



From the Principals Desk

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

As we approach the end of this academic year I would like to acknowledge the hard work and achievements of our pupils. It is a privilege to work with them. As a school community we are proud of each and every one of them – their successes, triumphs, efforts and positivity.

My sincere gratitude to the In School Management Team and staff of St. Michael's School for their dedication and hard work over the past year. I also want to thank Ellen, school secretary and the ancillary staff for all their hard and commitment.

I want to thank all the parents and guardians for your continued support of the school and I hope to continue to strength our connections when we return in the new school year.

I would also like to wish our school leavers every success as they start the next, new and exciting chapter of their education. We will miss you!

I wish you a safe and wonderful summer break full of memories and we look forward to welcoming you all back to our vibrant learning community in late August' 23.

Stay safe and stay well,

Le meas

Sharon Gorevan

Summertime Greetings from the Editors Desk

As the school year draws to a close there is a real sense here in the school of the swift passing of time. The months and years fly by and all too soon we are saying our goodbyes to some until next year, to others a bigger goodbye. I hope the collection of memories of school days spent here in St. Michael's are carried forward and sustain and support our pupils where ever they go. Above all I hope they appreciate their many talents and abilities as they embark on the next stage of their journey. Here in St. Michael's the work of our pupils is constantly celebrated it's what we're here for!

On sports day the whole school community participated in a range of activities carefully curated by Mr Jones and Ms Heffernan. Each individual pupil competed, participated and enjoyed a range of events planned to maximise engagement. Each pupil received a certificate confirming their active participation.

The whole school community has recently celebrated the many achievements and accomplishments of our wonderful pupils on School Awards Day. It's another opportunity to take stock and celebrate our pupils and their accomplishments across the entirety of school life. Academic, sporting and personal developments are celebrated. Outstanding progress across the entire curriculum is acknowledged and publicly recognised. Personality traits and social skills which create a warm and caring school community are identified, acknowledged and rewarded. For each individual pupil it can be a story of hard work determination and struggle. For parents, teachers and SNA's it can be the culmination of much belief, hard work and commitment.

The wonderful performing talents of pupils have also been celebrated. They have been displayed to wonderful effect during the event organised in the junior school this month to celebrate the magic of summer. It's a joy to see pupils perform with such confidence and skill. Similarly our school choir has excelled this year performing at masses, school leaver's celebration and in the choir completion. We have also enjoyed the individual performances and talents of pupils in dance song and musicianship.

The creative and artistic talents of our pupils have also been celebrated this year. Creative school's has given a wonderful boost to efforts in this area. Our pupils never cease to impress with their broad range of artistic talents. Working in a range of media, pupils have submitted beautiful work for our school exhibition and the Texaco National Art Competition. Congratulations to one and all.

We also have numbers of pupils in our senior school working towards and completing certification in the JC2 and QQI level 3. For the pupils, teachers and SNAs involved this marks the culmination of 2/3 years of commitment and hard work. This certification will form part of their CV's and will provide the basis for their next step in their life-long learning journey

Within classrooms the years' work has been completed and reviewed and school reports reflecting lots of hard work and a wonderful range of learning are written and ready to be

posted. Teachers take time to reflect and share pupils' progress affirming the day to day learning that takes place, and the significant milestones reached.

The shared responsibility for educating and supporting our pupils each day involves a diverse team of highly committed adults: bus drivers, escorts, SNA's Ancillary staff, our highly efficient secretary Ellen, teachers and post holders. Lead by our inspirational and tireless principal Sharon Gorevan staff give of their very best at all times. I am proud and happy to be part of this team.

As we say our good byes to another group of young men and young women who are the school leavers of 2023. Our hopes for them are high. We have strived to provide an education which is so much more than lessons, academic subjects and tests. We hope that it is more "the lighting of a fire" (WB Yeats). For our pupils we hope that we have sparked an interest to always improve; to strive; to be the best that they can be; to never be afraid of new things, to learn; to have fun; to co-operate, to collaborate; to be kind and generous; to respect others; to share interests; to enjoy music; to enjoy sports; to be creative, to try out new things, to be part not apart. We hope that over their years in St. Michael's they've made great memories and great friendships.

As always at this time of year there is a palpable sadness at the imminent departure of our school leavers. With them in mind I've included a poem -an anonymous poem for parents which I think fairly represents our feelings here in St. Michael's.

A Poem for Parents

We give you back your children,

The same children you confidently entrusted to our care many years ago.

We give them back pounds heavier, inches taller, years wiser,
more responsible and more mature than they were back then.

Although they would have attained this growth in spite of us,

It has been our pleasure and privilege to watch their personality unfold day by day and marvel at this splendid miracle of development.

