

JG/BAP
17th July 2018



Dear Parent/Carer,

As the school year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and cooperation. The importance of the effective and respectful partnership between home and school is vital – I firmly believe that when parents and school work in unison, demanding the same high standards in all aspects of behaviour and attitude to learning, our students thrive.

In my end of year letter to you last July, I mentioned how privileged I felt to lead a team of staff who consistently demonstrated an unflinching commitment to the young people in our care and the pleasure I took in witnessing the growing pride that students were taking in their appearance, their school and their achievements. I was delighted to have this confirmed in November, when St Michael's was once again judged to be Good by Ofsted, with Pupils' Personal Development and Welfare rated as Outstanding.

This year has seen a number of initiatives focusing on students' personal development, welfare and safety, reflecting our Outstanding status in this field. These have included a number of anti-bullying events and the launch of an online counselling facility within school; moreover, the four "21st Century Child" evenings held throughout the year, around the challenges children and parents can experience in a world dominated by social media and technology, received acclaim from across the borough and beyond. Student Voice have continued their magnificent fund raising efforts, benefitting a variety of causes, including Birmingham Children's Hospital, Friends of Chernobyl Children, Edward's Trust, Sandwell Cardiac Club and Loaves N Fishes. Several very successful trips and visits have taken place throughout the year, culminating in the recent Performing Arts trip to Italy where 43 St Michael's students took part in public performances throughout this week at various venues in Tuscany – a truly memorable experience! Friday's Prom at WBA Conference & Banqueting Suite was the final event for Year 11 before they collect their GCSE results in August - I am confident that their hard work, together with the high level of support from both parents and staff, will pay off and I wish them success in the future.

I am delighted with the way our students have worn their school uniform this year: with confidence and respect: they have been a credit to you and our school. Our uniform allows students to feel part of the school and have a sense of belonging. We will continue to be very vigilant about ensuring our students wear their uniform correctly and, attached to this letter, is a copy of the school's dress code to help you when buying school wear over the summer – please can I remind you that, with effect from September, ALL students will be expected to wear WHITE shirts. A copy of the equipment list is also included. Staff will be checking all equipment and uniform from the first day back in September and we thank you for your support with this.

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

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It is no surprise that those students who have excellent attendance and punctuality make far better progress and achieve better grades. Whilst we accept that there are rare times when absence from school cannot be avoided, there is an expectation that your child will have 100% attendance and, in line with the government directive, holidays in school time will not be authorised. We ask for your support in ensuring that your child attends school every day and that they arrive by 8.35am for the start of the school day

Also attached are the dates for the next academic year. Students will finish school at **12.30pm on Wednesday 18th July** and will return on **Tuesday 4th September**. In order for our new Year 7 students to be welcomed to the school and settled into their form groups, students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 should arrive in school by 9.35am, meeting in the following assembly points:

- Year 8: Design & Technology Hub
- Year 9: English Hub (for that day only)
- Year 10: Humanities Hub
- Year 11: Maths/Science Hub

Please note that students in 8M, 8I, 8C and 8H should bring their PE kit to school on the first day back.

May I wish you all a very enjoyable summer and I look forward to our continued working together next year to support your children to achieve their full potential.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs J Gray
Headteacher

School Uniform

We are proud of our school uniform and expect our pupils to wear it with pride. This includes the PE kit.

Jewellery: Students are not allowed to wear excessive or expensive jewellery at St Michael's, not only to prevent the loss of valuable items, but also to encourage professional appearance in dress and appearance. The only jewellery permitted is a watch and a single plain stud may be worn in each ear. Nose studs or any other body piercings are not permitted. Smart watches are not permitted to be worn or brought into school.

Make-up: Make-up and nail varnish are not permitted. This includes fake tan and acrylic/gel or any other fake nails.

Hairstyles: should be neat and smart. Hair should be a natural colour, no shorter than a No. 2. No extreme styles, including 'tramlines', sculpting, shaving, patterns or undercuts. Use of gels or styling products should be minimal. No bandanas or baseball caps. Hairbands (girls) must be plain: navy or black only.

Dress code

- Navy blue blazer with school badge
- Plain black full length, straight-legged school trousers which hang from the waist – NO Lycra
- Plain black knee-length skirt – NO Lycra
- Plain navy blue V neck school pullover (boys and girls) or cardigan (girls)
- White shirt or blouse with shirt collar
- School tie
- Headscarves (religious purposes only) should be black
- Shoes – suitable formal, black, low-heeled shoes. No open toes or backless shoes; no trainers or pumps. Boots are not permitted.

The full uniform policy is available on the school website.

PE Kit

Girls		Boys	
Compulsory Kit	Navy blue polo shirt with school badge and pupil's initials underneath* (Plain white polo shirt is being phased out)	Compulsory Kit	Navy blue polo shirt with school badge and pupil's initials underneath* (Plain white polo shirt is being phased out)
	Plain navy blue shorts or Skort		Plain navy blue shorts
	Plain navy blue tracksuit bottoms		Plain navy blue tracksuit bottoms
	Plain navy blue training top/sweatshirt* with school badge and pupil's initials underneath		Plain navy blue training top/sweatshirt* with school badge and pupil's initials underneath
	Plain navy blue waterproof jacket		Plain navy blue waterproof jacket
	Sports bra		Trainers
	Trainers		White sports socks
	White sports socks		
Football/ Rugby	Football boots**	Football/ Rugby	Football boots**
	Plain navy blue football socks with white trim at the top and St Michael's embroidered*		Plain navy blue football socks with white trim at the top and St Michael's embroidered*
Dance	Navy blue polo shirt with school badge and pupil's initials underneath. (Plain white polo shirt with collar is being phased out) . Plain navy blue shorts/plain blue tracksuit bottoms/Skort OR	Dance	Navy blue polo shirt with school badge and pupil's initials underneath. (Plain white polo shirt with collar is being phased out) . Plain navy blue shorts/plain blue tracksuit bottoms
	Black leotard/cat suit /dance trousers		Jazz shoes (available from school)
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*available from A Oakes Ltd or online at www.schooltrends.com

**Please note: students will participate in football and hockey on AstroTurf so moulded, studded football boots are recommended.

St Michael's Survival Kit

- Bag (big enough to hold A4 size folders)
- Black pen
- Red pen
- Pencil
- Ruler (30cm)
- Rubber
- Pencil case
- Sharpener
- Colouring pencils and/or crayons
- Scientific calculator (we recommend the Casio FX-83GT Plus)
- It would be useful for pupils to have a protractor and a pair of compasses
- Pocket English dictionary
- Pocket foreign language dictionary
- It would be helpful but not essential to have an atlas available at home

Academic Year 2018-2019

	Autumn term 2018	Spring term 2019	Summer term 2019
Term starts	Monday 3 September 2018	Monday 7 January 2019	Monday 29 April 2019
Half term holiday	Monday 29 October to Friday 2 November 2018	Monday 18 February to Friday 22 February 2019	Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May 2019
Term ends	Friday 21 December 2018	Friday 12 April 2019	Monday 22 July 2019

Training Days

Monday 3 September 2018

Friday 26 October 2018

Friday 21 December 2018

Friday 12 April 2019

Monday 22 July 2019