

FUTURE PATHS AT ST MICHAEL'S

CAREERS NEWSLETTER: VOL 3



St Michael's Catholic Academy



stmichaels.bhcet.org.uk



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MEET OUR ALUMNI



Banking on a Bright Future!

We're delighted to share the journey of former student Luca Dos Santos, who now works in Wealth Management at RBC Brewin Dolphin!

Luca supports financial planners by gathering client information and working closely with investment companies to help deliver a high-quality service.

After leaving St Michael's, he studied A Level Law, Business and Economics at Bede College, giving him time to explore his interests.

He is now working towards a Level 4 qualification, with the goal of becoming a Chartered Financial Planner. Luca really enjoys helping people grow and manage their money.

His advice to students is to explore different opportunities, choose a path you enjoy, and not be afraid to step outside your comfort zone. Most importantly, stay positive, work hard, and believe in yourself!

KS4 CAREER HIGHLIGHTS



Duke of Edinburgh's Award success at St Michael's!

We proudly presented 18 students with their Bronze Awards, recognising their dedication, resilience and commitment. Special guest Tanni Grey-Thompson inspired everyone with her words, and we were joined by the DoFE Operations and Regional Managers.

Our students completed an amazing range of activities for their Bronze Award:

- Volunteering – supporting the elderly and helping in the school library
- Skills – from knitting and cooking to learning musical instruments
- Physical – gym training, walking and gymnastics

A special mention to Tippi, who received the St Michael's DoFE Resilience Award for her determination. Our students excelled in volunteering, skills, and physical activities, pushing themselves beyond their comfort zones. Many are now ready to start their Silver Awards!

POST 16 PATHWAY OF THE HALF TERM



Alongside A Levels (the academic route) and T Levels (the technical route with an industry placement), a third pathway called V Levels will be introduced.

V Levels are new Level 3 vocational qualifications designed for students who want to explore different career sectors before specialising. Each V Level will be equivalent in size to one A Level and can be combined with A Levels.

The first V Levels will launch in September 2027, beginning with Digital, Education and Early Years, and Finance and Accounting.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Healthcare and biotechnology are major employers, with many roles in labs, medical support and science-based careers.

TEES VALLEY

DID YOU KNOW?

The tourism and hospitality sector is growing, supporting thousands of jobs from food and drink to leisure and events.

KS3 CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Employer Encounter

A huge thank you to Liz Millions for visiting school and inspiring our Year 8 students .



Liz delivered an engaging whole year group session, giving students a real insight into careers as an illustrator and what the creative industry can look like in the real world. She then led a brilliant workshop session, where students had the chance to get hands-on, ask questions, and explore their own creativity.

Sports Leaders Pirate Festival

19 of our Sports Leaders visited Queen's Campus to deliver an exciting Pirate Festival for KS1 pupils.

Working alongside the fantastic team at Stockton Schools Sports Partnership, our students confidently led a range of fun and engaging activities designed to develop agility, balance and coordination.

This event provided a brilliant opportunity for our Sports Leaders to develop important leadership, communication and teamwork skills, while gaining valuable experience in organising and delivering activities for younger pupils.



HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD?

College open events are a great way to help your child make informed decisions about their future, and you can start attending from the beginning of Year 10.

Visiting together allows you to explore courses, meet staff, and get a feel for each college. Encourage your child to ask questions and think about what suits them best.



- Try to attend a variety of open events to compare options.
- Many colleges also run apprenticeship fairs, offering valuable insight into alternative pathways.
- Afterwards, talk about what they enjoyed and help them stay organised with key dates.



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>