

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



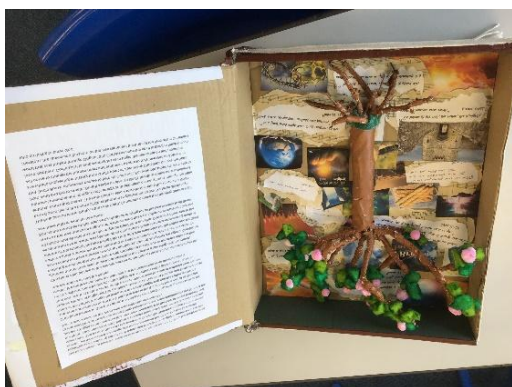
16 May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

We've reached the end of another gloriously sunny week! It's such a joy to experience St Michael's in this weather, and to see pupils enjoying the outdoors at break and lunchtimes. I think it puts us all in a better mood for the remainder of the day. Those moments of refreshment are just what Year 11 need, as they've had a busy week of exams this week. We are so proud of the resilience and effort they have shown. A huge well done to them all.

Worship this week was a little bit different. Mrs Palfrey and our new prefect team led a very interactive worship on Christian Aid. After a short talk by Mrs Palfrey, pupils and staff then visited a range of prayer stations, manned by prefects. We had an opportunity to reflect on our carbon footprint and some of the issues effecting Zambia. It was so good to be reminded again of 'courageous advocacy'. I love this phrase, as it describes the act of speaking out against injustice, often on behalf of those whose voice is not heard. Here at St Michael's, we try to foster something a little more than that however, embracing the Church of England's definition and explanation that, *'Becoming a courageous advocate for change, therefore, must involve being informed about an issue and it must move beyond simply knowing, to saying and doing. Educating for courageous advocacy must embody an ethos of action-taking, challenging injustice and becoming agents of change in the transformation of ourselves, our relationships and our communities from the local level to the global.'* We so want all our pupils and staff to feel equipped to make a difference in our very rapidly changing world.

There has been much to celebrate in recent days, of course. I was back up in the RE department early in the week, celebrating more responses to Christian themes by Year 9 and Easter bakes by Year 7. I've included some examples here, so you can see how wonderful they were.



Staying with the cooking theme, I also awarded a Gold Stamp to a Year 8 pupil who came to show me their fantastic Biscoff cheesecake. It looked absolutely delicious! This week we are also delighted that three of our Year 9 pupils have been awarded a special prize by BAE for their innovative 3D printed bird feeder – congratulations!

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It is so important that we encourage creativity in our young people, and this determination that we have at St Michael's for all to grow in, 'body, mind and spirit', is what makes this school so special.

There has been recognition of academic effort too today, with our Year 7 'excellent reports' breakfast. As with Year 10 last week, I met those pupils who have gone above and beyond with their efforts in lessons. This determination to be the best that they can be is so commendable and I really enjoyed chatting to each of them about their wider curricular interests and hobbies.

On Thursday we were delighted that Dr Hill was able to join some of our Year 7 pupils to talk them about podiatry. It really was interesting for them to explore how what they are learning in science links to this area of healthcare. We are very grateful when visitors are able to join us and help pupils understand where their learning in the classroom may lead and the links to future careers. It was fantastic that Rev Mike Print from St George's was also able to visit us again this week. He joined some of Year 7 in their RE lessons where they learnt about why he became a vicar and were able to discuss big questions with him including how Jesus died.

This week has been another fantastic week in PE. Mrs Dempster has written the following report:

Some of our Year 9 football team who made the last 8 of the National School's competition have been competing for Chorley this season, and over the weekend Aidan, Toby, Seb, Will and Isaac were part of the team who won the National JPL Football Finals, taking place at Doncaster's Keepmoat Stadium. Well done to them all.

The Under 12s cricket team got their season off to a fine start with a comprehensive win away at a sun-drenched Birkdale School on Wednesday. St Michael's scored 142/1 off their 16 overs, thanks mainly to a great partnership between Aaron (33 not out) and George (31 not out). In reply, Will took a wicket with just the second ball of the innings and Birkdale were eventually restricted to 73/4, with the wickets being shared amongst the St Michael's bowling attack. St Michael's will now play at home to Merchant Taylors (Crosby) next Thursday in Round 3.

Thursday was a day of fabulous finals! The Year 7 and 8 boys' handball team competed in a very physical Northwest finals over in Liverpool. Pupils played some fantastic handball against very tough teams. The boys gave a brilliant account of themselves, ending the day placed 4th in the Northwest of England. What a great achievement.



After school the Year 8 and 9 girls' football team travelled over to Darwen Football Club to play in the Lancashire Cup Final against a very feisty and spirited Up Holland High School. From the first whistle the girls pressed, hurried and controlled the game fabulously. The whole team were magnificent throughout, taking a 2-goal lead into half time. Up Holland came out fighting but our girls persevered and ran out 5-2 winners after a hat trick from Abi and two goals from Summer. A simply phenomenal

performance from an outstanding group of girls. St Michael's are Lancashire Champions for the very first time! Congratulations girls!



How brilliant to read of these sporting accomplishments!

There will be sporting opportunities for all next week, as on Tuesday we have our sports heats (the first of our sports days) here at school. Staff are currently putting final preparations in place for what we are sure will be a fantastic day. We cannot wait to see all pupils participating in the various athletic events and doing their best for their

tutorials. With the wonderful weather that we have forecast, can we remind you to ask your child to apply sun cream throughout the day and to bring a hat as we will be outdoors for a long period. Hydration will also be essential to prevent pupils from overheating, especially when participating in events. Please encourage them bring a water bottle and to remember to drink plenty. On sports heats day, pupils should come to school in full school PE kit (white sports socks are acceptable). Tracksuits can be worn over their PE kits but can't be worn during an event. To facilitate any change in weather, pupils must bring their normal equipment, books and stationery in case the usual timetable has to be resumed.

In other news, I am really looking forward to visiting Buckshaw Village Church for their 9.30am service on Sunday. This will be another opportunity to get to know our community better, something I am so keen to keep working on. I may see some of you there.

I'll close with a message to parents from Iain Parks, Director of Education for Blackburn Diocese, aimed at Year 11, but timely for us all:

'Thank you for your constant encouragement and belief in your children. Your partnership with our schools is invaluable, and your support helps our young people to thrive and grow.'

As a family of diocesan schools, we celebrate each student's progress and recognise that every young person is precious, with gifts and talents to share with the world. The journey through GCSEs is just one chapter - what matters most is the person you are becoming and the positive impact you will have on others. Jesus teaches us that we are called to be more than our achievements; we are called to love, serve, and persevere together.

Let us continue to support and uplift one another during this important time. We pray for peace, confidence, and joy for all our staff and students in the days ahead, trusting in Jesus who walks with us every step of the way.'

With kind regards,

Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Events Next Week

Throughout the week
Tuesday 20 May
Wednesday 21 May
Friday 23 May

Worship led by Miss Davies – Sermon on the Mount – Salt and Light
Sports Heats Day (Years 7-10)
Period 1 Eucharist led by Rev Venables
Year 11 Leavers' Service 11:45am