



ST MICHAEL'S

CATHOLIC SCHOOL SIXTH FORM

ACHIEVING IN FAITH WITH LOVE AS A COMMUNITY

Subject Information September 2026 Entry

"I have come so that you will have life, life in all its fullness" (John 10:10)



Art	
Department: Art	Type of Qualification: A-Level
Exam Board: EDEXCEL Specification: Art, Craft and Design 9AD0/01 02	Entry Requirements – Level 6 or above at GCSE
Course Content: Component 1: Personal Investigation Unit 1 [Y12 term 1 & 2] Students are led through a series of workshop skills building sessions before going onto explore a theme of their choice. Unit 2 [Y12 term 3 & Y13 term 1] Personal Investigation: Students write their own statement of intent and theme to explore in Art, Craft and Design. Personal Study – A written document [minimum of 1000 words] discussing the rationale behind the personal portfolio. Component 2: Externally Set Assignment The ESA is released in February and contains a theme and suggested starting points. It incorporates two major elements: preparatory studies and the 15-hour period of sustained focus. Style of Assessment: 60% course work / 40% Exam	Super Curricular Opportunities: Regular gallery and museum visits into central London and home counties Career Prospects: Fine artist, designer, Interior designer architect, product designer, illustrator, graphic designer, make-up artist, marketing, film maker If I were to take this course I should read: Shock of the New: Art and the Century of Change, Robert Hughes Ways of Seeing, John Berger This is Modern Art, Matthew Collings
Contact Details: Ms Thomas Head of Art hthomas@stmichaelscs.org	

Biology	
Department: Science	Type of Qualification: A-Level
Exam Board: AQA Specification: 7402	Entry Requirements: 7 in Biology GCSE (if completed separate sciences) 6 overall with 7 in Biology papers (if completed combined sciences) 6 in Maths
Course Content: <u>Year 12:</u> 1. Biological molecules 2. Cells 3. Organisms exchange substances with the environment 4. Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms <u>Year 13:</u> 5. Energy transfers in and between organisms 6. Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments 7. Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems 8. The control of gene expression Style of assessment Paper 1 – Topics 1-4, 91 marks, 2 hours Paper 2 – Topics 5-8, 91 marks, 2 hours Paper 3 – Topics 1-8, 78 marks, 2 hours Required Practicals to Master 5 Key Competencies	Super Curricular Opportunities: • Talks by scientists • STEM club leaders • Science visits • Careers links Career Prospects: Medicine, Veterinary medicine, Accounting, Law, Teaching, Physiotherapy Psychology If I were to take this course I should read: • The Selfish Gene, Richard Dawkins • Genome, Matt Ridley • What a Plant Knows, Daniel Chamovitz
<u>Contact Details</u> Mr J Johnson Head of Science jjohnson@stmichaelscs.org	

Business	
Department: Computing and Business	Type of Qualification: A level
Exam Board: EdExcel Specification: 9BS0	Entry Requirements: Level 5 or above in Business Studies (if studied) / English and Maths
Course Content: Theme 1 - Marketing and people Meeting customer needs - The market - Marketing mix and strategy - Managing people Entrepreneurs and leaders Theme 2 - Managing business activities - Raising finance - Financial planning - Managing finance - Resource management - External influences Theme 3 - Business decisions and strategy - Business objectives and strategy - Business growth - Decision-making techniques - Influences on business decisions - Assessing competitiveness - Managing change Theme 4 - Global business - Globalisation - Global markets and business expansion - Global marketing - Global industries and companies (multinational corporations)	Super curricular Opportunities: Young Entrepreneurs Club Talks with Entrepreneurs and Business Leaders Career Prospects: The course is designed for pupils who want to develop skills for modern management and become entrepreneur business leaders. Also, it is suitable for people who want to explore how information and data can be handled. An A Level in Business Studies can lead on to careers in any industry and general management, with specialisms such as accounting and finance, marketing or human resources. If I were to take this course I should read: - The news and business stories on a regular basis - The tipping point: how little things can make a big difference, Malcolm Gladwell - The Google Story, David A. Wise - The Effective Executive, Peter F Drucker
Style of Assessment: 100 % Exam	
Contact Details: Miss A Thompson Head of Computing and Business Athompson@stmichaelscs.org	

Business (BTEC)	
Department: Computing and Business	Type of Qualification: Level 3 – Equivalent to one A level
Exam Board: EdExcel Specification: BTEC - Level 3 – National Extended Certificate in Business	Entry Requirements – Grade 4 and above in Business Studies / English and Math
Course Content: The BTEC - Level 3 – National Extended Certificate is designed for learners who are interested in the structure of business organizations and the processes involved in planning, setting up and running a business venture, such as: management and human resources, finance, marketing, basic economics and ethics, and the importance of innovation and creativity in business. Students have the opportunity to study core units on: ☐ Exploring a Business – Unit 1 ☐ Developing a Marketing Campaign – Unit 2 ☐ Personal and Business Finance – Unit 3 ☐ Recruitment and Selection Process – Unit 8 Style of Assessment: Units 1 and 8 or 22 – internally assessed Units 2 and 3 – externally assessed by exam board	Super Curricular Opportunities •Entrepreneurs Club •Potential for trip to various business places •Guest Speakers/Lecturers/Entrepreneurs in the field Career Prospects: Leads on to careers in any industry and general management, with specialisms such as accounting/finance, marketing or human resources. •Entrepreneur/Business Owner •Supply Chain Manager •Retail / Sales I Manager •Public Relations (PR) Specialist •Event Planner •Project Manager If I were to take this course I should read: Books •"BTEC Level 3 National Business Student Book 1" by Catherine Richards and Rob Dransfield •Online Learning Platforms: ☐BBC Bitesize ☐Khan Academy ☐Business News Websites: The Economist Financial Times
Contact Details: Miss A Thompson Head of Computing and Business Athompson@stmichaelscs.org	

