



St Michael's School

Society of St Pius X

Burghclere - Summer 2022



This year's House Winners: BURMA!



The Right Way Round

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

The following words were addressed to pupils and parents at the end of year prize giving ceremony.

"Tomorrow the school will host the First Mass of the newly ordained Fr Bernard Bevan. This event conveys a very important message to our pupils and their families. The education we dispense, in and out of the classroom, the Catholic ethos we cultivate and promote in all areas of school life and the vision we have for our pupils is aptly illustrated by the sight of a young man, newly consecrated, who henceforth pledges his life to God and to his neighbour.

St Michael's seeks to educate its pupils in such a way that they see life through God's eyes. In doing so, they will never be out of contact with reality, because reality is what God sees.

We always evaluate ourselves, others and the world around us through tinted glasses. The tint is made up of our own experiences, whether happy or sad.

There are also some faults and weaknesses that add bias to our vision. Education seeks to remedy all of this so that we no longer see things askew. We see things as they are and not as we want them to be, or as we think they should be.

Watching a new priest offering the Holy Sacrifice is a wonderful reminder that looking at life from God's point of view has consequences. It makes us sensitive to His holy will. Assisting at a First Mass is to watch unfold the consequence of a young man who was once a boy, and in his boyhood asked himself a very important question: not « What do I want to do with my life? », but « What does God want me to do with my life? » The boy asked his question the **THE RIGHT WAY ROUND!**

Dear teachers, pupils, parents: we hope this is the question that all pupils ask themselves at the end of each school year and especially at the end of their last school year. If you, dear pupils, understand what has just been said, then your time with us has not been in vain!

Fr John Brucciani, Headmaster

Annual Prizes & Colours

SECONDARY PHASE	KS3	KS4
BEST MICHALEAN	Dominic Pearce	Awen de Penfentyeno
EXCELLENCE RK	-	Jude Rexworthy
EXCELLENCE HUMANITIES	Benedict Rexworthy	Jude Rexworthy Warwick Prize
EXCELLENCE SCIENCES	Amelia Jirgens	Basil Seeber O'Connor Prize
MOST IMPROVED RK	-	Samuel Sudlow
MOST IMPROVED HUMANITIES	Philip Jones	Nicholas McInnes
MOST IMPROVED SCIENCES	Thomas Finch	Samuel Sudlow
HIGHEST ANNUAL MERIT TALLY	Amelia Jirgens	
IIND ANNUAL MERIT TALLY	Benedict Rexworthy	
IIIRD ANNUAL MERIT TALLY	Miriam Czerwonka	

Academic (Full Colours)
Amelia Jirgens
 200 academic merits attained

Conduct (Full)
Awen de Penfentyeno
 For resilience, leadership and Michaellean virtues

Physical (Half Colours)
Andrew Millar
 Creative Arts - Drama

Physical (Full)
Sam Sudlow
 Club Football achievements
 Creative Arts - Drama

Spiritual (Half Colours)
Philip Jones
 Chartres Pilgrimage

Spiritual (Full Colours)
Sam Sudlow
 Master of Ceremonies

PRIMARY	BEST EFFORT	BEST PROGRESS
INFANTS	Gemma Bertorelli	Cecilia Flynn
JUNIOR 1	Florence Jirgens	Aurelia Kelly
JUNIOR 2	Helena Martinez	Fabian Kelly



A somewhat stunned "Best Michaellean" winner



O'Connor Prize Excellence in Sciences



Michael O'Connor dedicated the lion's share of his retirement years to the consolidation and development of St Michael's during the first decade of its existence. Ever cheerful, resourceful and full of stories, he not only taught in class but cared for the boys after school as well,

devoting incredible energy into fashioning a boarding house in the grand tradition of the old Catholic Boarding School of his youth. My own memories of Mr O'Connor date from his last years at the school. Although suffering from cancer, he continued to travel the three hour journey to school. He was content to sleep in a tiny, uncomfortable room (when the pain allowed). He never complained and, in the evenings, regaled us with anecdotes from his years as an airline pilot which had us in tears of laughter. But beneath the joviality and enthusiasm of his merry and innocent character was a will of iron and a tender confidence in God. He was a deeply pious man and would spend many silent hours, late at night, alone in chapel. He never accepted a penny for his services. He worked only for God, the children and their families. The school is indebted to him as much for his wisdom, skills and knowledge as for his sacrifice and prayer. We are happy to link his memory forever to the recognition of excellence at St Michael's.



