



THE LINK

A fortnightly Newsletter for the pupils, parents and staff of

St Michael's Catholic College

Issue 249 - April 2026



A Word from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to share some significant news regarding my future role within our school community and the wider St Benedict Catholic Academy Trust (SBCAT). After serving as a senior leader at St Michael's Catholic College for the past 18 years, nine of those as Principal, I have been appointed to the position of Director of Secondary Education for SBCAT in a full-time, permanent capacity, effective from 1st September 2026. This means that I will be relinquishing my role as Principal of the school at the end of this academic year to focus on the strategic leadership of all schools within our Trust family.

This has not been an easy decision. St Michael's has been my professional home and a significant part of my life for nearly two decades. I am incredibly proud of what has been achieved together during this time, from our Outstanding inspections and above national exam results, to the development of our students into compassionate, successful young people living out Gospel and Salesian values every day. However, I know that this is the right step for both the Trust and for the next chapter of St Michael's story. The most heartening aspect of this transition is that I am not truly leaving St Michael's and in my new executive role as Director of Secondary Education at SBCAT, I will remain deeply involved in the school's journey.

I am fully committed to working alongside St Benedict CEO, Jonathan Ronan and Chair of the St Michael's Local Governing board, Benedicte Gercke to recruit a new Principal and I want to reassure you that the school is in an exceptionally strong position whilst this takes place. Over the past year, while I have been working in an interim capacity for SBCAT, St Michael's has been led brilliantly by Interim Head of School Ms. Nottage, Vice Principal Ms Sayed and our dedicated Senior Leadership Team. Their steady hand has ensured that our high standards and care for the students has not wavered.

My immediate priority remains the success of our students during this vital summer term. We are particularly focused on supporting Year 11 and Year 13 as they sit their public examinations; they have worked incredibly hard and all staff are determined to see them achieve the results they deserve.

I will continue to keep you updated as we have more news regarding the leadership of the school. Thank you for your continued support, your trust and for the privilege of leading the wonderful and incredibly special St Michael's community for the past nine years.

Yours sincerely,

Ms F. Corcoran
Principal



St Michael's Students Win Southwark Elections!

Congratulations to Archie FA (12SA) and Lorenzo L (12DA), who were elected to the Southwark Youth Parliament this month. Both candidates delivered outstanding manifestos that drew a majority of votes not just from St Michael's students but from young people across Southwark.

Southwark Youth Parliament is a group of young people, elected by young people to represent the voices of young people through their schools and local area. With the aim to give young people an opportunity to influence on council decision-making and work alongside council officers and elected members on addressing priority topics that matter most to the young people of Southwark.



"It is both a privilege and a responsibility to be elected by the young people of this neighbourhood to serve them. I hope to do everything within my ability to provide more opportunities for employment, more affordable meals and better spaces that cater to the needs and interests of our young people, ensuring that our safety remains at the forefront of my mission. Thank you for entrusting in me the power to make long-lasting change. I hope to deliver and cannot wait to make Bermondsey better!"

Archie FA, 12 SA



"I am very excited to serve as a Southwark Youth Parliament member. I hope that over the next two years real change for young people can be seen throughout the borough and that the Southwark Youth Parliament becomes more visible across Southwark. Thank you all for putting your trust in me and I look forward to making your votes count."

Lorenzo L, 12 DA

Jake Humphrey Workshop



St Michael's recently welcomed acclaimed broadcaster, author, and entrepreneur Jake Humphrey. He delivered an enlightening talk to students, offering a candid look at the reality of success and his extensive career within the media industry.

My peers and I found the session incredibly engaging. Rather than just a lecture, it was an inspiring look behind the scenes of professional broadcasting. Mr Humphrey's stories provided us with a unique perspective on the public eye, while also offering practical lessons that we can apply to our own studies and daily routines.

A key takeaway from the talk was the importance of mindset. Jake spoke about the natural human instinct to compare ourselves to others, but urged us to remain focused on our own positive outlook. He shared honest stories of his journey as an entrepreneur; while he has had great success, he also faced many failed business ventures along the way. His message was clear: we must learn to withstand adversity. Instead of succumbing to the pressure of failure, he encouraged us to adapt and use challenges as a springboard to move forward.

Beyond just overcoming "bad" times, Jake introduced us to the concept of "High Performance." He explained that being your best isn't about being perfect or famous, but about mastering the "marginal gains"—the small, consistent choices we make every day. Whether it's how we prepare for an exam or how we support our friends, he showed us that excellence is a habit we can all develop, regardless of our starting point.

Overall, the visit was a highlight of the term. It was a privilege to hear from someone so established in his field, and I hope St Michael's continues to host such brilliant and motivating speakers in the future.

