

October 2018

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

**Thanks to the determination and collaboration of the students, parents, carers, teachers and school staff, this year we have continued to grow, both academically and spiritually.**

In November 2017, the school was inspected by Ofsted and we were judged to be a good and improving school: "the school is "strong and improving". We were delighted that our "work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare" was judged to be outstanding.

This year has seen the expansion of the changes to the new, tougher 9-1 GCSEs in the majority of subjects taken by our students. The students in Year 11 surpassed expectations: 65% of them achieved a grade 4 or above in Maths and 70% in English. 56% of our students achieved a grade 4 in both English and Maths, making them our highest performing cohort under significantly more challenging measures. For grades 4 and above, our Maths department is the second highest Maths department, and our History Department is the highest performing History Department, in Sandwell.

We achieved significantly higher than national results in: Hospitality (+13.8%), History (+13.4%), RE (+12.3%) and Textiles (+11%) and our disadvantaged, looked after and SEND children all performed significantly better than those cohorts nationally. 7% of our Year 11 students achieved Grade 9s - placing them in the top 2.5% of the country. Thus, we are fulfilling our vision of "an inclusive school where pupils are cared for and are successful academically" (*Ofsted 2018*).

Individual performances were extraordinary: *Igor Fierka* achieved a Grade A in AS Polish (achieving 100%), five Grade 9s in English Literature, Double Science; Geography and RE, A\*s in Business and Financial Capability and Grade 8s in Maths and Computer Science. Igor was joined by 12 other students who achieved a Grade 9. *Hannah Bheekooa* achieved Grade 9s in French and Art; *Imogen Ferrer* and *Luke Pike* in History and RE; *Zane Garrett* in English Language and History; *Rachel Turner* in English Literature and History; *Sofia Irfan* in Maths and RE; *Liberty McBride* in English Language; *Olivia Priest* in English Literature; *Lilly Tucker* and *Nathan Gallagher* in Maths; *Taylor Belfort* in French and *Jayme Rhoden* in RE. Other brilliant achievers include *Ellisia Williams*, who achieved four Grade 8s, four Grade 7s and two Grade 6s and *Lauren Sibley*, *Stephanie Rotherham*, *Katelyn Siviter* and *Careena Salhan* are to be congratulated on their outstanding progress.

These are just a few of our top performers but we are proud of every single student's GCSE results this year. 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.

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.

The quality of teaching at St Michael's has been externally recognised: teaching is "consistently strong across subjects" (Ofsted 2017). 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. Students attending St Michael's benefit from excellent teaching and a nurturing environment, whilst enjoying first class facilities in a state-of-the-art building. The combination is obviously a successful one.

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 Reverend Siviter, 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: pupils "behave well in lessons and at other times of the day. They are smartly dressed, polite and courteous. They are very proud of their school" (Ofsted 2017).

Recently, our Science technicians, Jane Withers and Joshua Lee won the national award for the Best Science Technicians competition. We have hard-working, passionate and loyal staff, who are dedicated to our children's success: St Michael's staff "form a united team, committed to providing the best possible education for pupils" (Ofsted 2017). 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, appearing to read 'Jayne Gray', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mrs Jayne Gray (MSc; NPQH)  
**Headteacher**