



# St Michael's Catholic College

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Principal: Ms Felicity Corcoran  
Vice Principal: Ms Charlotte Sayed  
Vice Principal: Ms Joanna Nottage

19<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have now arrived at the end of a busy and successful academic year. It has been so positive to bring the term to an end with an array of careers and enterprise events last week and this week with arts and enrichment week involving a variety of trips and cultural experiences. A real highlight during this time has been to welcome former St Michael's students back to the college to share their success and their stories about university, apprenticeships and their careers. Their messages about the positive impact of their experiences at St Michael's and also about the importance of hard work, resilience, friendship and faith were inspirational and motivational. It demonstrated to our current students that there are no barriers to what they can also achieve if they make the most of the opportunities and high-quality education they have at St Michael's.

It has also been fantastic to welcome lots of parents and carers to the college this term, especially at the recent Sports Awards, Faith in Action Graduation and Showcase evening. It was a wonderful opportunity in particular for students to share their creative and sporting talents and also for our faith in action groups, chaplaincy teams, mental health ambassadors, diversity ambassadors and the 'all are welcome' group to demonstrate how their hard work contributes to the ongoing success and sense of community and belonging at St Michael's.

This is of course only possible with the support from you their parents and carers, but also with the hard work and commitment of the St Michael's staff. We are incredibly lucky and blessed to have such passionate and dedicated staff who share in the college vision to bring students to life through the fullness of education and high-quality pastoral care. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank staff who will be leaving St Michael's this summer: Ms Begum, Ms Burke, Ms Cadahia, Ms L Casey, Ms Ioannidou, Ms Krauel, Mr Murungi, Mr Sesay and Ms Wiltshire. We thank them for their positive contribution and service to our community and wish them well for the future.

We also wish those students in Year 11 and 13 well as they await their exam results and we thank them for their brilliant contribution to St Michael's over the years. We hope they will continue to demonstrate their faith in action and Salesian values as they go out into the world and we will keep them in our prayers at this time.

We look forward to welcoming all year groups back in September and the **start of term arrangements are as follows:**

- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September: Inset day for staff
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September: 9:30am Start of term for **Year 7 & 12 students only**
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September: 8:40am Start of term for **Year 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 students**

Please ensure that your child is ready to start back on the right date at the right time. In line with Department of Education policy the college will not authorise any holiday taken in term time and is under no obligation to set work for students missing school for this reason. Students starting back late causes disruption to other students and creates additional work for staff which is unacceptable. Every day missed is 5 hours of learning lost and research has shown that students missing the start of term struggle to catch up and make less progress as a result. Parents/carers should be aware that stricter regulations in relation to punctuality, attendance and in particular unauthorised absence are being

introduced from September 2024 in line with updated Department of Education guidance, these will be communicated at the curriculum evening for your child in September.

I have also provided details at the end of this letter of the college uniform and hair policies and key changes to our mobile phone policy which I ask that all parents and carers read carefully so that expectations are clear, as this ensures a positive start to the new term. We will also be inviting all parents and carers to attend 'Curriculum Evenings' in September which provide us with an opportunity to share important information with you about your child's learning, how you can support them with their education, along with statutory changes being introduced to national attendance policies and key dates for the year. The curriculum evenings will be taking place in person at the college and it is important that you attend so that you are fully informed. A sign-up form will be sent out to parents/carers towards the end of the summer holidays.

### **Curriculum Information Meeting Dates**

*Year 11 Thursday 5th September 5pm*  
*Year 13 Thursday 5th September 6pm*  
*Year 10 Tuesday 10th September 5pm*  
*Year 12 Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 5:45pm*  
*Year 8 Thursday 12th September 5pm*  
*Year 9 Thursday 12th September 5:45pm*  
*Year 7 Thursday 19th September 5pm*

I would like to thank all parents and carers for your support this year and we look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you next year. I hope that you and your family keep safe and well during the summer break.

### **Prayer for the End of the School Year**

May you walk with God this summer in whatever you do, wherever you go. Walking with God means walking with honesty and courage and walking with love, respect, and concern for the feelings of others.

May you talk to God this summer. Talking with God means praying words of praise for the beauty of creation, saying prayers of thanks for friends and good times, asking God's help in all your decisions, especially if challenges come your way.

May you walk and talk with God every day.  
Amen.

Yours Sincerely,



Ms F. Corcoran  
Principal





## ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE UNIFORM POLICY

(Years 12 and 13 should see the 6<sup>th</sup> form Dress Code information on the website)

**We want all students to take pride in their appearance and to recognise that they wear a uniform to show they are a valued part of the college community. Therefore, all students are required to meet College uniform requirements at all times both in school and on the way to and from school. It is not reasonable for parents/carers to ask us to make exceptions for their child as it undermines our high standards and ethos.**

**We ask all parents and carers to read this policy carefully and ensure their child's uniform complies.**

Please note all items of uniform are available from Whitehall Clothiers, 77 Camberwell Road, SE5 OEZ Tel: 020 7703 3604.

