

25th April 2024



Dear Parent/Carer,

I wanted to share exciting news with you at the earliest opportunity. This morning, we have been privileged to welcome HRH The Prince of Wales to St Michael's. I am sure you will appreciate how much work goes into organising a visit of this kind; the anticipation has been building over several months, although we were not allowed to release any publicity until after the end of the visit.

I cannot emphasise enough how much the events of this morning have meant to everybody at St Michael's; I am sure you will agree that this is a *once in a lifetime* opportunity for most of us, and I am delighted that we have been able to facilitate these special memories for our students on this amazing day.

Whilst on site, The Prince met representatives of Student Voice and learned about the various initiatives set up in school to promote positive mental health and wellbeing. HRH also joined a session with the Matrix Project, set up to shine a spotlight on male mental health, which consists of boys aged 11-14 who meet weekly to develop ideas and projects to tackle mental health challenges.

During his visit with the Matrix Project, HRH had the opportunity to record a 'Dad joke', which will be showcased on our Unmuted Radio Programme, on Black Country Xtra. HRH also joined a workshop with a larger group of students who were discussing a range of issues related to mental health and wellbeing, including designing their own calm kits and their dream wellbeing hub.

This special visit recognises our ongoing efforts to support the mental health and wellbeing of our community, championing the emotional literacy and resilience of our young people. I would particularly like to thank members of the Matrix Project as, without their initiative in writing to a range of influential people who are advocates for children's mental health, we may not have had this opportunity.

All St Michael's students are given opportunities to be involved in initiatives to be active citizens and agents of change and, in this connection, I would like to express my appreciation for the parental support in allowing them to participate in so many extracurricular events, including Student Voice.

Please look out for more information on the visit, including photographs, in our Summer 1 Newsletter, which will be released at the end of this half-term.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs C Handy-Rivett
Headteacher

Headteacher: Mrs C Handy-Rivett, BA (Hons), MA, NPQH

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