

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 9th May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I'm sure it won't surprise you to hear that, despite the bank holiday on Monday, it's been another busy and fun-packed week.

Tuesday started with an assembly to celebrate our newly appointed prefects. Following a rigorous application process and an interview with a senior member of staff, I was able to congratulate 140 pupils and hand out their prefect badges; a brilliant way to start the day. It's one of the largest prefect teams we've had at St Michael's, but I can assure you that every one of them is absolutely deserving of the position. I am so looking forward to seeing what they will achieve as a pupil leadership team. In the coming weeks we will be announcing who has been successful in some of our other leadership positions; it's great that so many young people want to take up these opportunities, so there are tough decisions ahead!

I stayed in celebration mode for breaktime, when, once again I headed up to the RE department to award numerous Gold Stamps. This time, the recipients were Year 9 pupils for their creative responses to a variety of different Christian themes. Some of the creations must have taken many, many hours. Later in the week I saw some Year 7 geographers who had produced some wonderful project work after their visit to Chorley. A massive well done to them all.

If that weren't enough positivity, on Wednesday morning we had an 'excellent reports' celebration breakfast for Year 10 pupils. These occasions are such a highlight, as it is an opportunity to chat to our young people who have gone above and beyond in their learning. It's not just about academic attainment, (although of course that's important too), it's about recognising effort, resilience and sheer determination to do well. It was lovely to hear the wide range of interests that these pupils pursue outside of school too; as well as our sports enthusiasts, artists and dancers, who knew that we have a young man who is learning to play the church organ! Just brilliant!

On Wednesday evening, I stayed late at school, as I had entered the Astley Trail Series of races in Astley Park, hosted by Chorley Athletic and Triathlon Club. It was such a lovely evening, as I was able to watch the junior race at 7:00pm, prior to taking part in the adult race at 7:30pm. A massive well done to Elliot who was 2nd junior overall, and Thomas who was 3rd. For the girls, Maise was 1st across the line, followed by Lyra in 2nd. An excellent performance by St Michael's pupils! It is so good to see our current as well as some of our future pupils enjoying sport and I am really looking forward to the next race in the series on 4th June. Do consider signing up, if running is your thing!



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We didn't quite manage to capture all our runners in the photo on the night, so we gathered those who we had missed on Thursday.

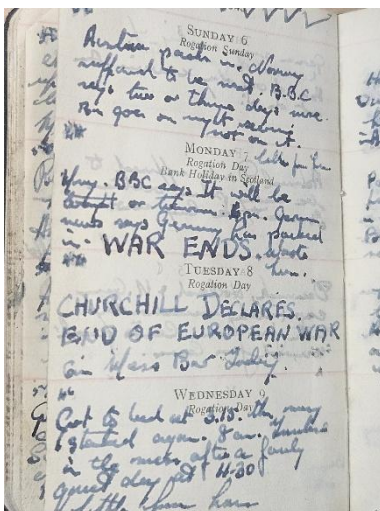
Whilst we are on the topic of sport, PE has had another brilliant week. We had an unbelievable turn out for athletics on Thursday evening, with 142 children across Years 7-10 turning up to practise their events in preparation for Sports Heats Day on Tuesday 20th May. Mrs Dempster has spoken of how seeing so many children determinedly trying to achieve great times or distances, or to be chosen for the district athletics competition is fabulous to see. If we are successful again, this will be an unprecedented 25th year in a row of winning. Wow!



The Under 15s cricket team began their season in fine style on Tuesday, with a fantastic win at Merchant Taylors' in Crosby in the Lancashire Cup 2nd Round. Mr Holden sent through this report.

'On a sunny afternoon, Merchant Taylor's won the toss and elected to bat. After the lovely weather at the start of the summer, the wicket played brilliantly and combined with a fast outfield Merchant Taylors' posted a very competitive 146/4 off their 20 overs. Archie was the pick of the St Michael's

bowlers, taking 3/30 from his four overs. After losing an early wicket in reply, the St Michael's chase began to build momentum. With a mixture of some big hitting and quick running between the wickets, St Michael's chased the total down with 9 balls to spare to win the game by 7 wickets. Oliver finished 51 not out and Edward 41 not out along with some valuable contributions from Will (24) and Toby (21). St Michael's will play Stanley High (Southport) or St Margaret's (Aigburth) in Round 3.'



Thursday, of course, marked Victory in Europe Day and this year is particularly significant as it is the 80th anniversary. Our History Club pupils attended the opening, by the Mayor of Chorley, of the commemorative VE Day garden created by Chorley in Bloom. Mr Cree gave a presentation at the event and shared extracts from his grandfather's beautifully preserved diary from the time including the monumental entry on 8th May, "*Churchill declares the end of European war.*" Mr Cree reminded us that at the end of the First World War, Astley Park was gifted as a memorial to the people of Chorley; a symbol of reconstruction and hope for a peaceful and better Europe. At school we encourage pupils to, "have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10) and the commemorative garden represents new life and is an extension of the memorial that was gifted to the town after 1918.



I've visited further primary schools this week. What a delight to see the impeccable behaviour of pupils at St Peter's CE Primary School and to meet their lovely headteacher, Mrs Brown; it's so good to be building these links with one another. I also had the pleasure of a trip to St George's Primary School, where I had a tour of the school with Mr Purcell; what a joyful hive of activity. In both schools I was able to meet Year 6 pupils and it was a pleasure to see some of them again with their parents on Thursday at the second of our Introduction Evenings. I value these times of community and it is so exciting to be starting our journey together.

I joined Friday worship this week, led brilliantly by the Social Action Team, who talked about loving our neighbour. They shared how 'agape' love is the highest form of love and is the kind of love that God shows for humanity. It is when we put others before ourselves, and choose to love others, even if they have hurt us. How wonderful to be reminded that loving our enemies can change the world.

I can't not mention Year 11 and exams, which have begun in earnest this week. So many pupils are showing such cheerful resilience, which is heartwarming to see. It was wonderful to witness a large number of pupils arriving very early this morning to join Mrs Rackstraw for a 'Business Breakfast'. A reminder that porridge and bananas are available from Monday morning for Year 11 pupils to help prepare them for the challenges of the day.

I love these verses in Philippians, which are so timely for all of us, but Year 11 in particular at this point:

¹³ But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 3:13-14

With kind regards,

Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Events Next Week

Throughout the week
Tuesday 13 May
Tuesday 13 May

Worship led by Mrs Palfrey and Year 10 prefects – Christian Aid Week
Year 8 HPV vaccinations
Year 9 tracking emailed home

Wednesday 14 May

Year 7 reports emailed home

Thursday 15 May 6:30pm

Meeting in school for parents and Year 9 pupils undertaking Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions this summer

Thursday 15 May 7:45pm

Meeting in school for parents and Year 10 pupils undertaking Silver or catch-up Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions this summer