

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



17th April 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

As the Trinity term begins, a very warm welcome back to you all; after two weeks away, it's great to see everyone back in school again. Whilst some of us were making the most of the unexpectedly pleasant weather in the UK, others were off on one of our three overseas trips - to France, Germany and skiing. There are some reports to read at the end of this letter if you would like to find out more. As the term begins, we welcome some new staff to Team St Michael's - Mr Kelly to science and Mr Turner who will be joining us as Network Manager in a couple of weeks.

Worship this week was led by Pupil Manager for Year 8, Mr Topping. He spoke about 'koinonia', one of our Christian values, meaning, 'community'. After asking us to consider what communities we are part of (sport, choir, family, friends etc.), he reminded us that communities share a common goal. Community is mentioned in the Bible too, in Acts 2:42-44, we hear how the early Christians were together and had everything in common. It was good to be reminded that we all have responsibility for one another and then to celebrate Team St Michael's in action as he shared some highlights from the trips I mentioned earlier, and the boundless kindness that had been shown by pupils and staff whilst they were away.

An absolute highlight of the week for me must be interviewing for the posts of Head Boy, Head Girl and Deputies, as well as for our new roles of Spirituality Lead. I never fail to be impressed by the calibre of our young people and just how wonderfully articulate they are. After a very rigorous selection process and some tough decisions, we were delighted to make the following appointments:

Pupil Spirituality Leads: Lucy, Grace, Lena, Eliot
Head Girl: Eleanor, **Head Boy:** Darrah

The following pupils will make up our team of **Deputies:** Kaitlyn, Thomas, Joseph, Rose, Holly, Austin, Lexie, Juliette, Felicity, Olivia. A huge well done to them all.

We have other pupil leadership posts still to come, and we'll update you on those in the coming weeks.



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



It's hard to believe that we are now into exam season for Year 11; this week pupils have been taking part in their performing arts exams, with next week bringing the start of the MFL speaking tests. We are so proud of how pupils are conducting themselves and are equally grateful to staff and our exams team for all they have done to prepare pupils and to help them to succeed; well done to everyone.

There was more to celebrate in RE again this week, as Year 7 enter another round of 'making and baking'. I popped into Mrs Palfrey's class to see some of their wonderful creations and was stunned by how much effort pupils had made. I awarded many Gold Stamps, with more to come in other classes next week I expect!

Yesterday evening was Year 7 consultation evening; can I start by saying what a joy it was to chat to so many of you. It was brilliant that so many families were able to join us and to hear how settled your children feel at St Michael's. I am so glad that we can work together like this, and I do hope you found the event useful. There was opportunity to share your feedback on the night, and we'd love to know what you thought so we can build on and improve these evenings in the future. Thanks so much for coming.

We have some exciting events coming up this half term, but before I mention those, I need to update you on a couple of practical things. The first is that from September we will need to add an additional 5 minutes to the start of each school day. This is because we are currently falling short of the DfE's expectation that all schools deliver a 32.5 hour week. We are therefore proposing to move the start of the school day 5 minutes earlier, to 8:45am. We will, of course, be liaising with school buses to arrange an amended timetable, as necessary, however if any families have concerns or questions about this, please get in touch via: admin@saint-michaels.lancs.sch.uk

I also wanted to remind you that from September, current pupils will have the option to wear our new PE kit (only if they wish to); for new Year 7, this will be a requirement. The kit should now be available for purchase via our uniform suppliers - Jada and NU, if you wish to plan ahead. We also expect that skirts will be knee length for pupils in current Year 7, as well as for those joining us in September; thank you for your support with this.

You may be wondering what happens to all the surplus 'old kit' and we have recently had some lovely news from SVP Chorley Buddies. They sent in the following:



Part of the work that our charity (SVP Chorley Buddies) does is to provide free second-hand school uniform to families in Chorley. We had some left over that was on its way to being recycled, and we were asked if a lady could send it back to her village in Africa. These photos are the result – a football team in Gambia who now have a full kit to play in. How wonderful!

How amazing to know that St Michael's kit is making a difference to young people in Gambia!

Next week we have an exciting event to look forward to, as the 'Tuk Truck' will be visiting us from our caterers, Mellors. As a recognition of all that Year 11 have done to prepare for their exams, they have had opportunity to purchase a Golden Ticket for £2 to buy a meal from the truck. Just a reminder to ensure lunch accounts are topped up. Each Year 11 tutorial has been assigned a specific day to visit the truck; I know we are looking forward to it!

We are so grateful for the support of our parents and carers in helping to enrich our personal and spiritual development programme through work experience opportunities, and this year, our Year 10 work experience week will take place from Monday 13 July to Friday 17 July. We would be delighted to hear from any parents or carers who work in an organisation that may be able to offer support, as we still have a number of pupils looking for a placement. Work experience is a valuable opportunity for pupils to develop responsibility, confidence and independence while gaining first-hand insight into the world of work. If you are able to help us in this way, please contact Miss Curtis via Synergy. Thank you so much.

