

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



27th March 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we reach the end of another term, can I start by thanking you all for your support and for being such an integral part of Team St Michael's. Today's end of term services at St George's Church were a demonstration of our vision in action - growing in body, mind and spirit. God was at the centre of all that we did as we took the time to reflect on Jesus, and all that Easter means. To be reminded of this through the artistic talents of our pupils as they sang, danced, participated in drama and reading was the perfect way to round up an incredibly busy few weeks.



"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to give you a hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

Before the week began, on Sunday, we had pupils participating in the Lytham Speech and Drama Festival. Miss Forrest accompanied 11 of our Year 7-10 pupils to the competition where they sang solos and duets from musical theatre and performed Shakespearean and other dramatic monologues and poems. Pupils received positive comments from the judges and were given ideas on how to improve their performances in the future. It was a wonderful celebration of the performing arts; we are very proud of all our pupils and are delighted to have won silver and bronze medals.



It was fabulous to start the school day on Monday morning by celebrating with Year 8 pupils who had received excellent reports. As I have mentioned previously, these occasions are opportunities to meet the young people who have really excelled with their commitment to learning. I always enjoy speaking to them individually and hearing about their passions and hobbies both in and out of school and, as usual, I was so impressed with how articulate and confident they were; well done to them all.

The arts have abounded this week! We began with GCSE art and textiles exams. Mrs Burrows, head of art, accurately described these as, 'an explosion of creativity!' and I wholeheartedly agree! We are so impressed by their efforts.

Then, on Tuesday we had another of our termly lunchtime concerts. This time the focus was on

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singers and 'the musicals'. All our contributors are studying with Cheryl Winstanley who started working here as a classroom teacher 36 years ago, before taking on the role of singing teacher for the last 11 years. Pupils are studying ABRSM Singing for Musical Theatre grades, and we were so impressed by their performances; it takes such courage to stand up and sing in front of peers and staff. This was the line-up, along with their song of choice:

- Year 10 Rose - True Love (from Frozen)
- Year 9 Alice - Neverland (from Peter Pan)
- Year 8 Scarlett - In My Own Little Corner (from Cinderella)
- Year 8 Harry - Food Glorious Food (from Oliver)
- Year 7 Jessica - Wouldn't it be Lovely (from My Fair Lady).

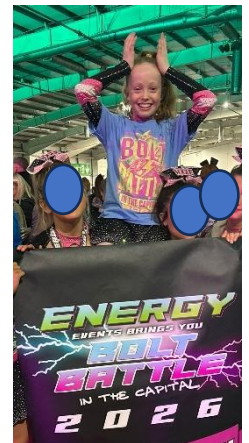
Thursday saw the next of our community events, hosted by Year 9 pupils as part of the enrichment programme. Our group of dancers welcomed family, friends and neighbours to come and share tea and cake, play a game or two of bingo and to watch the wonderfully choreographed pieces. Some of our guests feel like old friends now, but it was lovely to meet some new people, including a gentleman who taught PE and maths at St Michael's when the school first opened. Learning about the history of the school and those who have gone before us is so valuable and we had a lovely chat. Pupils did a fabulous job as always; their two group dances were filled with enthusiasm and bright smiles, with a special mention to Jess, Elizabeth and Ruby who also chose to perform solos. It was heart-warming to see how naturally the pupils interacted with guests - offering friendly greetings, serving hot drinks and cakes, answering questions politely, and showing genuine interest in those who had come to watch. We really hope our visitors enjoyed the afternoon.

We've also made some progress with appointing our next cohort of prefects, as interviews have continued throughout most of the week. On Thursday we sat down to shortlist for Head Boy and Head Girl as well as our new Pupil Spirituality Lead posts, and it was a much tougher job than I anticipated. We were so impressed by the standard of letters submitted by pupils and reading all that each applicant had done during their time at St Michael's was such a privilege. We'll be interviewing the shortlisted candidates the first week back after Easter and will keep you updated!



