

# 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

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

Incredibly, we have reached the end of another half term and, significantly today we said our formal goodbye to Year 11 in their leavers' service. Despite knowing these pupils for just 17 months of their St Michael's journey, I looked across the room at the incredible young people they have become and felt a whole range of emotions - sadness that they are leaving us, excitement for all that lies before them and most of all incredible pride as they head out into the world having grown in body, mind and spirit and now equipped to make a difference.

Worship this week was led by Mr Gow who opened with a musical number, singing for us, accompanied by Hughes! Mr Gow explained that the song was for anyone losing hope and followed it referencing Psalm 40, explaining how David was lifted out of a hopeless hole and placed on solid rock. He assured us that sometimes we just need to take the next step and that even when it is hard to believe, God has got our back. He ended with another song; what a start to the day!

As we approach Duke of Edinburgh season for Year 9 and 10, the planning and preparation for the upcoming expeditions is well under way. Pupils, for both bronze and silver expeditions have been route planning and organising equipment and we were delighted to welcome parents to school to run through the arrangements for these events. Staff are also getting ready and at the weekend six of our staff successfully passed their Lowland Leader assessment - well done to them all and a massive thank you for the time they all give up, ensuring that we can run the programme for so many. In the coming weeks we have over 200 children embarking on their bronze expeditions and over 70 on silver; we look forward to hearing updates over the coming half term.



On Thursday all our newly appointed prefects underwent their training for the job, and we have also announced some more pupil leadership roles this week:

- Sports Captains - Lily and Harrison
- Vice Sports Captains - Maisie, Millie and Jack
- Sports Council - Oliver, Alex, Neve, Olivia and Drew
- Dance Captains - Kathryn and Lola
- Vice Dance Captains - Evie and Amelia
- Dance Team - Martha, Felicity, Alexandra and Amber
- Principal Musician - Mia
- Deputy Principal Musicians - Poppy and Grace
- Music Council - Rose, Juliette, Evie, Leonie and Martha.
- Drama Assistant Principal Directors - Lexie and Millie

Applications really have been superb this year. Congratulations to everyone involved!

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





On Thursday, Year 10 Food and Nutrition pupils were delighted to welcome staff from the InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) to their lesson. Head Pastry Chef Charlotte and Sous Chef Brandon gave an engaging demonstration, preparing and cooking a quail dish served with asparagus and carrot purée. HR Advisor Nicola also spoke to pupils about the wide range of career opportunities within the hospitality industry, highlighting the variety of roles available. The session concluded with an exciting introduction to chocolate work, giving pupils a hands-on insight into professional culinary techniques. Thank you to IHG for sharing your skills, knowledge and enthusiasm with us – it really was brilliant!



Then, on Thursday evening, 15 pupils had great fun at Bolton Octagon watching an exuberant performance of an abridged version of the complete works of Shakespeare. It is so good to see pupils enjoying the arts, which is such a priority for us.



Gold stamps this week have gone to pupils for their exceptional work in English and drama, Year 7 and 8 pupils for English and intervention, as well as more to come. Mrs Poulter has written a report on a recent chocolate project, which you can read at the end of this letter.



This week, we had a visit from the Food Safety and Enforcement team. We are delighted to share that our school's catering team achieved the highest rating of 5\*, a well-earned recognition of the high-quality food and service provided to our pupils every day.

There has been so much sporting success this week, both in and out of school!



We want to celebrate some of the Year 8 St Michael's boys who are part of the Brinscall U13 Whites team,

*The boys completed an incredible double success, first securing the Junior Premier League title on Friday 15th May, before going on to win the Central Lancashire League Cup Final (U13s) – the C&W Berry Cup. This is the first Brinscall Village Juniors FC team to ever win the Premier League and Cup double in the clubs 29 year history. Well done to Arthur, Charlie, Oliver, Alfie, Taylor, Sonny, Jack and Jonty.*

And in school, this week has been full of achievements in the PE department.

There was a good win for the U13s cricketers in the Lancashire Cup 2nd round away at Bury Grammar School last Friday,

*Batting first, we scored 102 all out from our 20 overs, with Aaron top scoring with 41. A strong bowling and fielding performance then restricted Bury to 78/4 from their allotted overs, securing a 24-run victory. The boys now progress to the quarter-finals, where they will play away at Bolton School.*

We would also like to congratulate the many pupils we had competing at the North-West Regional Swimming Championships. We know the dedication it takes to participate in swimming to compete at this level, we are very proud of you all for your excellent performances. We would particularly like to congratulate Sophia (Year 10) who gained 5 medals across backstroke and freestyle relay, Abi (Year 9) for her bronze in team relay and Jack (Year 10) for 2 medals in breaststroke. Sophia and Jack have both qualified for the British Nationals and the English Nationals. Fantastic achievements and we wish them the best of luck for these events.



And the good news just keeps on coming! Millie in Year 10 competed in the Lancashire Athletics Championships winning gold in both the 800m and 1500m events. With her outstanding times, she has now qualified for the English Schools' Athletics Finals in Birmingham and the Inter-counties in Nottingham, a very busy summer for Millie, we wish her the best of luck with these events.