Chemistry	
Department: Science	Type of Qualification: A-Level
Exam Board: AQA Specification: 7405	Entry Requirements: 7 in Chemistry GCSE (if completed separate sciences) 6 overall with 7 in Chemistry papers (if completed combined sciences) 6 in Maths
Course Content: <u>Year 12:</u> - Physical Chemistry 1 - Organic Chemistry 1 - Inorganic Chemistry 1 <u>Year 13:</u> - Physical Chemistry 2 - Organic Chemistry 2 - Inorganic Chemistry 2 Style of Assessment: 100% exam assessment Paper 1 – Physical and Inorganic Chemistry, 105 marks, 2 hours Paper 2 – Physical and Organic Chemistry, 105 marks, 2 hours Paper 3 – Physical, Inorganic and Organic Chemistry, 90 marks, 2 hours Required practicals to gain mastery in 5 practical competencies.	Super Curricular opportunities: - Talks by scientists - STEM club leaders - Science visits - Careers links Career Prospects: Medicine, veterinary medicine, accounting, law, teaching, engineering, chemical engineering, architecture. If I were to take this course I should read: - Periodic Tales, Hugh Aldersey - William the disappearing Spoon, Sam Keane - The Pleasure of Finding Things Out, Richard Feynman - The New Scientist Journal
Contact Details Mr J Johnson Head of Science jjohnson@stmichaelscs.org	

Computer Science	
Department: Computing and Business	Type of Qualification: A level
Exam Board: OCR Specification: H446	Entry Requirements: Grade 6 in both Math and GCSE Computer Science or Level 2 Merit and above in ICT
Course Content: <u>Component 1</u> □ Characteristics of contemporary processors □ Software and development □ Exchanging data □ Data types structures and algorithms □ Legal, moral and ethical issues <u>Component 2</u> □ Elements of computational thinking □ Problem solving and programming □ Algorithms to solve problems and standard algorithms □ Analysis, design and development of a programming project. Style of Assessment: • Year 13: Two written papers (2 hours 30 minutes each) forming 80% of the total mark. One portfolio on a programming project forming 20% of the total mark	Super curricular Opportunities: • Join a tech community to store your projects and collaborate with other programmers • Create a blog with your online projects - The Alan Turing Cryptography Competition • Coding Club • Guest Speakers/Lecturers/Entrepreneurs in the field Career Prospects: Leads to careers in Computer Science, other Science subjects, business, hardware and software development, network engineering and telecommunications. • Web Developer • Data Analyst • Database Administrator • Game Developer • IT Consultant • Academic/Researcher • Network Engineer If I were to take this course I should read: Books •The Most Complex Machine, by David Eck, •Once upon an algorithm, by Martin Erwig, •Accidental Empires – Robert X Cringely •"The Pragmatic Programmer" by Andrew Hunt and David
Contact Details: Miss A Thompson Head of Computing and Business Athompson@stmichaelscs.org	

Core Mathematics	
Department: Mathematics	Type of Qualification: Level 3 Certificate
Exam Board: AQA Specification: 1350	Entry Requirements Grade 5 GCSE
Course Content: Compulsory content 3.1 Analysis of data 3.2 Maths for personal finance 3.3 Estimation 3.4 Critical analysis of given data and models Optional content 3.5 The normal distribution 3.6 Probabilities and estimation 3.7 Correlation and regression Style of Assessment: 1.5 hour paper on personal finance, estimation and financial calculations 1.5 hour paper on statistics and critical analysis 60 marks per paper	Super Curricular Opportunities: More or Less, Radio 4, Tim Harford TED Talks Career Prospects: Core Mathematics was developed to improve and expand the provision of Mathematics teaching post-16. It was created at the behest of universities, commerce and industry, who needed students to be competent real-world thinkers, with more advanced skills than offered at GCSE. Students completing the Core Mathematics course are likely to receive lower offers from universities. It is a significant additional to the academic section of a CV as it points to further study in Mathematics. If I were to take this course I should read: How to Make the World Add Up, Tim Harford Fake Law, The Secret Barrister How to Solve It, George Polya
Contact Details: Ms Neil Head of Mathematics Rneil@stmichaelscs.org	

Criminology	
Department: Social Sciences	Type of Qualification: Level 3 Diploma in Criminology (2 Year course)
Exam Board: WJEC Specification: Level 3 Applied Diploma	Entry Requirements Grade 5 GCSE Maths and English
Course Content: The WJEC Level 3 Diploma course covers four units of study across two years: Year 1: - Changing Awareness of Crime (Internal Assessment) - Criminological Theories (External Assessment) Year 2: - Crime Scene to Courtroom (Internal Assessment) - Crime and Punishment (External Assessment) Style of Assessment: Unit 1 & 3: These units are assessed through an 8-hour controlled assessment (internally assessed at your center and externally moderated) Unit 2 &4: These units are assessed through examination. The exam consists of short answer and extended writing questions and lasts 1 hour 30 minutes.	Super Curricular Opportunities: “Brain Day” and other Psychology conferences - Watch the TED talk Misha Glenny McMafia state crime - Read - Drug mules: Women in the international cocaine trade by Dr Jennifer Fleetwood - a really good book for women and crime and poverty. Career Prospects: Students who study Level 3 Criminology course often enter into careers relating to; Law, Local council, Police, Teaching, Administration, Social Science research, Publishing, Lecturing, Human Resources, Administration, Civil Service amongst many other options. If I were to take this course I should read: The Psychopath, Jon Ronson Criminology – a Very Short Introduction, Tim Newburn
Contact Details: Miss N Anpalagan / Miss V Naidoo Social Science teachers Nanpalagan@stmichaelscs.org / vnaidoo@stmichaelscs.org	

