

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



Therefore, choose

Friday 4th July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

After another warm and sunny week, we find that we have arrived in July already. As the saying goes, 'time flies when you are having fun!' and time certainly seems to go by quickly at St Michael's. There has been so much to enjoy and celebrate again over the last few days, particularly as our new Year 7s joined us for their first full day on Wednesday. More about that later!

Worship this week was led by Mrs Yates, who shared on the topic of 'treasure in heaven' from the Sermon on the Mount. Mrs Yates began by asking us what we treasured most in life and challenged us to think about what had influenced our choice. I was so struck by the reminder that true wealth is found in the love that we share. We watched a moving clip from 'the Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse' and we ended by reflecting on how it is not what we own, but rather what we become that really matters. A beautiful way to start the day.

At the end of the day, on Tuesday, food was on the agenda at Year 8 Masterchef Club. Pupils were beaver away creating magnificent looking salad niçoise with lots of exciting looking ingredients; the perfect treat for a warm summer's evening, I'd say! Later in the week, there were more impressive food creations from Year 8, as they had made Mediterranean tarts in lessons. I'm not sure I ever saw anything that impressive when my own children were at school, well done to them all!

We had such a wonderful day on Wednesday. It was brilliant to see all the Year 6 pupils who will be joining us in September. At the start of the day, I looked across the hall at the sea of faces, showing a mixture of excitement and anxiety. I stressed to the children, that whatever they were feeling, it was more than likely that there would be others in the room, that they hadn't even met yet, who would soon become their friends for life. We encouraged them to be brave - to ask questions, to ask for help and to embrace the day. Pupils then met their tutor and tutor groups before experiencing a range of St Michael's lessons.

At the end of the day, we gathered again for worship, led by Mr Neville. He talked us through the practicalities of morning worship at school, explaining that we stand for the cross in silence, then wait for the member of staff to say, 'The Lord be with you', before replying, 'And also with you'. He then explained why we worship and referred to the passage in Deuteronomy (verse 31:6). The key message was that we want all our new Year 7 pupils to be strong and courageous as they start their next adventure. We are so looking forward to having them with us fulltime in September.

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Whilst we were busy greeting our new pupils, the geography department were on day 2 of their trips to Liverpool One with our new Year 11. The pupils collected data needed for their paper 3 exam next June, conducting questionnaires, land use surveys, pedestrian counts and environmental quality surveys. Pupils were a real credit to our school. Staff fed back that were very impressed by not only their work ethic, but also their lovely manners when speaking to members of the public. Well done!

I've been popping into the beginning of a few maths lessons this week, to award some certificates and badges to pupils who have excelled with their Sparx maths. It's brilliant to know that so many of our young people are going above and beyond with their learning.



After all the excitement of Wednesday, on Thursday, our new Year 10 GCSE art textiles pupils headed off to Preston to Cardinal Newman College where they took part in a textiles printing workshop. They had a fabulously artistic time creating their own designs. They made natural form inspired collages using paper infused with disperse dyes and these collages were then put under a heat press and printed onto fabric and t-shirts for them to take home. It sounds like a really fun day.

The celebrations continued on Thursday evening, as we headed off to Kilhey Court Hotel in Wigan for the Year 11 prom. It really was the loveliest of evenings; pupils looked absolutely stunning, and arrived in a vast array of cars, tractors and even on horseback! After a meal together, the weather was perfect for mingling on the lawn or hitting the dance floor. Having worked in several other schools, this evening really stood out for me; watching the amazing young adults that your children have become. There really is something different about the young people that leave St Michael's and I, as am sure are you, am incredibly proud of them all.



We are coming to the end of another very busy week in PE and as always, our pupils have performed brilliantly, despite the rain. On Monday, the U12 cricket team, fresh from their victory over Scarisbrick Hall in the quarter finals of the Lancashire Cup, attended Finals Day for a semi-final fixture against Manchester Grammar School. Many of the boys took it upon themselves to turn up for extra training on Saturday to be ready for what came on Monday, however despite outstanding effort, their route to the final was blocked by the eventual winners and a very good Manchester Grammar team. The boys' effort and attitude were exemplary. Having never had a boys' team reach the Lancashire finals, we have now had two teams achieve that accolade in a week. A very promising rise in cricket at St Michael's. We look forward to seeing what the next year brings for these boys.

We have hosted all 4 years of district rounders tournaments at St Michael's this week, welcoming schools from across the district. As we have come to expect of the fantastically talented children we have at St Michael's, the girls' team demonstrated their fabulous skills in batting and fielding, communicating and of course teamwork. None of the teams lost a single match throughout the competitions, which is a simply wonderful achievement. We have now been crowned district

Champions in Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10. Members of staff from other schools commented on the excellent sportsmanship and attitudes shown by our girls. Well done to all of those involved!



Not to be outdone, the boys have played in two Chorley and District Summer Football Cup Finals this week. The Year 7 team played against a spirited Southlands team and came away with a 6-3 victory on Tuesday, and on Thursday the Year 9 team played against a very strong Holy Cross team and came away with a hard-fought victory with a 5-3 win. A fantastic end of season result for these boys. We now have two more finals to look forward to next week for Year 8 and Year 10.

It's not just in school where we are celebrating, as this week we heard that Annabel in Year 7 who has been competing in the gymnastics World Championships in America placed 1st in her age group in the all-round competition at Copper Level 2. Brilliant!

At the end of a really busy week, I took time out this morning to attend Adlington St Paul's Church and was warmly welcomed by Fr Graeme and Fr Jean. It was lovely to see families attending the service before school and to learn more about the village and community of Adlington where many of our pupils come from.



Friday has ended with a number of pupils, accompanied by Mrs Hooley, attending the Myles Standish Day Picnic, hosted by Chorley St James CE Primary School. We were delighted to have been invited and join with pupils and Sir Lindsay Hoyle in the grounds of Duxbury golf course gardens. Pupils enjoyed a picnic and quiz as they witnessed the handover to the new school custodians of the garden.



We've had some more really positive news this week, as we have just heard that we have been awarded Gold in Christian Aid's Global Neighbours Award. Not only that, but we are also the first secondary school in the UK to have achieved this. The programme celebrates schools that are helping pupils learn about global poverty and the Christian responsibility to tackle it, as well as giving them the tools to play a confident part in creating a fairer world. Global Neighbours isn't just about raising money or picking up litter; it's about gaining a deeper understanding of global issues and how we can all play a part in creating a more just world. This was a real team effort involving pupils, staff, governors and members of our local and wider community, and I am so grateful to everyone who

has supported with this. Here's a quote from the report we received, that for me sums up the brilliant work that happens here:

'There are so many opportunities for active global citizenship across all year groups in the curriculum and enrichment activities. Pupils very confidently share how they have been able to challenge and confront inequalities as confident courageous advocates.'

As we move in to the weekend, I will leave you with the words that Mr Neville shared with our new pupils on Wednesday, "Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Events Next Week

Throughout the week	Worship led by Mrs Carr – Sermon on the Mount – Blessed
Wednesday 9 July	Pre-loved uniform event 3.30-4.30pm in school – all welcome
Thursday 10 July	Rock band lunchtime concert in the school hall
Friday 11 July	Social Action Team – staff karaoke in the school hall – raising money for Derian House (donations to enter)