

St. Michael's School

Senior & Sixth Form · Prep & Pre-Prep

Prospectus



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Welcome

I am delighted to introduce St. Michael's School to you and trust that this prospectus will provide an insight into our happy, safe and successful school. We offer an outstanding education, combining the pursuit of academic excellence with all-round personal development, for boys and girls aged 3-18 years. We are a traditional yet innovative school, where a strong culture of excellent pupil behaviour and effort leads to truly extraordinary learning. Above all, we are very ambitious for our pupils; our caring and experienced teachers strive to draw out the very best from every young person, enabling them to become confident, resilient and capable.

Our pupils make excellent progress and achieve impressive exam results, benefitting from high quality teaching in small classes. Just as importantly, co-curricular opportunities in sport, culture and the arts enhances their wellbeing, inquisitiveness and creativity. Please do come and visit us to see for yourself what makes a St. Michael's education so valuable. You can be assured of a warm welcome from pupils and staff alike.

Benson Ferrari MA
Headmaster



Our location and campus



St. Michael's stands in its own private grounds of 13 acres in the village of Bryn, Llanelli, where it has been situated since 1928.

The school is close to the M4 and accessible from across South and West Wales. We are well connected to the nearby town of Llanelli and Swansea, Wales' second largest city, is just 12 km away. We have an extensive private bus route network which allow pupils to attend our school from various locations across South Wales, plus we offer excellent boarding facilities for those who come from further afield.

The site overlooks the world renowned Gower Peninsula and benefits from having coastal walks, sandy beaches and country parks just a short drive away. We make the most of our wonderful surroundings and see them as an extension of the classroom; there are always trips to local heritage sites, the nearby Wetlands Centre and Pembrey Country Park just to name a few.

Before becoming part of St. Michael's in the 1920s, the main school building was formerly a large private residence. Situated within its grounds are several houses and cottages which have been acquired by the school throughout the last decade as it has continued to grow.

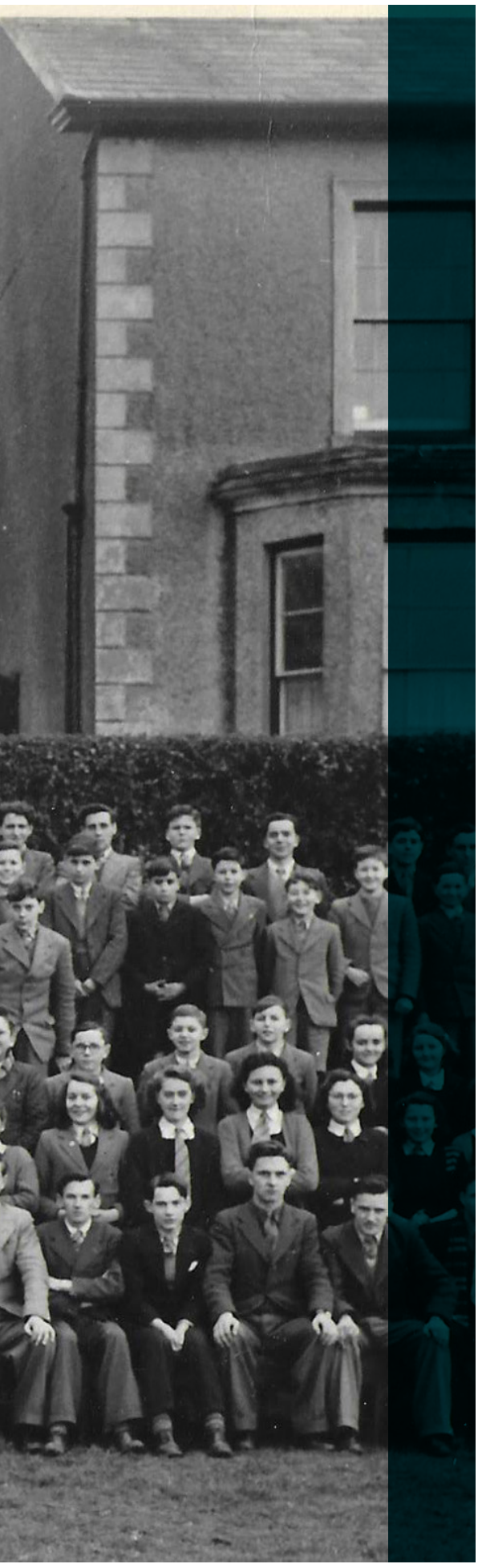
There are also many purpose-built buildings on site, which have been added in recent years. The school is surrounded by green fields and offers a fantastic semi-rural setting with coastal views.

