

# 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

5<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

After such glorious (and much appreciated!) sunshine during the half term break, the weather has taken a turn for the worse this week, meaning we had to postpone Sports Heats Day again on Thursday. The good news is that things are looking to improve over the weekend, so we are confident that we will be able to go ahead on Tuesday next week; we will then do Sports Finals Day on Thursday. This means all pupils will need to be in their PE kit on Tuesday please.

Year 11 are on their final push now. We are so proud of the manner in which they are managing their time between study leave, revision lessons and exams. We know that this exam period is a long stretch and are so impressed with the resilience they are showing. Keep going!

This week's worship was led by Mr Leadbeater, who explored the complex concept of the Trinity. He reassured us that it is completely natural to find this idea difficult to understand. Mr Leadbeater drew comparisons with René Magritte's painting of a pipe, labelled "*ceci n'est pas une pipe*" ("this is not a pipe"), and Alfred Korzybski's famous statement, "*the map is not the territory.*" Both ideas remind us that representations are not the reality itself. Similarly, descriptions and images of the Trinity are only attempts to help us understand something far greater. He encouraged us to reflect on the words from 1 Corinthians: "*For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face.*" Although we may not fully understand God, we can be confident that He is with us. Mr Leadbeater encouraged us not just to learn about God, but to develop a personal relationship with Him. The Worship was an incredibly thought provoking start to the week.

We are very grateful to members of Lancashire Fire and Rescue who joined Years 8, 9 and 10 in their assemblies this week for a timely talk about water safety. They shared information about the dangers of open water (such as quarries and reservoirs), deliberate risk-taking and the physical effects of cold water shock as well as how to enjoy the water safely and the importance of the *float to live* technique. They will be visiting Year 7 in their assembly next week.

The wind and rain have meant a quieter week for the PE team. However, in spite of a number of downpours, the U13s cricket match still went ahead at Bolton School on Wednesday. Mr Lister sent through a report that you can read at the end of this letter.

On the subject of PE, can I remind you again that the new style PE kit should not be worn until September. If you have any issues with lost or outgrown items before then, please contact school for advice.

There have been many reasons to celebrate this week; it was brilliant to start the day on Tuesday recognising pupils in Year 7 who had received excellent reports. I'm always amazed by the wealth of activities that pupils take part in, in and out of school and it was great to be able to chat to individuals about these. Growing in body, mind and spirit in action!

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Gold stamps this week have gone to Year 7 for their amazing chocolate creations as well as to a young lady who was still to receive the accolade for her entry to the Easter science competition. It's always a delight to celebrate with our young people, well done to them all.

As I look ahead, we have a very full half term planned, with District Athletics, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, work experience, Summer Arts and Spirituality Days. Many of the key events are listed in the important dates section below and we will keep you updated on events as we progress through the half term. This is also a time when we would usually have our Year 10 information evening, but we have decided to trial moving this to early September instead and will be in touch with more information before then.

In response to feedback, we have moved things around in the layout of this letter putting all events, sports reports and celebrations at the end. Please don't think they are missing, we are just trying something new.

I will leave you with this prayer for our community in the weeks ahead.

*Heavenly Father,*

*As we look ahead to a busy and exciting half term, we thank you for the opportunities before us. Grant our pupils strength in all they do, courage in new experiences, and joy in every moment. Help us to support one another and to make the most of each opportunity.*

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him." (Romans 15:13)*

*May this be a time of growth, happiness and fulfilment for all.*

*Amen*

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong  
Headteacher

### **Important Dates**

Tuesday 9 June	Sports Heats (all day weather permitting)
Thursday 11 June	Sports Finals (times TBC, weather permitting)
Friday 12 - Sunday 14 June	Silver DofE practice expedition
Wednesday 17 June	District Athletics at UCLAN stadium
Monday 22 June	Spirituality Day (previously CVE day)
Thursday 25 June	Summer Arts/Music (tickets available soon)
Monday 29 June	Start of new academic year (pupils move up a year)
Thursday 2 July	Year 6 Sampling Day (Lancashire common transition day)
Thursday 2 July	Year 11 Prom
Thursday 9 July	Sports Awards (Y7/8 4-5.30pm and Y9/10 6.30-8pm)
Monday 13 - Friday 17 July	Work Experience for current Year 10 pupils
Tuesday 14 - Friday 17 July	Bronze DofE expedition

