

# 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*



6<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

This week has been show week, and what a week it's been! The excitement of it all has been contagious with so many pupils, staff and families involved; from costumes and make-up, refreshments, supervising behind the scenes, rehearsal drop offs and pick-ups and of course the incredible performing arts team, band and talented performers. As one parent said, 'I am an avid theatre goer and didn't realise school productions could be this good!' I wholeheartedly agree!



On Tuesday morning, many of our local primary schools had a preview, as they joined us at St Michael's for a matinée performance. It was brilliant to see everyone and to watch the delight on pupils' faces; there was an almost audible gasp as the car came on stage for the first time. We are so thrilled to have welcomed them, and we are so glad that they enjoyed it.

This week's worship was led by 05 pupils and tutors and focused on another of our Tutorial Patrons- Andy Hawthorne. They began by posing the question, 'what does a life of service mean?' We then heard some of Andy's story, how he grew up in Wythenshawe, Manchester, founding the Message Trust in 1988, a Christian charity that exists to passionately share the good news of Jesus with young people and urban communities in word and action. Andy is an advocate for Christians serving in their local community and in 2011 received an OBE for services to young people. We

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watched a great video of the work he has done, including a flashback to his time in the World Wide Message Tribe - a Christian band. We were left with the question, 'can you say why you are serving?' and a reminder that there are so many ways to serve at St Michael's and to grow in body, mind and spirit. As always, a great start to the week.

I mentioned the maths challenge last week and the results are now in. Mr Neville sent the following,

*The Maths Challenge results are in, and it has been a record-breaking year for St Michael's! Of the 60 pupils in Years 9-11 who took part: 11 of them have achieved a bronze certificate for finishing in the top 50% of all participants nationally; 22 of them have attained a silver certificate (top 25% nationally); and a whopping 17 of them have earned a gold certificate for finishing in the top 8% nationally. On top of that, the 14 top scorers have qualified for a follow-on round in March. This is our best-ever return as a school for golds and follow-on rounds and pupils deserve every credit for their efforts.*

Something I really enjoy is taking the time to walk around school and to see the exceptional learning experiences that are taking place in lessons. Food is always high up my priority list, not least because the smells often tempt me in! Yesterday I witnessed some incredible gingerbread muffins being baked by Year 9 as part of the Curriculum Enrichment programme, I'm sure they must have tasted as delicious as they looked.



Year 7 have been having fun in lessons too, making Schultüten as they begin their new topic of 'schools' in their German lessons. They have learned that German children get them on their first day at primary school and have created their own fantastic versions!



It'll be no surprise to hear that we have a lot of sporting news to celebrate again this week; Mrs Dempster sent through the following,

*The Year 8 girls' football team kicked us off on Friday at the Chorley and District Tournament, hosted at Parklands. The girls were excellent as a team playing some lovely one touch football. The girls were top scorers in the competition with 9 goals, Nicole, our Captain, scoring 7 of them. After winning all their matches the girls came away as very well deserved District Champions. Well done girls!*



*On Saturday Mrs Finch, Mrs Brunsden and I had the pleasure of taking the U14 and U16 girls' netball teams to the North-West Netball Finals at Lancaster University. The level of netball on display was absolutely phenomenal. The girls gave an incredible account of themselves and both teams can now very proudly call themselves the 6<sup>th</sup>*

*best team in the whole of the North-West of England, that's approximately 6<sup>th</sup> out of 305 schools. What an achievement, they are a credit to everyone involved in their netball journey.*

*On Tuesday the Year 9 and 10 girls had their 2<sup>nd</sup> Round English Schools' Cup game, at what is becoming, for these girls, a frequent trip to a very cold and windy seaside town on the West coast. This time, a transfer deadline day trip to Fleetwood Town's training ground, Poolfoot Farm. The match lived up to its surroundings with some fantastic football from both teams. I am pleased to say St Michael's came away with a 1-0 win, and frostbite for the staff on the sidelines, it was well worth the journey. We will host Ripley St Thomas in the next round.*

*12 Year 7 and 8 Saint Michael's pupils also took part in the District Table Tennis Tournament at Southlands High School this week, where they played against other local Chorley Schools. It was an excellent evening of high standard table tennis, officiating and sportsmanship. The Year 7 boys, Year 8 boys and Year 7 and 8 combined girls' team were all crowned champions. Well done to all, you were a credit to the school.*



*The Year 10 football team played Holy Cross on Wednesday in the Chorley cup final. The boys went in full of confidence after a comprehensive 9-0 win on Friday in the Lancashire cup. Confidence was shown early as we raced into a 3-0 half time lead. However, we knew Holy Cross would rise to the challenge and in the second half they gave it their all. They clawed a goal back to make it 3-1. The boys remained calm and managed to score a fourth goal to give themselves breathing space. The final score was St Michael's 5 - 2 Holy Cross. The boys retain their Chorley Cup!*

It's brilliant to hear of the sporting success taking place in Lancashire too; thanks to those families that have been in touch,

*Rose in Year 7 took part in Lancashire County Age Group Swimming Competition qualifying as the 8<sup>th</sup> fastest 12 year old girl in 50M Breaststroke final! She is swimming in 9 races in total and swims again this weekend at the Manchester Aquatics 50M Pool. Rose swims for Leyland Barracudas and we wish her well as she competes.*

*On Saturday, 13 of our pupils represented Chorley district in the Lancashire Schools' Cross Country Championship at Witton Park in Blackburn. Having qualified in the Chorley round, pupils faced challenging competition from schools across the county. The Chorley teams did brilliantly with Year 8 & 9 and Year 10 & 11 girls coming first, Year 8 & 9 boys second, and Year 7 girls and Year 10 & 11 boys placing third. Thomas in Year 8, Ava in Year 9 and Millie in Year 10 had fantastic races and have qualified for the English Schools' Championships at Sefton Park in March where they will compete against pupils from across the country. Josephine in Year 7 has only recently started competitive running so her 7<sup>th</sup> place finish was even more remarkable!*



I awarded just one Gold Stamp this week and it was so well deserved, going to a young man in Year 9 for his excellent maths work, we are so proud of all his efforts.

You may have heard on the news about the clarification around the government's position on mobile phones in schools. I wanted to take a moment to celebrate how proud we are of pupils' conduct at St Michael's. Our policy is clear that phones are not allowed to be used or seen in school, and this is something that is seldom a problem for us. It is very rare that we need to

contact families regarding this, as our young people respect the rules around phones. We are grateful to you at home for supporting our expectations, thank you.

Next week is National Apprenticeship Week, and our pupils will be taking part in a range of activities to help them explore their future pathways. On Wednesday, Year 8 pupils will listen to an apprentice from BAE Systems and a teaching apprentice, complete the Future Skills questionnaire, hear from Runshaw College, and learn about key employability skills. Year 9 pupils will begin the week on Monday with a full day focused on careers and option choices, including talks from former pupils about their career journeys, exploring our Morrisby careers platform, and completing the Future Skills questionnaire. Just a reminder that Year 9 will also receive their reports and attend Consultation Evening next week to support their decisions about GCSE options. These activities form an important part of our school's careers education and our personal and spiritual development programme, helping pupils make informed choices about their future.

We started our staff prayer meeting on Monday by reading Psalm 40:10, 'be still and know that I am God'. With just one week to go until half term and after what has been an incredibly busy week, I do hope you find some time this weekend for rest and relaxation.

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong  
Headteacher

### **Important Dates**

Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 9 Consultation Evening
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Half term
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> - Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Amsterdam visit
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> - Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	West End Theatre trip
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Year 9 Options Form return deadline