



THE LINK

*A fortnightly Newsletter for the pupils, parents and staff of
St Michael's Catholic College
Issue 242 - September 2025*



A Word from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first edition of The Link this academic year. It has been a positive start to the new school year and wonderful to see our corridors and classrooms bustling with energy once again.

I would like to start by extending my heartfelt congratulations to our incredible Year 11 and Year 13 students from last year. We are immensely proud of their outstanding achievements in their GCSE, A' Level, and CTEC results. Their hard work, determination, and resilience have truly paid off, and we wish them all the very best as they embark on the next exciting chapter of their lives. You can read more about their impressive results here:

<https://www.stmichaelscollege.org.uk/school-news/exceptional-a-level-and-ctec-results-2025/>
<https://www.stmichaelscollege.org.uk/school-news/st-michaels-catholic-college-celebrates-best-ever-gcse-results/>

This year, we are delighted to welcome our new Year 7 and Year 12 students to our school community and induct them into our Salesian ethos. We have been so impressed by their enthusiasm and positive start, and we look forward to supporting them as they settle into life at St Michael's and discover all the opportunities available to them.



It was also pleasing to see so many parents and carers attend our year group curriculum information evenings at the start of the new school year. They are an important way for us to share key information with you about what the year ahead holds for your child.

This week, I had the privilege of taking our Head Girl and Head Boy, along with representatives from our Young Salesians and student chaplaincy team, to the Southwark Diocese Beginning of Year Mass at St George's Cathedral. It was a beautiful and uplifting occasion where we had the chance to connect with staff and students from our St Benedict Catholic Academy Trust partner schools, reinforcing the strong bonds within our wider community.

Looking ahead, we are excited to showcase our school to prospective families. We look forward to welcoming visitors to our upcoming open mornings and evening next week, where we can share more about our success, ethos and Salesian values.

I am looking forward to the year ahead and working in partnership with you all to ensure every student reaches their full potential.

With best wishes,
Ms F. Corcoran
Principal

Welcome Mass



On Tuesday 2nd September we were once again, as a college community, welcomed into the Most Holy Trinity Church at Dockhead and shared in this year's welcome Mass for Year 7. Canon Alan graciously led in a celebration of the new year and the journey our new cohort will be embarking upon. Our readings were reflective of the joy of youth, the innocence of the unknown and the importance that younger people have in our ever-changing world. The first reading reflected the story of the calling of King David as a young, humble and pious follower of the Lord. The Gospel of Jesus and the Little Children taught us about the innocence of youth. As a college community, our ethos the RUAH values is present in all that we do, and coming together for this reflective time was another chance to remember this, as was highlighted in our prayers of intercession. Varying pupils from across Year 7 read impeccably well and were able to voice the stories and morals we were listening to with perfect ease. At different points, we shared in song, led by Mr and Mrs Laurence – opening with the roof lifting 'All Our Welcome' – which is always a beautiful and symbolic way to begin the Mass and the start of the Year, now our official College song. Ms Corcoran ended the service with a final message and an official welcome to all the Year 7s and their parents, some of whom were in attendance. It was a lovely service with many wonderful contributions to make it a great success. We thank all of those involved.

Miss R. Casey

It was an honour to be chosen to read at the new Year 7 Mass, it was a really good experience and felt like such a good way to start the new year and my time at St Michael's.

Maya G – 7DA



St Michael's Hosts SSLP Launch Event 2025-26



This month we were delighted to welcome our partner schools from across the borough to the Southwark Schools Learning Partnership (SSLP) launch event. This partnership has provided numerous opportunities for our students over the last decade and St Michael's is proud to have been central to the success of this programme across London. Initiatives for students have included inter-collegiate debating competitions, Model United Nations conferences, Art History, STEM and Music programmes as well as bespoke support for our

6th Form Oxbridge applicants. Next month, 22 of our Year 8 students will take part in a professional opera production of Henry Purcell's Dido and Aeneas at Southwark Cathedral!

At the launch event, delegates were, particularly, inspired by a presentation from Yousef and Mirabel in Year 11, evaluating the AI project that they completed for SSLP last year. This was a cross-campus project with JAGS public school that both provided a platform to showcase the creativity of young artists across South London, as well as serving as an experiment into human interaction with AI technology. Delegates were also privileged to hear talks from Tiffany Philipsen-Allen from Streatham and Clapham High School and Dr Margaret Hunnaball from The Schools Partnership Alliance who confirmed that the SSLP was amongst the top schools partnerships in the UK and had been used to model best practice nationally.

St Michael's are looking forward to expanding this collaborative work with our partner schools in Southwark and increasing the opportunities for all of our students.

