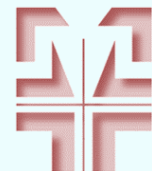


# St Michael's Church of England High School

*A Church of England Academy*

Headteacher: Mrs J Jenks BSocSci Hons PGCE

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



Therefore, choose

*Growing in Body, Mind and spirit*

## Forthcoming events Lent 1

**Thurs 9 Jan**  
West End Theatre  
Visit—parent and  
pupil meeting 6pm

**Fri 10—Tues 14 Jan**  
Y8 Exams

**Mon 13 Jan**  
Iceland Visit—  
parent and pupil  
meeting 6pm

**Tues 14—Thurs 16**  
**Jan**  
Y9 Exams

**Thurs 16 Jan**  
Y10 Consultation  
Evening 5-7pm

**Fri 17 Jan**  
Y7 Tracking

**Thurs 23 Jan**  
Y9 Options Evening  
6.30pm

**Tues 28 Jan**  
Y11 Reports

**Wed 5 Feb**  
Y9 tracking

**Thurs 10 Feb**  
Y9 Consultation  
Evening 5-7pm

**Thurs 10 and Fri 11**  
**Feb**  
Runshaw Interviews  
Y11

## St Michael's Newsletter: Michaelmas 2 December 2024

### *Message from the Headteacher*

Dear Parents / Carers

Our young people have once again excelled in so many aspects of school life this term and there really is so much to celebrate.

#### **Advent**

Term ends on Friday 20 December with our Christmas services being held at St George's Church with our thanks to Rev Michael Print. We are grateful for the support of our local clergy who have led weekly Eucharist services throughout Advent for our pupils and staff. Collective Worship has also seen a focus on the season of Advent, including our Advent Appeal with each year group sponsoring a child at Crown of Life School in Lusaka, Zambia. The pupils have also joined in our usual Carols in the Quad with great enthusiasm.

#### **Community Christmas Party**

This year's event was hosted by a small group of pupils as part of their Archbishops' Young Leaders Award and Duke of Edinburgh's Award and supported by our talented musicians. The pupils have given of their time and talents most generously and have brought a great deal of joy into the lives of others in so doing.

#### **Awards Evening**

We were delighted to welcome Bishop Jill as guest speaker at Awards Evening. It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the exceptional progress and attainment of our Year 11 leavers. I am sure that you have seen the article in the Lancashire Evening post which pays tribute to their achievements. We thank them for the amazing contribution they made to life at St Michael's and wish them well for the future.

#### **Year 11 Examinations**

Year 11 have approached their mock examinations with maturity and commitment. We have been impressed by their determination to succeed and hope they take some time to relax and recuperate over the Christmas period.

Revision Evening for Year 11 pupils and parents will be held on **Thursday 27 February 2025 at 6.30pm** where revision techniques and tips for wellbeing will be shared. When they return to school in January, pupils will be having a series of assemblies to share information about revision, wellbeing and how to successfully approach the remaining months at St Michael's. We continue to work hard with all our pupils, but particularly striving to address the national attainment gap between boys and girls at GCSE.

#### **Winter weather**

Please may I ask that, should we be forced to close school during the school day due to winter weather, you have made contingency plans for your child. These should be recorded in their personal organisers to assist their tutors. The school website will be the main source of information should school need to close: <http://www.saint-michaels.com> School Synergy and our 'X' (Twitter) page will also send out this information. I assure you that school will only be closed after due consideration of the health and safety of everyone who learns and works here at St Michael's. The arrangements in case of unavoidable school closure are on the website.



## **Uniform and Appearance**

Thank you to parents for helping to ensure that your son/daughter does wear a plain black coat to school (small discrete motifs/logos only). As pupils are expected to be outside at break and lunch times it also helps if they wear a school jumper. Thank you also for your support in ensuring skirts are kept no more than 3 inches from the knee and are not rolled over at the waistband. We do appreciate your support with this matter and sustaining the highest expectations we have in relation to all areas of school life. We want to ensure that we are fair and support the vast majority of pupils who choose to follow the policy on a daily basis.

## **Attendance**

We continue to work hard to ensure the highest levels of attendance, knowing the impact that absence from school has on pupil learning and progress. Thank you for your support in this. You can check your child's attendance on School Synergy.