Wednesday 15 July  
Thursday 16 July  
Tuesday 21 July  
Wednesday 22 July

Spirituality Day  
Spirituality Day  
Presentations  
End of Trinity Term – school closes 1pm



*On Wednesday the Under 13 cricket team played Bolton School in the quarter final of the Lancashire Cup. Morning drizzle put the game in doubt but by the time we arrived the rain had stopped and the pitch was good to go.*

*Winning the toss, we put the hosts into bat, a decision that would pay almost immediate dividends as Max struck early in the opening over to dispatch one of their opening batsmen. The early wicket was followed by Nathaniel who struck just 2 overs later to remove their number 3. At this point the rain made an unwelcome appearance and delayed the game, in which time a sense of real optimism spread through the St Michael's camp that this mammoth task was actually achievable!*

*Once the clouds cleared we continued our bowling attack and the wickets continued to flow, with both Isaac and Thomas taking wickets and we eventually bowled them out for 58. Now, normally a chase of 59 would be a very simple task but this was Bolton School and their bowling attack and field set up were full of quality.*

*Henry and Alfie opened the batting for us and made a good start at chipping away at the total. We lost a few wickets but remained in a good position. We entered the last 2 overs needing 12 runs from 12 balls. Isaac and Thomas were at the crease; Bolton's bowlers were giving us nothing to hit until the 4<sup>th</sup> ball of the over when a poor ball was brutally punished by Isaac who smashed a massive 4 to put us within 6 of winning.*

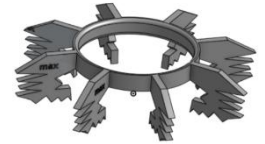
*The last over saw their best bowler employ the tactic of bowling bouncers at Thomas who could not get his bat on any of the first two balls. We still needed 5 from 4 balls. Step forward Isaac. On the 3<sup>d</sup> ball, having seen how far back the wicketkeeper was stood, he made the decision to run as soon as it was bowled, a risky move but one that paid off as we got a crucial run and Isaac onto strike. He then opened his bat well to gain another crucial run and saw us needing 3 from 2 to win. Thomas was back on strike and fully expecting a bouncer to come his way and it did, except this time the bowler got his distances wrong, which allowed Thomas to stylishly open his bat and divert it away for a match winning 4. St Michael's were the winners, and we take our place in the semi-finals of the Lancashire cup. An unbelievable achievement from the team!*

EVENTS

This week Year 8 pupils had the opportunity to take part in a 3D printing day run by Create Education in partnership with BAE Systems, a program that we have been running for the last 5 years. Mr Gladders sent through the following report,



*Pupils spent the day finding out about all the different industries that are now using 3D printing including many branches of engineering, 3D printing houses, fashion design, jewellery, medicine, costume and set design, Virtual Reality software, animation and many more.*



*They were introduced to Onshape, an industry standard CAD program so that they could design the nose cone and fins for a small rocket using a 35mm film cannister.*

*Some of the fins got quite creative! Faced with challenging weather for rocket launching, pupils still went outside and had the chance to launch examples of the rocket, learning the science behind how it works.*



*Chris Huffee, who presented both days, was really impressed with how well the pupils worked and that most completed both the nose cone and the fins, which he said is very unusual when he runs these days.*

*The pupils really enjoyed the day, getting enthused about the possibilities 3D printing opens up.*

*The next step is two Year 9 pupils – Lex and Amber, receiving special awards at a ceremony day at BAE's ASK Centre on the 26<sup>th</sup> June for insect house designs they created as part of the Duke of Edinburgh/Enrichment sessions run in school.*



We were delighted to hear about Oliver's recent Muay Thai success. Oliver in Year 10 won the Open British Championship last month, securing a place to represent Team England in Italy in October. Congratulations on this fantastic achievement!

