Case Study Session:

Supporting Disadvantaged Students at St Michael’s Catholic Grammar School

Presenter:
Michael Stimpson (Headteacher)
St Michael’s Catholic Grammar School, founded by the Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus, a member of the Loreto Education Trust.

- Grammar School – Entrance Exam in Maths, English, VR and NVR
- Girls, Catholic (religious order not Diocesan)
- North Finchley, London Borough of Barnet (3 Grammar Schools)
- Three form entry (c. 400 applicants for 96 places)
- Founded in 1908, formerly an independent school, became state in 1960s.
What is the Ethos of St Michael’s Catholic Grammar School?

• Ethos of the school is overt and discussed.
• Each person is a unique and treasured individual.
• Focus upon a rounded education: spiritual, artistic, musical, physical as well as academic.
• Emphasis upon living life for the benefit of others.
• Aim is to set students out to change society for the better.
Disadvantaged Students at St Michael’s:

- Few Pupil Premium students in school, c. 33, about 7 in each year group.
- School has a very strong Pastoral Support System.
- Progress of each individual closely scrutinised and interventions put in place.
- 2018 GCSE results (Progress-8):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Maths</th>
<th>Ebacc</th>
<th>Open</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All (96)</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>1.23</td>
<td>1.14</td>
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<tr>
<td>PP (5)*</td>
<td>0.88</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>1.04</td>
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Selective Schools Expansion Fund (SSEF) at St Michael’s Catholic Grammar School

• Expand from 96 to 128 (33% increase)
• Reserve 32 places each year for Pupil Premium
• School awarded £4.8 million for capital works
FAPP: Fair Access and Partnership Plan

• Expanding from 96 to 128 in Year 7
• Results of Entrance Test – first 32 places to PP in top 200.
• Remaining 96 given by rank order in test

• Increase curriculum links with feeder schools (Maths, English, Science and MFL)
• Run G+T workshops at St Michael’s
• Outreach work to feeder schools to encourage PP applications
• Familiarisation for PP students at test centre (St Michael’s)
• Summer School to boost English and Maths skills
New Build – 10 classrooms, dining hall, drama room, mezzanine in hall.
Challenges:

• Building work/hall
• Staffing/specialist rooms/narrow corridors
• Leadership time to do justice to FAPP
• Central facilities not big enough (e.g. library, chapel, sports facilities)
• No front-loading of pupil funding!

• Will we be able to enable a larger number of PP students achieve at the same level as our current small number?
Opportunities

• Larger schools have greater economies of scale.
• Larger schools are more able to provide greater curriculum choice to students.
• To align more closely with one of the central themes of Catholic Social Teaching:

   “The Preferential Option for the Poor”

i.e. the idea that we should create a more just and equal society
Why is St Michael’s so enthusiastic about this change to our school?

• The Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus was founded by an order committed to caring for homeless and poor children.
• Their original schools followed this mission.
• An increase in PP children returns St Michael’s to the original mission of the Catholic nuns who founded this school.

This initiative will be successful because it is aligned with the mission of this school