

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



1st May 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

Another busy week has gone by bathed in sunshine and activities galore; as always, I am reminded that it is such a blessing to be part of Team St Michael's.

On Sunday, it was an absolute delight to be able to visit St Barnabus Church in Heapey for their Assembly Bangers service. I think it's fair to say, we all sang our hearts out! From, 'Shine Jesus Shine' to 'If I were a Butterfly', we covered most of our primary school favourites. Thanks so much to Rev Ben for inviting St Michael's to be a part of the afternoon; our choir thoroughly enjoyed singing and leading prayers. We even had time for a quiz led by Rev Ben and to witness Bishop Philip being questioned by youngsters on what he does in his role as Bishop of Blackburn; an excellent time was had by all.



GCSE exams have continued for Year 11 this week, with Btec ICT and performing arts exams, as well as MFL speaking tests taking place - pupils remain exemplary in attitude and I've come across several young people practising French and German at break and lunch supported by friends - wie fantastisch!

Worship this week was led by Mr Banks, one of our RE teachers, who spoke to us about our Christian value of trust. After asking us to consider why trust matters, he shared the analogy of trust being the foundation of a building, explaining that when it is strong, we feel confident and supported. Reminding us of Matthew 14:22-23, when Peter trusted Jesus and walked on water, he highlighted that when Peter saw the wind, he was overcome by fear and sank; trust can be hard sometimes! As pupils performed a dance, we were asked to reflect on what it means to trust in God. It was great to remember that everything in life may not be perfect, but we do not face challenges alone; Psalm 56:3- 'When I am afraid, I put my trust in you'.

Wednesday saw the first of our newly launched alumni meetings, and what an afternoon it was. Mrs Hooley sent the following,

On Wednesday afternoon, we were delighted to host our inaugural St Michael's Alumni event, welcoming back former pupils and staff for an afternoon of conversation, memories and re-connection. More than 30 guests joined us, enjoying a relaxed atmosphere with sandwiches, refreshments and plenty of time to chat and reminisce. The school was soon filled with stories from across the decades, as guests walked around the site, sharing memories of classrooms, lessons and moments that shaped their time at St Michael's.

Our current pupil leaders were especially captivated by the tales from the past, gaining a fascinating insight into how school life has evolved and how much has remained at its heart. Guests were

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equally pleased to see the many changes and improvements to the buildings and premises, commenting positively on how the school has grown while maintaining its strong sense of identity.



The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, with many expressing how much they valued the opportunity to re-connect and how much they are looking forward to future alumni events. We are proud to begin this new chapter in strengthening our alumni community. Anyone wishing to join the St Michael's Alumni or to register their interest in future events is warmly invited to contact us by emailing:

alumni@saint-michaels.lancs.sch.uk

We look forward to welcoming many more former pupils and staff back to St Michael's in the future.

Wednesday was one of Mr Neville's favourite days of the year in school, as once again it was Junior Mathematical Challenge and another opportunity to sport an eye-catching maths themed bow tie! We are delighted that 60 Year 7 and 8 pupils took the multiple choice challenge which encourages reasoning, precision of thought and fluency. Mr Neville reports that it really was a challenging paper this year; we eagerly await the results in the coming weeks.

Yesterday, we had our last consultation evening of the year, this time for families of Year 10, and we had a tremendous turnout - 96%- wow! I believe it was the first 'in-person' event of this kind for these pupils, and I hope everyone found it as beneficial as I did. The importance of getting to know one another better and building relationship cannot be overstated; it is when we work together that our children will truly flourish.

Gold Stamps this week went to a young man in Year 7 for his brilliant improvisation and oracy skills in English. He demonstrated a very engaging rendition of Shakespeare in my office; a huge well done. More Gold Stamps went to Year 9 pupils for their fantastic work in German.

Of course, we have sporting news too. Mrs Dempster sent the following,

The U14 girls' team played their Lancashire Cup semi-final this week against Hodgson from Blackpool. Having already beaten Hodgson in the U15s English School Cup earlier in the season we knew they would be a strong team looking to win. The girls were outstanding throughout the game, going 4 up by half time, with our keeper only having touched the ball a handful of times. We were able, because of this, in the second half to rotate the team and give all girls a chance to play and try new combinations. A brilliant brace from Izzy and goals from Nicole, Abi and Natalia saw us comfortably through to the final as 5-0 winners. We will defend our Lancashire Champions title from last year against either Lostock Hall or Balshaws on Wednesday 20th May 5pm kick off at Darwen Football Club. Fingers crossed for another fantastic result then. Fantastic effort girls!



On Thursday we took the U15s boys' and girls' handball teams and the U13s boys' handball team to Greenbank Sports Academy, Liverpool to represent Lancashire in the North-West Regional Finals. What an amazing opportunity for us to showcase not only our talent, but our hard work. With some very close and tough games, we are so proud of all three teams as they did a great job in demonstrating resilience, teamwork and skill on the court. The U13

boys came 3rd and the U15 girls lost out on going to Nationals by 1 goal (based on goal difference) so they also came 3rd. An amazing result for the U15 boys who came 2nd and are now going to Nottingham for the National Finals in June. Congratulations to all of the squads and we look forward to seeing the U15 boys in the final round of the competition! Well done!



And staff continued to join in the fun this week! We are so proud of Miss O'Malley, who completed the London Marathon last weekend, raising valuable funds for a charity close to her heart too; just fantastic!

Next week is another exciting week as we look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 pupils and families to school for Introduction Evenings on Wednesday and Thursday. As we start our journey together, we look forward to getting to know everyone better and to seeing these children flourish and embrace all St Michael's has to offer.

I'll finish with the words of one of those assembly bangers; let us continue to work together in all that we do as a school,

'Bind us together, Lord
Bind us together
With cords that cannot be broken
Bind us together, Lord
Bind us together
Bind us together with Love'

With kind regards,

Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Important Dates

Monday 4 May
Wednesday 4 and Thursday 5 May
Thursday 14 May

Bank holiday – school closed
Year 6 Introduction Evenings
Bronze (6.30pm) and silver (7.45pm) DofE parent meeting