

# 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

24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

I think this is my favourite time of year - sunny days are becoming more frequent meaning that pupils can enjoy the vast space of the school field at social times, and it has also been also perfect weather for Year 11 pupils to visit the Tuk Truck for lunch. Mrs Gill sent the following:



*Having purchased a Golden Ticket, Year 11 pupils were able to sample the delights of a special Cheeky Chicken Box, freshly prepared by Mellors Tuk Truck. This was a hugely popular experience and brought a sense of enjoyment and togetherness during what is an otherwise intense and demanding period of study.*

*The atmosphere was fantastic, and it was lovely for pupils to enjoy something a little different. This special treat acknowledges the sustained effort, commitment, and resilience Year 11 pupils continue to show as they prepare for their exams.*

This busy season has already begun, with MFL speaking tests and Btec performing arts continuing this week. As always, we are so proud of how pupils have conducted themselves; well done to them all.

Worship this week was simply amazing; Mrs Faulkner introduced one of our Tutorial Patrons, Gladys Aylward, before we watched a stunning dramatised and musical performance by pupils that depicted the story of her life. We learnt that, born in 1902, Gladys was an ordinary person who believed that by trusting in God, she could do extraordinary things. Feeling called to go to China as a missionary, on arrival, she opened an inn for travellers where she shared stories of Jesus with those who passed through. By 1937, she was running an orphanage and when the region was invaded by Japanese forces, she led more than 100 children to safety over the mountains, despite being wounded and sick herself. Joshua 1:9 encourages us to 'be strong and courageous' and we were left considering where we could apply this to our own lives; what a great start to the day.

Whilst we are celebrating the incredible impact the arts can have, I was delighted to hear from Mr White, Head of Performing Arts, that we have some budding brass players in our midst. He sent the following,

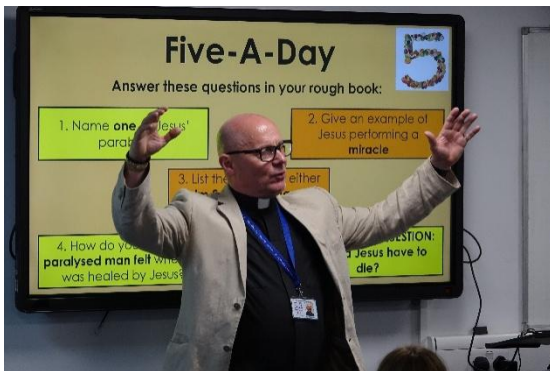
*It has been proven that playing a musical instrument offers extensive cognitive, emotional, physical, and social benefits. It provides a comprehensive "full-brain workout" that can enhance various aspects of well-being and personal development. But above all it's FUN. I was delighted to be able to offer free instrumental lessons to our Year 7 pupils this term as part of our ongoing links with Lancashire Music Service. 10 of our pupils had their first taste of playing a brass instrument this week. All of them managed to make a sound (which is the biggest challenge) and I look forward to hearing their progress over the next 10 weeks. Maybe even a cameo appearance in our Summer Arts Concert at the end of June!*

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There is so much for children to get involved in at St Michael's in music, drama and dance; do encourage them to consider trying something new!

Wednesday evening, we welcomed parents and carers to an evening of exploration of our Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) provision led by Mrs Brotherton and Mrs Hooley. The session led to thoughtful, open discussion and provided a supportive space for families to share experiences, concerns and perspectives with staff and one another. Attendees had the opportunity to learn more about the school's inclusive, Christian values-led approach, to understand how the curriculum is carefully sequenced and responsive to current issues, and to discuss shared challenges such as online safety, mobile phone use, mental health awareness and the impact of emerging technologies. The evening raised some very pertinent questions and concerns, and it was particularly powerful for parents and carers to recognise that many of these issues are widely shared. Feedback was very positive, and it was a great opportunity to engage in meaningful conversation about supporting children together. Thank you so much to all who took the time to attend.



This week, the RE department were delighted to welcome Fr Paul, Rev Sam Nicol and Rev Peter Smith who visited Year 7 to deliver engaging lessons on the question, "Why did Jesus die?" Pupils explored Christian beliefs about Jesus' crucifixion and its significance, while also hearing the clergy share personal reflections on their calling into the ministry. The visitors gave pupils a valuable opportunity to ask thoughtful questions, deepen their understanding of Christianity, and see how religious beliefs can shape people's lives and choices today. The sessions were

very well received, with pupils asking thought-provoking questions. For example, one pupil wanted to know why God allowed sin if he knew it would have to be paid for by Jesus? We are so grateful to our visitors for giving their time and insight, which will hugely assist our pupils in writing their next RE essays.

We welcomed clergy again on Friday, as Rev Neil Kelley joined us to lead a Eucharist. With a reading from Luke 9:23-26, we were reminded that the Christian life will not always be easy, before hearing about St George, who 'did the right thing' by refusing to renounce his faith. Many thanks to Rev Neil for giving up his time.



Gold stamps have been awarded this week for some fantastic entries in the science Easter egg competition (Sir Isaac Newton, Albert Eggstein, Eggwin Hubble and Marie Curie). A number of Year 7 pupils have also received gold stamps for their fantastic short reports that they received before Easter and also further RE make and bakes. As well



as Year 7 and 8, I saw a wonderful necklace

crafted, as well as some really impressive piped biscuits, both from Year 10. After a quieter week last week, the sporting events are back in full flow this week. Mrs Dempster shared the following,

*The U14s Quarter Final of the Lancashire Schools' Cup took place on an immaculate field in glorious sunshine on Tuesday afternoon. As always seems to be the case with this team, they played in unbelievably windy conditions that they struggled to come to terms with in the opening few minutes going 1-0 down. Once they settled, the girls played some fabulous football against a very technically gifted opposition, pulling level after 10 minutes. From thereon, the girls really took the game to the opposition and were 4-1 up at half time. In a very well fought second half with some outstanding corners putting their defence under so much pressure, the girls ran out with a 7-1 win. A fabulous result! They now face a very difficult semi-final against Hodgson.*



And this week it wasn't just pupils who were enjoying some sport! Last Sunday, Mr O'Reilly and I both took part in the Manchester marathon (although Mr O'Reilly was a lot quicker than me!); it was a fabulous day and so good to recognise the benefits of being active on mental health and wellbeing!

This weekend we wish good luck to Rose in Year 7 as she swims in the Regional Summer Championships at the Manchester Aquatics Centre.

As the sun looks set to continue shining, I wish you all a wonderful weekend.

With kind regards,

Mrs Rachel Rongong  
Headteacher

### **Important Dates**

Sunday 26 April

Wednesday 29 April

Wednesday 29 April

Thursday 30 April

Monday 4 May

Wednesday 4 and Thursday 5 May

Thursday 14 May

Hughes and Armstrong Choirs singing at St Barnabas Church, Heapey 4pm

Alumni Event 1-2.45pm

Junior Maths Challenge Year 7/8

Year 10 Consultation Evening 5-7pm

Bank holiday – school closed

Year 6 Introduction Evenings

Bronze (6.30pm) and silver (7.45pm) DofE parent meetings