



Therefore, choose

# St Michael's Church of England High School

*A Church of England Academy*  
*Growing in Body, Mind and Spirit*





# Welcome



I am delighted to welcome you to St Michael's. As a Church of England Academy in the Diocese of Blackburn, our values are deeply rooted in the Christian faith. Our vision is for every pupil, as well as staff and our wider community, to **grow in body, mind, and spirit** - to flourish as a child of God and experience the joy of 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

We are very much a team here; pupils, staff, parents, and governors work together to create a vibrant, caring environment.

We set high expectations and place great importance on celebrating the uniqueness of each individual, recognising that every person is a precious child of God, gifted with their own strengths and talents.

At St Michael's, we are outward facing, working to build strong partnerships with families, churches, local organisations, and the wider community. These relationships enrich our lives, providing opportunities for growth, not only for pupils, but for all involved.

Our academic standards are consistently high, with results placing us in the top 10% of non-selective schools nationally at Key Stage 4. This success is underpinned by a research-informed approach to teaching and a commitment to developing resilient, lifelong learners who embrace challenge.

**Personal and spiritual development** are central to all we do here. Through our Character and Spiritual Education (CASE) Programme, worship, assemblies, careers provision, and enrichment activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and pupil leadership, we continually strive to nurture well-rounded individuals; young people who are ready to make a difference in our rapidly changing world.



Our motto, 'Therefore, choose' (Deuteronomy 30:19) underpins the life of the school, as we guide pupils to make positive, meaningful life choices.

We are proud of our calm, respectful environment where every pupil can thrive. Ofsted praised our pupils' impeccable behaviour and strong academic outcomes, and SIAMS described us as, "a beacon of exemplary practice."

We continue to innovate, investing in our curriculum, facilities, and technology.

To discover a faith-filled school that nurtures the whole child, developing confidence and character, whilst remaining highly aspirational for academic success, I warmly invite you to visit us and experience the life and ethos of St Michael's for yourself.

Mrs Rachel Rongong, Headteacher

**"As a vibrant learning  
community, we choose to  
serve God,  
pursue excellence, and  
celebrate the uniqueness  
of each individual."**





# Pastoral Care

At St Michael's, outstanding pastoral care underpins everything we do.

We are deeply committed to nurturing each child as they **grow in body, mind, and spirit**, recognising and celebrating the uniqueness of each individual.

Our dedicated staff work tirelessly to promote the wellbeing of our young people, going above and beyond to create a safe, inclusive, and compassionate environment.

Here, it's not just that every child matters - it's that every child **knows** they matter.

Through our unwavering care and guidance, we help children flourish not only academically, but personally and spiritually, preparing them to thrive in all aspects of life.



**"The school's vision effectively promotes strong relationships, a sense of belonging and exemplary behaviour."**

SIAMS Inspection Report



# Partnership Working

Our vision of '**growing in body, mind and spirit**' extends far beyond the classroom - it is becoming a guiding principle that shapes the way we engage with families, churches and the wider community.

We place communication at the heart of these relationships, knowing that open, respectful dialogue creates the conditions for all to flourish. Pupils benefit deeply from this collaborative approach, thriving academically, emotionally, and spiritually. But it doesn't stop there: we want families to feel supported, local partners to find renewed purpose through shared goals, and staff to be uplifted by the strength of connection.

Together, we are **Team St Michael's**; our aim is a network of relationships where children, families, staff, and community grow side by side, each strengthened and enriched by the shared journey.

**"We recognise that developing strong reciprocal partnerships with parents, schools, churches, charities and organisations will be a transformational keystone to our approach for all to flourish."**

Mr C Metcalfe - Chair of Governors









# GROWING in BODY

“ Pupils benefit from a diverse range of extra-curricular activities. Clubs such as sports, performing arts and computing are popular and well attended. ”

