

# St Michael's Catholic College

*Autumn Term 2025*



**RESPECT | UNDERSTANDING | AFFECTION | HUMOUR**  
**RUAH**

*“The breath of life that animates the soul”*



Our artwork is the creation of Anuoluwa O – Year 10 student

The illustration is of Mary, holding her new born child, a reminder of the true meaning of Christmas.

*I believe, Lord.*

*I believe that each of my students is your child.  
I believe that they are a reflection of your love.*

*I believe that each child possesses special gifts and talents,  
that you are entrusting me to help them discover these gifts  
and nurture those talents.*

*I believe that each child is trying to find you,  
And that I can be a model of how to look,  
How to live, how to pray.*

*I believe that my job is actually a mission, a ministry;  
That you have chosen me in this time and in this place  
To be there for these kids.*

*I believe that there is nothing haphazard about my day,  
About my experiences with my students or with their parents.  
It is all part of your plan.*

*I believe that you have chosen me, Lord.  
I believe.*

As with each year, we welcomed new staff at the college.

The Science department has been joined by Mr Udoh, Mr Lane and Mrs Suvarna, whilst MFL have gained Mr Whedoku. Humanities has added Mr Brown in History and Ms Monerville in Geography. The new Head of Business Studies is Mr Ferrity. Maths has been joined by Mr Chowdhury. The maternity cover for Psychology is Mr Edworthy and finally RE has gained Miss Asamoah.

Miss Wilson, a former student, had joined the Inclusion team working alongside students in Year 7.

A short, but special service was held on the 1st day of term to welcome our new staff members in the Chapel. Miss Casey led this as part of the new staff welcome, with a special focus and intention for a prosperous new year.

## YEAR 7 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 new 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.

Taking part in the Year 7 Welcome Mass was a nice way to start my time at the school. It made me feel included and helped me realise that everyone else is new and a bit nervous too. When we all sat together, listened, and joined in the prayers, it felt like we were becoming part of one big community. I liked being there with my new classmates and teachers because it made the school feel friendlier and less scary. The Welcome Mass helped me feel calmer about starting Year 7 and more excited about what's ahead

*Jan T-P – 7RU*







St Michael's Day was marked this year with a full week of events. On the 29th of September the school hosted open evening but during the day wings of Saint Michael went up in the main hall for all students and staff to be able to share messages of Hope and joy. On Thursday, the 2nd of October the sixth form chaplaincy groups in Years 12 and 13 ran a range of events after school to celebrate the festival. Miss Casey rented some party games and a candy floss machine which proved to be a real hit, once the Year 12 got the hang of it members of staff kindly donated themselves to the sponge a teacher activity at the very end which always is a crowd pleaser. Between games, tuck shop, karaoke, penalty shootout and a host of activities combined with online donations we've managed to make over £600 for this year's St Michael's Day festival. This money is going to be saved for awhile and contributed to as the year goes on with a hope of buying a CAFOD world gift.





St Micheal's day is a day that celebrates our school's Patron Saint, St Michael, the Archangel.

To celebrate the day, we had a festival at school. During the festival, I got to watch karaoke with my friends, play foosball and buy snacks at the tuck shop. After that we went to get some candy floss and throw water balloons at our teachers which was really fun. We all went home together laughing about the day, which by then was the end of the celebration.

*Kayden A-A – 7BC*

One of my most favourite events in St Michael's is most definitely St Michael's Day. I have gone almost every year and it is so enjoyable simply because everyone partakes and the entirety of the undercroft is dedicated to sweet-buying, raffle prizes, guess the sweets and karaoke, while on the football pitch free kicks are taking place. My favourite memory of this special day was two years ago seeing Mr Daly getting pied in the face and how long the lines were for the teachers. Similarly my second favourite was watching my friend fail so badly at the velcro darts that the sixth form were running, despite all the tips we all gave him he was not able to win any prizes.

In conclusion, St Michael's Day is a key tradition in our community and joins us all from Year 7 to sixth form and even the teachers.

*Enara A-G – 9RU*







For St Michael's Day 2025, I was tasked with photography. Most of, if not all of my pictures captured moments between students that I felt captured the energy and the true purpose of St Michael's Day. I preferred taking pictures of moments that were not posed; friends encouraging each other during karaoke, the teacher sponging highlighting just how close and comfortable our students feel with their teachers and my favourite, moments between the younger and older students, highlighting just how close the St Michael's community is. As someone that has been part of this community for so long, photographing these moments felt so special, and reminded me of why this school community is so valuable to so many.