We have some exciting news shared by families again this week. Josephine in Year 7 attended the GB pentathlon school's finals representing St Michael's held at Bath University. This was only her second Biathlon, and she is fairly new to running, yet she finished 28th overall against finalists from all over Great Britain. Well done, Josephine, we are all incredibly proud.

Sticking with Year 7, it was great to hear about Olivia's cheer competition and how successful she and the team had been - a huge well done!



Of course there is sports news closer to home too, Mrs Dempster sent the following report: *On Tuesday the U13 girls' cricket team competed against the best teams in Lancashire at the Lancashire indoor cricket finals. The girls were drawn in a very tough group containing Bolton School and AKS Lytham. They bowled and fielded outstandingly to keep the opposition's scores below 80 (which in indoor cricket is a fantastic effort) and, with some inventive running between the wickets, managed to win both games, topping their group. They then played Urmston Grammar School in the semi-final*

winning with 2 and a half overs to spare, setting up a rematch with AKS in the final. It was not to be for a second victory against them, but the girls gave their all and can walk away with second place in Lancashire and heads held very high; A fabulous end to the indoor cricket season, well done girls.



On Wednesday, the Year 7 girls and Year 8 boys represented Chorley at the Lancashire Indoor Athletics competition at Stanley Park in Blackpool. They competed against 14 other districts across the county. All pupils demonstrated a fantastic performance in both the track and field, placing in the top 3 in most events. We were delighted that both teams were announced as Lancashire Champions; for the Year 8 boys this is for the second year running! Congratulations to everyone!

This week, Year 7 girls came up against a tough team from Bishop Rawstorne at the district handball competition. They were fantastic and showed excellent determination to win. The final score was 4-3 to St Michael's and the girls received gold medals. Congratulations to the whole squad - I am really looking forward to working with you next year, so that we hopefully get the opportunity to go to Lancashire finals.



On Thursday, both the U15 girls' and boys' handball squads represented the district at the county finals at Leigh Sports Centre. What a fantastic opportunity we had to showcase our talent and experience on the court. Some very tough games for both teams against Clitheroe Grammar, All Hallows, St Bede's and Accrington Academy. The girls won all three of their games and the boys won two and drew one making

them both County Champions. This is an incredible achievement, and we are really looking forward to the regional round at the end of April!

Gold stamps this week went to Year 8 pupils for their fabulous work in geography, Year 10 pupils for brilliant science assessment results and to a young lady who created a fabulously decorated Swiss role!



The end of term is a time when we sometimes need to say goodbye to staff and today we have said farewell to Mr Bradshaw, our Network Manager and Mr Jarvis, ICT technician, we wish them both well as they embark on this next chapter. We've also waved off science teacher, Mrs Shaw and teaching assistant, Mrs Gunathilake as they start their maternity leave.

It is a busy weekend as pupils set off on trips to France, Germany and the Alps. We have around 150 children on visits; the French trip heads to Paris and Disneyland, the snow looks good on the webcams for skiing in Serre Chevalier and our Germany trip embarks on a mini-European tour travelling through the Netherlands, Germany and France with a visit to Phantasialand. A huge amount of organisation, planning and time is involved in facilitating these visits; we are so grateful

to all the staff involved for enabling our pupils to have these wonderful opportunities and experience moments of awe and wonder and God's creation.

As we approach Easter, I wish you all a restful holiday and I will leave you the words we sang in church this morning.

In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease;
my Comforter, my All in All;
here in the love of Christ I stand.

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Important Dates

Monday 13 April

Thursday 16 April

Week commencing Monday 20 April

Wednesday 22 April

Sunday 26 April

Start of Trinity Term

Y7 Consultation Evening

GCSE MFL speaking exams

PSHE Evening 4.30pm

Hughes and Armstrong Choirs singing at St Barnabas
Church, Heapey 4pm