



# THE LINK

*A fortnightly Newsletter for the pupils, parents and staff of  
St Michael's Catholic College  
Issue 250 - May 2026*



## A Word from the Principal

As we reach the end of this incredibly busy half term, I find myself reflecting on how proud I am of our school community. It has been a period of intense focus, joyful celebration and well deserved recognition for the hard work that defines St Michael's.

The start of public examinations is always a significant time and our Year 11 and 13 students have approached their GCSEs, A-Levels and CTEC exams with maturity and resolve. We marked these transitions with moving Leavers' Services, celebrating not just their academic efforts, but their unique contributions to the St Michael's community over the years, thanking them for living out Salesian values in so many ways. We continue to keep them in our prayers as they navigate their way through this exam period.

This half term saw the first St Michael's 'Games Night', which was a brilliant community event organised by the Friends of St Michael's parent teacher group to fundraise for the school. You can read about the highlights in a dedicated article in this edition of The Link. I would like to thank all involved for bringing our community together in this important way.

Our recent Mental Health and Wellbeing Week was also a resounding success. I want to extend a special thank you to our Mental Health Ambassadors and our School Nurse Ms Chabaud for their assemblies, their active promotion of positive habits and fundraising for Young Minds, which has had such a positive impact. This commitment to health extends to the gym, astroturf and basketball court. It has been a fantastic term for sports teams at St Michael's, topped by the incredible achievement of our Under 14 Girls' Basketball Team, who are now National Schools Champions. Their dedication is a testament to working hard and taking up opportunities offered at the school to learn new skills and the benefits of being part of a team.

True to our mission of serving the common good, our Sixth Form Chaplaincy team hosted a wonderful Grandparents and Senior Citizens Tea Party this week. It was a joy to see generations come together, treated to a brilliant performance of The 39 Steps by our drama students. These moments of connection remind us that we are part of a wider, loving family.

We were also honoured to host the Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson this week, who chose St Michael's as the place to launch the new Department of Education (DfE) PE and School Sport Partnerships Network. It was a privilege to introduce her to our national basketball champions and she even rolled up her sleeves to join a Year 7 rounders lesson! Having the DfE recognise our school in this way is a moment of great pride for us all.

As we head into the half-term break, I hope students and staff take the opportunity for a much needed rest. With the weather turning warmer, I trust they will find time to relax in the sunshine and return refreshed for the final stretch of the academic year.

Wishing you all a peaceful, safe and happy half term.

**Ms F. Corcoran**  
Principal



# St Michael's Games Night: A Community Triumph!

Dr Arda and Mr Martin



I am thrilled to report that our inaugural St Michael's Games Night was a resounding success. The atmosphere across the event was electric and it was truly wonderful to see close to 100 members of our community, with students and parents alike, engaging in friendly competition and a truly Salesian spirit.

Thanks to your overwhelming generosity, we are delighted to announce that we raised a fantastic £971.06! Every penny of these proceeds will go directly towards vital college projects that enhance the daily experience of our students. This achievement is a testament to what we can accomplish when we come together as a community.

The evening was a living example of our Salesian values, particularly our commitment to being a "home that welcomes" and a "playground where friends meet." Seeing parents and children tackling the obstacle course, penalty shoot-outs and rowing challenges together reminded us that education at St Michael's extends far beyond the classroom.

A huge debt of gratitude is owed to the Friends of St Michael's (FOSM) and our staff facilitating activities. These excellent parent volunteers worked tirelessly behind the scenes with anything from managing the refreshments and the square-ticketing system to recording raw scores at our high-energy activity stations. We also saw incredible leadership from our student volunteers, who ensured the theme-park turnover remained rapid and exciting.

Throughout the night, we awarded several £10 Amazon vouchers as spot prizes to students who showed exceptional skill at the top of our activity leaderboards.

Here are the activity winners:

Event	Winner
The Quiz with Mr Davis & Mr Martin	Sofia, Year 9
Languages Challenge	Deborah, Year 7
Maths Challenge	Isabella, Year 8
Art Challenge	Janka, Year 8
Crossbar Challenge	Jeremiah, Year 7
Football Shoot-out	Kofi, Year 8
Keep-up Challenge	Jake, Year 7
Obstacle Course	Dami, Year 9
Rowing Challenge	James, Year 9
Basketball Challenge	Stephanie, Year 10

## St Michael's Games Night: A Community Triumph!



The most common question I heard as parents and students left was "Will this happen again next year?" Given the incredible turnout and the joy on the night, it is safe to say that the Games Night has the potential to become a highlight of our annual calendar once again.

The overall amount raised was an incredible £1,701.06. This will make a difference to student projects that will be agreed by the Friends of St Michael's. Thank you once again to everyone who attended, donated prizes or volunteered their time. You have helped us build something very special here at St Michael's.

