

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

22nd July 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

Unbelievably, we have come to the end of another school year. After a short week of presentations and end of term services, today we break up for a well-deserved summer holiday. A huge thank you to all of you for your support over the last 12 months, we are so thankful to partner with you.

It was lovely to see many of you at presentations on Tuesday, another chance to celebrate the achievements of our young people. It's times like this that give opportunity to pause and remember what a special place our school is. As we said on the day however, we also recognise the success that comes in so many other forms - perseverance and resilience in the face of adversity or challenge, and the demonstration of love and care to those around us, all the things that Team St Michael's does best.

At the end of this letter, we have a roundup of the fabulous events that took place during our spirituality days last week, as well as a recap of our inaugural Sports Awards evening, but I do also need to remind you of some key messages for September:

Uniform- changes

Thank you for all your support with our recent focus on uniform and appearance. It has made a real difference across the school. To give every pupil a fresh start for the new term, new uniform cards will be provided to all children on their first day back in September.

From September all new Year 7 pupils **must** wear the new PE kit, and other year groups are permitted to wear it if they wish. Please note that shorts must be loose-fitting and have no coloured logos (Nike tick, Adidas stripes etc.). They must also be of a longer length; an example of appropriate shorts is pictured here.



Skirts must be **at or below** the knee for pupils in new Year 7 and 8. For all other year groups, skirts must be no more than 3 inches above the knee. **No skirts may be rolled up.**

A reminder too that smart watches are not permitted and that mobile phones **must not** be visible at any time whilst on the school site. Phones must be switched off and in bags at all times.

School day- change to start time

The school day will start 5 minutes earlier in September, this means that pupils must be in tutorial rooms by 8:45am. School bus times have been amended to support this. School opens for all pupils on Wednesday 2nd September.

Open Evening

Our Open Evening for prospective parents is very shortly after our return to school, on Thursday 10th September. Please make a note of this in your diaries as we finish at 1pm on that day.

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As we go into the summer holidays, we are aware that some pupils can find this time more challenging. We are including a link to a webinar run by the NHS service Kooth, a UK-based online mental wellbeing and mental health support platform, primarily designed for children and young people, (although some services are available for adults in certain areas). It provides free, anonymous support through digital tools and trained mental health professionals.

[Kooth webinar](#).

As we approach the end term, this morning we were delighted to receive the news that our PE department has been awarded School Games Mark platinum award. What a wonderful way to end the week!

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul. Psalm 23:1-3

May you know real rest in the coming weeks.

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Important Dates

Wednesday 2 September	Start of Michaelmas Term – school day start 8.45am
Thursday 10 September	Early closure for Open Evening 1pm
Thursday 10 September	Open Evening 5.30-8pm all welcome (no booking required)
Friday 11 September	Open Morning 9.30-12noon
Monday 14 September	Parent Meeting for Berlin trip 6pm
Thursday 17 September	Year 10 Information Evening
Monday 21 September	Parent Meeting for Brussels trip 6pm
Thursday 24 September	Spirituality Day
Monday 28 September	Staff training day – school closed for pupils

EVENTS

Spirituality Days

Year 8 – Heysham Nuclear Power Station

Year 8 pupils enjoyed an exciting and informative career visit to Heysham Nuclear Power Station. The day began at the visitor centre, where pupils learned about the UK's energy needs and the important role that nuclear power plays in meeting them. They were fascinated to discover that around 30% of the UK's electricity can be supported by nuclear generation and took part in activities exploring the country's energy supplies. After a safety briefing, pupils donned hard hats, high-visibility vests and ear defenders before passing through security and touring part of the

power station workplace. They were captivated by the sheer scale of the site, particularly the enormous turbines, and gained a valuable insight into how electricity is generated. As a major regional employer, Heysham Nuclear Power Station provided pupils with a meaningful encounter with the world of work, helping them to understand the skills, qualifications and opportunities available within the energy sector. The visit also highlighted the wide range of career pathways available, from scientists and engineers to accountants and other support professionals. It was a fantastic learning experience for both pupils and staff, inspiring everyone with the possibilities offered by science, engineering and careers in the energy industry.

