celebrate the feast of St Edward the Confessor

Fr Butters was delighted to celebrate the Mass with students at St. Michael's again after such a long time. Our Chaplain, Miss Leighton, worked with 7C and 7A to prepare their first Mass at the school.



St. Michael's wall of Art

Students from St. Michael's have had their Art displayed on the corridor walls for all to see. The students should be proud of their hard work.



BBC Bitesize—Careers

BBC Bitesize came to St. Michael's to talk to students about the importance of working hard. One visitor said, "I did not think I would need this subject, but later in life was thankful I had worked hard. ". This sentiment was repeated several times. So working hard in all subjects was very important. The guests talked about their careers and their journeys in life so far. Students were allowed to ask questions using a microphone developed to be thrown long distances. Throwing the microphone was great fun as students threw the microphone to the next student.



BBC Bitesize - Careers—Working hard helps you to live your dream

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) is a nationally and internationally recognised programme for 13-25. Colleges and universities highly regard it, and employers look for stand-out and well-rounded candidates for courses and jobs.

The Award aims to encourage students to participate in various activities outside of academic study to ensure they leave school as well-rounded individuals. In addition, the Award encourages the development of a range of

transferable skills, including self-confidence, leadership, planning and time management, problem-solving, communication, and teamwork.



North York Moors, supervised by qualified and experienced staff.



Students participate in a year of training in expedition groups with their peers; the training programme involves navigation, camp craft, kit management, route and meal planning, and a first aid qualification. Students take part in two training day walks in the local countryside, followed by an overnight expedition in the

Twenty-one students are currently signed up for the Award here at St Michael's and are working on their volunteering, skills and physical sections.

Girls' football is back

The standout performance of the term so far must be awarded to the U15 girls' football team after their excellent cup win

against a strong Acklam Grange side to take us into the next round of the U15 Cup. The team worked exceptionally well together, especially as it was their first performance together as a team. All students put 110% into the match to gain a well-

deserved win and three excellent goals; two were scored by Keira Brittain (Y9) and the third by Demi Struthers (Y10).



Leavers day 2021

Our students were able to celebrate leavers day as we did not know if the Prom would take place.



Open Evening

Open evening was real this time. Students from many primary schools were able to visit St. Michael's.



Year 9 Retreat

Eight six Year 9 students and four staff will be heading on retreat on a two day residential Retreat from 22nd November. The retreat is located at the Emmaus Youth Centre in Consett. We are very much looking forward to the retreat where we will all come together to:

- explore and celebrate our faith in new and different ways
- build community and teach us how we can work better together
- build relationships with others and grow closer to God
- reflect together in an environment where we can grapple with faith issues.



Year 7 students looking after the environment

Year 7 students have volunteered to look after our environment by picking up litter in our local environment. Well done.