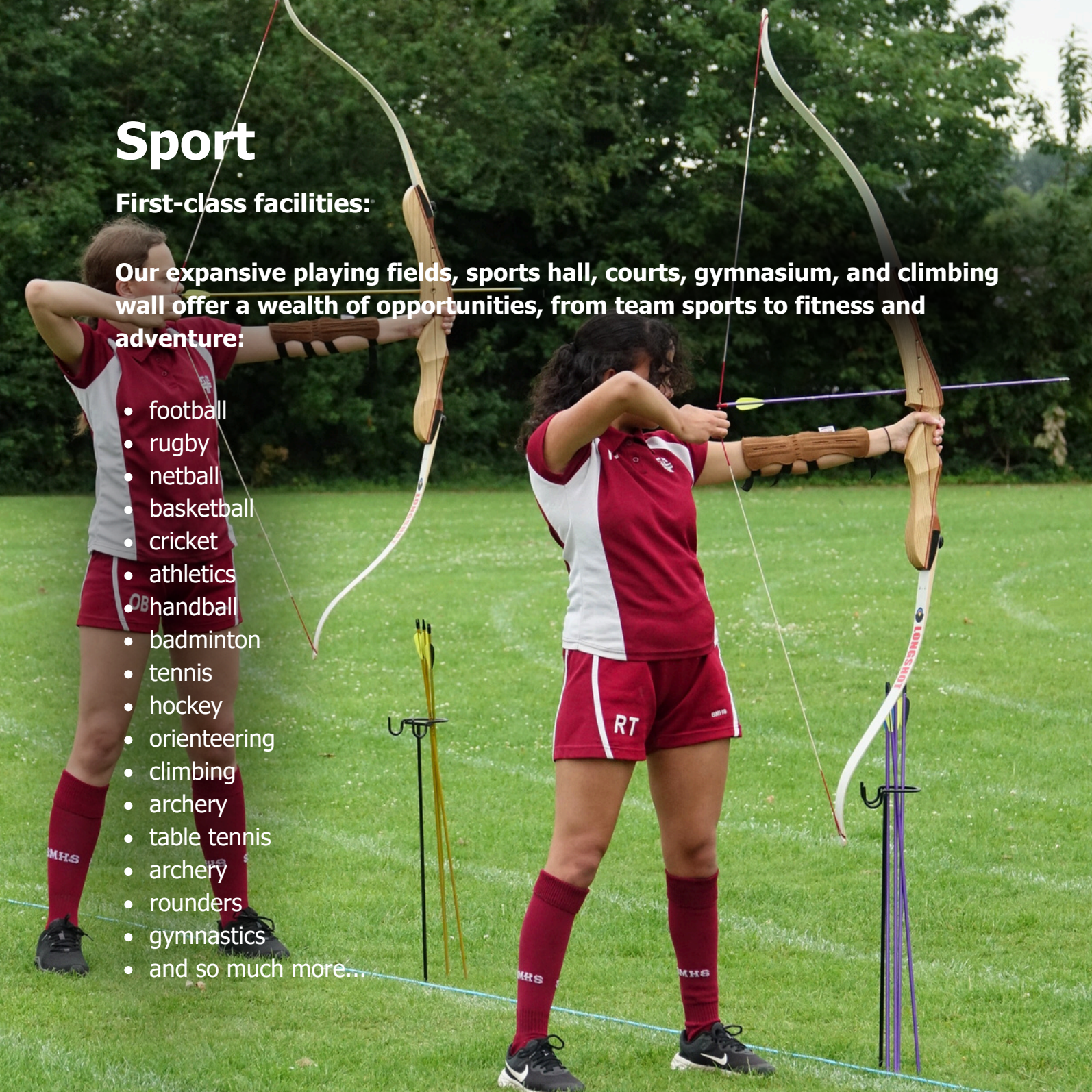
Ofsted Inspection Report

# Sport

## First-class facilities:

**Our expansive playing fields, sports hall, courts, gymnasium, and climbing wall offer a wealth of opportunities, from team sports to fitness and adventure:**

- football
- rugby
- netball
- basketball
- cricket
- athletics
- handball
- badminton
- tennis
- hockey
- orienteering
- climbing
- archery
- table tennis
- archery
- rounders
- gymnastics
- and so much more...







At St Michael's, excellence and inclusivity go hand in hand. We are proud to be recognised for our exceptional sporting achievements across regional and national arenas, but we are just as proud of the culture we've built - one that welcomes every pupil to experience the joy of 'life in all its fullness' through the challenge of sport.

With a wide variety of activities to explore, we empower all pupils to push their limits, develop valuable life skills, and celebrate success in every form.