Year 8 – Blackpool Grand Theatre

New Year 8 pupils were treated to a backstage tour and workshop at Blackpool Grand Theatre. The visit provided a fascinating insight into the theatre as a dynamic workplace and highlighted the many career opportunities that help bring productions to life. During their time at the theatre, pupils took part in a behind-the-scenes tour, exploring areas of the historic venue that are normally hidden from audiences, and had the opportunity to experiment with stage lighting and learn how technical effects are used during performances. Pupils were particularly excited to venture high above the stage onto the theatre's elevated walkways and technical areas, gaining a unique perspective of how productions are managed from above. As a well-known local employer, Blackpool Grand Theatre offered pupils a meaningful encounter with professionals working across a range of disciplines, helping them to understand the skills, teamwork and creativity required in the performing arts industry. The visit was a memorable and inspiring career experience, broadening pupils' awareness of pathways into theatre, including technical production, lighting, sound, stage management, marketing and performance.

Year 8 – Buddhist Centre in Leeds

Pupils in new Year 8 also had a visit to the Buddhist Centre in Leeds, where they learned about Buddhist beliefs and daily practices, gaining a greater understanding of the importance of respect, mindfulness and the diversity of faiths and cultures within modern Britain. The visit provided an excellent opportunity to support pupils' learning about different religions and promote the values of tolerance and mutual understanding.

Year 8 – Values and social justice day

Pupils also took part in a values and social justice day, exploring important themes including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance. Through a variety of engaging activities, pupils reflected on themselves, their relationships with others and the role they play in creating a fair and inclusive society. Through dance, they explored anti-racism and respect for others, while in music they created verses about their own lives and experiences. Through citizenship and drama, pupils debated and presented their own laws, developing their public speaking skills while gaining a deeper understanding of democracy and decision-making.

The day also included a range of creative activities designed to encourage reflection and empathy. Pupils decorated pebbles with messages of hope and kindness, inspired by the idea that small actions can have a positive impact on others. These pebbles were used as part of our end-of-term services. The day was a valuable opportunity for pupils to engage with important social issues and develop their understanding of the values that underpin life in modern Britain.



Year 9 – Grasmere and Thackray Medical Museum

Pupils visited the beautiful village of Grasmere in the Lake District this week to complete their geography fieldwork. Pupils investigated the impact of tourism and successfully carried out a series of assessments and surveys. The pupils gave a great account of themselves and received several compliments from the public.



We all enjoyed learning outside of the classroom especially on such a warm and sunny day. Well done Year 9!



To support their history curriculum, pupils also visited the Thackray

Medical Museum in Leeds. During the visit, they explored the fascinating history of medicine through the ages, learning how medical knowledge, treatments and healthcare have developed over time. The interactive exhibits provided an engaging insight into the challenges faced by medical professionals throughout history and helped pupils develop their understanding of this important topic.

Year 9 – Enterprise Day

Year 9 pupils took part in an engaging Fiddler's Lancashire Crisps Enterprise Day, giving them a meaningful opportunity to experience the world of work and learn about careers within the food manufacturing industry. Acting as employees for the day, pupils completed a range of realistic workplace tasks designed to replicate those undertaken by professionals in the sector. They began by carrying out taste tests and product analysis, evaluating different crisp products and considering factors such as flavour, texture, packaging and customer appeal. Pupils then created their own crisp flavours before visiting a local supermarket to undertake market research, investigating consumer preferences, competitors and current trends.

A virtual tour of the Fiddler's Lancashire Crisps production site provided a valuable insight into the workplace and demonstrated how products move from concept to production. Working in teams, they then designed and marketed their own innovative crisp product, developing branding, packaging and promotional strategies before pitching their ideas. The enterprise day provided a meaningful work experience activity that helped pupils develop key employability skills, including teamwork, communication, problem-solving and creativity, while increasing their awareness of career pathways within the food and manufacturing industries.

Year 10 – Duke of Edinburgh



Our new Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants completed a highly successful Bronze Expedition, demonstrating outstanding resilience, teamwork and determination in extremely warm weather conditions.

Over two days, pupils navigated their routes independently through the beautiful countryside around Rivington and Anglezarke, applying and developing their map-reading skills while overcoming a variety of challenges along the way. In addition to walking many



miles, they successfully camped overnight, pitching tents, cooking meals and managing all aspects of campcraft with increasing confidence and independence. Despite the heat, pupils showed maturity and perseverance throughout, supporting one another and maintaining a positive attitude from start to finish.

