



# St Michael's Catholic College

*Bringing each student to the fullness of life through education*



*It is our expectation  
that students achieve  
excellent academic results  
through developing a love  
of learning, a love of Christ  
and a love of each other.*

**- Ms Felicity Corcoran**

# Foreword

## from the Principal

**The College is committed to bringing each student to the fullness of life through education.**

Choosing a secondary school for your child is a very important decision and, as parents and carers, you will believe that your child deserves the very best education. At St Michael's we share your belief. We recognise that there are no limits to a child's potential and our aim is simple: to facilitate excellent academic success and personal development by bringing each student to the fullness of life through education. We do this within a culture and environment that embraces the Gospel and Salesian values of serving others, respect, tolerance, consistent discipline, loving kindness, reflection, forgiveness and the celebration of success. It is our belief therefore that students grow into mature and responsible adults by following the Salesian values of RUAH:

<b>Respect</b> Recognising and respecting the presence of Christ in every person.	<b>Affection</b> Sustaining high quality relationships as a result of loving kindness and consistent discipline.
<b>Understanding</b> Being committed to learning and striving for academic excellence.	<b>Humour</b> Developing resilience by maintaining a balanced and optimistic approach to life.

*The school is deeply rooted on principles of love and compassion based on the Salesian values of respect, understanding, affection and humour evident at all levels within the school and extended community.*


**- Diocesan Inspection report 22/23 Outstanding**

Our team of well-qualified, dedicated staff work creatively and professionally to ensure that all students flourish and achieve our goal of academic excellence. We have a progressive approach to developing and delivering our curriculum and we tailor our learning environment to meet the needs of all students; providing extra challenge for those who are more able and offering additional support for those in need. St Michael's new buildings facilitate 21st century learning and have state of the art facilities and resources to benefit the entire college community.

When a new student joins us, we take the time to build a genuine partnership between the family and school, since we believe that partnership with parents and carers is vital to every child's future success and happiness.

*I hope you enjoy reading through our prospectus which gives a flavour of the broad and balanced experiences at St Michael's, but more importantly, I would like to invite you to our school to sample the culture which makes St Michael's Catholic College unique.*

**Ms Felicity Corcoran**  
Principal



*The teachers at  
St Michael's encourage  
and believe in me,  
they have made me the  
person I am today.*

**- Year 11 Pupil**



# Teaching & Learning Together

## *in a Catholic Community*

*I always feel the staff do their utmost for our children, they are supportive, dedicated and encourage students to excel.*

*I would recommend St Michael's to all parents...*

**- Parent of Year 10 Pupil**

The highest quality of teaching and learning lies at the heart of our outstanding academic results, with our team of excellent teachers keeping up-to-date with new developments and innovations in education. Teachers are research-active and each teacher works within a learning community of colleagues.

A focus is placed on developing key areas of pedagogy: subject expertise, challenge, metacognition and feedback. Teachers work collaboratively, sharing their ideas and the very best of practice through briefings, action research and dedicated development time. This enables us to build our own capacity and be of service to other schools; as a strategic partner in both the Catholic Schools Partnership and the London South Teaching School Hub. St Michael's is at the forefront of good educational practice and teacher training.

Lessons are structured and well-planned with an emphasis on independent and active learning for students. Our creative approach to education ensures student engagement and progress.

Taught in some classes according to ability, students are challenged to learn at an appropriate pace allowing them to develop their knowledge and understanding.

To ensure a broad and balanced curriculum which prepares students for the rigour of GCSEs, we have a comprehensive programme of enrichment opportunities in **Key Stage 3** including Latin and Classics for the most able, and tailored enrichment activities and trips for all students across all subjects to inspire them and promote a love of learning.

At **Key Stage 4** we offer core subjects: English, Maths, Science and Religious Education. Our options at EBACC include Geography, History, French or Spanish, and Computer Science with other options of Art, Business Studies, Creative iMedia, Design Technology, Drama, Media Studies, Music and Physical Education available.

Our **Key Stage 4 curriculum** includes a wide range of careers-related options and all students undertake courses designed to encourage enterprise.

