

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

8th May 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

There might only have 4 days in school this week, but it feels like we've packed in 5 days' worth of activities and learning.

After the bank holiday, we started on Tuesday with another of our clergy breakfasts. These are such important events for us, as we take the time to gather, pray and eat together. This time, our guests joined our Worship and spent time reflecting on what they had seen and heard, as well as offering feedback. We are so grateful to all who came and are already looking forward to the next one in September.

Where do I begin in describing Worship this week? Mrs Hooley, Deputy Headteacher, always manages to surprise us, and this occasion was no exception. I joined Year 11 this time, since we weren't in school on Monday, and it was particularly poignant, as it was the last St Michael's Worship for the year group. Mrs Hooley started by asking us if we have a favourite animal, before sharing about her recent trip to Costa Rica where she went on a sloth hunt! Sloths, of course, are renowned for being lazy creatures but she explained how they are actually adaptable, resilient and efficient. We were reminded that in James 1:2-4, we read,

'Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.'

It was great to hear from Head Girl, Eleanor and Spirituality Lead, Lucy about times they had needed to demonstrate that perseverance in their own lives - Eleanor in the sport of cyclocross and Lucy when completing her Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition last year. As Eleanor said, "one set back doesn't define us," and Mrs Hooley encouraged us to turn to God amidst the storm, knowing that we will find strength. Do ask your child about the phenomenal tap dancers who performed too; what a morning!

On Tuesday afternoon 18 of our Year 8 pupils visited St Laurence's Primary School to complete the community project element of the Archbishops' Young Leaders Award. Our Christian Youth Worker, Simon sent the following report,

This is the final challenge of a year looking at what makes a good leader and getting involved in a variety of projects in and out of school to use the skills they have been developing. The group ran a carousel of activities for the Year 2 class, including cake decorating, football skills, dance and even building a Da Vinci bridge. The primary class loved the variety, were enthusiastic to have a go at everything and also really enjoyed chatting with our pupils. The group were patient, supportive and worked well to include everyone. All that remains is for the group to fill in their final booklets and they will all have successfully completed the course. Well done!

On Wednesday afternoon 6 pupils competed in the Boccia Lancashire County finals in Blackpool and Miss Davies sent through the following:

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Boccia is a precision ball sport. A player propels a boccia ball towards a target jack ball, testing a player's muscle control and accuracy. Schools from across the county came together to compete. The atmosphere was intense and very competitive. The sportsmanship in the team was highly commendable showing real St Michael's team spirit, congratulating all competitors. In the breaks the pupils did not rest, they spent their time learning sign language from Mrs Taberd and talking tactics for the next game. The team came fourth overall; a fantastic achievement and a brilliant day was had by all.

On Wednesday and Thursday evening we were delighted to welcome the children and families who will be joining us in September to St Michael's. The Introduction Evenings are such a joy as we see our current Year 7 Bridge Buddies bursting with enthusiasm to welcome the Year 6 children to school. Our newly appointed senior pupils were fantastic ambassadors as they chatted to families, presented and supported staff in the classrooms. We really look forward to Year 6 children joining us again later in the term for the taster day on Thursday 2nd July.

We are very grateful to our uniform suppliers, JADA and NU Uniform for attending on both Introduction Evenings, providing another opportunity for families to see the new PE kit on display. Just to remind you that the updated PE kit is compulsory for the new Year 7 children in September and optional for all other year groups. Thank you also to Mr Croskery from the St Michael's Trust for talking to families about the incredible projects the Trust has supported within school which are only possible due to your generous donations. If you would like to make a donation to the Trust, you can do so via this [JustGiving link](#).

As I have mentioned on numerous occasions, there really is so much to get involved with at St Michael's. This week, we are highlighting crochet club who have made fantastic progress this year, with pupils showing real commitment and growing confidence. Miss Williams said,



It has been a highlight of the week to see everyone enjoying the sessions and supporting one another. Complete beginners have quickly picked up the basics, learning key stitches and techniques, while more experienced crocheters have taken on increasingly complex patterns and continued to refine their work. Pupils have created a wide range of items, including baby blankets, octopuses, granny squares and dolls, and take great pride in their achievements. Overall, it has been very rewarding to see both their ability and enthusiasm develop over time.