The Royal Mail at St. Michael's

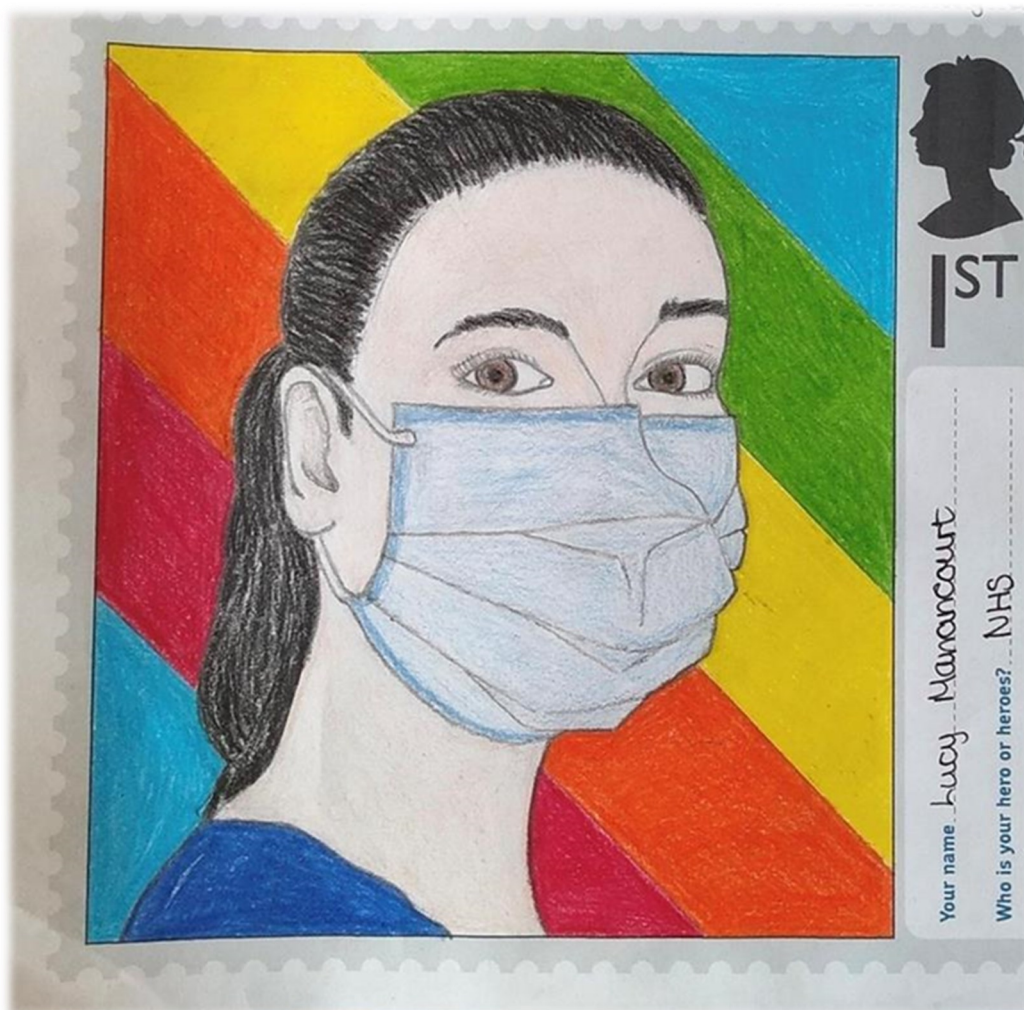
Congratulations to all the students who entered the Royal Mail stamp competition. There were over 600,000 entries. This is the largest stamp competition ever, and this has contributed to making it into the Guinness world record book.

We sent all entries to the Royal Mail back in July. Over the summer holidays, one of our students, Lucy Manancourt (year 9), got through the first round of judging. It was top secret, so we were not allowed to announce this publicly.

Last week, I received an email from Royal Mail to say that Lucy had gotten through the next judging round. So from over 600,000 entries, she is in the last 120. The next stage is to get to the last 16; the Queen picks the final eight winners.

This is a huge achievement for Lucy, and she has won a prize for herself and the school. Please wish her luck in the next few weeks.

Well done to everyone who contributed- we have received a certificate from the Guinness world record.



Year 7, 8 & 11 cake sale

Years 7, 8 and year 11 Cake Sale organised by Miss Gordon to raise money for Cancer Research UK.



Well done. You have made a difference to those that need your help.

Student Councils are back

Student councils are back to help students in our school. Their voice is so important to identify how things can be better.



Year 8 Chaplaincy Reflections

During this half term, Year 8 have been looking at a topic on Historical Discipleship, Saints and Martyrs. At the end of this topic, the students took part in a Chapel reflection based on the northern saints. In addition, our Chaplain, Miss Leighton, had put together a few prayer stalls to help guide students in their reflection of the topic and give them practical tasks to apply to their learning around the school.



Some of the prayer stalls encouraged students to think of what impression they leave on others, how to protect and preserve the environment, what areas in their lives they are grateful for, their aspirations, and what they love about our local area.



Students enjoyed this chance to reflect upon their learning in RE throughout this half term, with Millie (8C) saying that she 'enjoyed all of the different activities and we had an RE lesson whilst spending time with our friends too, which was great! We haven't been in the chapel in year 8 yet, so it was really fun!

Well done Year 8!



Year 11 news- Who will be our next Student Leaders?

As you can imagine, a lot is going on in Year 11 at the moment. Students are working hard for the upcoming mock exams in November, and many are already making good use of the extra revision sessions and support provided by staff.

