

September 2019



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 strong and improving school. We were delighted that our "work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare" was judged to be outstanding.

This year, the staff and Governors of St Michael's Church of England High School are delighted to celebrate the 2019 Year 11 cohort's brilliant GCSE results: the school achieved a positive Progress 8 figure as a result of students surpassing their target grades and performing better than national expectations. Their Average Points Score was also higher than national expectations.

I am privileged to lead a team of staff who consistently demonstrate an unflinching commitment to the young people in our care and I am absolutely delighted that the hard work of both students and staff has been reflected in the results. English and Maths results improved again this year and Music, RE, Physics, History, Chemistry, Biology, Art, Science, Hospitality, Sport and Financial Capability all achieved above national figures, as significantly as +23.4%.

Many of our pupils achieved grade 9s: in total, 32 students across a range of 16 subject areas (15% of our students) were ranked in the top 2.5% of the country. Individual performances were extraordinary: James Hall achieved four grade 9s in Biology, Physics, Geography and Citizenship; a grade 8 in Chemistry; three grade 7s in Maths, English Literature and Performing Arts; a grade 6 in French and a grade 5 in English Language.

Other successes include George Priest, Justin Gem, Victoria Andrews, Victoria Lawson and Beth Winup who, between them, achieved two grade 9s; sixteen grade 8s; one grade A; seven Distinction Stars; nineteen grade 7s; five grade 6s and one grade 5. These are just a few of our top performers but we are proud of every single pupil who took their GCSEs this year.



*From left to right:
James Hall
Lilly Margetts
Head Boy, George
Priest
Justin Gem
Victoria Andrews
Alex Hadley*



*Head Girl, Ellie
Wardle, with her
Dad on results day*

Again, this year, our Student Voice has received acclaim from across the borough and beyond; their work on raising awareness of issues affecting young people, such as social isolation, youth violence, knife crime, and our ongoing campaign to promote positive mental health, has been recognised with, amongst many other awards, an Outstanding Young Community Project Award from the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner.

Extra-curricular opportunities abound at St Michael's: our Year 10 boys won the Sandwell Football Cup and we had further successes in badminton, trampoline and netball. Students across all year groups have benefited from a variety of trips and visits throughout the year, culminating in the annual Performing Arts trip. This year the location was Salzburg in Austria where 48 students took part in public performances throughout the week at various venues – plans for next year's trip to Spain are already underway!



Two of the dance performances for the Austria trip

Our wider community is very important to St Michael's: we host coffee mornings and participate in joint projects, the school choir and Student Voice visit local homes; Student Voice pupils took part in a television programme documenting the wonderful community projects in which they take part and we continue to raise phenomenal amounts of money for charities: approximately £50,000, including over £32,000 for Birmingham Children's Hospital.

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". As a consequence, 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). The combination of high standards and first-class facilities in a state-of-the-art building is obviously a successful one.

Handwritten signature of Mrs Jayne Gray.

Mrs Jayne Gray (MSc; NPQH)
Headteacher