

September 2017

# Welcome to St Michael's Church of England High School's website

**It is really hard to believe that a year has passed and that, thanks to the determination and collaboration of the students, parents, carers, teachers and school staff, we have continued to grow, both academically and spiritually.**

This year has seen dramatic changes in new, tougher 9-1 GCSE English Language, English Literature and Maths exams. These had harder content, yet two of our students achieved Grade 9s, placing them in the top 3% of the country. Charlotte Evans and Lauren Jukes, achieved a Grade 9 in English Language and English Literature respectively. This places Charlotte in the top 2% and Lauren in the top 3% of students in the country. Charlotte achieved seven A\* grades and three A grades whilst Lauren achieved four A\*s, five As and one B grade.

Further success stories include Ryan Johnson and Taylor Wooley: Ryan achieved six A\*s and four A grades (achieving A\* for all three Drama modules) and Taylor achieved four A\*s and six A grades. All four students will be continuing their education at the prestigious King Edward VI Sixth Form College in Stourbridge.

54% of students achieved the new 'strong pass' in English. Biology, Chemistry, Core Science, Computing, Financial Capability, German, PE, Drama, Polish, Child Development and Dance performed significantly above the national average and Additional Science, Physics, Music, French and Catering results were also above the national average. Despite harder exams, attainment was enhanced in English Literature, Maths, Geography, History, RE, Business Studies, Textiles and Art. Importantly, we have also increased our A/A\* percentage and the gap between the attainment of disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged students has narrowed.

Headteacher: **Mrs J Gray, MSc, NPQH**

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These are just a few of the success stories at St Michael's this year. All of our students have made us so proud. They have faced the challenge of the new GCSEs and performed beyond expectations. It is also important to acknowledge how hard the teaching team have worked to prepare for the rigours of the new system. The staff's dedication to our children's success and the commitment demonstrated by the students, their parents and their carers, has been wonderful, epitomising our motto: Work together, learn together, achieve together.

Students attending St Michael's benefit from a nurturing environment, whilst enjoying first-class facilities in a state-of-the-art building. The combination is obviously a successful one.

The quality of teaching at St Michael's has been externally recognised: we have three members of staff who are Specialist Leaders in Education (SLEs) who support our staff to develop their practice as well as supporting and developing staff in other local secondary schools.

We have received numerous awards from our University Partners for the exceptional training and mentoring of trainee teachers. For example, our Head of Performing Arts won the 'Outstanding Mentor Award' from Warwick University for the work undertaken with Drama PGCE students. Furthermore, we were awarded the Sandwell Newly Qualified Teachers' Quality Mark for the excellent induction and training that new teachers receive at St Michael's when they join the profession.

This academic year, we need to focus on building on our solid foundations to continue our drive to be graded Outstanding. We know that aspects of our school are exemplary: we are grateful for the support given to us by the Diocese and, especially, our beloved Reverend Shelton, who drives the spiritual core values within the school. Our contributions to charity are notorious and our collaborative projects with our wider community create a sense of unity. Our children have responded admirably to the changes we have made to improve standards and parents and carers have avidly supported our higher expectations.

We have hard-working, passionate and loyal staff, who are dedicated to our children's success. Our key strength is that we abide by our fundamental principles: to be "Committed to Christian values: to show love, care and kindness to all in our community. To value what we have and to share with others".

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jayne Gray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'J'.

Mrs Jayne Gray (MSc; NPQH)  
Headteacher