

# 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

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

Another week at St Michael's draws to close, and what a wonderful few days it has been. Whilst pupils enjoyed a long weekend, we as staff were in school on Monday, considering how we best support pupils in the classroom. It was a very productive and positive day.

Those of you who attend our local churches will almost certainly be celebrating harvest this weekend. On Thursday morning we invited our local clergy to join us for breakfast, to talk about how we can strengthen our relationships and work even closer together. We had a time of updating one another on current events and harvest celebrations were mentioned by most. I'm really looking forward to visiting two Chorley churches on Sunday – St Barnabas Heapey for their 9:30am service and All Saints Chorley from their 4pm service. Hopefully, I will see some of you there.

Our worship this week was also linked to harvest. It's currently Fairtrade fortnight, and Mrs Rackstraw reminded us again how choosing Fairtrade helps farmers to build a better life. She explained that for a £1 bar of chocolate, a farmer might only receive 6p. It was thought-provoking stuff. We have opportunity to play our part in supporting others in the next couple of weeks, by bringing items into school for the foodbank at St Laurence's Church. Most appreciated would be tinned items and non-perishables with a long shelf life. Mrs Rackstraw reminded us that James 5:4 says that God cares about justice and perhaps this is a small way we can make the world a little fairer for those less fortunate. Pupils can bring items in until half term and give them to their form tutor.

It has been brilliant to hear of pupils who are excelling in sport and other activities outside of school in recent days. Here are just a few of the things that Team St Michael's is celebrating this week:



Luke in Year 7 has been amazing; he has been helping to sell raffle tickets to support a girl from his primary school, diagnosed with a stage 4 brain tumour. Luke has distributed leaflets, asked for donations and sold raffle tickets at Buckshaw Tesco with his sister and friend. He has displayed excellent Christian values!

Willow and Aveana in Year 7 are celebrating sporting success. Last weekend they trialled for the U13 Lancashire County Netball Team and have been successful in gaining a place in the

Lancashire County Netball Squad - amazing! We look forward to hearing how you get on in the future!

Finally, Dexter in Year 8 has been invited into the National Schools' Alpine squad (For snowboarding) - wow!



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Much sporting success has been happening with our school teams too! Mr Holden and Mrs Brunsden sent the following reports:

*The football season continues at pace with the games coming thick and fast, and our teams are showing some great early season form. Year 11 produced a strong performance on Tuesday, beating Parklands 6–1 in the Chorley Cup. A fantastic result! Year 7 also impressed this week, securing their place in the last 16 of the Lancashire Cup. They topped their group after two excellent wins: a 4–0 victory over Longridge High and a hard-fought 1–0 win against Bishop Rawstorne. Some brilliant football from a talented young squad. Today sees the Year 8 team travel to Co-op Walkden in the English Schools Cup Round 2 - good luck to the team!*

*Well done to the Year 10 and 11 netball teams for their first set of netball fixtures against other Chorley schools. We performed at an unbelievably high standard, showing excellent tactical knowledge and adaptability on court. Both teams won all of their games which is very promising for our upcoming District tournament just before half term.*

*Congratulations to all pupils who had the confidence to go and trial for the Lancashire Netball Squads for 2025-26. It was amazing to hear that over 10 of our pupils have been selected to represent Lancashire and will be involved in many training sessions, fixtures and tournaments throughout the year. We look forward to selecting our U14 & U16 squads for the Lancashire Schools' Netball competition after half term.*

I do need to mention PE kit, as I know some families have had difficulties in replacing items, due to low stock with our uniform suppliers. We have recently been informed that there are issues with the manufacturing of our kit, so we are now considering our options. Whilst we finalise plans, please be patient and do let us know if you are affected. We will update you as soon as decisions have been made on what our next steps are, which should be in the coming weeks.

On Wednesday this week, it was a joy to be joined by Fiona Ashton from Blackburn Diocese to talk about the difference our school vision of **growing in body, mind and spirit** makes to Team St Michael's and all that we do. We talked about spirituality too - our relationship with ourselves, others, the environment and God. This is so important to us as we consider that growth in spirit; we really do want our pupils, staff, governors, families and wider community to know the joy of life in all its fulness (John 10:10).

Next week we are opening our doors again, with our final Open Morning on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October. This is another opportunity for prospective families to come and see us in action on a regular school day and all are very welcome; there's no need to book, simply turn up between 9:30am and 12:00 noon.

Then, next Friday, we will be celebrating World Mental Health Day. As part of this St Michael's supports Young Minds Hello Yellow Day (on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October). Pupils and staff are invited to wear something yellow. This could be yellow socks, a tie or an accessory such as a bobble or hair band. We also have our wellbeing mentors attending assemblies all week.

For Year 7 parents/carers, some advance warning that on the Thursday after half term (6<sup>th</sup> November), you will be invited to come and meet your child's tutor in the evening and to discuss how they have settled at St Michael's. We so appreciate these events, and the chance to strengthen our partnership working; the more we get to know you, the more we can work together. Please put the date in your diary and we will send more details nearer the time.

Finally, did you know that today is World Smile Day? The BBC says this, 'On the first Friday in October every year, people celebrate World Smile Day. It's a great chance to think about what

*makes you smile.'* I wonder what makes you smile? For me, I love being part of Team St Michael's; I walk round school most days and feel so blessed to be here. As I've said at so many events, we must not underestimate that happiness factor, and I do hope your children are as happy here as I am.

As we head into another weekend, let's celebrate all that brings us joy but look for ways to bring a little sunshine into the lives of others too; perhaps we can start by bringing something into school for our harvest appeal next week?

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong

Headteacher

### **Important Dates**

Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	Period 1 Eucharist for pupils
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Open Morning 9.30am-12noon – all welcome to attend
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Mental Health Awareness Day – Hello Yellow
W/C Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 11 River Wyre Geography Study (various days)
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Lunchtime concert for pupils (Armstrong Centre)
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Lunchtime fashion show raising money for Derian House (Hall)
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 7 Tutor Consultation Evening 5-7pm
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Advance warning, Year 11 mock exams start