Design & Technology: Product Design	
Department: Design & Technology	Type of Qualification: A-Level
Exam Board: AQA Specification: 7552	Entry Requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE Design & Technology and Maths are required (if studied).
Course Content: The aim of the course is to develop students' practical solving skills, encourage independent learning, creativity and innovation. Students will learn specific subject knowledge in relation to design and manufacture. They will develop their modelling skills both in the workshop and through 2D and 3D CAD modelling; they will develop presentation skills and graphic communication. They will implement and demonstrate their knowledge and skills by designing and making marketable products. By choosing Product Design you take the opportunity to develop a broad view of technology and design. You will demonstrate your ability to produce a wide range of simple and complex designs. You will present your ideas through 3D modelling and apply your manufacturing skills to make a final product. You will look for product opportunities, create solutions to problems, develop your making and model making skills and create high quality marketable products.	Super Curricular Opportunities: Opportunities to enter external design competitions through live set briefs in year 12. Development of design portfolio. Possible trips to: Design Museum, Ikea. Welcome to develop skills and support pupils within DT department. Career Prospects: Product Design A-Level opens doors to a wide range of careers in the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries as well as medicine, law and computer science. The knowledge and skills you learn, such as teamwork and time management will be valued by employers. Possible further study could include: Product Design, Industrial Design, Graphic Design, Architecture, and Engineering amongst others. If I were to take this course I should read: Design for the 21st Century (Icons Series) - Charlotte Fiell and Peter Fiell Thames and Hudson – The eco-design handbook - by Alastair Fuad-Luke. Design Sketching (ISBN 978-91-976807-0-7) by Erik Olofsson and Klara Sjolen
Style of Assessment: Paper 1: Technical Principals Written Examination 2.5 hours 30% of A-Level Paper 2: Designing and making principals Written examination: 1.5 hours 20% of A-Level NEA- Non-Exam Assessment A Substantial design and make project 50% of A-Level	
Contact Details: Ms Thomas Head of Art hthomas@stmichaelscs.org	

Drama	
Department: Performing Arts	Type of Qualification: A Level
Exam Board: EDUQAS Specification: Drama	Entry Requirements - Level 5 or above at GCSE
Course Content: Component 1: Theatre Workshop You will participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of theatre based on a reinterpretation of an extract from a text chosen from a list supplied by WJEC. The piece must be developed using the techniques and working methods of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company. Component 2: Text in Action You will participate in the creation, development and performance of two pieces of theatre based on a stimulus supplied by WJEC: 1. a devised piece using the techniques and working methods of either an influential theatre practitioner or a recognised theatre company (a different practitioner or company to that chosen for Component 1) 2. an extract from a text in a different style chosen by the learner. Component 3: Written Exam Extended writing exam based on set texts you will study during the course. Style of Assessment: 20% Component 1 (recordings / log / portfolio) 40% Component 2 (recordings / log / portfolio) 40% Component 3 (Written Exam)	Super Curricular Opportunities: • Regular visits to live theatre performances • Acting masterclasses • Clubs, performances and events throughout the year Career Prospects: Drama can lead to a varied number of career pathways within the performing arts field and beyond including; • Actor, • Director, • Designer, • Manager, • Presenter, • Choreographer, • Broadcaster, • Stage Manager, • Public Speaker, • Lawyer, If I were to take this course I should read: • <i>Audition</i>, Michael Shurtleff • <i>Respect for Acting</i>, Uta Hagen • <i>Devising Performance, A Critical History</i>, Heddon and Milling • <i>An Actors Work</i>, Konstantin Stanislavski
Contact Details: Mlss C Simons Head of Performing Arts csimons@stmichaelscs.org	

Economics	
Department: Business and Computing	Type of Qualification: A Level
Exam Board: Edexcel Specification: Economics A	Entry Requirements - Grade 5 or above at GCSE in Maths, English and Business or Geography if studied.
Course Content: Course Content Edexcel Economics A explores how markets operate, how governments intervene, and how national and global economies function. The course helps students understand real-world issues such as inflation, unemployment, economic growth, international trade, and the impact of globalisation. Students study four key themes across the two years: Theme 1: Introduction to Markets and Market Failure – the nature of economics, how markets work, market failure, and government intervention. Theme 2: The UK Economy – Performance and Policies – measures of economic performance, aggregate demand and supply, and macroeconomic objectives and policy. Theme 3: Business Behaviour and the Labour Market – business growth, objectives, revenues, costs, profits, and the operation of the labour market. Theme 4: A Global Perspective – international economics, poverty and inequality, emerging economies, the financial sector, and the role of the state in the macroeconomy. Style of Assessment: Paper 1: Markets and Business Behaviour – focuses on microeconomics (Themes 1 and 3). Paper 2: The National and Global Economy – focuses on macroeconomics (Themes 2 and 4). Paper 3: Microeconomic and Macroeconomic Themes – synoptic paper drawing on all four themes, with data-response and extended written questions.	Super Curricular Opportunities: - Subscription to the ft.com - Participation in national competitions Career Prospects: Economics is a highly respected and versatile subject that develops analytical thinking, quantitative reasoning, and evaluative writing skills valued by universities and employers. Students often progress to degrees in Economics, Business, Finance, Politics, Law, or International Relations. Career pathways include roles in banking, accountancy, investment, business management, data analysis, government policy, and international organisations. The subject also provides an excellent foundation for apprenticeships in finance, consultancy, and the civil service. If I were to take this course I should read: <i>The Undercover Economist</i> – Tim Harford <i>Freakonomics</i> – Steven D. Levitt & Stephen J. Dubner <i>Talking to My Daughter</i>– Yanis Varoufakis <i>Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth and Happiness</i> – Richard H. Thaler & Cass R. Sunstein <i>Thinking fast and slow</i> – Daniel Khaneman
Contact Details: Mr P Tilley Head of Sixth Form ptilley@stmichaelscs.org	

