

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

25th September 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

The weeks are just flying by, as they always seem to at St Michael's. We've had a particularly busy few days, especially with our first Spirituality Day on Thursday. We've shared some highlights at the end of this letter, but every year group had opportunity to consider their relationship with themselves, others, the environment or God as they participated in their various activities. I joined Year 8 for part of their inclusion focused day and had great fun doing the colour run with them. We are so grateful to the many people who made this such a successful time, from our own staff to the volunteers that joined us, whether to speak about inclusion, support with team building or conducting mock interviews for Year 10; we could not have done it without you.

Worship this week was fully pupil led, as our Social Action Team, who span the range of age groups delivered an informative session on Fair Trade. They challenged us to think about where the products we buy come from and the everyday decisions we make that enable farmers and workers to receive a fair price for their goods, referencing Micah 6:8,

'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'

How important to be reminded of our responsibility to act justly. Well done to all involved, it was a great start to the day.

Year 7 had an extra assembly this week, as we brought in the Streetwise Team to deliver an assembly on road safety. For many pupils, they are travelling to school independently for the first time now that they have started at high school, so this is particularly important; please do back up these safety messages at home too and reiterate the need to be aware of surroundings and crossing roads with care.

We have much to look forward to in the coming weeks; you can check the list of events at the end of this letter. Our next Open Morning will take place on Thursday 8th October from 9.30am-12:00 noon and will be an opportunity to visit school prior to admission applications closing on 31st October for the September 2027 intake. If you would like to see us in action on a normal school day, all are welcome and there is no need to book, simply come to reception during the times mentioned above.

Since joining St Michael's, it's been a delight to visit some of the local churches in Chorley. This Sunday, my husband and I will be visiting Living Waters Church for their 11:30am service; many thanks to them for inviting us, we are so looking forward to being there.

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Finally, don't forget that school is closed to pupils on Monday, as we have a staff training day. Please remind your child to pack Tuesday's equipment when they come in next week - it's so easy to get confused!

Since we had Spirituality Day yesterday, I'll leave you this week with an image that explains how we at St Michael's understand what spirituality is. Have a restful weekend,



With kind regards,

Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Important Dates

Monday 28 September	Staff training day – school closed for pupils
Wednesday 30 September	Y11 photographs
Friday 2 October	World smile day
Thursday 8 October	Open morning 9.30am-12noon
Friday 9 October	Hello yellow – mental health day
Monday 12 October	Parents' meeting 6pm - for those going on York trip
Thursday 15 October	Y7 Tutor Consultation Evening
Friday 16 October	Berlin visit departs
Friday 16 October	End of half term – school closes at 2.40pm
Saturday 17 October	Brussels visit departs

Spirituality Day

Yesterday, the whole school enjoyed our annual Spirituality Day, a special opportunity to step away from the normal timetable and reflect on our relationships with ourselves, others, creation and God. Each year group took part in a different experience.

Year 7 visited Blackburn Cathedral, where we were incredibly proud to hear them praised by cathedral staff for their excellent conduct.



Year 8 developed their relationships with others through PE and team-building activities before throwing themselves into a fantastic Colour Run, with plenty of laughter and lots of paint!



Year 8 also had a focus on diversity, and we are very grateful to John and Jade Reynolds who came in to talk to our pupils. All our pupils were captivated by Jade's recount of how her life changed at age 12 when she took her last steps and never walked again. We talked about what God promises (and what he doesn't), how to be a good friend to someone with a disability, value and identity, courageous advocacy, and more. John shared his ADHD journey and how he got into content creation. The couple shared stories of what it's like being an inter-abled family and how our Christian values are developed in tough times.



Year 9 spent the day at Blackpool Zoo, learning more about sustainability, conservation and our responsibility to care for creation.



Year 10 focused on their futures through a Careers Day, learning about work experience and interview skills before putting these into practice in mock interviews with our wonderful volunteer visitors.



Finally, Year 11 enjoyed some precious time away from the pressures of their studies with a well-deserved day at Alton Towers. It was a fantastic day across all five year groups, giving our pupils the chance to learn, reflect, build relationships and experience something a little different together.

Sporting News

Football – Mr Lister

On Wednesday our Year 7 football team played their first ever game, away at Southlands. Despite being full of eagerness and excitement the boys started slowly and Southlands took full advantage of that and went 1-0 up but by half time the score was an even 2-2. The second half saw us start to find our feet as a team and we led for the majority (4-3). With the opposition looking unlikely to score, a first win looked good with 3 minutes left to play. That was until one of Southlands midfielders unleashed a rocket from outside the box into the top corner of our net to level it at 4-4. Determined not to walk away with anything less than three points, the boys again rallied and amazingly scored 3 goals in 3 minutes to come away 7-4 victors in a truly chaotic but enjoyable game, well done boys!

On Thursday the Year 10 football team welcomed Southlands to Astley Road. The team went 1-0 up early on but the game was soon level at 1-1. With 3 minutes to go we squandered a golden opportunity in the box, only for Southlands to score the winner. An unfortunate 2-1 loss for our boys, but still plenty more football to be played this year.

Cross country and other sporting updates – Mrs Dempster



We had over 30 children representing school at the first cross country run of the year. There was brilliant participation from Year 7 and Year 8 and we are pleased to say we had some fantastic results. Amelia in Year 7 took first place with Evie coming 2nd. The Year 7 girls' team as a whole won silver medals - a fabulous achievement. The Year 7 boys' team missed

out on a medal but having so many participate was still fantastic.



In the Year 8 and 9 combined race, Tom came 2nd for the boys, and Josie was 2nd girl with Ruby in 3rd. Overall, the Year 8 and 9 girls' team placed in silver medal position and the boys' team won gold.



In the Year 10 and 11 races, Ava claimed 2nd place for the girls.

A fabulous night of running and we look forward to seeing how well they run again in the next cross-country event at Holy Cross on the 6th of October. This race leads to selection to run for Chorley schools in Lancashire. If you would like your child to participate in this event, please ask your child to speak to Mrs Dempster to register.



Celebrations

We would like to congratulate and celebrate some of our fantastic pupils who have been chosen to represent Lancashire in cricket and football for the coming season.

For the second consecutive year, Ava in Year 9 has been selected to represent Lancashire Cricket Club. She will be playing in the girls' Under 14's County squad for the upcoming season - a fantastic achievement.

For our footballers, Year 11 Harrison, Will and Tobias will be playing in the boys' U16s Lancashire team. For the girls, we would like to congratulate Nicole in Year 9 (U14s), Fleur in Year 10 (U16s) and Maya in Year 11 (U16s). Maya also has the honour of being the captain of Lancashire U16s this year.

We are fantastically proud of all of you. To all those who trialled, well done, keep working hard to improve your skills and performance ready to try again next time.