FUTURE PATHS AT ST MICHAEL'S
CAREERS NEWSLETTER: VOL 6

St Michael's Catholic Academy | stmichaels.bhcet.org.uk | @stmichaelscatholicacademy

MEET OUR ALUMNI

From St Michael's to the High Seas!



Former St Michael's student Ciaran Devlin is proof that determination, hard work and a willingness to try something new can take you around the world!

Ciaran attended St Michael's from 2007 to 2012, studying German, History and Geography. After leaving school, he initially struggled to find an apprenticeship, so he enrolled on a Level 3 Electrical Engineering course at Hartlepool College of Further Education. When opportunities remained limited, he took a different route and joined the Royal Navy as a Weapons Engineer on nuclear submarines.

Over nine years, Ciaran travelled the world, gained valuable qualifications and worked in high-pressure environments. At 27, he took another leap of faith, starting a new apprenticeship to pursue a career in the oil and gas industry. Having completed his training, he now works for the American energy company ConocoPhillips!

His advice to current students? "Always be respectful to others and give 100% of yourself in whatever you do."

Ciaran's journey is a fantastic reminder that there is no single route to success. It's never too late to try something new, change direction and discover where your ambitions can take you!

KS3 OPPORTUNITIES

Inspiring Our Students to Overcome Barriers
We welcomed Andy into school to deliver motivational talks to our students about his career in the Army and the challenges he has overcome along the way. Andy shared valuable insights into the importance of resilience, determination and maintaining a positive mindset when faced with obstacles. His inspiring message encouraged students to believe in themselves, embrace challenges and recognise that barriers don't have to limit their future success. A huge thank you to Andy for sharing his experiences!





Exploring Careers in the Net Zero Sector
We were delighted to welcome Rebecca from Northern Gas into school to speak to our Year 8 students about the growing Net Zero sector and the exciting career opportunities emerging within the industry. Students explored how the energy sector is evolving to support a more sustainable future, including learning about hydrogen-powered cars and the potential role of hydrogen in greener transport. The session gave students a valuable insight into future technologies and the wide range of career pathways available in this developing sector. A big thank you to Rebecca for an engaging and informative session!

PATHWAY OF THE HALF TERM



An apprenticeship is a paid job where you gain practical experience while studying towards a recognised qualification. Apprenticeships are available in many industries, from engineering to healthcare. To apply, search vacancies on the GOV.UK Find an Apprenticeship website, prepare your CV and complete an application. You may also apply directly through employers' websites.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Tees Valley is home to more than 17,400 businesses, with exciting industries including clean energy, advanced manufacturing, digital technology, construction and life sciences.

TEES VALLEY

DID YOU KNOW?

Tees Valley's clean energy sector is worth around £1.2 billion and has a higher concentration of jobs than the UK average.

KS4 OPPORTUNITIES



Celebrating Our Student Leaders

St Michael's Catholic Academy is proud to announce its Student Leadership Team for 2026–2027! Congratulations to Head Boy Luka M and Head Girl Heidi B, who will lead the team in representing the academy and supporting our school community. They will be supported by Deputy Head Students Connie L, Ollie O, Neave S and Tom S. We look forward to seeing our student leaders make a positive difference throughout the year!

Year 10 students recently demonstrated confidence and courage as they took part in the Speak Out Challenge.

The programme focused on developing students' oracy skills, helping them become more effective and confident communicators. The challenge encouraged pupils to express their ideas clearly, share their opinions and develop the confidence to speak in front of others.

Strong speaking and listening skills are valuable in education, future careers and everyday life. By taking part in the Speak Out Challenge, students were able to practise articulating their ideas, engaging an audience and communicating with confidence and clarity.



PARENT POINT: KS5 CURRICULUM CHANGES

Post-16 education is evolving, with three key options available to students.

A Levels, such as Biology, History and English Literature, offer subject-based academic study.

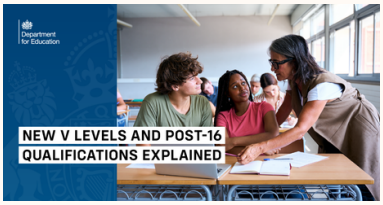
T Levels, such as Engineering, Health and Healthcare Science, combine classroom learning with a substantial industry placement.

V Levels are new vocational qualifications that focus on applied, practical learning across a career sector. The first subjects, planned for September 2027, include Education, Accounting and Finance, and Digital Systems and Data.

More V Level options will be introduced over the coming years.

All three pathways can support progression to university, apprenticeships and employment.





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