English Literature

Department: English	Type of Qualification: A Level
Exam Board: AQA Specification: 7717	Entry Requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature and English Language
Course Content: Students study a minimum of six set texts at A level, across the various genres, including: prose, poetry and drama. This enables students to gain a solid understanding of how texts can be connected and how they can be interpreted in multiple ways, as they examine how meanings are shaped within the texts. The specification encourages the exploration of texts in a number of ways: • The study of texts within a specific genre • The study of texts through engagement with a range of theoretical ideas • Writing about texts in a number of different ways Examination Overview: Paper 1A: Aspects of tragedy • Study of one Shakespeare play- Othello • One further drama text- Death of a Salesman • One further text, written pre-1900 –Tess of the D'urbervilles Paper 2B: Elements of Political and Social Protest Writing • One post-2000 prose text- The Kite Runner • One poetry text- Songs of Innocence and Experience • One further text written pre-1900 Non-exam assessment: Theory and independence: Study of two texts: one poetry and one prose text, informed by study of the Critical Anthology Two essays of 1250–1500 words, each responding to a different text and linking to a different aspect of the Critical anthology One essay can be re-creative.	Super Curricular opportunities: THE GUARDIAN HAY FESTIVAL May/June http://www.hayfestival.com BBC PROMS LITERARY FESTIVAL July/Sept http://www.bbc.co.uk/proms HENLEY FESTIVAL July http://www.henley-festival.co.uk HENLEY LITERARY FESTIVAL Sept/Oct www.henleyliteraryfestival.co.uk/ Career Prospects: There is no limit to the possibilities that English Literature can give rise to. The subject is still one of the most prestigious to study in the country. Career opportunities include: journalism, advertising, creative writing, teaching, law, broadcasting, public relations, performing arts and further study at university. If I were to take this course I should read: Everything from the course reading list but also: The Times Literary Supplement – a weekly literary review Try to read material from the 'prizes' e.g. The Man Booker prize or the Orange prize Try to get into reading a broadsheet newspaper weekly
Contact Details: Miss T Simpson Head of English Tsimpson@stmichaelscs.org	

French

Department: Modern Foreign Languages	Type of Qualification: A-Level
Exam Board: AQA Specification: A-level French 7652	Entry Requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE French
Course Content: <u>Year 12</u> Aspects of French Speaking Society: Family, Cyber society, volunteering. Artistic Culture in the French Speaking World: A culture proud of its heritage, Contemporary francophone music, Cinema. One literary text or film. <u>Year 13</u> Aspects of French Speaking Society: Positive features of a diverse society, Life for the marginalised, how criminals are treated. Political and Artistic Culture: Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment, Demonstrations, strikes – who holds the power, Politics and immigration. One literary text or film. Individual research project. Style of Assessment: <u>Year 13</u> Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing (2hr 30m) 50% Paper 2: Writing (2hr) 20% Paper 3: Speaking (21–23 minutes including 5 minutes supervised preparation time) 30%	Super Curricular Opportunities: Trips include film screenings and visits to the French Institute in Kensington. There is also the opportunity to attend seminars in London for students of A level French. Students are able to take part in language immersion study trips to Paris or Marseille which can be organised through the school. Career Prospects: A degree in French gives students the edge in today's global job market, whether they are considering a career in business, finance, diplomacy, media, interpreting, translation or teaching. A levels in Languages are more valuable than ever before in a post-Brexit world where foreigners can't relocate as easily. Linguists are in high demand! If I were to take this course I should read... The French press regularly (www.lemonde.fr). Novels such as Bonjour Tristesse, Un Sac de Billes, Élise ou la vraie vie. Grammar revision guides to ensure you are secure in GCSE level grammar
Contact Details: Ms C Lepeltier – Head of MFL Clepeltier@stmichaelscs.org	

Geography	
Department: Humanities	Type of qualification – A Level
Exam Board: AQA Specification: 7073	Entry Requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE Geography
Course Content: Year 12: Physical topics: Hazards Water and Carbon Cycles. Human topics: Changing Places Global Systems and Global Governance Year 13: Physical topics: Hot Deserts Human topics: Contemporary Urban Environments Style of Assessment: Component 1: Physical Paper – 35% Component 2: Human Paper – 35% Component 3: Non-Examined Assessment – 30% - Students are required to conduct their own fieldwork and investigations and write this up in a report style to show their findings (3,000-4,000 words).	Enrichment Opportunities: - Compulsory fieldwork trip in Year 12 to the Field Studies Centre to study water cycles and hydrography. - Individual fieldwork in Year 12/13. - Mentoring scheme available for Year 12s. Career Prospects: Geography is an excellent A Level subject to aid progression to university whether you are continuing the subject or not because geography demonstrates a questioning mind and one that can evaluate and summarise key concepts which is a big plus for employers; a recent study found those with a geography degree had the lowest unemployment rate of any subject (2010 HECSU). If I were to take this course I should read: • Powerdown: Options and Actions for a Post-Carbon World (2004) by Richard Heinberg. • Geography: An integrated approach by David Waugh (various editions). Excellent breadth and depth of A-Level content. • There is no such thing as a natural disaster (2006) by Chester Hartman and • Gregory D Squires • Factfulness by Rosling (2018).
Contact Details: Mr M Trigg, Lead Geography Teacher: mtrigg@stmichaelscs.org Mr D Thomas, Head of Humanities: dthomas@stmichaelscs.org	

