

JG/BAP
8 September 2016



Dear Parent/Carer

It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of St Michael's Church of England High School. I am very honoured to have been appointed to this important role. I have been fortunate enough to be able to visit the school regularly prior to my official start, meeting with teachers, students and Governors. This has been invaluable preparation for a smooth transition and I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mr Wilkes for enabling me to work closely with him during his last weeks in office.

I am joining St Michael's having worked in three very different schools. I have held numerous leadership roles, including Deputy Principal, Director of Teaching and Learning, Assistant Headteacher and Arts College Co-ordinator. In all of these posts, my contributions to strategic development have been praised by Ofsted. St Michael's School has many strengths and I feel privileged to be able to use my experience to lead the next phase of our development.

One of my key objectives this year is to accelerate student progress and achievement to ensure that our school continues to move towards an 'Outstanding' Ofsted rating. In order to do this, we need to build on the existing positive aspects of the school and ensure consistently high expectations both in and out of the classroom. I look forward to meeting you at forthcoming events, such as Parents' Evenings, in order to get to know you and share my vision and plans for the school in greater detail. This strong partnership between parents and the school is vitally important in enabling children to achieve success and so I ask for your full support of school policies and for your continued proactive involvement in your child's education; this includes the school uniform policy as I believe strongly in the mantra, 'be smart, think smart'. It is important for students to have a sense of pride in their appearance and represent their school well both in and on their way to and from school.

I hold a strong belief in the right of every child to receive an excellent education and in the power of education to change children's lives. At St Michael's, we aim to develop the whole child and to provide opportunities for them to flourish within and beyond the classroom. We aspire to develop confidence and equip every student with the knowledge and skills to enable them to make a positive contribution to society. This includes preparing our students for their path into the next phase of their education and the world of work, by instilling the values of respect, courtesy, tolerance and co-operation.

I am dedicated to building opportunities for students to achieve the highest academic standards, ensuring that they are known well as individuals: ensuring that their unique personality, talent and interests are nurtured and developed to the full. I look forward to working in partnership with you over the coming years to secure the best possible future for your child.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jayne Gray', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mrs Jayne Gray, MSc; NPQH
Headteacher

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

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