

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

9th October 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are moving rapidly towards the end of our first half term, as another busy week draws to a close.

As I write this (on Thursday), the sun is shining and we have Year 9 all taking part in enrichment. I've been reflecting recently on how unique our enrichment offer is and what a contribution it makes to that growth in body, mind and spirit that we see in all our pupils. I spoke to Mr Egelnick, who was heading out to do a history trail with a group of pupils at St Laurence's church, Mr Kirkpatrick who was preparing to go to the swimming pool, as well as spotting Mrs Hooley in sports gear ready for cheerleading, and hearing of pupils learning how to ring church bells with Mr Cree. What opportunity there is for pupils to develop those skills beyond the academic; it is so worthy of celebration.

Year 11 have also remained busy this week, continuing with food and nutrition NEAs, MFL mock speaking tests, GCSE PE PEP write ups, as well as thinking about life beyond St Michael's in an assembly led by Cardinal Newman College. I'm sure it's hard to believe your children are in their final months at St Michael's, and we are so proud of the young people that they are becoming.

Mr Topping, Pupil Manager for Year 9, led our Worship this week on the theme of harvest. Starting with a quote from Psalm 24, 'The earth is the Lord's and everything it in', we then watched a short video about harvest around the world. Mr Topping reminded us of how fortunate we are and how we can take food security for granted, when others are less well off. He encouraged us to be grateful, to be good stewards, and to show compassion. One way we can do this is by contributing to our harvest appeal by bringing in tinned and non-perishable food items which will be donated to Living Waters food bank and St Laurence's wellbeing hub. The final date to bring in items will be 16th October.

On Thursday, we had the last of our Open Mornings prior to applications closing for admissions on 31st October. It was a pleasure to meet prospective parents and children and to see our Year 10 pupils in action as tour guides. We had so much lovely feedback about the school and our young people, thank you for joining us. Do remember that if you are applying for a place next September, you must submit the supplementary form as well as the Lancashire admission form.

Today is 'Hello Yellow Day' an annual UK-wide campaign run by the youth mental health charity Young Minds to raise awareness and funds for children and young people's mental health. In support of this, we invited pupils and staff to wear something yellow (an accessory, or socks for example); it has been great to have that visual reminder that, 'it's ok not to be ok'.

As I have mentioned before, we have a wealth of clubs for pupils to get involved in, and this year we have some new activities. On a Friday lunchtime, one of our longstanding governors, Dr Duggleby has recently introduced a bridge club; bridge is a game of skill played with randomly dealt cards, which makes it also a game of chance, or more exactly, a tactical game with inbuilt

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randomness, imperfect knowledge and restricted communication! I popped down at lunchtime and saw a room full of pupils enjoying learning this new skill; just brilliant!

Another new club this year is press club, run by one of our English teachers, Mr Ball. For one of their first assignments, they've have written some reports on our Spirituality Day in September; you can read them at the end of this letter!

Gold stamps this week have been awarded to pupils involved in Worship last week as well as to a young man in Year 9 for the cake he made in enrichment. It's always such a pleasure to hear about these achievements; well done to them all.

With one more week to go before the half term break, just a reminder that we have Year 7 tutor consultation evening on Thursday (please make an appointment via Synergy), I look forward to seeing you there.

Until then, enjoy the weekend, however you choose to spend it.

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Important Dates

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

SPORT

Yesterday, the under 14 girls' football team started the defence of their Lancashire Cup. We had a what we expected to be a tricky away fixture at Shuttleworth College, who had a few talented players, but after some outstanding play from this talented bunch of girls, St Michael's came away with a 9-2 victory. A fabulous start to this football season for the under 14s with 6 goals for Nicole, 2 for Izzy and 1 for Ivy. We await our opponents in the third round. Well done girls.



We have received information on our swimming success from our first entry into the north-west schools' swimming gala. The junior girls came 12th in both the medley and freestyle relays. The intermediate boys team came 10th in the freestyle relay and the junior girls team placed in bronze in both the medley and freestyle relays, which for our first attempt is absolutely brilliant. We are now waiting to discover if we will qualify for the British finals in Birmingham next month. We will keep our fingers crossed, well done again all.

We have had another successful week of boys' football with victories for two of our year groups. Year 9 secured a 3-1 win at home against Laurus Cheadle Hulme in the 2nd round of the English Schools' Cup. Arthur was the star of the show with a superb brace, while Olly added the third goal to seal the victory and ensure progression to the next round.

Year 10 produced an outstanding performance in the Chorley Cup, defeating Parklands 5-0. Jonah and Hugo both scored twice, with Flynn also getting on the scoresheet in a dominant display from start to finish. Congratulations to all players involved on two excellent results.

CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to Sophia in Year 11 who has been selected for the swim England national youth development programme. The top 150 boys and girls are chosen from across the country – what an achievement!

We are also excited to share that Isla in Year 7 and Sophie in Year 8 have been selected for Manchester Thunder netball team and Martha in Year 11 has been selected to play for Birmingham Panthers for the coming season.

Press club articles – Spirituality Day

Year 8 spirituality day focused on individuality and diversity. The pupils participated in a number of activities that allowed them to grow in body, mind and spirit such as : Goal Ball and Boccia which are both inclusive sporting games designed for the blind and those who can't walk. Students also got to listen to John and Jade Reynolds (social media content creators) who told us about what it is like to be and live with a wheelchair user and how Jade's life changed suddenly. They primarily create lighthearted, family-friendly and faith based comedy content centred around the realities of raising their two children and navigating life as a disabled couple. The most exciting activity Year 8 took part in was the colour run, which many students enjoyed and came out extremely colourful!

Jessica and Leia

On Spirituality Day Year 9 went to Blackpool Zoo on their spirituality day. The day started off and we then headed onto the coaches which were full of joy and laughter before arriving at the Zoo. When we arrived we had a lesson with some of the zoo keepers who teach at Blackpool Zoo. They learnt about jobs in a zoo and to do with wildlife and how you can do more than just being a zoo keeper. Furthermore, they got to learn about different artifacts and they were shared around for people to try on and touch. Whilst this was ongoing they talked about conservation and how we can help at home. After this talk we were able to explore the rest of the zoo. Being able to see and learn about animals and endangered species. This gave us a real appreciation for what they do and how it can help but also affect animals in the wild. Whilst learning about this we were able to see animals from orangutangs to giraffes and take pictures with them. In the end we had a great day with lots of excitement and exploration. This helped us realise the responsibility we have to make the world a great place.

Thomas

On Thursday 24th September the new Year 7's had a very exciting day at Blackburn Cathedral. Our Year 7s represented our school very well on the bus journey and our friends at the cathedral said "they look forward to our visit every year" and this year was no different. "We

are very proud of them". During our time at the cathedral we participated in a multitude of fun, educational activities. Also whilst we were there was an exhibition for a 500 year old Bible. When we got back to school we did lots of activities about Saint Michael and learning about our new friends in our tutorials. We had to figure out how to escape a fictional forest by trusting each other and then we asked one another 'would you rather' questions. We had a great day.

Holly, Elsie, Ethan and Harlow