



### Dear Parents, Pupils and Friends,

What an experience these last few months have been!

Covid 19 brought the Easter term to an abrupt end. Thankfully our boarders were able to return home in time, just before each country closed its borders. Who would have thought borders could close in our globalist 21st century?

In anticipation of a prolonged lockdown, the last Senior school assembly was dedicated to learning how to use Google Classrooms. This allowed the school to continue teaching, albeit in a virtual classroom environment. Pupils were excited and enthusiastic about the new style of learning. Three months on, I think the experience has been a very successful one. The learning pace slows, but does not stop, and pupils are able to progress in their knowledge and learning. It has been very interesting to observe certain, sometimes weaker, pupils overtake their peers with these new learning methods which call for more autonomy and responsibility. Despite the downside of working and communicating in a virtual environment, almost all pupils were able to take possession of their academic work and organize themselves successfully. It has been very pleasing to watch them grow in maturity in this regard.

The primary school returned to class in April. The small pupil numbers and vast space around the campus made for easier social distancing. Throughout lockdown, the children's teachers had kept in touch with their pupils, with work flowing back and forth between families and teachers. Returning to school was easy.

June was quite a special time for our primary school, who took full possession of the school campus in the absence of the Senior school. They enjoyed many a picnic outside, and the new trend of social distancing was easy to maintain. Keeping the classes in separate groups for most of the day meant that the children in each class group bonded more tightly than ever. What a blessing for our children to have been able to return to school in a normal fashion and complete the year with as little disruption as possible. God really has blessed us with a school like St. Michael's!

The end of this school year sees the departure of our year 11 pupils. It is a very great shame that they were not able to sit their GCSE exams as normal and then celebrate the end of their tenure at St. Michael's. The teachers worked very hard to assemble and submit to the various examination boards all the information necessary to allow the boards to award the final grades. The school remains on alert in case more information is required for a particular pupil in a particular subject.

I am very pleased and grateful to all members of our school community - staff, pupils and parents - for having pulled together and allowed the school to continue during the long months of closure and despite a media storm of alarm and foreboding. We have shown wonderful resilience and team spirit. There will be some catch-up to do in September for lost time and classroom opportunity, but with our small classes and determined spirit, I am confident that pupils will very quickly resume their normal levels of progress.

Meanwhile, the summer months remain busy, with repairs and renovations, in readiness for another school year. Pupils will return to a new gym bathroom and changing room, freshly painted dormitory corridors and a spectacular view of Watership Down, now that we have cleared 30 years of bush and overgrowth.

God be praised for another successful school year!

**Fr. John Brucciani, Headmaster**

## A SCHOOL FIRST!



Ms Murphy and Mrs Blatchford are the first members of staff to undertake and complete the NQT (newly qualified teacher) Induction Process at Saint Michael's School.

Under the guidance of the Headmaster and their NQT Induction Manager (Mr Malliff), our two star teachers had to submit to stringent lesson observations, self-assessments, professional reviews, evidence of professional development and a comprehensive record of how they have met the Teacher Standards that are the national benchmark for all teachers, whatever the stage of their career. The candidates and the school also received a day's visit from the Local Authority as part of the examination process.

In June, Ms Murphy and Mrs Blatchford were signed off with flying colours. It is wonderful to see the school helping not only pupils but also staff attain their full potential. The school now has six lay teaching staff who have completed the qualified teacher induction process. We are very blessed. Thank you to Mr Malliff for his guidance and the long hours of tedious paperwork.



# SCHOOL PRIZES 2020



Sadly, this year, we are unable to hold a prize ceremony for the Senior School, due to the lockdown closure. However, although they have been unable to come to school, pupils have not stopped working! We have been able to evaluate their excellence and progress thanks to the elaborate system of online classes, coursework and homework, which allowed them to continue and complete their studies.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT PRIZE - SECONDARY PHASE		
HUMANITIES	SCIENCES	R. K.
Thomas Malliff (KS3)	Ralph Morley (KS3)	Andrew Millar (KS3)
Nicole Richards (KS4)	Samuel Brucciani (KS4)	Samuel Brucciani (KS4)

