

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 11th July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Although this week has brought some challenges, we are ending it, as usual, focusing on and celebrating all the wonderful things that happen here. What a comfort to know that we have a God in whom we can place our trust and who holds all things in His hands, whatever we face in life.

Our worship this week was led by Mr Kellett, who, continuing with our Sermon on the Mount series, spoke to us about forgiveness. He started by posing the questions, 'who needs your forgiveness' and 'who do you need to forgive'. Through some poignant videos and stories, he explained that forgiveness is a choice, it needs to be freely given and; although it does not change the past, it does improve the future. He concluded with the reminder that Jesus demonstrated the ultimate forgiveness, dying on the cross and giving us hope. Wow.

On Monday and Wednesday this week some of our new Year 9 pupils had an amazing opportunity to work with one of the team from Create Education, learning how to use a 3D CAD package called OnShape linked to a 3D printer. This was part of a local project run by BAE that aims to inspire young people to appreciate skills that are in short supply in the industry that will be an asset to their employees of the future. Offering meaningful encounters with employers to pupils is so important to us, as we equip them to discover who God has called them to be, and we are very grateful to BAE and Create for involving us in this project.

We had a brilliant start to the day on Tuesday as we gathered with several of our local clergy here at school to pray together, have breakfast, and discuss opportunities for collaboration and partnership working. We also had some fun too! It's events such as these that are so key to deepening our relationships and connections and I am looking forward to visiting some more churches for Sunday and midweek services as we move into the autumn term.

Did you know we have a team of pupils at St Michael's who are our Wellbeing Mentors? On Wednesday, they visited Edge Hill University to take part in a Wellbeing Champions Day with Compass Bloom. Miss Watson sent the following report:



Pupils enthusiastically engaged with a number of activities throughout the day, which included: discussing career opportunities with a variety of healthcare professionals such as child psychiatrists and NHS mental health nurses; sharing good practice with various other schools in the North West; getting creative and designing positive affirmations jars; and completing a campus tour of the university. We were also treated to a talk from keynote speaker, Shabaz Ali, who shared motivational messages regarding mental health and explored the

power of giving a voice to young people. Pupils behaved impeccably and were a credit to the school, returning with lots of ideas to promote wellbeing and mental health – and a few beautifully-designed affirmation jars. The main message of the day was to celebrate uniqueness and always choose to show compassion towards others, which aligns perfectly with our mission statement here at school.

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Something we are looking to develop in the next 12 months is alumni and how we maintain connection with those who have moved on from St Michael's. So, I was delighted this week that we had a former pupil come back to visit the languages department. This is what Mrs Nicholson had to say:

We had a former pupil in school on Wednesday to talk to our Year 11 German classes about life after GCSEs and living and studying in Germany. He is currently doing his business degree in Leipzig. He was amazing, really flying the flag for German and talking to young people about the benefits of taking a language for A Level. He also spoke to them about career opportunities that they could consider with German, explaining what a great opportunity it is to be able to learn German here at St Michael's, as most schools do not offer it now. He reminded pupils that this would make them stand out in job interviews, etc. It was a real pleasure and inspiration to listen to him talk so confidently and passionately about his experiences!



We had more visitors after school on Wednesday, as we hosted our pre-loved uniform event. I was blown away by the number of items that were donated. I love the fact that this is not only a benefit to families, but it is also a positive step in looking after the environment. It was another great opportunity to chat to families too, and to meet some more of the parents and carers who will be joining us for the first time in September. All in all, a fabulous afternoon!

By Thursday the weather was really warming up, and whilst some staff and pupils were out enjoying the sunshine at lunchtime, others were experiencing the brilliant sound and energy of our rock band, who put on a lunchtime concert in the hall. It is great that we have such a range of musical styles in school, as I've said before, there really is something for everyone. I'd been struck by how talented the rock band are at Summer Arts a couple of weeks ago and was equally impressed again yesterday!

Thursday afternoon was enrichment, as usual, for Year 9. This week, we had a group out volunteering at St Laurence's Church. I'll let you guess what they were doing there by giving you a picture clue. It's something I've always thought I'd like to try, maybe I need to try and join them next time!



I'm not quite sure how to describe what happened at lunchtime today. I'm not sure I'll see Disney films in the same light after listening to the staff karaoke! From Mr Banks and Simon giving us a rendition of Gaston, to Mr Gow and Mrs Baybutt's contribution from Tangled, we really did experience some entertainment! The best thing is that it raised money for Derian House too, which makes it so very worthwhile.



Of course there were Gold Stamps this week. Amongst others, I saw pupils who had performed fabulously in their writing about 'What Elizabeth should do about Mary Queen of Scots', as well as a delicious looking salad. These moments of recognition and celebration are so important, and pupils are always so articulate and polite when they come to see me. They really are such a credit to you as parents and carers.

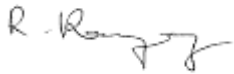
I believe that this week was the last week of competitions for the PE department, so it is wonderful to hear that we've had some great results again. Mrs Finch sent the following report:

Our talented Year 7 tennis teams finished second overall at the Year7/8 District Tennis Tournament, held at Parklands High School. The boys' and girls' teams included four pupils in each, and they played with great skill and determination. The more experienced players helped the more novice players to score and officiate their games correctly, which showed great team spirit and sportsmanship. What makes this achievement even more impressive is that several opposing schools included Year 8 players in their team, but our pupils rose to this challenge and secured a well-deserved second place. We're so proud of their fantastic effort. Well done team St Michael's!

It's hard to believe that we have less than two weeks until we break for the summer and, as you can see by the list below, we still have lots planned before then. Good luck to all our new Year 11s as they start their work experience placements, we can't wait to hear all about it when you get back and Year 10s- don't forget to pack your suncream for D of E!

Can I sign off this week by saying thank you so much for your ongoing support, which I so very much appreciate. I am so proud to be part of Team St Michael's.

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Events Next Week

Throughout the week	Worship led by Mr Tierney – Sermon on the Mount – Prayer
Throughout the week	New Year 11 work experience all week
Tuesday 15 – Friday 19 July	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze expeditions for new Year 9
Wednesday 16 July	Christian Values Enrichment Day
Thursday 17 July	Christian Values Enrichment Day