

# 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

23 May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

What an amazing final week of the half term. There is so much to celebrate, you might need to find a comfortable seat before you start reading today!

Before we even got to Monday, my husband and I had experienced the joy that is Buckshaw Village Church on Sunday. We joined them for their 10am service, and what a celebration it was. We so enjoyed meeting members of the congregation and those with links to St Michael's (both past and present). Many thanks to Rev Iain Sarginson for making us feel so welcome. He spoke about the importance of community at the start of the service, which so echoes our desire to work together. We'll be back in the future for sure.



Miss Davies did a wonderful job leading worship this week, telling us about her own faith journey and experience as a pupil at St Michael's. She went on to explain how we can be 'salt and light' to those around us and how small acts of kindness can go a long way in making a difference to the lives of others. It is no surprise, given Miss Davies' involvement with the dance team, that we also watched a very moving performance by dancers from a range of year groups.

This constant focus and reliance on God brings such a peace to all that we do here, and it was great to have Rev Philip Venables from Whittle St John's Church join us to lead our Eucharist on Wednesday morning. He reminded us that God chooses us, despite our failures and weakness; what a comfort to know that we don't need to earn His favour or to worry that we aren't good enough. We have another Eucharist in school during period 1 on 27 June, do encourage your child to come along.

I've learnt so much during my first five months at St Michael's and yet there's still so much to discover. On Monday I heard all about the St Michael's Trust and what a difference it has made to the school premises and environment. The Trust is a standalone charity, not part of school, and I realised that our surroundings wouldn't look so immaculate, nor would we be so well equipped if it weren't for the kind support of parents, carers and alumni who choose to make a regular, or one-off donation to the Trust. In recent years the Trust's support has enabled the school hall to be refurbished, a dining area to be created for our Year 11 pupils and, back in 2014 the Armstrong Centre (our school chapel and library) was built. I've included some additional information at the end of this letter, should anyone like further details on how to contribute.

Tuesday was Sports Heats Day, and it was fantastic! Despite having worked in five previous schools, I have never seen anything like it. The level of participation was immense. It's such an inclusive event, with every child encouraged to take part, whatever their sporting ability. I was so encouraged to hear pupils cheering one another on, celebrating success and applauding effort.

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More impressive still, was the behaviour of everyone throughout the day; the stewardship shown by pupils tidying any rubbish before heading home was second to none. Numerous records were broken, and I suspect we have more to come on Sports Finals Day on the first Tuesday back after the holidays. I am so grateful to the PE team, and to Mrs Brunsdon in particular, for organising the day and making it such a success.

On Thursday afternoon, our Year 8 Archbishop Young Leaders, accompanied by Simon and one of our governors, headed to The Parish of St Laurence CE Primary School. There are 17 pupils working towards the AYLA award this year and as part of this they are involved in community projects. They spent a wonderful afternoon with Year 2 pupils playing a range of games, doing crafts and also looking at some Bible verses. Brilliant that we can strengthen those connections with our local primary schools too.

The Year 7 boys participated in the early rounds of the cricket Gillette Summer Cup on Wednesday. They were comfortable winners against Holy Cross and Southlands and will now play in the final against a strong Bishop Rawstorne team after half term. We wish them luck.



The under 12s cricket team hosted Merchant Taylors' on Thursday in round 3 of the Lancashire Cup. On a sunny afternoon at Chorley CC, Merchant Taylors' won the toss and elected to bat. A good opening partnership saw them race to 70/0 from the first eleven overs before the St Michael's fightback began. Nathaniel and Henry took two wickets each and then Tom took four, including a hatrick, as Merchant Taylors' closed their innings on 108/8 from their allotted overs. The St Michael's reply started steadily, with the score moving along to 30/0, before they had a mini

collapse losing four wickets in four overs and slipping to 45/4. Nathaniel and Henry came together and put the pressure back onto the opposition with some lovely shots and great running between the wickets. Their 5th wicket partnership of 56 took St Michael's to the brink of victory, before Henry was run out with just 8 runs needed. Following the loss of another quick wicket, Isaac came to the middle and hit his first ball to the boundary to seal a 4 wicket victory for St Michael's, with three overs to spare and send them into the quarter finals. Wow!

Whilst enjoying the sunshine at lunchtime on Wednesday, I heard some amazing music coming from the performing arts block. Of course, I went to investigate and found our Year 9-11 rock band rehearsing with Mr Hurley. We have a rock band for younger pupils too; another brilliant opportunity for pupils to come together through music and share their talents, whatever their musical taste or style!