Health and Social Care (BTEC)	
Department: Physical Education	Type of Qualification: Pearson BTEC Level 3 AAQ National Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care (360 GLH)
Exam Board: Pearson Specification: 601/3964/0	Entry Requirements: Grade 4 in GCSE English Language and Maths
Course Content: The course gives students a wide knowledge base from which to gain an understanding of what working within a health and social care setting can entail. It gives students the chance to explore key career opportunities and a chance to understand what the daily role and responsibilities are within this field. External Examination Units Unit 1 – Human Lifespan Development (Mandatory) Unit 2 – Human Biology and Health (Mandatory) <u>Internally Assessed Units</u> Unit 3 Principles of Health and Social Care Practice (Mandatory) Unit 5 – Promoting Health Education (Optional) Style of Assessment: 4 units. 2 Units are external examinations, one of which is a synoptic paper. The other 2 units are internally moderated as pieces of coursework. One exam and one coursework unit will be completed in year 12 and the same in year 13. All units are graded as pass, merit or distinction and these are accumulated across the two years where an overall grade is calculated at the end of year 13.	Super Curricular opportunities: - Visits to Health and Social Care settings, such as a care home. - Question and answer sessions with various Health Care professionals Career Prospects Carer, Occupational Therapist Child Care Nursery Nurse, Midwife Nurse Health Care Assistant Teacher, Social worker If I were to take this course I should read: Edexcel – BTEC Nationals – Skills for learning and work The Student’s Companion to Social Policy, Alcock, May & Wright The spirit level: why equality is better for everyone, Pickett & Wilkinson Frontline Midwife, Anna Kent

History	
Department: History	Type of Qualification: A-Level
Exam Board: Edexcel Specification: A Level 9HI0	Entry Requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE History
Course Content: The course covers three main examined topics, as well as a longer piece of coursework (NEA), and is designed to build on pre-existing knowledge, but goes into much greater depth, whilst also offering new content to broaden pupils' historical knowledge. The examined topics are: • The rise and fall of fascism in Italy, c1911–46 • Germany and West Germany, 1918–89 • Poverty, public health and the state in Britain, c1780–1939 • Coursework – on either a topic chosen by the department, or their own choice. Style of Assessment: Italy – 20% of course. Exam: 1hr 30 mins 1 essay question & 1 source analysis question Germany – 30% of course. Exam: 2hr 15 mins. 2 essay questions & 1 interpretation analysis question Poverty & Public Health – 30% of course. Exam: 2 hours 15 mins 2 essay question & 1 source analysis question Coursework – 20% of course 3000-4000 word essay which looks at Historians' interpretations	Super Curricular Opportunities: Trip to London to look at aspects of Public Health. Library visits to supplement coursework. Potential for a trip to Berlin to focus on Germany. <i>The Rise of Evil</i> – excellent for an overview on Germany Career Prospects: Historian / Historical advisors Journalism Law Teacher Archaeologist / archivist Any work in museums / living historian If I were to study this course I would read: • Any of the relevant <i>Access to History</i> books • <i>History+ for Edexcel A Level: Nationalism, dictatorship and democracy in twentieth-century Europe</i> • <i>Edexcel A Level History, Paper 3: Poverty, public health and the state in Britain c1780-1939</i> • <i>Age of Extremes The Short Twentieth Century, 1914-1991</i> Eric Hobsbawm
Contact Details: Mr D Thomas. Head of Humanities: dthomas@stmichaelscs.org	

ICT (BTEC)

Department: Computing and Business	Type of Qualification: Level 3 – Equivalent to one A level
Exam Board: EDEXCEL Specification: BTEC-LEVEL 3 – Extended Certificate in Information Technologies	Entry Requirements – Grade 4 and above in Computer Science /English / Maths or Level 2 Pass and above in ICT (Cambridge Nationals)
Course Content: The Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate is designed for learners who are interested in an introduction to the study of creating IT systems to manage and share information, alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in IT. Students have an opportunity to study compulsory core units on: • Information Technology Systems - Unit 1 • Creating Systems to Manage Information - Unit 2 • Using Social Media in Business - Unit 3 • Website Development – Unit 6 Style of Assessment: Units 1 and 2 – Externally assessed by the exam board Units 3 – Internally assessed and moderated by the exam board Unit 6 – Internally assessed	Super Curricular Opportunities • Learn how to build your own computer – UDEMY • The Social Network - Netflix • The story of computing • Artificial Intelligence • Teach Yourself to code in any programming language • Centre of Computing History • Big Data Career Prospects: • Software /hardware Engineer • Network engineer • Cyber security • Any career related to IT If I were to take this course I should read: • The Most Influential Women in Computer Science • Artificial Intelligence • The Rise of the Network Society, Manuel Castells
Contact Details: Miss A Thompson Head of Computing and Business Athompson@stmichaelscs.org	

