6th November 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

After two weeks holiday, it has been great to be back in school this week, reconnecting and catching up with pupils and staff. We had two trips head off oversees as we broke up; there is information at the end of this letter if you want to read about what they got up to in more detail. I am so grateful to those who gave up their time to organise these visits and to make these opportunities possible for pupils, I am sure that all have come back having learnt more, having experienced new things and having grown in body, mind and spirit.

During the break I've been reflecting on what it means to be part of Team St Michael's. I was struck by the verse in proverbs 27:7, 'as iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another'. I am an identical twin, and I often find myself challenged to be more because of what I see my sister do. That extends to life here at school too; I see pupils who motivate one another in so many ways, staff who support and encourage each other, and families who work in partnership with us, and the results are evident, be that in character, confidence or academic outcomes. As we start a new half term, my hope is that we can continue to spur one another one and positively influence those around us.

Worship this week focused on one of our tutorial patrons - Edith Cavell. Born in 1865 in Norwich, she served as a nurse during World War 1. We learnt how she believed all patients should be treated equally, without discrimination and that true heroism comes from serving others. As we heard how she sheltered and guided soldiers to safety, we were reminded that one person can make a difference; as it says in 1 Peter 4:10-11. 'Each of you should use whatever you have received to serve others'. A thought-provoking challenge.

On Tuesday I had the privilege of having lunch with our head boy and girl and two of our deputy pupils, along with Mrs Wilk and Mrs Hooley to prepare for our upcoming school council meetings. Pupils were so insightful and articulate, and I am really looking forward to seeing them in action as they chair the sessions next week.



On Thursday morning, we had our whole year group Eucharist for Year 8. We are very grateful that Rev Ian Sarginson from Buckshaw Village Church was able to join us to lead the service; it was a positive moment of reflection for all, regardless of where we are on our faith journey. In the Trinity term, Year 7 will also have a year group Eucharist with Bishop Phiiip and Father Paul – something to look forward to!

Yesterday, 35 pupils plus staff travelled to Salford to take part in this year's Shakespeare Festival. We'll share more on this in the coming weeks, as we have scheduled a performance for Year 7 in school

in just over a week's time, suffice to say the feedback we have received is phenomenal. It is not easy to perform Shakespeare, and Shakespearian comedy is even tricker; we are beyond proud.

Gold stamps this week went to year 9 pupils, some for their fabulous German writing, others for art, as well as some for their excellent reading in English. Well done to them all.

On Sunday, we celebrate Remembrance Sunday and I will be attending the service at the war memorial in Astley Park with our head pupils; we will also be pausing to reflect in school next week with a focus in our Worship, as well as activities planned for 11th November. In preparation, pupils have been creating some wonderful displays, including the beautiful artwork below by the KS3 textile club and Mrs Wagstaff.



I'll leave you with the famous lines from the Ode to Remembrance,

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them."

With kind regards,

R. Rongong

Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Important Dates

Sunday 8 November	Remembrance Sunday Service at the cenotaph Astley Park
Wednesday 18 November	Year 11 mock exams commence
Friday 27 November	Year 11 mock exams end
Wednesday 2 December	Careers Fair
Thursday 3 December	Awards Evening – presentation of last year's Year 11 GCSE certificates
Thursday 10 December	Christmas carol service at St Laurence's Church 6.30pm – all welcome
Tuesday 15 December	Community Christmas Party 12noon-1.15pm – contact the school office to book a place
Friday 18 December	End of term

EVENTS

Science trip to Brussels

Over half term, our pupils enjoyed an unforgettable visit to Brussels, packed with exciting learning opportunities, cultural experiences and plenty of fun.



The trip began with a visit to the Atomium, Brussels' iconic landmark. We explored the unique structure and enjoyed spectacular panoramic views across the city while learning about its fascinating history and design.



Our exploration of space continued at the Planetarium, where pupils embarked on a virtual journey through the solar system and beyond, enjoying a show about "Sun, Moon and Earth".