Thank you for taking part in the Prize Raffle! The winners are as follows:

Prize	Winner
£100 dining voucher at The Ivy	Mrs Hurley
Nespresso machine and coffee beans	Miss Mudge
£50 Amazon voucher	Parent of Isabella, Year 13
£50 Amazon voucher	Mr Devine
£25 One4all voucher	Miss Stewart
£25 One4all voucher	Parent of Amy, Year 7
Coffee beans from Nono	Parent of Sophia, Year 8
A signed "High Performance" book by Jake Humphrey	Parent of Erin, Year 9
A meal for two voucher at the Fish Bar in Old Jamaica Road	Mrs Shaw
50% off a meal for two voucher at La Chingada Mexican food in Old Jamaica Road	Parent of Shalom, Year 10
A Lego set	Parent of David, Year 7



# St Michael's Games Night: A Community Triumph!



## PE Department Highlights

Mr M Laribi

### PE Department Update – A Fantastic Half Term of Sport at St. Michael's

It has been another incredibly busy and successful half term for the PE Department, with students representing the school brilliantly across basketball, athletics, football, and whole-school events.

#### Basketball Success Continues

Basketball has been at the heart of another exciting half term, with achievements across multiple competitions and age groups.

#### Jr NBA Competition

In the Jr NBA competition, both our boys' and girls' teams have qualified for the playoffs. Our girls finished as the second seed in their conference and now await their semi-final playoff game. Meanwhile, our boys finished seventh in the conference and will shortly compete in their conference quarter-final game.

#### Jr NBA 3x3 Southwark Qualifiers

The success continued in the Jr NBA 3x3 competition. At the Jr NBA Southwark Qualifiers, our boys narrowly missed out on qualification after finishing runners-up in the final. However, our girls went undefeated throughout the tournament and qualified to represent Southwark at the Jr NBA 3x3 Central Finals.

#### Jr NBA 3x3 Central Finals

Representing Southwark, our girls performed exceptionally well, once again going undefeated in the group stages before winning their semi-final in impressive fashion. They eventually finished runners-up after a closely contested final against a talented Westminster Academy side, losing by just a few points. Despite the defeat, the team has earned the opportunity to compete at the Jr NBA 3x3 Finals in Trafalgar Square, where they will represent the school in an exhibition tournament – an incredible achievement and exciting opportunity for the players involved.

#### Under-14 Girls Dynamic National Championships

One of the standout moments of the half term came in Manchester at the Under-14 Girls Dynamic National Championships. In a thrilling and hard-fought game, the team showed tremendous resilience and determination, battling back from behind to produce a dominant 21-10 fourth quarter and secure the national title.

Sofia A, 9RU was named MVP after an extraordinary performance, finishing with 41 points, 11 rebounds, and 8 steals. We are incredibly proud of the entire team for achieving such a history-making accomplishment for the school.



## PE Department Highlights

### SLB Playoff Finals Trip

To round off a memorable basketball season, students involved in our basketball programme attended the SLB Playoff Finals on Sunday 17th May. The trip gave students the opportunity to watch the highest level of basketball in the UK and see how the skills and concepts they are learning translate into the professional game. Students watched Sheffield Hatters win the women's final and London Lions win the men's final, making for an inspiring day for everyone involved.

### Mini Marathon Brings the School Together

This half term also saw the return of our school Mini Marathon, which proved to be a fantastic community event. Students from Years 7-10 participated alongside members of staff, creating a brilliant atmosphere throughout the day.

Our Sports Leadership Academy students played a key role in helping organise and run the event, while several Year 11 students also volunteered their time to support. It was wonderful to see so many members of the school community coming together and enjoying a different type of sporting challenge.

### Athletics Competitions and Representative Honours

Athletics has also been extremely busy, with students competing across a range of competitions this half term.

#### Southwark Schools Athletics

At the Southwark Schools Athletics competition, three of our students were selected to represent Southwark at the London Schools Championships – an outstanding achievement and recognition of their hard work and performances. Shoutout to Jahz A, Alaia AG and Enara AG.

#### Year 7 and 8 Girls Athletics Meet

We also attended the Year 7 and 8 Girls Athletics Meet, which provided a fantastic opportunity for students of varying athletic backgrounds and experience levels to compete and represent the school.

#### Mile end Athletics Track and Field Cup

Another highlight was the Mile End Athletics Track and Field Cup, which offered students the chance to compete in a high-level environment at an excellent athletics venue. The event showcased both the talent and enthusiasm of our athletes and provided a memorable experience for all involved.

#### Year 7 Girls Football

Our Year 7 girls football team also enjoyed a strong run this half term, reaching the semi-finals of their competition. Although they narrowly missed out on progressing further, we are extremely proud of their development and performances.

This was the first opportunity for many of the players to compete together consistently within their own age group, as several regularly play up with the Year 8 team. The experience proved valuable and highlighted the exciting potential within this young squad moving forward.



## PE Department Highlights

### Sports Leadership Academy

Our Sports Leadership Academy continues to play a vital role within the school community. Throughout the half term, students have supported the PE Department by helping to organise, run, and document a variety of sporting events and competitions.

