

St Michael's



# Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3 Transition

St Michael's

Catholic Academy

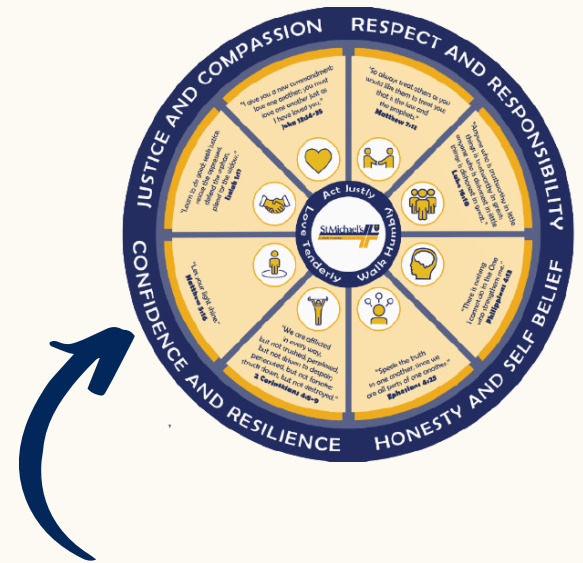
# Welcome to St Michael's!

Starting secondary school is a big change.

There is a lot to take in, but you will quickly fit into the St Michael's community.

We hope that this booklet can help you manage your nerves and give you some reassurance with starting at the Academy in September.

We expect everyone to work hard, but we want you to be happy and enjoy your time with us.



This is our virtues wheel. It contains the 8 virtues we want all St Michael's pupils to showcase: justice, compassion, respect, resilience, responsibility, confidence, honesty and self-belief.



Scan the QR code with a camera to watch a tour around our Academy!



"As many hands build a house, so many hearts make a school"

All illustrations have been drawn by St Michael's staff and pupils using iPads!

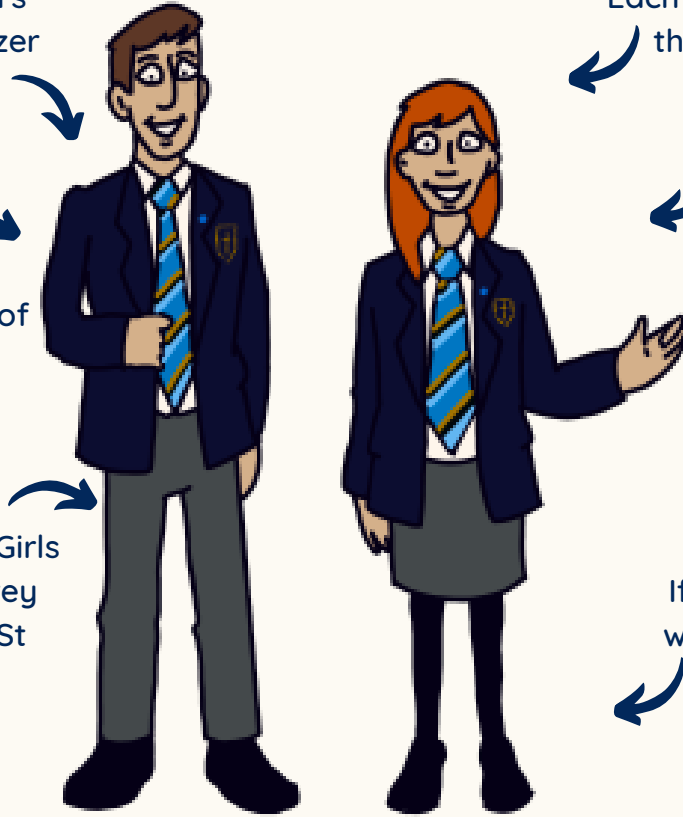
# How should I prepare for my first day?

## Our Uniform

You can wear the St Michael's jumper underneath your blazer to keep warm.

Students wear a stripy tie which has been an emblem of St Michael's for decades!

Boys wear grey trousers. Girls wear grey trousers or grey skirts. Both contain the St Michael's logo.



Each pupil wears a blazer with the St Michael's logo on.

White shirts are worn.

Each year group have their own coloured badge. In Year 7, you wear blue. Your tutor will give this to you on your first day.

If wearing a skirt, you can wear black tights or socks.

Black, flat, smart shoes must be worn.

