

# 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*



19<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

We can probably sum up this week's highlights in one word - sport!

Before school had even opened on Monday, over 70 Year 10 pupils had already taken part in their practice Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition over the weekend. Mrs Hooley sent through the following report:



*Friday night provided an immediate challenge, as strong winds made pitching tents and cooking particularly difficult. However, pupils rose to the occasion with impressive resilience and teamwork. Despite the conditions, many groups produced excellent meals on their Trangias, including steak dinners, alongside a variety of pasta dishes and hot dogs.*



*On Saturday, pupils navigated independently in their groups along the route from Wadacre to Dunsop Bridge, demonstrating growing confidence in their map-reading and teamwork skills. Sunday saw them complete a circular route around Beacon Fell, continuing to build on these skills and support one another throughout the day.*



*Fortunately, the weather remained dry all weekend, and Saturday's walks concluded in beautiful sunshine along the River Brock, providing a well-earned and memorable finish to a demanding day. Thank you to everyone involved in the weekend and we look forward to the full expedition in August.*



Then, Monday it was Sports Finals, another brilliant opportunity to watch our young people shine. What struck me most of all was the real sportsmanship shown across all disciplines, pupils were so encouraging and supportive of one another, even when their peers outperformed them, something that I have seldom seen elsewhere. Mrs Dempster sent the following:

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*On Monday the weather finally changed to enable us to have our sports day after three previous cancellations. The staff and the students were outstanding in their participation, their effort and the desire to get all events done. I would like to congratulate the winning tutorials in each year group, Year 7 Roseveare, Year 8 Bernado, Year 9 Aylward, Year 10 Fry and the overall winning tutorial, Aylward.*

Deputy Headteacher, Mr Tierney, led our worship this week on the theme of 'service'. He started by reminding us of the popular card game Top Trumps, drawing our attention to the fact that we live in a world that is constantly ranking others. He asked us to consider about how we might think differently, for example considering how highly we would score for Christian values such as 'service'. We had some wonderful examples of people who had made a choice to put others above themselves, including our very own maths teacher Mr O'Reilly, who gave up his own finish time in the London marathon to help another runner across the line. It was so good to remember that we can choose to live differently and in doing so make a difference to the lives of those around us too.

Sport was back on the agenda on Wednesday, as the Chorley District athletics competition took place at University of Lancashire Preston Sports Arena in glorious sunshine. I was privileged to be able to drive up and join pupils and staff for an hour in the afternoon and watch our athletes in action and it was again remarkable to see the camaraderie between pupils across all schools. Mrs Dempster provided the following report:



*Sports Heats on Monday led to a massive Team St Michael's effort to get the athletes ready in time for the annual pilgrimage to the district event, held for the first time this year at the University of Lancashire arena. Thank you to Chorley School Sports Partnership for arranging the event at such an outstanding venue - a real privilege for our pupils to compete there.*

*Sports Finals and District and, feeling exceptionally unprepared due to the lack of training time following so many weeks of bad weather, our pupils, as always were impeccable in their behaviour and attitude, and the sportsmanship shown to all pupils.*

*It is with great pleasure that I am able to say that the Year 7 boys and girls were champions, Year 8 boys and girls were champions, Year 9 boys and girls were champions and Year 10 girls were champions. The combined points left St Michael's as the victorious team on the day, another outstanding year of athletics despite some very difficult challenges.*



*Well done to everybody involved, from staff helping at Sports Heats and Finals and with logistical arrangements and planning, parental support and the PE department for getting everything organised to enable such a successful day. Most importantly, thank you and congratulations to*

*our outstanding athletes who managed to set four new district records (that we know of) on the day. We're already looking forward to next year when we hope to make it 27 years in a row! Well done team St Michael's.*



There were delicious aromas coming from Food Tech on Wednesday after school. Year 7 Master Chef Club showed great skill in making Apple Snackles – they looked delicious and I'm sure they were very much enjoyed at home. We look forward to seeing what they make next.

Thursday saw a group of pupils heading to Liverpool Playhouse to see a magical performance of Malory Towers. It was an uplifting evening all set to sensational live music – what a treat!

It's hard to believe that Year 11 have now left us having completed their final exams on Monday. If you are having a clear out of uniform, we would welcome pre-loved items for an event we are looking to hold on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July. We will not be able to accept old style PE kit but all other items in good condition would be gratefully received.

A final reminder that Monday is the next of our Spirituality Days. Please make sure your child understands the plan for their day and comes suitably equipped. We look forward to feeding back on how the day goes next week. Another event to look forward to next week is Summer Arts and Music; rehearsals are well underway and I'm sure it will be a wonderful evening.

I would like to draw your attention to a separate letter that Mr Chadwick is sending today regarding Uniform and Appearance. As you know we have the highest expectations at St Michael's and value your continued support in this area to promote a positive, respectful and supportive school environment where everyone can flourish.

What better way to end this letter as we reflect on the week past than these verses in Hebrews 12 1-2,

'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.'

Enjoy the forecast sunshine this weekend.

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong  
Headteacher

### **Important Dates**

Monday 22 June  
Thursday 25 June  
Monday 29 June

Spirituality Day (previously CVE day)  
Summer Arts/Music  
Start of new academic year (pupils move up a year)

Thursday 2 July	Year 6 Sampling Day (Lancashire common transition day)
Thursday 2 July	Year 11 Prom
Wednesday 8 July	Pre-loved uniform (provisional)
Thursday 9 July	Sports Awards (Y7/8 4-5.30pm and Y9/10 6.30-8pm)
Monday 13 - Friday 17 July	Work Experience for current Year 10 pupils
Tuesday 14 - Friday 17 July	Bronze DofE expeditions
Wednesday 15 July	Spirituality Day
Thursday 16 July	Spirituality Day
Tuesday 21 July	Presentations
Wednesday 22 July	End of Trinity Term – school closes 1pm



**Mr Holden sent through the following cricket report:**

*St Michael's U15s cricket team produced a dominant all-round performance to book their place in the Lancashire Cup Quarter-Final, comfortably overcoming Harper Green.*

*Harper Green batted first against a disciplined St Michael's bowling attack. Wickets fell regularly, pressure mounted and the innings never recovered. They were eventually bowled out for 66. In reply, St Michael's wasted no time asserting control. The top order batted with intent, rotating the strike smartly and punishing anything loose. Kai was the standout, anchoring the chase with a composed and confident 35 not out.*

*St Michael's cruised to 67/2 in just 6 overs, sealing victory by 8 wickets with 6 overs to spare - a statement win that underlined their quality and ambition in this year's competition.*

*The team now advances to the Lancashire Cup Quarter-Final, where they will face Abraham Moss in what promises to be a stern test. Confidence is high, momentum is building, and the squad will be eager to carry this form into the next round.*

**Lancashire Schools' Athletics Competition**

St Michael's pupils represented Chorley District on Saturday at the Lancashire Schools' athletics competition in Preston. Athletes gathered from across the county to take part in a fantastic day of events and there were some amazing results. A number of our pupils have been selected to represent Lancashire at the English Schools' Athletics Championships at Alexander Stadium Birmingham in July. We look forward to reporting on the event later in the term.