MOST PROGRESS PRIZE - SECONDARY PHASE				
SUBJECT	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 11
ENGLISH	Francis Morris	Peter Little	Jacopo Giugni	David Morris
FRENCH	Brigid Joyce	Ralph Morley	Basil Seeber	Nicole Richards
HISTORY	Marcus Sherry	Andrew Blatchford	Sam Sudlow	Gemma Fletcher
R.K.	Catherine Blatchford	Jack Heath	Thomas Martinez	Grace Morley
BIOLOGY	Damian Klunder	Jack Heath	Samuel Sudlow	John Kennedy
CHEMISTRY	Francis Morris	Thomas Maliff	Basil Seeber	Martin Joyce
PHYSICS	Andrew Millar	Dominic Lloyd	Dominic Klunder	Gemma Fletcher
MATHEMATICS	Xavier Morley	Peter Little	Samuel Sudlow	Josie Kurtis
LATIN	Brigid Joyce	Jack Heath	Dominic Klunder	N/A

This year, school colours were awarded for the first time in recognition for effort and endeavour both inside and outside of the school. Endeavour is one of the MICHAEL virtues which we seek to nurture in our pupils in order to encourage them to reach the full potential of the talents God has given them.

Merits and Demerits are awarded to reinforce good behaviour, encourage good habits and to address conduct which does not warrant more formal sanction.

The criteria for merits and demerits are displayed in classrooms and the system has simple targets – 40 merits for a bronze badge, 90 for a silver badge, certificate and tuck shop voucher and 150 for Gold, with certificate and book token.

Congratulations to the following pupils for their academic effort, achievement and good behaviour. Totals from Sept. 2019 to July 2020:

1. **Xavier Morley - 124 merits**
2. Brigid Joyce - 119 merits
3. Francis Morris - 119 merits
4. Andrew Millar - 110 merits
5. Ralph Morley - 105 merits



## THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS HAVE BEEN AWARDED FULL OR HALF COLOURS:

ACADEMIC (HALF COLOURS)

**THOMAS MARTINEZ**

County runner-up in the Poetry by Heart Competition

**Judges comments for T. Martinez:**

*"Sing me a song of a lad that is gone"*

*"A thoughtful and convincing presentation in which Thomas made effective use of the poem's rhyme and rhythm."*

*"Sea Rose"*

*An earnest and focused presentation."*

ACADEMIC (FULL)

**THOMAS MALLIFF**

PODIUM WINNER IN THE SATIPS National handwriting competition for two years running.

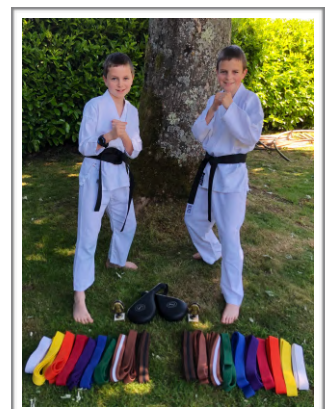
County runner-up in the Poetry by Heart Competition

PHYSICAL (Full)

**RALPH MORLEY**

**XAVIER MORLEY**

AWARDED **BLACK BELTS** IN MARTIAL ARTS



## FAREWELL DR RHEAD AND MR GOMEZ

After 11 years at St. Michael's, Dr. Rhead has retired from his post of teacher of Chemistry and Geography. He has been a very familiar figure at the priests' table, coming up from Plymouth each week for three days. The school is indebted to Dr Rhead for so many years of devotion and service.

Mr Gomez is also leaving us after 12 years in the classroom. He moves on to London to teach Physics and Engineering at a sixth form college. We are grateful for his years of quiet dedication, tucked away in the Physics Lab, ever ready to receive pupils or give a helping hand. We wish him all the best. Mr Friar will be taking over Secondary school Physics.

Staff and parents presented Dr Rhead and Mr Gomez with the beautiful spiritual bouquet of rosaries and masses.



## NOTE FROM THE MATHS DEPARTMENT

Throughout the Covid lockdown the pupils have continued to work hard. Online lessons continued, end of year assessments were completed, and I am pleased to report that all targets were reached. The cancelled UKMT competition that was due to take place at the end of April popped up again in June but this time online. Around ten pupils took part, two scoring highly enough to gain certificates.

