

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

4th September 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year, and an extra special greeting to all our new Year 7 families. It has been a joy to see pupils again and to hear some of what they have been doing in the holidays as well as getting to know those joining us for the first time; the feeling of team is strong here and we have had a great first week returning to the routines of school life.

During the summer holidays, we were delighted to celebrate with our Year 11 leavers as they collected their GCSE results, and we could not be prouder. Collectively they have achieved some of the school's best results ever. Our average Attainment 8 score was 60.4, making the average grade achieved by pupils a grade 6, with 37.5% of all grades being a 7 or above. 91.5% of our pupils achieved a standard pass or above in both English and maths, way above the national average, and opening doors to exciting future possibilities. However, for me that is only part of the picture. Seeing how pupils leave St Michael's, having grown so much in body, mind and spirit is what makes this school so very special. It is rare to meet such polite, kind and articulate young people and to see a whole year group demonstrate these qualities is a real privilege. We wish them all the best for the future.

Life doesn't seem to stop for Team St Michael's, even in the summer holidays when 73 pupils supported by 15+ staff took on the challenge of their Silver D of E expedition in extremely inclement weather conditions. Mrs Hooley, Deputy Head, has written more about this at the end of this letter, but a massive well done to them all - what an achievement!

I led our Worship this week, as is customary at the start of the school year, focusing on our vision of 'growing in body, mind and spirit'. After reflecting on what that means to really become all that God has called us to be, I played a video of staff talking about how they had grown in the last 12 months. Mrs Wilk, Mrs Wilson, Miss O'Malley and Mrs Rackstraw all shared different and inspiring perspectives, from running the London marathon to focusing on good quality sleep, connecting with the outdoors, and developing resilience, and it also gave opportunity for me to share with pupils that these teachers are now part of the senior leadership team, having been appointed Associate Assistant Headteachers just before the summer break.

As well as role changes, we've welcomed some new staff to school in September. A big welcome to:

- Mr Jacques - teacher of science
- Mrs Roden - teacher of maths
- Miss Seddon - teacher of maths
- Mrs Wagstaff - head of art (textiles)
- Mrs Day - teaching assistant
- Mrs Dempster - teaching assistant

I will continue with our vision focused worship with the remaining year groups next week.

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Yesterday evening, it was wonderful to welcome parents and carers of Year 7 to our Year 7 information evening, to share a little more of the practicalities of school life at St Michael's and to reiterate that vision of growth for all again. Year 7 have had a brilliant first week; they have tackled CATs tests, navigated their way around a big school, met new friends and staff, had their photographs taken, and experienced a wide range of new lessons. As I said last night, pupils also seem to be very pleased with our food offer! They have made a phenomenal start and demonstrated impeccable behaviour and amazingly, we have also had 100% attendance for the year group for the whole of their first (part) week. Wow!

Next week we have our Fresher's Fair for Year 7 and 8. This was a huge success last year and we are delighted to be repeating the event again. Pupils will have the opportunity to visit stalls manned by older pupils to learn about the wide range of clubs we offer both after school and at lunchtime, with the expectation that those in Year 7 sign up to at least three clubs. Our hope is that 100% of pupils at St Michael's are involved in the wider life of the school and this is just one way we try to make that possible.

Next week, we also have our Open Evening on Thursday from 5:30 - 8:00pm. To prepare for this, please remember that school closes at 1:00pm that day (buses have been arranged to accommodate the early close). On that note, if you are applying for a child to join us next September, you must complete the Lancashire County Council Admissions Application form, as well as our Supplementary Information Form which is available on our website. The application deadline is 31st October 2026.

On Tuesday, before school opened to pupils, we had a staff training day, starting with a whole staff Eucharist led by Rev Jo from Euxton Parish. She shared the following Bible verse with us, that could not be more appropriate,

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

What an incredible reminder that we do not journey alone.

I look forward to partnering with you, knowing God goes with us, in the next academic year.

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Important Dates

Sunday 6 September	Education Sunday at St Laurence's Church
Thursday 10 September	Early school closure at 1pm in preparation for Open Evening (buses booked for 1pm)
Thursday 10 September	Open Evening 5.30-8pm – all welcome
Friday 11 September	Open Morning 9.30-12noon – all welcome
Sunday 13 September	Assembly Bangers at Coppull
Monday 14 September	Parent Meeting for Berlin trip 6pm
Thursday 17 September	Year 10 Information Evening
Monday 21 September	Parent Meeting for Brussels trip 6pm

Thursday 24 September
Monday 28 September

Spirituality Day
Staff training day – school closed for pupils

EVENTS

Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition Success

During the summer holidays, 73 pupils successfully completed their Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition, demonstrating exceptional resilience,



determination and teamwork throughout the challenge. Despite facing some inclement weather, all our Year 10 participants rose to the occasion and successfully passed the expedition. Silver is a significant step up from Bronze, with increased distances, more challenging terrain and greater demands on navigation and self-sufficiency. Over three days, pupils walked for around seven hours each day and camped for two nights in the beautiful Lune Valley and Scorton regions. Along the way, they developed their navigation skills, supported one another through difficulties and showed great

perseverance. While there were a few wrong turns along the route, every team remained positive, worked together and ultimately reached the finish, making us incredibly proud of their achievement.

