

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

11th September 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

It's hard to believe that we have only been back at school for two weeks; we have packed in so much, particularly for our new Year 7 pupils, that it feels like we are already well into the Michaelmas term and are all well-established members of Team St Michael's.

I'm writing this after another extremely well attended Open Evening last night. A huge thank you to those who came along. I hope you found it a valuable opportunity to see what we offer again, and to make those important decisions about next steps for your primary aged children. It's events such as this that remind me about the level of care and commitment of our staff body, too. I am so grateful to everyone for all their efforts to make the evening such a success. This morning we opened our doors for the first of our two open mornings, offering the chance to see St Michael's on a 'normal' working day. If you could not join us, we are offering a second opportunity on Thursday 8th October. There is no need to prebook, simply come to school reception between 9.30am-12noon.

I have continued with Worship this week for Years 8-11, focusing on our school vision of 'growing in body, mind and spirit'. I shared with pupils my own growth, telling them about my participation in the Lakeland 50 in July - a 50 mile race over trails in the Lake District. Drawing the parallel of the starting line of a new school year, I talked about how true growth really happens when we face challenges with determination and how we want to cross the finish line knowing we have made positive choices one step at a time, Philippians 3:13-14, *'But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.'*

While I was leading worship, Mr Chadwick, Deputy Head, started the process of delivering safeguarding assemblies to all year groups, drawing on the guidance in *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026* and focusing on child-on-child abuse and sexual harassment. Pupils were reminded to remain vigilant, report any concerns, and understand that abusive behaviour, including online misconduct and inappropriate comments, is never acceptable. At St Michael's, we take all reports seriously and reject attitudes that dismiss harmful behaviour as "just banter", "having a laugh", "boys being boys", or "part of growing up". These important conversations help to strengthen our culture of safeguarding, where every member of the school community understands their responsibility to speak up, support others, and help keep children safe. Through this work, we continue to promote a safe, respectful, and supportive environment for every pupil.

On Tuesday we held our Freshers' Fair for new Year 7 pupils, whilst on Wednesday, Year 8 pupils had the chance to attend; it was a tremendous success and provided an exciting opportunity for pupils to explore the wide range of clubs and enrichment activities available beyond the classroom. Every Year 7 pupil selected three new activities to try, while Year 8 pupils were encouraged to step outside their comfort zone by choosing at least one new club or activity. The enthusiasm shown by pupils has already led to a significant increase in club sign-ups, with many keen to develop their

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skills, discover new interests and broaden their experiences. Participation in wider curricular activities is a fantastic way to build confidence, develop independence and create new friendships, and it has been wonderful to see such a positive response. We are looking forward to seeing our pupils embrace these opportunities in the weeks and months ahead.

We have always welcomed, 'Good News for Everyone' (formerly 'Gideons') to speak to our new Year 7 pupils, and on Thursday we continued that tradition, as representatives explained the value of being able to turn to the Bible in times of challenge or difficulty before inviting our young people to take a personal copy of the New Testament and Psalms away with them; always a lovely way to start the day.

If that weren't enough, whilst Year 7 were busy with the above, we also welcomed Rev Philip Venebables to school to conduct our first period 1 Eucharist of the Year. Philip is a real friend of St Michael's, and we were so grateful that he was able to join us again and wish him well in his retirement.

I've awarded the first Gold Stamps of the term this week too, to a young lady in Year 9 for her fabulous work for design technology on an insect house, as well as to a young man in the same year group who has gone out of his way to make a younger pupil feel welcome in school; we are so proud of them both. There are many other pupils worthy of praise this week too; the prefects and Year 10 pupils giving tours on Open Evening and Open Morning and all the pupils welcoming visitors, supporting in subjects and sharing their talents – growing in body, mind and spirit in action.

It will be no surprise to learn that we have lots happening in school next week too. Firstly, Year 7 are moving into their new teaching groups on Monday. Whilst timetables are being updated some features of Synergy will be unavailable over the weekend. We have our whole school photo on Wednesday (weather permitting!) and our Year 10 Information Evening on Thursday at 6.30pm. Before then we have Assembly Bangers at Coppull Parish School on Sunday at 3pm. Hughes choir will be supporting; I'm so looking forward to it and would love to see you there!



Our school vision of growing in body, mind and spirit is underpinned by two Bible verses - John 10:10 (I have come that you might have life, life in all its fullness) and Deuteronomy 30:19 (therefore, choose [life]). I've seen that in action this week and I hope that you have sensed that too.

Enjoy the weekend.

With kind regards,

Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Important Dates

Sunday 13 September
Monday 14 September

Assembly Bangers at Coppull
Parent Meeting for Berlin trip 6pm

Thursday 17 September
Monday 21 September
Thursday 24 September
Monday 28 September

Year 10 Information Evening 6.30pm
Parent Meeting for Brussels trip 6pm
Spirituality Day
Staff training day – school closed for pupils

Events and Celebrations



St Michael's U13s Crowned Lancashire Cup Cricket Champions

St Michael's U13s 147/7 (20 overs)
Hutton Grammar School 124/4 (20 overs)
St Michael's won by 23 runs

St Michael's U13s made history on Wednesday by winning the Lancashire Cup for the first time in the school's history, defeating Hutton

Grammar School by 23 runs in a thrilling final at Leyland Cricket Club.

After losing the toss and being asked to bat first, St Michael's made an explosive start. Alfie immediately put the Hutton bowlers under pressure taking 21 runs from the second over, including two sixes and two fours. The innings continued to gather momentum, with Thomas



anchoring the batting effort superbly with an unbeaten 30, while Aaron contributed an excellent 28 and Alfie finished with 23. Strong contributions throughout the batting order helped St Michael's post an imposing total of 147 for 7 from their 20 overs, setting Hutton a challenging target.

In reply, the St Michael's bowlers were disciplined and economical from the outset, preventing Hutton from building any early momentum. Tight bowling and energetic fielding saw St Michael's firmly in control at the halfway stage of the innings. However, Hutton responded impressively and began to accelerate the scoring rate, placing the St Michael's bowlers and fielders under increasing pressure. With the game finely poised, Nathaniel and Tom

produced crucial spells towards the end of the innings to stem the flow of runs and keep Hutton at bay.

Despite a spirited chase, Hutton finished on 124 for 4 from their 20 overs, handing St Michael's a memorable 23-run victory and the Lancashire Cup title. This success reflects the commitment, hard work and teamwork shown by the entire squad throughout the season. Every player has



contributed to the team's journey, making this a genuine collective achievement and a fitting reward for a fantastic campaign.

Alumni sporting success

We would like to celebrate the recent success of some of our alumni.

Ex Head Girl Niamh has been selected to represent Ireland in the upcoming Netball World Cup qualifiers. We wish her and the rest of the Emeralds well.

Former pupil Max has signed a professional contract for football with Fylde FC – many congratulations!

