

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



19th December 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we hoped, we had some lovely winter sunshine on Saturday, the perfect backdrop for Hughes choir and staff as they headed into Chorley town centre and Morrisons to share some festive cheer. We really cannot underestimate the power of music and these voices; throughout Advent they have been such a joy for us all.



Sadly, the sunshine didn't last long, meaning we had to postpone our carols in the quad on Monday, but Tuesday was much kinder, allowing Year 10 to have their opportunity to sing. I'm sure that Miss Nicholson, Miss Schiel and Miss Cattell were extremely proud of the pupils in their tutorials for their German rendition of Stille Nacht (Silent Night). After more rain on Wednesday, we rounded up our year group carols on Thursday, with Year 7 who experienced this brilliant tradition for the first time; their enthusiasm was infectious! Thank you to all our brass players and the choir for performing so brilliantly for each year group.



Before I move onto the other events this week, I must mention some news that just missed last week's letter. Last Friday, a group of Year 7s joined pupils from other local schools for a competition organised by Chorley School Sports Partnership at Hollywood Bowl. Their effort and sportsmanship were fantastic and they were delighted to win bronze medals, with one pupil also receiving the Matty Unsworth Hot Shot Award, amazing!

Tuesday was a real highlight of the week for me, as for the first time I attended our St Michael's Community Christmas Party. It was such a joy to meet our guests; the people who make up our wider community and increasingly feel like friends and family. Pupils, who are working towards the Archbishops' Young Leaders Award, were wonderful hosts, serving food and looking after our

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visitors. Bingo was played; a quiz took place and Hughes choir led us in singing carols before guests headed home with treats of homemade scones and jam to savour later; just brilliant. Many thanks to Simon and the staff behind the scenes who worked so hard to make the event happen.



We celebrated Eucharist again on Wednesday lunchtime, this week joined by Rev Ben from St Barnabas' Church, Heapey and St Paul's Withnell. He spoke of how we don't need to save ourselves, as we have a saviour in Jesus. Such a beautiful reminder, particularly as Christmas draws near.

One of the reasons we send this letter out each week is that we want you to know all the wonderful things that go on at St Michael's that you might not necessarily hear about or see. One of these is our school library, which our librarian, Mrs Allcock looks after and runs, providing space at break and lunchtimes for pupils to pursue their love of literature, or to simply pause amidst a busy day. Mrs Allcock is supported by a fabulous team of pupil librarians, and this week they were rewarded for their hard work and dedication with a festive gathering on Tuesday lunchtime. The highlight was an amazing multimedia Christmas quiz, skilfully devised by two of our Year 11 librarians, McKenzie and Charles. Both received a Headteacher's Gold Stamp for going above and beyond. Pupil librarians develop many leadership skills as they help ensure the library sessions run smoothly, and the books are well-cared for. Mrs Allcock is particularly proud of them for their teamwork, problem-solving abilities, and caring attitude in providing a wonderful atmosphere for those seeking a quiet place to read with like-minded peers. Well done to them all.

Sporting activities have continued, even in the last days of term and Mr Holden sent through the following Year 7 cricket report:

The Year 7 Indoor Cricket team became Chorley champions this week thanks to a fantastic night of work. A win over Holy Cross in the semi-final came as a result of a brilliant batting performance which took us to the final to where we met Parklands. A dominant display with the ball in the final set up the win and brought the trophy home. Of the four indoor competitions across the year groups this year, St Michael's have won three (Year 7, 8 and 9) and were runners up in the other. Well done to all concerned.



Our community would not be the same without the incredible team of cleaners who keep our school looking so pristine. We are incredibly grateful to all of them and this week I would particularly like to mention Lorraine, who after 21 years of service is retiring. We thank all our brilliant cleaning team for looking after our school and wish Lorraine a wonderful retirement.

Our newly formed alumni also went live on Wednesday. We shared an advert (pictured here) on our social media channels, inviting all former pupils, staff, and governors to reconnect with us. If you would like to be part of this exciting opportunity to stay in touch with everything happening at school, please email alumni@saint-michaels.lancs.sch.uk. Further details will then be sent to you. We look forward to building a strong network that celebrates our shared history and future

successes. If you don't yet follow us on Instagram or Facebook, we also recommend you can also click on the QR codes on the advert to keep updated on all St Michael's events.

Thursday was another fun packed day, as in the afternoon, year groups participated in a range of festive activities. Year 7 and 8 had a brilliant time at their disco (Mr Neville demonstrated his exceptional dance moves for pupils!); Year 9 had their fancy dress fun run around school, despite the rain; Year 10 had a challenging quiz and Year 11 indulged in karaoke and bingo, after a day of sporting their Christmas jumpers! It was a day that epitomised Team St Michael's; a community growing and sharing life together; a community that I am so very grateful to have joined.



Then today, we ended our 2025 school year with our end of term services. Simon shared some staggering statistics with us; on average we consume 6000 calories on Christmas day, 47% of people have a colour scheme for Christmas, an estimated £41.6 billion will be spent and, today alone, 24 million journeys are anticipated to be made. In amongst the busyness of the festive season; the presents, food, parties and decorations, the services this morning reminded us that the real gift this Christmas is the birth of Jesus; he is God's gift to us. The choirs, readers and dancers gave us an opportunity to reflect and, to have our whole school joining together for this special worship has to be one of the highlights of my first year at St Michael's; it was so moving.

How quickly the last 12 months have gone by and what a privilege it has been. It only remains for me to thank you for all of your support and to wish you a very merry Christmas; may you know God's peace, love and care in all that you do in the coming weeks.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Rongong'.

Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Important Dates

Monday 5th January 2026
Monday 5th January 6pm
Monday 12th - Wednesday 14th January
Wednesday 14th - Friday 16th January
Thursday 15th January
Monday 19th January
Thursday 22nd January

Start of Lent Term
Parent Meeting for pupils on trip to Amsterdam
Year 9 exams
Year 8 exams
Year 11 Consultation Evening
Parent Meeting for pupils on West End Theatre Trip
Year 9 Options Evening