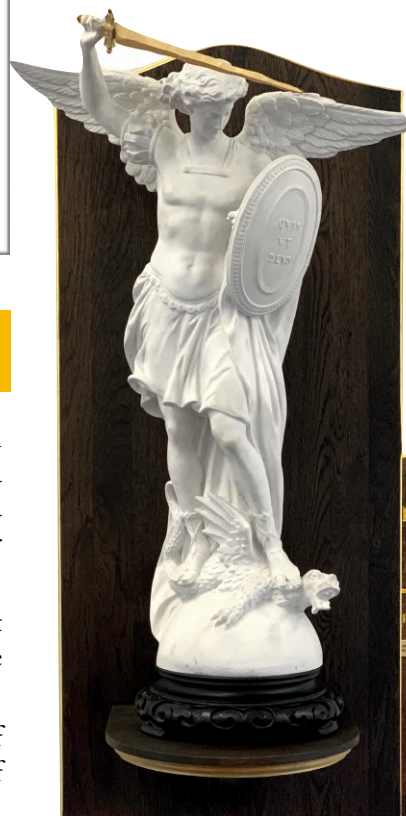
**Ralph Morley** won the gold certificate and **Catherine Blatchford** won the bronze.

Certificates will be handed out in September. Below is an example of the type of question they faced.

*A group of 42 children all play tennis or football, or both sports. The same number play tennis as play just football. Twice as many play both tennis and football as play just tennis. How many of the children play football?*

- A. 7
- B. 14
- C. 21
- D. 28
- E. 35

*Answer on back page*



*A beautiful new statue of Saint Michael has been installed in the refectory, complete with oak mount. Our patron now watches the whole school with flaming sword!*

## FAREWELL MRS JOYCE AND MRS JEDRUSZCZAK

Tears were in every eye as the Primary School bid farewell to their two guardian angels! Mrs Joyce has been a familiar face for many years. In recent years she has been a dexterous classroom assistant and art teacher, renowned for her creativity and enthusiasm.

Mrs Jedruszczak has been a silent sentinel, on guard against any form of disorder or untidiness. She has provided invaluable help to the Primary School and beyond.

We are deeply indebted to the selfless and cheerful devotion of Mrs Joyce and Mrs Jedruszczak. Parents, pupils and staff presented them with a spiritual bouquet of prayers and masses.



*We have also hung in the refectory a "Commendations" board which will cite the annual winners of prizes and colours.*

INT MICHAEL'S SCHOOL

COMMENDATIONS

PRIZES COURAGE COLOURS

School closed early for Easter on account of the Covid outbreak, and we all worked hard to continue educating the children in difficult circumstances. During that time, weekly work was printed out and delivered to most children. There were weekly class chats, which allowed me to get to know the children in a different and more personal way.

It was with delight and relief that school opened again in June. Picnics were enjoyed at lunchtime, and we were reminded of how blessed we are to have a small school, with beautiful grounds. This allowed us to return in a way that did not feel too strange.



Tests and reports were completed and on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, the children were able to have a Sports Day. Our Angel virtues were apparent as the children cheered and supported each other. High jump and standing long jump were a new addition and the races such as long distance, sack, and egg and spoon were enjoyed. The day was completed with delicious ice lollies and happy, exhausted children.



Design & Technology projects, which had been started before lockdown, were completed with lots of problem solving and trial and errors. Junior 2 designed a moving toy, using a cam. Junior 1 built a wooden framed sarcophagus, linking their Egyptian history project. The Infants learnt about a pulley to help build a well out of a plastic bottle.



This year, it has been a joy to watch the Infants grow and develop so rapidly. Their love of learning is an inspiration. Junior 1 have been a lively class but have learnt to work together and Junior 2 have been fantastic leaders of the primary school. Their enthusiasm and willingness to take on responsibilities has been a perfect example to the younger children.



Congratulations to the Year 6s. They have completed their primary education. We wish them well next year, wherever they are learning. We will miss you. May St. Michael always be your protector!



## PRIMARY SCHOOL PRIZES 2020

	BEST EFFORT	BEST PROGRESS
INFANTS	John Malliff	Aurelia Kelly
JUNIOR 1	Marie-Clare Morris	Helena Martinez
JUNIOR 2	Lucy Blatchford	Sebastian Holmes



