

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

7th February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been another great week at school, with so much to celebrate once again. However, I think our headline has to be the Year 9 boys' football team and their victory in the last 16 game of the ESFA Cup at Victory Park on Wednesday. An outstanding performance against a very talented West Derby High School led the boys to a 2-1 win. Their hard work and determination to keep going right to the final whistle paid off, and we are so proud of all the boys in the squad. They have been rewarded with another home tie in the quarter finals and we are now waiting to find out who their opponents will be.

I would also like to congratulate the St Michael's athletes who competed for Chorley in the Lancashire Schools' Cross Country at Witton Park last weekend. Six of our runners have now been selected to represent Lancashire in the English Schools' Finals in Sussex in March, what an achievement!

It was great to meet Year 7 parents and carers at Consultation Evening yesterday. So many of you attended and took the time to introduce yourselves to me. It was lovely to have those brief conversations, which reminded me again of how important it is that we strengthen these home-school relationships and work together. We shared a survey link with you on the night and would really welcome your feedback, so that we can make informed decisions about how we run these evenings going forwards, as well as how we support your children in school. The link will remain live until lunchtime on Monday and we would really welcome your feedback.

Worship this week focused on Martin Luther King and was led wonderfully by 03 King Tutorial. We were encouraged to reflect upon how we demonstrate 'courageous advocacy' in our own lives and stand up for what is right. A thought-provoking challenge indeed!

In the midst of a busy day on Tuesday, I attended our first lunchtime concert of 2025. We were treated to a range of musical performances, including a string quartet, vocalists and pianists. Pupils from all year groups came along to listen and it was wonderful to see them enjoying the event and supporting their peers. For me, it was a welcome opportunity to pause awhile and enjoy the exceptional talent that our young people have to share.

On Wednesday lunchtime I finally made it to Bible Study, as well as Discovery Club; two opportunities for pupils to explore the Christian faith with peers and staff. Discovery Club is following the Youth Alpha course and pupils were examining the idea of forgiveness, whilst the Bible

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Study group were discussing Mark's gospel (Mark 14) and reflecting on the repeated mention of, 'the crowd'. It's groups like this that make St Michael's stand out for me, as we place God at the centre and pursue opportunities to support pupils' growth in 'body, mind and spirit'.

After school on Wednesday, I accepted an invitation to attend the Minecraft Club, run by Mr Nelson. I was astounded to see that, as a group, pupils have been creating a 'virtual' replica of St Michael's. Who knew that I'd be able to have a tour of the school on a computer screen? The group were so keen to show me their efforts and it has certainly helped me to find my way around school in 'real life'!

Talking of the wealth of opportunity that technology affords, this week pupils have been exploring the world of cyber, with an event at the town hall attended by a group of Year 8 and 9 girls, as well as a trip to Runshaw College by some of Year 10 pupils.

An absolute highlight of the week was joining some of our Year 9 for an enrichment activity on Thursday. Mr Kirkpatrick drove us over to Rivington in the school minibus and did a brilliant job of improving our map reading skills, in preparation for pupils' Duke of Edinburgh expeditions later in the year. The fabulous weather was a bonus and it really was a special afternoon, despite our muddy feet! This was such a timely trip for me, as on Friday, I was able to celebrate with Year 10 when 121 pupils received their Bronze D of E badges in assembly. I'm looking forward to the rest of the year group completing their final tasks so that they can collect theirs too!

The gold stamp has, of course, been out again in recent days. Bella in Year 10 brought her wonderful RE essay to share with me and pupils in Year 7 not only showed me their German conversation, but even acted it out for me too! Fantastisch!

Year 10 has been a focus in many ways this week and on Thursday the senior leadership team spent time dropping into their classrooms throughout the day. We visited maths, English and science, as well as various option subjects. The attitude to learning from pupils was outstanding; there were clear routines in place, with so many pupils demonstrating a thirst for learning. Whether this be trigonometry in maths, persuasive writing techniques in English, quantitative chemistry and electricity in science (along with some great cross-curricular links to maths), the standard of work was so impressive. We visited technology too and to see such creativity in action was brilliant. We are very proud of all our pupils and we know that much of what we see is down to the support of parents and carers, so a massive thank you to you as well!

This week has been 'Children's Mental Health Week' and pupils have been discussing this year's theme, 'know yourself, grow yourself' in assemblies and tutorial time. Mrs Monaghan also presented Kooth.com to all staff. This is an online platform designed to support young people with their mental health and wellbeing. It is a free service that offers anonymous support, activities, podcasts and forums for anyone aged 10+. Kooth is a BACP-accredited digital mental health service and provides free services through the NHS. It is a safe platform, as all content is monitored and verified before being published. Find out a little more about the service by clicking here: [Kooth - families](#)

Unbelievably, we have just one more week until half term. I've listed the events taking place before then below.

I'll finish with a quote from Martin Luther-King, as we continue to reflect on that theme of courageous advocacy,

'We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right.'

Let us all try to make positive choices this weekend and as we move into the final week before the break.

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Events next week

- Wednesday 12 February Period 1 Bolton College Presentation to Year 9 pupils
- Thursday 13 February 5-7pm Year 9 Consultation Evening (online)
- Thursday 13 and Friday 14 February Runshaw Interviews for Year 11 pupils