

# St Michael's Church of England Academy

## NEWSLETTER

February 2021 Update



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your children are well and managing to stay positive during what I know is a challenging time for many families.

Firstly, I wanted to say a big thank you to all the parents and guardians who were able to attend our virtual open day last month. We really appreciated your overwhelmingly positive response; it was lovely to get a chance to meet you all and answer some of your questions.

Admissions to the school have now closed and I wanted to take this opportunity to express how grateful we are for the wonderful response we have had from everyone welcoming St Michael's to the Paignton community.

As I am sure most of you are aware construction work on the site is well underway. The necessary demolition works have been completed to a majority of areas and the external scaffold has been erected, which includes the façade retention. The specialist façade cleaning has been completed and the new structural steel installation has begun, along with the foundations and Piling for the new plant room and external stairs. The Villa Walls are also being replenished in readiness for decoration. This is just part of what will be a lengthy process that will see some of the beautiful period features of the building restored for the grand opening in the new academic year.

I was delighted to visit St Michael's before Christmas and see how the building work was coming along. It is such a beautiful listed building with the original stained glass windows, fireplaces, ornate ceilings and tiled floors which have been preserved during the renovations.



St Michael's has a unique history, built as a Victorian villa in 1890 for the businessman Henry John Bailey of Bailey's Emporium. The house was sold to the Marist Sisters in 1908 and became a convent school which closed in 1982 and went on to become the independent school Tower House.



St Michael's unique history and that of the local area will form the foundations of our bespoke curriculum, building on the history and geography of the extraordinary school building, the local area and utilising local links with the sea and geopark.

The building has been used for education for over a hundred years and I am delighted that it will be used to educate our next generation of learners, building on our vision statement: *'The future we create everyday'*.

As part of the Learning Academy Partnership, St Michael's Church of England Academy will have access to the expertise and resources of this successful Trust. The Trust provides a first-class education to its pupils across the South West, and has done so since it was founded eight years ago. It is rated the best Multi Academy Trust in the country for the performance of disadvantaged children and in the Top 10 Trusts nationally for the progress that children make.

I look forward to working in partnership with you.

*Mrs J Edwards*

Head of Academy  
St Michael's Church of England  
Academy



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[stmichaels-lap.co.uk](http://stmichaels-lap.co.uk)



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St Michael's is proud to be a member of the Learning Academy Partnership