



THE LINK

*A fortnightly Newsletter for the pupils, parents and staff of
St Michael's Catholic College
Issue 252 - July 2026*



A Word from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another remarkable academic year, I write to you with gratitude, reflection, and a deep sense of pride. This milestone is a particularly poignant one for me, as this term marks the end of my time at St Michael's, after 18 wonderful years at our school, the last nine of which I have had the immense privilege of serving as Principal.

Leading this community has been an honour and I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together, from navigating the challenges of the pandemic to securing outstanding Ofsted and Catholic inspections, cementing St Michael's as a beacon of excellence.

Our success is built by the dedication of our entire community and I want to take this opportunity to extend my deepest gratitude to:

Our Outstanding Staff - For their tireless hard work and commitment to keeping Salesian values of respect, understanding, affection and humour at the heart of all that we do.

Our Wonderful Students - For living out their faith in action every day and making St Michael's a welcoming place for all.

Our Parents and Carers - For your trust and invaluable partnership in the education of your children
Our Local Governors and the St Benedict Catholic Academy Trust Central Team and Trust Board: For their unwavering care, vigilance, and support.

While I am stepping down as Principal, I am not saying a final goodbye as I am delighted to be taking up a new role as the Director of Secondary Education within the St Benedict Catholic Academy Trust. In this position, I will remain closely connected to St Michael's and I look forward to supporting our school alongside others in the Trust.

As we look to the future, I have absolute confidence in Ms Nottage and the Senior Leadership Team to lead St Michael's into its next exciting chapter.

We also say a fond farewell to several dedicated staff members who are leaving St Michael's this year to relocate or take on new roles. Please join me in wishing the very best to:

Ms Asamoah, Ms Banks, Ms Egbele, Mr Fellows,
Mr Lane, Mr Whekedo, and Ms Wilson

Thank you for 18 years of wonderful memories, shared success and unwavering support. I will keep the entire St Michael's community in my prayers and wish you all a safe, happy, and restful summer break.

With my warmest wishes and prayers,

Ms F. Corcoran
Principal



Year 9 Reframe Inspire Celebration Day at the Southbank Centre

On Friday July 10th, Year 9 students celebrated the production of their own mini magazine at the Queen Elizabeth Hall at the Southbank Centre. In celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Festival of Britain in 1951, students were encouraged to create content that celebrates British culture in 2026. Entitled 'A Window Into Bermondsey', the zine features diverse, creative and original artwork, photography and articles produced by Year 9 students during five workshops that took place throughout the academic year.

Students spent the celebration day hearing from a range of creative professionals, making their own badges, screen-printing and seeing their finished zine on display in the foyer of the Queen Elizabeth Hall alongside the zines of other schools from across the country. The highlight of the day was a visit to the Anish Kapoor exhibition where students were able to see work from many of his most iconic series.

'A Window Into Bermondsey' was created by Alexander C, Arabelle B, Bethany M, Chayce R, Chiamaka O, Cillian M, Dagmara K, Elianna C, Enara AG, Fleur-Khanie KDZ, Florcita M Honey R, Joanna S, Keane G, Luca F, Nathan T, Nathaniel, AJ, Nicholas M, Osayimwense I, Samin CK and Stephanie JZ. Copies will be available to read in the main reception of the school.

Mr S Pillai



UKMT Junior Mathematical Challenge 2026

Year 8 Award Winners

Gold

Greta M – best in school
 Babatunde BA (Kangaroo qualifier)
 Marlene CT (Kangaroo qualifier)
 Joseph F (Kangaroo qualifier)
 Sebastian H (Kangaroo qualifier)
 Blake V
 Marco J



Best in school -
Greta M



8X1 Gold



8X1 Silver

Silver

Kevin K
 Mikolaj K
 Lance Matthieu B
 Antoni K
 Ariam G
 Mya VJ
 Ivan G

Isabella MO
 Madalena L
 Janka P
 Stanley S
 Natalie TC



8Y1 Silver and Bronze

Bronze

Lily-Rae P
 Sebastian C
 Martha W
 Michelle O
 Alba D
 Nickolas QP
 Anthony G
 Ambra P



8X1 Bronze

Year 7 Award Winners



Best in Year 7 - Patryk Z



Year 7 Silver

Silver

Patryk Z – Best in year 7
 Nicholas M
 Lyla MW
 Deborah O
 Josephine MC
 Tammy DL
 Alexander W

Bronze

Royel De Lisle
 Leon Jordane
 Iyesogie Ehioghae
 Alexander Yoplac
 Leia Lazauskas
 Evangeline Huynh
 Betty Rogers
 Jacob De Leon



Year 7 Bronze

Celebrating Success!

