



Date: Wednesday 21st June 2023 | 16:45 – 18:00 (Via Zoom)

Attendees: F Corcoran (Principal) J Arda (Assistant Principal)
Darren Koh (Matthias Y8) Martin Burden (Nathalie Orlandi) (Matthew Y8)
Silvia Murray (Ciara Y11) Funke Jenfa (David Y12)
Toyin Adenuga (Tobi Y7) Aidan Keightley (Hannah Y8)
Maebh Glemser (Caspar Glemser Y11)

Apologies: Flor Del Rosario (Althea Y8) Marcin Jagodzinski (Maia Y7 and Roger Y9)
Arlyn fe Arce (Mia Y8) Erika Collins (Alana Y8)
Simona Bartocci Fletcher (Leila Y8)

Absent: Hannatu Maikano (Aliannah Y7) Vincentia Odirichukwu (Chidinma Y8)

1. Minutes and matters arising

- Parents were notified with reminder messages about Year 9 parents' evenings on 26th April. Year 12 and Year 10 parents were informed accordingly. The college has provided face-to-face parent meetings in response to feedback from the parent surveys. The most recent Year 10 parents' evening took place at the college and was positively received. The college is continuing a model of virtual parents' evenings with Years 7-9 to maximise appointments. Year 9 parents will meet teachers at options evening in the same week. Years 10, 11 and 13 parents' evenings will take place onsite.
- Mr Arda contacted the interested members of the Parent Focus Group to initiate Friends of St Michael's Group. The group met to consider what a "Good" group looks like and established some guiding principles. Those discussions were later explained in agenda item 3 Friends of St Michael's.

2. Updates from the Principal

- Ms Corcoran shared key points since the last meeting.
- St Michael's is an outstanding Catholic school as reported within the Denominational inspection.
- The Lead Inspector has said she has never had so many parent feedback forms even with the change into a paper-based survey. There were overwhelmingly positive views from parents.
- Ms Corcoran thanked the parents for their contributions.
- The inspection report shows students continue to achieve consistently above average results with the most pleasing aspect that the school is deeply rooted in Salesian values as a community.
- Parents can be reassured that our school did not do anything different during the inspection. The lessons that were planned by the RE department reflected what was taught and this bodes well for future inspection. Staff went above and beyond for the inspection, but it is the consistent practice of the teachers that has significantly contributed to the report.
- Students were brilliant and wanted to share their RUAH values and student voice in many ways e.g. diversity ambassadors to contribute to the success of the school.
- Catholicity must always be the driving force of the school and this is the lived practice at St Michael's.
- The Diocesan inspection is now due in another four years' time and was a good trial run as we expect an Ofsted inspection visit.
- To have something in print that acknowledges the efforts of all staff in the Catholic life of the school. Prayers occur in all lessons – anywhere from Science lessons to form time.