Basil & Jude, new prize winners



SECONDARY PUPIL COMPETITIONS

BEST SPORTSMAN	Basil Seeber
BEST YOUNG PLAYER	B. Rexworthy
MOST IMPROVED	Marcus Sherry
BEST IN GOAL	Leon Galas
HIGHEST SCORER	Basil Seeber
TABLE TENNIS	Nick McInnes
TENNIS	David Lord
CHESS	Ralph Morley

The Tempest!

KS3 students spent a creative day exploring *The Tempest* through art and drama. Students improvised dialogue and re-enacted scenes using freeze frames and thought tracking. Mrs Pearce, Art Teacher for KS3, kindly prepared the backgrounds for collage activities and students spent a tranquil afternoon experimenting with materials to create effects both naturalistic and surrealistic. One favourite activity for many was mask making. Students drew on their knowledge of character and social rank to produce a variety of 2D and 3D effects.



Highly Commended in the national poetry competition were: **Ralph Morley**, KS4, for his recitation of "If" by Rudyard Kipling and "Peach" by D.H. Lawrence; **Philip Jones**, KS3, for his recitation of Tennyson's "Charge of the Light Brigade".

Remembering past greats

To mark our 30th anniversary year, the school has introduced two new prizes that will be awarded to the best Senior Pupil in Humanities and in Sciences.

The **Warwick Prize** for Humanities is named after Ronald Warwick, our much loved English teacher from 1998 to 2008.

The **O'Connor Prize** for Science is named after Michael O'Connor, our equally loved Maths and Science teacher who taught from 1992 to 2000.

Each teacher's skill, dedication, kindness and joviality had a profound impact on his pupils and fellow staff. Devout Catholics, they have gone to their heavenly reward: Mr O'Connor in 2001 and Mr Warwick in 2015.

Roman Villa Visit



As part of our Classical Civilisation studies, Years 7 and 8 visited Chedworth Roman Villa in the Cotswolds. This is believed to have been one of the grandest villas in Roman Britain and was lived in until the 5th century. One of the highlights of the guided tour was the array of beautiful mosaics on display, which the pupils enjoyed before being invited to make their own! This trip connected well with our topic on Roman living, which is part of the syllabus for Latin up to GCSE.

Spelling Challenge!

Teachers collaborated on a team spelling challenge in the last weeks of term. Houses pooled their phonetic, linguistic and scientific knowledge to spell a range of words in English, Latin and French. Weird and wacky animals such as the *tasselled wobbegong* and the marvelously named *Wunderpus Photogenicus* got a look-in too! Arnhem House took the lead this year but was followed closely by Burma and Tobruk. It is planned to hold a complete spelling bee with individual and team rounds next year.

Warwick Prize for Excellence in Humanities



Ever remembered for his beautiful suits, Leonidas chocolates, fabulous picnics from M&S and, above all else, a passion for instilling his love of literature, Mr Warwick was a teacher who will always hold a very special place in the history of St Michael's School. He was much loved and respected by students. With Mr Plumridge, he made a mighty

directorial team producing adaptations of *Emma*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Pride and Prejudice* for the Portal Hall stage. School trips to the theatre in London were a highlight for his English students and were always sandwiched between a visit to a restaurant or a site of cultural importance. He gave so much in the 10 years he taught at St Michael's, living at school during the week, always being available for advice and continuing to work even when he was diagnosed with cancer. He was an inspirational teacher of English and will deservedly remain in the annals of St Michael's with the inaugural presentation of the Warwick Prize this year.

Year 9 pupils, along with Mrs Blatchford and Mrs Roch, travelled to The Chase in Woolton Hill to carry out Geography fieldwork by surveying the tributary of the River Enborne that runs through The Chase. River cross sections were constructed, velocity of flow measured and cubic discharge calculated, along with drawing being made of the river landforms visible. Fieldwork is a requirement of the GCSE syllabus and is examined in paper 3.

On the way home the group climbed Beacon Hill to use a clinometer to help calculate the radius of the earth using the simple trigonometry method of Al-Biruni (973 - c1050). He calculated the radius as 3928 miles, we now know that it is actually 3847 miles. Our nearest answer was 5000 miles, a little out, but we were working with a clinometer calibrated to 2 dp, not 6 dp!!



