

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

Friday 21st March 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week we have been celebrating science week in school. We have a fabulous science team, led by Mrs Wilk and they have been inspiring pupils with all sorts of things in recent days, including a science quiz, a competition to design a 'Google Doodle' and lunchtime demonstrations of experiments delivered by Mr Grundy. I hope your children managed to get involved and had fun in the process. We really do want our pupils to find joy in their learning!

The other subject that has been at the forefront this week is dance. The GCSE dance performances were completed yesterday and pupils have been rehearsing in every available space throughout school. It has been a frequent occurrence to hear beautiful music playing, to come out of my office to investigate the source, and to find pupils dancing outside my door! This has been such a highlight, to witness the dedication and commitment of our dancers - well done to all of them! I am sure all their hard work will pay off in the summer.

Worship this week was led by our Worship Leads and was about humility; one of our Christian Values. Pupils spoke about how it is possible to be both confident and humble, giving the example of Moses, and describing how we should value people and put others before ourselves. They challenged us to consider how we might serve one another, and reminded us that even small acts, such as holding the door open for others, can bring happiness to those around us. Thought provoking stuff indeed.

There was an opportunity for some of our Year 9s to put this into practice on Thursday afternoon, when visitors joined us in school for afternoon tea, served by pupils as part of our Enrichment Programme. Of course they were treated to a dance performance too! We really enjoy opening our doors to the local community and showing others our wonderful school. As I mention most weeks, these community links are such a priority for me, and on Thursday I had the pleasure of visiting Euxton CE Primary School and meeting Year 6 pupils. Lots of them will be joining us here at St Michael's in September and it was lovely to have the opportunity to answer questions about high school life and to talk to them about some of the wonderful things that we do.

Rev Jordan Bentliffe joined us from All Saints Church on Wednesday to lead our lunchtime Lent Eucharist. He engaged pupils and staff wonderfully and I so enjoyed joining others in that time of reflection, which I always find so refreshing in the middle of a busy day. I am so impressed with the pupils' conduct during these services, they really are such a credit to you as parents and carers in the maturity and respect that they show.

This week's Gold Stamps were issued for a vast array of reasons. Yesterday, I saw the worship band, to thank them for playing so wonderfully at the Commissioning Service (I'm planning to see Hughes Choir next too) and there were more chocolate creations to admire (and sample), as well as an incredible bird feeder that pupils had designed and manufactured.

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However, the first stamp this week went to a young man in Year 10 for his poster about Diabetes. It was just brilliant, and I am so proud of him for his creative work.

I'm sure you won't be surprised to hear that the PE department has had a busy week again. The Year 10 handball tournaments for Chorley and District took place this week. After a brilliant effort all round, the boys came fourth and the girls were silver medallists. Sticking with Year 10, the boys made it to the Spring Cup football final. Having beaten Holy Cross and Bishop Rawsthorne this week, they will now play Parklands in the final. Year 7 boys have also been competing, this time in the District Basketball where they came third overall. This was a new sport to many when they started at St Michael's, so a huge, 'well done' to them all. I need to save plenty of space for sports' news next week too, as I hear we have four Lancashire finals taking place. Watch this space for how pupils get on!

We met with the catering team this week, discussing our food offer for pupils. It seemed an opportune moment to remind you that the canteen hatch is open before school from 8:15am for pupils to buy a range of breakfast goods including:

- Toast - 30p a slice
- Fresh fruit pots - 80p
- Yoghurt and granola pots - 80p
- Hot drinks - £1
- Cold drinks

Do encourage your children to take advantage of this offer, particularly if they don't manage to have breakfast before leaving the house.

Last week I mentioned that after Easter we would love to receive any donations for our school grounds and garden. If anyone would like to contribute, please drop items off at the front office between Tuesday 22 April and Thursday 24 April. Thank you in advance.

Fruit and vegetable plants including:

- rhubarb
- asparagus
- fennel
- bay trees
- fruit trees
- herbs

Flowers and plants:

- summer bulbs
- lobelia and trailing lobelia
- iris
- sweet flag
- canna
- petunias
- phlox
- alliums
- begonias
- sempervivum
- bergenias
- elephant ears

Any of the following for a wildlife area:

- birdboxes
- bird baths
- hedgehog houses
- insect houses / bug hotels

I also tried to promote our Wellbeing Evening with guest speaker Sam Tyrer last week and was so disappointed when we had to postpone this due to his ill health. We are pleased to confirm that this has now been rearranged for Thursday 3rd April. More details will follow next week. I've included the usual list of events that are coming up next week at the end of this letter, but I've also added some information about holiday and food activities for during the Easter holidays. Do take a look if it is something you might benefit from.

I'll finish with a quote from C.S. Lewis,

'Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less'

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Events next week

Saturday 22 March	Year 11 trip to Leeds Armouries
Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 March	Year 7 Geography Visit to Chorley P1-4
Tuesday 25 March	Clergy drop-in at lunchtime – all pupils welcome
Thursday 27 March 6:30pm	Dance Showcase
Friday 28 March	P1 Lent Eucharist with Bishop Philip
Friday 28 March 10am	Presentation of Archbishops' Awards 2023/24 finishers

HOLIDAY ACTIVITY AND FOOD (HAF) PROGRAMME EASTER 2025

DON'T MISS OUT ON HAF! -
THERE ARE LOTS OF ACTIVITIES ON THIS EASTER

ASK YOUR PARENTS TO LOOK OUT FOR YOUR
HAF VOUCHER IT WILL BE SENT TO THEM
ON 14TH MARCH



There's so much to do
across Lancashire

lancashire.gov.uk/events



Lancashire
County
Council



You will get a voucher if

- You are in year 6 to 11.
- You are entitled to benefits related Free School Meals.
- Not on FSM but have another kind of vulnerability, ask school about this.

**If you want to find out more ask at School
or the Targeted Youth Service or contact:**

Talkzone: 0800 511 111

Text: 07786 511 111

Email: talkzone@lancashire.gov.uk

Webtalk services:

**[lancashire.gov.uk/youthzone/
get-in-touch](http://lancashire.gov.uk/youthzone/get-in-touch) or [facebook.com/
LancashireYZ](https://facebook.com/LancashireYZ)**

Places go quickly
so don't hang around!
and please only book
a place if you intend
to use it –
your booked place
could stop someone
else taking it.