~ 1 hour
to Cardiff Airport

~ 10 minutes
to Llanelli Train Station



1932- The founders of the school with staff and pupils



Over one hundred years of history

St. Michael's, or 'St. Mikes' as it is fondly known as by staff and pupils, was first established in 1923 by the Rees brothers who built up its reputation of strong academic success. In 1962, they retired and were replaced by former head boy, Mr Vaughan-Evans, who continued to grow the school and build its fantastic reputation.

Today, the Headmaster, Mr Benson Ferrari continues to promote the culture of academic excellence that we have seen at the school's core since its foundation over a century ago. The school has continued to expand and now has over 400 pupils from ages 3 to 18. We are pleased to welcome pupils from not just the local area, but from all around the world.

Over the past century, thousands of pupils have walked through our doors, having received an education which has inspired and encouraged them to achieve their full potential. After finishing at St. Michael's, our pupils have gone on to accomplish some extraordinary achievements and have embarked on a whole host of different and exciting careers across the globe.

We are small enough to care, but big enough to challenge and inspire.



Fostering academic excellence

St. Michael's continuously achieves outstanding results and this is due to the hard work, commitment and dedication of our pupils and staff.

We are consistently listed in the UK top 30 co-educational independent schools for A-Level results and in 2024, just after our centenary, the school achieved the third best A-Level results in the whole of the UK. We are routinely in the top 3 for GCSE results amongst all independent schools in Wales and in 2021, we were extremely proud to have been awarded the Sunday Times Welsh Independent Secondary School of the Decade.

We offer a huge range of opportunities to all of our pupils and we seek to bring out the potential of every learner. Whilst many high performing schools focus on making their statistics favourable first, ours are a natural result of genuine individual success, which is a product of excellent teaching and a motivational climate. Staff know pupils well and are able to provide excellent pastoral care, leading to our learners developing resilience, confidence and strong self-esteem.







Support is available to our pupils from:

- Form Tutors
- Pastoral Leaders
- House Parents
- School Leadership Team
- Visiting Counsellor



Pastoral care

We offer excellent pastoral care which enhances students' emotional wellbeing whilst also setting high expectations for conduct and behaviour at all times.

Each pupil is welcomed into a form when they start in the school and the Form Teacher will move up through the school with them. They are therefore well placed to offer support, encouragement and guidance achieved by such close, stable relationships. Several times a year, one-to-one meetings are arranged with Form Teachers in order to discuss progress, targets and any concerns.

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.

All pupils in the Senior School and Sixth Form, participate in PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) and this offers the opportunity to learn about and discuss issues within society which could be affecting them now or in the future. PSHE classes are tailored to the needs of each year group.



Senior School,
Years 7-9

We offer pupils at this Key Stage a wide range of opportunities for teaching and learning. We broadly follow a traditional curriculum of discrete subjects based on UK guidelines but offer teachers freedom to develop and modify the curriculum in order to stretch, challenge and engage our pupils. Pupils usually study as a form group in these years, but we stream in Mathematics.

We are keen to offer learning environments which are flexible and enriching and can be tailored to suit the needs of each class, whilst equipping pupils to face their GCSEs with confidence.

We are lucky to work with more able and talented pupils and we are able to offer opportunities which stretch and challenge, enabling some pupils to sit their Mathematics GCSEs early.

An afternoon of practical activities is arranged weekly for Years 7 and 8, which every pupil takes part in. These activities include skiing, rock climbing, cricket, tennis, art and I.T. They are important in developing social relationships, providing pupils with challenges outside the classroom and introducing them to new opportunities.

We are keen to offer learning environments which are ***flexible and enriching.***

Throughout Year 9, pupils are guided through the GCSE options selection process and this is something which we take a great deal of time and care over. We are flexible as possible, use a free choice system to begin with and consult parents and pupils extensively in order that a balanced and appropriate selection is made which suits the needs of each child.



Subjects

- Activities
- Art & Design
- Drama
- English
- French
- Geography
- History
- ICT
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physical Education
- PSHE
- Religious Studies**
- Combined Science*
- Welsh**
- Spanish***

* In Year 8, Science splits into Biology, Chemistry and Physics
** In Year 9, you choose between Religious Studies or Welsh
*** In Year 9, you will study Spanish



Senior School,
GCSEs in Years 10 & 11

Pupils will undertake 11 GCSE qualifications; we work with pupils very closely to monitor progress. Pupils are confirmed on their choice of courses after a short review in October. We encourage a broad range, and specialisation is left as late as possible in order that decisions about future careers are considered carefully and options are left open.