Law	
Department: Humanities	Type of Qualification: A Level
Exam Board: AQA Specification: 7162	Entry Requirements: Grade 5+ in history preferred not essential. Grade 6 in English Language.
Course Content: Paper 1 – The Nature of Law and the English Legal System with Criminal Law. This unit introduces students to the structure of the Criminal and Civil Courts in England and Wales. Paper 2 – The Nature of Law and the English Legal System with Tortious Liability. In this unit students will study how law is made and interpreted in England and Wales through the role of Parliament and the Courts. Paper 3 – The Nature of Law and the English Legal System with Law of Contract. In this unit students will study will study contract law and the everyday application of legal principles in the world of business. Style of Assessment: 100% exam based. 3x Two-Hour Examination Papers.	Super Curricular Opportunities: Trip to Parliament Court House visit Mock trials/ Witness for the Prosecution. Career Prospects: Law provides students with a gateway to careers both within and outside of the legal profession such as; Lawyer, barrister, judge. Police force, Business, Banking, Journalism, Social Work, Charity sector, Politics, Teaching. If I were to take this course I should read: The Secret Barrister The Law Society Gazette Hansard – by Parliament
Contact Details: Mrs R Mohammed, Teacher of Law, rmohammed@stmichaelscs.org Mr D Thomas, Head of Humanities: dthomas@stmichaelscs.org	

Mathematics	
Department: Mathematics	Type of Qualification: A-Level
Exam Board: Edexcel Specification: 9MA0/01, 9MA0/02, 9MA0/03	Entry Requirements: Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics
Course Content: Pure Mathematics 1 Proof, Algebra and Functions, Coordinate Geometry, Sequences and Series, Differentiation and Integration, Exponential and Logarithms, Trigonometry, Further Differentiation and Integration and Vectors Pure Mathematics 2 Proof, Algebra and Functions, Trigonometry, Further Differentiation, Numerical Methods, Differential Equations and vectors, Exponential and Logs. Statistics and Mechanics Representation of Data, Comparing Distributions, Correlation, Regression, Probability, Discrete Random Variables, The Normal Distribution. Mathematical Modelling, Kinematics, Forces and Newton's laws and Moments. Style of Assessment: Assessment = 100% examination Three papers (Pure Mathematics 1, Pure Mathematics 2, Statistics and Mechanics) each 2 hours long to be completed at the end of year 13.	Super Curricular Opportunities: There is the opportunity to attend Maths lectures as well as compete in the Senior Maths Challenge – a national competition. Career Prospects: Engineering, Accountancy, Computing, Economics, Business, Banking, Architecture, Psychology, Air Traffic Control, Retail Management and Teaching, to name but a few. If I were to take this course I should: Read the course specification. https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/mathematics-2017.html If I were to take this course I should read: • Why do buses come in threes?, Rob Easterway • Fermats Last Theorum, Simon Singh • The World of Mathematics, James R Newman • Godel, Escher and Bach: An Etemal Golden Braid, Douglas Hofstadter
Contact Details: Mrs R Panthula KS5 lead and 2ic Mathematics rpanthula@stmichaelscs.org	

Media Studies	
Department: English	Type of Qualification: A Level
Exam Board: OCR Specification: H409	Entry Requirements: Grade 4 in GCSE English Language
Course Content: Media Studies engages students in the in depth study of media products in relation to the four areas of the theoretical framework: - Media language - Media representation - Media industries - Media audiences Students are required to study media products from all of the following media forms: - television - film - radio - newspapers - magazines - advertising and marketing - online, social and participatory media - video games - music video Style of Assessment: <u>COMPONENT 01: Exam assessment</u> Media One and Media Two - Written exam: 2 hours • 84 marks • 35% of A-level [Media One] - Written exam: 2 hours • 84 marks • 35% of A-level [Media Two] <u>COMPONENT 02: Non-exam assessment: Creating a cross media production</u> - Students produce a media product for a specified audience based on a choice of one of five set by AQA. • 60 marks • 30% of A-level	Super Curricular Opportunities: Throughout the year many media, broadcast and interest groups provide opportunities the department regularly take advantage of. These can include film and documentary production days at the British Film Institute (BFI), classes in media production for portable devices, University based theory seminars, introductions to advertising, school-based product 'pitch' days and learning walks with some of the UKs leading media institutions. Career Prospects: With the rapid and ongoing development of E-media and broadcast technologies, media studies can lead to an ever expanding range of career possibilities from media production, marketing, advertising, journalism, film production, public relations and law. If I were to take this course I should read/watch: www.mediaknowall.com Media theories online https://www.imdb.com/list/ls055592025/ - the top 100 greatest movies of all time Eisenstein, Sergei. Film Form: Essays in Film Theory. Bull A (2015) Multimedia journalism: a practical guide, Routledge
Contact Details: Mrs R. Mohammed Teacher of Media Studies	

