

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



Friday 6th June 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to our final half term of the year, time is flying by, and our Year 11 pupils will soon have finished all their exams. They've worked incredibly hard again this week and we continue to be so proud of their resilience and determination.



We've had a fabulous few days in school, the highlight for me being sports finals on Tuesday. Driving to Chorley in the torrential rain early that morning, I doubted there would be any chance of going ahead. But then, as quickly as the rain arrived, the sun came out, providing great conditions for the wealth of athletic events. Mrs Brunsden has written a more detailed report (below) of the records broken and individual achievements, but as always, I was incredibly impressed with the attitude of all pupils and their support

and encouragement of one another. There was a real sense of 'koinonia', one of our Christian values meaning 'community'. This was summed up with our inaugural staff relay race, providing great entertainment to pupils at the end of the day. Having begun the day with the simple hope that staff would make it around the track without injury, I think we quickly realised that Team St Michael's has some speedy adults, as well as young people! Rumour has it some have already started training for next year!

Mrs Brunsden's report on school records broken:

An impressive number of school records have been set over the course of sports heats and sports day. In Year 7, Malachi achieved 3 new records in the 100m, 200m and long jump. Year 7 records were also gained by Oliver in javelin and William for 1200m. In Year 8 Kai has also broken 3 new records in 100m, 200m and 300m and also a new record was set by Year 8 boys from Adams tutorial in the 4x100m relay team. In Year 9 Elliot set a new 300m record along with Millie for the girls. Millie also set a new 800m record. Finally, in Year 9 Booth girls tutorial 4x100m relay team broke the record. In total 13 new records have been set this year which is a fantastic achievement!



It's not just in school where we are celebrating sporting success. This week we heard that five of our Year 9 and 10 girls won the district semi-final football for Chorley playing against Hyndburn and will now go through to the final on Tuesday evening.

Worship this week was led by Mrs Baybutt who talked to us about Pentecost, the moment when Jesus' followers were inspired to go out and spread his message to the world. Mrs Baybutt explained that the Holy Spirit is a real and

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powerful force that can help us in our time of need, giving an example of her own life when she felt that comfort. This was illustrated further by a poignant dance performed by pupils from a variety of year groups. As always, a wonderful start to the day.

If you're a keen gardener, you will no doubt be spending quite a bit of time outdoors at this time of year. We've had some more very kind contributions from families to help us to improve our eco

garden and pupils and staff have been working hard getting them planted before we are visited by Britain in Bloom in June, when we will be able to showcase all that we have done. It's not too late to contribute, should you have any plants you wish to share with us. Do just drop them off at reception.



I have come to the conclusion that my office is perfectly situated in school, as I so regularly enjoy the delicious smells wafting down the corridor from the food rooms. On Wednesday, I went to find the source of the temptation and found the amazing chicken tray bakes created by Year 7. I was so impressed that pupils had managed to prepare and cook these dishes. I hope the families they came home to enjoyed tasting them too.

Sticking with the theme of food, I also awarded a Gold Stamp this week to a young man in Year 7 who had baked some incredible lemon tarts. More Gold Stamps went to a young lady in Year 7 for her English work and two pupils in Year 9 who had created amazing set designs for Grease and Mamma Mia. Two further Year 9 pupils who had composed an excellent example of the EDM (electronic dance music) style also received Gold Stamps. I believe their teacher described it as a 'banger', and having listened to it, I'm inclined to agree!

Wednesday evening was the second of the Astley Trail Series of races in Astley Park. It was great to see current and future pupils both taking part and volunteering in the junior race, prior to joining some St Michael's parents in the adult race at 7.30pm. A special well done to Maisie who was first female home in the junior race. We are all looking forward to the last race in the series on 2nd July.



I'm sure I don't need to remind you how keen I am that we forge links with those around us, and I was so delighted to have the opportunity, on Thursday, to see a little of what was happening at the RE teachers' conference that we hosted, brilliantly organised by our head of RE, Mrs Palfrey. Approximately 40 teachers from a range of schools attended and were treated to a day of inspirational sessions led by Lat Blaylock, a renowned National RE Advisor. Investing in staff in days such as these helps to make sure that exceptional

practice happens in our classrooms and that your children consistently have every opportunity to excel in their learning. It was a great day.

Some of you will be coming to the end of the St Michael's learning journey for the final time in the coming days and we would really appreciate it you were able to donate uniform items that are still in good, serviceable condition to us. (It would be great if families from all year groups could do the same). We will be holding a preloved uniform event after school in early July, and this will be an excellent opportunity to support our school community. Not only will this benefit other pupils, but

this is also a good opportunity to recycle and look after the environment. Please drop off any donations to reception by Wednesday 2nd July. Thank you.

