

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

28th November 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

It may still be November, but there are already hints of festivity in school. This week, Mrs Armstrong, our ex-chair of governors (and long-standing friend of St Michael's) came in to make our annual Advent wreath and we are so grateful to her for her time and efforts; it really is beautiful. I am also very excited at the prospect of the Christmas tree going up on Monday; time is just flying by!



Worship this week has also been on the theme of Advent. We are very blessed to have our Christian youth worker, Simon, who arranges and oversees our worship throughout the year and this time he was leading it too. He explained how Advent is a season of hopeful, purposeful waiting, preparing for the arrival of Jesus. I loved the encouragement that when life seems uncertain, hope is on the way. He went on to talk about the significance of our newly delivered Advent wreath too, with each candle representing a different focus - hope, peace, joy and love. We learnt about the practical outworking of this season too, as Simon explained that we can respond by giving thanks or helping others. One example of this is getting involved in our Advent appeal. Simon shared the following,

As you may know in Summer 2024, we sent 5 staff and 15 pupils from St Michael's to Zambia for 2 weeks to help with projects in schools, to build relationships and forge links. Whilst there, the team found it challenging at times but were also encouraged to develop the links they made, especially with the schools. Since the team returned, we've had campaigns for a self-sustaining chicken project, to cover the cost of sending street children to rehab and supporting 5 pupils through their education at 'Crown of Life' school. Sponsoring these 5 pupils is our Advent Appeal for 2025.

Each Year group supports a pupil, so Y7 have Chabala, Y8 is Ebenezer, Y9 is Michael, Y10 is Blessing, and Y11 it's Audrey, and the aim is to raise £180 for each pupil before the end of term. This will cover their uniform, staffing, resources and food, as well as supporting the wider school community. In addition, we are asking any of our pupils who would like to, to write letters to the pupils in Zambia to continue building the links we have with them.



Astley Road, Chorley, Lancashire PR7 1RS Telephone: (01257) 264740 email: admin@saint-michaels.lancs.sch.uk



We have also had a lovely response from the CAP centre manager at St Laurence's in thanks for our food collection at Harvest,



I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to the children and families of St Michael's School, for their generous donations of food for the Christmas Blessings we are creating for families and individuals supported by the CAP debt centre. This year, we are preparing 20 Christmas Blessings, which will reach 24 adults and 21 children and young people. Please express our gratitude to the pupils for all they have done in contributing and we look forward to seeing some children again next year once we reopen following the redevelopment works, for the enrichment programme.

Year 11 have continued to work hard at their mock exams this week. Their attitude and behaviour during this period have been exceptional, and we continue to be so impressed with the way they are embracing this challenge. One of the big positives of working in schools, is the privilege of watching young people grow; arriving as primary school children, we see them leave Year 11 having really grown in, 'body, mind and spirit'. At St Michael's I see this more than ever and can't help but be incredibly proud of each and every one of them.

We love to have visitors in school and are so keen to deepen our relationships with our local and wider community, so I was delighted to welcome Mr Draper, headteacher from Brindle St James Primary School, for a whistle stop tour of St Michael's on Monday. Understanding a bit more about our local primary schools gives an insight into the start of pupils' educational journey and helps us make the transition to secondary school as smooth as possible. It's also lovely just to get to know people better! Here's to many more such opportunities in the future!

I told you about MasterChef Club last week and the prospect of Jammie Dodgers being created this week but, disappointingly, I had forgotten that I was out of school on Tuesday at a headteachers' conference, resulting in the belief that I had missed out on a tasting opportunity. However, pupils updated me on how successful they were, Mrs Faulkner took some photos too and on Thursday Mrs Smith arrived at my office with one that had been saved! Delicious!

Today, we have witnessed our inaugural St Michael's Question Time. In celebration of UK Parliament Week, Mrs Brotherton, supported by our pupils in Debate Club led a lively session at lunchtime in the Hall debating issues around the cost of living and public safety. The views of the five main political parties were each represented by a member of the Debating Team and pupils' and parents' views were also represented. The panel took questions from the audience and they responded confidently and knowledgeably about the issues. It was great to see our young people engaging in reasoned debate with such skill and enthusiasm!