Religious Studies

Department: Religious Education	Type of Qualification: A Level
Exam Board: OCR Specification: H573	Entry Requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE Religious Education and Grade 5 English Language are required.
Course Content: <u>Year 12</u> - Philosophy: Ancient Philosophical Influences , The Soul, Mind and Body, Arguments (for God) Based On Observation, Arguments (for God) Based On Reason, Religious Experience, The Problem Of Evil. - Ethics: Natural Law, Kantian ethics, Utilitarian ethics, Situation Ethics, Business Ethics and Euthanasia. - Developments of Christian Thought: Augustine's Teachings on Human Nature, Death and the Afterlife, Knowledge of God's Existence, The Person Of Jesus Christ, Christian Moral Principles and Christian Moral Action. <u>Year 13</u> - Philosophy: The Nature Or Attributes Of God, Religious Language: Negative, Analogical Or Symbolic, Twentieth Century Perspectives And Philosophical Comparisons. - Ethics: Meta-Ethics, Conscience and Sexual Ethics. - Developments of Christian Thought: Religious Pluralism and Theology, Religious Pluralism and Society, Gender And Society, Gender And Theology, The Challenge of Secularism, Liberation Theology And Marx Style of Assessment: This is an exam-based A Level. There will be 3 two hour papers at the end of year 13.	Super Curricular Opportunities: We have external academic speakers and debates in association with Premier Unbelievable; for example Dr. Sharon Dirckx (University of Cambridge). Career Prospects: Barrister, Newspaper Journalist, Teacher Minister Theologian Politician Research Consultant <i>If I were to take this course I should read:</i> The Puzzle of Evil, Peter Vardy The Puzzle of Ethics, Peter Vardy The Blind Watchmaker, Richard Dawkins The Republic, Plato On Liberty, Mill Beyond Good and Evil, Nietzsche An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, Hume A History of Western Philosophy, Russell. See Specification for further reading . . .
Contact Details Mr M Smallwood	

Physical Education	
Department: Physical Education	Type of Qualification: A-Level
Exam Board: AQA Specification: 7582	Entry Requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE PE
Course Content: 1. Applied anatomy and physiology 2. Skill acquisition 3. Sport and society 4. Exercise physiology 5. Biomechanical movement 6. Sport Psychology 7. Sport and society and the role of technology in physical activity and sport Style of Assessment: Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport Topics 1, 2 and 3 External written examination, 35% of A Level Paper 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport Topics 4 to 7 External written examination, 35% of A Level Non-Examination Assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport. Students assessed as a performer or coach in the full-sided version of one activity. Internal assessment, external moderation, 30% of A Level. The student must be participating in a competitive sport outside of school.	Super Curricular Opportunities: - Visits to sporting facilities and high performance centres Career Prospects Sports Scientist PE Teacher Physiotherapist Coach Fitness Instructor Diet Instructor Personal Trainer NHS
Contact Details: Mrs C Amos-Wilkins Head of PE Camoswilkins@stmichaelscs.org	If I were to take this course I should read: ☐ Sports rule books and coaching guides ☐ Sports Biographies/Autobiographies Journals ☐ Journal of Sports Sciences ☐ Journal of Sport & Social Issues ☐ All sports magazines will offer a view on performing, coaching, science, current issues or history of sport(s). They are therefore valuable wider reading material ☐ National newspapers. The sports pages report global events and the biggest issues ☐ AQA A-level PE Book 1: For A-level year 1 and AS Paperback – 29 July 2016 by Carl Atherton (Author), Symond Burrows (Author), Ross Howitt (Author), Sue Young (Author)

Physics

Department: Science	Type of Qualification: A-Level
Exam Board: AQA Specification: 7408	Entry Requirements: - 7 in Physics GCSE (if completed separate sciences) - 6 overall with 7 in Physics papers (if completed combined sciences) - 6 in Maths
Course Content: Year 12: 1. Measurements and their errors 2. Particles and radiation 3. Waves 4. Mechanics and materials 5. Electricity Year 13: 6. Further mechanics and thermal physics 7. Fields and their consequences 8. Nuclear physics 9. Medical physics Style of Assessment: Paper 1 – Topics 1-5 and 6.1 (Periodic motion), 85 marks, 2 hours Paper 2 – Topics 6.2 (Thermal physics), 7 and 8, 85 marks, 2 hours Paper 3 – Practical skills and data analysis from topics 1-8 and Topic 9, 80 marks, 2 hours Required practicals to gain mastery in 5 competencies	Super Curricular Opportunities: • Talks by scientists • STEM club leaders • Science visits • Careers links Career Prospects: Engineering, Chemical engineering, Architecture, Geologist, Teacher, Accountant. Atomic Physicist Medicine If I were to take this course I should read: A short history of nearly everything, Bill Bryson The Grand Design, Stephen Hawkin and Leonard Mlodinow A short History of Nearly Everything - Bill Bryson Why don't penguins' feet freeze? – NewScientist Newton – Peter Ackroyd The Quantum Universe: Everything that can happen does happen – Brian Cox and Jeff Forshaw Physics World
Contact Details Mr J Johnson, Head of Science mjohnson@stmichaelscs.org	

Psychology	
Department: Social Sciences	Type of Qualification: A-Level
Exam Board: AQA Specification: 7182	Entry Requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE Maths & Science and Grade 5 in English Language
Course Content: Psychology is the scientific study of mental processes and human behaviours. It is about why we are who we are and why we do the things we do! The topics covered over the two years are: Year 12 • Social Influence • Memory • Attachment • Psychopathology • Approaches in Psychology • Research Methods Year 13 • Issues & Debates in Psychology • Relationships • Schizophrenia • Addiction • Biopsychology • Research Methods Style of Assessment: This subject is assessed by three 2 hour exams, each worth 33.3% of the qualification, at the end of year 13, there is no coursework: • Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology • Paper 2: Psychology in Context • Paper 3: Issues & Options in Psychology.	Career Prospects: Careers in psychology include criminology, occupational psychology, sport psychology, educational psychology, clinical psychology or counselling psychology amongst many other options. It will also support any career involving contact with people such as teaching, social work, medicine, business and management. If I were to take this course I should read: The AQA A level Psychology books one and two and the news online regularly. There is also a Radio 4 podcast on Psychology called All in the Mind. Other publications of note include: Freud for Beginners by Richard Appignanesi & Oscar Zarate, Introducing Psychology: A Graphic Guide to Your Mind and Behaviour by Nigel Benson and Mindwatching: Why We Behave the Way We Do by H.J. Eysenck & Michael W. Eysenck Super Curricular Opportunities: • Watch the TED talk - How reliable is your memory? By Elizabeth Loftus on the accuracy of eyewitness testimony • Read the book: Memory by Alan Baddeley, Eysenck and Anderson. A popular book on STM • Listen to the podcast – Invisibilia. It explores the hidden forces that shape the way humans think and act.
Contact Details: Ms. A. Cranwell ,Social Science teacher acranwell@stmichaelscs.org	