Gifted and talented Mathematicians are able to be fast tracked, taking their examinations in Year 10 and achieve outstanding results each year.

We do not follow the Welsh baccalaureate and the study of Welsh language is not compulsory at GCSE or from Year 9 onwards.

Compulsory

- English Language
- English Literature
- PSHE
- Mathematics
- Numeracy



Optional at GCSE*

- Additional Mathematics
- Art, Craft, Textiles & Design
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Chinese
- Computer Science
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Spanish
- Welsh

*Subjects currently on offer

We seek to offer a rich and varied curriculum delivered by caring and sympathetic staff, which not only develops pupils' subject knowledge, but also prepares them to confidently face the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.





Sixth Form,
Years 12 & 13

Our Sixth Form prepares students for their chosen career path; whether that's to go on to further studies at university, or to take their first steps into the world of work.

Most students will take four AS Level subjects in Year 12, followed by three A-Levels in Year 13. Some students however may continue with four A-Levels, following consultation with subject teachers. At St. Michael's, we focus strongly on high value 'facilitating' subjects and enabling strong student applications for entry into top universities. Students are expected to demonstrate an interest in a range of non-academic disciplines too such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, orchestra, choir, drama and a variety of sports.

*We pride ourselves on our students' **consistently strong A-Level results.***

St. Michael's always ranks highly in the independent school rankings and we pride ourselves on our students' consistently strong A-Level results. Sixth Form students can benefit from one-to-one guidance throughout the university application process, small class sizes and a dedicated Sixth Form Centre which offers both a space for recreation and supervised timetabled study.

Students can attend our Sixth Form either as a day student or as a full or weekly boarding student. A majority of our Sixth Formers joined us at St. Michael's in the lower school years, however a significant number join the school at the start of Year 12, having previously studied elsewhere.



Subjects

- Art
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Chinese
- Computer Science
- Economics
- English Literature
- EPQ
- French
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics & Further Mathematics*
- Music
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Psychology
- Spanish
- Welsh

* You can choose one or both of Mathematics and Further Mathematics



Medical Preparation Programme

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, Engineering, Pharmacy, Law, Veterinary Science and Economics.

Our medical preparation course offers a full programme of support and in-depth preparation for medicine and dentistry. The course is designed for Year 12 and Year 13 students who are preparing for academic studies in the highly competitive field. It is an invaluable experience for students looking to gain an insight into the demands of medical entry.

Pupils considering a career in medicine will benefit from workshops, visits from alumni, preparation for admission tests, and panel and MMI practice interviews.

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

The Extended Project Qualification is becoming increasingly sought after by universities as evidence of independent learning and carries UCAS points towards entry requirements. This is an optional qualification for students and allows them to carry out an in-depth research based on personal interests or an aspect of a subject they are studying.

What I enjoyed most was probably how independence-building the help was. The staff were there to guide us, but **it was up to us to bring things to the table and show how interested we really were in doing the course** (Medicine). It was testing a lot of the time and often made me question whether it was really what I wanted, but at the end of the day **you build up the determination and cultivate the grit which is needed ultimately.** The preparation gave me more insight into how to develop well detailed answers and made me more aware of the way in which I spoke, often with more compassion and softness.

- Medical Preparation student



Universities that students have progressed to following our Medical Preparation Programme

- Anglia Ruskin University
- Brighton & Sussex Medical School
- Brunel University
- Cardiff University
- Hull York Medical School
- Imperial College London
- King's College London
- Queen Mary University of London
- St. George's University of London
- UCL University College London
- University of Birmingham
- University of Bristol
- University of Cambridge
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Exeter
- University of Leeds
- University of Leicester
- University of Liverpool
- University of Manchester
- University of Nottingham
- University of Oxford
- University of Southampton



Beyond the classroom


mitre



Quick facts:

- Weekly or full boarding available from Year 9
- Mixture of single or shared rooms available for Years 9 to 10
- Single en-suite rooms for Years 11 to 13



Boarding

St. Michael's is extremely proud to welcome students from all around the world, thanks to the fantastic boarding facilities on offer. Pupils are able to board with us from Year 9 and will benefit from a warm and welcoming environment in which life-long friendships will be made.

We have two fully-supervised, secure boarding houses which are both situated in a semi-rural environment. Parc House is a historic mansion set in an acre of grounds just a short drive away and and offers single or shared rooms for pupils in Year 9+.

