

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

6th March 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

What a difference the sunshine makes! This week has felt so springlike, bringing with it a feeling of renewal and hope. Amidst another incredibly busy week, our spirits have been lifted; how blessed we are.

Worship this week was led by 02 tutors and staff who spoke to us about one of our tutorial patrons- Dr Barnardo. We learnt how, born in 1845, Thomas Barnardo was a 'grumpy child', but becoming a Christian in his teenage years, he started to see the world differently. After moving to London to train to become a doctor, he became aware of the dreadful conditions faced by those living in the slums and, desperate to make a difference, set up a school, offering free learning to any child who wanted to attend. Matthew 25:40 says, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' And Barnardo's calling echoed this, being rooted in compassion and a desire to make a difference. Mr Ball and pupils challenged us to consider the question, 'where can I show compassion today?' How good to be reminded of the importance of caring for one another.

Exams have continued this week, with Year 7 and Year 10 really impressing us with their attitude and effort. We've also had more food and nutrition and GCSE dance performances for year 11; it is great to see the culmination of all their hard work paying off. A huge well done to them all.

We had the second of our Lent lunchtime Eucharists on Wednesday, this time led by Revd Jean Kouacou from Adlington St Paul's. It was encouraging to see a good number of pupils choosing to attend, and Revd Jean talked to us about the passage in Matthew 17:1-9, explaining to us that Jesus wanted the disciples to know who he is. He assured us that we don't need to go up a high mountain (or Rivington Pike!) to see God, but that we can find him wherever we are and as we participate in Eucharist.

Eucharist is something that is particularly special for us at St Michael's, so much so that we want to do something a little different for our Year 7 pupils. We are really excited that next week we will be holding our first whole year group Eucharist for Year 7 with Bishop Philip and Fr Paul. All pupils in the year group will attend and this will be an inclusive, invitational event; pupils will be invited to take the bread, if they would do this usually in their own church, or if they have been confirmed, but there will also be the option to simply receive a blessing or, just like in our weekly worship, to have a time of personal reflection and stillness. We hope to then have an annual year group Eucharist for these pupils as they move through school. We'll tell you all about how it goes in next week's letter.

Thursday was such a highlight of the week, as it was World Book Day. I hope your children came home and shared the fun events that we incorporated into our usual lessons. The day was made particularly special by the enthusiasm of the staff, who arrived in an impressive array of literary

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costumes. Staff transformed into everything from classic detectives to favourite children's characters; it was a brilliant day. Mrs Allcock has sent through the following report:

We had a wonderful day celebrating reading on World Book Day. The theme this year was, 'Go All In' to encourage pupils to read about what they're in to. As a school, we wanted to encourage

pupils to rediscover some of their favourite books and authors, so we chose 8 sequels from different genres as extracts for our Masked Readers to perform. Pupils enjoyed guessing the book, author, genre and series as well as trying to work out which teacher was behind the memoji mask! Some were easier than others, due to attempts to further disguise their identities! The activity provided fun throughout the day as we showed each clip at the start of lessons.



Did you guess them all?



In the Library, pupils in Year 7 were able to enjoy selecting a World Book Day book for free, and this offer has been opened to the rest of the school today. It was a real delight to hear conversations about books and reading, and a credit to you and our local primaries that so many pupils were able to identify books, authors and genres from the short extracts they were exposed to during the day.

Amidst the excitement of all things reading, our Social Action Team also managed to pay a visit to Derian House on Thursday. Simon sent the following report,

Derian House has been chosen by the Social Action team as our school charity for 2025-26 and on Thursday morning it was a real privilege to be able to take 15 of the team to Derian House to have a tour and hear more about what they do there. Ann-Marie kindly took us round most of the site; there were a few areas that were being used, and we met several staff and one of the young people supported by them. One of our older team members is already looking to volunteer there. Here are some comments from the pupils who went:

'I found the trip an eye-opening experience. It was wonderful to see how the team there inspire joy and happiness in times of struggle.'

