



St Michael's Sporting News 2019/20

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our new annual sports letter which will detail all of our outstanding sporting achievements each year. We have very talented children at St Michaels who always give 100% in any sport they compete in. Our sporting year was cut short due to the COVID-19 global pandemic but we were on course to have a very successful year in sport. Here are some of our successes.

Football:

The girls football team had another fantastic season in the Newcastle West League. The girls played consistently well throughout their season producing some excellent football along the way. They only lost one league game all season to eventual champions Hilton Primary School. As a result of this, they qualified for the Champions Cup which was due to be played in April, however this did not go ahead. Another fantastic achievement was their run in the Newcastle ESFA Danone Nations cup. The girls won all of their games in the qualifying round to book a place in the city final's night. Once again, the girls played some great football and came close to winning however missed out on clinching the top spot. Nonetheless, this resulted in the girls qualifying for the County Finals night. They played some fiercely competitive schools, qualifying for the semi-finals after finishing second in their group. However, the girls met a strong school from North Tyneside - Redesdale Primary- in the semi-finals who beat them 3-0. A fantastic season overall, you have made St Michaels proud once again.

The boys football team also had a fantastic campaign. In the Westgate league, they were unbeaten up until the school closures meaning they were 3 points clear at the top of the league with 2 games to play. However, due to the school closures the league was declared null and void which is a cruel way to end the season for the boys who were in place to win the league for the first time in many years. This season the boys also entered the prestigious Bishops Cup for the first time. They played some of the larger Catholic Primary Schools in the Diocese and produced some excellent football throughout. We qualified for the quarter finals before the closures. Well done boys, you should be proud of your efforts.

Not to be outdone, our year 3/4 boys football team also produced some great football and skill to be crowned under 9s Newcastle Catholic Cup champions. The future looks bright!



Hockey:

Throughout this academic year, hockey has become a sport that is now thoroughly enjoyed by both boys and girls at St Michael's. With the introduction of the summer term hockey club last year, children in key stage two had the opportunity to sample this wonderful sport. Due to the success of the club last academic year, the school ran another oversubscribed hockey club in the Autumn term of this year- much to the delight of the children! In addition, due to the success of the club, the school PE team decided to enter teams for the first time into the year 3/4 as well as the year 5/6 school sports games hockey competition - this gave the children the incentive to practice and develop their skills even more - with some boys and girls even purchasing their own hockey stick! Furthermore, hockey is now played most lunchtimes on the lower gravel pitch at St Michaels with a variety of children taking up this opportunity - the future is bright!

Year 3/4 School Sports Games:

A strong team of boys and girls were selected from Year 3/4 to attend this event which took place at the Newcastle University Stan Calvert Pitch in February of this year- for all of the children this was the first time they had entered a competitive competition but also the first time they had played on an astro turf - the experience for the children was both exciting and invigorating. The team played fantastically well together by producing some well-timed runs into space and creating goal chances with some expert passing. The team represented themselves and the school brilliantly; they learned many important lessons that day that will stand to them as they progress with their hockey development.



Year 5/6 School Sports Games:

A very strong and athletic hockey team was entered into the Year 5/6 hockey competition - this team was comprised of an equal mix of girls and boys. The team started exceptionally well and progressed from the group stages with ease winning all games comfortably without conceding any goals. The team entered the semi-finals against the winners from the other group games however this did not phase our gallant team who again progressed well to win all games going through as one of Newcastle's top hockey teams alongside Royal Grammar School. It is also worth mentioning that a number of players from the St Michaels team were selected to take part in country trials due to their hockey prowess - a fantastic achievement for those selected. Unfortunately, the hockey team were unable to take part in the finals due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Nonetheless, we will continue in our efforts at St Michael's to raise the profile of hockey and offer opportunities for our children to take part in a variety of sports in addition to those already offered.

Netball:

Another relatively new sport to St Michaels is Netball. The boys and girls have taken part in Netball in PE but not an actual competition. It took a while during the first game to adjust to Netball as they are such talented Basketball players, but due to their athletic skill and determination they quickly picked up games rules and produced some excellent displays of Netball. Unfortunately, we lost 1 and drew 3 games during the group stage meaning we bowed out of the competition but for some it was the first time playing any sport competitively and they showed great teamwork and spirit throughout. Well done team!

Inclusion events:

This year St Michaels has entered inclusion sports for the first time. This is a great way for children to experience playing sports in a competitive way without the pressures of winning. In November, 4 children were selected to take part in the Sports Hall Athletics Parallel Challenge. In addition, a further 4 children were selected to take part in a Boccia event in February. All children received a certificate for their sportsmanship. Well done boys and girls.

Athletes of the year:

Male Athlete – Tyler Cadet.

Tyler is a great leader and team player who possesses a nurturing and caring side. Alongside his skill and technique, this makes Tyler a dream for any teacher or coach. Tyler is a very highly skilled basketball player for his age but can also transfer these skills to most sports he competes in. He has been a key part to the boy's football team for the past 2 seasons at St Michaels and also a part of the successful hockey team even though he was new to the sport, he picked it up quickly and skilfully. Tyler is a great role model for all children at St Michaels. Well done Tyler!



Female Athlete – Christina Aniamai

Christina is a phenomenal athlete. She has been a great part of the sporting rise of St Michaels over the last 2 years. She has produced fantastic performances in all the sports she has taken part in and is someone the rest of the school look up to and are proud of. Because of this, more girls are starting to take part in sport showing what a great role model she is. She has been a key part of the girl's football team over the last 2 season and also the athletics, basketball and hockey teams. Well done Christina!



I hope you have enjoyed reading about the sporting successes of St Michael's and keep an eye out on the school website, Facebook and Twitter pages for the sporting achievements for 2020/21.

Thank you,

Mr Gorman