We give them back reluctantly,

For having spent years together in the
Narrow confines of our classrooms

We have grown close, become a part of each other,
And we shall always retain a little of each other.
Ten years from now if we meet on the street with your child,
A light will shine in our eyes, a smile will come to our lips
And we shall feel the bond of understanding once more,
This bond we feel today.
We have lived, laughed, played, studied, shouted, argued, sang, danced,
Hugged, tested, chatted and enriched each other's lives
We wish it could go on indefinitely, but give them back we must.

Take care of them, for they are precious.

Remember that we will always be interested in your children and their destiny,

Wherever they go, whatever they do, whoever they become.

Their joys and sorrows, we'll be happy to share.

We shall always be their friends.

Kind Regards

Margaret O'Riordan

Summer Sports News

Our various boys' and girls' teams have had a very busy year representing St. Michaels School at a range of different events throughout the year. As members of the school's sports council we have access to a range of tournaments and events during the year and we were fortunate to be able to enter teams across all the different age and ability groups that are catered for in Football, Basketball, Cross Country, Athletics and Bowling.

We have also attended various training days, taking groups out to the National Sports Campus for Volleyball and Basketball open days, and a trip to Donnybrook Stadium to train with some of the Leinster Rugby team. There are different events to try throughout the year and we would encourage anyone who is interested to give something new a go next year.

It is always a pleasure to take our pupils out and we hope the experience they gain from representing our school and working as a team is something that they carry with them throughout their lives.

On behalf of myself and the pupils we would like to thank all the staff who have helped to prepare the teams for competitions and tournaments and who have assisted with running and organising events, helping out with transport and preparing equipment and team kits.

To all the pupils graduating this year we wish you the very best for next year and beyond and hope that you keep involved in sport in the years ahead.

Enjoy the Summer!
Mr Jones



Student council/ Amber Flag Committee 2022/23



What a year! This year the Student Council and Amber Flag Committee have been very busy. There have been lots of activities and some changes have been made thanks to some suggestions from the students of St. Michaels.

Here is a list of the many Student Council and Amber Flag Committee activities that took place. We held music week, and arranged for Santa to visit our school. We had a half term disco.

To achieve our Amber Flag for mental health and wellbeing we held whole school Zumba and made smoothies for everyone in school. We helped organise the Crazy Day Festival where we had a staff verses students game of rounders. We had target practice and there were lots of art activities, games, music and face painting.

Throughout the year the Student Council had meetings to discuss issues and suggested some changes to school life. We shared our voice and expressed our class views. We were awarded our Amber flag for mental health and wellbeing in May.

We look forward to next year and new challenges.

Jayden Brady - Chairperson Student Council

News from St. Patrick's Class

We have come to the end of a super three years of working together. It has been a pleasure to work with such a fabulous group of mature, positive and caring young adults!

St. Patrick's class have been very busy putting the final touches to their Junior Cycle work, their hard work evident in the excellent work they have produced. We also made time for lots of activities and school projects, creating wonderful class memories. We recently enjoyed a school trip to Leisureplex and the Blanchardstown Centre. We had lots of fun getting ready

for Crazy Creative Day. We enjoyed Sports Day, Active Week, Wellbeing Week and working on Daffodil Day as part of our work for the Green-Schools Committee.

We look forward to a restful summer after a busy year.

Ciara Wilkinson

News from Mr Bonnie

This year I have worked with St. Peter, Therese, Gertrude, Brendan, Louise, Patrick and Catherine. I have enjoyed teaching each and every student this year. My best memories of the year have been seeing the students of St. Patrick and St. Louise completing their CSPE Lever 2 shortcourse, going to Emerald Park with St. Louise's class and going on the Rotator, and seeing the Year 1 students developing their PE skills and going away with the sports teams representing the school.

I am really looking forward to the new school year in September. Happy summer everyone!

Mr. Bonnie

News from St. Gertrudes Class

We've had a busy term in St Gertrude's Class. We've finished collecting evidence for Yr2 of our JC2. We have also been working very hard, researching and presenting projects for oral language CBA's.

We've had fun too. We have been eating strawberries that we have grown from scratch, we are waiting for our sunflowers to flower and look forward to digging up and eating our home grown potatoes this week.

We hope you all have a lovely summer.

Ms Hogg, Lisa and St Gertrude's Class.



