



# THE LINK

*A fortnightly Newsletter for the pupils, parents and staff of  
St Michael's Catholic College  
Issue 240 - June 2025*



## St Michael's Catholic College Continued Outstanding Ofsted Success

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that St Michael's Catholic College has been awarded the highest possible judgement of Outstanding in all five categories in the recent Ofsted inspection which took place on the 29th and 30th April 2025. It is a remarkable achievement for the school, especially as St Michael's has achieved the best possible outcome in an Ofsted inspection for the third consecutive time. Only a very small number of schools achieve this accolade which is testament to the hard work, commitment and shared ambition of the entire school community.

As a school we are exceptionally proud of the findings in the inspection report which highlight the highest standards and exemplary practice across every area of school life:

Quality of Education; Behaviour and Attitudes; Personal Development; Leadership and Management and the Sixth Form.



What Ofsted Recognised

*"The school's Salesian values of 'Respect, Understanding, Affection and Humour' are firmly embedded across the school"*



Read the full report here:

<https://www.stmichaelscollege.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/10379185-St-Michaels-Catholic-College-150937-Final-PDF.pdf>

Highlights from our Ofsted report include:

### The School:

- The school's Salesian values of 'respect, understanding, affection and humour' are firmly embedded across the school.
- The school provides students with an excellent education which prepares them exceptionally well for their next steps.
- Enrichment opportunities bring the curriculum to life for pupils.
- There are high expectations for pupils' behaviour, the school is purposeful and calm.
- Difference is celebrated at the school.
- The school invests significant time in exploring mental health and well-being so pupils have effective strategies to use.
- Parents and carers are highly positive about the school's academic rigour and pastoral care.
- Leaders are reflective and ambitious for the children in their care.



What Ofsted Recognised

*"Enrichment opportunities bring the curriculum to life for pupils"*

What Ofsted Recognised

*"Difference is celebrated at the school. Pupils are empathetic and build a strong understanding about the world around them"*

What Ofsted Recognised

*"The school provides students with an excellent education which prepares them exceptionally well for their next steps"*

What Ofsted Recognised

*"There are high expectations for pupils' behaviour, the school is purposeful and calm"***Our Pupils:**

- Pupils conduct themselves with great maturity and kindness.
- Pupils are strongly committed to their learning.
- Pupils produce high quality work and articulate difficult concepts well.
- Pupils achieve high outcomes, including in the sixth form.
- Pupils develop a strong sense of responsibility and leadership skills.

**Our Staff:**

- Staff are proud to work at the school.
- Teachers have strong subject knowledge.
- Teachers know their pupils well and have high aspirations for them.
- Teachers give pupils ample time to apply and hone their skills.
- Staff are given strong professional development.

Ms F. Corcoran our Headteacher and also Interim Director of Secondary Education at St Benedict Catholic Academy Trust said:

'It is very significant and especially important to us that the school's Salesian ethos and values of 'respect, understanding, affection and humour' have been highlighted as being firmly embedded across the school. The outstanding judgements in all categories affirm and validate the real and lasting difference this ethos and ambition makes to the lives of our students and how this ensures they are brought to the fullness of life through the highest quality Catholic education and pastoral care.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our students, staff and governors for their consistent dedication, positive attitudes and service to St Michael's Catholic College and also to our parents, carers and the leaders and trustees of St Benedict Catholic Academy Trust for their ongoing support and commitment to working in partnership with us to secure the best possible outcomes for our students. We all share in this success and are committed to St Michael's continuing to be a beacon of excellence for students now and in the future.'

Mr J. Ronan, CEO of St Benedict Catholic Academy Trust said:

'We are immensely proud of St Michael's Catholic College for achieving 'Outstanding' across all areas in their recent Ofsted inspection. This exceptional outcome is a testament to the dedication of the entire school community – the hardworking pupils, the highly skilled and committed staff and governors, and the supportive parents and carers.

We especially congratulate the inspirational leadership team for their reflective and ambitious leadership which has led to this outstanding achievement. St Michael's Catholic College continues to be a beacon of excellence, providing an outstanding education that aligns perfectly with the values and high standards of the St Benedict Catholic Academy Trust'

St Michael's Catholic College June 2025



## Year 8 Students Study the Origins of Modern English at Dr Johnson's House in the Heart of London's Old City

8F were excited to spend the day in Dr Johnson's House to contemplate local history the evolution of the English language and the origins of "correct spelling." The museum closed for us and allowed St Michael's the run of the whole house for the day!

In May we were blessed to go to Dr Johnson's House in the City of London, one of the oldest houses in the UK. When we arrived we were greeted by a historian on the bottom floor who told us about the early life of Doctor Johnson, who he was, why this is his house and why it was named after him. Inside the bottom floor there were many portraits of famous people of the time who knew Dr Johnson. One of them was Francis Barber, who was the first Black man to open up a school in England and had a massive impact on Dr Johnson's life, who adopted him while he was in deep grieving for his wife who had died.

On the second floor we saw the dining rooms and there were two rooms which both were used for eating and when they were finished eating in one room the men would move to another room to discuss "important" things such as business and how much their property cost, while the women retired to do embroidery and music. In one of the other rooms there was a big fireplace with a secret little door beside it, where they would put the wood for the fireplace inside.