If you would like to know more about calculating the radius of the earth using this method take a look at Matt Parker's Stand Up Maths, Radius of the Earth video on Youtube.



Years 6, 7 and 8 spent the day at Winchester Science Centre. They took part in a Matter workshop where they made two non-Newtonian fluids, spent time in the Planetarium being treated to a trip around the universe and had plenty of time to explore the interactive exhibits. As always the pupils were a pleasure to take off site and were praised for their politeness and good behaviour by the centre staff.



No sweat!

Years 9 and 10 visited to the beautiful setting of Bletchley Park to see where the code breakers of World War II worked. The year 9s had built their own enigma machines earlier this year out of Pringles cans so this was a chance to see it in real life. We had a guided tour of the grounds, enjoyed the many interactive exhibits and ended with an excellent classroom activity involving an original enigma machine.

Bletchley was fascinating and thoroughly worth the long drive. Well done to Ralph for remembering that 25 factorial was required for part of the calculation to find the number of enigma machine settings. There are **158,962,555,217,826,360,000** in total.



Codebreakers taking a break

In May the year 9 and 10 pupils took part in the Royal Society of Biology's Biology Challenge. This consists of two 25 minute question papers about aspects of the Biology curriculum and general knowledge in biological areas. Over 41,000 students from 550 schools world wide take part in the challenge, with the top 5% gaining gold standard certification. We were very pleased that the following pupils gained the following certification:



- Gold** - Jude Rexworthy
- Silver** - David Lord
- Bronze** - Thomas Malliff, Ralph Morley
- Highly Commended** - Francis Morris
- Commended** - Francesco Debiassi, Nicholas McInnes, Peter Little, Andrew Millar

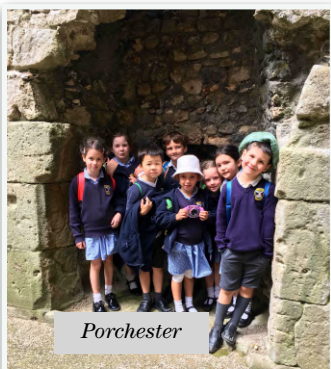
The Summer Term was packed full of learning, questioning and solid progress. We were also blessed with two processions: one Marian, for the month of May and one Eucharistic, for the feast of Corpus Christi.

Year 2 children prepared and made their First Holy Communion this term. It was a wonderful occasion.

Each class had a trip to enhance learning. The Infants visited Porchester Castle, Jr 1 explored Fishbourne Roman Palace and Jr 2 travelled to Windsor Castle. It was good to see them engaged, enthusiastic and beautifully behaved.

Our play this year was 'Dick Whittington' with traditional British songs and the virtue of kindness as the main theme.

We are very sad in the Primary School to say goodbye to John Hooley, a former pupil, teaching assistant and teacher. He has dedicated 13 years to the children who have passed through the Primary School, and will be greatly missed. We thank him sincerely for all he has done and wish him well in the future.



Through bake sales and other initiatives, primary pupils raised £436 for Mary's Meals, a Catholic charity that offers free meals to school children in Africa to help them attend school! A wonderful result!



The Primary School remembers all benefactors with weekly prayers for them. We are so grateful for all the support they give.

Wishing you all a happy, blessed holiday!

Annalisa Webb, Head of the Primary Phase



St Michael Archangel Church Project



www.stmichaelarchangel.co.uk

The 9th July marked a special day in the school's history. Fr Robert Brucciani, District Superior, blessed the construction site and cornerstone of the future Church of St Michael Archangel. The church deed will be sealed inside a cavity burrowed into the stone for posterity. The deed reads as follows:

In the year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty-two, on the ninth day of July, in the ninth year of the pontificate of Pope Francis and the tenth year of Philip Egan, bishop of Portsmouth,

At Saint Michael's School, Harts Lane, Burghclere in Hampshire, Great Britain,

Reverend Father Robert Brucciani, superior of the British District of the Priestly Society of Saint Pius X blessed this cornerstone of the future Church of Saint Michael Archangel.

The construction of this edifice is undertaken by the Priestly Society of Saint Pius X for the glory of the Blessed Trinity and in honour of Saint Michael Archangel.

This church of Saint Michael Archangel is designed by the architect Julien Bicknell in association with Morse Webb Architects of Bramley, Hampshire, and constructed by the construction management and consulting company Evolution Five.

