

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

20th March 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

We've had a gloriously sunny end to the week; it's amazing what a difference the weather can make, and it's been a joy to see school bathed in sunlight and pupils enjoying the fresh air.

We had some exciting news, even before the week began, last Friday, Mrs Hooley was delighted to represent St Michael's at a celebration event held at Chorley Town Hall by Chorley in Bloom. The evening recognised the tremendous achievements of the group over the past year and honoured members of the community who have contributed to enhancing the town's green spaces. Our own Year 9 pupils were proudly acknowledged for their weekly work in Chorley's edible gardens, where they spend Curriculum Enrichment time tending the plots and learning valuable gardening skills from Chorley in Bloom volunteers. We are incredibly grateful for the warm welcome and expert guidance our pupils receive each week. St Michael's was also honoured to receive a certificate marking our first-ever entry into the RHS Britain in Bloom Schools' Competition, recognising the dedication shown in developing our school garden. The fruits and vegetables grown on site are donated weekly to the Open Kitchen at Hollinshead Street Church, reflecting our continued commitment to service, sustainability and community partnership, just brilliant!



Friday was busy for the dance department too, as St Michael's hosted the Chorley Schools' Dance Competition, and what a spectacular event it was! Our dancers performed brilliantly across all categories, showcasing creativity and a genuine love for dance. We are delighted that our teams achieved three first place awards and two second place awards, a fantastic accomplishment that reflects their hard work and dedication. Beyond the medals, one of the most inspiring parts of the event was the spirit of sportsmanship shown by our pupils. They cheered enthusiastically for dancers from every school, offering encouragement, applause, and warm congratulations throughout the event. A special thanks to Joe who stayed after school to do the lighting for us. Congratulations to all our dancers, you represented our school brilliantly, both on and off the stage!



On Saturday, a group of our talented Year 11 pupils had the exciting opportunity to take part in the U.Dance Festival at The Lowry Theatre. Throughout the day, pupils participated in a series of dance workshops led by professional practitioners. They embraced every challenge with enthusiasm, and it was wonderful to see them step out of their comfort zones, develop new skills, and work alongside young dancers from other schools and groups. Even when they had scheduled breaks the

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pupils couldn't resist being artistic - have a look at Alice striking a pose! The highlight of the event was, of course, their performance on stage. Our pupils danced with excellence, displaying strong technique and a real sense of teamwork. Their dedication during rehearsals truly paid off, earning audible 'oohs' and warm applause from the audience.

We are immensely proud of their achievements, their attitude, and the way they represented our school at such a prestigious venue. A huge well done to all pupils involved!



Worship this week was led by Mrs Baybutt and focused on one of our Christian values - humility. Referencing Ephesians 4:2, 'Be completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love', she explained that humility was not about pretending we aren't talented, but that we should put others before our own ego. I loved the quote she shared from civil rights activist Jesse Jackson, 'Never look down on someone, unless you are helping them up'. We were challenged to love our neighbour and to consider the difficult paths that people can travel as we watched a beautiful performance from Year 11 dancers, as always, a chance to reflect on how we can make a difference in this world and to others.

As you will know, all pupils attend Worship once a week and also have an assembly. This week, Mr Chadwick addressed year groups to reinforce our Behaviour for Learning Policy. He reminded pupils that at St Michael's we treat everyone with dignity and respect, and that they should be motivated to do well because of the positive feeling it brings, not in order to gain rewards. He also reiterated that child-on-child abuse will not be tolerated. Any concerns must be reported and will be taken seriously. Pupils were reminded about responsible social media use. Although most issues occur outside school, their impact often carries over into the school day. Pupils were advised not to post, comment on, or 'like' inappropriate content or anything relating to staff. Finally, he stressed that vapes and vaping fluid are banned items. Possession will result in suspension, while possession or use of illegal substances will lead to permanent exclusion. Full details are available in the Behaviour for Learning Policy on the school website. Our expectations are high at St Michael's, and we stress these important messages so that we can maintain our excellent behaviour. Thank you so much to all our families for your support with this.

