

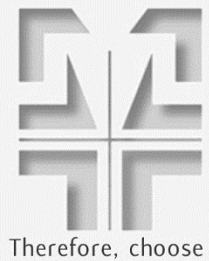
St Michael's Church of England High School

A Church of England Academy

Headteacher: Mrs J Jenks BSocSci Hons PGCE

Deputy Headteachers: Mr J Chadwick B Ed Hons, Mrs C Hooley BA Hons PGCE

'Growing in Body, Mind and Spirit'



April 2024

Dear Parent / Carer of Year 8

At St Michael's we place great emphasis on the growth of a child, not just academically, but in body, mind and spirit and we are excited to inform you about some upcoming events and activities which will involve pupils in Year 8.

- The Curriculum Enrichment programme
- Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Humanities visits on the Christian Values Enrichment Days in the next half term

Year 9 Curriculum Enrichment

On Monday 3 June, the week after the half term break, the new academic year will start and pupils will move into Year 9. Curriculum Enrichment will begin on Thursday 6 June.

On Thursday afternoons all pupils in Year 9, except those taking two languages, take part in a series of lessons aimed at encouraging them to make a difference in their community; the Curriculum Enrichment programme. These activities are in line with our school vision of providing our pupils with opportunities to grow in 'body, mind and spirit,' with the ultimate aspiration of 'becoming the person God wants them to be.'

Voluntary work, community service, environmental projects, charity work and personal wellbeing all play a part in the programme, enabling pupils to gain some valuable life skills and learn a little more about 'life outside school!' By engaging with these activities pupils will also give something back to their local community, encouraging them to grow in character and reflect the Christian Values of stewardship, compassion, service and humility. These activities will involve a focus on a technology subject and may involve visiting a local care home for the elderly, taking part in environmental projects, cooking for the Open Kitchen in Chorley, learning tai chi and how to enhance personal wellbeing, gardening and learning outdoor skills, amongst others. This programme is intended to inspire and innovate our young people to take action, become courageous advocates and, of course, we hope that they enjoy the new experiences which come their way!

Pupils will soon be informed in assembly of how the programme works. It involves them making some decisions about the activities they wish to undertake and they will receive a booklet. The booklet will explain in full each different activity and what the pupils will need for each particular day, but because some of the activities involve being out of school it is particularly important that during Year 9 parents/carers keep their child's tutor up to date with any medical conditions which may develop.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

The programme of activities in the Enrichment time enables our pupils to fulfil most of the requirements for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award, the world's leading and most respected youth achievement award. Many schools offer this as a wider curricular activity but we believe the Award is so valuable for our young people to achieve that we enable pupils to complete the majority of the Award in curriculum time.

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In addition to the Enrichment afternoon activities, in order for pupils to complete the full Award, they must engage in an activity independently outside of school for approximately an hour a week for three months. Pupils will have this explained to them in assembly. This could be taking part in a sports group, learning a new skill or doing voluntary work. An independent person must then sign that they have completed this and have made progress with this. This cannot be a parent or relative who signs this off.

To complete the full Bronze Award, pupils also have to successfully pass an expedition, which involves spending two days working independently in a group, walking for two days, map reading, completing a project and spending a night camping where they must be self-sufficient, cooking, and pitching the tents themselves. These are organised by school and are likely to take place in either July or September 2025.

Pupils studying two languages will also have the opportunity to take part in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh’s Award but will do so more independently, finding more of their own activities. Their additional language lessons will count towards this and there will be opportunities in school for them to complete voluntary work. Again, pupils will have this explained to them more fully.

We strongly encourage your child to take part in the Award. It is recognised as the world’s leading and most respected youth achievement award and is highly regarded by colleges, universities and employers. If pupils choose not to complete the Award, they will continue to take part in the Thursday afternoon Curriculum Enrichment programme and will receive a school Enrichment certificate which commends them for their Christian service. We do understand that some pupils complete their DofE with external groups and if your child is already registered, activities during Enrichment can be used to supplement their own activities. They can still take part in the expedition with school if they wish.

Humanities visits on Monday 17 June and Thursday 18 July

As part of this year’s Christian Values Enrichment Days, it is hoped that all pupils in Year 8 will be taking part in educational visits as part of the Geography and History curriculum.

Pupils will take part in the visits in their teaching groups.

Date	Mon 17 June	Thurs 18 July
Teaching groups*: S, I, M, H	History visit	Geography visit (5pm return)
Teaching groups*: A, N, C, E	Geography visit (5pm return)	History visit

- Please note that the teaching groups are the History / Geography teaching groups.

Geography visit: Grasmere

Pupils will be transported by coach to the Lake District village of Grasmere where they will participate in fieldwork activities. Should your child choose to study Geography to GCSE in Years 10 and 11, this trip is one of two compulsory fieldwork trips required to complete the course.

Pupils will be working with their teacher for a large part of the day. Data will be collected in the village of Grasmere. An important aspect of the fieldwork is the development of investigative skills, and at some times during the visit this will require pupils to work in groups of approximately 4 or 5 in the village centre. They will record information on pedestrian numbers and will be asked to complete questionnaire surveys. They will also have a small amount of free time to shop and explore this beautiful Lake District village.

History visit: Thackray Museum of Medicine, Leeds

Pupils will attend the Thackray Museum of Medicine in Leeds. This visit will involve a guided workshop called 'Disease Street' and a self-guided tour of the rest of the museum. Should pupils choose to opt for History in Years 10 and 11, they will study medicine through the ages and this visit will therefore enhance this course.

More information regarding these visits, including equipment to bring, dress and timings will be shared in due course.

Consent for all activities:

Below is a link to a consent form which asks for your permission for your child to take part in the educational visits, the Enrichment scheme and the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Please complete the form (link below) by Friday 3 May.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=WU3e8f_wDkC-tNWhPgCzXhMvhRLV71RCjMmrzYmSMPNUQVVRVlpPVFZCTDc4RzE5MFZORDdZVFdCRi4u

Costs

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Unfortunately, enrolling in the DofE incurs a cost.

If you would like your son / daughter to complete the award there is a necessary Bronze Award registration cost of £28. This is the standard cost for any young person wishing to enrol on the Bronze Award scheme and the payment goes via school to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. This will need to be paid via school gateway by **Friday 3 May** to allow the necessary enrolment procedure to take place by the time the pupils commence the Enrichment programme after half term.

Educational visits: Grasmere / Thackray Museum

The cost for the two visits is £36 in total. This covers transport for all activities and the cost of the museum.

Duke of Edinburgh's expedition costs

We would also like to inform you at this time of the estimated cost of the expedition so you are aware of this for your financial planning. The estimated costs of the expedition is £60-£65 but this does not have to be paid at this current time. More details about the expedition will follow during the course of Year 9.

We are committed to providing these opportunities to ALL our pupils. We have sent out information about these events early in the half term in order to assist you with payments and to make this as manageable as possible, we suggest payments in the following instalments:

- £28 by Friday 3 May (DofE enrolment)
- £16 by Thursday 16 May (Grasmere / Thackray)
- £20 by Thursday 6 June (Grasmere / Thackray)

We would be grateful if all payments can be done via school gateway www.schoolgateway.com (If parents / carers require further information regarding online payments please contact the school office on 01257 264740.)

Please do not hesitate to contact school if you wish to discuss any aspect of this letter but there will be more information regarding all of the activities in due course.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C J Hooley', written in a cursive style.

C J Hooley
(Deputy Headteacher: Curriculum)