Brilliant Scholars

St Michael's run a twice yearly Brilliant Scholars programme, where students from Year 7 and Year 10 complete extended projects with prominent academics. These projects are marked to a university-level standard and successful students attend graduation ceremonies at prestigious universities across the UK.



Year 10 Students Graduate from Imperial College, University of London

Congratulations to all the Year 10 students who graduated with distinction from the Brilliant Scholars programme. This term, students worked closely with microbiologist, Dr Jess Gaffney, on the the future of vaccines.

"Hello. My name is Maia J and I am a Year 10 student at St Michael's Catholic College.

The topic that we have studied as part of the Brilliant Scholars Programme was called the Future of Vaccines. In this very interesting course, we essentially covered how vaccines are made and the concept of Disease X. We also explored more sophisticated topics, where we were given detailed insight into the protocol for a possible outbreak of a disease in terms of vaccines, and how these requirements shift in different circumstances.

Along with this nuanced information and knowledge that we have learnt, we have been able to develop numerous new skills that we have been taught are very prevalent in university studies. We have learnt how to write university-style reports, how to reference, and how to apply the knowledge we have learnt during the course in doing so.

My experience during the Brilliant Scholars Programme was incredibly enlightening and insightful. I now not only have a deeper understanding of university life and its curriculums, but I have also developed an interest in microbiology. I believe that this programme has both influenced my interests and given me a clearer insight as to what I would like to study for A Levels and in university, all while complementing my GCSE Biology studies.

I would like to thank: Dr Jessica Gaffney, our tutor, who has given the time to provide our tutorials and tend to our concerns; Mr Magnoff, our teacher, who has kindly organised the programme for us; and my fellow peers that have taken part alongside me.

Thank you."

Year 8, 9 and 10 Students Join Forces to Reach Grand Final of London Magistrates Court Competition!

Congratulations to all the students in the Mock Bar Trial Team who qualified for the final of this prestigious competition. Students have been training hard since January 2026 with a crack team of Year 12 mentors to successfully present two court cases to separate panels of magistrates over the course of the Spring and Summer. They finished runners-up at Bromley Magistrates Court gaining the opportunity to be one of 6 teams to fight it out for championship at Croydon Magistrates Court.

The Chief Magistrate, Thomas Ralph JP, went out of his way to praise the St Michael's students:

"The performance and attitude of the St Michael's students has given me renewed faith in young people everywhere. What a tremendous tribute to the school they are. I would happily employ them to work as solicitors tomorrow!"



Innovation and Exploration: Celebrating STEM Week!

Miss P Parr



This past May, St. Michael's came alive with the wonders of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths as we celebrated STEM Week. From explosive lunchtime demonstrations to insightful industry talks and hands-on workshops, students across all year groups immersed themselves in the world of STEM.

Expert Insights & Cutting-Edge Workshops

We were delighted to welcome brilliant guest speakers to inspire our students about future careers.

- We welcomed back St. Michael's alumnus Dr. Daniel Murphy, who delivered a fascinating after-school talk titled "What is Engineering?" He shared his journey into aerospace engineering with students, proving that the sky really is the limit.
- Representatives from King's College London (KCL) ran an after-school Artificial Intelligence workshop. Students got a hands-on introduction to the future of tech, learning how to use coding programmes to make their own animations.
- Elected Year 7 and 8 students participated in an empowering Climate Justice Workshop. Tasked with designing their own environmental campaigns, students pitched brilliant ideas ranging from saving the bees to tackling the environmental impact of fast fashion.



Trip to Veolia

30 students from our Science Club and Eco-Committee took their learning beyond the classroom with a trip to the Veolia Southwark Recycling Centre.

Students were given a tour of the facility and learned firsthand about the modern challenges of waste management—including the dangerous fires caused by the incorrect disposal of lithium-ion batteries. We were guided around the recycling plant amongst all the conveyor belts and saw first-hand all the contaminants that enter recycling. Our students represented the school outstandingly; the staff at Veolia highly praised them for being exceptionally knowledgeable, polite, and deeply engaged in the topic of sustainability.



Lunchtime Hands-On Science:

Every day at lunchtime, the science labs were open to students looking at a different practical element of science. Our young scientists got stuck into a fantastic variety of interactive activities, including:

- Witnessing 'magical' reversible chemical reactions
- Creating colourful layered oil towers to explore the concepts of density.
- Watching hair raise with the Van de Graaff generator.
- Racing homemade hovercrafts.
- Exploring anatomy through heart dissections
- Methane bubble explosions!

