

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



9th January 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,



Welcome back to the Lent term and a new calendar year. We've had a cold and frosty start, but after two weeks away, it has been great to be back with Team St Michael's and to catch up with pupils and staff.

We are incredibly proud of how pupils have started the term; walking around school, I see behaviour that is exceptional and quality learning taking place in classrooms.

Pupils have largely returned to school looking so smart too; thank you for all your support with this, it makes such a difference when we all work together.

Mr Kirkpatrick led our first worship of 2026, focussing on Epiphany; the visit of the Magi, the three kings, to the Christ Child. We looked at historical representations of the event and some thoughts on the significance of the 12 days of Christmas. Mr Kirkpatrick encouraged us to think about the wider meaning of an epiphany; that moment of realisation or revelation, just as Saul had when travelling on the road to Damascus and Jesus appeared to him. He ended with one of the most quoted verses in the Bible, John 3:16 and reminded us of the hope that this symbolises, 'for God so loved the world, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life'. Wow, what a way to start the term!

We are so privileged at St Michael's to have wonderful buildings and grounds. The site team are constantly working to maintain and enhance the learning environment for our pupils and one of the current projects, which has resumed this week, is upgrading the fire doors and surrounds and paintwork and décor along some of the corridors. Whilst we are very fortunate to receive government CIF funding, so many of the projects we undertake in school (the upgrade to the hall, the Armstrong Centre, the glasshouse) are only made possible because of your generous donations to The St Michael's Trust and their ongoing support, for which we are very grateful. If you would like to find out more about The St Michael's Trust or make a donation via JustGiving, you can do so at [The St Michael's Trust | St Michael's CE High School](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/st-michaels-ce-high-school)

It may only be the first week back, but competitive sport is back up and running at St Michael's. On Tuesday afternoon the U14 girls' football team went to Lytham High School to compete in the second round of the Lancashire Cup. Mrs Dempster sent the following report,

It was quite possibly the worst conditions to play football in I have known in 23 years teaching at St Michael's. The pitch was like undulating concrete on a hill, the weather was horrendous, barely above freezing with a swirling wind making passing the ball accurately nigh on impossible. It was not a day for our silky skills to come to the fore. However, the girls, despite being up against some much taller and stronger girls, gave their everything in tackles, shielding, last ditch blocks, saves

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and dealing with an unpredictable bounce. They were outstanding, coming away with the hardest fought victory. Whilst not being a game to write home about for skill, or moments to remember for sheer determination. our girls fully deserved their unbelievably hard-fought victory. We will face

Broughton High School at home on 28th January. Well done girls. Sorry no photo we just wanted to get into the warm on the minibus!

The sport continued on Thursday,

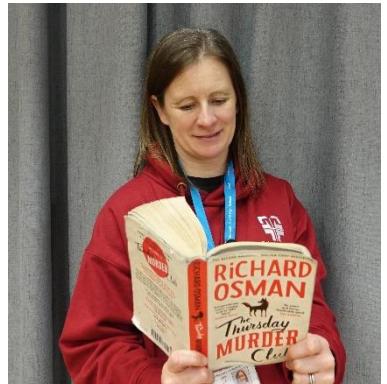
Last night the U16 girls' football team played in a 9-a-side Chorley and District tournament at Parklands. After scoring some excellent goals in the cold and the girls playing some excellent football, they just lost to Parklands in the final. For some of the girls this was their last game for St Michael's, and it has been a pleasure having them represent school so well for the last 5 years. The Year 10 girls will try again next year. Fantastic effort to come second. Well done girls.

Outside of the PE department, it's been a quieter few days in terms of activities this week, but there are hints of busier times to come. There is a fairly constant stream of props passing by my office and lots of rehearsals are taking place for Chitty Chitty Bang Bang; I am so excited to see this production in February! We will let you know as soon as tickets go on sale; if what I hear is anything to go by, I think it is going to be an incredibly popular event.

This morning, we had our first period 1 Eucharist of 2026. Rev Jon Price joined us from Brindle St James Church to lead the service, reflecting on the well-known story of the Good Samaritan. He drew a wonderful parallel with our own lives, challenging us to consider how we respond when we see someone in a difficult situation; do we step in to help, or do we walk on by? It was a thought-provoking message for sure. As always, it was lovely to see Rev Jon, and we are so grateful for his time.

Did you know that 2026 is the Year of Reading? It is a national campaign, initiated by the Department for Education in collaboration with the National Literacy Trust. Its goal is to address the decline in reading enjoyment among young people and adults, aiming to inspire a lifelong habit of reading among children, young adults and adults. With all this in mind, we thought it was a great opportunity to showcase some members of Team St Michael's, sharing what they are currently reading. We are starting this week with Mrs Dempster, Curriculum Leader for PE:

"I have just finished reading The Thursday Murder Club. I really enjoy the escapism to another world created by reading. I saw that Netflix had done a film of this book and always like to read a book before watching the film to see how the characters I have created in my mind differ to those on the big screen. I love a murder mystery, the suspense created by the author, and the twists and turns so cleverly leading you one way and then another. I particularly liked how all the characters had come from such different paths in life but used their differing life experiences to solve the murders, whilst letting the police help a little. I enjoyed it so much I have ordered the next book in the series to see what the crime solving pensioners get up to next."



Hopefully, we can make it a regular feature to share our love of reading with you; if you have a favourite book as a family you'd like to share, do drop an email to admin@saint-michaels.lancs.sch.uk

I mentioned that the coming weeks are set to be busy and next week we have exams for Year 9 and Year 8, along with Consultation Evening for Year 11 pupils. As families of Year 11 will know, we have reverted to pupils making their own appointments with staff, so for those who are joining us, remember you will need to bring your child's organiser (or a photo of the appointments page), so you know who you are seeing when.

After a chilly week this week, it looks like we may have more settled and milder weather in store next week. Until then, enjoy the weekend.

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong

Headteacher

Important Dates

Monday 12 th - Wednesday 14 th January	Year 9 exams
Wednesday 14 th - Friday 16 th January	Year 8 exams
Thursday 15 th January	Year 11 Consultation Evening in school
Monday 19 th January	Parent Meeting for pupils on West End Theatre Trip
Thursday 22 nd January	Year 9 Options Evening
Saturday 31 st January	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang rehearsals
Sunday 1 st February	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang rehearsals
Wednesday 4 th - Saturday 7 th February	Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (tickets will go on sale in the coming weeks)
Thursday 12 th February	Year 9 Consultation Evening