*Asiri C-K – 12A*



Since September we have once again had weekly Mass in the college Chapel kindly led by Father Keith from Saint Mary's and Saint Michael's Church. The first Year 7 group to have Mass, on Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> November was 7 DaCosta (shown below). The focus of these Masses at St Michael's is to give students a chance to have their input and actively play a role in Mass. They selected their hymns of choice and helped to write the Prayers of the Faithful. Each week, no matter the form group, Mass has been well attended – with special Masses marking the Feast of St Michael and the Feast of Blessed Alexandrina DaCosta.



Every Friday at 8:00am, The pupils of St. Michael's are encouraged to attend morning mass with the duration of only 30 minutes.

Attending this mass allows students and teachers to....

- Deeply reconnect with God and start off their day with him.
- Receive grace and strengthen faith through The Eucharist.
- Communal gathering enforces a sense of unity .

*Ruby S – 8BC*

Taking part in Friday assemblies has improved my knowledge of God massively. Thanks to Fr. Keith's homilies I learn a lot more about the Bible in a fun manner because he makes it simple and easy to understand. Also, reading or doing the psalms helps me remember some quotes from the Bible. Friday masses also help me reflect for the rest of the day and calm down at the end of the week and help redirect my thoughts to God and Jesus. Also, Friday masses help me also prepare for Sunday mass because I have an idea of what may be read in Sunday mass. Fr. Keith makes the masses engaging and tells us often funny stories or jokes which helps me realise how fun and inspiring mass and church can be

*Adam S – 9VI*



Following its first successful year the Young Salesian program was bespoke to St Michaels influenced by RUAH values, the full program across all years was fully established this year. With a brand-new look website and ways to upload and track what they have been doing the Young Salesians now have a hub in which to share all the wonderful work that they have done. Students must do work both in and outside of school under the teachings of Respect, Understanding, Affection and Humour, lots of wonderful sources of evidence have already been uploaded via the website for Miss Casey to have a look at and monitor how they're getting on. Students are able to track by the upload tab on the website. This can be for example for Humour they are supporting in an assembly, or if they led the prayer in form a few times that week they will be able to track that under Understanding. The new group of Young Salesians in Year 7 was officially launched in October 2025.



All my life I have wanted to join a youth group that was about our faith (Christianity). I believe that we should follow Saint John Bosco's way to become a better version of ourselves. I was inspired by Saint don Bosco. He believed in the goodness of young people. He emphasised joy, reason, religion, and loving-kindness towards people. Young Salesians learn to serve for others, strengthen their passion for God and learn to be kind to others and spread God's and Saint John Bosco's teachings. Being a Young Salesian makes me a better version of myself since it helps me to be just like Jesus and spread kindness to people around. I believe people join the Young Salesians not just to belong to a group, but to belong to a mission — one that shapes hearts, strengthens faith, and brings joy to others.

*Nneamaka U – 7MA*





I wanted to join Young Salesians because it gives me the chance to be more involved in my school community and to help others. I like that it focuses on kindness, teamwork, and supporting people, which are important values to me. Being part of Young Salesians also allows me to take responsibility and make a positive difference in school life.

*Conor G – 7MA*



As part of being a Young Salesian now in Year 10, having started in the original Faith in Action programme in Years 7 and 8, I have attended the Mass in favour of St Michaels Day, in order to just have a moment with God as it had been a while since I was at a mass at school. It was an illuminating yet also tranquil experience, not only because of spiritual presence, but also because of the collective feeling of so many other students and teachers around me. Furthermore, I gladly took the opportunity to set up and clean the chapel at school, which was a very special and wonderful opportunity for me to relax and do good for others and for the Creator, God.

*Maia J – 10VI*







## YOUNG SALESIAN GRADUATION



The first ever young Salesians graduation took place in October 2025. Father Keith joined us in the afternoon for a lovely service where parents were invited to attend the graduation of the young solutions who were graduating that evening. Father Keith blessed the newly made and designed badges, and shared a short reflection for all people who were in attendance. Ms Corcoran also welcomed everyone at the start of the service reflecting on the work that the Young Salesians have been doing around the college. Miss Casey led the service but was assisted by the Year 10 Young Salesians Tobi, Kobby and Zachary students from other year groups also shared a nice reflection on their time as being a Young Salesians thank you to Sophia in Year 8 and Chiamaka in Year 9. This was a special service as it was the first ever one and the students wear their badges around the college now with pride.

The Young Salesians and I have just had our first graduation this year which showed our devotion and dedication on going through this wonderful journey together, each hardship we had to go through taught us something, it helped us be more stronger to reach our goals and thanks to Miss Casey, helping us since when we first entered the Young Salesians we have now been able to earn our first badge of the term I would like to say thank you for everything and hope next year will be the same.