Sociology

Department: Social Sciences	Type of Qualification: A-Level
Exam Board: AQA Specification: 7192	Entry Requirements: Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Maths
Course Content: Sociology is the in-depth, theoretical and scientific study of society. Sociology allows you to gain a greater understanding of the complex and simple nature of humans and their societies. It is about the world we live in so is relevant to everyone! The units covered over the two years are: Year 12 • Culture, Socialisation & Identity • Education • Research Methods • Families & Households Year 13 • Theory and Methods • Crime & Deviance • Beliefs in society Style of Assessment: This subject is assessed by three 2 hour exams, each worth 33.3% of the qualification, at the end of year 13, there is no coursework: • Paper 1: Education with Theory and Methods • Paper 2: Topics in Sociology • Paper 3: Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods	Career Prospects: Many business roles such as human resources, journalism, teaching, criminology, social work, armed forces and many other areas as a result of the skills developed. If I were to take this course: I should read AQA A level Sociology book one and book two and sociologists such as Karl Marx, Max Weber and Emile Durkheim and watch current affairs documentaries such as Channel 4's Unreported world and the BBC's Panorama. There is also a Radio 4 podcast on Sociology called 'Thinking Allowed'. Other publications of note include Sociology Review, the New Internationalist, the New Statesmen and the Economist. Super Curricular Opportunities: Students have the opportunity to attend sociology conferences in London led by the authors of the course textbook and other researchers. Students will also have the opportunity to attend a criminology conference in London led by researchers that have applied sociological and psychological research in real world situations.
Contact Details: Ms. A Cranwell Social Science teacher acranwell@stmichaelscs.org	

Spanish

Department: Modern Foreign Languages	Type of Qualification: A-Level
Exam Board: AQA Specification: A-level Spanish 7692	Entry Requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish
Course Content: <u>Year 12</u> Aspects of Hispanic society: Modern and traditional values, Cyberspace, Equal rights. Artistic Culture: Modern day idols, Spanish regional identity, Cultural Heritage. One literary text or film <u>Year 13</u> Multiculturalism in Hispanic Society: Immigration, Racism, Integration. Political and Artistic Culture: Today's youth, Monarchies and Dictatorships, Popular Movements. One literary text or film. Individual research project. Style of Assessment: <u>Year 13</u> Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing (2h30m) 50% Paper 2: Writing (2hr) 20% Paper 3: Speaking (21–23 minutes including 5 minutes supervised preparation time) 30%	Super Curricular Opportunities: Trips include film screenings at the British Film Institute and there is the opportunity to attend seminars in London for students of A level Spanish. Students are also able to take part in language immersion study trips to Malaga which can be organised through the school. Career Prospects: Having completed a degree in Hispanic studies you will have acquired a high level of competence in Spanish and will have the ability to use it in complex contexts. Many languages students choose to remain in further education and go on to study in law, finance or media after graduation. The highly desirable combination of language skills, cultural literacy and critical thinking means that languages graduates are in high demand in today's employment market, particularly in a post- Brexit era. If I were to take this course I should read... The Spanish press regularly (www.elpais.es). Novels such as Réquiem por un campesino español, Las bicicletas son para el verano or Como agua para chocolate. Grammar revision guides to ensure you are secure in GCSE level grammar
Contact Details: Ms Lepeltier Head of MFL clepeltier@stmichaelscs.org	

Sport Studies (BTEC)

Department: Physical Education	Type of Qualification: Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport (360 GLH)
Exam Board: Pearson Specification: 601/7218/6	Entry Requirements: Grade 4 in GCSE English Language and Science
Course Content: The course gives students a wide knowledge base from which to gain an understanding of what working within a sport setting can entail. It gives students the chance to explore key career opportunities and a chance to understand what the daily role and responsibilities are within this field. External Examination Units Unit 1 – Anatomy and Physiology (Mandatory) Unit 2 – Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being (Mandatory) Internally Assessed Units Unit 3 – Professional Development in the Sports Industry (Mandatory) Unit 4 – Sports Leadership (Optional) Style of Assessment: 4 units. 2 Units are external examinations, one of which is a synoptic paper. The other 2 units are internally moderated as pieces of coursework. One exam and one coursework unit will be completed in year 12 and the same in year 13. All units are graded as pass, merit or distinction and these are accumulated across the two years where an overall grade is calculated at the end of year 13.	Super Curricular opportunities: - Visits to University Sport Science departments - Talk to industry specialists Career Prospects Teacher Sports Coaching Sports Science Diet & Nutrition Sports Industry If I were to take this course I should read: Edexcel – BTEC Nationals – Skills for learning and work
Contact Details: Mrs C Amos-Wilkins Head of PE camoswilkins@stmichaelscs.org	



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