

# St Michael's Church of England High School

## *A Church of England Academy*

Headteacher: Mrs Rachel Rongong BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH

*Growing in Body, Mind and Spirit*



10<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

I'm sure you won't be surprised to hear that we have had another incredibly busy week at St Michael's.



Before we even got to Monday, I had already spent a wonderful day in Chorley on Sunday, visiting two of our local churches. In the morning, my husband and I had the pleasure of joining with the congregation at St Barnabas, in Heapey, for their 9:30am service.



Revd Ben Clayton led us so wonderfully, and it was

such a treat to spend some time afterwards getting to know people too; there was a real family feel. Later in the day, at 4:00pm, we headed over to All Saints in Chorley. This was a real celebration of inclusivity, with video, craft and a game of hide and seek with Fr Jordan Bentliff! I love the fact that there are so many different ways of worshipping God; in Chorley there is really a church for everyone.



Whilst I was visiting churches, some of our pupils were running in the English Schools Fell Running Championships at Sedbergh. Over 350 runners from across the country tackled the demanding courses that climbed high over the slopes of Winder. St Michael's pupils showed real grit and determination placing 15<sup>th</sup> overall, a brilliant effort.

Then, finally the school week began! It's hard to believe that some of our Year 11s have already begun their GCSEs, as food and nutrition practical exams have been running for much of the week. As always, pupils have worked incredibly hard to prepare, and I'm sure their dedication will pay off. It's probably also a good time to remind families that, as per the upcoming dates at the end of this letter, Year 11 mocks start for all a few weeks after half term. Please do encourage your children to take a balanced approach to their revision; to start sooner and do a planned amount each day is by far the best approach.

Things shuffled round a little for Year 7 this week, as instead of Worship on Monday they were treated to a performance of 'Streetwise' by Performance in Education. Drama is a great way to get important messages across to young people, and this time, our focus was on the topic of road safety.

Year 7 and 8 joined together for Worship on Tuesday, led by Mr Kennedy; one of the most moving I have experienced since joining St Michael's. He spoke on the theme of loving your Neighbour, using

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the verse from Mark 12:31. Talking about the good Samaritan and stressing the importance of loving each other, he went on to share about two of his close family members who were determined to live life to the full, despite suffering from Cystic Fibrosis. Hearing how they travelled to Lourdes to spend time as volunteers, putting other before themselves was so thought provoking. Knowing that both their lives were short due to the disease had an impact on many of us in the room. As Mr Kennedy said, 'in the end, it's not the years in your life that count, it's the life in your years'. What a wonderful example of life in all its fullness. I think we all came away thinking about things a little differently.

I joined Year 11 on Friday for Worship this week, as on Tuesday I was out of school to attend Day 1 of a Christian Leadership Course which is run for 5 Dioceses across the Northwest. It is such a privilege to lead a Church of England school and, in the same way as we want our pupils to **grow in body, mind and spirit**, it's important for us as adults to grow and develop too, even if you're the headteacher! Having time to consider how to be a better leader and to reflect with others in the same position was such an encouragement, and I came back to school on Wednesday feeling motivated and inspired for what God can do next here at St Michael's.



Tuesday was also the District Cross Country Competition at Holy Cross. This was the qualifying round for the Lancashire Schools Competition later in the year, so it was a very competitive event. The pupils were outstanding, and all showed excellent determination and really strived to do their best. Across 6 races we won 4 golds, 3 silvers, 2 bronze and 4 pupils got fourth place, all qualifying for the County Competition. In addition, 6 other pupils placed in the top 12 and have also been selected for the district team for the County Competition. Congratulations to all our pupils who represented St Michael's so brilliantly.

On Wednesday we had the first of our morning Eucharists for pupils and staff. We were joined by Rev Matt Hornby who led the service and, as always, pupils were impeccably behaved. The level of respect that our young people show in these times is just incredible, and for me really adds to the palpable sense of awe and wonder in the room; what a way to start the day.

Then, on Thursday, we welcomed well over 100 visitors to school for our second Open Morning. Year 10s were acting as tour guides for families, and we had some fabulous feedback about what a good job they did. I managed to meet a good number of those who joined us and it was so lovely to chat to prospective young people about the things they had enjoyed seeing around school. A reminder, if you are applying for a place next September, that the deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> October and you must complete both the Lancashire application form and our supplementary information form. Our official Open Days have now finished, but we will always try to accommodate anyone who would still like to come into school, to help to make those important secondary school decisions.

