



**Date:** Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025 | 4.30pm – 5.30pm in person at St Michael's

**Attendees:**

F Corcoran (Principal)	J Arda (Assistant Principal)
Giulia Mastroianni (Gaia Y9)	Silvana De Jesus Correa (Sophia Y8)
Paola Alvarado (Matthew Y8)	Rochelle Clarke (Roniah Y10 and Royel Y7)
Antonio Suarez (Sophia Y8)	Sergey Ripinsky (Luciana Y7)
Isaac and Elizabeth Ehioghae (Iyesogie Y7)	Francisco Loureiro (Madalena Y8)
Milagros Alvarado (Matthew Y9)	Yinka Olaitan (Olusola Y8)

**Apologies:** Donna Springle (Donella Y11), Bryan Hartlin (Sebastian Y8), Samantha James (Elisabeth Y9), Viviana Ortega (Isabella Y8), Andrew Pritchard (Masako Y9), Philipp Couto-Thiessen (Marlene Y8), Marta (Janka Y8), Vincent Ojeh (Evans Y10), Wendy Abrams (Henry Y10), Priscilla Benniz (Ajay Y8), Inga Jamantiene (Monika Y10), Carolyn Crosbie (Kai Y7), Ava Reid (Chayce Y9)

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A reminder that the Parent Focus Group looks at matters arising that are College wide for all parents. Any individual issues related to a child should be addressed via their Leader of Learning.

### 1. Minutes and matters arising

- Thank you to parents who volunteered for Open Evening on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September. Prospective parents do value having a discussion with current parents and their experience of the college.
- Thank you to parents who volunteered for the Parent Showcase on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July.
- Other previous actions are referred to in the items below.

### 2. Updates from the Principal

- Ms Corcoran spoke about the purpose of the group – improvements have been made in relation to key college decision-making. For example, phone policies, EduLink communication and moves to the multi-academy trust, the Friends of St Michael's.
- Key messages which have been shared with Governors. 8 partner schools – 4 primary and 4 secondaries. Ms Corcoran works across the schools. For example, the English and Maths departments work together. Senior leaders and safeguarding leads carry out reviews to share practice. An audit is carried out annually. Safeguarding audit will take place in January 2026 at St Michael's to ensure safe practice is in place.
- Staff from Bonus Pastor and St Matthew's have looked at our rewards processes. HR practice is shared the admin teams. 22 staff are involved Catholic Leadership provision set up with St Mary's University to develop future school leaders.
- Students carried out a pilgrimage over the summer. Debating, sports, Catholic Life, inter-school competitions and retreat activities are being mapped by them while meeting other students from the Trust schools.
- Open Days admissions are important. In London school rolls are falling. St Michael's remains oversubscribed. 150 places with over 600 applications. St Michael's is one of three secondary schools in Southwark that are oversubscribed for admissions in Year 7.
- Staff are carrying out regular training with "Every Lesson Counts" whereby they observe lessons in pairs.
- Changes to the Catholic inspection included a focus on prayer. A review of this with feedback from students show they enjoy prayer and supporting form group mass. Staff use of prayer is developing to be more consistent and meaningful, particularly when there are colleagues who are not Catholic.



- Young Salesians and Faith in Action have had positive feedback. Our first ceremony – Father Keith handed out badges as we celebrated faith life in the school. Sixth formers are helping with liturgies and fundraising.
- “Not new but better” is a focus for the college staff to develop existing practice. Trips and events are tracked carefully to ensure students
- Attendance is over 95% which is well above national averages. With the Department of Education, St Michael’s is taking part in a RISE event which shares good practice about student attendance.
- AI and student phones represent the biggest challenges. These policies are continuing to review acceptable use of AI. The other challenge is funding to cover yearly bills. Last year the college reviewed the staffing and curriculum. The college will require parent contributions to costs to maintain the student enrichment experiences.
- The Friends of St Michael’s and Jack Petchey awards have supported curriculum and enrichment activities. Service contracts have been renegotiated to make substantial savings.
- Question about AI – the school is using Google Gemini and St Michael’s are looking at recommended tools. The college has stringent filtering services. Safeguarding remains a priority and is an ongoing commitment.
- Exam board policies for non-examined work are clear. The question is how we can direct students to safe usage. The Acceptable Use of IT policy is in place with students and staff. This work is continuing given the changing nature of technology. A former member of staff is working with the St Benedict’s Trust and with Google to provide St Michael’s with the latest practice.
- Another question about filtering. The Chromebook laptops issued by the school use school email addresses and are locked down to notify staff of any usage concerns. Students sometimes identify online programs which help the college to block further apps which are unsafe.

### 3. St Michael’s Catholic College Sixth Form

- One key priority is to maximise places in our sixth form. The numbers to recruit are competitive given non-denominational schools such as Brampton Manor which recruit heavily. St Michael’s has 7 students in Oxbridge interviews and other students in paid apprenticeships. 26 high performing students are retained successfully into the sixth form.
- A journey for parents from Year 7 to sixth form. Class sizes are small and through our alumni programme we have former students mentoring our students.
- St Michael’s has successful sixth form Business courses and wants to highlight apprenticeships. Partnerships with Newton Finance and Bloomberg have given students opportunities.
- The college is looking into a pathway for students with special educational needs to support post-16 options.
- We are looking at sixth form opportunities in the summer term to highlight this with younger students.
- **Action:** Once the minutes are sent out, parents are invited to consider what one point might help them and their child choose to join St Michael’s sixth form?

### 4. Friends of St Michael’s (FOSM)

- The focus was around fundraising with ideas from the group.
- One parent considered that Friends of St Michael’s has too many events and that it was better to focus on two and to set a financial target based on the school’s need for certain items.
- Suggestion about Christmas being an obvious time, but would have to wait until next year.
- Contactless payments are being planned. Ms Corcoran is having a discussion with the Chief Finance Officer to support this with support from the Trust.
- Showcasing student work and telling these stories with companies may aid their interest.
- With 1500 parents and over 1000 alumnus (and 45 trained mentors), there is potential for significant fundraising.



- **Action:** Next meeting is on 22<sup>nd</sup> January. Mr Arda to invite individuals and provide the option of in-person or an online meeting.
- **Action:** Mr Arda to quantify what resources/provision might be required to support this year's fundraising target.
- **Action:** Friends of St Michael's to propose a key event(s) to deliver later in the year.

AOB

### Next meeting dates

#### Parent Focus Group

- Thu 12th Mar 2026 at 4.30-5.30pm (via MS Teams)
- Wed 3rd Jun 2026 at 4.30-5.30pm (via MS Teams)

#### Friends of St Michael's

- Thu 22nd Jan 2026 4.30-5.30pm (via MS Teams)
- Thu 7th May 2026 4.30-5.30pm (via MS Teams)

*Minutes to be sent via EduLink*