

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

24th January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had another great week in school. The more time I spend at St Michael's, the more I understand what a unique and special place this is. I continue to be so impressed by how polite and articulate your children are, they are such a credit to you.

It was so good to have another opportunity to meet families yesterday. This time it was the turn of Year 9 parents and carers for our options evening presentation. I hope you found it informative and beneficial. Thank you for taking the time to say hello and welcome me, it was lovely to speak to so many of you. Mr Topping talked about the importance of good attendance during the event and I am delighted to have heard this week that pupils' attendance at St Michael's is so good that we are in the top 10% of all secondary schools nationally. This would not be the case if it were not for your support. So, thank you for all that you do to make sure that your children are in school, on time, every day.

I've been busy with my 'headteacher's gold stamp' again this week and there's been a focus on Year 7. Today I had a meeting with some of the pupils in the year group who had 'excellent tracking reports'. These young people have worked particularly hard since joining St Michael's and have shown an outstanding attitude to learning in lessons. I've also seen even more incredible baking and craft offerings in Year 7 RE lessons; the effort that pupils have put into making and creating is phenomenal! I saw some brilliant English home learning from 7N pupils too; their Shakespeare research was so well presented! It hasn't just been gold stamps that I've been awarding though; I also had the privilege of handing out Entry Level Maths qualification certificates to some of our Year 10 pupils. How hard they must have worked to achieve these, I am so very proud of them and I'm sure you are too.

I've ventured to some new wider curricular activities this week. I dropped into history club as they were broadening their historical knowledge with a gripping documentary and on Tuesday after school, I witnessed a myriad of board games being played in a very well-attended gaming club. Today, I have been blown away by the school Shakespeare production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. Pupils performed this at the Contact Theatre in Manchester last year as part of the Shakespeare Festival and repeated it again for the whole of Year 8, as well as some staff this morning. The standard was incredibly high; from singing to tap dancing, they really brought Shakespeare to life for us. It's never too late for your child to take advantage of these wonderful wider opportunities, so I've attached a list of all the possibilities. If they aren't currently involved in something, why not look through the options together at the weekend and encourage them to try something new next week?

The sporting successes continue yet again at St Michael's. I think I may need to make these a regular feature at the end of my letter, as there are just so many to include! The Year 8 and 9 girls' football team won a local derby, now moving into the quarter finals of the Lancashire Cup (which we will host), the under 15 girls won their group stage of the indoor cricket and will go to the North Lancashire finals in March, and, most impressively of all, the Year 9 boys' football team beat Calder

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High School in Hebden Bridge (West Yorkshire champions) and will now progress to the last 16 in England, (764 school entered at the start of the season). Wow!

I couldn't possibly end without mentioning this week's worship lead by 02 Tutorial. Pupils did a brilliant job speaking to such a large group of peers and staff and encouraged us 'look to God for inspiration'. So much of what I see at St Michael's inspires me. It certainly means that I really do look forward to coming to school each day. However, it is such a blessing to know that we can look beyond ourselves for that inspiration, it is God who guides us and gives us the strength to face the challenges of tomorrow, and for that I am very grateful.

Next week's events are included, as usual, below. I do hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Events next week

- All week - Year 11 French and German speaking mock examinations
- Monday 27th January - Holocaust Memorial Day – Worship will focus on this throughout the week
- Tuesday 28th January - Year 11 Reports go home
- Wednesday 29th January – Maths Challenge for Year 9-11 pupils