St Michael's
COLLEGE



2026 TALENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

TALENT & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

St Michael's College offers a comprehensive Talent & Development Program that supports students athletics through elite coaching professional partnerships, and holistic development opportunities.

The St Michael's College Talent and Development Programs are designed to provide students with access to high-quality coaching, mentoring, leadership development, and performance education beyond regular training and competition. Through partnerships with elite athletes, professional sporting organisations, and industry specialists, students are given opportunities to enhance their skills, develop leadership capabilities, build their understanding of health and performance, and gain insight into high-performance sporting environments. These programs support the College's commitment to nurturing student growth, wellbeing, and excellence across co-curricular sports.

Mentorship and Coaching

Students benefit from mentorship and coaching from high-level athletes, including **Dejan Vasiljevic**, alongside expert guidance in programs such as cricket and strength & conditioning, led by experienced coaches including **Mark Harrity** and **Will McEvoy**.

Our partnership with the Adelaide Thunderbirds provides unique access to international players **Latanya Wilson** and **Kate Heffernan**, enhancing our Netball Program through specialised coaching and valuable development opportunities.

Sport Performance Model

The College is expanding its integrated sports performance model in collaboration with Quantum Performance Physiotherapy, MAC Performance, and PEAQ - supporting athlete wellbeing through guidance towards physiotherapy, conditioning, and rehabilitation needs.

Additional opportunities include an Advanced Sport Nutrition Program, the Bloom Leadership Program led by **Natalie von Bertouch** and **Tom Jonas**, and a range of sport-specific initiatives such as the Phillips AFL Football Academy.

Through these initiatives, St Michael's College empowers students to develop their skills, leadership, and overall performance - both on and off the field.

Current Programs

Our current programs are continuously reviewed and refined to ensure it meets evolving needs and standards. Initiatives may be modified, replaced or delivered differently from year to year.

Our current programs are expected to support skill development, performance and leadership through a range of practical activities/experiences.









Dejan Vasiljevic (NBL Player)

DJ supported the St Michael's basketball program as a mentor and coach throughout Term 2 in 2026, attending training sessions and games prior to his move to the New Zealand Breakers.

DJ provided valuable support to coaches and helped students develop their basketball skills while building a strong connection within the college community.



Adelaide Thunderbirds Partnership

The College continues to maintain a strong partnership with the Adelaide Thunderbirds, providing our netball program with unique opportunities to connect and learn from one of Australia's leading teams. Our 2026 player ambassadors were:

- **Kate Heffernan** – New Zealand International Player and 2026 Thunderbirds recruit
- **Latanya Wilson** – Jamaican International player and rated as one of the world's best defenders

Kate and Latty worked with our netball teams throughout the season, supporting both student and coach development.

Thunderbirds assistant coach **Cathy Fellows** also supported the program, sharing her expertise with coaches and students.

Kate, Latanya and Cathy will all return in 2027, continuing to provide valuable support and development opportunities for the College's Netball Program.

Phillips Coaching - SMC Football Academy

In Term 1 of 2026, St Michael's College offered a five-week AFL Football Academy Program delivered by Phillips Coaching for boys and girls in Years 7–10, with 29 students participating.

The SMC Phillips Coaching Football Academy provided students with valuable opportunities to sharpen their skills, strengthen their football knowledge and develop their potential.



Will McEvoy (MAC Performance)

Old Scholar Will McEvoy oversaw Strength and Conditioning (S&C) for our First XVIII Football team and was involved with our First XI soccer team throughout the season.

Will provided a platform for further strength and conditioning development sessions and we had several students that participated in individual programming through MAC Performance.



Quantum Performance Physiotherapy, MAC Performance and PEAQ

This collaboration shifts the College from basic compliance-based first aid coverage to a fully integrated sports health and performance system that can be utilised throughout all Co-Curricular Sports. By aligning physiotherapy, strength & conditioning, and rehabilitation under one coordinated structure, St Michael's College positions itself as a leader in student athlete welfare and performance development.

In addition, the collaboration creates a clear and accessible pathway for students, families, and staff to access expert physiotherapy, rehabilitation, and performance services, with preferential pricing available to the St Michael's community.

For more information, scan the QR code below:



Bloom Leadership Program

The Bloom Leadership Program, led by former Australian and Thunderbirds player Natalie von Bertouch and former Port Adelaide AFL captain Tom Jonas, supports emerging student leaders in developing their leadership skills.

In 2026, the program was delivered to our house captains, with a focus on strengthening house spirit across the College and developing their leadership capabilities. The program culminated in a charity fundraising event organised and run by our house leaders.



Nutrition Program - Tanya Burton

In 2026, St Michael's College offered an Advanced Sport Nutrition Program led by experienced sports nutritionist Tanya Burton. The program provided student athletes with the opportunity to deepen their understanding of how to fuel their bodies effectively for competition and everyday life.

Delivered over four sessions for selected students in Years 10–12, the program provided practical, evidence-based strategies to help students make informed nutritional choices that support training demands and competitive performance. Places were limited, with participation offered through an application process.

Program highlights included:

- The role of nutrition in athletic performance and recovery
- Fuelling strategies before, during, and after competition
- Injury prevention and mental focus optimisation
- Everyday eating habits that support strength, endurance, and overall wellness
- Building balanced meals and snacks around a busy student schedule



Mark Harrity (Former South Australian Cricketer and Coach)

Former South Australian Cricketer and Coach Mark Harrity joined St Michael's as our First XI Cricket Coach in 2025 and has continued guiding our young team in 2026, as we transition back into Saturday afternoon competition.

Mark oversees the ongoing development of the senior cricket program, with a focus on technical progression, including bowling mechanics and skill fundamentals.

Further 2026 Programs

The College continues to explore additional Talent and Development opportunities and will look to add further programs/experiences where possible in 2026.

Leadership Development Experience - Adelaide Crows

In Term 3, leaders from each of our senior winter sport teams travelled to West Lakes for a presentation delivered by Adelaide Crows Leadership Development Manager Dan Jackson and a Q&A session with AFLW and AFL team leaders Ebony Marinoff and Reilly O'Brien.

Students also had the opportunity to observe Adelaide Crows training and tour the club's high-performance facilities.

SACA High-Performance Experience

At the start of Term 4, students in the SMC senior cricket program participated in an exciting high-performance experience at the SACA in preparation for the Term 4 cricket season.

Students trained in the SACA indoor nets, toured Adelaide Oval's high-performance facilities, observed the SACA Second XI at training and had the opportunity to learn from SACA development staff.

Grange Golf Development Program

The Grange Golf Development Program is a six-week program held in Term 4 for St Michael's College students, coached by PGA professionals at Grange Golf Club.

The program provides a valuable opportunity for students to learn and develop the fundamentals of golf, build confidence and explore their interest in the sport. With 40 students signing up in 2026, the program attracted strong interest within the College community.

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