## The School Day

Doors Open: 8:40am  
Registration: 8:55am - 9:10am  
Period One: 9:10am- 10:10am  
Period Two: 10:10am - 11:10 am  
Break: 11:10am - 11:30am  
Period Three: 11:30 am- 12:30pm  
Lunch: 12:30pm- 1:25pm  
Period Four: 1:25pm- 2:25pm  
Period Five: 2:25pm- 3:25pm  
End of the school day: 3:25pm

## What do I need to put in my bag?

- School equipment: a black pen, a green pen, a pencil and a ruler.
- A packed lunch if you choose to bring your own dinner.
- Your tutor will give you your St Michael's Student Planner and timetable on your first day.
- You won't need your PE kit on the first day.



# ★ YOUR FIRST DAY ★

The gates will be unlocked at 8:40am to allow students into the Academy. Some students walk, some cycle, some get dropped off and some get a bus.

There will be a number of staff to direct you where to go.



On your first morning, you will have an assembly to welcome you to the Academy. This will be led by the Pastoral Learning Manager of Year 7.

You will spend the morning with your form tutor. They will hand out your student planners, timetables and badges.

They will discuss the school rules and answer any of your questions.

Your form tutor will register you every morning.



During the morning, you will have a break time. This will be 11:10-11:30.



It is lunchtime between 12:30pm and 1:25pm.

Everybody in Year 7 will eat together in the dining hall.

The menu changes each day. Pizza, paninis and sandwiches are served everyday.

You buy food using a biometric scan of your finger. We will show you how this works on your first day.



After lunch, you will follow your timetabled lessons.

Your Pastoral Learning Manager will blow the whistle and line up Year 7 outside in their tutor groups. Your teacher will meet you and lead you to their classroom.



After Period 5, it is home time. You will be led outside by your teacher to the bus bays.

# What will I be studying?

Using the camera on a mobile phone, scan the QR codes for each subject to find out what you will be studying.

## Religious Education



## English



## Maths



## Geography



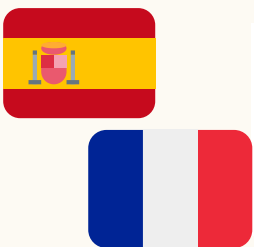
## Science



## History



## Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)



## Computer Science



In Key Stage 3 (Year 7, 8 and 9), you will study 12 subjects. You will be taught in your form classes, meaning all lessons are mixed ability.

Each subject will give you a foundation of knowledge which will be developed as you move into your GCSE courses.

## Design Technology (DT)



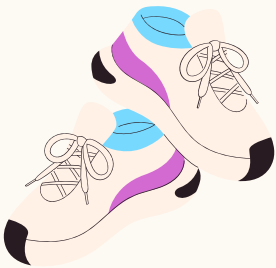
## Art



## Music



## PE



## What is the PE Kit?

The PE kit consists of:

- A navy and gold polo shirt with the St Michael's logo on
- Navy shorts
- Navy football socks
- Trainers
- The school tracksuit is optional. This consists of joggers, sports leggings and a hoodie.



# Student Life at St Michael's

We aim to offer a range of opportunities and experiences for students to get involved in.

We have a range of clubs, councils, events, trips, sport teams and charity events for you to take part in. Have a look at some offered below:



As a community, we unite against bullying of any form by naming our Searchlight Ambassadors. Our ambassadors work with Mr Scott and the Year 11 Student Leaders to stand against bullying.

At Christmas, we take students ice skating at Billingham Forum as a reward for excellent behaviour.



There are a number of sports teams to join. We offer both girls and boys football, cricket, athletics, rugby, netball and basketball.

We also have students who represent the Academy nationally in swimming and judo competitions.

The English Department run a yearly trip to London. You get to visit The Globe Theatre, watch a West End show and go to Harry Potter world!

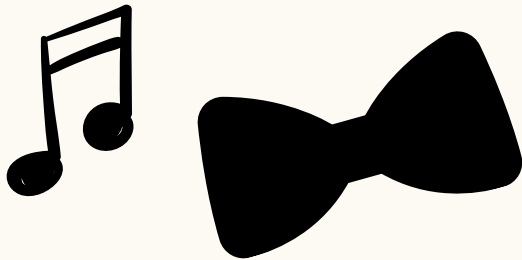




We have student councils each in year group. They meet fortnightly. They speak about any issues we have at the Academy so that your voices get heard.



Student Councils help to run lots of events that raise money for charities picked by the pupils.



To celebrate all your successes at St Michael's, we host a prom at the end of Year 11.

We have weekly clubs that change half termly. In the past, we have had: Marvel Club, Disney Club, Cards Club, Glee Club and even a Circus club!