The expedition was a fantastic experience, with pupils developing valuable life skills, building confidence and creating lasting

memories while embodying the spirit of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Year 10 – University of Lancashire

Year 10, when not on their DofE, also spent the day at the University of Lancashire, sampling a range of courses and gaining an insight into university life and the opportunities offered through higher education. Many came away inspired, talking animatedly about careers in sound, music and recording, fashion and a variety of other fields, having developed a greater understanding of how higher education can support their future aspirations and career goals.

Year 10 – Hindu Mandir

Pupils also had an incredible opportunity to visit the Hindu Mandir in Ashton-under-Lyne. They learnt about the key values in Hinduism and the features of a Mandir. They were in awe of the colourful temple shrines and learnt how the priest cared for the murtis. Pupils were curious and asked lots of interesting questions. The volunteers were very interested in our school's vision and Christian values. A great visit was had by all.



Year 11 – Work experience

Our pupils in the new Year 11 took part in their work experience week, participating in a wide range of meaningful encounters with employers across many different industries. During the week, pupils were immersed in real workplace environments, where they completed employer-assigned tasks and responsibilities, gaining first-hand experience of the expectations, routines and standards of professional working life.

This valuable career experience enabled pupils to develop their confidence, independence and employability skills while learning how their knowledge and personal qualities can be applied in the workplace. Many returned with a clearer understanding of potential career pathways and a greater awareness of the opportunities available to them in different sectors. The feedback received from employers was exceptional, with many praising our pupils for their maturity, professionalism, enthusiasm, willingness to learn and strong work ethic. Several employers commented on how effectively pupils completed the tasks they were given and how positively they contributed to their workplaces throughout the week. These meaningful encounters with employers have helped pupils to make informed decisions about their future careers, inspired new ambitions and strengthened their understanding of the skills and attitudes required for success in the world of work as they prepare for their final year with us.

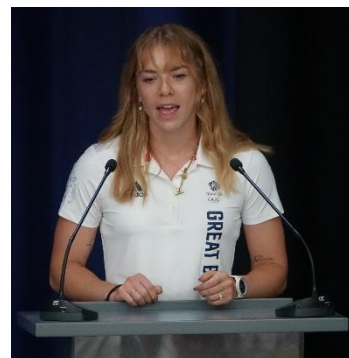
Sports Awards

The inaugural St Michael's Sports Awards took place on 9th July and proved to be a wonderful celebration of sporting achievement across the school. We were especially honoured to welcome former pupil and Vice Sports Captain Anna Hopkin as our guest speaker.

Anna delivered a truly inspiring speech, sharing her experiences of

school life and reflecting on the many opportunities sport has provided throughout her journey, from her early years in sport to competing at the highest level in the Olympic and Commonwealth Games. Her message resonated with pupils and parents alike.

We are incredibly grateful that she gave up her time to visit the



school and meet our pupils. Anna commented on how much she recognised from her own school days, while also being amazed by the many changes that have taken place during the 14 years since she left.

The trophies, medals and certificates displayed across the two award presentations were a testament to the remarkable talent, dedication and commitment of our pupils. It was fantastic to see so many young people embracing the opportunities available to them through school sport. In total, more than 250 pupils received awards, highlighting the breadth of participation and achievement across the year.



The celebrations culminated in the presentation of our new Sports Performer of the Year Awards. Congratulations to Millie (Year 10), Oliver (Year 9), William (Year 8) and Ruby (Year 7), who were recognised for their outstanding contribution to school sport. These awards were voted for by both staff and pupils and reflect the exceptional levels of participation, commitment and enthusiasm shown across a variety of sports throughout the year.



To those who narrowly missed out on an award this year, we encourage you to use the achievements of your peers as motivation to challenge yourselves, try new sports and continue to develop both on and off the field. Sport provides opportunities to grow in body, mind and spirit, and we hope every pupil will continue striving to be the very best they can be.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this inaugural event such a success. We look forward to building on this year's achievements and making next year's Sports Awards even bigger and better. In the meantime, have a wonderful summer break, and we look forward to

welcoming you back in September, ready to get involved in the wide range of sporting clubs and opportunities on offer.



We were delighted to hear how Emily has got on recently at the IAIGC world championships in Florida. She was overall world champion in her age group and level winning 1st on bars and vault, 2nd on floor and 5th on beam. Congratulations – a fantastic achievement!