'I especially enjoyed meeting one of the young people supported there. It seemed like such a happy and caring place, and I am glad to have had this experience.'

If you have a child in Year 9 you will have received a letter this week outlining the arrangements for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze expedition, ahead of the two expeditions taking place in July. Excitement is already building as pupils begin organising their tent teams in preparation. They have also been briefed on the additional three months of independent activity required for their award, where they must choose a physical, skill, or voluntary challenge. Our Year 10 pupils who are enrolled on the Silver Award have similarly had letters about their upcoming expeditions, with the practice expedition scheduled for June and the qualifying expedition in the final week of the summer holidays. We are also delighted that more than 70 pupils have signed up for Silver this year, an impressive commitment to a programme that offers a real challenge but is hugely rewarding, fostering resilience, independence and endurance.

Pupils in Year 8 have today had an assembly outlining their Year 9 curriculum, including the

important decision of choosing which language, French or German, they will continue studying next year. They have been encouraged to reflect on which language they most enjoy and where they are currently achieving their strongest grades. Parents will receive a letter today explaining this. Over the next two weeks, Year 8 pupils will also receive their long reports and they will have their consultation evening, both of which will support them in making an informed choice between French and German. For those keen linguists, there is the chance to continue with both languages into Year 9, also explained in the letter.

PE have had another busy week with the following reports being sent from the department:

On Tuesday the Year 10 girls' handball team competed in the Chorley & District tournament at Bishop Rawstorne. They demonstrated outstanding skills and beat both Holy Cross 4-1 and Bishop Rawstorne 5-2. The girls have worked really hard as a squad and are looking forward to preparing for the Lancashire round at the end of the month. Congratulations on another outstanding performance!



Also on Tuesday, the U15 boys' handball team took part in the district competition which was also a qualifier for the England Schools' handball competition. The team, made up of four Year 9s and four Year 10s, stood out throughout the competition and did not lose a single game finishing first, making them Chorley Champions and more importantly sending them through to the Lancashire round of the England School Handball Competition.

On Wednesday, the Year 10 boys' football team played their quarter final of the Hospital Cup against Leyland St Mary's. They made a good start to this journey as they swept aside Leyland 10-1 and set up a semi-final with familiar opponents Bishop Rawstorne.

Mrs Rothwell from Chorley School Sports Partnership, has also sent through a report on the badminton competitions that have taken place recently:

Before half term the KS4 boys' and girls' badminton teams competed in the Lancashire badminton finals. There were some outstanding performances and very close games throughout the competition. The boys placed 3rd overall in Lancashire and the girls were crowned Lancashire Champions.

On Friday 27th February, the KS4 girls competed in the Regional Badminton Final at Markland Hill Racquets Club. The standard of competition was extremely high, but the girls were outstanding throughout. They rose to the challenge, delivered some fantastic performances, and played some of the best badminton I have ever seen from them. Their hard work and determination paid off as they secured an impressive third place finish. To place third in the Northwest is a tremendous achievement, and we couldn't be prouder of their effort and success.



Last week we reported on the fantastic trip a group of Year 9 pupils had to Westminster. It was great to hear some further feedback this week about the visit:

"We had an amazing day in London - it was fantastic to hear about the history of Westminster"

"It was nice to see people from our area care about us even though they are 200 miles away"

"The Tube at rush hour was a quirky, bustling experience!"

"I especially enjoyed meeting Sir Lindsay Hoyle - he was very enthusiastic because we were from Chorley."

Gold stamps this week have been awarded to Year 9 for their creative efforts in RE and to a young man in the same year group who baked some impressive butterfly cakes during Enrichment.

It's been a busy week but a great one. Have a restful weekend.

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Important Dates

Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 March

Friday 13 March

Thursday 19 March

Year 7 Geography trip to Chorley

Year 7 Eucharist with Bishop Phillip and Fr Paul

Year 8 Consultation Evening