**Chorley District Athletics  
Champions 2003 - Present**





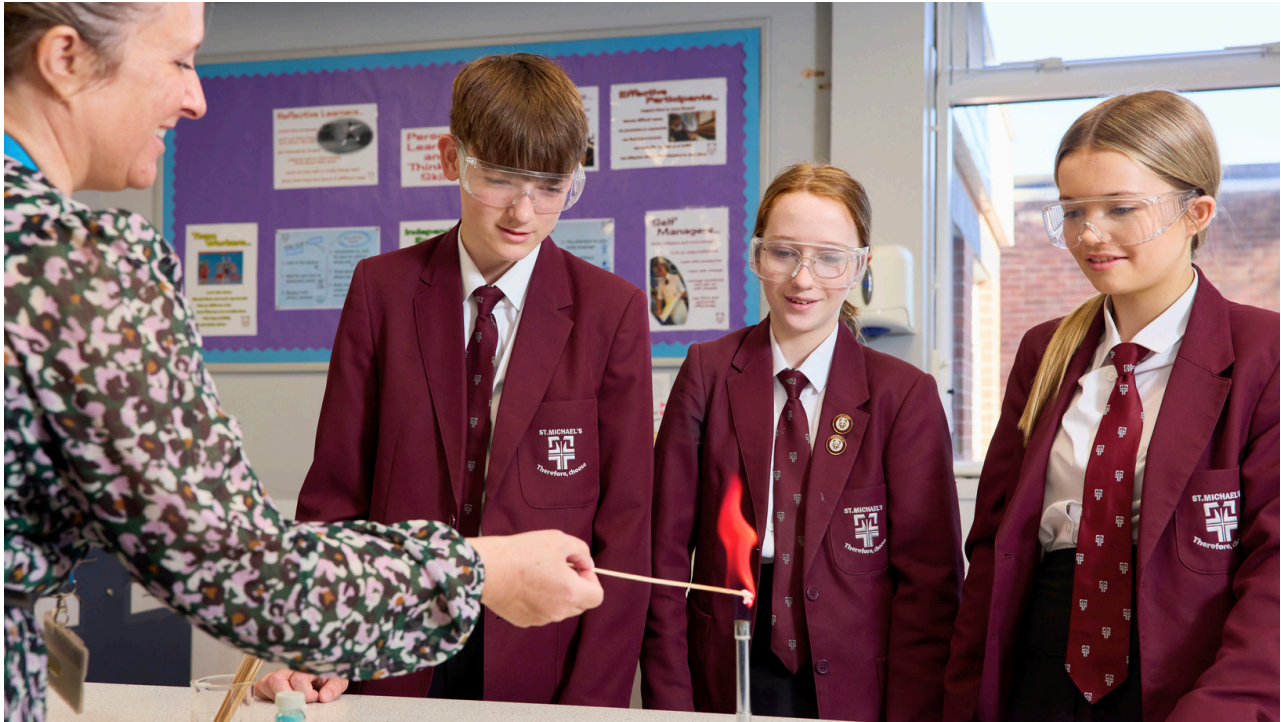
**"Leaders have ensured a strong culture of reading in the school."  
Ofsted Inspection Report**



# GROWING in MIND

“ [The school’s] vision makes sure that academic rigour and focused support is provided for all. ”

SIAMS Inspection Report





# Academic Excellence

## High standards and results

- Examination results well above the national average
- Placed in the top 10% of non-selective schools in the country for pupil attainment at Key Stage 4 for the last decade

## Aspirational expectations

- Teachers have high expectations for **all pupils**
- Evidence-informed strategies ensure high-quality teaching and learning
- Support for **all pupils**, including the most able
- Additional support and intervention for pupils who need it
- Tailored support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

## A broad and balanced curriculum

- All pupils study maths, English, science and RE. In addition, we offer a wide range of option subjects, including:

➤ **Art**

➤ **Art textiles**

➤ **Computer science**

➤ **Dance**

➤ **Design and technology**

➤ **Digital information technology**

➤ **BTEC performing arts**

➤ **Food preparation and nutrition**

➤ **French**

➤ **Business**

➤ **Geography**

➤ **German**

➤ **History**

➤ **Music**

➤ **Music technology**

➤ **Physical education**







# GROWING in SPIRIT

“ Pupils experience an exceptional, expertly designed programme of personal development. Leaders’ promotion of pupils’ personal development is exemplary. ”

Ofsted Inspection Report



# Personal and Spiritual Development

Personal and spiritual development lie at the heart of our Christian vision - growing in body, mind, and spirit. Through worship, reflection, leadership opportunities, and a broad, values-driven curriculum, we support pupils in connecting with themselves, others, the environment, and God. From prayer and moments of wonder to careers guidance and enrichment activities, including the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, our holistic approach prepares young people to become confident, compassionate, and resilient members of society.

