

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



Therefore, choose

13th March 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

As usual, life at St Michael's has been full this week! We've had a brilliant day today, which I'll tell you a little more about later, but there has been much to celebrate throughout the week.

Worship this week was led by 06 pupils and tutors who focused on another of our Tutorial Patrons- Gee Walker and the Christian Value of forgiveness. Living in Merseyside, Gee's son, Anthony, was tragically murdered aged 18 in a racially motivated attack in 2005. We watched a moving video about his sister, who talked about how she had chosen to forgive those responsible for her brother's death. Following the horrific events, Gee set up the Anthony Walker Foundation to preserve her son's memory, champion anti-racism and to create lasting change. This work earned her a Pride of Britain Award and an MBE. Matthew 6:14 says, 'For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you,' and we were encouraged to consider who we might need to forgive as we watched a poignant dance performance. All involved did a fabulous job; it certainly made me stop and think.

On Tuesday and Wednesday Year 7 ventured into Chorley for a geography trip. They started the trip with a visit to the town hall where they learnt about the work of a town planner and the planning department at the council. Following this they completed tasks in the town centre with the aim of creating a new business in Chorley. Pupils completed a people count, analysed the businesses and conducted an environmental survey. It was a fantastic first field trip for them.

Then, at lunchtime on Wednesday, it was great to have a moment to pause and enjoy lunch with our Head Girl, Evelyn and Deputies, Edward, Lilah and Ben along with Miss Watson who oversees our pupil leadership and Mrs Hooley, Deputy Headteacher. This was an opportunity to discuss the agenda for our school council meetings next week, and it reminded me again of how articulate our young people are. It was a real highlight of the day.

Wednesday afternoon was our termly meeting of the governors' Finance, Premises and Health and Safety Committee. This committee looks at so many areas of school life from budgeting to policy to buildings and facilities and we are very grateful for the time our governors give. If you are interested in school governance and have particular skills in the areas I have mentioned, please do get in contact with our governance professional in school via the admin email address.

Whilst we're asking for help, our crochet club are in need of wool and crochet hooks. If you have any that need a new home please drop them off at the school office.

Thursday was a chance to see democracy in action, as pupils were able to vote for their chosen candidate for the Youth Parliament. Earlier in the week pupils watched online speeches from candidates across Chorley. The Armstrong Centre was set up as a polling station and all pupils had the experience of voting; a truly authentic democratic polling experience.

As the year progresses our Year 11 pupils are preparing for their next chapter. Some are having interviews for college or 6th form and most will now be in the throes of preparation for exams. Their five years with us pass very quickly, and as they enter their final months at school, we are so excited to see what the future holds for them. On Friday, a number of pupils had the performance

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element of their Performing Arts Exam, tackling it with determination and confidence. We are so very proud of them all.

This morning, we were delighted to welcome Bishop Philip and Rev Paul Robinson to school. It was a busy morning starting with a very special Eucharist for our Year 7 pupils. I've written about this at the end of this letter, if you want to know the full details.



Following the Eucharist, we celebrated those pupils who achieved the Archbishop of York Young Leaders Award. Bishop Philip presented the awards and it was lovely to welcome families to school to share in this special occasion. We are so proud of these pupils.



Bishop Philip was also able to spend time in the RE department during the morning and, as is to now be expected when he visits, lively debate and big questions abounded.

The PE have had another busy week and have sent through the following reports.

The indoor cricket teams had the North Lancashire finals this week. First up was the U13 team on Tuesday who, captained by Ava, played some wonderful cricket and the best match they have ever played against Stonyhurst to win their group and will now progress to the Lancashire finals on 24th March. Outstanding play from the girls. Well done.



The U15s team had a new line up this year but they had an exceptionally tough group, the highlight being a hat-trick from Maya against Stonyhurst but it was not to be their day. They can leave the competition with their heads held high competing against teams who were littered with girls who play at a good level out of school and giving them a run for their money. I'm proud to have taken all these wonderful girls out for the day.

The U13 boys' handball team were in action on Tuesday as they took part in the district qualifier as part of the England schools handball pathway. A revamped format saw teams only playing 5-aside which was new to our boys but they certainly handled it well. With a number of other schools not able to make it, we had just two formidable opponents to get past in Bishops and Southlands. Both games were very competitive, but both saw us just edging clear and taking victory. This crowned us district champions and also sent us through to the Lancashire finals next Thursday at Leigh Sports Village! The U13 girls have also qualified as winners of Chorley and will go the finals with the boys next week. Good luck to all.

Our Year 7 basketball team delivered an outstanding performance at the Chorley tournament, winning all three of their matches and finishing as overall champions. Even more impressively, the team did not concede a single basket throughout the entire competition. The boys started strongly with an 8-0 victory over Bishop Rawstorne, before securing a solid 2-0 win against Southlands. This set up a winner-takes-all final game against Parklands, where the team held their nerve to win 3-0 and seal the title. It was a fantastic team effort, with excellent defence and teamwork shown in every game. Well done to all the boys on a brilliant achievement!



