



# St Michael's Catholic College

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Principal: Ms Felicity Corcoran

Vice Principal: Ms Charlotte Sayed

Vice Principal: Ms Kathleen Faherty

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very busy half term, we have been delighted to have all of the students back on site and our college community back together again.

I have been very proud of students' effort, behaviour and positive attitudes, they have demonstrated the Salesian values of respect, understanding, affection and humour in both words and deeds. Their response has made a difficult situation much easier to manage and they have coped brilliantly with our new ways of working in order to follow important health and safety guidelines.

I would also like to thank all of the St Michael's staff teachers, support staff and the premises team who have gone the extra mile every day to ensure that your children have a positive experience and the highest quality of education. They have also had to adjust to new ways of working which have placed extra demands on their daily routines and time. We have felt very supported by you, our parents and carers who have fed back about how well your children have settled back in school. You have understood that in order to keep the college open and deliver the full curriculum to all students, it may not be possible to satisfy every individual request and that different schools have to make decisions and arrangements that are based on their own individual contexts.

I am delighted to report that Southwark local authority have confirmed this morning that they will provide funding so that schools can provide free school meal vouchers to those families who are eligible during the half term holiday. We were very dismayed at the outcome of the House of Commons vote earlier in the week to not fund free school meals in the holidays and as a result our staff had generously offered to make donations to support the college to cover the costs of the vouchers during the half term. This is now not necessary as the local authority has stepped in to help. If your child is eligible for free school meals you will receive an e-voucher as soon as possible sent via email to the main home contact email address that we have on our system. We recognise that times are difficult for many families in our community and are resolved to do what we can to support. We have had a wonderful response to the Southwark Foodbank's harvest appeal and we will be working with our house captains, college parliament and parents from the focus group to look at how we can improve our fundraising and extend community links.

Finally, I would like to wish all our students and staff a safe and happy half term. I appreciate that tier 2 restrictions may make usual school holiday routines a challenge, however it is important that we all do our bit to follow the guidance to keep safe and to keep the college open and operating as fully as possible.

Yours faithfully,

Ms F. Corcoran  
Principal