Tenby House is a purpose-built block with single en-suite rooms set in the school grounds, for pupils in Years 11 to 13. Our boarding staff, house parents and accommodation ensure a safe, caring, friendly and homely atmosphere. Full-time boarding students are able to remain in our boarding houses throughout half-term holidays at no extra cost.



Programmes for international pupils

International pupils who have completed the admissions process/application and have the required level of English will join their relevant year group and study either Pre GCSE, GCSE or A-Level programmes.

In Year 9, we offer a GCSE preparation programme which allows international pupils to take ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) lessons in order for them to meet the linguistic and academic requirements of a GCSE course. Our ESOL course is also available to Year 10 and 11 pupils in small groups as an alternative to the GCSE English course. Pupils would then take the IELTS examination at the end of Year 11. The number of ESOL lessons undertaken per week will depend on the student's existing English language level, their admissions assessment and year group.

In Years 12 & 13, international students can follow our IELTS (International English Language Testing System) programme, which universities and other institutions regard as an equivalent to a GCSE or GCE A-Level/AS-Level in English Language or English Language & Literature. There are also EAP (English for Academic Purposes) courses available which can further prepare students for the language and communication skills necessary for successful academic study at university level.

Occasionally, depending upon available places, we are able to offer a 'high school' experience for international and European pupils for just one or two terms. This is a great way to sample life at a British boarding school and be immersed in the English language.

I have learnt a lot of knowledge from ESOL lessons. For example, grammar, vocabulary, writing and reading skills, and I have improved how I speak to local people efficiently. I prefer lessons that are in small groups because I need opportunities to discuss and ask questions only with the teacher.



Celebrating the arts

Music and expressive arts are an integral and celebrated part of life at St. Michael's. We have a wealth of talent and enthusiasm within our pupils and our staff work hard to inspire creativity and confidence in Music, Art, Drama and Speech.

Why not try your hand at a new musical instrument, or audition for the school play?

If singing or speech are more your thing, you can take lessons with our dedicated visiting teachers. There are also choirs, orchestra, wind band, folk group and jazz band to try.

Each year we hold a number of concerts such as the Christmas festival, Drama and Art presentations, summer concert, a pantomime and the annual speech day which recognise the achievements of our pupils from throughout the year.

> *Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.*
>
> - Pablo Picasso



Extra-curricular activities

We are pleased to offer an extensive range of after-school clubs, which offer pupils the chance to try new experiences and learn new skills. An example of these include our debating club called 'The Chatroom', multiple different craft clubs and Chess Club.

Pupils who choose to board with us can benefit from further activities which are organised by our House Parents and boarding team. Each week there are planned events such as cookery nights, quizzes, music nights, days out and off-site trips and activities.

Each term, a number of trips and excursions are offered as part of the curriculum. There are regular visits to places like Bristol, London and Stratford for theatre, museums with English and History, visits to the Senedd in Cardiff with the School Council, Geography field trips and days at universities with Languages and Mathematics.

Every year, the school also arranges leisure and educational trips to countries like Iceland, Italy, Austria, France, Nepal, Spain, India, Iceland and Costa Rica, plus an annual skiing trip.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is very popular with pupils in Years 9-13 and sees pupils carrying out volunteering in the local community, learning a new skill and completing a four-day camping expedition.











Sports

Sport plays an important role in many of our pupils' lives and we offer lots of opportunities to get involved and try something new. Physical Education is timetabled for two lessons each week and there are many lunchtime and after-school sports on offer too.

There is a strong House System in place and the school has Inter-House cups for rugby, swimming, athletics and winter sports. The school has Under 13, Under 15 and Senior teams with regular fixtures against other schools. Many of our pupils have gained County and National honours in a range of sports including athletics, rugby, football, show jumping and tennis.

The school has its own games field as well as tennis, netball and basketball courts. We also make extensive use of the sporting facilities in the local area and many of our classes take place in the world-class Scarlets' indoor training facility, which is a short bus-ride away.

