



FUTURE PATHS AT ST MICHAEL'S

CAREERS NEWSLETTER: VOL 5



St Michael's Catholic
Academy



stmichaels.bhcet.org.uk



@stmichaelscatholicacademy

MEET OUR ALUMNI

Meet Martha – Employment Solicitor



From the classrooms of St Michael's to helping people navigate complex workplace issues, Martha has built a rewarding career in law.

After leaving St Michael's in 2013, Martha continued her education at Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College in Darlington, where she studied AS French alongside A Levels in English Literature, History and Law. These subjects helped her develop the communication, analytical and critical thinking skills that would become the foundation of her career.

Martha then went on to study Law at Newcastle University. Although she had known throughout school that she wanted to become a lawyer, it was during her legal training that she discovered her passion for employment law.

Today, Martha works as an Employment Solicitor, representing both employees and employers. No two days are the same. She advises clients through challenging workplace situations, helping them understand their rights, resolve disputes and find practical solutions. It's a career that allows her to work with a wide range of people while making a real difference during important moments in their lives.

When asked what advice she would give to students considering their future, Martha encourages them to embrace new opportunities. **"Give things a go," she says. "If you try something and realise it's not for you, that's just as valuable as finding something you love. Every experience helps you make better decisions about your future."**

KS4 WORK EXPERIENCE

Year 10 students at St Michael's Catholic Academy stepped beyond the classroom this term, completing a wide range of exciting Work Experience placements that gave them a real insight into the world of work.

Students explored careers across a variety of industries, including sport at Middlesbrough Football Club, emergency services with Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, engineering, archaeology, retail, hospitality and early years education.

Others developed practical construction skills with Learning Curve Group or experienced careers in emergency care through activities at Teesside University, before putting their new skills into action by helping to improve plantation areas around school.

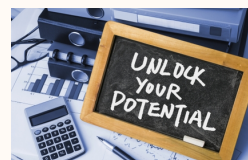
Throughout the week, students impressed employers with their enthusiasm, professionalism and willingness to learn, representing St Michael's with pride.

A huge thank you goes to all the employers, organisations, parents and carers who made these opportunities possible. Work Experience plays a vital role in helping students develop confidence, build employability skills and discover the exciting career pathways available to them.



POST 16 PATHWAY OF THE HALF TERM

Foundational Learning



Foundation learning programmes are at introductory level to support you into supported internships, employment, apprenticeships, independent living and further study.

Courses are practical, build your confidence, improve life skills, prepare you for employment and include core subjects English, maths and ICT.



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DID YOU KNOW?

Tees Valley has over 17,000 businesses across many different industries.

TEES VALLEY

DID YOU KNOW?

Technology is changing the workplace. Employers need people who can:
solve problems, use technology, communicate clearly and think creatively.

EXPLORING FURTHER EDUCATION

Our Year 10 students have visited a range of local colleges to explore the exciting opportunities available after GCSEs. Visits to Stockton Sixth Form College, Hartlepool FE College, Bede College, Stockton Riverside College and Middlesbrough College gave students valuable insight into different courses, facilities and future pathways. The visits encouraged students to think ahead, ask questions and begin planning for life beyond school. Well done to all of Year 10 for representing St Michael's with enthusiasm, curiosity and maturity throughout each visit.



Students recently enjoyed an inspiring visit to Oxford University alongside students from English Martyrs and Our Lady and St Bede. The trip gave students the opportunity to explore one of the world's most prestigious universities, discover student life and learn more about higher education pathways. Walking through the historic colleges and hearing about university experiences encouraged students to think ambitiously about their futures and recognise the exciting opportunities available beyond school.

KS3 CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

National Careers Challenge Success!

A huge well done to our Year 8 and Year 9 students who took part in the National Careers Challenge.

Working in teams, students tackled an exciting enterprise challenge, designing innovative products and pitching their ideas to a panel of judges.

Throughout the day, they showcased outstanding creativity, teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills.

Congratulations to all of our challenge winners, and a special mention to Ashton B and Sophia B, who were recognised as Enterprisers of the Day for their exceptional contributions. We are incredibly proud of everyone who participated and represented our school so brilliantly.



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>