Mr D. Magnoff



London Schools Symphony Orchestra



On the 15th of September, the GCSE Music classes from Year 10 and 11 experienced the full sound of a symphony orchestra playing a live concert at the Barbican Hall. This was an inspiring concert performed by the London Schools Symphony Orchestra (LSSO) made up of talented musicians that are currently in Year 7-13 in schools across Greater London. Some alumni returned at the end of Year 13 including our own Caspar G who played Principal French horn for the last time before heading off to Oxford University to study Music. The 30 pupils in Year 10 and 11 gave him a big cheer at the end of the concert when the conductor got Caspar to stand up in recognition of his contribution to the solo melodies he played in the wonderful Symphony No 5 by Shostakovich. A very dramatic piece written in 1937 as fear swept through Russian society. The music performed in the concert helped pupils to understand the timbres of the instruments of the orchestra that always sound more vibrant when heard live rather than on sound recordings heard through speakers or headphones. A wide range of musical styles were performed in the concert including Sibelius's Finlandia, written in 1899 when Finland was still under Russian rule. The music expresses the desire for Finland to have its own identity. The Russian theme continued with Lyadov's Enchanted Lake which is Lyadov's best-known work, depicting a lake, undisturbed and unpeopled, as if a spell had left it frozen in time. The free tickets to LSSO concerts are greatly appreciated by the pupils attending. The standard of playing is so high that one can shut their eyes and almost believe they are hearing the LSO rather than the LSSO! Many thanks to Mr Clement and Miss Roshier for their support taking the pupils on this trip.

Mr D. Laurence



Catherine D and Aston S Win Deputy Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy Elections!

Congratulations to Ashton and Catherine who managed to win the popular vote from their fellow Year 12 students, staff and SLT. Although the results were very close, both candidates are worthy and clear winners who managed to appeal to a broad cross-section of the St Michael's population with messages of hope, optimism and innovation. Please find brief extracts from their winning speeches below:

Election of Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl of St Michael's Catholic College 2025-26



As Deputy Head Girl my vision would be simple: to work with you all so that our school isn't just great but the top school in Southwark and to make our already great school even greater. Trust that I will listen, trust that I will act, and trust that I will always represent you with honesty and dedication. Together, we can make St Michael's a place where every student feels valued, every voice is heard, and every talent has the chance to shine.

Catherine D - 12B



Over my 5 years at St Michael's, I have seen how powerful it is when students support each other and I want to build that kind of unity, not only in Year 12 but throughout the whole school. I do not believe that leadership is about being the loudest person in the room, but rather being a person who others can rely on. This quality is necessary because as head boy I will serve the needs and desires of the entire school community, not just my friends and peers.

Ashton S - 12A



Chaplaincy Corner

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

- The start of the year began in the traditional way with the Year 7 Welcome Mass at Most Holy Trinity Dockhead, lead by Canon Alan McClean. Miss Casey selected readers to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and to lead the year group in Bidding Prayers. Mr and Mrs Laurence accompanied the congregation on the piano. We started with 'All Our Welcome' – the song chosen to represent our school's Salesian ethos
- Preparations are underway to mark and celebrate St Michael's Feast Day, sixth formers and Miss Casey are working to arrange a host of fundraising activities to support the work of CAFOD
- Fr Keith continues to say our Friday Mass this year, with the first Mass led by 11 Mazzarello.
- Ms Corcoran, Mr Kelly and Mrs Bryant attended the Diocesan start of the Year Mass at St George's Cathedral along with 8 of our student chaplains
- John Nash from the Good News (formerly know as Gideon Bibles) came and delivered a wonderful assembly to our new Year 7s about the power of the Word of God, all students received a copy!
- Applications are open for this year's Young Salesians and Year 12 Chaplaincy Teams



The Word of the Lord

Mark 10:13-16 – Jesus and the Little Children

And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. 14 But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. 15 Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." 16 And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

A reflection to start the year...

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for welcoming the children.

Forgive us for the times we hinder others from coming to you. Help us to have the humble, trusting faith of a child. Teach us to receive your kingdom without pretence.

Thank you, Jesus, for your boundless love and for welcoming all. Fill us with a gentle spirit so we may never hinder anyone from knowing you.

Amen

Miss R Casey
Chaplaincy Co-Ordinator



Upcoming Events



September

Monday 29th | 11:30 & 16:30

Open Morning and Open Evening

Tuesday 30th | 11:30

Open Morning

October

Wednesday 1st | 11:30

Open Morning

Thursday 16th - Wednesday 22nd

Years 7-13 In -Class Assessments

Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th

INSET No Students in the College | End of term

November

Monday 3rd | 08:40

Back to College - ALL students

Tuesday 4th | 08:00

Morning Mocks | Maths

Tuesday 11th | 08:00

Morning Mocks | English

Tuesday 18th | 08:00

Morning Mocks | Maths

Thursday 20th | 16:00

Year 8 Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud

Monday 24th - Friday 28th

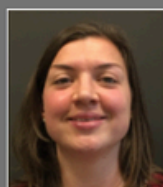
Year 11 & 13 Revision Week

Thursday 27th | 16:00

6th Form Open Evening



Safeguarding Team



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