

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



Thursday 24th July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

And just like that, the summer holidays are here.

What a wonderful two terms we have had at St Michael's; it has gone by so quickly and I feel like I have been part of the team for years, rather than months. It has been lovely to meet so many carers, parents and friends of St Michael's at the numerous events that have taken place since my arrival, and I am very grateful to all of you for making me feel so welcome.

The last couple of days have been full of presentations and end of term services, but rewinding to the start of the week, on Monday, the RE department were doing brilliant things, as they gathered together the Year 8 and 9 entries for Spirited Arts competition. At lunchtime, I popped up to join staff as they judged the winners and was amazed by the number and quality of the submissions. Miss Poulter has sent over the following report:

Our Year 8 and 9s have had opportunity to show off their creative skills through a cross-curricular competition run by the RE department, joining hundreds of schools worldwide, participating in this year's Spirited Arts competition. We were overwhelmed by the high standard and number of entries from pupils, which included a range of art (painting, drawing, sketching), poetry, photography, dance, drama and sculpture. The effort and passion invested in each piece of work was commendable, and we applaud our pupils for their dedication and commitment to artistic personal and spiritual development.

The Spirited Arts Award is not just about competition, it encourages growth in body, mind and spirit (focusing on growing in spirit). It is about expressing yourself to delve into complex themes of spirituality and faith, and to communicate your perspective through the language of art. Every submission represented a unique interpretation and a personal reflection, each one a testament to the diverse talents within our school community.

Unfortunately, we are only allowed to submit 10 entries into the competition, however, there are many more we would like to have submitted. Below are the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners and the remainder will be notified in September, when the prizes will also be distributed.



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On Wednesday I experienced presentations for the first time. Wow! I so enjoyed taking the time to acknowledge and applaud the amazing achievements of our young people. From subject progress and attainment to sporting success, there was just so much to celebrate. I also loved listening to our pupil leaders address the audience, as I was reminded again how articulate St Michael's pupils are, and how much confidence they develop during their time with us. Of course, I'm also so grateful to Rev David Ward and Fr Paul Robinson for joining us as our guest speakers and to hand out the many awards. They both shared such encouraging messages, inspiring us to make the most of every moment, as well as reminding us that we are all valued, and have gifts and talents to share. It is so important to recognise this, regardless of whether pupils were award winners on the day. I am so thankful for Rev David and Fr Paul; they are such a blessing to our school community.



I'm not sure that sport ever stops at St Michael's! This week I heard that Jack in Year 10 qualified for the Aquatic GB Next Gen Championships (British Championships) for swimming. He raced at the championships at Ponds Forge in Sheffield last weekend in the age 14 boys 100m breaststroke. He smashed his heat and qualified for the final (top 10) and came 8th in the final, an incredible achievement. A massive well done Jack!

It may have been a busy few days, but there was still time to award a Gold Stamp to a young lady in Year 10 for her RE essay on the topic of, 'there is only one God'. I continue to be so impressed with the effort that pupils put into their work here.

Finally, this morning we have had our end of term services. What a way to end the year; a joyous celebration with a focus on our creator and our responsibility towards the environment, particularly thinking about our oceans and seas. I was overwhelmed by the drama, dance and music, as well as the phenomenal artistic props, including whales and crabs! Year 8 had prepared for the service during last week's Christian Values Enrichment days, and their hard work really paid off. We also sang one of my favourite congregational songs, My Lighthouse; a brilliant reminder that even in our darkest moments, God will show us the way. Simon shared some thought-provoking talks during the service, encouraging us that our actions can make a difference and asking us to consider how we can reduce, reuse, recycle and rethink. I loved the reflection on John 3:16, 'for God so loved the world' and the insight that the world and our environment is loved by God, as well as the people. A huge thank you to our performing arts team for all they did to prepare for this event behind the scenes, it really was a highlight of the school year for me.

Yet, before we know it, we will be preparing to come back and do it all again. Pupils return on Tuesday 2nd September. Please do ensure you keep our uniform rules in mind if purchasing new items, as well as being mindful of piercings and haircuts, so that we can start the new year as positively as possible. The link to our Uniform and Appearance Policy is [HERE](#)

There is much to look forward to next year, we want to further our partnership working, consider how we can promote St Michael's alumni and, of course ensure the very best teaching and learning takes place in our classrooms. Our vision is growing in body, mind and spirit, and I have seen such growth in pupils, staff and myself since joining Team St Michael's in January. I am really looking forward to all that the next school year brings. Sun

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Rongong'.

Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Important Dates

Thursday 21 August	GCSE Results Day – school open from
Tuesday 2 September	Start of Michaelmas Term
Thursday 4 September	Year 7 Information Evening
Sunday 7 September	Education Sunday – St George's Church
Thursday 11 September	Open Evening for prospective families 5.30-8pm
Friday 12 September	Open Morning for prospective families 9.30am-12noon