

# 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

17<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's hard to believe that this is only the end of my second week at school. After such a short time, I already feel a part of 'Team St Michael's', and I am really enjoying getting to know staff and pupils better.

I've had a big focus on building relationships since my arrival, and Year 10 Consultation Evening yesterday was a fantastic opportunity to meet parents and carers for the first time. Over 96% of you attended this 'in person' event and I am so grateful that many of you took the time to come and say hello. The more we work together, the better we can make the educational journey for our young people. The survey link that you received during the evening gives an opportunity to tell us whether you preferred this meeting taking place face-to-face (rather than online) and your feedback is much appreciated.

In the midst of getting to know one another, we've also said a goodbye this week to Karen Blackstock, a very much loved member of the office team. After 19 years at St Michael's, I know that she will be missed by so many, due to her genuine care for all of the school community; we hope she enjoys her new adventure.

I have been so impressed with the way that Year 8 and Year 9 have conducted themselves in their exams this week, and I've been dropping into wider curricular activities again each day, often finding myself in the music department, where there really is something for everyone. There was a particularly impressive staff and pupil string quartet rehearsing yesterday lunchtime! I love the focus that St Michael's has on the arts, it's so important that we keep that breadth and balance for pupils as we strive for excellence across all areas of the curriculum. Hughes Tutorial blessed us by singing at the start of worship this week too. Their rendition of 'Potter's Hand' was beautiful; it was a wonderful start to the school day.

There has been much to celebrate in the PE department too. The Year 8 boys' football team played in the third round of the Lancashire Cup, a notable achievement, despite losing 2-1 in a very difficult game, and our two Year 9 girls' netball teams came second and third in the Chorley District tournament. Impressively, 19 pupils across all years have been chosen to represent Chorley in the Lancashire Cross Country Championships on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February. I am so pleased to have joined a school that that prioritises young people's love of sport.

Much of the success I've described above is down to the high expectations we have here at St Michael's, and I am very thankful for your help in maintaining these standards. Working together and giving a consistent message at home and school will only serve to enhance the learning experience for all, so thank you for your continued support.

At the end of this letter I've included some important dates for your diary that are coming up next

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week. One of those is Year 9 Options Evening which I am really looking forward to. I really hope that as many of you as possible can join us, and I'd love the chance to meet you there.

Knowing that God is at the centre of all that we do at St Michael's has made my first two weeks so special, and I pray that we will continue to look to Him for guidance for the weeks ahead. I'll finish with some lines from, 'Potter's Hand', that sum up my prayer,

'Take me and mould me, use me, fill me  
I give my life to the Potter's hand  
Call me, You guide me, lead me, walk beside me  
I give my life to the Potter's hand'

Kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong  
Headteacher

### **Events next week**

- Year 9 Options Evening (parents/carers only) - Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 6:30pm