



**Date:** Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022 | 17:00 – 18:00

**Attendees:** F Corcoran (Principal) J Arda (Assistant Principal)

Simona Bartocci Fletcher (Leila Y8)	Marcin Jagodzinski (Roger Y9)
Darren Koh (Matthias Y8)	Nathalie Orlandi (Matthew Y8)
Erika Collins (Alana Y8)	Boma Aberepikima (Ayibatonbara Y8)
Funke Jenfa (David Y12)	Maebh Glemser (Caspar Y11)
Toyin Adenuga (Tobi Y7)	Aidan Keightley (Hannah Y8)
Macrui Dostourian-Moppett (Nico Y7 & Andrea Y9)	

**Apologies:** Flor Del Rosario (Althea Y8)  
Michelle Zini (Luca Y7)  
Arlyn fe Arce (Mia Y8)

---

## 1. Minutes and matters arising

- The Parent Showcase took place on 7<sup>th</sup> July and set up refreshments for attendees of the event. Parents and staff contributed cakes and the parent group made £77.97.
- The Link Newsletter is shared regularly with parents. Chaplaincy bulletins are sent via EduLink at Christmas, Easter and in July.
- Mr Arda contacted the Finance Department to arrange ParentPay donations to be within a range instead of a set payment.
- Uniform donations were made before the end of term and have been assigned to a dedicated space. Simona Bartocci Fletcher has kindly offered to volunteer in the potential sales of items.
- Mr Arda presented at the Curriculum Evenings in September to communicate laptop expectations with parents. Ms Corcoran reiterated the College's policy on mobile phone use in her letter dated 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022.
- Parents asked to contribute to guidance about e-safety. Nathalie Orlandi expressed ideas around parent controls and training for parents. She has designed a Google Form for parents to express their views: <https://forms.gle/PaxRupQ7AJZzxEyL6>. Ms Corcoran explained that 26 parents attended a Google Classroom workshop recently to provide support. On Google, there is a family app which has age restrictions. Workshops for parents Aidan suggested student-led workshops.
- **Action:** Mr Arda to contact Google via a college contact to gain a summary of information for Google Classroom and use of phones and safety settings. This information is to be shared with parents.
- **Action:** Nathalie Orlandi to liaise with Mr Arda about finalising the parent survey to be sent out.

## 2. Catholic life in the College

- Ms Corcoran explained that the Catholic life of the college combines academic rigour and care for the child. She added that the need for faith formation is living the practice as a Catholic school.
- Assemblies link to Catholic Social Teaching. The Chaplaincy comprises enrichment activities. For example, house activities are an opportunity for students to engage with the Catholicity of the school. World religions have been celebrated such as Sikhism via Guru Nanak. Mixed sports events demonstrate St Michael's commitment to being inclusive. The Sixth Form CAFOD programme has been successful as has St Michael's Festival Day with prayer and other celebrated occasions.



- The college is preparing for Christmas celebrations. House activities contribute to the ethos. The college has been accredited by University College London as a Beacon School for diversity practice.
- Ms Corcoran asked for parents feedback regarding the Catholicity. Maebh Glemser said she was impressed with the curriculum; how Religious Education is built into the life of the school and how RUAH values are embodied. She had a query about when the Diocese are due to conduct an inspection to which Ms Corcoran replied that this could occur at any time. Macrui Dostourian-Moppett expressed the importance of Catholic education and consistency.

### 3. Brief update and overview on the College's academic year to date from the Principal

- Ms Corcoran explained that the Year 7 cohort have had a 'normal' start to the year given the pandemic. The Drama productions, sports activities and other enrichment such as trips have taken place.
- St Michael's is expecting inspections with Ofsted and from the Diocese.
- The progress that students make are well above average in public examinations. For example, A is the average grade for students undertaking the Sixth Form Honours pathway. St Michael's has had its first Cambridge undergraduate studying veterinary science. This year St Michael's had had 9 Oxbridge applicants including to Princeton.
- Open Days have had 700 applications for 150 places for the next academic year.
- In a recent review led by an External School Improvement Partner, History, Geography and MFL have been reviewed as well as safeguarding procedures. The college has had strong feedback.
- The college has been given the SSAT transformational in wellbeing award. This has been due to developments such as having student mental health and diversity ambassadors.
- Ms Corcoran acknowledged financial pressures are acute especially for students and their families. The college is supporting families on the periphery of Free School Meals. However, students who are disadvantaged in such circumstances make progress as good as all students. The Saturday school programme allows sixth formers and year 11 students to have appropriate spaces for learning when space at home may be limited.
- Any teacher pay rises are funded from existing budgets. The college had to run a deficit budget on this basis, while also managing energy rises. Staff would take striking with great reluctance. Ms Corcoran stated that striking is about securing funding for students and addressing matters such as shortages in the recruitment of teachers. Otherwise, class sizes may increase and the college's ability to intervene with living arrangements for students or provide general support will be more difficult.
- Marcin Jagodzinski talked about reviewing contracts to provide value for money. Toyin Adenuga asked what could be done. Ms Corcoran expressed that parent letters, support and especially fundraising would help the college.
- Erika Collins asked about the food vouchers system. Some companies do not have systems that work. Christmas was the last time the college provided support.
- In terms of school meals vouchers, it is this Christmas where the college has responsibility for providing vouchers for students on free school meals during the break, from next year the local authority will take over sending vouchers to families and vouchers will be able to spent in a wider variety of supermarkets which we hope will provide better support for families.
- **Action:** Macrui Dostourian-Moppett offered to write a standard letter template, so that other parents could support school funding campaigns. Ms Corcoran will check if there is advice for writing to the Council regarding funding arrangements for schools.