**Collective worship** is the heartbeat of school life. It offers a daily opportunity for pupils and staff to explore Christian faith, reflect, and grow spiritually.

**"Collective worship is inspirational and exemplary."**  
**SIAMS Inspection Report**



# An Innovative Year 9 Curriculum



All Year 9 pupils take part in the Curriculum Enrichment Programme each Thursday afternoon, enjoying modules in art, design and technology or food and nutrition, with the option to take part in dance or fitness.

Pupils also engage with key aspects of the careers programme.

**All Year 9 pupils work towards their Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award** during enrichment - an experience designed to shape character and nurture essential life skills. The journey culminates in a challenging, yet unforgettable two-day expedition. **Together, pupils journey towards becoming the people God created them to be.**

From volunteering and charity projects to environmental action and workplace experiences, pupils gain practical skills and grow in confidence as part of the taught curriculum.

Guided by the Christian values of **compassion, service, stewardship,** and **humility** pupils make a lasting impact on themselves and the world around them.





# Performing Arts

**Drama** lessons, lunchtime clubs, worship pieces, and events such as the Shakespeare Schools Theatre Festival and whole school productions, encourage pupils to express themselves and grow in confidence.





# Music

Music thrives through three choirs, including a chapel choir, and a variety of instrumental groups such as wind band, string ensemble, and rock band. Pupils can take graded music exams and perform in the annual summer concert, which unites the music, dance, and drama departments in a celebration of the arts.



# Dance

Dance is part of school life for all pupils, blending curriculum with vibrant clubs, GCSE projects, and chances to work with professionals through shows and workshops.



# Clubs and Societies

We believe that pupils flourish when they are given the opportunity to explore passions beyond the classroom. That's why we offer a diverse range of wider curricular activities designed to inspire, challenge, and empower.

From the creativity of **art club**, **crochet club**, **Masterchef club** and **textiles**, to the powerful voices of the **Armstrong choir**, **big choir**, **the chapel choir**, and **worship band**, there's a space for every artist and performer.

Sport enthusiasts can dive into **athletics**, **football**, **netball**, **badminton**, **tennis**, **basketball**, and **gymnastics** - or take on exciting options like **karting**, **cheerleading** (external clubs) and **cross country**.

For those who love a challenge, **debate club**, **STEM club**, **computer club**, **Minecraft club**, **cyber explorers**, and **science club** offer endless possibilities.

Pupils with a heart for social action can lead change through **social action group**, **eco-council**, **school council**, and the **Archbishop's Young Leaders Award**.

Whether it's **drama club**, **Shakespeare Festival**, **play reading club**, or the **school production**, budding thespians are given full stage to shine.

With such a wealth of clubs and teams, from **Bible study** to **steel pans**, **discovery club** to **history club**, pupils can build confidence, friendships, and unforgettable memories.

**"Pupils spoke with enthusiasm about the vast array of leadership, enrichment and charitable opportunities available to them."**

Ofsted Inspection Report





# Global Neighbours

We don't just talk about global citizenship, we live it. Since 2022, our partnership with communities in Zambia has become a vibrant pillar of our curriculum, championing courageous advocacy, Christian values, and hands-on global engagement.

Pupils have raised funds, travelled to Zambia, and contributed directly to vital development projects, including building sanitation facilities and supporting street children through local charities.



Through meaningful cultural exchange and sustained charitable work, pupils become true change-makers, equipped with empathy, leadership, and a global perspective. It's not just education, it's transformation.



**Proud to be the first secondary school in the UK to  
be awarded the Global Neighbours Gold Award**



# Pupil Leadership



At St Michael's, leadership isn't just encouraged, it's embedded in every pupil's journey.

From Bridge Buddies and School Council to mentoring and global outreach, each role is designed to nurture confidence, character, and compassion. Our pupils don't just learn to lead, they learn to serve, challenge injustice, and make meaningful change.

Leadership opportunities at St Michael's are inclusive and open to all, ensuring every pupil can discover their voice and make a difference.

Here, leadership is more than a title. It's a way of life inspired by the example of Jesus, preparing pupils to become active citizens with integrity and purpose. St Michael's is where young people grow, through initiative, service, and spirit, and where future leaders are shaped.

