

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

26th June 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

What a wonderfully varied week it has been at St Michael's, with opportunities galore for pupils to learn beyond the classroom and showcase their talents. But every day has had something in common too - the extreme heat. Can I start with a big thank you for your support with the additional measures we put in place; pupils have responded sensibly to the temporary changes, and as a result, we were able to continue with many of our usual activities. Thankfully, temperatures drop a little from tomorrow and because of that, all pupils are to be back in full school uniform from Monday, please.

On Monday we had the first of our summer Spirituality Days and an incredible array of activities - from Duke of Edinburgh expedition preparation to investigating crisps! More details are included later, do scroll down to find out more.

Worship this week was led by Mr Kellett, who spoke to us about service. He started by asking, "when was the last time you helped someone?" Reminding us of Mark 12:31 - love your neighbour as yourself, he went on to talk about his actual neighbour, Terry, and the impact he had had on his local community through his willingness to support and serve others. We were left with the challenge to consider how we could make a difference to those around us, whether it be getting involved in charity work, or simply smiling at someone we don't know. How thought provoking to realise the power we have to make a difference to others.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, our Year 10 geography pupils enjoyed field trips to Liverpool One. Experiences such as these help pupils to develop a deeper understanding of their studies whilst building confidence in observing, questioning and analysing the world around them. We are grateful to the geography staff for organising the visits and to our pupils who represented the school so well throughout.

On Wednesday, the RE department welcomed Mike Swanson, a speaker from Christians in Sport, who delivered an engaging and thought-provoking talk about the relationship between faith and physical activity. Mrs Ferguson has written a full report about this at the end of this letter.

Thursday evening saw our annual Summer Arts. It was another real 'wow' evening. Visitors were able to enjoy a fantastic exhibition of artwork alongside a wonderful programme of performances. Our vision of growing in body, mind and spirit was evident throughout and it was another reminder of how blessed we are to be part of Team St Michael's. Thank you to all the staff, pupils and families who contributed to making the evening such a success.

On Friday we had the next of our period 1 Eucharist services, this time led by Rev David Ward. We are always grateful for the support of our local clergy and for the opportunity to come together as a school community in worship. Rev David reflected on the journey of football teams in the World Cup, highlighting how success is never achieved alone. Even those on the bench play a vital role, offering support, encouragement, and strength as the team strives for victory. He then linked this to the journey of Jesus, who walked a path filled with challenge and purpose, ultimately achieving victory through his life, death, and resurrection. Because of this, all of us are invited into our own journey - one where we are supported by others and given the opportunity to experience the fullness and richness of life. Just as a team works together towards a shared goal,

Astley Road, Chorley, Lancashire PR7 1RS Telephone: (01257) 264740 email: admin@saint-michaels.lancs.sch.uk



we too are part of something bigger, encouraged to trust the journey and embrace the opportunities and blessings along the way. It was an uplifting way to end the week.

Friday was also a day of celebration for some of our pupils as they attended the BAE Awards Presentation. Many of you will remember that we shared news earlier this term of pupils' involvement in engineering and design projects linked to BAE Systems. It was wonderful to see their creativity, problem-solving skills and commitment recognised through these awards. We are incredibly proud of all those involved and the way they have embraced opportunities to develop skills for the future. Mr Gladders' report is at the end of the letter.

There was a sense of anticipation around school on Friday as pupils received their new timetables in preparation for the start of the new academic year on Monday. This is always an exciting milestone, giving pupils the chance to begin thinking about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. We know there will be plenty of excitement over the weekend as pupils familiarise themselves with their new schedules but for some there may be some anxiety too. This is all perfectly normal, and we know that pupils will quickly settle in to the new routines.

Looking beyond the school week, we wish the very best of luck to all pupils competing in the National School Championship Cheerleading competition on Sunday. The dedication, commitment and teamwork required to compete at this level are significant achievements in themselves and we are incredibly proud of our pupils for representing St Michael's on the national stage. We look forward to hearing how they get on.

Looking ahead to September 2026, we are seeking support from parents and carers for our Spirituality Day. Similarly to last year, on Thursday 24 September our Year 10 pupils will focus on developing key career skills. As part of the day, we are looking for willing volunteers to take part in our 'mock interviews'. This provides a valuable opportunity for pupils to practise their communication and interview techniques, build confidence, and prepare for college and future employment in Year 11. If you are able to give some of your time, we would be very grateful for your support between 11.30am and 3.25pm. Please contact admin@saint-michaels.lancs.sch.uk if you feel you can help on this day.

As one academic year begins to draw to a close and another starts on Monday, it feels fitting to reflect on the opportunities that lie before us. Change can sometimes feel daunting, but it also brings new possibilities, fresh challenges and the chance to grow in body, mind and spirit.

May we all approach the opportunities ahead with faith, confidence and enthusiasm.

