



St Michael's Catholic College

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

20th December 2024,

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have come to the end of a very busy and productive autumn term in this the 3rd week of advent where we are encouraged to find joy and hope in the coming of the Lord. At St Michael's there has been so much to celebrate this term, especially the way in which our students demonstrate such positive attitudes to learning and their determination to make the most of the many opportunities they are given at the school for both academic and spiritual fulfilment. The commitment and contributions from our staff and students bring such joy to our community and also give me hope that this generation of talented and caring young people are developing the skills and RUAH values to go out into the world to serve and be a light to others.

The final week of term has been a chance for students to take part in a wide range of enrichment including trips and visits in and around our capital city, watching our brilliant KS3 Drama club pantomime and performing at Bonus Pastor's Christmas concert which is one of our St Benedict Catholic Academy Trust Partner schools, as well as creating Christmas hampers for local senior citizens. These kinds of activities are mapped into the wider school curriculum throughout the whole year to support students' personal development and give them further opportunities to demonstrate RUAH and Gospel values both within and beyond the school community.

The college will close for the Christmas break today, Friday 20th December at 12:30pm following reward assemblies for each year group and Christmas services at The Most Holy Trinity Church, led by Canon Alan McClean and students from the St Michael's chaplaincy team.

We re-open on:

- **Monday 6th January at 8:40am for Years 11 and 13**
- **Tuesday 7th January at 8:40am for Years 7-10 and 12**

As stated in the letter I sent home earlier this week and information provided at the start of this term we are not able to authorise any absence in term time, in line with Department of Education guidance so it is important that students return to college on the correct date and at the correct time.

I would like to thank all parents and carers for your support and understanding this term and for recognising the importance of us working in partnership together with you in the best interests of all of the students, rooted in both Salesian values and Catholic Social teaching. Please be assured that the college is here not just to support your child but also you, our families. We recognise the challenges many face in terms of the cost of living and housing, so please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you need our support in any way. If we are not able to assist you ourselves we can definitely put you in touch with those in the local area who can.

I would like to conclude by sharing a prayer which I hope resonates with you as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. It is one which I believe captures the meaning of Christmas and encourages us to look to the Holy Family and be inspired by their example.

May the peace and blessings of Christmas be yours and may the coming year be filled with peace, happiness and good health.

A Christmas Prayer

Loving God,
During this holy season of Christmas,
we ask for your blessing on all in the St Michael's
community and for their families and loved ones.
Let Mary's openness to your wondrous ways be
an inspiration to place all our trust in you.
Let Joseph's courage provide hope
during times of anxiety and uncertainty.
Let Jesus' life ignite us all with a spirit of light and love.
May the grace that encircles the Holy Family
widen to embrace all families.
For this we pray.

Amen.

Yours sincerely



Ms F. Corcoran
Principal



The artwork for this year's college Christmas card has been created by Anuoluwa O in 9BC
The illustration of Mary, embracing the baby Jesus is a reminder of the true meaning of Christmas

Important reminders for parents and carers



ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE UNIFORM POLICY

(Years 12 and 13 should see the 6th 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 O EZ 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

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.

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 6th form all hair accessories and head scarves etc. must be black, navy or grey in line with the 6th 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 6th 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 in the academic year 23-24 and 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 1st occasion it is confiscated and handed back at the end of the day, on the 2nd 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 1st 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 1st occasion it will be confiscated and handed back at the end of the day and on the 2nd 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 6th form study area in the new build and in the 6th 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 6th form areas on the 1st occasion it will be confiscated and handed back at the end of the day and on the 2nd 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 policy.