### 4. Technology for Learning – Update

- Mr Arda stated that 31% of students are eligible for the Pupil Premium. Provision is made for students to have access to a laptop if they require one. Given the household income threshold for Free School Meals is very low, the



college also considers requests from families where evidence of hardship is provided. In this way, the college knows that laptops are provided to students who need one the most based on the limited resources available.

- Students have access to a laptop, in most cases, either through the Freedom Tech lease-to-buy scheme, a device is loaned as a student is eligible for Free School Meals/Pupil Premium or they bring their own device.
- Similar to forgotten PE kit or calculators in Maths, students are reminded of their responsibility to remember a laptop for their lesson where this applies. A class teacher will set a Google Classroom notification the lesson before to bring in a laptop for the next lesson. The setting of an assignment will show the date and time when the laptop should be brought in. Mr Arda explained that this is to mirror existing systems such as homework set on Google Classroom and ensures expectations are clear.
- Students must report laptop issues to the IT office by taking their device at break, lunch or afternoon registration.
- Ms Corcoran added that chromebooks are not used in every lesson, only when a teacher wants them to be used. Lockers are free for all students. In some cases where £30 deposits are retained, it is because a student has borrowed a laptop. The deposit is available once a student leaves the college and that the returned laptop is in good working order.
- **Action:** Mr Arda to arrange screenshots for parents to show how the Google Classroom notification works, so that they can check when their child is required to bring in a laptop and when to complete homework.

#### 5. Consultation on changes to college uniform

- Ms Corcoran explained that there is now one PE kit for both boys and girls. The next stage was to modify the uniform to be similar. Girls have had options to wear trousers since September and this has been well-received despite this being a significant change. Grey trousers and white shirts brought girls' uniform in line with boys.
- The college is allowed to have a certain number of items that are distinct to St Michael's e.g. blazers with a navy trim, tie and v-neck jumper. More expensive blazers last longer and provide better value for money over time.
- Ms Corcoran acknowledged that uniform is expensive. However high-quality uniforms reflect the highest expectations for students. Any cost issues need to be raised with the school though the college has sufficient uniform to provide to those and need while also looking to sell some second-hand to raise funds.
- The new uniform should be in place in two years with changes going out to parents.
- **Action:** Erika Collins has uniform items to donate. Mr Arda will liaise with her and Simona Bartocci Fletcher to organise a fundraising event.

#### AOB

- Ms Corcoran stated that fundraising through parent-run school events was important. There are upcoming events where a regular presence of parents to provide refreshments would be welcomed.
- **Action:** Mr Arda to contact volunteers from today's meeting and to review the calendar for events.
- Toyin Adenuga asked if the Parent Focus Group can be blended with in person and virtual options. This may be possible and will be confirmed to the Group. She requested how to get in touch with the college to ask questions. Ms Corcoran said that on the college website to use the [contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk](mailto:contact@stmichaelscollege.org.uk) email address.
- **Action:** Mr Arda to check a query about opening the back gate when students are released at the end of the day.
- Boma Aberepikima said that she enjoyed finding out about what the school does more widely as a whole. Ms Corcoran said that parents can be kept updated with Twitter [@StMichaels\\_SE16](https://twitter.com/StMichaels_SE16) or [The Link](#) newsletter.
- Funke Jenfa added that the one positive point when her son joined the Sixth Form included the Christian values embedded in the learning. Her perspective was important since she is a parent with a unique view of students joining the sixth form from other schools.
- Thank you to Darren Koh and Simona Bartocci Fletcher for their gift donations for the OAP Christmas event. Any other parents wishing to donate items can do so by asking their child to bring items to reception.



*Minutes to be sent via EduLink*