This stone is set in the church apse behind the high altar on the outside face of the church in the presence of Reverend Father John Brucciani, prior and Headmaster of Saint Michael's School located adjacent to this church, Reverend Fathers Thomas O'Hart and Jonathan Steele, assistant priests at Saint Michael's School and a concourse of faithful.

Signed and Sealed on IX VI MMXXII

New GYM FLOOR

Brother Dominic ran a **half-marathon** to raise funds for the new floor gym. He raised £10K from donations in the UK and the US. What a fantastic result! This result, coupled with three very generous donations from the US all us to finally replace the moldy old gym carpet with a multipurpose, sprung gym floor made of durable linoleum, complete with line markings.



Bravo Br Dominic!

£10K raised!



To mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty, Br Boniface did some extra gardening at the school entrance!



AND-OVER TRAIL EVENTS

This year we celebrate our 30th birthday! A low key reunion brought together many faces from the past who were delighted to reconnect.



Christina, Marita, Joanna, Monica, Akudo, Louise, Rose



Damien, Joe, Niko, Gereon, James, Daniel



Old Faces

Lizzie Cullen completed her GCSE's in 2011. She gained a degree in Music and English Literature at Bath Spa University and now works as a Treasury Services Consultant... when she is not following her passion in music! Lizzie is a familiar face and voice at local venues and beyond. Her fondest memories of St Michael's are of the two best teachers the world has ever seen: Mrs Webb and Mr Warwick!!



Blaise Mate spent 9 years at St Michael's, from 2003 to 2012. Having gained a BSc in Biomedical Science in at the University of Kent, he now works as a carer and support worker. Blaise summed up his experience at St Michael's: "Great friendships, fond memories and my time at school helped me keep following my faith in later life having left. Having the opportunity to receive the sacraments on a daily basis was an amazing opportunity some would wish to have."

Johan "Tiggy" Olnier completed his GCSE's at St Michael's in 1999. Having secured his BSc (Hons) in Environmental Biology and a PGCE for Secondary Science, he is now self-employed as a "Home educator, airbnb host and residential landlord, whippet breeder and bicycle mechanic." Johan's advice to pupils: "Learn as much about everything as you can. Guard your time. Do something to really challenge yourself at least once a year."



Ewa and Wanda, founders and heroes!



Mr & Mrs Seeber, school parents for 30 years!



Frs O'Hart and Jeindl, school vocations



2022 Cadet Games
Winners
TOBRUK



Cadet Force 2022



New NCO's

To mark the end of their schooling, Fr O'Hart took Year 11 on a trip to Snowdon



Restoring old doors to new!



The Summer Fête raised just shy of £5000 for the school. A wonderful, sunny, family day!

Some competitions were unfairly matched. The young ones gave the older ones a run for their money!



Summer Works, to keep this all going!

Classroom renovations (painting, new flooring, new furnishings); new gym floor installation; new gym equipment; new beds in boarding house (number of boarders doubles in September ... Deo Gratias); staff room renovation (after 20 years!); windows and door repairs and repaint; replace commercial freezer...

Please consider a donation to St Michael's so that we can continue this vital work of CATHOLIC EDUCATION of the young.





SAINT MICHAEL'S SCHOOL

Harts Lane, Burghclere, Newbury, RG20 9JW, U.K.

01635 278137

headmaster@sanctusmichael.com

Name : Tel :

Address : City:

Post Code : Email :

I would like to make a donation of £50 £150 £ _____
 £100 £200



I would like to set up a monthly Standing Order

Gift Amount £10 £15 £20 £30 £40 £ _____

Pass on to your Bank or Building Society this instruction:

Please pay Royal Bank of Scotland, Newbury Branch, 20 Market Place, Newbury, RG14 5BD on the day of each month until further notice.

Sort Code 16-26-18 Acc. Number: 10191323 for the credit of St. Michael's School.

giftaid it

Boost your donation by 25p for every £1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

I want to Gift Aid the following donations to the Society of St Pius X (please tick the correct boxes)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>this donation</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>all donations for the 2019-20 tax year</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>all donations for the 2017-18 tax year</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>all donations for the 2020-21 tax year</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>all donations for the 2018-19 tax year</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>all donations from 6th April 2021 until further notice</i> |

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

.....
Signature

.....
Date:

Please notify us if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

God bless you for your kindness! Return form to address above. Questions? Call us at 01635 278137.

HOLY MASS OFFERED FOR ALL OUR BENEFACTORS ON THE 1ST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH.