A word from the Head

"As Headteacher I am both honoured and privileged to serve the parents and pupils of St. Michael’s School.

At St. Michael’s we offer a first-class education. We prize traditional values of discipline and good manners, and take great care to promote the continual progress of each individual in and out of the classroom. Our caring pastoral ethos and small class sizes provide an environment in which each pupil can reach their full potential.

St. Michael’s pupils achieve outstanding academic results because of the quality of our teaching and the excellent relationships that exist between pupils, parents and staff. Our curricular and extracurricular flexibility gives us the chance to maximise the talents and abilities of each individual.

Thank you for taking an interest in St. Michael’s. I would be delighted for you to visit us and experience in person the atmosphere and academic integrity of our excellent school."
Alun J Millington
MA (Oxon) PGCE
Headteacher
Why choose St. Michael’s School?

St. Michael’s is a local school with a national reputation, consistently listed in the UK top 100 Independent Schools for A-level results. We have regularly been placed first co-educational Independent School in Wales for GCSE results, achieving peak results of 75% at grade A/A*.

Almost all of our sixth form pupils go on to the universities of their choice and we have a long tradition of sending pupils to Oxford and Cambridge. Our pupils shine academically within the learning environment we foster. It is one where gifted and talented students can really be stretched, but also one which supports and encourages less able pupils and helps them flourish academically.

- Outstanding academic performance
- Small class sizes
- Wide range of subjects
- High expectations
- Flexible timetabling arrangements
- Supervised study
- A wide range of extracurricular activities
- Specialist teaching for University entrance exams
- Dedicated Sixth Form IT and Library facilities
- Weekly and termly boarding accommodation available

Niharika Singh, Year 11 pupil

“I have thoroughly enjoyed the 5 years I have been at St Michael’s. I felt very prepared for my GCSE exams in all my subjects as the teachers had prepared us well. In many subjects we had finished the course a few weeks before we broke up for study leave, giving us a few weeks of revising topics in class. The teachers were always very happy to help and provided extra group revision sessions during the study leave period as well as providing individual help, which was really helpful as we could rectify any confusion or problems before our exams.”

Lara Whitten, Year 7 pupil

“I joined St. Michael’s in Year 7 and immediately made lots of new and different friends. I am happy in my form and school is really fun. My favourite subjects are Welsh and P.E. and I loved taking part in the Music, Art, Drama and Dance evening where I performed a dance duet with my friend. I think the small classes helped me to settle in, feel safe and make friends with the older pupils. My school supports me in activities outside school, as I have competed in Italy and Guernsey in an Irish dancing competition and table tennis tournament.”
Senior School

A Culture of Excellence
The school was first established in 1923 by founders the Rees brothers, the school’s reputation for strong academic success was built from their scholarly foundations. They retired and were replaced by former head boy Mr Vaughan-Evans in 1962 and then by Mr Daniel Sheehan who took up the legacy in 1994 and both placed the emphasis on setting high standards. Today Mr Alun Millington develops the culture of academic excellence we have seen at the school’s core since its foundation more than 85 years ago.

Pastoral Care
Each form is a supportive unit. Normally, the Form Teacher will move up the school with their pupils and is therefore well placed to offer the support, encouragement and guidance achieved by such close, stable relationships. This system of support provides our pupils with someone to turn to if they are worried or concerned. In addition we have trained counsellors who offer confidential support to pupils on a case-by-case basis. They offer a space where young people can talk in confidence and work through any problems with a sympathetic, experienced and understanding adult.

Location
The school stands in its own private grounds of several acres in the village of Bryn which overlooks the Gower Peninsula. The school is close to the M4 and accessible from across South West Wales. Our bus routes serve pupils from a wide geographical area.
GCSE
At GCSE we encourage a broad range of subjects, and specialisation is left as late as possible in order that decisions about future careers are considered carefully and options are left open. We offer a flexible approach to learning and are keen to stretch those who need it and offer support where it is needed too. Gifted and talented mathematicians are able to be ‘Fast Tracked’ each year, taking their examinations in Form 4 and achieving outstanding results year after year.

A Level
At Sixth Form level we focus strongly on high ‘facilitating’ subjects. Each year we have great success with student progression to degree courses in a wide range of subject areas, including some of the most competitive courses: Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Law, Engineering and Finance. We adopt an holistic approach to the university application process, helping pupils with personal statements, choices of courses and institution, attendance to sixth form taster courses in Business, Law and Medicine as well as ensuring they focus on developing their personal statement. This regularly results in 100% entry into Higher Education.
Extracurricular Activities

In addition to the various opportunities available in Speech, Music and Drama, we offer a range of activities to pupils in and outside school. It is important for pupils to be in touch with as many experiences as possible, develop new skills and form new relationships. Activities include: ballet, chess, Chinese, climbing, debating, Duke of Edinburgh, golf, sports, orienteering and skiing.

Boarding Life

Our boarding offers strong pastoral care which is varied, imaginative and challenging. Our aim is to successfully motivate boarders so that they leave us as confident and self-disciplined individuals. Our in-house LIFE programme allows boarders to develop their everyday life skills, roles and responsibilities, alongside growing an understanding and tolerance of other cultures. Boarders help to organise events and special evenings. Weekly boarding is also available.
Preparatory School

Environment
Small classes facilitate an environment where pupils feel cared for and respected. We nurture and support our children to develop confidence in their own abilities ensuring each child reaches their full potential. We successfully combine traditional methods with a broad and balanced curriculum, designed to enthuse and inspire our pupils to challenge each child’s natural desire to learn.

Through our continuous assessment and regular examinations we are quickly able to identify pupils’ strengths. Small class sizes ensure that learning is tailored to the individual and that they are challenged throughout their school life.

Ethos & Culture
We encourage pupils to show honesty, display tolerance and respect the needs of others. We are not only about academic success we appreciate our pupils as individuals and know how important it is for them to be exposed to a wide range of stimulating activities.

Dance, Drama and Speech play very important roles in the school and every one of our pupils aged from 3 to 11 are involved in our school productions and are able to take dance and ballet lessons.

Curriculum
We offer a wide range of subjects to ensure that even our youngest pupils receive a broad and balanced curriculum. The formal teaching of Mathematics and English, which provide the building blocks for learning, begins in Nursery. The wide ranging curriculum will stimulate your child to acquire knowledge and develop individual skills. Children’s achievements both in and beyond the classroom are celebrated in our weekly awards, assembly and termly newsletter and everyone enjoys regular success and praise during their time in school. We encourage children to become independent and confident in both their work and social development.

Homework
Homework enables the children to take pride in their work, develop good work habits and allows detailed assessment of knowledge and understanding. Our approach to homework is based upon a positive partnership between home and school.

School Day
The main school day runs from 08.45 to 15.30. Wrap around care is available with our Pre-School club open from 8am and our After-School club open until 17.30 Monday-Thursday and 16.30 on Friday. Both clubs provide a wealth of stimulating activities to keep the children interested and entertained. Perfect for working parents.
Theo Davies-Lewis
Year 13 Pupil

“St. Michael’s has given me an abundance of opportunities, both academic and extracurricular. I hosted a ‘Question Time’ debate with many of the leading political names of Wales - a dream for any 18-year-old that became a reality for me with help from St. Michael’s. The friendly but motivating atmosphere in the Sixth Form has been extremely welcoming, but also encouraged me to reach my academic potential. Because of this focus, I have been able to gain a place at Oxford University; something I owe a great deal to the teachers and staff at St. Michael’s for supporting me throughout the process.”

Teilo Partington
Year 9 pupil

“As a Year 9 pupil at St. Michael’s I had to choose my GCSE options for next year. I received good advice from my teachers and Head of Year; we had lots of discussions telling us what studying the subject would be like, what it would involve and whether it would be a good option for me personally. If I had to describe the school in one word it would be - challenging.”

Vindya Prabhu
Year 6 prep pupil

“I have enjoyed learning how to play the piano at school and have learnt new craft skills at Out of School Club. Whilst on the residential trip to The Gower I learnt new team building skills and had the most wonderful week. I know Year 5 will love this trip next year. I have been awarded Head Girl and was proud to be an ambassador for the school in Year 6.”