



ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE CAREERS INFORMATION and GUIDANCE POLICY 2024-26

Aims

The aim of careers, information advice and guidance at St Michael's College is to support all of our students in making informed choices about which courses suit their academic needs and aspirations as well as to prepare them for the next stage of their education, employment or training. Motivating pupils to think beyond their immediate experiences, encouraging them to consider a broader and more ambitious range of future education and career options ensures that the advice and guidance that we offer underpins the college mission.

We acknowledge and appreciate that young people want and need to be well-informed when making subject and career decisions and to this end, we offer high quality, independent careers guidance which realistically develops student aspiration and ensures that our students leave College fully rounded and ready for the world of work.

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that

- All registered students at the College are provided with independent careers guidance and inspiration from Year 8 (12–13-year-olds) to Year 13 (17–18-year-olds)
- The College strategy for careers, information advice and guidance is appropriately resourced and meets the statutory requirements
- Advice is informed by the requirements and the key principles for good careers guidance set out within the statutory guidance.

Through the delivery of this policy, the College undertakes to ensure that Careers Advice and Guidance

- Is presented in an impartial manner
- Includes information on the range of education or training options, including apprenticeships and other vocational pathways
- Is guidance and inspiration that the person giving it considers will promote the best interests of the students to whom it is given

The College also ensures, through the career's advice and guidance provided that students are clear about the following duties:

- That they are required, along with all young people in England, to continue in education or training beyond the age of 16 and until at least their 18th Birthday.
- They are not required to stay in school and that they can choose how to participate which might be through:
 - Full time study in a school, college or training provider
 - An apprenticeship, traineeship or supported internship

- Full time work or volunteering (20 hours or more) combined with part time accredited study

The College undertakes to share the following information, in line with its statutory duties:

- Relevant information about all pupils such as the pupil's name, address and date of birth to Local Authority support services.
- Any other information that the Local Authority needs in order to support the young person to participate in education or training and to track their progress including for example: information to help identify those at risk of becoming not in education, employment or training (NEET) post-16, young people's post-16 and post-18 plans and the offers they receive of places in post-16 or higher education. (However, the College will ensure that it does not provide this additional information if a pupil aged 16 or over, or the parent of a pupil aged under 16, has instructed the college not to share information of this kind with the Local Authority, through the college privacy notice.)
- The names of any student who leaves any of our post 16 courses before completion. This notification will be made at the earliest possible opportunity to enable the Local Authority to support the young person to find an alternative place.

Principles

St Michael's is committed to embedding careers guidance within a clear framework linked to outcomes for students. This aims to reflect the Mission of the College and meet the needs of all students. We are guided by the following principles:

Independent careers guidance for all year 8-13 students helps students develop high aspirations and consider a broad and ambitious range of careers. The expert knowledge provided by an independent consultant ensures that this advice and guidance is both up to date and impartial.

Students are inspired by real-life contacts with the world of work to help them understand where different choices can take them in the future. To this end the College has a range of business partners with whom it works closely to ensure that students across the College at every age group have access to a variety of experiences relating to the world of work, including employer talks, careers fairs, motivational speakers, colleges and university visits, coaches and mentors from a range of professions.

- High quality work experience and internships that properly reflects individuals' studies and strengths, and supports the academic curriculum are provided
- Access to advice on options available post-16, for example, apprenticeships, entrepreneurialism or other vocational routes are provided alongside traditional A levels and university routes.
- Partnerships provide other post 16 providers opportunities to access and engage students, both on and off-site.
- Face-to-face advice and guidance is tailored for individuals and groups to build confidence and motivation. A careers professional is employed by the College to support students as one element of a varied careers programme.
- Through partnership work with Southwark Choices within the Local Authority vulnerable young people, including those with special educational needs and those

at risk of not participating post-16 are identified along with the services that are available to support them.

- Information is provided to students about the financial support that may be available to help them stay in education post-16.
- We consciously work to prevent all forms of stereotyping in the advice and guidance provided ensuring that boys and girls from all backgrounds and diversity groups consider the widest possible range of careers, including those that are often portrayed as primarily for one or other of the sexes.

Activities to support the delivery of Careers advice and guidance: Professional Careers Advisor

A professionally qualified independent Careers Advisor is employed to provide independent, impartial advice and guidance across the school on a one-to-one and group basis; concentrating on key transition points and providing targeted, intensive support for vulnerable students as identified through the College tracking systems. Records of these meetings are kept and these are monitored by the member of SLT with responsibility for curriculum provision.

Careers and Enterprise Activities:

A range of Careers and Enterprise activities take place across the whole College throughout the year, ensuring that students gain experience in the world of work and develop skills appropriate to this. Such activities would include:

- Young Enterprise who deliver, across KS3, training and information on money and business management during our Careers and Enterprise week held in July of each year
- Prudential workshops for year 12
- Alumni returning to the College during Careers and Enterprise week in July to speak about the experiences after school and the chosen career paths
- Grant Thornton working on Enterprise activities with the whole of year 7 across a 2-month period starting in April to June
- JP Morgan language mentoring for all MFL of 60 students where students have 7 sessions across the year remotely with a native Spanish or French speaker to work on their speaking

Year 7

During Careers and Enterprise week, all Year 7 students experience an introduction to careers session led by the independent careers advisor as well as outside companies and agencies who introduce our students to the world of work and prospective careers.

All Year 7 participate in an Enterprise project led by Grant Thornton.