Outside of the school day, there is other news to share. In the many events of last week, I omitted to mention that Holly in Year 11 had attended a cheer

competition and her team were overall grand champions. They are competing at the world championships in Florida next month; what a result!

We also had an update from St Michael's Kart Team,

18 drivers and their families made it down to Wales last weekend for Round 4 and 5 of the Natska championship. Our first race back after the winter break and of course Wales brought the rain. We had a dry day Saturday but Sunday was raining. As a team we picked up five trophies on Saturday, including two wins. On Sunday we had two wins, a driver with his first heat win after moving to the highest class, a driver with his first classification win and Myles, our newest driver, picked up novice of the day. We ended Saturday with a Lap Of Honour for David, the first race weekend without him but he would have been so proud of each and every one of us and will be made up with the results from all of us.



It's a busy weekend for dancers as this afternoon we host the Chorley Schools' Dance Competition; I'm sure the stage will be full of talent from across Chorley. We will also be thinking of those pupils who are competing in U.Dance at the Lowry this weekend, we hope they enjoy the experience of performing on such an amazing stage.



Gold stamps this week have gone to Year 9 pupils for their amazing RE creations and Year 8 for their English book cover designs for Animal Farm. Usually pupils come to me to collect their stamps in their organisers, but yesterday I went to some lessons to award these, saying well done to a Year 9 pupil for his brilliant code he had created for Miss Bristow in maths and to two young men in year 9, one of whom decorated a fabulous cake and another who showed real generosity of spirit; this is what sets St Michael's pupils apart and we could not be more proud of who they are becoming.

As we approach mid-Lent Sunday, I'll finish with these words from a well known hymn:

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in endless praise.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'R. Rongong'.

Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Year 7 taught Eucharist

We were so delighted to celebrate our first ever whole year group Eucharist today for Year 7; we were privileged that Bishop Philip and Fr Paul were able to join us to lead this. This was a 'taught' Eucharist which means that Bishop Philip explained the significance of all that happens during the service. He involved pupils, asking questions and bringing things to life for us; it really was a fantastic occasion.

Bishop Philip started by asking us to think about our most memorable meal and to discuss it with those sitting near us. He explained meals really matter to us and that good company and nourishment are so important, before stressing that this was at the heart of Christian life.

We went on to learn that Eucharist means thanksgiving and we use bread and wine because the bread represents Jesus' body and the wine, his blood. We then heard how, in Matthew's gospel, we read about the last supper before Jesus' death; that before He died, he gave the disciples a way of remembering Him forever; by remembering Jesus in the Eucharist, we 'bring Him into the room with us'.

It was so helpful to have an explanation of the clothes that the priest wears; that he wears them to 'represent' Jesus (not to be Him, but to represent Him). Bishop Philip showed us the white robe, or the 'alb', the garment that covers up what the priest is wearing, so that we recognise that Jesus is being represented. We learnt too that the 'stole' is the coloured cloth that is worn around the priest's neck and that this is to remind us that he is a servant of the people. Finally, the 'chasuble' is the large piece of cloth that is worn over the robe that again reminds us that the priest is playing the part of Jesus in the Eucharist.

We heard about the different items on the altar - the cross (because Jesus died on the cross), the candles (because Jesus is the light of the world) and the white cloth (called a 'corporal') that is laid out to collect the crumbs of this special meal.

We then moved onto what Bishop Philip called the five parts of the Eucharist service:

- 1) Preparing ourselves, confessing our sins and saying sorry to God.
- 2) Meeting Jesus in the Bible. We learnt that we stand for the Gospel reading because Jesus is speaking, and the priest then relates, through the sermon, what we can learn and how it is relevant to our lives today. This is then followed by intercessions (or prayers).
- 3) We meet Jesus in each other, by offering one another the sign of peace.
- 4) We meet Jesus in receiving the bread and the wine; this is a prayerful moment when we draw power and life from the cross. This was such an inclusive time, Bishop Philip invited those who were confirmed, or who regularly take communion in their own church to come forward and take the bread (only the bread, not wine today), he also offered the option of a blessing, or, for those of other faiths, or who would prefer to observe, to give a thumbs up to say we are brothers and sisters together.
- 5) We go out into the world, we are sent in the name of Jesus to 'go and change the world'.

I hope your children enjoyed the morning as much as I did; for me it has brought the Eucharist to life in a whole new way and I know I will view Eucharist services differently now as a result; what a blessing!

Important Dates

Monday 16 March	Deadline for applications for Year 10 Prefect, Head Pupil and Spirituality Lead positions
Wednesday 18 March	Lunchtime Lent Eucharist
Thursday 19 March	Year 8 Consultation Evening
Monday 23 March	Year 8 MFL option forms due
Friday 27 March	Lent Term Ends