We also need to congratulate Sophie in Year 7 for being awarded the Defender of the Year for Lancashire U13 netball squad this week. A fantastic achievement especially as she is a year young.



Wednesday was a wonderful day! Even though the weather conspired against us, preventing us from going ahead with Sports Heats day, we did have two Lancashire Cup Finals to compete for at Darwen Football Club. Mrs Dempster sent the following,

*St Michael's U14 girls delivered a superb performance to retain their title in a gripping encounter against a strong Balshaw's side, led with composure and authority by captain Fleur.*

*The match could not have started in more dramatic fashion, as Natalia fired St Michael's into the lead after just 14 seconds, setting the tone for an enthralling contest. Both teams responded well, with the game ebbing and flowing as each side enjoyed periods of dominance. St Michael's doubled their advantage midway through the contest when Abi finished confidently to make it 2-0. Despite the cushion, the match remained fiercely competitive, with both teams displaying excellent spirit. Challenges were hard but fair throughout, and chances came at both ends.*



*Goalkeeper Issy proved instrumental for St Michael's, producing a series of outstanding saves at crucial moments, particularly as tension began to rise in the closing stages.*



*Balshaw's set up a nervy finale when they pulled a goal back with 10 minutes remaining, leaving St Michael's supporters on edge. However, just as the pressure mounted, Abi rose to the occasion once more, scoring a decisive third goal with only two minutes left to secure a 3-1 victory.*

*The result marks a fantastic achievement for the team, who have now successfully defended their title after winning the competition for the first time last year. Throughout their journey to the final, the squad has been outstanding, combining effort, attitude, and exemplary sportsmanship. A truly memorable performance - well done to all involved!*

*Up next our Year 10 boys' football team played St Aidan's from Preesall in the final of the Lancashire Cup. Aiming to win the school's second Lancashire cup in just 4 hours and be the first Lancashire Cup that any boys' football team has ever won at St Michael's (we think) the boys were ready to go. The opposition played a very direct style of football which kept our defence on their toes, but they dealt with this very well throughout the game. Our breakthrough came halfway through the first half when striker Toby danced his way through a number of opposition defenders, played a 1-2 with the opposition goalkeeper, and then slotted home to score an outstanding goal worthy of winning any final. This gave us that all important foothold in the game but we still did not control it as much as we would have liked as the direct style of the opposition saw them as a continuous threat on the break. A simply sensational intervention from defender Tobias saw us maintain our lead and go into half time 1-0 to the good. Expecting everything to be thrown at us in the second half, we spoke about trying to control the game at half time. The*

*second half began with us starting to assert our dominance as we kept possession of the ball for long periods with not too much coming back from the opposition in way of chances. It felt a matter of time until we got our second and we were presented with a great opportunity to do so after great work again from Toby who got himself in front of his defender who had no choice but to bring our striker down and give away a penalty to us. Will stepped forward*



*and calmly slotted the ball away to double our lead. This second goal certainly put one hand on the trophy and some outstanding teamwork from all helped us get through to the final whistle and see us crowned Lancashire Champions for the very first time! An absolutely outstanding achievement. Well done boys!*

In general news, for the safety of all pupils, families and visitors, can I remind you again about our need for your support with drop-off arrangements. Pupils should only be dropped off on the main drive if this has been agreed in advance. We would also ask parents to avoid using the bottom of the driveway as a turning area, particularly at busy times when pupils are crossing. Thank you for helping us to keep everyone safe.

As we say goodbye to Year 11 today, it seems an opportune moment to mention that we are always grateful for donations of pre-loved uniform, which can be passed on to other families. We aren't collecting old style PE kit anymore, but would welcome good condition skirts, trousers, blazers, ties, jumpers, shoes, coats and aprons.

As five years draw to a close for some, and another half term for others, let's take a moment to reflect on our own journey and to remember God's hand on our lives,

## **Psalm 23**

### **A psalm of David.**

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures,

he leads me beside quiet waters,

<sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths  
for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,<sup>[a]</sup>

I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
forever.

Have a wonderful, sunny half term.

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong  
Headteacher

### **Year 8 Chocolate Business Project**

This term, our Year 8 pupils have been taking part in an exciting and creative business project in their CaSE lessons, where they have worked collaboratively to design and develop their very own chocolate products.

Working in teams, pupils began by exploring different flavours and types of chocolate, discussing their personal preferences and researching popular combinations. This allowed each group to make informed decisions about the flavour profiles they wanted to include in their final product. As part of the process, pupils carefully considered the type of chocolate they would use - such as milk, dark, or white - and experimented with ideas to create something unique and appealing. They also designed the shape and appearance of their chocolate, thinking about how presentation can influence customer appeal.

A key element of the project involved branding. Each team developed a name and theme for their product, showcasing their creativity and understanding of how businesses attract customers through strong identity and design.

This project has not only been a fun and engaging experience, but has also helped pupils develop important skills in teamwork, decision-making, and entrepreneurship. We are incredibly proud of their innovative ideas and the enthusiasm they have shown throughout the process.

### **Important Dates**

Monday 25 – Friday 29 May  
Thursday 4 June  
Friday 12 – Sunday 14 June

Half term holiday  
Sports Heats Day  
Silver DofE practice expedition