

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



15th May 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

This week, we've seen the GCSE exams begin in earnest. Although many pupils have already faced speaking tests, performances and practical exams, the whole year group gathered on Monday to tackle English literature, swiftly followed by RE, geography, maths, German and history as the week progressed. It goes without saying that the attitude displayed by all our young people has been exceptional. As this period intensifies, they remain in our thoughts and prayers; we are so proud of them all.

Worship this week was a little bit different as Mrs Palfrey, Head of RE led us with a focus on Christian Aid. She started by asking us to consider what treating someone fairly looked like, before reminding us that there are those in the world who have no home or food. We were encouraged to be proactive and to find out what is happening in the world and to remember that courageous advocacy means seeing injustice, then taking action to do something about it. This week is Christian Aid week, and this year the focus is 'urban poverty'. We watched a short clip of a lady in Nairobi who is now self-sufficient, having been educated on how to grow food in small spaces. The Worship concluded with a time to visit stations manned by our new Year 10 pupil leadership team, where there were opportunities to reflect on ways to make a difference. Do ask your child which station they visited and what they learnt.

Wednesday saw another of our midweek Eucharists, this time led by Revd Danny Abraham, who has been spending a day a week in school this half term. Our reading was from Luke 24:44-52 and we learnt about Ascension Day - the time when we remember Jesus' bodily ascent into heaven and the significance of this moment. I was so impressed by the level of respect shown by pupils during the service, and it was a lovely way to start the day. Many thanks to Revd Danny for supporting us with this, it was much appreciated.

RE must be one of the busiest departments in school, there is always so much happening, and they regularly invite a wealth of visitors into lessons to broaden pupils' perspectives and to help our community to see the world through the eyes of others. Mrs Ferguson sent through the following information about two events that took place this week,

We were delighted to welcome Gillian Cahill from Runshaw College into our Year 10 RE lessons to deliver an engaging careers-focused session on the important topic of personal statements. Pupils benefited greatly from expert guidance on how to articulate their skills, interests and ambitions effectively, an essential step as they begin to consider post-16 pathways. The session encouraged thoughtful reflection and provided practical advice to help pupils stand out in future applications. We are grateful to Runshaw College for supporting our careers education programme and inspiring our pupils to think ahead with confidence.

This week, our Year 10 pupils have also benefited from an engaging RE session focused on Fairtrade and the ethical dimensions of consumer choice. Through thoughtful discussion, pupils explored how purchasing Fairtrade products can support farmers and workers globally, addressing issues such as inequality, justice, and exploitation.

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This learning directly supports the GCSE RE curriculum on Human Rights and Social Justice, encouraging pupils to consider how everyday decisions can uphold dignity and fairness for others. By



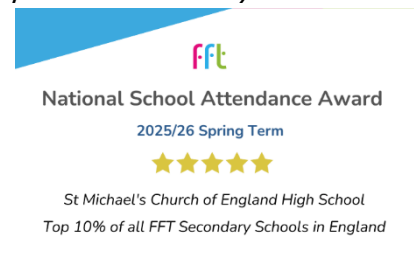
reflecting on past injustices and current global challenges, pupils were inspired to recognise their own responsibility in shaping a more just world. The session emphasised that informed, compassionate choices today can contribute to a better future for all.

But it's not just the RE department who are doing fabulous things. On a walk around school on Thursday, I popped into Mrs Freer's Year 10 DT lesson. I was amazed at the fabulous key rings and pendants that pupils were creating. So much effort had gone into crafting and polishing these items; they really were stunning. And sticking with the practical subjects, food and nutrition pupils were also learning new skills on Thursday, as they attempted to joint a chicken for the first time; I'm not sure I could have managed it as well as they did; well done every one!