On Thursday afternoon, we had visitors of a different kind, as some of our Year 9s hosted a community event as part of the Enrichment Programme. Guests were treated to tea and cake whilst

one of our pupils, Leia entertained them on the piano. Refreshments were followed by a dance performance (which pupils have learnt as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award) and then some bingo. What a great way to serve our community and build relationships.

We've had more sporting news this week. Mr Holden sent the following report:

*It has been another exciting and successful week for our football teams. Year 9 enjoyed success in the Chorley Cup, with an excellent away win at Holy Cross, thanks to goals from Hugo and Finlay. Year 7 also enjoyed success, securing a well-deserved victory away at Parklands in their Chorley Cup fixture. Year 11 produced a superb battling performance in the Lancashire Cup against the current holders, St Bede's. After a tense match that finished 0-0 after extra time, St Michael's were unfortunate to lose in a penalty shootout. Finally, we wish Year 8 the very best of luck as they travel to Haslingden High School this evening for their Lancashire Cup tie. Well done to all our players and staff for their continued effort, teamwork, and commitment.*

In addition to the sporting reports, a special mention this week to Adam in Year 11 for his outstanding achievement in the GB Trampolining Competition on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October. Adam ranked number 1 in Great Britain for his age category, which is an incredible achievement and as a school we are so proud. We hopefully will see him in the Olympics in the future, well done!

It's not just sport we are celebrating this week; Mr Neville has been updating us on some mathematical news:

*The Mathematical Competition for Girls is a new competition organised by the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT), who also run the annual Maths Challenges. It is a tough paper where entrants have to tackle 5 longer-answer questions in 90 minutes. Four of our highest scorers from last year's Intermediate Maths Challenge took part and did incredibly well: Phoebe (Year 11) was one mark off achieving a Merit Certificate for finishing in the top 40% of entrants nationally; Eleanor and Rose did achieve Merit certificates, an achievement which is made all the more impressive given they are both Year 10 pupils and the competition is designed for pupils in Years 11-13; however Bella (Year 11) went one better and earned a Distinction certificate for finishing in the top 25% in the country. Well done to all of you!*

Then, today we have celebrated Hello Yellow Day, in support of mental health. Many of us have been sporting yellow accessories, as a small, but poignant reminder of and in support of those struggling with mental health challenges.

I've given two Gold Stamps this week, both so well deserved! One went to a young lady in Year 10 for her impressive creation of poached fruit and custard, whilst the other went to a young man in Year 7 for his model of a dragon that he created for RE as we considered the story of St Michael. Well done to them both.

And if that weren't enough, rehearsals have been continuing this week for Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. We continue to fundraise for costumes, props and that oh, so important car. We have some pupils and staff contributing to this with a sponsored walk in half term; if you would like to donate, you can do this on Gateway.

I'll finish by reminding you of the harvest appeal; an opportunity to support and help those less fortunate. Can I also mention that prayer is so important to us at St Michael's. If you have

anything that you would like us to remember in prayer, please see the notice below and do get in touch.

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong  
Headteacher



**You can make a huge difference to someone's Christmas this year.**

Please collect any tins, items with long use-by dates and non-perishables in your tutor groups between now and 5<sup>th</sup> November. Perhaps tutors could have a collection box? We'll bring it all together on the 5<sup>th</sup> Nov, and ensure they get to St Laurence's in time for the boxes to be prepared and delivered. Thank you.

**Harvest appeal**

**Harvest Donation**

**St Michael's Harvest Appeal 2025**

Supporting St Laurence's Church Christmas food parcels to needy families

**pray-er** [prɛː]: a solemn request for help or expression of thanks addressed to God or another deity.

At St Michael's many of us feel the great value of prayer, and we'd like to pray for you!

Prayer brings comfort and peace to billions worldwide, as well as many amazing answers from God. Many staff, governors, parents and pupils pray for St Michael's already, but we'd love to be able to pray specifically for your needs.

If you have something or someone that you'd like us to pray for, please drop your requests into the prayer box outside Simon's office or email to [prayer@st-michaels-juniors.co.uk](mailto:prayer@st-michaels-juniors.co.uk) and we'll pray for you over the course of the week. Named or anonymous – it's up to you.

**HOW CAN WE pray FOR YOU?**

### **Important Dates**

|                                     |                                                              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| W/C Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October | Year 11 River Wyre Geography Study (various days)            |
| Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October  | Lunchtime concert for pupils (Armstrong Centre)              |
| Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October     | Lunchtime fashion show raising money for Derian House (Hall) |
| Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November   | Year 7 Tutor Consultation Evening 5-7pm                      |
| Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November   | Advance warning, Year 11 mock exams start                    |