



St Michael's Catholic College

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Principal: Ms Felicity Corcoran

Vice Principal: Ms Charlotte Sayed

Acting Vice-Principal: Ms Joanna Nottage

16th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now coming to the end of a very busy and successful autumn term. It has been wonderful to be able to welcome parents, carers and visitors back to the college, to allow year groups to mix again and to see the return of school trips, interschool events, sporting fixtures and a school production which were not possible during the pandemic.

The college mission is to bring all students to the fullness of life through Catholic education. This means that we work incredibly hard to ensure all students are supported to achieve their academic potential whilst being provided with opportunities to demonstrate their faith and Salesian values in action by serving others. That is why it is wonderful to see that students have made such a brilliant start to the academic year and to see them playing an active role in all aspects of college life. We are very fortunate to work with such a dedicated staff team who are all determined to ensure St Michael's is a successful, caring and positive place and who are committed to ensuring that students thrive, grow in faith and realise their potential. I would therefore like to thank them for their hard work and service to our community.

The college will close for the Christmas break today, Friday 16th December at 12:30pm following a Christmas Service at The Most Holy Trinity Church in Dockhead. We will reopen on **Tuesday 3rd January at 8:40am for Years 11 and 13** and on **Wednesday 4th January at 8:40am for Years 7-10 and 12**. In line with Department of Education guidance we will not be authorising any absence in term time so it is important that students return to college on the correct date and at the correct time. It is statistically proven that school attendance has such a significant impact on student progress and achievement which is why we take such a strict line in following Department of Education guidance and why permission to take part in daytime enrichment activities and school trips is now dependent on students having an excellent record of attendance.

Please be advised of the following changes to staffing from January 2023:

- Ms Nottage has been appointed as substantive Vice Principal i/c Behaviour, Attitudes and Pastoral Welfare
- Mrs Keane, Assistant Principal is on maternity leave from the start of January therefore Mr Arda will take over as the SLT attached to Year 7, Mr Bourke has been appointed as Associate Assistant Principal for Reading and Primary Transition and Ms Roberts has been appointed as Associate Assistant Principal for SEND.
- Mr Burton will take over as Acting Leader of Learning for Year 11 from 16th Jan 2023 when Ms Main goes on maternity leave.
- Ms Banks, teacher of MFL has returned this week from maternity leave.

I would like to thank all parents and carers for your support and understanding this term. We are fortunate you recognise that the college always takes decisions based on what is best for the St Michael's community as a whole, mindful of Catholic social teaching on the common good. I hope that you will be able to celebrate Christmas with your families and loved ones this year, especially after two years of no or reduced mixing during the festive season. However, I am mindful that this



year many families are facing a number of challenges due to the cost of living crisis and in particular higher heating and food bills. Please remember that we are here to support you and that our ethos and care very much extends to families and carers. Therefore, please do make us aware of any difficulties you are having so that we can assist you in any way we can.


A Christmas Blessing – Wilda English

God grant you the light in Christmas, which is faith;
the warmth of Christmas, which is love;
the radiance of Christmas, which is purity;
the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;
the belief in Christmas, which is truth;
the all of Christmas, which is Christ.

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

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours faithfully,



Ms F. Corcoran
Principal

Updates and reminders for Parents/Carers for January 2023

Technology for Learning Update

This term the college has expanded our technology for learning policy across all year groups with laptops being used in lessons where they are appropriate and support learning. However, this does not mean that every lesson requires the use of a laptop. Students will be notified by their teachers by the lesson before or with sufficient time to bring in a laptop for the next lesson. Being prepared with the right equipment for lessons is essential for learning and the behaviour expectations for laptops are the same as bringing in a calculator for Maths or PE kit for sporting activities.

If there are any queries about how your child accesses a laptop, please email contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk

College Uniform and Hair policy reminder:

Please read through this information carefully

It is not reasonable for parents/carers to ask us to make exceptions for their child as it undermines our high standards and ethos and would be unfair to other students who are following the rules. This applies in particular to jewellery which is not allowed at all and all piercings must be removed before students return to college, our policy does not allow piercings to be covered by plasters or plastic piercing retainers to be worn.

Parents and carers should also ensure their child/ren's hair complies with the college policy. The hair policy is very inclusive and the only restrictions are that hair/ braids must be one natural colour and no longer than waist length, no patterns can be shaved into hair, all hair accessories must be black and beads are not allowed as accessories for health and safety reasons related to PE lessons.

College Hair Policy

The College hair policy has been informed by extensive 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.

- 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/>

Girls Uniform

- Grey Kilt – (same shade of grey as blazer) – no extremes of length. Girls are not permitted to roll up the waistband of their skirts and the skirt must be knee length or longer.

Or

- Grey trousers (same shade of grey as blazer) trousers are only available from Whitehall Clothiers and must be the same as the boys' trousers.
- White Fitted Blouse with revered collar neck – only available from Whitehall Clothiers – not the male white shirt with a top button.
- Grey Cardigan with double white trim – only available from Whitehall Clothiers. Students are not permitted to tie up their cardigans at the back.
- Grey Blazer – with College Badge – only available from Whitehall Clothiers.
- Black tights/ankle length or knee length black 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.
- TRAINERS OF ANY COLOUR MAY NEVER BE WORN AT OR TO AND FROM THE COLLEGE

Boys Uniform

- Grey Trousers – (same shade of grey as Blazer).
- White Shirt.
- Clip on tie (different design for years 7-10 and 11).
- Grey cardigan with double blue trim – only available from Whitehall Clothiers.
- Grey blazer with blue trim – only available from Whitehall Clothiers. Students are not permitted to tie up their cardigans at the back.
- Black socks
- Black/ Navy/Dark Grey Coat No other colours, patterns or logos allowed. Outdoor hats must be plain black, navy or grey. Coats, hats and scarves 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.
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School Bags

- **All students in Years 7-10** 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. Please note this decision has been taken on the grounds of cost and safety. We have ensured that the official school bag is much cheaper than other bags previously used by students.
- In Year 11 for this academic year only students must have a black rucksack/school bag. Handbags are not permitted.

PE Kit

PE kit requirements are the same for all students and items are available from Whitehall

Clothing

- 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)
- 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.
- 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.

Equipment

- All pupils must have a ballpoint pen, pencil, eraser, ruler and geometry set and a small scientific calculator.

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, gel nails 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.
- **Mobile phones if brought to college should be switched off before entering the school site and must not be switched back on or used until the pupil has left the college site.** Students who do not follow these requirements will have their phone confiscated, which will then only hand back to parents/carers. Students who breach the college e-safety policy or mobile phone policy will have the right to bring a phone to college revoked.