



# FUTURE PATHS AT ST MICHAEL'S

## CAREERS NEWSLETTER: VOL 1



St Michael's Catholic  
Academy



[stmichaels.bhcet.org.uk](http://stmichaels.bhcet.org.uk)



@stmichaelscatholicacademy

## MEET OUR ALUMNI



Sam Binns left St Michael's in 2012 and has had a seriously cool journey since! After school, he studied Chemistry, Physics and Maths at SRC Bede, and then went on to do a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering at Newcastle University.

Sam didn't just stop there. He actually worked for the Red Bull Formula 1 Team in Milton Keynes, where he was an Electrical Design Engineer. That meant he helped design the electrics that go inside real F1 race cars — the super-fast ones you see zooming around tracks on TV!

Now, Sam works at Caterpillar in Peterlee, helping to design engines and tools for big construction machines, including articulated dump trucks (the massive ones you spot on building sites).

Sam's story shows that with hard work, big ambitions, and a love of STEM, students from St Michael's can end up designing everything from race cars to heavy-duty machinery.

## KS4 CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

This half term, our Year 11 students have begun their one-to-one careers interviews with Mr Rea, our dedicated Careers Adviser. These personalised sessions help students explore future pathways, understand their options and plan their next steps with confidence. We are proud to support every student as they prepare for life beyond St Michael's.



Our Year 10 Art and DT students took part in an exciting photography workshop led by industry professionals this half term. Students learned expert techniques, explored professional equipment and developed their creative skills through hands-on activities.

## POST 16 PATHWAY OF THE HALF TERM



T Levels are post-16 qualifications equal to three A Levels, designed for students who prefer practical learning.

They combine classroom study with a substantial industry placement, giving real workplace experience.

T Levels prepare young people for skilled employment, apprenticeships or university by focusing on the knowledge and skills each sector needs.



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### DID YOU KNOW?

Tees Valley has a growing digital and creative cluster, especially in gaming, animation, AR/VR and digital media.

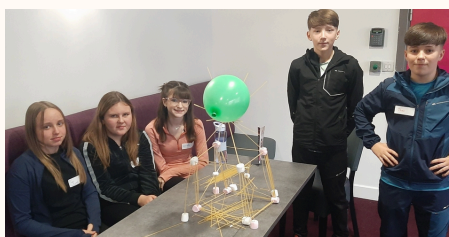
## TEES VALLEY

### DID YOU KNOW?

Tees Valley is investing heavily in the green energy transition, including hydrogen, carbon capture, utilisation & storage (CCUS) and offshore wind.

## KS3 CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

A group of our Year 8 students are taking part in the Catalyst Programme with Oxford University. Through inspiring workshops and academic challenges, they are developing critical thinking, problem-solving and confidence.



Our Year 9 students took part in the Infinity Project with Tees Active, completing a range of exciting challenges. They built spaghetti towers to test teamwork and creativity, learned budgeting and saving in a personal finance workshop from Moneywise Credit Union and pushed their limits at GoClimb with the Leap of Faith and Dreaded Drop.

## HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD?

Supporting your child with their future doesn't have to be complicated. Here are some simple but effective ways to help:

- Talk about careers regularly – Ask what they enjoy, what they're good at, and what they're curious about.
- Explore Unifrog together – Look at pathways, careers profiles, subjects and apprenticeships to spark ideas.
- Encourage good habits – Attendance, organisation and resilience all help them succeed in any route.
- Attend school events – Parents' evenings, information sessions and college open events give valuable insights.
- Promote aspiration – Celebrate their strengths and remind them that there are many routes to success.
- Help with deadlines – Support them with applications, CVs, personal statements or revision planning.

An open conversation at home can make a huge difference to how confident students feel about their next steps.

## KEY WEBSITES

**Unifrog** – Our main careers platform for pathways, courses and apprenticeships (<https://www.unifrog.org>)

**National Careers Service** – Clear job profiles and labour market information (<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk>)

**UCAS** – University courses, apprenticeships and careers advice (<https://www.ucas.com>)

**Apprenticeships** – Search and apply for live apprenticeship opportunities (<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk>)