

# 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> June 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

As GCSE exams head towards the final papers, we remain so impressed with our Year 11 pupils; many staff have spoken so highly of them and the way they have approached this season, and we are all incredibly proud of each one of them. They remain in our prayers for the last day on Monday and we then look forward to seeing the results of their efforts in August.



On Tuesday, we finally managed to go ahead with Sports Heats. It was touch and go for a while, but other than one quick, sharp shower that sent us all back indoors for a short period, we were blessed with largely dry weather.



I remember experiencing this day for the first time last year and loving every minute of it and that feeling remained this week. There were records broken, pupils cheering each other on, dancing and celebrations - a real Team St Michael's occasion! As you'll know we postponed Finals Day until Monday and watching yesterday's torrential downpours, I think we made the right call. In fact, the good news is that it's looking to be a glorious day next week, and suncream might be needed!

Worship this week was led by our Head of Science, Mrs Wilk who spoke to us about wisdom. We started with some '1% Club' questions, as Mrs Wilk explained that it can be difficult when we struggle and don't know an answer, but wisdom is not the same as knowledge. We heard how wisdom can be seen as what we do with the knowledge we have gained. Referencing the wisdom of Solomon and the story of the wise and foolish builders we were left with the encouragement that wisdom is a great gift given by God and that we can build our lives on a firm foundation by trusting in him.

As many of you will know, something that makes St Michael's unique is our Year 9 enrichment programme. By incorporating this into our timetable for all pupils on a Thursday afternoon, we ensure that all our young people are able to take on the challenge of the bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, including an overnight expedition. Preparations are well underway for our current cohort, who this week spent time preparing for managing the challenges of navigating independently and how to cope should problems arise. It is activities such as these that really help our pupils to **grow in body, mind and spirit** and to become well rounded young people, ready to make a difference in the world. We are excited too that we also have 77 Year 10 pupils heading off on their practice silver expedition this weekend, perfectly timed with the much improved weather. We'll let you know how they get on next week.

We love opening our doors to visitors at St Michael's and this week, Fiona Ashton from the Diocese joined us, to help us in our preparations for our next SIAMS inspection. This is always a great

Astley Road, Chorley, Lancashire PR7 1RS Telephone: (01257) 264740 email: admin@saint-michaels.lancs.sch.uk



opportunity to consider how we can improve our practice, not because we know we will be scrutinised, but because we really do want to ensure we give our pupils the very best experience at school.

On Thursday we were delighted to host a one-day training course led by RE Today consultant Lat Blaylock. During the course our RE department were joined by RE representatives from over 25 schools across the North West as Lat led sessions on diversity of world religions and beliefs, RE and values, engaging with texts and scriptures and challenges for RE today. Ensuring that, as staff, we continue to develop our pedagogy and share ideas with colleagues is vital as we strive to offer our pupils the very best experience in the classroom - we are very grateful to Lat for joining us.

This week Mrs Wilk was excited to receive the results of the National Scientific Thinking Challenge that Year 10 pupils entered in May. This is an online challenge run by Warwick University that test scientific analytical and evaluation skills. 119 Year 10 pupils were entered and received bronze, silver and gold awards.

Gold stamps this week went to a small group of Year 10 pupils for their art work as well as a number of Year 7s for their chocolate project creations - I'll admit to sampling a few!

As well as the pupils and staff involved in Silver DofE, we also have pupils competing in the Lancashire School's Athletics this weekend at UCLAN, we hope you all have a brilliant time.

This school is so special not only because of our pupils and their families, but also because of our amazing staff. Today we have recognised our longest serving member of staff, Mrs Johnson. Last year Bishop Philip North opened The Johnson Centre and it is great to see the explanatory plaque now on display.



Given our focus on sports at the moment, it seems appropriate to finish with one of my favourite verses from Philipians,

*'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.'*

With kind regards,

Mrs Rachel Rongong  
Headteacher

### **Important Dates**

Friday 12 - Sunday 14 June  
Wednesday 17 June  
Monday 22 June  
Thursday 25 June  
Monday 29 June

Silver DofE practice expedition  
District Athletics at UCLAN stadium  
Spirituality Day (previously CVE day)  
Summer Arts/Music (tickets available soon)  
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	Spirituality Day
Thursday 16 July	Spirituality Day
Tuesday 21 July	Presentations
Wednesday 22 July	End of Trinity Term – school closes 1pm



### **Under 13s reach quarter finals in dramatic fashion**

Our U13s cricket team continued their outstanding season today by securing a place in the quarter finals of the Lancashire Cup for State Schools. The team were due to face Crompton House School at Leyland CC, but persistent heavy rain on Thursday, followed by further rain this morning, left the ground waterlogged and unfit for play. With a result required on the day, the match was decided by a bowl-out.

Each of the 11 players from both sides bowled five deliveries at the stumps in a tense and unusual contest. St Michael's demonstrated impressive composure and accuracy, emerging as convincing 20-10 winners to progress to the next round.

The team's excellent form means they remain in both Lancashire Cup competitions they have entered. They now await the winners of Lancaster Grammar School and Manchester Grammar School in the semi-finals of the main Lancashire Cup, while a quarter-final clash against Bowland awaits in the State Schools competition.

With silverware still up for grabs in both competitions, the dream of a memorable double remains very much alive.

#### **Mr Holden**

Last weekend some of our Year 7 netballers competed in a national competition Sisters-N-Sport at Loughborough for Chorley Inferno. We are very proud of them for placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in this competition after coming up against some very tough teams from around the country. A fabulous achievement.

#### **Mrs Dempster**



# CELEBRATION



Year 9 pupils Nicholas and Lawson took part in a Mighty Hike in the Lake District last weekend. This was to raise awareness of cancer and to raise money for charity. It was a 26 mile challenging hike and Nicholas and Lawson were the youngest participants to successfully complete it. They raised over £3,000 for the charity!