From assisting with event management and leadership responsibilities to capturing key moments through photography and media, the academy students have shown excellent professionalism, leadership, and commitment. Their contribution continues to have a hugely positive impact on the success of school sport and wider extracurricular activities at St Michael's.

The PE Department would like to congratulate all students who have represented the school this half term. Their commitment, effort, and sportsmanship continue to make the school proud, and we look forward to even more success in the months ahead.

## Class of 1973

From the Class of 1973 James Woodward, now living in Australia organised a reunion for his old class mates to coincide with a visit back home. He joined Thomas Larkin & Patrick Clifford to attend the Year 12 assembly on Friday 24th April and took part in a Q & A with the students who were very interested in how things used to be here at St Michael's in the 1960s and 70s. They were then given an in-depth tour of the College by two of our Year 12 students, Catherine D & Stephen M.C and spent a lot of time trying to work out where the old buildings/playground and school house used to be in comparison to where everything is now. James still had his old school tie which looked as though it was much treasured as it was in pristine condition. He was gifted with one of the new clip on versions to add to his collection. Following an opportunity to look through some old photographs they were welcomed by Daniel the Archivist at the Sisters of Mercy Convent at Dockhead to look through their collection of photographs and memorabilia local to Bermondsey and enjoyed an early lunch which was laid on for them. A larger gathering of the whatsapp group of the Class of 1973 then met up on Saturday to continue with their reminiscences' before James flew back to Brisbane. We look forward to welcoming him back the next time he is in London.



## Tribute to The Pen Part 2

Ms P Belvett

Found in Pompeii's ruins,  
what tale from you must have poured before Vesuvius eclipsed your flow.  
The power of your tip supersedes that of any grip!  
Shakespeare's quills from a goose  
plucked Henry the Fifth.

Habeas Corpus prisoners are released on a writ  
And from the hangman's noose their necks let slip.  
In cuneiform chiselled hand, the first love letter is writ on Mesopotamian tablet.

From ancient hands to modern lands  
Scrolls unfurl  
Proclamations made and  
Declarations of war  
All from the pen cascade.

Marriage vows are spoken:  
What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder  
But with a stroke they two are broken.  
As decree nisi becomes absolute.  
To the pen let's make another salute.

Africans stolen from the motherland  
Bolstered by Wilberforce's oration  
Are set free with the stroke of abolition.

The 14th Amendment, Executive Orders scored out  
Birth-right citizenship falls in doubt,  
The Mighty Pen again wields its clout.




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## Support for Families

[www.contact.org.uk](http://www.contact.org.uk) a charity for families with disabled children

[www.fledglings.org.uk](http://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?

- We returned following the Easter break full of the spirit of Eastertide
- Miss Casey led assemblies covering the first year anniversary of the installation of Pope Leo XIV - students and staff are writing letters to congratulate the Pope on his first year!
- Students from Years 8, 9, 10 and 12 Chaplaincy were invited to attend the Good Shepherd Mass at St George's Cathedral in honour of the Catholic Children's Society. Jeremy and Chiamaka read brilliantly being complimented by both members of the Education Commission and Canon Victor himself. Canon Victor Darlington shared in his homily, following the Gospel of the Good Samaritan; that to love and comfort another person is to be with Christ himself. He shared about the importance of Catholic schools and that whilst we have maths, science, history, art, it also matters to learn compassion and to value that we are made in the image and likeness of God.
- Miss Casey and Year 12 Chaplaincy led assemblies about the importance of Pentecost and the guiding hand of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- Years 11 and 13 had their leaving liturgies to mark the end of this important stage in their education. Services were led by Chaplaincy students and the St Michael's liturgical choir provided music. Ms Corcoran delivered a meaningful address to the students and thanked them for their important contributions to the school and Leaders of Learning reflected on the memories made.

### A reflection on this...



Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit, poured out on Pentecost to guide, comfort, and empower us. Just as you filled the early believers with holy fire and bold faith, we ask that you ignite our hearts today.

Melt away our fears, speak through our words, and renew our spirits. May your love flow through us so that we can be a bright light of your hope and peace to the world.

Amen.

Miss Casey  
Chaplaincy Coordinator

### The Word of the Lord



Acts 2: 1-4

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



## Upcoming Events

### June

Monday 1st	Back to College
Thursday 4th	Year 10 Parents' Evening at St Michaels
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 12th	Revision Week
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 19th	Years 7-10 & 12 End of Year Examinations Week
Monday 22nd	Sports Award Evening
Wednesday 24th	Year 12 Induction
Thursday 25th	Year 11 Prom
Tuesday 30th	New Year 7 Evening



### Parent Focus Group

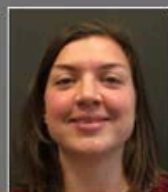
Wednesday 3rd June | 16:30 - 17:30 via MS Teams

### Friends of St Michael's PTA Group

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May | 16:30 - 17:30 via MS Teams

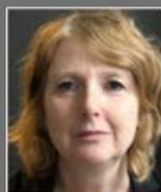


## Safeguarding Team



**Designated Safeguarding Lead**

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**Overall Responsibility**

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