- The GCSE examinations finished this afternoon with Further Maths. The students have worked very hard and we have ensured they are calm in school. We have talked through the exam process to make expectations clear. A-levels continue. Children in Y7-10 and 12 also have their end of year exams. A revision section is shared on the website. The college recognises the pressures of exam week, so mental health support is in place for students. Metacognition work is continuing to aid revision.
- The priorities are the continued focus on learning in lessons. Work experience opportunities are now one week in Year 10 for safeguarding and logistical reasons. Year 12 also have work experience with a placement or mentoring workshop. The college can organise mentoring opportunities with great links in Year 12.
- Enrichment opportunities are being set up in the last week of term to promote cultural capital so some students benefit from visits such as areas of London, the Science Museum or Brighton where they have not been before. The college looks to subsidise or reduce rates where possible.
- For our sixth form students there is a three-day induction taking place (Tue 27th June).
- An update on the uniform – the college has looked at the cost difference in September. The new Year 7 will be wearing the new uniform including the new tie and blouses, where necessary. The second hand uniform including shoes and old items from Year 11 have been donated to build a stock. The new tie is replacing the house badges which are environmentally unfriendly. Trousers or skirts are the option for girls, for example. White shirts with a top button are to accommodate the new tie. The students in Y7-10 will not be using the new blazer, so donations of older uniform are helpful.
- There are two more days of national strikes on 5th July and 7th July. The Year 6 induction will continue on 5th July with available staff. Events will happen for Year 10 on these days.
- The reality is that school funding has not kept up with expenses. It is getting more difficult to recruit for teachers. We have low staff turnover and recruit quality teachers with no compromise on teaching.
- If the teacher pay announcement is unfunded, then schools will not have enough for staffing or running costs such as resourcing catering to textbooks.
- Strike action is a personal decision and is difficult for our staff, but any colleague who participates has their rights respected considering our Salesian values. Students are also supportive and understand.
- The position in Southwark is that we used to be a Voluntary Aided school. St Michael's became an academy to have the ability to make its own financial decisions on services acquired by the college.
- St Michael's have had the benefits of being a single academy trust while working in partnership with other schools.
- Southwark has moved towards creating multi-academy trusts. St Michael's works with Bonus Pastor and a network of primary schools. The schools offer leadership support to each other. The primary schools have masterclasses. This arrangement has developed into a more formalised proposal as St Benedict, the patron saint of students. St Michael's will still have its own uniform, etc. although belonging to St Benedict. Staff can share practice across schools with further potential opportunities.
- 700 applications for 150 places with admissions this year. However, it is important to plan for falling rolls.
- **Action:** Ms Corcoran will be writing to parents to outline the needs of St Michael's and students in the context of moving towards the multi-academy trust. Parents are to be a working party to provide feedback.

3. Friends of St Michael's

- Aidan Keightley introduced the Friends of St Michael's group. The meeting of the group took place in April with Marcin as the Governor link and other parents. The group looked at what a good group would be. It was about looking at existing good practice, for families to meet, a sustainable group that embraced RUAH values and to support students, teachers, parents and all of those in the school.
- Objectives include being able to collaboratively plan fun and affordable events in line with the college's RUAH values. This came from the discussion and for events to be enjoyable for volunteers to return.



- We want to improve parental involvement and to show the culture and diversity of the community. We discussed about funding and financial arrangements at an early stage.
- Aidan is volunteering for the Parent Showcase event which takes place Thursday 6th July. A web page is set up for Friends of St Michael's on the college website.
- The Parent Showcase features a parent stall with refreshments. Arrangements have been made for some refrigeration and freezer facilities with the main canteen kitchen.
- We have Mr Martin, who has been a parent volunteer himself for his children to support the event as well as Aidan and Magdalene Brimah to volunteer for the evening. During the day, Aidan and Simona Bartocci-Fletcher are able to support the setup of the stall and moving of donations during the day.
- **Action:** Parents to pass on information about Friends of St Michael's and to invite others to the event. More parent volunteers are still needed.
- **Action:** Friends of St Michael's to produce a flyer to publicise information about the school from the perspectives of parents.
- Ms Corcoran spoke about the new academic year and the importance of continuing to promote the college.
- **Action:** Friends of St Michael's volunteer parents to attend Monday 25th September 2023 to talk to prospective parents about their experience of the college.
- Question from Maebh Glemser – she suggested a termly newsletter with upcoming events. She asked if parents actively join or by being a parent are they automatically a member? The second question was about a possible event such as a baking cakes amongst parents to promote friendly competition. Aidan also expressed that there was interest in an international event.
- Maebh Glemser asked also if it was possible for match funding as an association as a next step with connections from big firms for matched funding. Mr Arda said that the group has met once and the priority was to first understand its purpose and that the financial aspects are a significant commitment that will take time to resolve for the group to develop into foundation and to avail of Gift Aid or other contributions.
- **Action:** Questions to be put to the Friends of St Michael's about how the group might develop with future events and financial arrangements.

AOB

- The meeting ended at 18:00.

Minutes to be sent via EduLink