Next week, we are also pleased to invite parents and carers to an RSHE information evening taking place on Wednesday at 4.30pm. During the session, Mrs Brotherton will share key aspects of our relationships, sex and health education curriculum, which plays a vital role in preparing our pupils for life in the 21st century. The evening will also include an overview of our RSHE policy and the opportunity to look at examples of lessons. We very much welcome parent and carer views and look forward to hearing your thoughts and questions. Thank you to all parents and carers who have already expressed an interest in attending; if anyone else would like to join us please complete the short form below.

[Relationships, sex and health education \(RSHE\) information evening – Fill in form](#)

I'd also like to highlight an event at St Barnabus Church in Heapey a week on Sunday - Assembly Bangers! It's going to be a great event, starting at 4.00pm, Bishop Philip will be there and Hughes choir will be taking part too. We'd so love it if you could come along and have a good singalong; hopefully we will see you there.

I want to end this week's letter with a big thank you to our foundation parish churches. Each year they support school with a financial donation, and these funds are ringfenced for work that enhances the Christian dimension of the school. We are delighted that this year we have been able to replace the wallpaper in our entrance hall, so that all who learn and work here, as well as our frequent visitors and wider community, can see from the outset how important our vision (and the Bible references that support this) are to us. I hope you love it as much as we do; we are so very grateful.



It looks like we have a dry weekend in store; make the most of it, whatever you choose to do.

With kind regards,

Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Germany

Pupils on the Germany holiday over Easter had an unforgettable time, packed with culture, language and fun. During the trip, they explored the stunning Cologne Cathedral and enjoyed a visit to Cologne Zoo, while confidently practising their German language skills and experiencing everyday life in another country. Highlights also included the picturesque Reichsburg (Cochem Castle), the fantastic swimming pool at the Freizeitzentrum with a wave machine and thrilling slides, and an exciting day at the popular theme park Phantasialand. On the journey to Germany, pupils also visited Amsterdam, where they enjoyed a canal boat ride and learned about the history and culture of this beautiful city. All pupils behaved impeccably and had a truly enjoyable and memorable experience.



France



It was a pleasure to take Year 9 and 10 away to France during the Easter holidays. We had a slightly windy crossing from Dover to Calais but arrived safely in Paris. We spent a magical day at Disneyland, though nobody had more fun there than Mr Ball! It was a joy to



spend the next day in Paris, starting off in the artistic area of Montmartre before visiting the Louvre and seeing the iconic Eiffel Tower up close. A highlight was the boat trip along the Seine, which was a relaxing and unique way to see the sights. On our journey back to Rotterdam, we stopped off at the pretty town of Ypres in Belgium to stock up on chocolate! We all enjoyed our trip to Paris and pupils were a credit to themselves and school. C'était une visite fantastique!



Skiing

On Saturday 28th March, 48 pupils, along with Mrs Freer, Mr Chadwick, Mr Tierney, Mrs Walling, Mr O'Reily and Mr Banks, set off bright and early to Leeds Bradford airport to

catch a flight to Chambery, in France, for a week long ski trip to the beautiful resort of Serre Chevalier.

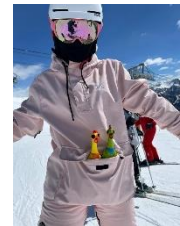
After a good night's sleep, we picked up our skis and boots and headed up the mountain to meet our instructors for the week. We were blessed with 5 amazing instructors, who throughout the week taught us to ski, lifted our spirits, laughed with us, challenged us with tree lined tracks and snow parks, and ultimately, gave us the confidence to keep going and improve, and a week to remember.

We had the most amazing skiing conditions throughout the week; lots of fresh snow, beautiful blue, sunny skies and long, empty ski runs for us to enjoy. After 5 hours of skiing tuition each day, we returned to the hotel, to relax and reflect on our day.

As well as skiing, we enjoyed a night of bowling, watching the England football match, a quiz night, a visit to a local restaurant for a burger night and a chance to have a good old singalong at the Karaoke, with a whole group rendition of YMCA.

As the week progressed, faces evolved from confused, tired and frustrated, to smiles, joy and elation as pupils became confident, resilient skiers, who tackled difficult slopes and overcame the tiredness to have an amazing week with memories to last a lifetime.

A great week was had by all on such a successful, rewarding trip, which would of not have been possible without the support of the amazing, dedicated staff team who came along and gave up their time to provide this wonderful opportunity for some of our pupils. Thank you!



Important Dates

w/c Monday 20 April
w/c Monday 20 April
Wednesday 22 April
Friday 24 April
Sunday 26 April

Wednesday 29 April
Wednesday 29 April
Thursday 30 April

GCSE MFL speaking exams commence
Tuk Truk lunchtime
RSHE Evening 4.30pm in school
P1 Eucharist
Hughes and Armstrong Choirs singing at St Barnabas Church, Heapey 4pm
Alumni Event 1-2.45pm
Junior Maths Challenge Year 7/8
Year 10 Consultation Evening 5-7pm