Of course, Year 11 have continued with GCSE's this week with German taking place on Thursday. The frequency starts to increase now, and we continue to be so impressed by them as they navigate these intense weeks in May and June, demonstrating maturity and real resilience. Our exams team are working tirelessly to ensure that pupils are supported during this time. Meanwhile our PE department are hoping for dry weather whilst the sports hall is otherwise occupied!

The PE department has had another busy week and Mr Lister has sent through the following report,

Last Friday our U13s cricket team travelled to Egerton cricket club to face Turton in their first round game of the Lancashire Cup. We won the toss and put the home side into bat. A great spell from Nathaniel saw us pick up 4 early wickets which set the tone for the game. With all players getting a bowl including the 4 Year 7s making their debut for St Michael's, we impressed with the bowl giving ourselves a respectable target of 94 to chase for the win. Max and Aaron opened the batting and got off to a great start with Aaron retiring on 31 not out. This put us in a

great position to chase our target and that's exactly what the boys did with 3 overs to spare and 8 wickets in hand, a great start for the U13s.

On Wednesday the Year 8 boys' football team travelled to St Bede's Ormskirk in the semi-final of the Lancashire Cup. In what was an outstanding advert for football, the game ended 5-5 with both teams spending time in front and behind in the game. It was then straight to penalties where unfortunately we missed two and therefore St Bede's progressed into the final. A huge well done to St Bede's and good luck in the final. A massive well done to our team who have been brilliant all season and will be sure to bounce back next year!

On Thursday our Year 10 football team played their Lancashire Cup semi-final at home, hosting St Christopher's; a team we previously met in the semi-final in Year 8; we knew it was going to be difficult game. Being 1-0 down after a minute certainly did not help our cause but it did give the boys the wake-up call they required and we found ourselves 2-1 up just 10 minutes later. It was an intense game with both teams constantly trying to attack and at half time we were level at 2-2. The second half followed the same frantic pattern, but we saw ourselves go 3-2 up following a great header from Will after a fantastic cross from Isaac. A tense last 10 minutes followed where the boys defended with everything they had but St Christopher's managed to find an equaliser. This took the tie straight to penalties. Oscar, our fantastic goalkeeper, saved 2 penalties in the shootout, seeing us progress into the final at Darwen FC on 20th May at 7pm. Well done boys!



Sporting achievement continues outside of school. Eva in Year 9 recently competed in the cheerleading All Star World Championships in Florida with her team Capitol from Mystique Cheer and Dance, *The competition takes place over a number of days and after an outstanding performance the team made it through to the finals where they received an incredible 18th place out of 93 teams. They also hit zero on both days (which means no errors were made). This is such a huge accomplishment, especially as their initial goal was to simply reach the finals.*

Congratulations this week also go to the pupils who took part in the Junior Mathematical Challenge. Mr Neville was delighted to announce that as well as participation certificates, 17 pupils were awarded bronze and 14 silver. A big well done to Benjamin in Year 8 who was awarded gold – a fantastic achievement!

Gold stamps this week have gone to pupils in Year 10 for their excellent reports, as well as a young man in Year 10 for his delicious looking fishcakes!

In what has been a very busy week, I am reminded that we are so blessed to be part of such a vibrant community where pupils, staff and all those involved with St Michael's, really do have the opportunity to experience 'life in all its fulness'. Have a restful weekend.

With kind regards,

Handwritten signature of Mrs Rachel Rongong.

Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Important Dates

Thursday 14 May

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

Monday 18 May

HPV vaccinations

Wednesday 20 May

Sports Heats Day

Friday 22 May

Year 11 Leavers' Service 11.30am

Monday 25 – Friday 29 May

Half term holiday