



### Forthcoming events

#### Michaelmas 2

**Friday 21 Oct**  
Berlin, Krakow,  
Prague visit

**Thursday 10 Nov**  
Y7 Tutor Consulta-  
tion Evening

**Friday 18 Nov**  
Non Uniform Day:  
Children in Need

**Thursday 24 Nov**  
Visit to Westminster

**Friday 25 Nov**  
INSET Day

**Thursday 1 Dec**  
Awards Evening

**Fri 2—Thurs 8 Dec**  
Y11 Mock exams

**Thursday 15 Dec**  
Christmas Carol  
Service: St  
Laurence's Church

**Tuesday 20 Dec**  
Christmas  
Community Party

**Wednesday 21 Dec**  
Y11 Christmas  
jumper day  
Y7+8 Christmas  
Party

**Thursday 22 Dec**  
1pm End of term

## St Michael's Newsletter: Michaelmas 1

### *Message from the Headteacher*

Dear Parents / Carers

What a fantastic start to the term we have had!

Our Year 7 pupils are settling in well and quickly becoming part of 'Team St Michael's'. They look extremely smart in their new uniforms, are trying many of the wider-curricular enrichment activities on offer and making new friends.

#### **Learning**

Parents/carers often ask how they can support their child. The curriculum plans for every subject area are available on our website <https://www.saint-michaels.com/curriculum/curriculum-provision>

If this is not an area of the website that you are currently engaging with, please can we encourage you to do so. Our parental surveys suggest that this is an area that parents/carers would like to know more about. The information is always available on the website and we send a reminder to all parents about this when it is the consultation evening for your particular year group.

#### **St Michael's Day**

As usual, our first Christian Values Enrichment Day of the year took place on St Michael's Day. The pupils in all year groups were involved in a whole range of activities with Year 7 pupils focussing particularly on St Michael and the fight of good against evil. Worship was also based on this theme for all year groups.

#### **GCSE Success!**

Once again we are all extremely proud of our Year 11 leavers who gained outstanding GCSE results. Our Attainment 8 score of 61.8 is the highest in the school's history and our progress 8 score is 0.47 (just below the highest score the school attained in 2018). The impact of 'lost learning' during the pandemic makes these achievements even more remarkable. These results really do show just what can be achieved when pupils, staff, parents/carers work together.

Yesterday the School Performance Measures were released, and the information is available <https://www.find-school-performance-data.service.gov.uk/school/136893/st-michael-s-church-of-england-high-school/secondary>

We are looking forward to celebrating with our former Year 11 on Thursday 1 December when we are delighted to have Reverend Richard Coles as our principal guest at Awards Evening, when GCSE certificates and prizes will be distributed.

#### **Staffing**

It continues to be an honour to lead this wonderful school and I am greatly encouraged by the support I receive and the prayers of parents/carers for all that we do to enable our young people to flourish.



This term we have had further additions to 'Team St Michael's'. Mrs Wilson is our new SENCO, Miss Brownbill and Mrs Allmark have joined the English Department, Mrs Whiteley and Miss Larkin are working in new posts as Pastoral Support Leaders, Miss Baydemir is the new Pastoral Administrative Support Officer and Miss Cooper has joined us as our new librarian. We wish them every success in their posts. We wish Mrs Magdi well as she commences her maternity leave today. We are extremely blessed that Mrs Clarke and Mr Thorpe are returning to St Michael's to cover this period. Two long serving members of our administrative team have also left school after securing promotions elsewhere; we wish Mrs Tracey Booth and Ms Fiona Kelly every happiness and success in the future.

We continue to work in partnership with the Diocese and are grateful for the support of local clergy who regularly give of their time to encourage and help the young people at St Michael's. On Tuesday lunchtimes there are usually members of the clergy available for pupils to talk to about any big questions they may have, about their faith or wellbeing. Additionally, clergy, primarily from our foundation parishes, lead Eucharist services in school on a regular basis.

### **Charitable Giving**

As you are aware, St Michael's has a long history of charity work. Pupils recognise that supporting those less fortunate than ourselves is an essential aspect of our role as a Christian community. This year we are about to embark on the largest fund-raising challenge that we can recall, which will be an even greater challenge in these times of austerity. Traditionally, each year group in school has its own charity to support and we have also supported various national fund-raising events at particular times of the year. Our goal for 2022-24 is to build strong links with young people in Lusaka, Zambia, and assist with a variety of community projects.

Working alongside Mission Direct, it is hoped that a very small group of pupils and staff will have the opportunity to visit Zambia in summer 2024 to further cement what we hope will be a sustainable partnership of support. Our target is to raise at least £10,000 in order to make a real difference to the community. The pupil Social Action Team have already been working on a programme of fundraising events. They have begun making contact with companies and organisations who may be able to offer some support. We would be very grateful to hear from parents/carers who may work for companies who assist with worthwhile causes and who may consider helping with our fundraising or promoting our plans. There will be three non-uniform days held this year, one per term and a link will soon be available on the St Michael's website to be able to donate directly to our Zambia Campaign. Please contact Simon Corner our Christian Youth Worker if you would like further details or are able to offer any support.

### **Curriculum Enrichment**

The Year 9 Curriculum Enrichment programme continues in earnest with pupils taking part in a variety of activities, learning new skills and volunteering in the community. We are delighted to once again be visiting Highgrove House and have already performed songs and dances to entertain the residents. Pupils continue to assist with environmental projects at Cuerden Valley Park and send their donation of cakes to the Open Kitchen at Hollinshead St Church. Our recently extended school garden has flourished, producing a plethora of fruit and vegetables; potatoes, raspberries, strawberries, onions and beetroot, to name but a few, which staff have also transported to the Open Kitchen. We are also intending to make our second batch of St Michael's jam in the near future!