*Alexa M – 8MA*

After a busy year full of amazing events, new opportunities and a lot of team work it finally got to the day where everyone was able to celebrate what we've achieved. The Young Salesian's first ever graduation! It was a very honouring and exciting day where parents, teachers and students from Year 8-10 could celebrate the achievements students have gained for the past year. We had a very heart touching speech by our parish priest congratulating all of our hardworking participants. All students were given a badge that by the end of this project will spell our RUAH. The strong four values our school stands by.

*Elisabeth R – 8SA*

Graduation for a Young Salesians is a big part of our time. As it was our first time it was even more special and meant a lot to everyone. I even had the opportunity to create a speech which made me feel more involved in Young Salesians. Getting our badges was one of the standouts of our evening as we had been working so hard to move on to year two of Young Salesians.

*Sophia S – 8SA*



## YOUNG SALESIAN GRADUATION



The Salesian awards graduation is a ceremony where every member of this group comes together to celebrate our achievements every year. There is always a video which reflects on what we have done in the past year. It consists of our participation in charity events, helping around the school and overall being a community who welcomes everyone with open arms. Parents and carers can come to watch their children get their new badges which represent the word 'RUAH', once a year we get one of the letters to finally build it up into a full word. The local priest comes in to bless our badges for us to keep up our hard-work and strengthen our determination to be RUAH. After that, each year group has 1-3 readers and they make a speech about being part of Young Salesians from their own point of view. This gives them a chance to boost their confidence by speaking to a wide range of people. In my opinion, the Young Salesian award graduation makes me feel seen and is a reward for my diligent duties of being a Young Salesian.

*Nkemji D – 9VI*

Graduating from Young Salesians and preparing to move into Year 9 is a moment that fills me with a mix of excitement and emotion, as it marks the end of a meaningful chapter of my life and the beginning of a new journey filled with fresh challenges and opportunities. Throughout the 2 years I've spent at St Michael's, I have experienced moments of joy, hard work, and personal growth, all of which have helped shape the person I am becoming. I am incredibly grateful for the support and guidance I received from my teachers, who consistently encouraged me to believe in myself and to strive to do my best, even when things felt difficult. I would especially like to thank Miss Casey, whose patience, dedication, and belief in me made a lasting impact on my journey at Young Salesians. Her encouragement and care created an environment where I felt supported and motivated to grow, and I am truly thankful for everything she has done. I would also like to extend my thanks to all the other teachers and staff who played an important role in my education and wellbeing. As I step forward into Year 9, I do so with gratitude for the memories I've made, pride in how far I've come, and excitement for the opportunities that lie ahead. Young Salesians will always hold a special place in my heart, and I will carry its lessons with me as I continue my journey.

*Aceline P – 9SA*



The Young Salesian's graduation was truly amazing. I read a speech to the parents and students, and was thrilled at the joy and pride I felt in the moment. Plus, when I was helping lead the graduation ceremony, bringing up all the other readers and ceremony leaders is a feeling I'll cherish. Then, receiving my badge and proudly wearing it as a Young Salesian was fantastic. I also helped in mass and the chapel, praying and worshipping as a community, and I also got to bring up the communion to the priest, which was really an honour.

*Kobby B-A – 10DA*



One the first day of the Salesian Exchange the Young Salesians going on the Florence Trip shared their presentation about our area. We then went on to do an activity strengthening our similarities with the Italians. After we got put into our groups to then properly introduce ourselves to the Italians. After lunch, we then met up again to go to the Tower of London and bond together whilst exploring the area. One thing I enjoyed about that first day was getting to compare my similarities with the Italians and making friends. On the second day we met up again at the O2 and to end our day we spent the evening bowling and communicating and having fun. On the Final Day we spent our last few hours teaching them what it was like around St Michael's then after lunch we went into the assembly hall to then see their presentation which was very motivating and engaging. The one thing I will miss about these three days is spending time with the Italians and also having fun with them and exploring landmarks here and there.

*Stefan P – 8RU*



Once again St Michael's welcomed our Florence counter parts and hosted students and staff for a three day, packed full exchange. The Italians were welcomed with a short presentation, then off to lessons with students in Years 8 and Years 12 (who had take part before). The two days of lessons and visiting London ended with a bowling party. We look forward to the return to Florence in February.





