

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

14th February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As my first half term at St Michael's draws to a close, can I start by saying a huge thank you to you all. I have been made to feel so very welcome, not only by your children and staff in school, but also by the parents and carers that I have met at our evening events in recent weeks. I am so enjoying composing these Friday letters to you, as they give me an opportunity to share the wealth of experiences there are to celebrate here, and to reflect on how privileged I feel to have joined 'Team St Michael's'. The final letter each half term will have a longer list of events included, to enable you to prepare and plan for the subsequent half term. I hope you find this useful.

This week has been no exception in terms of opportunities. It was wonderful to start the week with worship led by Mr Fraser. He talked about one of our tutorial patrons, Dan Walker, and described how, as a newsreader and television presenter, faith shapes how he lives his life. We were reminded of the importance of friendship in our relationships and were encouraged to consider how we too can make a difference in the way we live.

Yesterday afternoon, Miss Curtis kindly took the time to show me some more of the Year 9 enrichment activities on offer. What a great choice pupils have! I saw one group working towards the creation of animated prosthetic hands, others baking butterfly cakes to be delivered to the United Reformed Church Open Kitchen, dance, art, and pupils working on the allotment, and that's to name but a few! It is fabulous to see our vision of 'growing in body, mind and spirit' being lived out by the whole school community.

A very special moment for me this week was receiving a hand-written letter from a young lady called Ava in Year 10, who wanted to come and share her passion for karting with me. Although the 'Team St Michael's' club isn't run by school staff, it is primarily St Michael's pupils who are involved, and Ava told me how it, 'brings everyone together'. She told me all about the team, her kart, and the competitions that they take part in, I so enjoyed our chat. I believe the kart comes out at Open Evening for all to see, so that is something I shall certainly look forward to!

I've met some other pupils this week too, after their teachers nominated them to receive a 'Headteacher's Gold Stamp'. Ethan and Joseph in Year 8 showed me their fabulous lamp boxes, created for design technology, Sophie in Year 7 had excelled in effort with her reading homework, Alice in Year 8 had coded a 'rock, paper, scissors' game on the computer, and Poppy in Year 10 showed me photo evidence of a phenomenal Swiss roll that she had baked and decorated. I'm not sure the cake lasted long in real life; it looked so delicious!

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This week's sporting news includes the Year 7 girls' football team who played in the Chorley and District tournament on Tuesday. After coming joint top on points, they came second overall to Bishop Rawsthorpe, who managed to secure just one goal more, a brilliant effort all round! The Chorley and District indoor athletics took place for Years 7 and 8 on Thursday evening. The Year 7 and 8 girls' teams both came second, as did the Year 8 boys' team. However, after some outstanding performances, the Year 7 boys won gold by 13 points and will now represent Chorley in the Lancashire finals in March. Just amazing!

With our ongoing careers programme, we really endeavour to prepare pupils for life beyond St Michael's. The growth of the whole child that we strive for on a daily basis ensures that pupils leave school prepared for their next steps in education or training and equipped to go on and achieve their full potential in life. With that in mind, Year 9 had an apprenticeship talk on Wednesday morning this week, whilst Year 11 pupils were involved in Runshaw College interviews on Thursday and Friday. There is some additional end of year information to share with Year 11 parents and carers, so please look out for a letter from Mr Chadwick today, giving details of events for pupils' final few months in school.

Something that has impressed me since starting at St Michael's is the tempting array of food on offer in the canteen. It is wonderful to see so many pupils taking advantage of the lunches available, but please can I ask that parents and carers ensure lunch accounts are topped up regularly, so that children are able to purchase their food without going into a negative balance. A reminder too, that pupils are limited to a spend of £5.00 per day.

Improving communication and further developing links with the local community is something that I am so very keen to do, and I am sure you will agree that it is so important that we all work together. Unfortunately, I do need to address the fact that parking at the end of the day to pick up children is causing some issues for our neighbours and is, in some cases, posing a real safety risk. It has been brought to my attention that some cars are blocking residents' driveways or preventing pavement access for mobility scooters by parking on the kerb. Please can I ask that we are mindful of others when choosing where to wait. Leaving engines running is also very unhelpful, not least because of the environmental impact and noise pollution that it causes.

We had Consultation Evening for Year 9 parents and carers yesterday and this time we were online. If you haven't completed the questionnaire via the link that was shared, we would really appreciate your feedback. We are considering the best way to run these evenings going forward, so understanding what your thoughts are is extremely useful.

I'll finish this week's letter with the school prayer:

*O Lord our heavenly Father,
We pray for our whole school community at St. Michael's.
We thank you for the uniqueness of each person who works and learns here.
May this school be a place of fulfilment, of hope and of wholeness for each one of us.
We ask that you would be with us day by day in our life together.
Help us to do our best and to care for each other,
so that all who come here might see the Kingdom of God in action in this school.
Amen.*

For those pupils and staff going on the Geography Visit to Iceland and the West End Theatre Visit over half term, have a fantastic time.

I wish you a wonderful half term break, and I look forward to the return to school on Monday 24th February when we will hopefully see some lighter evenings and milder weather!

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Dates for Next Half Term – Lent 2

Monday 24 February	Y9 Options Forms due
Tuesday 25 February	Y11 Photographs
Wednesday 26 February	Y8 Reports issued
Thursday 27 February 6pm	Y11 Revision Evening
Thursday 27 February – Tuesday 4 March	Y10 Exams (Periods 1-6)
Thursday 27 February – Tuesday 4 March	Y7 Exams (Periods 7-8) RE, English, Maths, Science
Monday 3 March 6pm	Germany Trip Parents' Meeting
Wednesday 5 March 1:15pm	Lent Eucharist in Armstrong Centre – all pupils welcome
Thursday 6 March 5-7pm	Y8 Consultation Evening (in person)
Friday 7 March	Non-Uniform Day for Zambia
Monday 3 March 6pm	France Trip Parents' Meeting
Monday 11 March	Y8 MFL Option Forms due
Sunday 16 March	Lytham Speech and Drama Festival
Monday 17 March 6:30pm	Wellbeing Evening for parents
Wednesday 19 March 1:15pm	Lent Eucharist in Armstrong Centre – all pupils welcome
Friday 21 March 3:30pm	Secondary School Dance Competition
Saturday 22 March	Y11 History Trip to Leeds Royal Armouries
Monday 24 March and Tuesday 25 March	Y7 Geography Visits to Chorley during lesson time
Thursday 27 March 6:30pm	Evening Dance Showcase (ticket information will be available nearer the time)
Friday 28 March	Bishop Philip visits school
Monday 31 March	Lunchtime Dance Showcase for pupils to watch (Hall)
Tuesday 1 April	Lunchtime Concert for pupils to watch (Armstrong Centre)
Saturday 5 April	Germany Visit and France Visit depart school