We have a group of Language Ambassadors that promote Modern Foreign Languages across the Academy. They run art and crafts activities at lunchtime.



We have a Student Leadership Team that is made up of elected Year 11 students. This includes a Head Boy and Head Girl. Our Student Leadership Team wear blue ties and are involved in events at the Academy.



We have a school choir that is ran in the Chapel. The choir has played an important role in the musical events we have ran at the Academy.

# Catholic Life



St Michael's is a Catholic academy. This means that our school community is deeply rooted in the Gospel values.

We embody the school motto:

**'Act Justly, Walk Humbly, Love Tenderly' Micah 6:8**

Whilst many of you will have attended Catholic primary schools, many students who attend St Michael's have not.

Catholic Life at St Michael's allows all students to come together regardless of where each person is on their journey of faith.

There are a number of opportunities you can get involved in through Catholic Life:

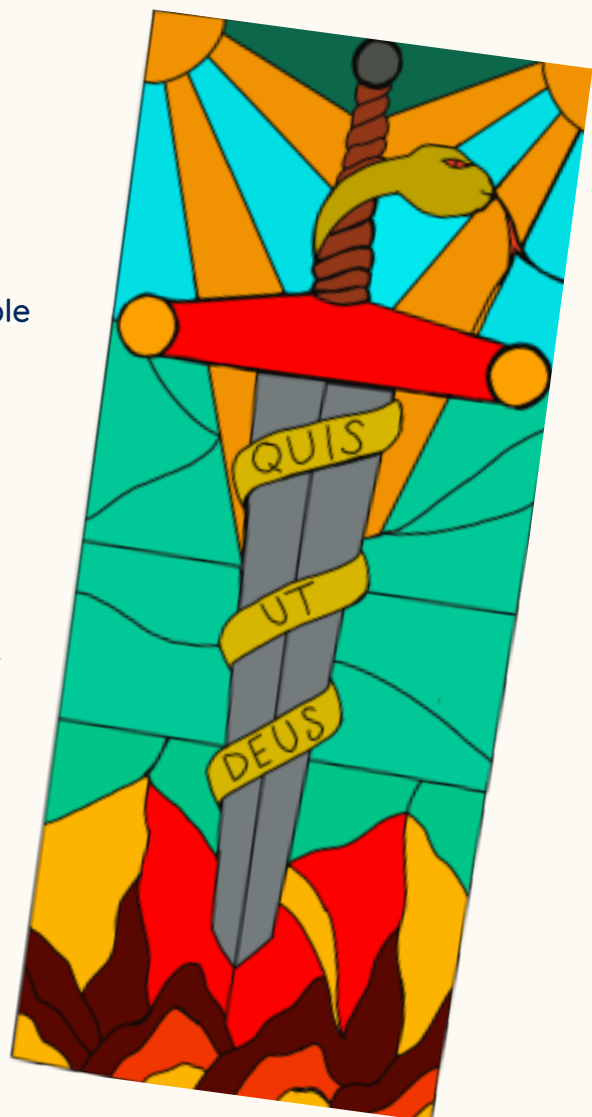
We run many initiatives through the Chapel that support people within our own community and around the world.

You will have an opportunity to get involved in the youth branch of the SVP (Mini Vinnies) which often help in the community by doing various cake sales and fundraisers for food banks and charities.

Every year, there will be an opportunity to go on an overnight retreat to the Emmaus Youth Village in Consett.

We have a choir that runs each Thursday lunchtime in the Chapel.

There will be a chance to make a pilgrimage to Lourdes.



Each morning, all students gather in collective worship. Your form tutor will lead prayers to help centre ourselves for the day ahead. Students will be invited to lead too!

As a year group, you will gather in collective worship in assemblies once a week.

We have liturgies for feast days throughout the year too, which will be led by the Lay Chaplain.

Once a year, you will attend a form group Mass. This will take place in the Chapel, which is right at the heart of building. You will help prepare and deliver the Mass alongside priests from the partnership.

During your first half term in RE, your RE teacher will give you an induction to the Chapel. Here you can ask any questions of things you are unsure about. Your school planner will be able to support you with any prayers you are unsure of.



# Our Library

Our library is at the core of the building- it is the first thing you see when coming into the Academy!  
The library holds over 4,000 books, across a range of genres, which every student has access to.

Every pupil has one day a week to access the library at social times.