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Important Dates

Monday 29 June
Thursday 2 July

Thursday 2 July
Wednesday 8 July
Thursday 9 July

Monday 13 - Friday 17 July

Start of new academic year (pupils move up a year)
Year 6 Sampling Day (Lancashire common transition day)
Year 11 Prom
Pre-loved uniform (provisional)
Sports Awards (Y7/8 4-5.30pm and Y9/10 6.30-8pm)
Work Experience for current Year 10 pupils

Tuesday 14 - Friday 17 July
Wednesday 15 July
Thursday 16 July
Tuesday 21 July
Wednesday 22 July

Bronze DofE expeditions
Spirituality Day
Spirituality Day
Presentations
End of Trinity Term – school closes 1pm

EVENTS

Spirituality Day

On Monday, pupils took part in our first summer Spirituality Day, enjoying a range of activities designed to support our vision of growing in body, mind and spirit. Year 7 visited the Kimpton Clocktower Hotel in Manchester and the Midland Hotel in Morecambe, or the Buddhist Temple in Ulverston. Year 8 explored medical history at the Thackray Museum or took part in a creative enterprise day. Year 9 focused on campcraft and teamwork in preparation for their Duke of Edinburgh expedition, while Year 10 spent the day at Runshaw College exploring future study options. The day offered valuable opportunities for reflection, personal and spiritual development and a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them.



Geography



Year 10 Geography pupils visited the Liverpool One shopping area this week to complete their GCSE urban fieldwork. The pupils carried out various fieldwork tasks to investigate how successful the Liverpool One redevelopment project has been. The pupils were exceptional and carried out their tasks very conscientiously despite the soaring temperatures.

How does sport impact a person of faith?

On Wednesday the RE department welcomed Mike Swanson, a speaker from *Christians in Sport*, who delivered an engaging and thought-provoking talk about the relationship between faith and physical activity. The session explored important questions such as *what is sport? What is a Christian? How does faith impact a sportsperson?* Using real-life examples, pupils were shown how many elite athletes openly connect their sporting lives with their faith.

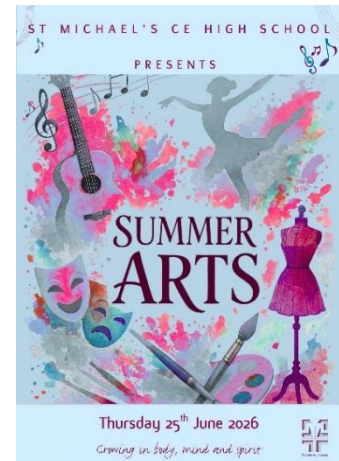
The session encouraged pupils to reflect on their own experiences of sport. Why do we enjoy it - or, for some, why do we not? More importantly, it prompted us to think about our attitudes when competing. Are we playing for recognition, or are we using our talents in a way that honours something greater than ourselves? In the Bible it says,

"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." I Corinthians 10:31

The visit was a valuable reminder that sport can be about more than winning trophies. It can also be an opportunity to show character, gratitude, and, for those with faith, to honour God and bring glory and praise to Him in all that we do.

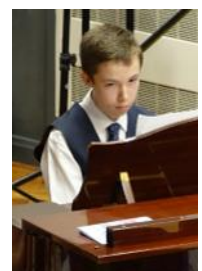
Summer Arts

Our Summer Arts Evening, held last night, was a wonderful celebration of the creativity and talent within our school community. The event began in the Training Suite, where parents and families were invited to view an impressive exhibition of Art, Textiles and Design & Technology work. The displays showcased the dedication, imagination and technical skill of our GCSE pupils, and it was a pleasure to see so many visitors taking time to admire and discuss the outcomes of their hard work.



The evening then moved into the hall for a vibrant programme of music, dance and drama, highlighting the very best of our performing arts. Pupils delivered confident and engaging performances, reflecting both their individual talents and the strong sense of teamwork that underpins our arts provision. From musical pieces to dramatic performances and energetic dance routines, the audience was treated to a thoroughly enjoyable and uplifting experience.

A particular highlight of the evening was the first ever performance by The Warriors, our new school cheerleading team led by Miss Davies. Their routine was full of energy, precision and enthusiasm, and they made a fantastic debut in front of a supportive audience. We are incredibly proud of their commitment and wish them every success as they prepare to take part in their first competition at the Manchester Velodrome this Sunday.





BAE Awards

Final Product in place



As part of the enrichment programme, pupils are given the opportunity to investigate 3D printing and then design and make something that will benefit others. Over the last year we have been looking at designs for an insect house that can be flat packed and assembled without the need for tools.



Amber and Lex both created designs that impressed the panel from Create Education and BAE and both their designs have been selected to receive a special commendation award, we will find out what they are on Friday. Both designs are modular and can be expanded. The aim is to encourage pollinating insects in Tanzania with the ultimate aim of producing honey.

They will both see the presentations made by other groups and get a tour of the ASK facility, part of BAE's Samlesbury site.



On Thursday the U15s boys handball team travelled to Nottingham in the blistering heat to take part in the national finals. A great achievement to be among the elite in the country. On the day, it wasn't to be as we got knocked out in the group stages having managed a draw in our group games. A fantastic achievement for the boys to finish 13th in the country!