

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



Friday 20th June 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a wonderfully sunny way to end a very busy week! I hope your children have enjoyed their 'new normal' this week and have begun to settle into their classes with their new teachers. Of course, there isn't really a 'normal' day at St Michael's, as we always have so much happening; all part of the journey, as we strive to grow in, body, mind and spirit.

Monday was my first experience of a Christian Values Enrichment (CVE) day, and what a day it was. Having never visited Blackpool Zoo before, I was excited to be able to join Year 9 on their trip. I so enjoyed getting to know pupils better and exploring the Christian value of stewardship. We had a presentation on sustainability and the impact on animals from a member of the education team, before hearing about different career opportunities at the zoo. After this, pupils then had the chance to explore. Seeing animals such as giraffes and elephants so close was a real wow moment and a reminder of the wonder of creation. I think we all came back changed and challenged.



Whilst we were discovering all things zoological, the Christian value of endurance was being honed by our pupils in new Year 10, as they embarked, in warm conditions, on their bronze practice Duke of Edinburgh expedition. Mrs Hooley and Miss Curtis explained that pupils came to school equipped with all the necessary kit, navigated a route around Healey Nab and practised pitching tents and setting up their Trangia. They are now working towards completing their route plans, ready for their real expedition in July. We know that for some, this practice alone will have been a test of resilience, but we are confident that they will rise to the challenge in July. Thank you to parents and carers for helping our young people prepare. I think we are all praying for sunshine again for the real thing!

Our new Year 11 pupils had a very different experience, as they enjoyed a taster day at Runshaw College. Many have returned buzzing with enthusiasm about the different courses available to them. This opportunity is so appreciated, as it gives pupils a glimpse of where they could be heading next, instills high aspirations, and helps them to make informed choices.

New Year 8 had a wonderful time visiting the Masjid Noorul Islam Mosque in Blackburn. It was a chance to develop an understanding of the diversity of modern British culture and religion, and to reflect on the Christian values of community, wisdom and peace. Pupils really

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



enjoyed learning more about Islam, and seeing the different areas in the mosque including the beautiful prayer hall, and how Wudu (ritual washing) is performed.

Our worship this week was led by our newly formed Eco Council and Mrs Hooley. It was such an educational and thought-provoking time as we considered the beauty of creation and our responsibility to be stewards of our environment. It was so good to be reminded of how, as a school, we are saving energy with our solar panels, and to hear of the new eco garden that is being enhanced by bird boxes and bug hotels that have been donated to us. It was brilliant to hear that we are working on a wellbeing garden and that we can join Mrs McDermott in stone decorating on Tuesday lunchtime next week to support with this. We were reminded that we can all play a part in doing more, and something as simple as bringing in a reuseable water bottle can help to significantly reduce the amount of plastic we use. It certainly made me think.

I'm not even sure where to begin to tell you about the highlight of my week - the Chorley District Athletics competition at Bolton Arena on Wednesday. Mrs Dempster has written a full report, but I am delighted to tell you that for the 25th year running, St Michael's are overall champions. I joined the athletes for the afternoon and was so impressed, not only with their sporting brilliance, but also with their incredible manners and behaviour. A huge thank you to the PE team for all they have done in the lead up to the event. Mrs Dempster has provided the following report:



On Wednesday, the annual Chorley and District Athletics (Robin Park to those with a memory of competing themselves) took place at Bolton Arena. The PE department and special guests took 112 athletes to compete across the competition on a gloriously sunny day. This annual competition allows pupils from all 6 district high schools to compete in track and field events, with over 500 children taking part on the day. After being in training since the Easter holidays the team from St Michael's headed out as prepared as we could be for what lay ahead. I am so pleased that, with brilliant effort, attitude, and many outstanding personal best performances, Team St Michael's have a lot to be proud of. All our pupils displayed exemplary behaviour throughout the day, demonstrating teamwork and camaraderie for everyone, regardless of the year group; an example of what really makes our children and this school just so wonderful.