25 Year 7 students participate in 'Global Scholars' which runs throughout the academic year looking at a particular social issue and how they can raise and awareness of this issue in college and in their local community through a business venture

Year 8

During Careers and Enterprise week in July, all Year 8 students experience an introduction to careers session led by the independent career's advisor as well as outside companies and agencies who introduce our students to the world of work and prospective

careers. All Year 8 students will work with a the Haleon Group Healthcare multinational where they undertake mock interviews with feedback from the company employees.

Year 9

The Year 9 Options Preparation: ‘Informed Choices’ runs from May to June or as calendared. The options system is personalised to meet the needs of the individual students and students are offered one to one and small group intensive guidance and support to ensure that they are appropriately supported to make the most informed choices for the next phase of their education. Students and parents attend an options evening in order to speak to staff and find out about subjects first hand. Students have an options handbook which provides written information on all the subjects available to them. An options day carousel is organised for students so that they can experience taster lessons in those subjects that are not offered at KS3. Students and parents are offered an interview with a member of SLT to discuss their choices and this includes conversation about plans that they may have for the future. Staff conducting the options interviews are informed in detail about the students’ academic progress beforehand and have data on their progress in all subjects. Options forms are differentiated – not all students have access to the same set of option choices. Students who are King’s scholars have a six-week course exploring all the employment sectors. All students participate in careers and enterprise week, which includes a session led by the careers adviser.

Year 10

All students have access to work experience through partnership with Southwark EBA which works with both students and parents. The Year 10 Work Experience Programme involves an in-house and tutor time ‘phone training programme on work-search skills for year 10 students. Training for both parents and students includes exploring the context of the working world, writing CVs, work search skills and attitudes, approaching employers via a range of platforms and interview tips and techniques. The work Experience Programme enables each student in Year 10 to find and secure a high-quality two-week placement. Competitions for placements are provided by employers including PwC and Department of Health. Links with teaching hospitals provide high quality experiences for those wishing to explore careers in medicine and related fields. In addition, students attend the South Business Alliance Careers Fair at Southbank University.

Year 11:

All year 11 students have a minimum of one 30 minute one to one interview with the College’s independent careers advisor. Information to support student applications is passed on to the appropriate head of year and where necessary, support with application writing and attending open days is provided. In addition to this, students, with their parents have a one to one meeting with an experienced member of SLT to consider the students’ progress so far, their aspirations and ambitions and to ensure that the college puts in place any intervention needed to address a possible gap between these two; for example, to ensure that if students intend to apply for medicine they are aware early enough of the grades expected at GCSE.

Year 12 & 13

All students in year 12 and 13 have at least one, one to one meeting with our professionally qualified careers advisor as well as:

Get Ready for Work: vocational students are invited to apply to the Get Ready for Work programme early in Year 12: successful applicants receive mentoring from industry professionals, work place visits and masterclasses.

Work Experience All Year 12 students self-organise a week's work experience at the end of the summer term. Students will be taken through a preparation programme early in the new year, receiving guidance on searching for appropriate and likely work experience providers, email and office etiquette; Health and Safety and risk assessment; and professional standards.

The Brokerage: St Michael's students are able to access short work experience placement opportunities through this digital platform.

The SSLP: Working in partnership with a large group of locally situated private and state schools enables St Michael's to offer sixth formers a series of careers talks and lectures throughout the year. These have included Overseas University Opportunities, Inspiring Women in Health & Finance, NASA night and Stem Day Lectures.

University, Work and Apprenticeships Evening: The College hosts a Progression Evening for Year 12 students and their parents. This involves speakers from a representative range of universities presenting on: The UCAS process and writing a university application, as well as student finance and alternative pathways. Representatives from apprenticeship providers or agencies, including organisations offering degree apprenticeships, are represented

UCAS preparation: All students have one-to-one support with the UCAS application process. Oxbridge, medicine and dental applicants are given thorough preparation involving model interviewing and mock testing. Where students are interested in applications for work or apprenticeship, or where students appear vulnerable in not achieving their offers then one to one independent careers advice is put in place for them using the College's in-house consultant.

Aspiring Medics: Students who are considering a career in Medicine/ Veterinary/ Dentistry are offered a programme which includes sessions on: medical ethics; the state of the NHS; doctor visits; UCAT practice and mock testing; and interview practice. Students on this programme also benefit from the college's close links with KCL and Imperial Med Schools and are part of the In2Med student doctor programme.

The Elephant Group also runs more broadly focused events for those interested in Allied Health Care careers a part of its Access programme.

University, work and Apprenticeships: Discovery Day visit: usually in the late summer term, students in Year 12 visit a UCAS discovery day (or fair) in a local university. These typically feature over 100 universities and work and apprenticeships providers, including The Forces and the Fire Brigade.

Apprenticeship presentations: Year 12 and 13 students experience workshops and awareness assemblies from a range of visitors. These take place during the dedicated Enrichment slots.

Workplace visits- The Bank of England: during early Autumn term the new Year 12 intake for Business and Economics are invited to visit the Bank of England as part of a programme of workplace visits for both CTEC and A level.

Provider Access Policy:

The College is fully compliant with new careers legislation and the Provider Access Policy can be found on the College website

Monitoring & Evaluation

The college works with an Enterprise advisor and uses Gatsby as an evaluative tool to inform careers planning across the college.

Success will be reflected in higher numbers progressing to apprenticeships, universities – including selective universities, traineeships, and other positive destinations such as employment or a further education college.

Questionnaires are completed by students following their careers guidance meetings and outcomes shared with the member of SLT with responsibility for careers. Feedback from these informs future opportunities and careers development.

Destination measures data published by the Department for Education will be used to assess how successfully students make the transition into the next stage of education or training, or into employment.

June 2024

Signed: _____
Chair of the Curriculum Committee

Date _____

Signed: _____
Chair of Governors

Date: _____

Review Date 2026