

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 18th July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a busy week we have had at school! A week of expeditions, exploration and experiences. If you follow us on social media, you'll have caught a glimpse of some of the fabulous things that have been happening, and if not, get yourself comfortable and I'll fill you in on it all now.

Worship this week was led by Mr Tierney, who spoke to us brilliantly about prayer, continuing our Sermon on the Mount series. He reminded us that communication is key to all relationships and asked us whether we thought it would be easier to talk to someone if we knew that they loved us unconditionally. He stressed that God loves us like that and is always ready to listen, then encouraged us to take the time to listen to God as well. It was great to have some practical help too, as he suggested, if we don't know what, or how to pray, we can follow the structure of the Lord's prayer. What a gift!

We haven't seen Year 11 in school this week, as they have been out experiencing the working world in their very varied work experience placements. We may not have seen many of them in person, but we have had a team of staff checking in on them all by phone, and I know that there are going to be many, many positive stories to share next week. It is so important that we give pupils opportunities such as these, as we look to prepare them for life beyond school; I am certain that they will all come back changed and having grown a little more in 'body, mind and spirit'. Well done to them all.

On Tuesday the first of our Year 10 groups headed out on their bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition. Typically, after two weeks of glorious sunshine, the rain started even before they left the school grounds. At the end of the day, I headed off to see them all at the campsite, arriving just as another torrential downpour began. Seeing the resilience shown by pupils as they battled in the conditions to get their tents up made me so proud. I was prouder still as I saw them arriving back at school, exhausted but having succeeded, on Wednesday.



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Whilst half the year group was braving the elements, the other half was out on visits, at a synagogue one day and at UCLAN on the other, discovering the university and having a taste of higher education.

With subjects such as design and psychology on offer, I hope it opened pupils' eyes to the wealth of opportunities the future holds for them.

On Thursday, the two halves of the year switched around, and the weather took a kinder turn to those donning their hiking boots. As I arrived at the campsite in the late afternoon, pupils were setting up their stoves having all successfully completed day 1. By the time you get this letter, I imagine they too will almost have made it home. They'll sleep well tonight, for sure!

Year 9 were also out of school on Wednesday and Thursday, with trips to the Thackray Museum of Medicine in Leeds with the history department and to Grasmere in the Lake District with geography. I managed to get myself onto the Grasmere trip on Thursday and we had a brilliant day. I've been on many trips with different schools before, but I have never seen pupils behave so politely in public. They were quick to say thank you to other visitors to the village and several people complimented them on their courteous behaviour as they completed a survey on tourism. There really is something different about St Michael's pupils.

Whilst Year 9 were heading north, Year 8 were travelling to the Wirral to visit the Blue Planet Aquarium, seeking inspiration prior to preparing for our end of term services next week. They too behaved incredibly well and represented the school brilliantly, just fabulous. Back in school they spent time rehearsing for the service with the performing arts team, as well as creating some wonderful sea-themed artwork!



As if that weren't enough, we have a group of Year 9 pupils at Lancaster University today for a science taster day which included a treasure hunt around the campus, a meeting with the careers panel and a snakebite science practical laboratory session – amazing!

Outside of school, there has been much to celebrate too. Ava, in Year 11 sent in a report about the karting team's successes:



Wow! What a weekend we have had in Cumbria. A very very warm weekend of racing for the final round of the Natska Championship but it finished our season in the best way. 19 drivers throughout this season all racing, going out there and representing what the St Michael's Karting Team is all about. The teamwork, support and encouragement shown by the drivers and families this weekend has been the best and just shows that having everyone together not only gets us great results in all the different rounds and a great nationals too!

Our rock band were doing great things last weekend too! Mr White, head of performing arts updated us on the 'gig',

Mr Hurley and I were delighted to become roadies for a day, supporting our rock band who were the opening act on the main stage at Adlington carnival last Saturday. With the chance to perform on an outdoor stage with professional sound and lighting, it was almost like a mini-Glastonbury,

with the crowds growing in front of them and the ferris wheel and fairground attractions in the background. The band performed brilliantly with music by Blondie, B52s and Red Hot Chilli Peppers amongst others, and were warmly received by all who came to listen. What a super experience for our young musicians.

Despite me telling you that last week was the final week of PE updates, I hadn't accounted for the pupils who were doing great things for Lancashire. Mrs Dempster has shared the following:



Last weekend, whilst many of us were enjoying (and slightly sweltering) in the glorious sunshine, some of our pupils had been chosen to represent Lancashire in the ESAA Track and Field Championships held in Birmingham. I am so very pleased and proud to say how fantastically well they all did. Millie in Year 9 came 7th in England in the 800m in the Intermediate Girls (despite being in the younger end of the category) and Willson in our outgoing Year 11 competed in the



javelin, placing 3^d in England. As we always like to keep a check on our past pupils and use them to inspire our current pupils, we would also like to congratulate Charlie who competed in the 200m coming 3^d and for being a part of the Lancashire relay team that came home as gold medalists. What fabulous achievements by them all.



Sticking with the theme of all things sport, this week we have also been informed by the Youth Sport Trust that again, due to the efforts and provision of the staff, and wonderful participation rates of our pupils, we have been awarded the Sports Mark Gold Award. The perfect end to another year of unprecedented success!

I can't believe we break up next Thursday, in less than a week's time. But before we know it, we'll be back in September and I wanted to give you some advance notice now, that at the end of the first week of school, there is a service at

St George's in Chorley - Back to School Sunday. Our Christian youth worker, Simon forwarded the following,

Taking place on 7th September 2025, St Michael's have once again been invited to take part in the Family Communion 'Back2School' Service. It is wonderful to have been invited to be part of this celebration of schools, teachers, pupils and learning. The service begins at 9.30am, and all members of St Michael's and their families are very welcome. Hughes tutorial and some readers from St Michael's will be playing a role in the service. Please do come and join us. Refreshments will be served after the service.

I'll finish with this; the roads were quite wet as I arrived in Chorley this morning, and it had clearly been raining. Then, quite suddenly, the sun burst out, bringing with it such a feeling of joy. This week has felt a bit like that, a week of hope, of celebration, and of Team St Michael's truly flourishing. It really has been brilliant. Have a great weekend.

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Events Next Week

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| Thursday 24 July | End of Term Services |
| Thursday 24 July | End of Term – school finishes at 1pm |