Mathew M, 12A

Cambridge University Science Experience

Fuschia, Year 7:

Cambridge was an amazing experience and it helped me learn and like science even more. We got to see many scientists' discoveries who learned in the university. Like the DNA structure. I also got to learn about the features and characteristics of protons, neutrons and electrons. We got to learn about material science how certain materials can break or withstand certain environments and which would be more suitable to build with. Then, we got to build a mars rover and we noticed how certain materials can be weak or withstand rigid, smooth and steep surfaces. What inspired me personally is that reaching a goal or a specific dream can be possible with determination and courage, even if people ignore you, shut you down or undermine you it can be possible to achieve a goal.

Isobel, Year 7:

During this trip I learnt about Newtons and the physics behind how insects such as dragonflies, wasps and bees hover in the air. We took a look at interesting products of research before attempting to create a mars rover ourselves, I am happy to say that all have enjoyed this Cambridge trip, and have found a great deal of interest in this subject.



PE Department Highlights

Mr M Laribi



Breaking New Ground: U13 Girls Shine at First Rugby Tournament

Our Year 8 girls stepped out of their comfort zone this month, participating in their **first-ever U13 Touch Rugby tournament**.

For many of the squad, this was their first time playing the sport outside of a PE lesson. The mission for the day was simple: **go out, have fun, and get better every game**. We are incredibly proud to say they did exactly that.

Embracing the Challenge

Despite being new to competitive rugby, the girls embraced the challenge with open arms. With every match, their confidence grew—their passing became sharper, their defensive lines more organised, and their team spirit more evident. Seeing them apply what they learned in class to a competitive tournament environment was a highlight for the coaching staff.

Well done to all the Year 8s involved.

A Historic Milestone: U14 Girls Head to National Finals!

For the **first time in our school's history**, a basketball team has reached a National Final! Our **U14 Girls** have officially made history, punching their ticket to **Manchester on May 6th** after a sensational performance in the semi-finals.

- **The Match:** Facing a tough Brampton Manor Academy side, our girls dominated from the start. A masterclass first half saw them take a **24–10 lead**, eventually closing out the game **34–28**.
- **Team Depth:** It was a total team effort, and it was particularly great to give some of our newer players the chance to play significant minutes in such a high-stakes game.



PE Department Highlights

Continued



The Ultimate Year 13 Send-Off

We bid a sporting farewell to our Year 13 leavers with an evening of high-energy competition that brought the whole school together.

- **Basketball:** The sports hall was a "packed house" for the **Year 12 vs. Year 13** game. The atmosphere was electric!
- **Awards:** We surprised our Basketball and Football squads with a special ceremony to honour their years of dedication.
- **Football:** We finished on the Astro with one final Year 12 vs. Year 13 showdown – the perfect way to end their time in St Michael's sport.



Sports Leadership Programme: The Engine Room

Our **Sports Leadership Programme** continues to support the PE curriculum in incredible ways:

- **Cricket Activators:** Our leaders have completed their training and are now ready to coach and referee our upcoming summer fixtures.
- **Student Media:** Remember, all photos provided for The Link are now taken by our student leaders. They are doing a professional job capturing the action!
- **Event Support:** From the Year 13 send-off to our home fixtures, our leaders make sure everything runs smoothly.

Friends of St Michael's: Games Night & Fundraising Prize Raffle

The Friends of St Michael's (FoSM) are excited to invite our school community to a fun-filled Games Night taking place on **Thursday 30th April at 3.45-5.45pm**. This special event is not only a chance for students to enjoy an afternoon of activities, but also an important fundraiser to support school projects that benefit all our children.

Alongside the games, we are running a **fundraising raffle open to all parents, carers or staff. Any family and friends can take part too.** Tickets can be purchased for £5 through ParentPay, and you do not need to attend the event to take part, so everyone has a chance to win. The draw will be made before half term at St Michael's.

We have some fantastic prizes lined up, including:

- A £100 dining voucher for The Ivy Tower Bridge
- A £50 Amazon voucher
- A £50 LEGO voucher
- A signed copy of the High Performance: Lessons from the Best on Becoming Your Best by BBC Presenter Jake Humphrey
- Plus many more exciting prizes

Games Night itself will feature a variety of quick, theme-park style activities such as obstacle challenges, sports games, quizzes, and prize bingo, with rewards to be won throughout the evening. Students can also enjoy a selfie photo booth and refreshments available on the day.

We hope this event brings our community together while raising valuable funds for the school. Thank you, as always, for your continued support—we look forward to a great evening!

Friends of St Michael's

The Friends Of St. Michael's

SAVE THE DATE: Thursday 30th April

St Michael's Games Night

Theme-park style quick activities: obstacle course, rowing competition, penalty shoot-out, basketball, quiz, art challenges & more to follow
Prize bingo and a selfie photo booth.