### **Duke of Edinburgh's Award**

Pupils who have signed up for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award will soon be logging into their accounts. Thank you to all parents/carers who have paid the enrolment fee and also the initial deposit for the expedition. We encourage you to start sourcing and borrowing outdoor equipment; walking boots, rucksack, sleeping bag and sleeping mat for camping in July. If anyone has any unwanted outdoor items including tents, we would be very grateful for donations.

Congratulations to the 200+ pupils in Year 10 who achieved their Bronze DofE in summer. Pupils should be receiving their certificates before Christmas and thank you for your patience as these awards are processed and verified.

### **Library and Reading**

The Armstrong Centre/ Library is a wonderful space which is open to pupils at breaktime/lunchtime and after school until 16.25 Monday to Thursday. Please do encourage your son/daughter to make use of this fantastic resource. Our new librarian and pupil librarians are really keen to promote a love of literature and the benefits

of calm and quiet reading time and time for reflection.

### **Uniform and Appearance**

Thank you for your support with our uniform, especially in ensuring that skirts are of the right length (no more than 3" from the knee) and that hair is not shaven (no shorter than a number 2 sides and back). If we have concerns about your child's uniform these will usually be communicated via School Synergy in the first instance. Should this be the case, please can we ask for your full support as we strive to ensure all pupils are complying with our uniform and appearance policy. Jada have informed us that the new skirts do have elasticated waist bands should your child be ready for a replacement. Please also remember our additional supplier Nu Uniforms [www.nuuniforms.com](http://www.nuuniforms.com), will be selling the same quality of uniform from 7 November. They are based at 82 Market Street Chorley.

### **Traffic**

Please may I ask for your cooperation in relation to the one way system we encourage parents to use outside school (i.e. travelling up Millfield Road to reach school and then using Astley Road to depart from school). Also, if I may remind you that pupils should be dropped off / picked up away from school to enable them to walk a little way and also ease congestion, this includes picking up from after school clubs, where cars are being parked in the bus lanes, which is hazardous when pupils are crossing. Please would you help to reinforce safety messages with your son / daughter as there have been several instances recently of pupils stepping out into oncoming traffic because they have been using their phones / listening to music. I am extremely grateful for your support in these matters which help to ensure the safety of all our young people.

### **Parental Engagement**

Thank you to all parents for the active role you play in Team St Michael's. It is through effective home school partnerships that our young people can be successful. Our Open Evening and Open Days were exceptionally busy, thank you to all parents who have recommended the school to others.

A reminder that if you do have any concerns or things that you wish to discuss, please do get in contact with us. In the first instance, please try to speak to your child's tutor or subject teacher. If the matter is not resolved, then please speak to the appropriate curriculum leader or pupil manager. A member of the senior leadership team is also available on Tuesday after school for drop-in clinic.

Thank you to Year 11 parents who attended our 'remote consultation evening' yesterday. Please do ensure that you complete the questionnaire survey following this evening. The school uses this information as part of its on-going self-evaluation and improvement processes. The tutor-based consultation evening for Year 7 is being held in school on Thursday 10 October.

I do encourage you to follow the school on twitter. I hope the twitter feed and website together with the contents of our Newsletter will give you a flavour of life here and an insight into the range of life enriching wider-curricular activities and events that have been taking place during this action-packed half term. We are so proud of the way in which our pupils embrace the myriad of opportunities available to them.

I am sure that if our pupils continue to approach the year in the positive way in which they have started the term they will reap the benefits of success in so many areas of school life. They are a credit to you their parents/carers and to our school.

I hope that you have a good half term break and we look forward to pupils returning on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November. Please remember that school is also closed to pupils on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November for staff training.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Jayne Jenks  
Headteacher



**Michaelmas 1  
Twitter news**

**Blood Brothers**

Pupils were treated to a meeting with a cast member following attending a performance of Blood Brothers in Blackpool.



**Y7 footballers**

Well done to the newly formed Y7 football team who are presently doing very well in the Lancashire Cup!



**October 2022**

**Cross country achievements**

Well done to team St Michael's at the cross country events this half term. Some brilliant individual performances; three gold medals, three silver and one bronze. Fantastic running!



**World Smile Day**

Spreading a little happiness with smiles all round school on World Smile Day!



**Streetwise** Y7 pupils watched the Streetwise performance

earlier this half term, learning about road safety.



**HRH Queen Elizabeth**

The whole of our school community came together for a two minute silence, to pay our respects and to commemorate the incredible service of Queen Elizabeth II. Pupils wrote their own thoughts and



prayers which are hung on our prayer tree and many signed our school Book of Condolence.

**September 2022**

for all year groups took place on the first Christian Values Enrichment Day celebrating St Michael's Day, this half term.

**Christian Values Enrichment Day: St Michael's Day—Sept 29th**

A varied programme of activities



Y7 took part in activities exploring good and evil, culminating in a fabulous fashion show.



Y8 looked at the theme of social justice through the Arts.

Y9 explored sustainability in a STEM Day.

Y10 had a day focused on Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural education, learning about extremism, immigration, British Values and looking at spirituality with a labyrinth experience.



Y11 enjoyed a well earned break from their studies enjoying Alton Towers.

**Invitation to our community Christmas Party**

On Tuesday 20 December we are inviting elderly members of our community to come to St Michael's to enjoy a Christmas party. Pupils will lead the entertainment and provide musical accompaniment as well as prepare refreshments. Anyone who would like to attend should contact the school office on 01257 264740 and ask for Mrs Blackstock.



**Appeal for a minibus driver**

We would be really grateful to hear from any parents or friends who might be able to volunteer to drive pupils in the school minibus to Preston College on either a Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon (or both).

Anyone who might be able to help us should telephone the front office and ask for Mrs Baxendale.