

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

10th July 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

Please see below news and updates from the last two weeks of school:

We began our new academic year on Monday 29th June and pupils have done incredibly well in adapting to new classes and teachers. They have also looked exceptionally smart in response to our push on uniform standards. A big thank you to parents and carers for supporting our consistent message; it has made a real difference.

Mr Ready, curriculum leader for maths, led our Worship last week, on the Christian Value of 'reconciliation'. He started by asking us whether we had ever helped people make peace, reminding us again of Mark 12:31, 'love your neighbour as yourself'. He referenced the reconciliation needed globally at the moment, whilst challenging us that we all have a part to play in being peacemakers. He went on to talk about Nelson Mandela who won the Nobel Peace Prize before explaining that Jesus was the greatest example of reconciliation, as God chose to bring us back to him through Jesus.

Last Thursday, we were pleased to welcome our new Year 7 pupils into school for sample day; it was such a pleasure to meet them as they experienced a bit more of life at St Michael's. We are so looking forward to them joining us in September.

Last night we had our inaugural Sports Awards evening. We will provide a full report on this next week; suffice to say it was a fantastic event! There have been so many other events in the last two weeks that it's hard to list them all. You can read about many of them at the end of this letter.

Gold stamps this week went to a young lady in new Year 8 for her fabulous German poster describing her family and pupils for their RE work; well done everyone!

Next week is exceptionally busy as our new Year 11s head off on work experience, with other year groups busy with spirituality days and other activities. As the hot weather is due to continue, children may continue to wear their St Michael's PE kit or uniform without their blazer and tie. We will send a further update on this on Tuesday.

Can I thank you all again for your ongoing support as part of Team St Michael's; what a special school this is.

With kind regards,

Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

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Important Dates

Monday 13 - Friday 17 July
Tuesday 14 - Friday 17 July
Wednesday 15 July
Thursday 16 July
Tuesday 21 July
Wednesday 22 July

Work Experience for new Year 11 pupils
Bronze DofE expeditions
Spirituality Day
Spirituality Day
Presentations
End of Trinity Term – school closes 1pm (buses arranged for 1pm)

EVENTS

Prom

Last Thursday evening, Year 11 came together at Rivington Hall Barn for their prom. They all looked amazing and arrived in a stunning variety of vehicles from tractors to sports cars!



Lancashire Book of the Year Award 2026 – A report from Mrs Allcock



The Lancashire Book of the Year, established in 1987, is the longest-running regional book award for young people in the UK. The award celebrates outstanding young adult fiction, with pupils in Year 9 reading and shortlisting books before selecting the overall winner.

St Michael's school has taken part this year, and it has been a privilege to spend time with the 15 members of our Year 9 Book Group during our lunchtime meetings and workshops at Chorley Library. Mr Cree and I really enjoyed taking 12



of our team to the Awards Ceremony at The University of Lancashire last Friday. We met four of the authors and found out which title has been voted Book of the Year by student judges from 24 schools. This year's winner was *Mondays are Murder* by Ravena Guron.

One of our pupils, Alice, asked her question during the Q and A section of the event, and was later interviewed about her experience of taking part this year. We received specific compliments about the courtesy, conversational skills and confidence of several of our pupils and they all conducted themselves brilliantly! Many of them queued to meet the authors and have books signed, including some of our library copies, which will be available for all our other library users to read very soon!



BAE Awards



Pupils received their awards on the 26th June. Lex won a special prize for Product Development and Amber won a special prize for CAD Design. Congratulations to them both!

Visit from former art and textiles pupil – report from Mrs Burrows

This week we were delighted to welcome former pupil Elizabeth back to school to speak with our GCSE Art and Textiles pupils about her inspiring creative journey. After leaving school, Elizabeth studied Art and Textiles Technology at A-level before progressing to a Foundation Course in Art at Runshaw College. She shared the ideas and creative processes behind her work, including a stunning sustainably made dress designed and made using a zero-waste approach. Elizabeth has gone on to specialise in fashion design, and her collection, Imperfections, has earned her a place on the highly prestigious Womenswear Fashion Design course at Central Saint Martins. Her passion, creativity and dedication were a real inspiration to our pupils as they consider their own future pathways in art and design.



Artist Visit – Report from Mrs Freer

We had the great pleasure of having Wigan born, world renowned artist Ian Murphy working with our Year 11s yesterday. For a full day's workshop, introducing the pupils to his work, career as an artist and four stage process. Throughout the day the pupils created 4 pieces which they can continue to work on to completion.