We then visited the Natural Sciences Museum, home to Europe's largest dinosaur gallery. We were amazed by the enormous dinosaur skeletons and enjoyed discovering more about fossils, evolution and the natural world.



The first day finished with a visit to Maison Pleister Chocolate where we learned about the chocolate-making process, from cocoa bean to finished product, and had the opportunity to taste a variety of delicious chocolates.



A particular favourite was the Euro Space Centre, where children experienced what life is like for astronauts. The day was both educational and unforgettable, especially the space rotor when we experienced the G force and pressure experienced by astronauts during a rocket launch. Another form favourite was the Moonwalk simulator, which gave the sensation of lunar gravity using a specialized harness/seat combined with a virtual reality (VR) mask. Of course, the trip was not all about learning! An evening of bowling gave everyone the chance to relax, socialise and enjoy some friendly competition.



Throughout the visit, the pupils were excellent ambassadors for our school. Their enthusiasm, curiosity and behaviour were praised wherever we went. They embraced every opportunity to learn, challenge themselves and make lasting memories with their friends. It was a wonderful experience that will be remembered for many years to come.

History trip to Berlin









During October half term, pupils enjoyed a ten-day educational visit to Germany and Poland. The trip included visits to Colditz Castle, the historic city of Krakow, Auschwitz-Birkenau and the Wieliczka Salt Mines. The visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau was a particularly important and valuable part of pupils' Holocaust education, helping them to deepen their understanding of the Holocaust and reflect on the importance of remembrance and tolerance. Pupils also spent two days exploring Berlin, learning about the city's unique history, including its important role in the Cold War. Of course, there was also plenty of time for shopping too! Throughout the trip, pupils were a real credit to the school. They embraced every opportunity, taking part enthusiastically in all activities and showing maturity, respect and kindness throughout. It was wonderful to see them enjoying the experience so much, and they returned home with lasting memories and a deeper understanding of the history they had been studying.



SPORT

Inter-tutorial cricket

On the last week of the half term, the Year 7 competed in their first-ever inter-tutorial cricket competition across three action-packed lunchtimes. With mixed teams of 5 girls and 5 boys per tutorial, the talent on display was phenomenal. Huge thanks to the Year 11 Sports Council for running the knockout matches so smoothly, and congratulations to **Tubman 707** for dominating the tournament and being the undefeated champions! Well done to everybody that took part and for their fantastic effort!

Year 8 & 9 netball

A huge well done to our Year 8 and Year 9 netball teams, who competed in the District Netball Competition this Tuesday at Holy Cross High School. All of the players performed brilliantly, demonstrating fantastic skill, determination and teamwork throughout their matches against other local schools. The Year 8 B team achieved an impressive third-place finish, while the Year 8 A team were undefeated throughout the competition and crowned District Champions! What a fantastic achievement!

Our Year 9 team also played some outstanding netball, securing some excellent results, including impressive wins of 11–1 and 7–1. They narrowly missed out on first place to Holy Cross High School, finishing as worthy runners-up.

We are incredibly proud of all the girls who represented the school so brilliantly. Well done.





CELEBRATION



Well done to Oliver in Year 11 who recently represented England in the Muay Thai WTKA World Championships. Oliver travelled to Italy to compete over half term and we are incredibly proud to share that Oliver won two fights in different categories, bringing home two gold medals!

This incredible achievement means that Oliver is now a two-time WTKA world champion.



Congratulations to all our pupil leaders who were celebrated at the Chorley School Sports Partnership Awards Evening in October. The commitment pupils have shown in volunteering and supporting with sporting events across Chorley has been superb. Drew, in Year 11 received a special award for the service she has given – a fantastic achievement.



Finally, best wishes to Tommy in Year 10 who is travelling to Scotland this weekend to represent England at the Commonwealth Karate Championships in Glasgow.