Both Whitehall Clothiers and St Michael's can provide help to any families who require support in purchasing uniform so please do contact us if you require financial assistance in this way. We also have a substantial stock of second-hand uniform stored at the college to support families and promote sustainability. We have moved recently to a new uniform to support with cost and reduced the branded items to the blazer, jumper and tie. All new Year 7 students and current Year 7 students (Year 8 in 24/25) are required to wear all of the new uniform, with students in current Year 8-11 (Year 9-11 in 24/25) still in the transition period with minor changes introduced as we are mindful of money that has been already spent on uniform.

### Uniform for students in Year 7 and 8 in September 2024

- Grey Trousers or Grey Kilt (same shade of grey as blazer) Both items are only available from Whitehall Clothiers. In relation to the kilt there should be no extremes of length. Students who choose to wear kilts are not permitted to roll up the waistband of their kilts and the kilt must be knee length or longer.
- White shirt with top button and House tie. (ties can only be purchased for new Year 7 on parent pay and will be distributed at the start of the new term)
- Grey v- necked jumper with blue trim, only available from Whitehall Clothiers
- Grey Blazer with College Badge and blue trim – only available from Whitehall Clothiers.
- Black socks ankle or knee length or Black tights (**no white socks and no over the knee socks**)
- Black/ Navy/Dark Grey Coat -**no other colours, patterns or logos allowed**. Outdoor hats must be plain black, navy or grey. Coats, hats, scarves and shawls/wraps are not allowed to be worn inside the college building.
- Formal Black Leather Shoes (NOT trainer style or boots) with black soles, black laces (if lace ups) and all black stitching.
- No Jewellery of any type is allowed- students are also not permitted to wear jewellery to and from school.
- TRAINERS OF ANY COLOUR MAY NEVER BE WORN AT OR TO AND FROM THE COLLEGE
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## Uniform for students in Years 9-11 in September 2024

Grey Trousers or Grey Kilt (same shade of grey as blazer) Both items are only available from Whitehall Clothiers. In relation to the kilt there should be no extremes of length. Students are not permitted to roll up the waistband of their kilts and the kilt must be knee length or longer.

- White Shirt with a top button.
- Clip on tie in House colours
- Grey Cardigan or new Grey V necked jumper with blue trim only available from Whitehall Clothiers. Students are not permitted to tie up their cardigans/jumpers at the back.
- Grey Blazer – with College Badge – only available from Whitehall Clothiers.
- Black socks ankle or knee length or Black tights. (**no white socks and no over the knee socks**)
- Black/ Navy/Dark Grey Coat -**no other colours, patterns or logos allowed**. Outdoor hats must be plain black, navy or grey. Coats, hats, scarves and shawls/wraps are not allowed to be worn inside the college building.
- Formal Black Leather Shoes (NOT trainer style or boots) with black soles, black laces (if lace ups) and all black stitching.
- No Jewellery of any type is allowed- students are also not permitted to wear jewellery to and from school.
- TRAINERS OF ANY COLOUR MAY NEVER BE WORN AT OR TO AND FROM THE COLLEGE

As students in Year 9-11 grow out of the current uniform items can be replaced with the new uniform e.g., V-necked jumper and blazer with blue trim that has been introduced in September 2023.

## School Bags for all students in Years 7-11

- **All students in Years 7-11** must have the official St Michael's School bag bought from Whitehall Clothiers with their name written on the name label. No other bags will be allowed in these year groups.

## Additional information

- Chewing Gum is STRICTLY FORBIDDEN in college as it causes costly damage.
- All items of uniform should be clearly marked with the students' name.
- Caps and non-winter hats are banned at all times.
- Make-up, nail varnish and false nails are not to be worn by any pupil.
- Jewellery is not allowed at all and cannot be worn whilst travelling to, from or at college, including earrings. This applies to all pupils. Jewellery and any other unauthorised items will be confiscated and returned to parents/guardians at the end of each college term. We do not allow students to cover piercings with plasters/use clear plastic studs to protect piercings. Therefore, students will be required to remove any piercings. Students are advised to have any piercings done at the start of the summer holiday to allow enough time for healing and earrings etc to be removed before the start of term.
- Wristwatches are permitted but **smart watches are not allowed** as this would be the same as allowing students to have a phone with them which is switched on all day.
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## PE Kit

PE kit requirements are the same for all students and items are available from Whitehall Clothiers

- St Michael's PE sport shirts
- St Michael's PE 1/4 zip sweatshirt.



