

# 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*



12<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

How quickly we are all adapting to our new routines; it feels like we have been back at school for much longer than two weeks, particularly as recent days have seen the arrival of cooler, wetter weather. It's been another brilliant week, though, and I am particularly proud of our new Year 7 pupils, who have adapted to their finalised timetables and are growing in confidence in navigating their way around school.

Before the school week began, my husband and I thoroughly enjoyed joining with St George's Church for their Back to School Sunday service. Hughes Tutorial sang for us beautifully during the Eucharist; we are so blessed to have a Chapel Choir, directed by our Head of Performing Arts, Mr White. Fr Jordan led the service so wonderfully, in his usual engaging manner, including asking Mr Purcell, Headteacher of St George's Primary School and I to race down the aisle with biscuits on our foreheads; it may have got a little competitive! It's such a joy to be getting out to our local churches and strengthening our relationships and I'm now looking forward to visiting St Barnabas in Heapey and All Saints in Chorley on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October.

We have continued the theme of vision in worship this week with the year groups that I didn't see last week. In the busyness of life, I love the opportunity that worship offers, to pause awhile and consider our connection to God, the world, ourselves and others, and this week I invited pupils and staff to consider where they hoped to be 12 months from now; how they hoped to **grow in body, mind and spirit**. I talked again of how having a vision gives us a purpose and reason for our actions and choices and reminded pupils that we want them to know the joy of 'life in all its fullness' despite the challenges and difficulties that life can bring.

Whilst I was leading worship, Mr Chadwick, Deputy Head, was delivering assemblies to all year groups on safeguarding. Each session was based on the statutory document of Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025, with a particular focus on Section 5: Child on Child Abuse and Sexual Harassment. Mr Chadwick has reminded all staff and pupils to remain vigilant and report anything they feel is wrong. He also discussed what abuse might look like, including online and how 'inappropriate comments' even if not directed at a person are not acceptable. We take all such reports seriously and will not tolerate any form of abuse or inappropriate comments. We have also made it clear that we will never dismiss these as 'part of growing up', 'boys being boys', 'just having a laugh' or 'banter'. We tackle these tough topics with our pupils as we really do want everyone to feel safe and happy at St Michael's.

We celebrated some things for the first time this week, too, with the launch of our inaugural Freshers' Fair for Year 7 and Year 8. This was a roaring success, and a brilliant way to encourage pupils to join clubs and wider curricular activities. All Year 7 selected three new activities to trial, whereas we encouraged Year 8 to choose one new

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thing. We have already seen a big increase in the number of pupils who are planning to attend our clubs; what a brilliant way to grow in confidence and make new friends - I can't wait to see them all in action in the coming weeks!



Of course, a major event this week was Open Evening. Thank you all for your support with the early finish that day, as well to the parents of our amazingly articulate pupils who helped us on the night; so many visitors complemented them on how polite and welcoming they were, it's hard not to be incredibly proud. Many families chose to come and visit us and see the plethora of activities we were showcasing; it was lovely to meet everyone. I'm incredibly grateful to staff too, who, as usual put so much effort into the evening; another opportunity to celebrate Team St Michael's. We had the first of our Open Mornings this morning too; a chance to see us on a 'normal' school day. There's another opportunity on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October. No need to book, just turn up between 9.30am-12noon.

I love the fact that our pupils so frequently have the opportunity to hear external speakers, and this week we were delighted to welcome Mike Swanson from the organisation Christians in Sport. Mrs Ferguson, one of our RE teachers has written the following report,

*What do you love about sport? What do you hate about sport? How is it possible to be a Christian in sport? How does sport impact your faith?*

*These are just some of the questions pupils were grappling with today in RE and PE lessons, as they were treated to a session with Mike Swanson from the organisation 'Christians in Sport'. Pupils were challenged to think about the purpose of life; looking at Romans 12:1 and Colossians 3:17. First and foremost humans are made to be a living sacrifice, giving thanks to God in everything that they do. But how do elite sports men and women use their platform to honour God? Mike presented the gospel perspective of how we are made in God's image, with God given talents, passions and opportunities to be in relationships. It is entirely possible to love Jesus and love sport; using sport as a chance to worship God and show Jesus to others. Mike ended with words from The Masters golf*



*champion Scottie Scheffler – Winning the Masters he said, "It's a pretty special feeling to know that I'm secure for forever. I believe that today's plans were already laid out many years ago, and I could do nothing to mess up those plans." About his God-given talents, Scheffler said he strives to use them all "for God's glory" because "that's how I was designed." How amazing is the God who designed and made us? Praise and glory are His!*

I've awarded some Gold Stamps this week too, to pupils in Year 11 for their fantastic RE assessments on human rights. I imagine there'll be a lot more to celebrate in the coming weeks.

At the start of a new school year, as we consider our vision and purpose, I'll finish with this,

*"But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 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

**Important Dates**

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> September | Staff training day – school closed for pupils      |
| Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October  | Open Morning 9.30am-12noon – all welcome to attend |
| Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November | Advance warning, Year 11 mock exams start          |