

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



19th September 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

We've had another brilliant week in school, there is so much happening, that the days are just flying by! Year 7 are seeming increasingly settled in school and are making the most of the wealth of opportunities available to them. At the other end of the spectrum, Year 11 have come back focused and working hard, it's great to see that commitment to the final leg of their St Michael's journey.

This week worship has been led by Assistant Headteacher, Mr Allcock, who has been talking to us about forgiveness, in line with our theme this year of 'love your neighbour as yourself'. It was an incredibly powerful and thought-provoking session as he spoke first of the forgiveness we have received from God, before challenging us to forgive others. I love the idea that forgiveness is an act of service, as we choose to surrender the desire to 'get our own back'. The most poignant part of the morning was watching a video of a young man who chose to forgive the person who accidentally killed his brother and how, in doing so he found peace; it was incredibly moving.

On Monday, we had some representatives from Fairtrade visit us in school, to talk to Year 11 in RE lessons. Mrs Ferguson sent the following report,

On Monday, our Year 11 pupils were treated to an engaging and insightful talk on Fairtrade in their RE lessons, which sparked lively discussion and genuine interest. The speakers explained how Fairtrade empowers farmers and workers in developing countries, and the pupils were particularly moved by real-life stories of positive change in Ghana; the country where one of the speakers was from. Many pupils commented on how eye-opening the session was, and we noticed how much the pupils enjoyed learning about ethical consumerism in such an interactive way. The talk left a lasting impression, inspiring pupils to explore how they could support Fairtrade in their own communities by becoming courageous advocates. We are so fortunate to have Fairtrade with us again next Monday to speak to the other half of the year group. Our RE GCSE curriculum on 'Human Rights and Social Justice' encourages pupils to be the change that they wish to see in the world as they strive for justice. Jesus said, "whatever you do for the least of my brothers you do for me." Supporting Fairtrade affords us the chance to stand with the poorest of the poor and be Jesus' hands and feet in our world!

And whilst we had visitors coming into school early in the week, on Tuesday, members of our Eco-Council headed out of school on an Eco Town Visit. Miss Watson sent the following report,

Before the Summer holidays, 14 members of our Eco Council delivered a brilliant Worship on sustainability, promoting stewardship and asking our school community to reflect on how they could reduce waste and protect the planet. As a continuation of this pledge, on Tuesday these pupils visited Eco Town, based in the Environmental Educational Centre at Farington Waste Recovery Park. Pupils traversed the 'Material, Mechanical and Bio Districts' of the centre and discovered the

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different ways of recovering and reusing valuable resources in household waste, whilst engaging in interactive quizzes and learning about careers with Lancashire Renewables. We had a fantastic morning at Eco Town, and pupils returned with a wealth of information and ideas to feedback to our wider Eco Council and apply to projects in school.



Eco Council is just one of the ways pupils can get involved in making a difference in our wider community; do encourage your child to look out for leadership opportunities in school (and I'll try to keep you updated here too!).

I talked to you last week about the assemblies that Mr Chadwick delivered on safeguarding. We were delighted to have some visitors from the Local Authority in school on Wednesday to audit our safeguarding practice. We strive to have a mentality of continuous improvement here at St Michael's, so it's always incredibly valuable to have external eyes on what we do. It was a really positive day.

On the topic of improvement and development, do remember that we have a staff training day coming up on Monday 29th September, when school will be closed to pupils.

At Open Evening last week, I mentioned our Year 9 curriculum enrichment programme and yesterday I experienced this first hand, when I joined pupils with Mrs Hooley and Mrs Walsh as they learnt some ceilidh dances! We had a lot of fun trying to master the moves and I was so impressed by pupils' coordination by the end of the session. I think I may need to attend a few more times to catch up! It's these opportunities that set St Michael's apart for me; I love the fact that we can have such high expectations and standards and yet still have fun learning and growing together!

We have some exciting opportunities to **grow in body, mind and spirit** next week too, as we have the first of our first Christian Values Enrichment days. Every year group has a different plan, so do make sure you know what your child is doing when and whether they need to be in uniform, or if they need a packed lunch. I'll give you a full run down of how it all goes next week!

Today 15 of our Year 10 pupils are starting their induction as Young Leaders with Chorley School Sports Partnership, volunteering their time to train to lead in a variety of sports. Following training, they will support delivering sports sessions to Chorley primary schools, providing opportunities for children from Key Stage 1 and 2 to participate in competitive situations and learn new skills. This is a fantastic way for our pupils to inspire the younger generation and give back to our local community and we are incredibly proud of them.

On the subject of competitions, fixtures have started in earnest this week and Mr Holden has sent through the report below on the Chorley Cup campaigns:

St Michael's kicked off their Chorley Cup football campaigns this week with strong performances against Southlands. The Year 10s set the tone early, producing a dominant first-half display to secure a 3–1 victory. Goals came from Will, Harrison, and Aidan, sealing a confident win.

The Year 8s faced a tougher challenge, trailing 3–0 at half-time. However, a rousing team talk at half time sparked a remarkable turnaround. The team stormed back in the second half to claim a brilliant 9–3 victory, with Olly and Arthur both netting hat-tricks in a superb attacking display.

In addition to the CSSP training and sports matches we have had a fantastic start to the school year with record attendance at sports clubs and practices both at lunchtime and after school. On Thursday evening, 130 pupils stayed after school for netball, hockey, football and rugby practices. If any additional pupils, regardless of experience or year would like to attend, they would be very welcome, just look out for the PE practice timetables which are sent through synergy at the end of the week or ask your child to check the PE noticeboard in school. It is activities like these that help our pupils to grow in confidence and experience the joy of being part of a team.

I've awarded just one Gold Stamp this week, to a young man in year 11 for his fabulous effort in maths. There will be more to come in future, for sure.

As we reflect on forgiveness this week, I'll finish with this quote from Martin Luther King Jr., *"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."*

As we go into the weeks ahead, let's keep our eyes fixed on God who loved us first and journey together in love. Have a good weekend.

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Important Dates

Wednesday 24 th September	Parents' meeting for Milan trip 5.30pm in the school hall
Thursday 25 th September	CVE day
Monday 29 th September	Staff training day – school closed for pupils
Wednesday 1 st October	Year 11 photographs
Thursday 9 th October	Open Morning 9.30am-12noon – all welcome to attend
Tuesday 19 th November	Advance warning, Year 11 mock exams start