After this we had an activity to match the old English words to their meaning. Some of the words even Dr Johnson did not know the meaning of! It was fascinating to think of how language had changed and continues to change today. One of the words was "vaticide" which meant murder of poets (any word with the "cide" suffix means murder) and another word was "cameleopard" which meant giraffe!



On the third floor there was a room which contained many books and it was a library and we were told that many of the books inside the cabinets were actual books written by Dr Johnson in the 18th century. Inside this room we could also see two books inside a protected glass cabinet that were original copies of the dictionary that Dr Johnson published. In the middle of this room there was also an old chair with a rope blocking people from sitting on it. This was where Dr Johnson sat and wrote his dictionary - it had even worn through where he was leaning heavily!

Our next activity was to work out what the word was from the dictionaries that existed before Dr Johnson - for example a dog was listed as "most commonly known animal", it must have been impossible! (all definitions in a dictionary are meant to be unique). Then we saw 18th century clothing on a rack and we got to try on old English wigs that were used in the portraits around the house.

On the fourth floor we saw a table with massive books on it which were copies of the original dictionary created by Dr Johnson - because there were so many words it was two books instead of one. I was surprised to find that when we turned the pages to the letter "X" there were no words at all because Dr Johnson thought that words beginning with the letter x were all foreign (Greek). Then we had an activity to pick a word for the bowl and look for the meaning of it in the dictionary. I looked up the word "Slubberdegullion" which meant a worthless person then the word "Pissburnt" which meant a urine stain. In the ceiling there were pages from the works of Dr Johnson which made the room look even more fascinating. Then we got to write our names on paper with ink and a goose feather like Dr Johnson had to.

My favourite part was looking up old words with fascinating meanings. I would love to go on another trip to see the history of London.

Ayobammi S (8RU)



## Debate Mate Success



Last week, after a year of hard work at lunchtime and afterschool debate club, our Year 7 and Year 10 debate teams were able to show off their incredible talent at the Debate Mate x SSLP end of year debate showcase!

Both year groups demonstrated articulate arguments, and impressive debate style with our Year 7s achieving a clean sweep, winning every one of their debates! Our Year 10s also put in a strong performance, and were highly commended for their willingness to adapt and form a break away team to allow participants from another school to be involved with each debate.

Despite our passionate arguments on topics such as if AI should be feared, or footballers being paid the same as public sector workers, it was Kingsdale and St. Saviour's who made it to the final showcase, with Kingsdale emerging as the overall champions.

We are all incredibly proud of all our debaters and their efforts, and looking forward to more competitions next year - Year 7 have vowed that next year's victory will be theirs!

A huge congratulations to Isabella M-O, Martha W, Janka P, Ariam G, Seb H and Lola B in Year 7, and Miley N-O, Samuela S, Esther E, Martha K, Monique M, Angel O and Angelica W in Year 10. We can't wait to see what our debate teams achieve in the future!

Miss E Stewart





## Shining Stars of the Maths Challenge 2025: Celebrating Our Top Mathematicians!

We are proud to recognise the incredible achievements of four exceptional students who stood out in this year's UKMT Junior and Intermediate Maths Challenges (JMC and IMC). Their dedication, perseverance, and mathematical brilliance have truly made them stars of St Michael's.



### **Marcel H, 9RU – Our Overall Maths Challenge Star**

Marcel's outstanding consistency and passion for mathematics have made him a familiar name in the St Michael's Maths Challenge Hall of fame. From being Best in school in JMC in 2023 to being, again, Best in school in IMC in 2025 (also the youngest in the IMC cohort), Marcel has demonstrated remarkable skill over the years. Although he came second in Year 8 overall (lost to his friend Cassandra who won the title in Year 8), his performance remains exceptional across all year groups.

Marcel has also shown true commitment outside of the competition arena—he attended every UKMT Maths Club session hosted by Miss Nguyen for two years running, constantly seeking to stretch his problem-solving skills. Without doubt, Marcel is this year's Overall Maths Challenge Star—an inspiring example to all young mathematicians in our school.

### **Michael O, 8MA – Our Olympiad Competitor**

A special mention goes to Michael O, who recently took on the prestigious Junior Mathematical Olympiad—the UK's most demanding maths competition for students in Years 7 and 8.

Before sitting the intense two-hour paper, Michael calmly took a moment to pray before tackling some of the toughest mathematical problems of the year. His quiet focus, determination, and courage to attempt such a high-level challenge speak volumes about his character and potential. We eagerly await the results, but no matter the outcome, Michael has already made us proud with his effort and mindset.

### **Kassandra G, 9MA – Making St Michael's History**

Last year, Kassandra G made history by achieving Best in School for the Junior Maths Challenge 2024—beating all her classmates. Despite this incredible success, Kassandra has remained wonderfully humble, a quiet role model for others who shows that true achievement comes with grace and modesty.

Her dedication continues to inspire, setting a high standard for future students to follow.