### SPORTSMANSHIP

### ALTAR SERVING

### ANGEL AWARD

ALICJA JEDRUSZCZAK

JOSEPH MALLIFF

MARIE-CLARE MORRIS

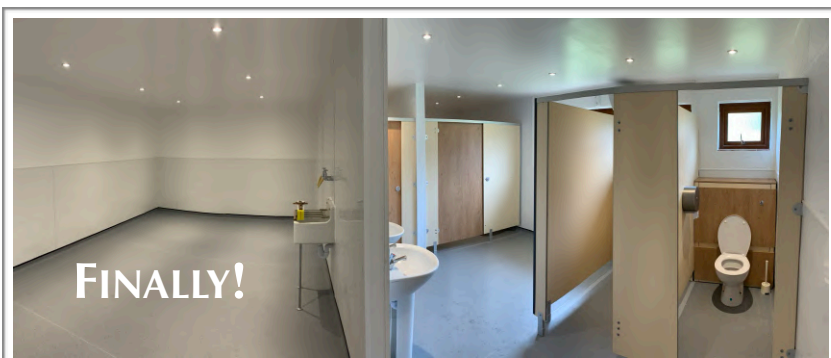


Father Barrett has been working miracles with the junior pupils. He is able to transfer cacophony and chaos into melody and rhythm. His musical talents allow him to pick up any instrument and teach it to fidgety children. He writes the scores to folk songs and translates them into the languages of recorder, cymbals and guitar. The children gave a delightful concert to parents before lockdown.



## COVID 19 RENOVATIONS

When we first acquired the school property in 1991, the poor condition of the **gym bathrooms** was already a point of discussion. When I started as a newly ordained priest in 1998, the discussion was ongoing and the word "urgent" was often used. Shortly after, the bathrooms were closed off and the room was henceforth used as a changing room only. All that is now remedied! Our maintenance team assembled and installed the new fixtures originally at HighGrange: sinks, toilets, showers and two urinals that all sit on a new floor. Everything has been arranged for easy cleaning! Thank you to our benefactors who helped us complete this very longstanding project.



The corridors of **Lancaster Hall** (dormitory building) have received a fresh coat of paint.

The **Walsingham Hall** (A level block) renovations are almost complete. The new flooring and fresh paint make a world of difference. The shower room has also undergone a major overhaul. All these works have been done in-house.

The **classroom doors** are now all repaired and in good working order. It is now possible to close and lock them!

Thanks to two fallen oaks and many man hours, we have enough **firewood** to last until the next millennium.

The **water mains burst** ... for the second time in 2 months! We now have an ugly pile of earth along the driveway. We managed to find and repair the leaks, but we have requested quotes for a new pipe. The present one is rusted and old. It is looking to be an expensive business, in the range of £10K. St. Philomena, pray for us!

The year end always sees pupils depart for new horizons. Here are two letters that, we hope, reflect our pupils' experience of life at St. Michael's. There is no doubt that, with small classes, our pupils are able to benefit from the best that we can give. They are frequently reminded of their benefactors who make their school years possible ... and happy!

### A KIND LETTER FROM OUR LAST YEAR 7 GIRLS

Dear hard working, supporting, supervisors and teachers,

This last week of the year has been our last week of school at St. Michael's and the last week we will ever have of being taught by you at the school. We have enjoyed it tremendously and have learnt a lot this year. It has been such a pity not coming to school anymore and not being able to enjoy the last day and week at school with all of you.

We will miss the fun experiments in the science lessons, working out challenging equations in the maths lessons, reading exciting novels in the English lessons, learning to speak different languages in the French and Latin lessons, going deeper into our religion in the the RK lessons, learning about the people who came before us in the history lessons, studying where we live in the geography lessons, going to thrilling assemblies and especially all of you.

You have done so much for us this year and we hope we haven't been too hard to teach.

We hope we can see you all soon, happy and well.

Yours sincerely ,

Year 7 girls..

### AN ENCOURAGING LETTER FROM A YEAR 11 PUPIL

Dear Teachers,

Sadly I can't give the usual wine and chocolates this year, but I would like to thank you all as sincerely as possible for an amazing four years at St Michael's; it truly is a special place. All of your hard work made the lessons incredible, and I even enjoyed some of them (a bit).

Despite the homework, thank you for the unforgettable experiences (good ones, don't worry) and for preparing me so well for the future. I'll never forget St Michael's School. I definitely hope to say thank you in person and celebrate the cancelled exams as a class on the chapel lawn with Tesco's jam and scones one day.

Overall, for your exemplary commitment, great effort, and superb endurance, I would like to award a spiritual bouquet of five Masses, Communions, and Rosaries, and a strong Grade 9.

True thanks.

## HAPPY NEWS OF FORMER PUPILS

Maths Quiz  
answer: 35

On 6th June at St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary, Dillwyn, U.S.A., St. Michael's old-boy **Rev. Dominic O'Hart** was ordained deacon. Pictured here with Jo Martin, another former pupil living in the USA! Rev. Dominic graduated from St. Michael's in 2005.



