

FAQs

How much homework will we get?

Homework is a very important part of your learning at St. Michael's. It consolidates your learning from the lesson, allows you to grasp and understand what it is that you have been learning, as well as enabling you to show the teachers just how hard working and creative you are!

You will receive at least one piece of homework every week from each subject that you will do. So you will receive approximately 8 to 10 pieces of homework each week.

The Good Shepherd, which is located on the left as you come into Student Reception, runs a Homework Club on Mondays to Thursdays from 3.25pm till 4.25pm. A great way to get your homework completed before you go home. You don't have to let them know when your coming, you can just turn up on any night Monday to Thursday.

What happens if you forget it/don't do it?

Now you are in Year 7, taking responsibility for your homework and making sure it is done on time is essential. If you forget it or don't do it you will be given a breaktime or lunchtime detention by your whichever subject teacher you have not completed the homework for.

If you are stuck with your homework or are unable to do it for the day/lesson it is due for, it is very important that you go and speak to your teacher at least one day prior to the homework being due in, so that they can give you help and support with it. The teachers at St. Michael's, many of whom have children themselves, are very supportive and will be happy to help you. Do not be afraid, shy or worried to ask.

What happens if I get lost in my first couple of days? How will I find my way around?

Please do not worry about this at all when you come to St. Michael's. The first week in September when you start, there will be two Student Ambassadors per Form Group who will take you to lessons, pick you up from them and escort you to your next lesson. This will help you to find your way around the building and get to know where your classrooms are for your different lessons. If you do happen to get separated from your Form Group moving from one lesson to the next, do not worry, find the nearest teacher or student and they will help you find your way to your next lesson.

You will be amazed how quickly you get to know your way around – remember every classroom, including our fantastic sports hall and dance studio, are all under one roof!

Are we allowed mobile phones?

You are only allowed your mobile phone at Break and Lunch time when outside.

You are not allowed mobile phones anywhere inside the school building or when in lessons. Your mobile phone must be switched off at all times when inside the school building.

If you take your phone out in lesson time or when walking around the corridors you will have it confiscated. This will be taken to the Main Reception where a phone call will be made to your parents/carers, who will be asked to come into school and pick it up from the Main Reception.

On the first day of school, where do we go on the morning?

When you arrive on your first day at St. Michael's you will be welcomed by the Senior Leadership Team and Student Ambassadors in Student Reception, and will be escorted to the Main Hall where you will be welcomed by Miss Chambers, Pastoral Learning Manager for Year 7, and Mr Tate, Assistant Pastoral Learning Manager for Year 7.

When in the Main Hall you will be asked to sit with your new Form Tutor, where you will be able to begin to make friends with the members of your Form Group.

Do you provide us with equipment?

We will provide you with your Year 7 Planner and Timetable, but you will be expected to have the correct equipment – pen, pencil and ruler, as well as the correct PE Kit when needed – for your lessons. You will also be responsible for bringing in a reading book from home – the choice of which is yours.

What happens if I forget my PE kit?

If you forget your PE kit the PE Department will issue you with a Break or Lunch time detention, as your PE kit is an essential part of school equipment.

If you forget it and someone from home is able to bring it in, in time for your lesson then let your Tutor know who can then get the Student Reception to contact home to see if it can be brought in.

What after school clubs are there?

Can we have a list of clubs that have taken place this year to give some examples of what the students can expect.

Will we still find out our form groups prior to September?

You will find out which Form Group you have been put into at the end of June. A letter will be sent home to inform you which Form Group you are in and who your new Form Tutor will be.

Do we bring cash for lunch on the first day?

No there is no need too. St. Michael's operates a Cashless Catering System where you pay for your food and drink by simply placing your index finger on a Biometric Reader at the tills in the Bistro – a Biometric Reading of your finger will be taken on your first day at St. Michael's and this will allow you to pay for any items that you may purchase at break or lunch time.

Money can be put onto your account electronically by your parents/carers via our Parent Pay System, or you can top up your account by putting money into one of the Revel Machines located in the Student Reception and the Bistro itself. How you do this, will be demonstrated by your Tutor on your first day.

How long is each lesson?

Each lesson lasts for 1 hour. In a normal day at St. Michael's you will have 5 x 1 hour lessons. You will have 3 lessons in the morning and 2 lessons in the afternoon. In addition to these lessons you will have a 15 minute morning break and a 1 hour lunch break. There is no afternoon break time at St. Michael's.

Are there lockers?

Lockers are only provided for Year 11 students.

What happens if you are late?

If you are persistently late for either school or for lesson, then a break or lunch time detention can be given for Punctuality. Your PLM will contact home to inform parents/carers of the issues arising due to punctuality to school and/or lessons.

How would you know which class to go to as there seems to be rooms like Science 1 and Science 2 for example?

The numbers of each classroom where you will be taught will be on your Timetable, under the name of each subject and the time the lesson starts and finishes. It is important that you always have your timetable on you when you arrive in September, so that you know what lessons you have throughout each day.

How many students are there in the school, and in Year 7?

There are approximately 1000 students in St. Michael's. There will be just over 200 students in Year 7 next year, coming from 18 different Primary School's from across Billingham, Norton, Port Clarence and Stockton.

What sports are there to do?

There are a variety of sports that you can play at St. Michael's. You will have the opportunity to participate in the following sports in your PE lessons:

Football, Rugby, Basketball, Hockey, Badminton, Table Tennis, Athletics, Tennis, Soft Ball, Gymnastics, Aerobics, Fitness training and Cricket.

Will there be a recap on what we have learnt in year 6 in our first weeks at St. Michael's, or will we just learn different things straight away?

It will be a mixture of recalling what you know about each subject, especially in maths and English, and learning new things in all subjects. It is important to remember that teachers will not assume you know everything about their subject, they are there to allow you to engage and learn about new and exciting things in each subject area.

Do we get to play with the other years like year people who left our school before or just our class we're allowed to see?

At break and lunch times you can play with your friends, regardless of whether they are in Year 7 or another year group. In St. Michael's you will find that all year groups interact with one another, and that friendship groups go across all year groups.

How many classes will there be in a day?

You will attend 5 classes in a normal school day.

Will there still be school trips?

There are many opportunities to represent St. Michael's on a variety of school trips. In previous years there have been trips to Sorrento, Pompei, New York and France.

There are also many trips to places within the UK where students have represented St. Michael's in educational activities and sporting fixtures.

What type of lessons are there? Is it like primary school?

In Year 7 you will have lessons in the following subjects: RE, Maths, English, Science, History, Geography, French or Spanish, Computer Science, DT, Textiles, Art, PE and Music.

Some things will be similar to primary school, for example, subjects like Maths, English and Science you will have learnt about in the past, but there will be differences like being taught by different teachers for different subjects, or being in different classrooms throughout the school day, as opposed to being in the same classroom for all lessons.