



# St Michael's Catholic College

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Principal: Ms Felicity Corcoran

Vice Principal: Ms Charlotte Sayed

Vice Principal: Ms Kathleen Faherty

17th July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

We have finally arrived at the end of the summer term, the first in St Michael's history to be mostly run remotely. However, it has been wonderful to welcome back Year 10 and Year 12 students in recent weeks who have enjoyed being back in college and have managed to handle our new health and safety procedures brilliantly.

This is not the end of term we had envisaged at the start of the year: filled with the usual rites of passage, house trips and end of term events. However, Leaders of Learning and members of the Senior Leadership Team have worked hard to put together celebration assembly videos for year groups, so that prize winners can be announced and excellent effort and achievement is rewarded. We have also awarded our first "Salesian Values" prizes to students in each House who have role modelled the Salesian values of respect, understanding, affection and humour - 'RUAH' throughout the year and the first Sr Ann cup for sporting achievement in adversity. This prize is in memory of our former Headteacher Sr Ann Hoskinson who served the College for 25 years. We are grateful to the Salesian sisters for providing the funding to make these prizes possible and we know they will be greatly appreciated by our students and their families.

I am pleased to report how well St Michael's students have continued to take responsibility for their education since March by actively participating in remote learning and by showing a fantastic commitment to the Salesian ethos of the college through regular engagement in House competitions, careers and enterprise events and the recent virtual sports day. I appreciate how challenging it has been for parents/carers to support their children with the complexities of remote learning and home schooling whilst juggling the many responsibilities of family life. Your support has been truly appreciated.

St Michael's staff have worked incredibly hard and have been dedicated to ensuring the very best provision and pastoral care for our students both up to and after the 20<sup>th</sup> March. I would like to thank them for all they have done and I am immensely grateful for their love, care and commitment to our students which has meant that since 23<sup>rd</sup> March:

Regular lessons have been set remotely for all year groups in every subject; the college has remained open for vulnerable children and the children of key workers during term time and all holidays; counselling, bereavement support and pastoral and academic support have been provided daily over the phone; laptops, dongles, routers and IT support have been provided to support students as appropriate; virtual induction has taken place for new Year 6 and 6<sup>th</sup> form students; free school meals vouchers and breakfast boxes have been provided to those in need; opportunities for spiritual and personal enrichment have continued and the college has recently reopened successfully to students in Year 10 and 12.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank two very important and long-standing members of staff who will be retiring this summer. Ms Arobaga and Mr O'Sullivan have served the College for 29 and 28 years respectively and have been quite simply excellent members of staff. Their hard work,



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commitment and service to St Michael's has had a positive impact on the thousands of students, staff and families they have worked with during this time. We wish them well in their retirement and plan to welcome them back to St Michael's when we are able, to host a fitting celebration in recognition of their long service to the college.

This past few months have been very challenging for many in our community, particularly those who have been directly affected and bereaved as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, I ask you to continue to keep them and all in our community in your prayers. We look forward even more than usual to welcoming all year groups back in September in a safe and organised way and a letter has been sent out earlier this week detailing the provisional arrangements for September. We also wish those students in Year 11 and 13 who will be leaving us well and we thank them for their fantastic contribution to our college community. We hope they will continue to demonstrate RUAH through their words and deeds as they make their way in the world.

May the Lord bless you and your families and keep you safe and well during the summer break.

Yours Faithfully



Ms F. Corcoran

Principal