Pay using ParentPay or cash on the day.
Activity tickets available: **£5, £10, £15 or £20.**

Prize draw for parents (£5 per ticket) includes:
£100 Dining Voucher, £50 Amazon Voucher, £50 Lego Voucher, and many more.

Prizes to be won for each activity in our leaderboards!

Students can wear non-school uniform to the event!

Time is 3.45-5.45pm. Wear clothes suitable for games. Refreshments are available to pay on the day.

All proceeds go to school projects.

RUA CHARITY WEEK



A huge thank you to everyone who supported the GREAT BRITISH BEARD OFF during RUA Charity Week, which saw Mr Parker and Mr Long competing to raise the most funds so they could save their beard.

In the end Mr Parker had to face the penalty of shaving his beard off.

So far more than £300 has been raised for MACMILLAN CANCER RESEARCH and we are pushing close to the £350 mark so please do continue to donate to try and hit this milestone.

Support for Families

www.contact.org.uk a charity for families with disabled children

www.fledglings.org.uk (Contact's online shop which has all things useful and practical for families and practitioners)

Family Fund UK charity which offers help once families have completed a form (with school and other health professionals being a referee about the child's needs) - this can be in the form of money towards a holiday, a giftcard for electrical items etc. It is targeted towards those that are in need so if you are claiming Universal Credit/Tax Credits and other benefits or have low income/low savings; it is always worth a try for all families. Parents need to provide evidence and it is a very simple process. It is currently capped every 2 years for reapplying

Little Village - help for those families who have young ones (pregnancy-birth-5 years old). This may be of help to those students with siblings in their family.

Thames Water also can help with money off bills for low income families.



Chaplaincy Corner

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

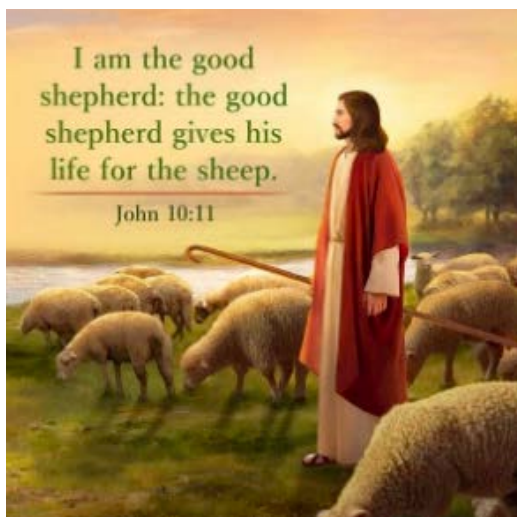
- The Stations of the Cross performance was an important part of our Lenten liturgies at the end of the Spring Term. The Drama department were brilliant at supporting the chaplaincy team in preparings for these services and the liturgy was a meaningful and moving way to end the term and prepare for Holy Week and Easter.
- St Michael's were invited to attend the St Oscar Romero Mass at the end of March to receive the Developer Award after a successful application. Kobby B and Zachary O were especially delighted to attend as they have been working towards this award for a while and have contributed through their work with the Young Salesians programme and chaplaincy team.
- St Michael's have been asked to take part in the Good Shepherd Mass Service at the Cathedral on the 28th April. As well as attending, our students will be actively involved by reading at the Mass.
- At the start of the summer term Mr Arda delivered assemblies celebrating the joy of the resurrection and the hope that brings and how this unites all Catholics.



Students from St Michael's Chaplaincy Team receiving the St Oscar Romero Award from Archbishop John Wilson at a special service to celebrate the feast of St Oscar Romero and schools achieving the award.

A reflection on this...

The Word of the Lord



Lord Jesus,

Thank You for being the Good Shepherd who knows me by name. I am humbled by the truth that You didn't just guide me, but You laid down Your life to save me.

When I am anxious or lost, help me to hear Your voice above the noise. I choose to trust Your lead, resting in the peace that You are watching over my soul.

Amen.

Amen.
Miss Casey
Chaplaincy Coordinator



Upcoming Events



May

Thursday 14th	Year 12 Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud
Friday 22nd	INSET No students in the College
Mon 25 th - Fri 29th	Half term break

June

Monday 1st	Back to College
Thursday 4th	Year 10 Parents' Evening at St Michaels
Monday 8 th - Friday 12th	Revision Week
Monday 15 th - Friday 19th	Years 7-10 & 12 End of Year Examinations Week
Monday 22nd	Sports Award Evening
Wednesday 24th	Year 12 Induction



Parent Focus Group

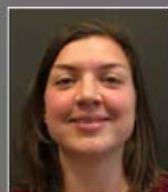
Wednesday 3rd June | 16:30 - 17:30 via MS Teams

Friends of St Michael's PTA Group

Thursday 7th May | 16:30 - 17:30 via MS Teams

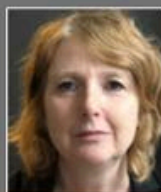


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