On Tuesday we had our termly school council meetings; what confident and articulate young people we have at St Michael's. To see our head girl and deputies chairing meetings so thoughtfully and efficiently made the adults present incredibly proud. Pupils discussed the Eco-Council, premises ideas and charity appeals.

We talked last week about the opportunity that pupils had to experience democracy in action and to vote in the Chorley Youth Parliament elections. We are delighted to share the fantastic news that Austin in Year 10 has been elected as a Member of the UK Youth Parliament, representing Chorley and West Lancashire. This is an outstanding achievement, particularly as he stood against three strong candidates from other schools. A ballot was held across the region last Thursday and Austin secured an impressive 2,181 votes, over 600 more than the candidate in second place. We are immensely proud of his commitment, ambition and willingness to give a voice to young people in our community. Congratulations, Austin!



On Wednesday we celebrated the next in our series of Lent Eucharists. Revd Peter Smith from St George's led pupils and staff encouraging us to reflect upon the reading from Matthew 28:16-20. He talked about baptism and sacraments being an outward physical sign of an inward spiritual grace reminding us that God is always with us; "and remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age". We are very grateful to Revd Smith for leading our Eucharist on a sunny Wednesday lunchtime.

Thursday was a busy day too, as we began the process of interviewing pupils for the role of prefect. The applications completed for this prestigious pupil leadership position in school have been exemplary this year, with pupils expressing their gratitude towards our whole school community, inspiring them to want to serve the school. We look forward to continuing the excellent standards we've seen so far this week and it is a real privilege to hear their perspectives and how they feel they can enact our school vision.

Also on Thursday, we had a group of pupils out at Chorley Library to take part in the Lancashire book of the year event. Five of our Lancashire Book Award pupil judges from Year 9 enjoyed a workshop at Chorley Library. It was a great opportunity to discuss the shortlisted books with pupils from other local schools. We were pleased to discover that the book we voted for, *How to Survive a Horror Movie*, by Scarlett Dunmore, made it through to the shortlist! We have been given all of the other books that made it through, so our team of readers will be getting stuck into those before the next stage of the judging process, where they will each get to vote for the overall winner. Following this will be the big celebration event in July, where the winner will be announced. Our pupils will get the opportunity to meet the authors, tell them what they loved about the winning books, and ask them about the writing process.

On Thursday evening Mr Ready took two teams of four to the Runshaw Maths Challenge. This is an annual event for Year 11 pupils to compete against other local secondary schools, with 18 schools taking part this year. The pupils were certainly challenged solving lots of in-depth problems at speed. We are delighted that one of our teams came second – a fantastic achievement!



As if that weren't enough, we had Year 8 consultation evening at the end of the day. It was a real delight to manage to speak to so many families at the event; thank you so much to those who took the time to chat and to share your thoughts on St Michael's; it was so encouraging to hear that so many of you love the school as much as I do, and it was a pleasure to meet you all. We had a brilliant turn out too; we are so glad that we can partner with you!

I spoke to lots of parents and carers about MFL choices, so just a reminder that options choice forms need to be completed by Monday, stating which language they wish to continue into Year 9. There is the chance to take both too - please highlight this on the form below:

[Year 8 Languages option form 2026 – Fill in form](#)



ALUMNI EVENT

Are you a former pupil, member of staff or governor of St Michael's CE High School?

On **Wednesday 29 April** we would love to invite you to our first alumni event; a tour of school by our pupils and 'catch-up' with staff. This will take place from 1pm to 2.45pm.

If you have already joined our alumni you will have received an invitation. If you would like to join, please contact:
alumni@saint-michaels.lancs.sch.uk

You can also follow us at:
Instagram: StMichaels_CE_Highschool
Facebook: Saint Michael's Church of England High School

We have so many ex-pupils in our community, so we are delighted to share the continued growth of our newly established Alumni, launched just before Christmas and already reconnecting past pupils, staff and governors with the life of the school. As part of this exciting development, we are hosting our first Alumni event on **Wednesday 29th April, from 1pm to 2.45pm**. Former members of our school family are warmly invited to join us for a coffee and the chance to chat with staff and reminisce about school days gone by, followed by a guided tour led by current pupils. We hope this special event will spark memories, rekindle friendships and begin building a vibrant network of St Michael's alumni for the future. Anyone wishing to attend is asked to register as an alumni member first and then complete a short expression-of-interest form. We look forward to welcoming many familiar faces back through our doors and would be grateful if you could share the flyer!