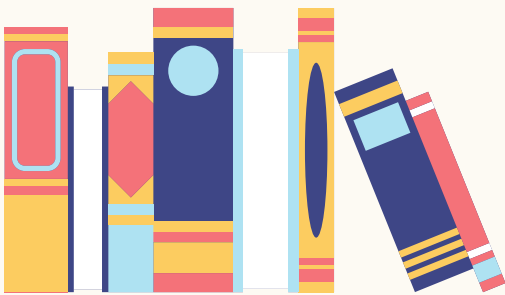
Additionally, one English lesson per fortnight is a dedicated library lesson.

Miss Littlefair is our librarian. She works with a group of older students who form our Reading Ambassadors. They can help pick the book that is right for you!



We use a system called 'Accelerated Reader' to track students' reading. When you arrive at St Michael's, we will check what your reading level is, using this system, then support you in finding a book for your ability.

Every student has an 'Accelerated Reader' book as part of their equipment.



Reading is incredibly beneficial to your development: it exercises the brain, improves concentration, develops your literacy skills, improves sleep and can reduce stress!

The library runs competitions, clubs and events to promote reading at the Academy.

# The Good Shepherd

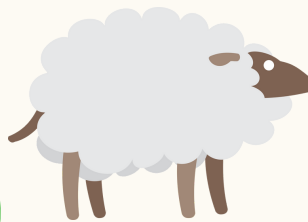
The Good Shepherd is the Academy's 'safe haven'. It is a little community that is located on the ground floor by student reception.

It offers a place of refuge for students who may need a safe place hosting students across all five year groups.

Mrs Jackson works in the Good Shepherd with a team of Progress Support Staff.

The centre is named after The Parable of the Lost Sheep- Matthew 18: 10-14. It is about a shepherd who leaves his flock of ninety-nine sheep in order to find the one which is lost.

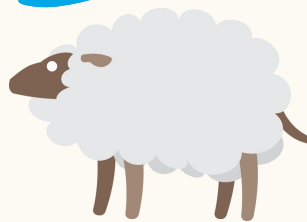
"It is a helpful place to come for 5 minutes to clear your mind. It is fun at lunch and break as there are plenty of activities to do"  
- A Year 9 Student



"It is a place you can go for calm and peace."  
- A Year 7 Student

"Its a small but friendly little place. You can meet other people here who want to avoid the hustle and bustle"  
- A Year 10 Student

"This is somewhere you can go when you need help. The staff are really supportive"  
- A Year 8 Student



The Good Shepherd hosts a range of clubs to support those children in need.

In addition, Homework Club runs after school four times a week where all students can come for support.



# Tips from our current Year 7s!

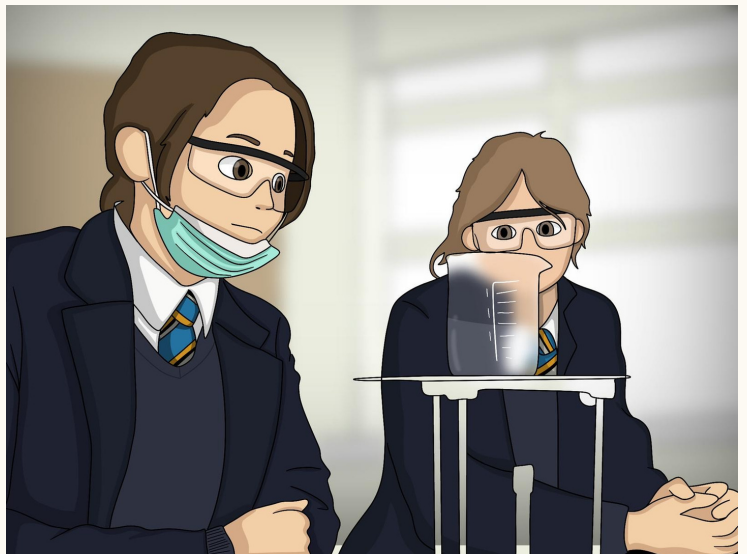
"Join the football team. Take part in clubs. It will give you lots of opportunities to make friends"

- Freddie Walker 7A

"Don't be scared- people are there to help you.

They will make sure you don't get lost."

- Lola Robinson 7C



"Prepare to make friends. You don't have to stick with

the people you went to Primary school with."

-Isla Marshall 7A

"Chat to the people in your form. Get to know them. It's everyone's first day too!"

- Jack Marron 7I

## Contact Us



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



[enquiries@stmichaels.bhcet.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@stmichaels.bhcet.org.uk)



St Michael's Catholic Academy



@stmichaelscatholicacademy



Beamish Road  
Billingham  
Stockton on Tees  
TS23 3DX



01642 870003