On the day, St Michael's pupils achieved 4 new district records with Oliver in Year 8 equaling the long jump record, Kai in Year 8 setting a record in 300m, Elliot in Year 9 in the 300m and the Year 7 boys' 4 x 100m relay team. With all these wonderful performances St Michael's won every year group trophy and the overall trophy. The statistics are incredible. The girls across all years managed a top 3 finish in 77/82 events, (that's an astonishing 94% of events), whilst the boys fared even better, achieving 84/86, an even more unimaginable 98%. This is a testament to the hard work and effort of all the pupils and staff, not only those who participated on the day, but also to those who did their best to make the team but who just missed out. Please be inspired by this remarkable achievement and strive to be part of the team next year. Congratulations to every single athlete, you are simply the best!

I love the fact that we value sport so highly at St Michael's, but the performing arts are such a priority for us too, and on Thursday I joined Mr White, staff, pupils and friends of St Michael's for a wind band practice, in advance of our summer music concert next Thursday evening. I am so looking forward to taking part as well as attending! Of course, we have also now announced our next musical production for 2026 - Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. This is going to be a brilliant focus next year, but it does bring the challenge of needing some very specific props (a 'flying' car, for

example). If anyone has any contacts in industry who might be willing to sponsor us in some way, we'd really love to hear from you!

Thursday was another busy day, as in the morning I had the privilege of visiting Coppull Parish Primary School, and spending some time with headteacher Mrs Bird, before having a tour of the school and meeting some delightful pupils, some of whom will be joining us in September. We discussed how we might work more closely together in the future, and I am excited at the prospect of strengthening our relationship.

As if that weren't enough, in the afternoon we were joined by two Britain in Bloom judges who visited us to look at the work being undertaken by pupils in the allotment and quad and to discuss our plans for the new eco garden. The pupils did an amazing job of hosting our guests and showed real insight when talking to them about the projects. We look forward to hearing the feedback from the visit.



Our new Year 9 pupils had a busy afternoon on Enrichment yesterday with Mr Cree and a group of pupils litter picking in Chorley. In just a short period of time they collected a huge amount of waste; their work really highlights the importance of all of us showing stewardship and taking responsibility for our world.

Finally, in the evening we had Year 10 information evening for parents, whilst some pupils in the year group headed to Salford to watch a performance of Dear England at the Lowry theatre. It's always a delight to meet parents and carers, so thank you so much to those of you who gave up part of your sunny evening to come and learn how we can work together to support your child in these critical last two years at St Michael's.

This week there were of course, accomplishments to be celebrated and Gold Stamps to be awarded too. I have seen a young lady in Year 10 who had created a fabulous 'heaven and hell' cake, as well as two pupils who sought me out to show me a wonderful model of a dragon head/puppet and accompanying descriptive writing. Wow! It was also brilliant to get a report this week from the Karting Club and their latest event:

Last weekend we were at Llandow in South Wales and over the 2 days we had 18 drivers - all playing a part in contributing to a fantastic team result. On Saturday we picked up 11 individual race wins and 2 class wins coming home with 7 trophies. On Sunday we had a few less drivers but still came out with a great result picking up 9 individual race wins and 2 class wins over the day, coming home with 8 trophies. We are next out at Hooton in Ellesmere Port on the 28th June.



Of course, Year 11 completed their final exams this week, wearing their uniform for the final time. If you would like to donate any items to our preloved uniform event, please drop them off at reception, this will really benefit other families. The next time we see Year 11 will be at the prom, we can't wait to see them in all their finery, they so deserve this celebration!

Enjoy the weekend, it's going to be a warm one!



Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Events Next Week

Throughout the week

Throughout the week

Thursday 26 June

Friday 27 June

Worship led by Mrs Magdi – Sermon on the Mount

New Year 11 MFL mock speaking tests

Art Display 4.30pm (no ticket required) / Summer Music 6.30pm
(ticket only)

Eucharist Period 1 Rev Paul Robinson