

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

2nd October 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

A shorter week for pupils, but the usual full five days for staff, as we spent Monday in school for another of our training days. These are such valuable times as they help us to further develop our knowledge and skills and ensure we are offering our young people the very best during their time at St Michael's; we are committed to ongoing high-quality professional development and we ended the day feeling more confident in a number of areas.

Yesterday was a real highlight of my week. We gathered 28 pupils together to review our school prayer, and I was so impressed by the mature participation and engagement shown; there were some incredibly insightful thoughts. Our goal was to examine the current school prayer and to consider whether we wanted to amend or change it. After two periods of discussion and collaboration we are now ready to move to the next stage of the process – a draft version of a new prayer; I'll keep you updated on progress.



Worship this week was led by Miss Nicholson who spoke to us about St Michael and good and evil. Miss Nicholson started by asking us what we might consider good (family, friends, guinea pigs?) and what we might consider evil (the weather?) before reminding us of her childhood cartoon favourites, many of which featured battles where 'the baddies' were destroyed. One of our Spirituality Leads, Lena, then read the story of St Michael to us from the book of Revelation before Miss Nicholson encouraged us to remember the power of God and to trust Him whilst challenging us to choose a life that is good; thought provoking stuff indeed.

Year 11 have had a busy week, not only because some of them have been involved in their food and nutrition NEA (coursework in simple terms) but also because we had our Year 11 photos on Wednesday. It is occasions such as this, when we have external companies in who regularly visit other schools, that we are reminded of the impeccable behaviour of our pupils. The photographer complemented them on their attitude during the process; a huge well done, what a brilliant start they have made to the year. MFL mock speaking tests start in earnest next week, so I imagine many of you will hear French and German being practised over the weekend - bonne chance!

I hope Year 7 families are really starting to feel settled with us now. In Year 7 assembly, Mrs Baybutt spoke about how you have been with us long enough now for routines to start to be established but we are also at the point in the half term where tiredness can start to creep in. Can I remind you again what a fabulous job your children are doing. So many take the time to say good morning to me on the corridor, and they are embracing all that there is to offer here; they are such a credit to you.

After school on Thursday, we celebrated our annual staff and governor Eucharist. Rev Jon Price joined us from Brindle St James and led us wonderfully, including a message about the strength of

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our partnership working. As a Church of England School, we are blessed to have 14 foundation parish churches who were an integral start of St Michael's being founded. Now more than 60 years later, those relationships are as valued as ever, with many of our governors representing the parishes. We look forward to supporting one another more as we move through this year.

I've awarded two Gold stamps this week to a pupil in Year 8, one for his Gothic story in English and another for his effort completing extra independent work in German - well done!

Just a reminder that next Thursday is our final Open Morning before the deadline for admissions for a place in September 2027. This will run from 9.30am - 12 noon. There is no need to pre-book, simply come to reception during these times and you can see how school looks on a 'normal' day. We look forward to seeing you there.

Friday, we are inviting pupils and staff to wear something yellow (an accessory such as socks, tie, scrunchie or shoe laces) to celebrate Hello Yellow in support of mental health.

Today is World Smile Day, so I'll leave you with this blessing from Numbers,

- ²⁴ "The LORD bless you
and keep you;
²⁵ the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
²⁶ the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace."

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Important Dates

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

EVENTS

European Day of Languages

Last Friday, Mrs Stansfield took 8 of our Year 10 dual linguists to Runshaw College for a morning of language-based fun to celebrate 'European Day of Languages'. Pupils participated in a range of activities and really enjoyed the experience, especially the freebies and food on offer! To celebrate the day in school, staff wore stickers with European football teams on, kindly created by our Year 9 language mentors.



SPORT

Kurling

On Friday, four pupils took part in a kurling competition hosted here at St Michael's. The team performed exceptionally well, achieving an impressive 3rd place in a sport they had never tried before. This new type of kurling is an indoor adaptation of traditional ice curling that can be played on any smooth, flat surface. The game involves six stones and a target. Players take turns sliding their stones towards the target while attempting to knock their opponents' stones away to gain the highest score.

Throughout the competition, pupils demonstrated excellent teamwork, focus and determination as they quickly learned the rules and strategies of this new sport.

The pupils represented the school superbly, showing great sportsmanship and resilience. Their fantastic achievement of finishing 3rd is a testament to their positive attitude, willingness to learn and ability to work effectively as a team.

Football

On Tuesday the Year 9 boys' football team hosted Parklands in their second game in as many school days after securing a 1-0 win against Southlands last Friday. It was another win for the team as they scored 4 with no reply from Parklands.

On Wednesday the Year 8s played Holy Cross and secured a 2-1 win, following on from their 6-0 win last Friday against Southlands.

On Thursday the Year 7s played and won their second game of the season as they managed to score 5 against Holy Cross and, more impressively kept a clean sheet, to claim a 5-0 win. On the same night the Year 10s also hosted Holy Cross and after a tight contest that ended 1-1 it was St Michael's who prevailed 5-3 in a penalty shootout to claim the bonus point. 6 wins out of 6 this week for our football teams and the Year 8s will aim to make it for 7 from 7 this evening in their Lancashire cup opener. Well done boys and good luck to the Year 8 team.

Swimming

This week saw St Michael's enter the English School Swimming Association national competition for the first time. We took 3 teams across Years 8-10 to compete at Wigan Leisure Centre. The level of competition from across Lancashire was very high and our pupils performed excellently, with four second places in heats and two fifth places.

We now need to wait for the results from the other Lancashire heat and the Isle of Man meet to be collated and added to those from the rest of the country. We are proud of their efforts in such a tough competition.



CELEBRATIONS

Netball

Congratulations to Willow, Ruby and Sophie in Year 8 who have all been selected to represent Lancashire in netball. Sophie has also been selected to play for Manchester Thunder this year a fantastic achievement.

