Friday 2nd May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a wonderful sunny week we have had! It has been a great opportunity for me to see the outdoor facilities here at their best and, more importantly, to appreciate the stewardship and respect shown by pupils across the school. In the spring and summer months when it is dry, we allow pupils onto our vast school field. I've watched numerous impromptu football matches, spoken to groups of pupils sitting in groups together or revising for their exams and even witnessed a Macbeth 'quote off' by a group of Year 11 boys, all trying to outdo one another with their Shakespeare knowledge! However, the thing that has impressed me most, has been to look across the field at the end of break and lunchtime and to see barely a scrap of litter left behind. It's hard not to feel so very proud to be headteacher here.

I've had a busy week this week. I've had the pleasure of leading worship each morning, which, again, has allowed me to see the impeccable behaviour and respect that your children demonstrate in school. We were considering the Bible passage in Matthew, part of the Sermon on the Mount, when Jesus says, 'do not worry'. I was explaining that it is not easy to stop worrying about something, just because we are told to, but understanding who we place our hope in can make the difficult times more manageable. If we know that God is with us, we can approach those tricky situations with greater confidence, and more than that, we develop Christian values, such as perseverance and trust amidst it all.



We've made some more pupil leadership appointments this week, too, as our new team of Year 7 'Bridge Buddies' have been chosen. These pupils will support our Year 7s as they join us at St Michael's in September. They were introduced to families at the first of our Year 6 Introduction Evenings yesterday. A number of our current Year 7 provided music and dance as families arrived - for some, this is something they have only taken up since joining St Michael's and we were so impressed with their performances. It was also such a pleasure to meet some of those who will be joining 'Team St Michael's' in September, and I look forward to next Thursday evening, when the remaining new pupils, parents and carers will be here as we begin our partnership together.

Year 11 exams have continued this week, with more MFL speaking tests, as well as a BTEC IT exam taking place. Well done to those involved for their determination and resilience. We are grateful for our exams team and dedicated invigilators whose work is crucial during this examination period. We also had some 'voluntary' assessments happening lower down the school, as a group of pupils in

Year 7 and 8 took part in the Maths Challenge. Another great event, and another opportunity to see Mr Neville sporting his maths-themed bow tie!



On Wednesday evening, I had the absolute pleasure of visiting Brindle St James Church for their midweek service. It is a truly beautiful building, and Mrs Jenner, who accompanied me, and I were so captivated by the amazing stained-glass windows, shown at their best as the sun shone through. It wasn't just the surroundings that impressed us; however, we were made to feel so very welcome by Rev Jon, Rev Sam and Rana and enjoyed meeting some more current and prospective St Michael's families. Our communities working together is such a joy and we were delighted this week to also welcome Fr Paul from St Ambrose Church Leyland to school on Friday to talk to several of our RE classes about his faith journey. We are very fortunate to have Fr Paul as a regular visitor in school and also serving on our governing board.



We have a lot of sporting news to celebrate this week. On Wednesday, Mrs Dempster and Mr Holden took the Year 8 and 9 girls' indoor cricket team (who had previously won the Lancashire round of indoor cricket) to the North of England finals held at Headingley. The girls had a very tough draw playing against Ponteland High School (Northumberland), Sedbergh School (Cumbria) and English Martyrs' (Durham); however, they played some outstanding cricket, beating all three schools and scoring over 250 runs in 3, 8 over games. This success put them in the semi-final against Repton School (who have frequently made and won the national finals). We could not be prouder of the effort, attitude, resilience, behaviour and sportsmanship shown by our girls towards all those participating in and organising the event. For our girls to be able to call themselves the third best cricket team in the north of England is an outstanding achievement. A massive well done to this group of very talented cricketers.

The Year 8 and 9 girls' football team have also reached the Lancashire FA Cup Final which will be held on 15th May at Darwen Football Club, with a 5pm kick off. They beat a tough Archbishop Temple team 2-1 in a hard-fought semi-final with some excellent skill and fantastic teamwork as well as two very well taken goals. We would also like to congratulate two of our Year 9 pupils on their out of school achievements. Sophia achieved National swimming time for her backstroke and will go to compete at the National Finals in a few weeks. Another exceptional athlete, Millie, was invited to run in the London Mini Marathon last weekend (invite only dependant on previous achievements). She achieved 26/221 which is a fantastic result and was the first placed under 15 competitor - brilliant!



It isn't just pupils we are celebrating this week, as last weekend, one of our maths teachers, Mr O'Reilly ran the London marathon, in a phenomenal time of 3 hours and 15 minutes. More remarkable, however, is that he stopped before he crossed the line to help a fellow athlete who was struggling and supported them to the finish. What an example!

I hope that pupils are inspired by these achievements and choose to try one of the many sporting activities we have on offer at St Michael's. Currently this half term we are running athletics, cricket, tennis and rounders. Please do encourage your children to come and join in whether for fun, fitness, friendship or competition.

Of course, the Gold Stamp has been out again this week and so many Year 7 pupils were nominated by the RE department, that I had to go to them; they simply would not have fitted in my office! They had all created some wonderful responses to 'Easter around the world'. I suspect more pupils will be recognised for this again next week. Keeping with the Year 7 theme, I've also seen some geographers to recognise their efforts on their Chorley projects. Well done to them all.



I'm sure I've mentioned our Year 9 Enrichment Programme before, it's another one of those things that really sets this school apart, as it affords our pupils such wonderful opportunities. This weather is just what is needed when you are out on the allotment and, as you can see, some of our boys have been busy preparing the ground.

There is something special that happens during the five years that a pupil spends here which means that, even years later, you can spot a St Michael's pupil. On Saturday, having completed my local parkrun in South Manchester, I had my barcode scanned by a delightful young man. As he saw my name, he confidently told me he was an ex-St Michael's pupil who was now studying at Manchester University. It is wonderful to see that the Christian values that are the foundation of daily life here in school are embedded in our young people so that when they go out in to the world they continue to radiate these and, Bobby, as a student, giving up his Saturday morning to volunteer, support and encourage others is a fantastic example of this.

As we approach the bank holiday weekend I would like to celebrate our community and sense of koinonia. Have a wonderful long weekend.

With kind regards,

R. Rongong

Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Events Next Week

Monday 5 May	School closed (bank holiday)
Throughout the week	Worship led by the Social Action Group – Love your enemies
Thursday 8 May 6:30pm	Y6 Introduction Evening (half of the new Year 7 intake