

# 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 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

It feels like we've had all four seasons in a matter of days this week! A huge well done to our new Year 11s who braved the torrential rain last weekend to complete their silver D of E practice expedition. By all accounts they remained incredibly cheerful and showed such resilience despite the adverse conditions. I'm extremely grateful to staff too, who so generously gave their time so that the adventure could take place. What a brilliant team we have at St Michael's. Of course, we've then finished this week with the sun shining. All in all, just a typical British summer!



As you'll all be aware, at the start of this week, we 'moved up' into our new academic year and pupils should now have met all their teachers and classes for the coming twelve months. This can be an unsettling time for some, and we are incredibly proud of the way that everyone has managed this week. Thank you for your support in preparing your children for this change. Our aim is for everyone to be settled into their new routine by the time we break for summer, meaning we can enjoy the holidays knowing there'll be no big surprises in September; I'm sure you'll agree this is a big benefit.

Since half term, I have been aiming to have a walk round school for at least one lesson each day. My goal is to make sure I see all the fabulous things that happens here first hand. On Monday, I dropped into a Year 11 textiles lesson where some incredible creativity was taking place. Working on the theme of 'a little black dress', I was particularly struck by one young lady's work; she showed me an example of a buttercup, made from fabric, that would decorate her finished piece. It was so very impressive and I'm sure the result will be beautiful; I can't wait to see it.

On Wednesday, I headed over to the performing arts block in search of more inspiration. Our new Year 10 were enjoying their second GCSE music lesson, which involved enthusiastic drumming and percussion. With a group of boys in one room, and the girls in another, they were working on polyrhythms. It certainly seemed exciting stuff, and Mr White seemed to be having fun too!

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Worship this week was led by Mrs Freer who talked to us about Fair Trade. This is the second worship about this since January, and rightly so, as it's such an important topic. She started by asking us to consider what it means to be fair, then spoke about her own childhood, growing up on a farm, as a farmer's daughter. She set the scene brilliantly as we were then challenged to consider



how different life might be on a farm overseas, in Zambia for example. This was illustrated for us some more by a thought-provoking drama performance. The new learning for me was the 10 principles of Fair Trade. I realised the difference we can make in promoting ethical and fair trade, just by considering the

items we put in our shopping trolley. Looking out for the Fair Trade label can have a big impact.

As you know, I am so keen for us to be working closely with our local churches and this week Mrs Jenner and I paid a visit to St George's church for their midweek spoken word service. This was a particularly special occasion as it was Rev Mike Print's last Wednesday service before moving on to his new parish in Langho. Rev Mike spoke about St Barnabas and the role we can all play in being an encourager to others in their faith. As an ex-pupil we are delighted that Rev Mike will continue his work with St Michael's and we look forward to seeing him in school again soon and hearing about his next chapter.



It has been another busy week for our cricket teams. The under 15s were victorious against St Margaret's in Liverpool and are now through to the quarter-finals of the Lancashire Cup. The under 13s play this afternoon against St Margaret's and we eagerly await the result. Looking forward to next week, we wish all the team competing in the Chorley and District Athletics at Bolton Arena on Wednesday the very best of luck.

This week has been quieter, due to the start of the new academic year and timetable changes, but next week is another busy one, starting with our Christian Values Enrichment (CVE) day on Monday. I'm really looking forward to joining our new Year 9 as we head to Blackpool Zoo, whilst our new Year 8 have a mosque visit and performing arts to look forward to. New Year 11 are at Runshaw College and new Year 10 are heading out on their bronze D of E practice expedition. Let's hope the weather is better for them than it was last weekend!

On Thursday 25 September we will be celebrating the next of these CVE days, in recognition of St Michael's Day. Year 10 will be focusing on the Christian value of 'hope,' as we look to develop pupils' employability skills. They will spend part of their day practising interview techniques in preparation for college and the world of work and we would love to hear from anyone who would be available from 11am until the end of school on this day to lead a mock interview for pupils and to then provide feedback and areas for improvement. If this is something you might like to do, please get in touch via Synergy.

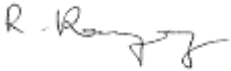
Another important event next week is our new Year 10 information Evening on Thursday at 6.30pm for parents/carers. It will last no more than an hour but will hopefully help you to understand the changes and challenges that come as your child moves into these last, important two years at school. I look forward to seeing you there.

In all the changes this week, I haven't forgotten our outgoing Year 11. As we approach the final week of their exams, can I take a moment to tell you, again, what a wonderful group of young people they are. They have worked so hard and continue to impress us with their exceptional behaviour and resilience. It has been such a blessing to know them, even for the relatively short time that I have been at St Michael's. Whilst visiting the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds at the weekend, I was struck by something I read about the origin of forensics. Apparently, the foundation of forensic work is Locard's Exchange Principle (1904), 'Every contact leaves a trace'. I love this concept, that everything we touch leaves something behind. As we send Year 11 onto their next adventure, I can assure you they have made their mark on us, and they will not be forgotten. Matthew 5:15-16 says,

<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Our prayer is that your children continue to shine and positively impact those around them. They will be so missed.

Enjoy the weekend,



Mrs Rachel Rongong  
Headteacher

### **Events Next Week**

Throughout the week	Worship led by Mrs Hooley and the Eco Council
Monday 16 June	CVE day
Wednesday 18 June	District Athletics
Wednesday 18 June	GCSE exams finish
Thursday 19 June	Theatre trip to see Dear England at the Lowry
Thursday 19 June	New Year 10 Information Evening 6:30pm in school