Fundraising for the Prom has also begun in earnest, with a group of Year 11 students organising and running a cake sale in school. This was a huge success and has gotten the fundraising efforts off to a great start. Well done to all those students involved, and thank you to those who contributed by baking and sending in donations.

Boys' football is back



The standout team performance came from the U15 team that beat Easington in the English Schools Football Association Cup second round. Easington was a strong side and put us under a lot of pressure in the first half as we played into a strong wind. The game was finely balanced at halftime, but the second half was a different story as three goals from Finn O'Gorman and a 25 yarder from Tom Miller, as well as exceptional performances from Jacob Gosney and Luca Dos Santos, led us to a well deserved 4-1 victory.

Well done lads!

Student Leadership

The process of appointing our Class of 2022 Head Boy and Head Girl was really exciting. Job descriptions were issued, some excellent written letters of application have been submitted, and we had a strong field

of candidates invited for an interview with the Headteacher!

Izzy Smith, second from the left, said, "I applied for the role of **Head Girl** to be the voice of the students. I wanted more students to speak up about their experiences at St Michael's, whether good or bad. I will then use this information to implement these changes, which will positively impact our school community. I want to achieve a more inclusive

community throughout all years and where all students have the confidence to approach me with their views or concerns."

On the left, **Abigail Bertram**, **Deputy Head Girl**, said, "I wanted to be a part of the leadership team because I wanted to make a difference. So many issues are spoken about amongst the students that never get brought up to any teachers. These need to be discussed, and I want to help make this happen in the school community. With a role in the leadership team, I knew I could voice people's opinions to make the change that was needed. As Deputy Head Girl, I am now lucky enough to be able to do that. An example of a difference I would like to make is making people feel more involved and cared about in the school community. Some people feel alone and have nobody, and I would like to create a space where people don't have to think like this. I also want to help make the school more aware of environmental issues and drive solutions to help reduce things such as climate change.

Alfie Mearman, **Head Boy**, second from the right, said, "I applied because I want to bring together our school community after being separated by the coronavirus pandemic through celebrating what it means to be a St Michael's student. To do this, I would help organise some events that would take place at the end of the academic year, allowing students and their families to celebrate being a part of the St Michael's community. Through this event, students from all years would have the opportunity to bring the idea to life and give their input on the concept throughout the event's planning.

Harry Peadon, **Deputy Head Boy**, on the right, said, "I applied because I want to leave this school knowing I have tried to make it a better place for those who come after. In addition, I want to raise awareness of disabilities and mental health problems and make students more accepting of people facing these challenges.



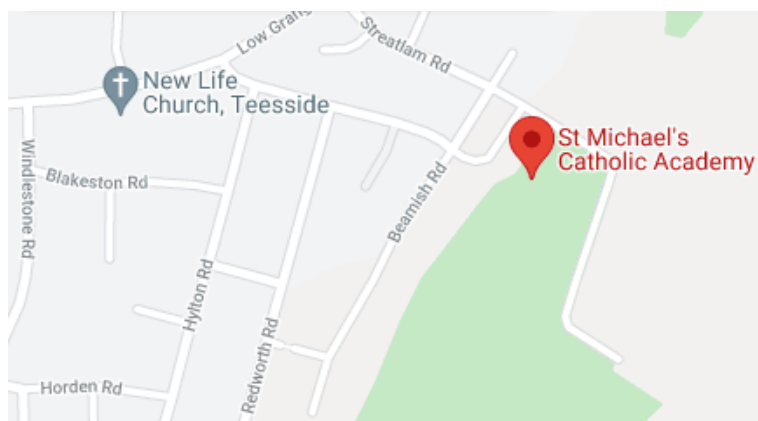
Key dates Autumn 2021

Date	Event
11 November	Remembrance service
15 November	Anti bullying week
	Search light Council announcement
15 November to 26 November	Year 11 mocks
22/23/24 November	Year 9 retreat
7 December	Celebration of Achievement
10 December	Achievement Assemblies
14 December	Drama practical
15/16 December	Art & Technology mock
16 December	Carol Concert

Contact details

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