On 19th June at the Sacred Heart Seminary, Zaitzkofen, Germany, **Rev. Emmerich Jeindl** was ordained deacon. He graduated from St. Michael's in 2015.



On 20th June at the Sacred Heart Seminary, Zaitzkofen, Germany, St. Michael's old-boy **Fr. Joannes Rehm** was ordained a priest for eternity. He gives here his first blessing. Fr. Rehm graduated from St. Michael's in 2013.



Congratulations to **Matthew Joyce** who graduated from St. Michael's in 2015. He has just completed his Master's Degree in Computer Science at St. Hugh's College, Oxford. He was awarded a First Class degree!

# SAINT MICHAEL'S SCHOOL

Harts Lane  
Burghclere  
Newbury  
RG20 9JW  
U.K.



01635 278137  
headmaster@sanctusmichael.com

16th July 2020

## **Feast of our Lady of Mount Carmel**

### **Dear Friends and Benefactors,**

Our Summer letter follows close on the heels of our last letter. I am aware that many of you have been confined to your homes due to the lockdown. I hope this letter will bring some colour and sunshine after so many months of confinement and solitude.

We have continued to operate throughout lockdown. God has been very good. We have managed to keep the children focused on their studies and ready for the new school year in September. If another lockdown is imposed, we know what to do and will continue to support the children and their families so that neither time nor sacrifice is lost. Our teachers are very resilient and flexible.

The children's absence has allowed us to carry out quite a bit of much-needed property maintenance. If you could only see the views I have, now, from my window! Watership Down has been hiding for too long behind decades of unchecked vegetation. Now it appears in all its quiet, majestic glory. God's creation is beautiful.

Every day, I pray that the children remember how lucky they are to attend this little corner of one of the most beautiful countrysides in England. God has not only blessed us with a Catholic school, but He has placed it in an area of outstanding beauty. As one visitor put it: "The grounds are as good as any I remember from my school days!" He was formerly a pupil at Eton!

As we fix, repair and make good our facilities for another twenty years, I often think of you all, benefactors and friends, who make all this possible. Many give not from their abundance but from the little they have. That is why God is so gracious to us. The value of a gift is not monetary, but sacrificial. Thank you for the sacrifices you make that allow our children to attend an integrally Catholic school in this age of moral confusion and chaos. Every benefactor is a miracle-worker!

We continue to offer Holy Mass for your intentions and your loved ones. May our Lady of Mount Carmel bless and keep you.

Most gratefully and sincerely,



*Fr. John Brucciani, Headmaster*



## ROTTEN WINDOWS

Slowly we are replacing all the old, rotting windows in St Raphael's House.

This summer, we have requested quotes for the two lower windows on the entrance side of the house ... the first thing visitors see when they come to the school!

*Scriptural inspiration: "For death is come up through our **windows**, it is entered into our houses to destroy the children from without." (Jer. 9:21)*

**Cost: £1250/window (aluminum frame, A-rated, toughened glass)**

*I would like to help keep the children safe by sponsoring a window pane or two:*

£100

£200

£300

£400

**How wonderful it would be to replace all the rotting windows on the entrance facade!**



# SAINT MICHAEL'S SCHOOL

Harts Lane  
Burghclere, Newbury  
RG20 9JW  
U.K.



01635 278137  
[headmaster@sanctusmichael.com](mailto:headmaster@sanctusmichael.com)  
<https://stmichaels-school.uk>

Name : ..... Tel : .....

Address : ..... City: .....

Post Code : ..... Email : .....

**I would like to make a donation of**  £50  £150  £  
 £100  £200



**I would like to help every month via Standing Order**

Gift Amount  £10  £15  £20  £30  £40  £

## Instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay Royal Bank of Scotland, Newbury Branch, 20 Market Place, Newbury, RG14 5BD on the ..... day of each month until further notice.

**Sort Code 16-26-18 Acc. Number: 10191323** for the credit of St. Michael's School.

**If you are a taxpayer you can increase the value of your donation by enabling us to reclaim tax via this Gift Aid Declaration:** **Gift Aid Declaration**  Yes  No

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give from the date of this declaration until I notify to the contrary.

*Please treat this donation [and all future donations until further notice] as gift aid donations.*

.....  
Signature(s)

.....  
Date:

Please notify us if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/ or capital gains.

God bless you for your kindness! Return form to address above. Questions? Call us at 01635 278137.

**HOLY MASS OFFERED FOR ALL OUR BENEFACTORS ON THE 1ST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH.**