• Navy Shorts or Navy tracksuit bottoms (**leggings and cycling shorts are NOT allowed- please note this is becoming an issue and the PE dept will be enforcing the navy shorts/tracksuit bottoms only rule from Sept 24 due to continuous issues that have arisen re: cycling shorts/leggings**)

- Trainers (no pumps, converse etc)
- Pupils should bring their own roll-on anti-perspirant. Aerosols are not permitted as they cause problems for those with asthma and interfere with fire alarm systems.
- If students forget their P.E. Kit it will result in students receiving a negative mention on their record. Pupils will be expected to borrow a clean P.E. Kit from the P.E. Department which must be washed and returned to the P.E. Department promptly.
- All pupils at St Michael's are expected to take part in P.E. unless there is medical evidence to excuse them.
- All children who are selected for college teams will be expected, if required, to play on Saturday mornings and after college hours during the week.

### College Hair Policy

The College hair policy has been informed by student, staff, parent and governor feedback to ensure our policies reflect and are supportive of the diversity of our college community.

Parents and carers are asked to read the policy carefully and go through it with their child so that everyone is clear about expectations. It is not fair to expect the college to make an exception for your child unless there is a specific medical reason.

- Students' hair should remain naturally coloured with one natural colour. Streaked, dyed, two tone, highlighted or coloured hair/braids are not permitted, nor are exaggerated hair styles e.g., Mohican
- For health and safety reasons students with hair that is shoulder length or longer must have their hair tied back in PE, DT and Science lessons and hair/fringes should not fall across students' eyes making it difficult for them to see or fully participate in lessons. Also, for health and safety reasons hair should be no longer than waist length.
- Afro-textured hair can be worn in all styles including, afros, locs, twists, braids, cornrows, fades, hair straightened through the application of heat or chemicals and weaves (in line with the 'Halo Code') but should be one natural colour. We acknowledge that Afro-textured hair requires specific styling for hair health and maintenance.
- Students are not permitted to have their heads shaved all over (skinhead/0.5 or less all over) and lines (including false partings) and patterns are not allowed to be shaved into eyebrows or hair.
- In years 7-11 hair accessories for all students e.g. hairbands, headbands, ribbons, slides, etc. must be black. Please note headbands should be narrow and glass or plastic beads are not allowed for health and safety reasons.
- In the 6<sup>th</sup> form all hair accessories and head scarves etc. must be black, navy or grey in line with the 6<sup>th</sup> form dress code colours.
- Information from the Halo Collective has also been used to inform our hair policy and we have adopted the halo code. More information can be found here:  
<https://halocollective.co.uk/halo-school/>

### Equipment

- All pupils must have a ballpoint pen, pencil, eraser, ruler and geometry set and a small scientific calculator.

### Mobile phones



- In line with the letter sent out to parents on 6<sup>th</sup> June we have been working with Headteachers from other Southwark secondary schools to minimise the negative impact that smart phones are having, especially with students in Years 7-9. We have consulted on this over the past 6 weeks and have used feedback to inform changes to our mobile phone policy from Sept 2024. We have decided to stagger changes and introduce the most stringent changes to Year 7 which will continue as they move up the school and will apply to Year 7 students as they join St Michael's going forward.

The college policy remains that students are allowed to bring phones to school but must ensure they are switched off and in their bags before entering the school site. The following procedures will be applied to students who do not follow this policy from September 2024.

- **Year 7** – If the phone is Nokia/brick phone and is seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> occasion it is confiscated and handed back at the end of the day, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> occasion parents/carers will be required to come in and collect it. Any further infringements will result in the student not being able to bring a phone to school. If the phone is a smart phone and is seen, on the 1<sup>st</sup> occasion it is confiscated and parents are required to collect it from the school, any further infringements will result in the student not being allowed to bring a smart phone to school.
- **Year 8-11**– If any type of phone is seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> occasion it will be confiscated and handed back at the end of the day and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> occasion parents will be required to come in and collect it. Any further infringements will result in the student not being able to bring a phone to school.
- **Year 12 and 13** – Students in Year 12 and 13 will only be permitted to use their phones in the 6<sup>th</sup> form study area in the new build and in the 6<sup>th</sup> form canteen at break and lunch time. **They are not allowed to use phones in any other areas of the new building (including top floor corridors or classrooms) and they are banned completely in the main building, this includes before and after school.** If any type of phone is seen outside of the specified 6<sup>th</sup> form areas on the 1<sup>st</sup> occasion it will be confiscated and handed back at the end of the day and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> occasion parents will be required to come in and collect it. Any further infringements will result in the student not being able to bring a phone to school.

### All Students

- If any student breaches the online safety policy using their mobile phone /Chromebook/ device and are involved in activities online that are unsafe or bring the school into disrepute, or cause harm to others or are against the law they will face sanctions as detailed in the college behaviour polic





St Michael's Catholic College is part of the St Benedict Catholic Academy Trust - Company Number 15116248