Another major contributor to the success of pupils at St Michael's is their attendance. If pupils are in school regularly, they have the very best chance of making good progress across the curriculum, and we are thrilled to have heard this week that we have received several certificates in recognition of our exceptional performance. We have been ranked in the top 10% of all FFT (Fischer Family Trust) secondary schools (8,000 schools) in England for both the autumn and spring terms. This is very much down to the support of you as parents and carers in ensuring your children are in school, on time, every day and it is very much appreciated.

Understanding where our pupils join us from and getting to know our local primary schools and churches has been such an exciting part of my move to St Michael's and this week, I had the joy of visiting Trinity CE / Methodist Primary. It was such a pleasure to spend some time with headteacher Mrs Wright, and to meet pupils and staff, including some young people who will be joining us in Year 7 in September. Then today I visited St Laurence's Church which was so very inspirational. It was wonderful to meet Fr Neil, Lucy and Rachel in the office and some of the 150 strong team of volunteers who run the Taste Café, Open Table, community and support groups,



emergency food parcels, flower arranging; what a vibrant and welcoming community. The Taste Café was open today which is a 'pay what you can' cafe providing baked cakes, soups and drinks in a warm space for members of the community to enjoy refreshments and companionship; what a fantastic example of Christian hospitality in action in our community. We attended the Friday lunchtime Eucharist led by Fr Neil; another wonderful opportunity to spend time in one of our foundation parishes.

We so want to partner with you as families and we continue to look for ways to improve that connection. One way we hope to make things easier is by introducing the Synergy App. This will mean that checking your child's attendance, punctuality and home learning should be much simpler. The App will go live on Monday and at the end of this letter I have included instructions on how to set this up on your device. Please can I also just remind parents that if you do have a question or concern, one of the best ways to get this resolved is to come along to our SLT drop-in session after school on a Tuesday. This is an opportunity to talk to a member of the senior team in person, and in many cases provides the answer or reassurance families need without the need to wait for a reply to an email or phone call.

If you are musically inclined, there is another fabulous opportunity to connect coming up soon too, as we will be forming our 'family wind band' in preparation for our summer arts concert on 26th June at 6.30pm. I am really excited about this chance to dust off my clarinet, and we are encouraging any parents, carers, grandparents, ex-pupils, or those with connections to St Michael's to come and join us and play together. We are looking for players of wind and brass instruments who might like to play alongside and inspire our small group of musicians. There will be a rehearsal at 5.00pm on Thursday 19th June in the music department that will last around one hour, and the music is of grade 2-4 standard. If you would like to join us, please email our head of performing arts, Mr White on admin@saint-michaels.lancs.sch.uk. It would be lovely to see some of you there.

Today pupils have spent period 7 with their tutors getting to grips with their timetables in preparation for the new academic year which starts on Monday. We have reinforced our high

expectations in the classroom and have taken the opportunity to talk about the need to take good care of equipment and exercise books. Although, historically, pupils have been provided with covers for each of their exercise books, we have made the decision to phase these out, due to the environmental impact of so much plastic. We are currently collecting covers back in and will recycle those that still have life left with selected classes. I hope you agree that this is a positive step and can encourage your child to be a good steward of their books without these.

We wish our Year 10 pupils and staff, who are heading off on the practice Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition today, a wonderful weekend. The weather forecast indicates that it may be a character building experience!

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Events Next Week

Throughout the week
Monday 9 June

Worship led by Mrs Freer on Fairtrade
New academic year commences – pupils have new timetables

School Synergy Parent App

You are now able to access School Synergy using the School Synergy Parent App.

This offers all the same features as the web version, but with easier access through the App.

Please follow the information below to set this up.