## **Success**

This has been an exceptional term with considerable success in so many areas of school life. Pupils in all year groups have excelled in sport, reaching district finals in badminton, girls' football and indoor cricket. The Year 8 and Year 9 Boys' football teams also reached the last 64 in the English Schools Cup. Pupils were superb ambassadors for St Michael's in the Shakespeare Festival, performing at the Contact Theatre in Manchester. This week, the pupils have also shared their talents in a Dance showcase.

## **End of Term Arrangements**

Term ends on Friday 20 December at 1.00pm. Buses have been ordered for that time, following our Christmas Services. The Lent term starts on **Monday 6 January 2025**.

## **Staffing**

Mrs Christine Burrows has been promoted to Subject Leader for Art/ 2nd in Technology and Mr Michael Hall has been appointed as a Teaching Assistant. We wish them every fulfilment in these roles.

## **Farewell**

As you know, this is my final week at St Michael's after a wonderful thirty four years. My gratitude to all the pupils, staff, governors, parents/ carers for the wonderful support and encouragement that you have given to me during this time and particularly during my eight years as headteacher. It is impossible to sum up the profound impact that St Michael's has had upon my life, helping me to grow and flourish in so many ways. Thank you all and for the many kind messages I have received, they are very much appreciated.

As always, thank you for your continued support and prayers for school and all that we seek to do for our young people. I am confident that Mrs Rongong will be equally blessed with the support of all of 'Team St Michael's' when she commences her role as Headteacher on 6 January and leads the school into its next phase of growth.

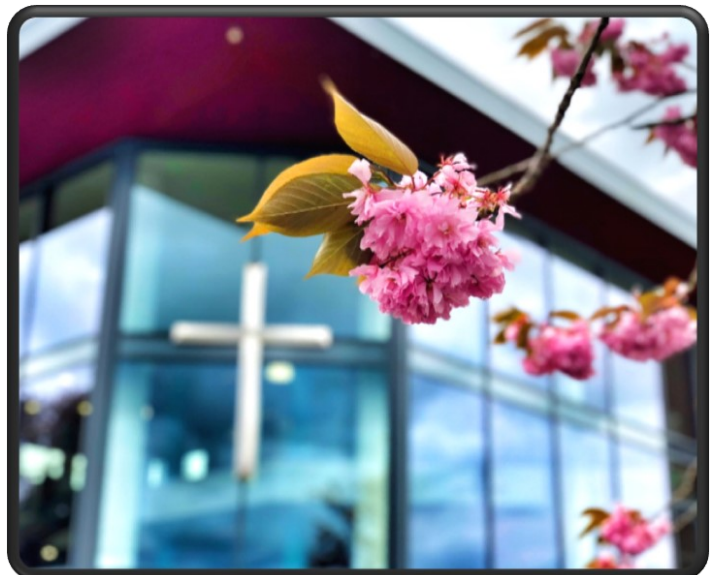
I wish you all a restful and peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

God bless,

*J. Jenks*

Mrs J Jenks

Headteacher







### Michaelmas 2 X (Twitter) news

### Sporting success

This half term has been very busy in PE with so many successes. There has been an unprecedented 25 game unbeaten run across the boys and girls football teams with outstanding performances from the Year 8 and Year 9 boys teams who have both made the last 64 in the English Schools' Cup and the girls Year 8 and Year 9 team making round 3 of the Lancashire Cup. We have also been victorious with the Year 9 teams (girls and boys) and the boys Year 8 team winning their respective District competitions.

In the indoor cricket Year 7 and Year 9 have won the District competition. The gymnastics competition was held recently with outstanding results from the St Michael's contingent with many having never competed before. The girls came away with 5 bronze, 6 silver and 6 gold medals. Well done to all!



### A celebration of Christian Education!

Staff, governors, headteachers and pupils past and present attended a fabulous service to celebrate Christian education in early December. The event also marked the 34 years of dedicated service of our Headteacher, Mrs Jenks, to our school as she takes her retirement at the end of this term.



The Bishop of Blackburn, the Right Rev. Philip North also spoke at the event, which was also attended by many representatives of Blackburn Diocese and other local schools, friends and family.

Pupils performed a special feature for Mrs Jenks and Alex Ainscough and Lilah Philpott sang a song composed by Alex, reflecting on the achievements under Mrs Jenks's headship.

### The Great Science Bake Off

The science department have been holding a Science Bake Off. Lots of yummy entries into the competition have already been tasted! Well done to all the excellent bakers!



### Zambia Appeal

This half term saw a fantastic evening celebrating our fundraising and visit to Zambia over the summer. Pupils reflected on their time in the country and how we all had so much to learn from the people there, who have so little, but exude gratitude and joy! We are continuing to support the young people in Zambia this year.