News from St Francis Class

As another busy school year draws to a close the pupils in St Francis Class have reflected on the year that has gone by and have chosen some highlights from their year:

- organizing a Christmas party for St Anthony's Class
- learning how to use a rowing machine with Joan from Rowing Ireland
- trying out new sports like volleyball
- using the exercise machines in Walkinstown and suggesting the best machines for our school
- Christmas outing to Blanchardstown to see Matilda the Musical followed by lunch in Milanos
- going to Woodies with Mr Jones and Mary to get supplies for the school
- organising games for the Junior pupils for Active Schools Week
- taking charge of the yard equipment each day at lunchtime
- going on Sports outings
- the deer walk with Leif Barry from the Phoenix Park

We are so proud to see that included in their choices are occasions when they helped others in the school community. They are truly kind and enjoy seeing the happiness of others – what lovely values they will bring with them long after their time in St Michael's School.

A big thank you to all of the pupils in St Francis Class for their hard work and their willingness to help others.

Mrs Farnan and Mary Joyce

Creative Schools

We have just finished the first year of our Creative Schools initiative and have made great progress supported by our Creative Associate Brian Cregan. In February groups of pupils from across the school participated in the Making Waves dance project in Draiocht Blanchardstown. In March all pupils had the opportunity to experience various areas of creativity during a 2 day Creative Schools event organized by the Creative Schools Committee.

As a Green school we recognise the importance of recycling and as such our school has availed of membership of RECREATE a social enterprise which sources clean reusable materials from business. The recycled materials will be available for creative use in our school.

Last Friday 23rd June we celebrated Crazy Creative Day. Pupils supported by staff had been expressing their creativity in the weeks beforehand. Thank you to all parents/guardians who

sent in items of clothing to be transformed. The school was full of crazy hats, tie dye shirts, colourful masks, theme based costumes but most of all smiles and laughs and a great sense of achievement. In the afternoon there were further opportunities to get creative organised by the Student Council under the supervision of Ms Wilkinson.

Thank you to all staff and especially the Creative Schools Committee for their support this year. We look forward to more opportunities to be creative next year.

Deirdre Farnan (Creative Schools Coordinator)

St. Louise's Class

The students in the class of St. Louise are delighted to have finished their Junior Cycle and are looking forward to starting their Senior Cycle journey. They have put in a tremendous amount of work over the three years which included 5 CBA's in short courses and English as well as 5 priority learning units.

In recent months we have been reading TRASH by Andy Mulligan and the students summarised chapters in words and drawings as we progressed through the book.

We designed and recreated Vincent Van Gogh's starry night through our own interpretation. All students were involved in painting our interpretation of this masterpiece and the students also created stars made out of painted paper plates and which they then wove with different coloured wool.



We had a great day out in Emerald Park formerly Tayto Park and were delighted to be joined by Ms. Jessie Callaghan and Mr. Chris Bonnie. They had as much fun if not more than the students.



Mr. Bonnie on the Rotator.



Jessie on her horse.

We have had a wonderful two years together and wish all the pupils in St. Louise's class a wonderful summer.

Patricia Muldoon and Danielle Halpin

Junior Cycle News

Another busy year for all our Junior Cycle students. The year one pupils have had a great first year and have enjoyed being introduced to all the priority learning units (PLU's) and the short courses. Year two have been very busy getting through the programme and participated in the CBA for Oral Language in English. The two classes in year three have just handed in their final assessed work which includes short courses in CSPE, Woodwork and Home Economics as well as the PLU's and some pupils have also completed CBA's in oral writing and writing genres. Well done to all involved staff and students.

Congratulations are also due to the Junior Cycle students of years 2019-2022 who recently received their Department of Education certification for their Junior Cycle work.

Patricia Muldoon

News from St. Bernadette

In the class of St. Bernadette we are sorry to come to the end of a wonderful year, but we are really looking forward to our summer holidays and all the wonderful opportunities ahead of us. We have had a fantastic year of learning, developing friendships and becoming independent. Our classroom has been full of laughter, music and kindness where everyone worked together in everything we did. There are exciting days ahead for two of our class who are leaving us and moving on to college: they have made us so proud over the past month - shining on their Graduation Day, receiving their Bronze Gaisce Award and becoming role models for students of all ages throughout the school. We wish everyone a safe, happy, sunny summer and look forward to meeting again in September.

Ms. Karen Quinn, Aimee, Jacqui.





Saint Michael's School

Daughters of Charity

St. Michael's School Calendar 2023/24

1st Term

Re-opening..... August 30th

School Closed..... October 28th– November 5th (inclusive) **CHRISTMAS**

HOLIDAYS

School Closing..... December 22nd

2nd Term

Re-opening..... January 8th

School Closed..... February 5th

School Closed..... February 10th– 18th (inclusive) School

Closed..... March 18th

EASTER HOLIDAYS

School Closing..... March 22nd

3rd Term

Re-opening..... April 8th

School Closed..... May 3rd & 6th

School Closed..... May 31st

School Closed..... June 3rd

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Summer Closing..... June 28th

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