In the Classroom: Interactive Lessons

The STEM excitement spilled over into regular lessons, with different year groups tackling unique, week-long challenges:

- Year 7 debated passionately and argued the ethics and practicalities of the motion: "Should we launch a manned mission to Mars?"
- Year 8 turned into crime scene investigators for a week-long forensics project, mastering the scientific techniques used by real-world forensic scientists to solve crimes.
- Year 9 tapped into their inner aerospace engineers to design, build, and test their own lunar landing modules.



Even morning form times got a STEM makeover, with students testing their wits each day against STEM trivia, mind-bending maths puzzles, and science-themed Wordles!

STEM Week was a monumental success, and we are incredibly proud of how our students engaged with every challenge. A huge thank you to all the staff, guest speakers, and students who made the week so memorable. Let's keep questioning, discovering, and innovating!

"They were such a lovely bunch of students and were so engaged and we were so impressed by their pre-existing knowledge of the issues to do with waste, recycling and climate change. It fills us with a lot of hope that the next generation is aware of these issues and wants to make a positive change. We would also like to say a huge thank you to the staff who were so helpful on the day." - The Outreach Team at Veolia Southwark

Interview with Tracy De Groose

On Thursday, the 2nd of July, I had the opportunity to interview Tracy De Groose following her Fight the Power masterclass at my school.

Before the interview, Tracy spoke about the challenges facing the economy over the next five years, emerging trends in digital media, the future of digital publishing and the changing nature of work and creativity in a masterclass.

Listening to Tracy made me realise that creativity isn't simply about making something beautiful, it's about asking better questions, challenging assumptions and creating meaningful connections.

As my fellow host Matteo also concurs, interviewing Tracy was both exciting and inspiring. It reminded me that some of the most valuable opportunities begin with curiosity and the confidence to ask questions.

What stayed with me most was her message that creativity comes from curiosity and having the confidence to think differently. It reminded me that asking meaningful questions can be just as important as finding the answers, a mindset I hope to carry with me throughout my studies and future career.

As a school we were very lucky to have such a wonderful experience.

Kimora-Lee H, Year 13



PE - Celebrating Our Extracurricular Sporting Offer

2025–26

Mr M. Laribi

Celebrating Success

This year has seen some truly outstanding sporting achievements, with students competing and succeeding at local, regional and national level.

Our students achieved:

- 🏆 U14 Girls National Basketball Champions
- 🏆 Year 8 SBCAT World Cup Champions
- 🏆 Year 8 Girls PESSN Football Champions
- 🏆 Year 8 Rugby Tournament Champions
- 🏆 Year 9 Rugby Tournament Champions
- ⚽ U18 Boys South London Cup Football Semi-Finalists
- ⚽ Outstanding performances from both our U15 Boys' and U15 Girls' football teams in the London Cup and South London Cup competitions
- 🏆 Southwark Team of the Year
- 🏆 Southwark Girls' Participation Award

We are incredibly proud of every one of these achievements.

Great British Summer Savings



From 25 June to 1 September 2026, the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make summer special, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that enrich children's lives outside the classroom.

An attraction finder website can help families to find participating venues near you to make the most of summer savings by simply typing in your postcode. To use the attraction finder, please visit <https://summersavings.gov.uk>.

Just Think

Ms P Belvett

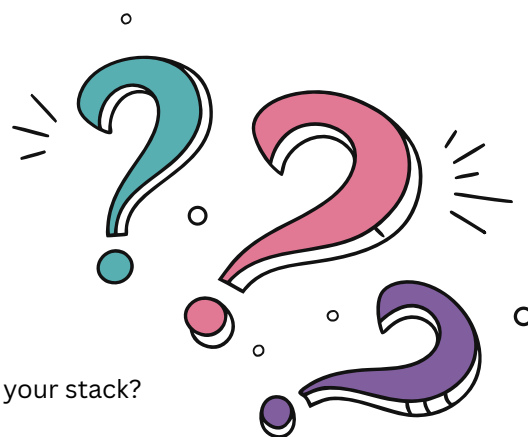
What if?
 What if you worried unnecessarily?
 What if you really had the answer you sought?
 What if you could read other people's thoughts?

What if?
 What if AI was not the enemy?
 What if AI redistributed power?
 What if you were actually its controller?

What if?
 What if money actually grew on trees?
 What if every linen and cotton on your back was actually your stack?

What if?
 What if your 9 to 5 was actually keeping you alive?
 What if it didn't just pay the bills, but gave you instead the will to live?
 What if the people you met there gave you a reason to care?

What if?
 What if this was the last thing you read?



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.





Upcoming Events



September

Wednesday 2nd	Start of term for Year 7 & 12 students 9:30am
Thursday 3rd	Start of term for all Year Groups 8:40am



Safeguarding Team



**Acting Designated
Safeguarding Lead**

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**Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead**

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Safeguarding Officer

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Overall Responsibility

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