Subjects offered at Key Stage 5 are listed in our Sixth Form prospectus and on the college website.

# A Unique Location

## *Offers Exceptional Opportunities*

St Michael's sits in the heart of London, benefitting from the diversity and richness of surrounding communities.

Our location close to Tower Bridge and well-established partnerships support learning and teaching in all year groups.


We offer meaningful and interesting experiences in a vibrant environment. Bespoke careers training, advice and Social Enterprise programmes are provided by Grant Thornton, Young Enterprise and PWC, who are committed to a whole school approach; supporting the development of our staff and students in a variety of ways.

Bloomberg and JP Morgan provide one-to-one language mentors for those taking GCSEs in Modern Foreign Languages. Our work experience programme provides preparation for working life with students undertaking training, placements and internships in many high-profile companies.

Our proximity to, and links with, prestigious London universities enable Key Stage 3 pupils to take part in the Kings' College Scholars programme and we also participate in the Brilliant Club Oxbridge programme.

Students regularly visit the BBC and the House of Commons to engage in lively political debate and learn about government and politics. There are also opportunities for them to visit The Globe, The Old Vic and the West End to experience live theatre, The Royal Festival Hall and The Barbican for concerts, while Southwark Tigers offer Rugby coaching and the Ace programme offer cricket coaching for students.

During our dedicated Careers and Enterprise week, students have the opportunity to work with and learn from a range of Business partners including The National Grid, The Money Charity and STEM Business enterprise and a specialist careers advisor as well as the range of apprenticeship and University providers that attend our yearly UCAS and Further Education evening held for the Sixth form.



*The teachers make  
my education  
more engaging  
and it is fun to learn  
at St Michael's.*

**- Year 8 Pupil**



# Enrichment & Learning

## *Through Experience*

***Developing in all students the ability to enjoy thinking, generate new ideas, search for answers and explore mystery.***

At St Michael's we believe that learning takes place everywhere. College life is therefore enriched by diverse activities designed to encourage experiential learning and foster enjoyment.

Our recent Diocesan outstanding inspection found that pupils at all key stages benefit from extensive opportunities to excel and participate in school life which impacts directly on the whole school community.

A broad spectrum of sporting, musical, artistic and technological clubs are offered every day at lunchtimes and after school. Students may join the college orchestra, choir, various bands or ensembles with opportunities to perform to audiences in numerous settings.

Fostering innovation and creativity are at the heart of our art and design clubs while all subjects identify ways to enhance students' learning through cultural enrichment.

The college has a wide range of sporting fixtures that encompass many sports over the year. These include multi-sport matches against local schools to House, local and national competitions.

We teach dance in a range of styles, enter dance competitions and provide opportunities to perform to a variety of audiences.

Travel and residential trips are an integral part of broadening student experience. We offer students trips to Berlin, Barcelona, Rome, Paris, the USA, and within the UK for activity, adventure and spiritual retreat. In recent years students have also participated in an exchange visit to South Korea.

# The Sixth Form *at St Michael's*

St Michael's Catholic College Sixth Form was founded in September 2011 in order to serve the students in our community and provide them with the opportunity to continue their education within a rigorous and caring Catholic context.

Our Sixth Form has grown into a thriving and exciting place to study and the curriculum is shaped to offer students both academic and personal challenges, as well as the space to develop and pursue their own interests.

St Michael's works with Oxbridge and Russell Group universities and leading London firms such as Bloomberg, Grant Thornton, PWC and Ince and Co. to provide inspirational enrichment opportunities to prepare students for university and the world of work.

Our Sixth Formers are leaders within the school and work with us to ensure St Michael's is a place of outstanding learning.

More information about our Sixth Form can be found in the Sixth Form Prospectus.



## *The Honours Programme*

The Honours Programme at St. Michael's is designed to facilitate the progress of our most high-achieving, intellectually ambitious students to elite Russell Group universities and apprenticeships.

The most able will contend for places at Oxford and Cambridge, LSE and Imperial. To earn a place students must achieve 4 or more level 8s at GSCE, though the majority of students on this pathway have more - often significantly more - top grades.