Pupils experimented with negative space pen drawings, ink on prepared textured paper, bleaching and printing. A true making memories in the classroom. Seeing Ian's four stage process, thirty minute pen sketches in a sketchbook, to drawing on panoramic prepared surfaces back in his studio, to then finalise a framed canvas outcome was so insightful and inspiring for pupils.

It was truly an inspirational day, hearing an artist talk so positively about following a full-time career and how he goes about planning up to a year ahead with his team. We as pupils and staff cannot speak highly enough of the impact this has had. Thank you Ian!

Wellbeing Mentors visit to Edge Hill – Report from Miss Watson

On Monday, the Wellbeing Mentors visited Edge Hill University to take part in 'Wellbeing Champions Day' with Compass Bloom. They enthusiastically engaged with a number of activities throughout the day, which included: learning about the 'Chimp Paradox' and emotional resilience with a university Psychology Lecturer; creating an action plan for promoting mental health and wellbeing support in school and getting creative and designing a new logo for Compass Bloom. Pupils conducted themselves impeccably and were a credit to the school, returning with lots of ideas to promote Wellbeing Club, Mental Health Week and assist with Year 7 transition. The main message of the day was to celebrate uniqueness and always choose to show compassion towards others, which aligns perfectly with our mission statement at St Michael's.

MasterChef Club

Year 8 have been very creative at MasterChef Club making Salad Nicoise – chefs in the making!



Despite a half term plagued by challenging weather conditions, St Michael's celebrated a remarkable clean sweep at this year's Chorley and District Rounders Tournaments.

Hosted throughout this week, the competitions saw teams battling not only strong opposition from across the district but also some of the most unpredictable weather of the season. Following two weeks of persistent rain and the intense heatwaves experienced, opportunities for outdoor practice have been limited. Across four fiercely contested tournaments, the girls approached every match with enthusiasm, commitment and a competitive spirit, securing a series of hard-fought victories along the way.

The tournaments were not without their challenges. A torrential rainstorm disrupted proceedings at one stage, while several schools provided strong competition throughout the events. Nevertheless, by demonstrating excellent teamwork, resilience and skill St Michael's were crowned Chorley and District Champions in all four age categories – Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10. A special well done to Year 7 who also placed second in their Year 7 tournament.

Achieving success across every age group is a fantastic accomplishment and a testament to the hard work and dedication shown by the pupils. Congratulations to all the girls involved on an outstanding achievement!



Last week was a busy and successful week for the U13s cricket team, with two Lancashire Cup semi-finals.

On Tuesday, we travelled to Manchester Grammar School for the Lancashire Cup (main competition) semi-final. Having been knocked out by the same opponents at the same stage last season, we knew we were facing a tough challenge. Manchester Grammar, who have also reached the national schools' final, batted first and posted an impressive 155/3 from their 20 overs.

In reply, our boys produced an excellent batting performance. Alfie and Aaron both finished unbeaten on 30, helping us reach 125/2 from our 20 overs. Although we fell just short, it was a brilliant effort against one of the strongest school sides in the country.

On Thursday, attention turned to the Lancashire Cup (state schools) semi-final against Burnage Academy at Chorley CC.

Burnage were bowled out for 108, with an outstanding bowling and fielding display from our team. We then chased the target in emphatic fashion, reaching 109/1 in just 11.3 overs. Henry and Aaron both scored an unbeaten 30, capping off a dominant performance.

The victory means we have reached the Lancashire Cup (state schools) final, where we will face either West Hill or Hutton Grammar School. This is a fantastic achievement and marks St Michael's first-ever appearance in a Lancashire Cup cricket final, a landmark moment for the school. It is a richly deserved reward for the hard work, commitment and teamwork the boys have shown throughout the season.

Congratulations to everyone involved, and we look forward to cheering the team on in the final (which is now going to be in September).



In June, Ellie in new Year 8 won the Lancashire finals for Play Your Way to Wimbledon in the U14 Singles. She will now play in the national finals at Wimbledon on their grass courts in August - this is a dream come true for her. She has played since she was 4 and trains extremely hard outside of school. We are incredibly proud of her!

Congratulations also to Dexter in new Year 9 who won gold in the British schools' snowboarding, making him the British champion!