### **Marlene C-T, 7VI – Rising Junior Star**

Following in Kassandra's footsteps is Marlene C-T, who recently earned the title of Best in Year 7 for the Junior Maths Challenge 2025. Marlene's potential shines brightly, and she represents a new wave of talent in the school's mathematical community. We look forward to seeing her journey unfold in the years ahead.



Last year Junior Kangaroo picture





This year's Best in school and best in year Junior Maths Challenge

### Adham A, 9MA – Making St Michael's History in the Junior Kangaroo

One of last year's most remarkable stories comes from Adham A, who narrowly missed the official qualifying threshold for the Junior Kangaroo 2024—the prestigious follow-on round of the Maths Challenge. But thanks to Miss Nguyen's leap of faith in signing him up regardless, Adham seized the opportunity and made school history by becoming the first-ever St Michael's student to earn a Merit in the Junior Kangaroo.

Adham's quiet determination and surprise success are proof that belief—in oneself and from others—can lead to extraordinary results. His achievement has set a brand-new record for St Michael's and has paved the way for future students to aim even higher.

Congratulations to all these brilliant mathematicians—and to every student who took part. Your enthusiasm and effort remind us that maths is not only about solving problems but also about growing curiosity, confidence, and creativity. We are proud of each and every one of you!

Miss T Nguyen

## APB Composer 2



In the morning he ran away from me  
The thought of all day in the APB  
More terrifying for him than me.

On my return he's sitting there.  
My love and care for him I made clear.

'I felt a funeral in my brain'  
He declared is what he's reading now.  
And  
Then he explained to me what the poem meant to him.  
"It's ok to be yourself" said he.  
And I couldn't agree more.  
For this my brilliant lad I have so much hope in store.

Ms. P. Belvett



## Catholic Year of Jubilee Tea Party for local senior citizens and grandparents





## Chaplaincy Corner

### What's been happening in the faith life of the school?

- As part of the Year of the Jubilee the college hosted its first Senior Citizens Tea Party. Mr Kelly and Miss Casey spent time contacting people in our local parishes and inviting guests to enjoy a homemade scone, the college band and performances from Year 12 LAMDA. The Year 12 chaplaincy team worked tirelessly setting up, refilling teas and even had time a little dance to Daniel O'Donnell!
- The Year 12 CAFOD Young Leaders representatives attended their graduation celebration at St George's Cathedral.
- Mr Mullik and students from the ALL ARE WELCOME group led assemblies on diversity and inclusion linked to Catholic Social Teaching and the LGBTQ+ community.

### A reflection on Pentecost..

Pentecost is not just a one off event; it's an ongoing reality. The same Holy Spirit who descended on the apostles dwells within us through baptism and confirmation.

Are we open to the Spirit's breath? Do we invite the Spirit to fill our dry places, to revive our hopes, and to inspire us with new vision?

Are we willing to be set ablaze? Are we allowing the Spirit to purify us, to ignite our passion for justice, compassion, and truth?

Are we embracing the diversity of the Spirit's gifts? The Spirit gifts each of us differently, not for our own glory, but for the building up of the Body of Christ and the service of the world. Are we recognizing and utilizing these gifts for God's purposes?

Are we allowing the Spirit to intercede for us? In our weaknesses and uncertainties, do we lean on the Spirit's perfect prayer?

Pentecost is the Church's birthday, a vibrant reminder that we are empowered, guided, and transformed by the Holy Spirit. May we respond to this extraordinary gift by living boldly, loving unconditionally, and speaking courageously of the "marvels of God" in our own unique tongues and lives.

Miss Casey  
Chaplaincy Co-Ordinator

### The Word of the Lord

#### Acts 2

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues[a] as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,[b] 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 15 These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning!







## Upcoming Events



### June

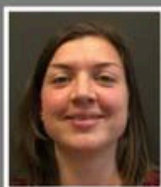
Monday 23rd	Sports' Award Evening
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday 24th	Sixth Form Induction Day   Taster lessons - 6 <sup>th</sup> form
	Honours Pathway trip
Thursday 26th	Year 11 Prom

### July

Tuesday 1st	New Year 6 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 2nd	Year 6 Induction Day
Monday 7th-Friday 11th	Years 10&12 Work Experience Week
Thursday 10th   16:00	St Michael's Showcase Evening
Monday 14th-Wednesday 16th	Art & Enrichment Week
Monday 14th-Wednesday 16th	Geography Field Trip
Thursday 17th	Sports Day
Friday 18th	End of Term

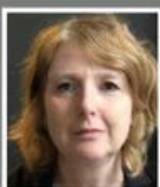


## Safeguarding Officers



**Designated  
Safeguarding Lead:**

**Ms Jo Nottage**  
Contact: 0207 237 6432 or  
[j.nottage@stmichaelscollege.org.uk](mailto:j.nottage@stmichaelscollege.org.uk)



**Safeguarding officer &  
Deputy Designated Lead:**

**Mrs Debbie Freegard**  
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**Safeguarding Officer:**

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**Mr Allan Daly**  
Contact: 0207 237 6432 or  
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**Overall Responsibility:**

**Ms Felicity Corcoran - Principal**  
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