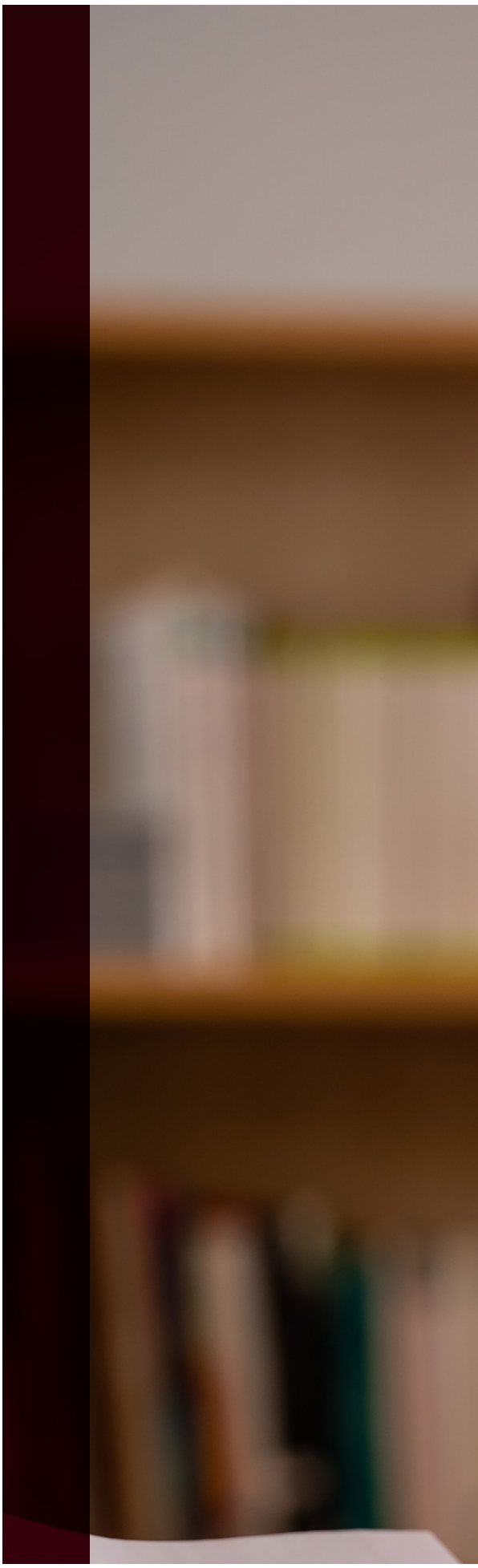
Leadership

Leadership opportunities can be found throughout the school. We encourage pupils to be a part of our School Council and in the Sixth Form, there is the opportunity to apply for the roles of Head Boy/Girl and Prefect.

All year groups belong to school houses and pupils are encouraged to earn house points throughout the year. Points can be achieved through good behaviour, producing work to a high standard and showing initiative.

Several whole school events also take place throughout the year. These include Sports Day and International Cultural Day.

Pupils in the winning house at the end of each year are rewarded.




BRONZE

We have created an environment at St. Michael's School where young people can be themselves and be proud of the diversity in our learning community.



Life after St. Michael's

At St. Michael's, we aim to help pupils gain their best academic grades and prepare them for bright futures once they finish school, whether that's to go on to university or to embark on their desired career path.

Career advice is offered from Year 9 in relation to GCSE options. There is support to help identify the best choice of A-Levels during Year 11, to align these with the possible choices for further study and careers.

We maintain good relationships with our alumni and encourage them to keep in touch with the school. Many of our former pupils and parents return to the school to give presentations and advice to current pupils about their university experience and professions.

> *We aim to help pupils gain their best academic grades and prepare them for bright futures.*





Our parents

We strive to build very strong relationships with our parents and guardians and understand that much of our pupils' success is due to the support that they receive at home.

Regular communications are sent home regarding events taking place within the school and parents' evenings are organised once a year. Reports carefully monitor a pupil's progress and identify areas where they may benefit from additional support. The reports to parents or guardians are sent up to six times per year.

We offer the opportunity to play a part in our Parent Teacher Association (PTA), which seeks to organise social events and raise money for special projects. Their work for the school is invaluable and every year the association organises the summer fayre and a range of opportunities for pupils.

Next steps

We would be delighted to invite you to come and visit St. Michael's School in person. We run several open days throughout the school year (details of which can be found on our website, stmikes.co.uk) and we are also able to arrange individual tours and visits at other times.

Once you decide that you would like to apply for a place for your child at the school, you will be invited to complete our application form and start the admissions process.

For more information, please contact our Registrar on the details below:

T: +44 (0)1554 820325
E: admissions@stmikes.co.uk

To see more about daily life at our school, follow us on social media:

Facebook: StMichaelsSchoolLlanelli
X: @Stmikes
Instagram: stmikeswales





St. Michael's School,
Bryn, Llanelli, SA14 9TU
Wales, UK

Contact our Admissions Team

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