

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

18th September 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

It feels like autumn is well established now, with darker mornings, shorter days and very changeable weather. Sadly, the rain meant the whole school photo planned for Wednesday could not go ahead this week; we now need to make a new plan, but this won't be until next spring at the earliest; we'll keep you updated.

Despite the wet weather during the week, the sun was shining on Sunday, and my husband and I were delighted to visit Coppull Parish School who hosted the Coppull churches and schools' assembly bangers event. What a joy filled afternoon it was. Our own Hughes choir were there to lead the singing, and we revisited many old school favourites, including 'Shine, Jesus shine', 'Give me oil in my lamp' and 'All things bright and beautiful'. Many thanks to all who organised it, we had a fabulous time.

Worship this week has been led by Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Hooley, who focused on our school motto, 'therefore, choose'. She started by talking about how many choices we all make each day, from micro choices (what to eat, what to wear etc.) to macro choices - life altering pivots. Mrs Hooley encouraged us to consider the kind of person we want to become, reminding us of the example of Jesus. She ended by encouraging us to choose a life full of purpose and relationship with God, so that we can live a full and abundant life - wise words indeed.

Another of our Deputy Headteachers, Mr Chadwick, also focused on choices this week, as he continued delivering safeguarding assemblies to the remaining year groups. There were some important messages there, as I mentioned last week, as it is such a priority for us that everyone feels safe and happy in and out of school.

Clubs have started in earnest this week and I've been out and about at lunchtimes experiencing some of what is on offer. It has been wonderful to see so many pupils engaged in activities, particularly our new Year 7 who are attending many of these for the first time. This week I popped into Youth Alpha, history club, joined the Armstrong choir (for pupils in Year 7 and 8) for a sing-a-long and listened to the worship band practice. We want all children to know they belong here, and getting involved in wider curricular activities such as these is a critical part of fostering that sense of being part of Team St Michael's. Do take a look at the list of activities on offer [Wider Curricular Activities | St Michael's CE High School](#) and ask your child what they would like to try. Our goal is for all pupils to take part in something beyond the classroom, and we really do have something for everyone.

Yesterday, we held our Year 10 information evening, and it was lovely to see so many families represented. As I said during the event, I've been here long enough now to be recognising faces, which makes those brief chats we squeeze in before and after the official agenda even more

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lovely. We are so grateful to all of you who joined us; I hope you left feeling more informed about what the next two important upper school years have in store for your child and how we can work together to support them.

Working together in partnership is incredibly important to us, and we really value the positive relationships we have with our families. We appreciate that there may occasionally be times when you do not agree with decisions we make as a school, and we are always happy to listen to any concerns you may have. If something is worrying you, please do get in touch so that we can work together to find a way forward. We would simply ask that all communication remains respectful and considerate, both in conversations and in emails. In most cases, concerns can be resolved successfully, and a collaborative, constructive approach makes this much easier and more positive for everyone involved. Thank you, as always, for your support and understanding.

I've awarded a Gold Stamp this week, to a young man in Year 9 for their exceptional contribution during Open Evening, as well as to a young lady who had printed some incredible chain mail on a 3D printer as part of her design technology work. However, it would be remiss of me to not mention the incredibly positive feedback we have received about so many of our pupils in the last couple of weeks following our Open Evening and Morning. I was overwhelmed by the number of families who made the time to mention how impressed they had been with our young people. As I have said before, there really is something special about the confidence that our pupils display; growing in body, mind and spirit in evidence for all to see. A huge well done to every one of them.

On Wednesday, we had our first governors meeting of the year. After many years of exceptional service to St Michael's, Mr Chris Metcalfe stepped down from his position as Chair of Governors at the end of the summer. Throughout his time on the governing board, he has given so much to school, heading up a team of governors who ensure the Christian distinctiveness of St Michael's and our vision of growing in body, mind and spirit underpins all that we do. We are so grateful for his service. During the meeting, we appointed his successor and are delighted that Mrs Vicky Chatterjee will now take on the role of Chair. Mrs Chatterjee has served on the board for several years and brings a wealth of experience in education, as a headteacher herself. Mrs Chatterjee will be supported by Mr Dave Bennett and Fr Paul Robinson as Co-Vice Chairs. We are very blessed to have such a supportive and knowledgeable governing body who are actively involved in the strategic direction of the school and look forward to this next season.

We have another busy week ahead next week, with our first Spirituality Day taking place next Thursday. You should all have received information about how the day will look for you child, which is year group dependent, suffice to say there is much to look forward to, and we'll give you a full run down of events next week.

Advance notice too that school is closed to pupils on Monday 28th September for staff training.

Mrs Hooley's Worship on choice reminded me of one of my favourite worship songs,

*Refiner's fire
My heart's one desire
Is to be holy
Set apart for You, Lord
I choose to be holy
Set apart for You, my Master
Ready to do Your will*

In such busy days, let us take time to rest and remember the God who guides our path.

Enjoy the weekend.

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Important Dates

Monday 21 September

Thursday 24 September

Monday 28 September

Parent Meeting for Brussels trip 6pm

Spirituality Day

Staff training day – school closed for pupils

Core SLT - who is who?

If you are new to St Michael's, you might like to know a little more about some of our staff. So this week, I'm starting with our core Senior Leadership Team. Pictured here (left to right) are: Mr Chadwick - Deputy Headteacher (behaviour and culture), Mrs Hooley - Deputy Headteacher (personal and spiritual development), me (Mrs Rongong) - Headteacher, Mrs Gill - Finance and Operations Director, Mr Tierney - Deputy Headteacher (inclusion).

I hope this helps you put some faces to names that you read regularly.