We may be looking forward to welcoming previous pupils back, but I've been awarding Gold Stamps to some of our current pupils this week. A number of Year 9s have been to see me in recognition of their brilliant RE projects - a huge well done to them all!

It has been an incredibly busy week in PE and the reports and photographs are included at the end of the letter.

As if all this wasn't enough, there is another exciting event this weekend, as on Sunday the Lytham Speech and Drama Festival is taking place; we hope those taking part have a wonderful day and look forward to hearing about it next week.

As we approach the final week of the Lent term, I'll leave you with one of my favourite Bible verses, so timely amidst this busy season,

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31

Have a lovely sunny weekend.

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Important Dates

Monday 23 March

Year 8 MFL option forms due

Wednesday 25 March
Friday 27 March
Friday 27 March

Lunchtime Lent Eucharist
End of term services at St George's Church
Lent term ends 2.40pm

PE Report

Monday night saw the Year 7 netball tournaments held at Holy Cross, having been delayed in January for bad weather. Ironically, it rained again but, despite the conditions, the girls adapted their play to the slippery ball and reduced grip on the courts to play some scintillating netball. We were delighted to enter three teams in the competition. Our C team were brilliant coming 3rd (only on goal difference) in the B team tournament, with both the A and B teams winning their respective tournaments and not conceding a single goal in the process. It's been a pleasure to have these girls training and representing school. I look forward to them playing next year in the Lancashire competitions. Well done girls.



On Tuesday 17th March the Year 9 girls competed in the District handball competition held at St Michael's. All of the girls put on a fantastic performance in the first game against Parklands winning 8 - 0 and then came up against Bishop Rawstorne in their second game and won by 1 goal. Congratulations to the squad as again, they are now District Champions! Well done for your hard work in training this year - it has certainly paid off!

The Year 9 boys delivered an outstanding performance at the Chorley handball competition, emerging as champions after a dominant display

throughout the tournament. With four wins out of four games, the team showed excellent skill, teamwork, and determination in every match and they secured a well-deserved first-place finish. A fantastic achievement for all involved—well done to the entire team!



The Year 10 boys' football team faced a double header this week at they played on both Tuesday and Wednesday. Tuesday saw them host St Bede's Ormskirk in the quarter finals of the Lancashire Cup. A strong start to the game saw us 2-0 up within 15 minutes and looking really comfortable on a difficult pitch. However, St Bede's found a goal courtesy of a wonder strike from one of their midfielders. A tense second half followed but the boys held strong to see themselves through to the semi-finals of the Lancashire cup for the second time in three years.

On to Wednesday and the boys travelled to Bishops in the semi-final of the Hospital Cup. The game again followed a similar pattern, a fast start saw us 3-0 up at half time. However, a late flurry of brilliance from Bishops saw them pull two goals back and give the boys a tense last few minutes but we managed to hold on and secure our place in the Hospital Cup Final, next Wednesday (25th March) at Chorley Football Club. Well done Year 10, a great week for you!

The U13 boys' handball team visited Leigh sports village on Thursday in the Lancashire round of the England handball schools' competition. The boys were outstanding all day and didn't lose a game but, despite this, they still went into their last game needing a win to qualify. With the pressure on, the boys rose to the challenge and a comfortable win saw them finish the competition as Lancashire winners! We will now represent Lancashire at the North West finals in April. A massive well done to all the boys, with everyone single one contributing in both attack and defence.



The U13 girls' handball team also demonstrated a fantastic performance on Thursday at the Lancashire handball finals. They came up against All Hallows, Latham, Garstang and Clitheroe Royal Grammar. After winning two games and losing two we finished the tournament placing 3rd in Lancashire. Well done to all of the girls!