This year, the Year 12 chaplaincy team has once again grown in numbers, they were over 45 applicants at first and 32 places were initially confirmed. After some deliberation and cooperation eight additional members were added, this means this year's chaplaincy team in Year 12 is a staggering 40 members. They have been incredible role models for all students and staff as St Michaels, they have really dedicated themselves to this new position and have consistently showed hard work time and time again. Since the very start of the group being announced, they have been intrinsic and vital in running various events, supporting younger students on different occasions as well as helping to lead the faith life of the college via attending weekly masses and supporting in liturgy of the word during assemblies. They have worked tirelessly in the buildup to Christmas fundraising on several days sharing ideas and most importantly they created a college wide advent calendar to allow daily reflections on the scriptures of both the New and the Old Testament all in preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ. We look forward to seeing the hard work that they continue to commit to. 7 of these students are also the school CAFOD Representatives on behalf of the whole team, and the work they all do is to support the work CAFOD do worldwide.

I joined the Year 12 chaplaincy because I wanted to continue on with my journey as a Christian after my confirmation. I believe that chaplaincy is a great way to get closer to God, as well as giving back to the community and spreading our RUAH and Salesian values. In addition, I wanted to make a positive impact on our school community during a crucial time in our lives, being the start of adolescence. I saw it as an opportunity to provide emotional and spiritual support to my classmates by helping them strengthen their faith and motivation. Being a part of a team that fosters connection and compassion resonated with my own values and beliefs, and I was excited to work with others to create a comfortable and supportive environment within the Chaplaincy team. This role not only allows me to contribute to the school community, but also helps me grow personally, mentally and most importantly, spiritually.

*Daniel A – 12B*



Once again 7 of the students in Year 12 Chaplaincy were welcomed by CAFOD Young Leadership Trainer Kirstie Hutchinson, who shared with the students the work CAFOD have been recently supporting. They were charged with 'What is our plan for the year' and decided their motto should be Small Actions, Big Reactions. So far, they have planned and shared assemblies, informed the rest of the wider group and started work on supporting CAFOD in buying a World Gift.



As a young leader for CAFOD the training day was a great and inspiring experience, introducing us to what it means to create meaningful change no matter how big or small the action is, really aligning with our motto of small actions creating big reactions. The stories of Adi and Abbiot from Ethiopia (two individuals who helped bring accessible water supplies to their communities) highlighted the importance of compassion and solidarity. Meeting other young leaders from St Philomena's made the experience even more motivating, despite it being somewhat awkward initially as we shared ideas and got to know each other, it became much more comfortable, especially knowing that there are other young people out there who also would like to make a difference. Overall, the day helped me understand CAFOD's mission on a deeper level to stand alongside communities, empower them and work together to build a fairer world

*Keziah A – 12B*







Last week at school, I helped at a tuck shop for KS3 and all the helpers had to wear Christmas hats, which made it feel really festive. The tuck shop sold lots of different snacks and it was busy and fun during lunch. A lot of people from the Young Salesian group helped and everyone worked really well together, some people counted the money, others sold tuck and others gave change. The event was enjoyable for the people selling and the people buying and we raised a lot of money for the OAP Hampers for Christmas.

*Lola B – 8MA*

Throughout advent all students in chaplaincy teams, whether it would be in the lower school or in the sixth form have worked to fundraise to allow for the St Michael's community to once again give back to those in our local surrounding areas. We have enjoyed several tuck shops, games and a Christmas grotto all in aid of raising funds to support the hampers that we create for local pensioners.





## A WORD AND A PRAYER



Dear Lord,

As the autumn term draws to a close,  
we give thanks for the gifts we have received;  
For the hard work of our students,  
the commitment of our parents,  
and the dedication of our staff.  
We thank you for the lessons  
learned, the friendships formed,  
and  
the Salesian and Gospel values we  
have witnessed within the walls of  
St Michael's.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth  
of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
help us to be mindful of his  
example.

Open our hearts, that we may  
welcome him not just into a stable,  
but into the quiet places of our  
lives.

May we carry the light of his hope  
and the courage of his compassion  
into our homes and communities  
during this Christmas season.  
Bless our time of rest, that we may  
return renewed and ready to serve  
you  
in the New Year.

We ask this through Christ our Lord,  
Amen.

*Ms. F. Corcoran - Principal*

Dear God,

This Advent, help me to embrace the  
waiting not with haste, but with holy  
rest.

Quiet my mind from the many  
distractions and preparations, so I may  
hear Your gentle voice.

Create in my heart a peaceful space, a  
true "manger" of simplicity, where I  
can receive the Christ Child with  
clarity and joy.

Amen.

*Miss Casey  
Chaplaincy Co-Ordinator*

## UPCOMING

As the Bulletin goes out before the end of term, here  
are some of the events taking place in the last week  
of term:

- Advent Services at Most Holy Trinity Church
- Christmas Lunch
- Year 11 Retreat
- KS4 Advent Trips
- Christmas Door Competition
- Delivering our homemade Hampers for the Senior Citizens in our community
- Christmas jumper day in aid of Southwark Pensioners' Organisation