Thursday evening saw our parents' meeting for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, led by Mrs Hooley and Miss Curtis. They sent over the following,

It was a pleasure to welcome Year 9 and 10 parents and pupils to our recent Duke of Edinburgh evening, held in preparation for the upcoming Bronze and Silver expeditions. The evening offered a valuable opportunity to share important information and support pupils as they get ready for the challenges ahead. We are very grateful to parents for their continued encouragement and support. As training continues, we encourage all participants to spend time outdoors building endurance through walking, getting used to carrying their equipment, and practising cooking their 'substantial' meals - essential skills that will help ensure a successful and enjoyable expedition experience. Any parents who could not make the meeting - there is another opportunity to come and listen to key information for the Bronze expedition (Year 9) at 5pm on Wednesday next week in the school hall.

We are so proud of our attendance at St Michael's, which is always significantly above the national average. This week we learnt that we had been recognised with an Attendance Award for being in the top 10% of schools in the country for the spring term. Many thanks to parents and carers for contributing to this, so much is down to your efforts and our working together and we are so grateful for your support.



Gold stamps this week went to pupils in year 8 - a group of girls for their drama piece based on a shipwreck, another young lady for her above and beyond effort in ICT and finally to a pupil for their skills in the food and nutrition lesson mentioned earlier. Well done to them all.

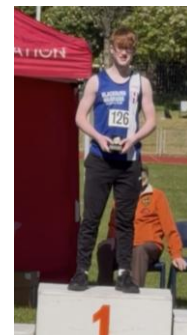
It's been a while since we updated you on the St Michael's kart team, so it was lovely that Ava in Year 11 sent over the following news,

We had a great weekend up at Rowrah (Lake District) in April, with a total of 17 drivers and their families. Some mixed weather on Saturday but Sunday was lovely. Throughout the weekend we collected 10 trophies. Harry, Class 11 got his first overall round win. Luke, Class 15 got his first heat win since moving up to the highest class. And Nieve, our newest and youngest driver,

received Novice Of the Day. And on Saturday evening we had the corporate event where roles were reversed and some of the parents took part in a race. We had three St Michael's teams, and one went on to win, with the others placing high. We look forward to Llandow, South Wales on the 16/17th May.

We wish them well for this weekend and look forward to hearing how they get on!

There are lots of accomplishments to celebrate outside of school too! Billy in Year 8 competed in the Lancashire athletic championships last Saturday and Sunday. He won both the 100m and 200m also achieving a new PB in the 100m, making him the sprint double U14 Lancashire champion, brilliant! We are all incredibly proud of his achievement.



As I have mentioned a few times in the past, this year is the national year of reading, so it's always great to get some updates from the library. Mrs Allcock sent the following,



The library is full of enthusiastic readers this year. Last month, we said goodbye to nine dedicated Year 11 Librarians with a celebration party and an excellent quiz, designed by Lead Librarian, Evie. Pictured here are our new cohort of Year 7 Librarians at their first official meeting. They are currently undergoing training in their new roles, supported by our fantastic team of Year 8, 9 and 10 Librarians.

In general news, can I remind families, that although our new PE kit is now available for purchase, pupils are not permitted to wear this until September 2026 (all current pupils may continue to wear the old kit in September, if they prefer). If items are lost or outgrown, please contact school and we will advise on an appropriate alternative for the remainder of the Trinity term. Thank you for your understanding.

Unbelievably, we have just one more week until the half term break and it's another busy one! Weather permitting, we have sports heats day on Wednesday - one of my absolute highlights of the year (along with sports finals day!). Then we also have our Year 11 leavers' service on Friday. I've no idea how this has come around again so quickly, the thought that we are beginning the process of saying goodbye to these wonderful young people is quite a moving one; I may only have known them for 15 months, but they have gained a special place in my heart.

Maya Angelou, a celebrated American poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist summed it up beautifully,

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel"

Have a good weekend.

With kind regards,

Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Important Dates

Monday 18 May

Wednesday 20 May

Wednesday 20 May 5pm

Friday 22 May 11.30am

Monday 25 – Friday 29 May

HPV vaccinations

Sports Heats Day

Catch-up meeting for bronze DofE

Year 11 Leavers' Service

Half term holiday