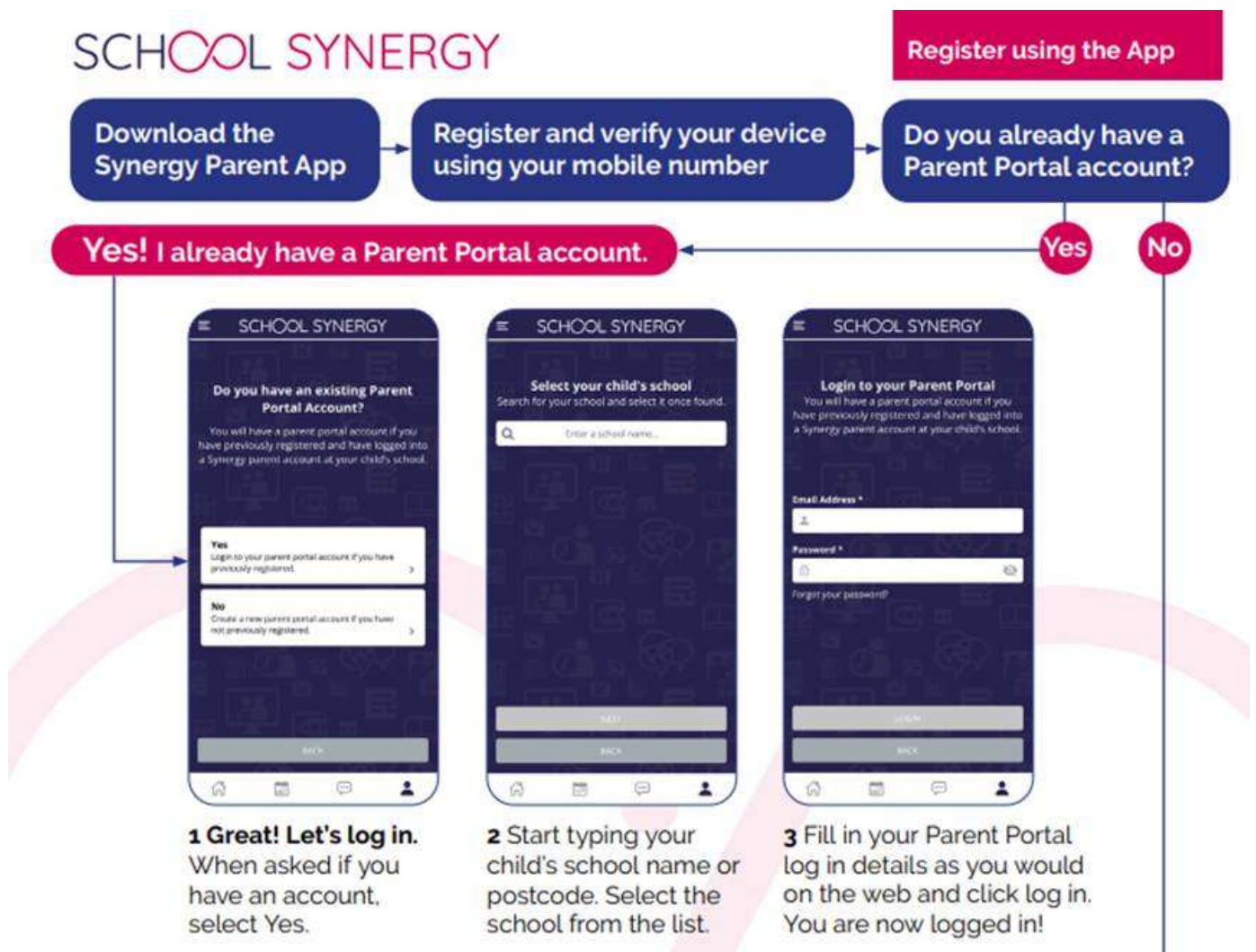
Already registered with School Synergy?

If you are already registered and access School Synergy as a parent, the details that you use when setting up the App need to be the same as what you currently use for the web portal.

Not currently registered and want to register for access to School Synergy?

You need to have parental responsibility for the pupil.

Please contact school on 01257 264 740 to request an access code for your child.



No. I do not have a Parent Portal account.

To register, you'll need a Student Code

These are unique to you and your child and cannot be shared. Each parent or carer must have their own registration letter given by school.

Contact school if you have not been issued with a code or would like a family member to have access.

GET IT ON
Google Play

Download on the
App Store

SCHOOL SYNERGY

Do you have an existing Parent Portal Account?

You will have a parent portal account if you have previously registered and have logged into a Synergy parent account at your child's school.

Yes
Login to your parent portal account if you have previously registered.

No
Create a new parent portal account if you have not previously registered.

BACK

1 No problem, let's register. When asked if you have an account, select No.

SCHOOL SYNERGY

Select your child's school
Search for your school and select it once found.

Q Enter a school name...

NEXT
BACK

2 Start typing your child's school name or postcode. Select the school from the list.

SCHOOL SYNERGY

Register your Parent Portal
You will need the Student Code which is supplied by school and is issued upon request. If you have an existing portal account, tap here to login.

Email Address *

Password *

Student Code *

Student Date of Birth *

Day Month Year

REGISTER
BACK


3 Fill in your details and your child's code to register. You are now logged in!

Adding more children to your account

If you have more than one child at school, they can be added to your Parent Portal account. You do not need to register again.

Parent Portal App



1 Open the App and tap the  icon on the bottom right, or from the side menu, tap 'My Account'.



2 Tap 'Linked Students & Schools'.



3 All children currently linked are listed. Tap the 'Add Student' button at the bottom of the screen.



4 Select your child's school from the list, then add their Student Code and date of birth.