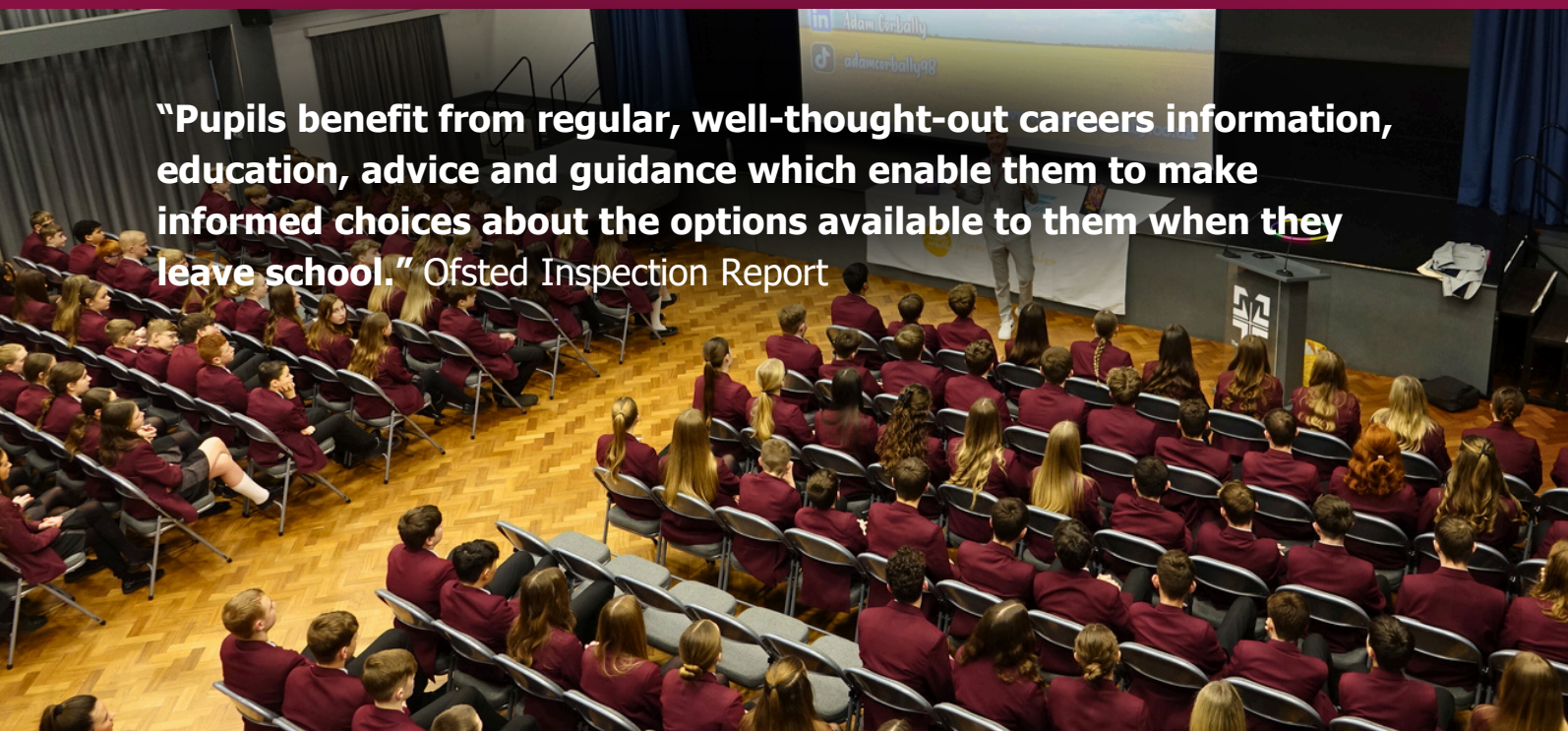


# Life Beyond School

**A careers programme that prepares pupils for the world of work, helping them discover their God-given gifts and purpose:**

- Aligned with Gatsby Foundation benchmarks, ensuring high-quality provision
- Raising aspiration
- Developing self-awareness
- Exploring interests
- Shaping a personal vision for a meaningful future
- Offering additional guidance at key transition points, such as Year 9 and Year 11
- Providing access to an independent careers adviser for expert, impartial advice
- Collaborating with local colleges and training providers to inform choices
- Developing the skills needed for future workplaces through assemblies, careers lessons, the Year 9 Enrichment Programme, and engagement with employers and professionals

**"Pupils benefit from regular, well-thought-out careers information, education, advice and guidance which enable them to make informed choices about the options available to them when they leave school." Ofsted Inspection Report**







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