Our Advent Appeal is for each year group to raise £150 to enable us to sponsor five children at the Crown of Life School in Lusaka, enabling them to afford an education and school resources. Year 9 pupils are also taking part in a Fun Run, raising money for the Footprints Charity, a Zambian based group which supports street children. Every £25 raised from the fun run will enable a street child to have a place at a rehabilitation centre.

Thank you so much for your continued support of our Zambia Appeal.



### Christmas Community Party

Pupils taking the Archbishop's Young Leaders Award have hosted the annual Christmas Community Party this year. Our friends from our local community enjoyed bingo, a quiz and refreshments and took



home a special gift of scones and raspberry jam made from the school garden.

### Science and religion

Pupils taking Triple Science in Year 10 enjoyed a morning at Blackburn Cathedral where they explored the impact of science and faith on the use of AI, radiotherapy and the study of anti-matter. Pupils took part in workshops and they also got to see the current installation of the moon.



### Sponsor a child / Advent Appeal

Sponsoring a child at the Crown of Life School in Zambia entails committing to funding £150 a year and will allow a child access to a secure education, resources and also go towards paying for the teachers at the school. When we visited Lusaka we met many families of children at this school and our pupils were very keen to support them. If any parents / friends would like to sponsor a child themselves please contact Simon, our Christian Youth Worker, by ringing 01257 264740.

## *A fond farewell to our Headteacher*

After 34 years of dedicated service to Christian education, it is with great sadness that we are wishing a fond farewell and saying a heartfelt thank you to our Headteacher, Mrs Jayne Jenks, who is taking early retirement at the end of this term.

The Bishop of Blackburn, Rt Rev Philip North; Diocesan representatives; former Headteachers; pupils, staff and parents (past and present); family and friends joined together for a poignant evening of reflection on the role of Church schools and to commemorate the dedicated service of Mrs Jenks this half term.

Mrs Jenks has spent her entire teaching career at the school, from arriving as a newly qualified geography teacher in 1990 to retiring as headteacher at the end of this term after over eight years in this role.

She has held a wide range of positions of responsibility through the years, including Head of Geography, Head of Humanities, Head of PSHE, she became an Advanced Skills Teacher in 2004, was appointed Assistant Head in 2006, Deputy Head in 2012 and finally having the privilege of leading the school as Headteacher from 2016.

Her vision for Christian education is that every pupil should have the opportunity to grow in body, mind and spirit, to flourish as a child of God and experience the joy and hope of life in all its fullness.

Whilst maintaining a focus on pursuing academic excellence, she passionately advocates for the education of the 'whole' child, believing that supporting the character development of young people through a myriad of enrichment and wider curricular opportunities facilitates their personal growth and enables them to flourish.

Providing all pupils with amazing opportunities for them to truly experience the 'awe and wonder' of creation and grow spiritually have been a huge focus for school under her headship. The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award has been introduced into the curriculum for all pupils, and she has championed community and charity involvement, with over £60,000 being raised to enable a team of pupils and staff to support various community projects in a visit to Lusaka, Zambia, this summer. This marks the start of what is hoped will be a sustainable partnership.

Mrs Jenks's believes that having the highest expectations and aspirations in all areas of school life is fundamental to continued school improvement. Under her leadership, the school has attained an 'excellent' SIAMS inspection report, Gold RE Quality Mark, Holocaust Beacon School status, as well as being one of the highest performing schools in Lancashire for attainment and progress and in the top 10% of schools nationally for pupil attainment.

Mrs Jenks said: 'I wanted to be a teacher for as long as I can remember. I leave with fond memories of my years teaching GCSE geography and numerous field visits.

As Headteacher I have enjoyed the privilege of celebrating the achievements of pupils more holistically, whether in their learning, sport, the performing arts or simply seeing their self-confidence and self-belief grow. As a leader so much of what you aim to achieve is through other people and I have been blessed to be surrounded by a wonderful team of staff.

I will certainly miss our amazing pupils, and exceptional staff. I thank our Governing Board, parents/carers, Blackburn Diocese, the Local Authority and Headteacher colleagues for their partnership and encouragement.'

Mrs Jenks looks forward to a retirement which will provide more opportunities for travel, enjoying the outdoors and time with her family.

She will be succeeded by Mrs Rachel Rongong who takes up the role of Headteacher in January.