The Pathway offers the option for four A levels and an extra A level in EPQ, early entry options, automatic entry into an access programme for elite universities, work experience and internships, extra tutoring and subject seminars.

There are also scholarships on offer each year in STEM, Humanities and Media Arts. Testing for these financial awards takes place in Autumn term of Year 12.



# Positive & Professional Approaches

## *to Academic & Pastoral Support*

St Michael's is a safe, well-ordered college. New students participate in our well-established and comprehensive induction programme including a summer school. This ensures that transition from primary to secondary education is smooth and enjoyable. Our youngest pupils settle in quickly, becoming confident and productive members of our learning community.

Our pastoral system works to support students' personal wellbeing as well as their academic progress. On entering, each year group is assigned a Leader of Learning charged with the academic and pastoral care of students. They ensure the wellbeing of all within the year group and are a key point of contact for parents, together with the tutor.

The Leader of Learning retains the role as the year group progresses through the college and it would not be unusual for a year group to have the same Leader of Learning and tutors throughout their time at St Michael's.

We work in close partnership with parents and carers and encourage them to be actively involved in their children's education. Regular and clear channels of communication mean our parent body is well-informed and able to make a positive contribution.

The Link, our e-newsletter for parents as well as our Twitter and Instagram feeds give a regular insight into school activities and news. Frequent Parent Meetings and Forums give the opportunity to raise issues, air opinions and influence decision making in the college. Parents focus group meetings are held across the year enabling partnership and feedback in all aspects of college life.

## *Developing a Love of Learning, a Love of Christ and a Love of Each Other*

There are considerable opportunities for students to demonstrate their faith in action, initiative, leadership and to use their skills and experiences for the benefit of their peers e.g. peer mentoring, peer mediation, student leadership team and our prefect system.

The student leadership team and other students work hard throughout the year and have an ongoing commitment to raising money for a range of local and national charities.

Regular House charity events, particularly those during Lent raise awareness for such charities while assemblies and sponsored activities underline their importance and significance.

The religious life and role of students is nurtured through chaplaincy, students planning and engaging in liturgical events and services, undertaking charitable endeavours and taking on aspects of ministry within our weekly Mass.

## Catholic Life and Mission

The Catholic life and mission of the college - along with the Salesian values of respect, understanding, affection and humour - are at the heart of all that we do. On Friday mornings Mass takes place in the college chapel before school and we hold special services on Holy Days of Obligation, on the feast days of St Michael and our House saints and all students participate in services of reconciliation during Lent.

Our close links with The Most Holy Trinity Church Dockhead and the Salesian Fellowship of Schools provide students with further opportunities for Catholic faith formation, collective worship, spiritual reflection and to engage in liturgical activity. The college works closely with priests from the Archdiocese of Southwark and Westminster with students encouraged to also support their home parishes through the Faith in Action programme.

Chaplaincy is a strength of the college, led by a dedicated staff team and very active student chaplaincy teams. Student chaplaincy is the heart of college student voice which also encompasses student leadership, diversity and inclusion ambassadors, mental health ambassadors and prefects.

This ensures extensive, creative and high quality provision is in place that is central and celebrated.

The College House system, recognising our Salesian heritage, is used to promote outstanding opportunities for personal and faith development as well as to build unity throughout the college, creating opportunities for students from different year groups to work together and serve the college community.

The House system is vertical, incorporating one form per year for each house. Each House is named after either a Saint or a Blessed linked to the Salesians and students wear their House colours on their tie. Each House also has the opportunity to raise money for the college's selected charities during House charity weeks.

The House system is central to the college reward system and is used to promote the achievement of students in its widest forms in a totally positive way - from the classroom to the sports field - and by taking on responsibilities around the college and participating in arts and enrichment events. House competitions, take place regularly and recognise every talent and interest that our students may have.



BC

Saint John Bosco



DA

Blessed Alexandrina  
Maria Da Costa



MA

Saint Mary Mazzarello



RU

Blessed Michael Rua



SA

Saint Dominic Savio



VI

Blessed Laura Vicuna





## St Michael's Catholic College

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