This week, netball was in the spotlight for sports celebrations. Mrs Finch sent the following report,

Our Year 8 and 9 netball teams competed in the Chorley District Netball Competition this week and displayed a very impressive standard of play. Due to illness and injury, both teams had exactly seven players with no substitutions and two Year 8 girls played up in the Year 9 competition to ensure they could still enter. The girls played against Holy Cross, Parklands, Southlands, Bishop Rawstorne and Albany and were undefeated on the night. The Year 8 team conceded four goals





and Year 9 conceded only one goal across all games. Congratulations to both teams for being crowned District Champions!

In football news, Mr Lister has sent the following update:

The Year 8 boys' football team visited Ormskirk on Friday looking to advance to the 3rd round of the Lancashire cup. In very chilly conditions the performance from the team in maroon definitely brought a warmth to everyone watching; some outstanding phases of play mixed with a desire to win, saw the team coming away with a very comprehensive victory and safely into round 3.

The Y10 boys' football team played Parklands on Thursday in their penultimate Chorley cup group game. Already in a commanding position in the group, the team confirmed their progression to the final with a professional 7-0 win. A number of good strikes from outside the box mixed with some clinical finishes in the box made it another enjoyable Thursday for Year 10.

Indoor cricket has also featured this week and Mr Holden had the following to report:

On Tuesday night, the Year 9 team travelled to Parklands for the Chorley Indoor Cricket tournament. Having beaten Parklands in the semi-final, a comprehensive win against Holy Cross in the final crowned us as Chorley champions. It was a brilliant team performance which saw all the boys contribute. Special mentions to Oscar who scored 24 in the final and Jack who took four catches across the two games.



Whilst we are on the topic of sport, if any families or local businesses would be interested in sponsoring kit for one of wide range of school teams, we'd love to hear from you; drop us an email to: admin@saint-michaels.lancs.sch.uk

This week, I awarded just one Gold Stamp to a young lady in Year 7 for her fabulous RE work. A huge well done to her. I'm sure there'll be others to follow next week.

Amidst all the celebrations, can I take a moment to request again that we are considerate in parking and driving in the area directly surrounding school? A reminder, that Astley Road has a 20 mile per hour speed limit, and parents and carers should not be coming up the main drive to collect pupils at the end of the day (with a small number of exceptions). We continue to stress that cars should not be left idling whilst waiting for pick up and that we need to be respectful of those who live locally and not block driveways. We so want to build positive relationships with our community and not being mindful of these things can be a barrier to that; thank you for your support.

I began with a mention of Advent, and I'm going to finish on the same topic. On Monday, I will be embarking on an Advent adventure, running the 24 miles between our Church of England primary schools in Chorley and the surrounding villages to carry a prayer of blessing from one school to the next. Hughes choir will be joining me at some of the schools along the route, and clergy as well as staff from some of the primary schools will be accompanying me for sections of the run. Our hope is that this journey will be a celebration of our shared calling during Advent, and this run is a way to spread the Good News of Christmas across our community. I've included the route and approximate timings below and we'll be updating our progress on social media as we check in with each school along the way. You can find us here: [St Michael's Facebook](#) and [St Michael's Instagram](#)

School	Estimated arrival time	Estimated leave time
Brinscall St John's CE Primary School	8:30am	8:40am
Brindle St James' CE Primary School	8:55am	9:05am
Clayton-le-Woods CE Primary School	9:25am	9:35am
Whittle le Woods CE Primary School	9:50am	10:00am
Trinity CE/Methodist Primary School(Buckshaw)	10:20am	10:30am
Euxton CE Primary School	10:45am	10:55am
Christ Church Charnock Richard CE Primary School	11:20am	11:30am
Coppull Parish CE Primary School	11:43am	11:53am
Coppull St John's CE Primary School	12:09am	12:29am
Adlington St Paul's CE Primary School	1:10pm	1:20pm
St George's CE Primary School	1:42pm	1:52pm
All Saints' CE Primary School	2:03pm	2:13pm
St James' CE Primary School	2:31pm	2:41pm
St Peter's CE Primary School	2:49pm	2:59pm
St Laurence's CE Primary School	3:07pm	3:17pm
St Michael's CE High School	3:20pm	N/A

Enjoy the weekend, whatever you may be doing.

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Important Dates

Tuesday 2 nd December	Careers Fair in school 11.45am-5pm (parents invited after 3.25pm)
Wednesday 10 th December	Community Carol Service at St Peter's Church 6.30pm – all welcome
Tuesday 16 th December	Community Christmas Party - 12-1.15pm in school – please book