

14<sup>th</sup> November 2023



**The King's Award  
for Voluntary Service**

*The MBE for volunteer groups*

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am delighted to share some amazing news with you: Buckingham Palace has announced today that St Michael's Student Voice is a recipient of The King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS) 2023. The KAVS is the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work in their own communities and is equivalent to an MBE. The prestigious award acknowledges that "Student Voice dedicates hundreds of hours to help others and raise awareness of local and national issues...Student Voice members are highly passionate, attending meeting during lunchtime, after-school, evenings, weekends and holiday periods. They are dedicated change makers who challenge the stereotypes of young people and tackle sensitive issues".

The school's governing board and senior leadership team, together with Church of England Birmingham, are immensely proud of this recognition and recognise that we would not have been able to accomplish this fantastic achievement without the catalyst provided by all members of Student Voice to be agents of change since its inception in 2012. The Very Revd Matt Thompson, Dean of Birmingham, said "the young people of Student Voice are the most tremendous ambassadors for St Michael's and for the Church of England Birmingham more widely. They are also wonderful advocates for the Christian values which inspire their actions and always leave me feeling immensely hopeful for the future...we are hugely proud of their achievement and of them as leaders of today as well as tomorrow!".

Representatives of Student Voice will receive the award crystal and certificate from the Lord-Lieutenant of the West Midlands, Sir John Crabtree, some time next summer. In addition, two staff representatives will attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace in May/June 2024, along with other recipients of this year's award.

I am sure you will share our pride and appreciation that our young people have received such prestigious recognition, that is so very well deserved.

Kind regards,

Mrs C Handy-Rivett  
Headteacher

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

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