As you know, our new Head Boy, Head Girl and the Deputies were appointed earlier in the term. This week, following a rigorous selection process, the pupil senior leadership team was finalised and the appointments for sport, dance, drama, music, captains, vice-captains and councils and worship leaders were announced. I was delighted to be part of a special assembly on Friday to celebrate their appointments. We have been so impressed with the enthusiasm pupils have shown

for these positions and their desire to be involved in servant leadership in an area of school life. I hope that this inspires some of our younger pupils to want to apply for these roles in the future too.



Simon has also been busy with the Social Action Team as they begin work on the Derian House £50 Challenge. Last week Ann-Marie Fishwick, a member of their fundraising team, came to talk to the pupils about the project. Groups are given £50 and challenged to multiply it to raise money for Derian House. There are lots of exciting ideas currently being discussed and we look forward to hearing more about them after half term.

A few weeks ago, I wrote to you about the work pupils are doing in the school garden. We were very grateful this week to receive a delivery of strawberry plants from a parent; the Year 9 enrichment groups then planted these in the allotment on Thursday afternoon. If you have any donations of plants, seeds or resources for the garden, please do bring them to the school office. Mrs Burrows, our head of art, was also delighted to receive an amazing array of crafting materials this week, gifted from another friend of St Michael's - no doubt we will see some fantastic creations emerging as a result.

Gold Stamps this week have gone to Year 9 for creative work in RE, a Year 7 pupil for their excellence in computer programming and a Year 10 Pupil for his hand-crafted meringues. Anyone who knows anything about baking will know how tricky these are to get right, so this really was an amazing achievement.

We are so proud of our Year 11 pupils and the way they continue to navigate this exam period. This morning, we said a formal goodbye to them at the Year 11 leavers' service, which was a moving celebration of their time in school. I have only known pupils for a relatively short period of time, and yet I am so impressed with each of them and the young people they have become. There is something about this school and the way parents/ carers, staff and pupils work together that means that most pupils leave here with skills above and beyond what I have seen elsewhere; they have a confidence to be who God has called them to be, and they are ready to make a difference in our very rapidly changing world. Quite simply, I see children who have grown in 'body, mind and spirit' and have become exceptional young adults.

We were pleased that so many of you were able to join us today and we wish our Year 11s every success over the coming weeks. We look forward to seeing them in school for the revision classes that continue after half term and for their remaining exams. Of course, we then have the excitement of the prom before GCSE results day in August. As a linguist, I love that in German we say goodbye using the phrase, 'auf Wiedersehen', literally this means, 'until we see each other again'. For some parents, this will be the end of the St Michael's journey, for you, as well as for your child, but you will always be a part of this school community, and we hope very much that we will see you again.

We wish all our pupils, families and friends a good half term break; may there still be opportunities to relax and be refreshed, even if the sunny weather seems set to change! A reminder again, that



pupils move up a year group from Monday 9 June. I'll give you some final reminders about that in the next letter after the holidays.

For now, I'll finish with a final, 'auf Wiedersehen',

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong  
Headteacher

### **Events Week Commencing Monday 2 June**

Throughout the week  
Tuesday 3 June  
Wednesday 4 June  
Friday 6 June  
Friday 6 June  
Monday 9 June

Worship led by Mrs Baybutt – Pentecost  
Sports Finals Day (Years 7-10)  
Year 9 catch-up Bronze DofE Parents' Meeting 5.30pm – school hall  
Pupils receive timetable for new academic year  
Silver DofE practice expedition (Friday-Sunday)  
New academic year commences (pupils move up a year group)

*"I laid the foundation as an expert builder and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds.*

*For no-one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid which is Jesus Christ"*  
1 Corinthians 3:10



Therefore, choose



SAINT MICHAEL'S  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

St Michael's Trust


**Building  
for our  
future**



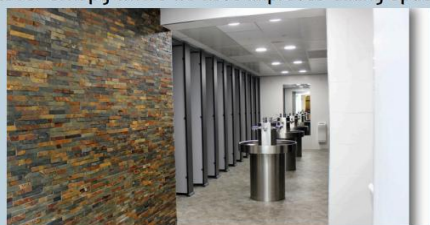
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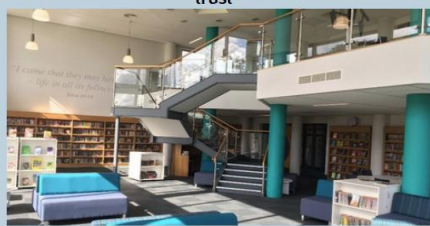
St Michael's CE High School  
A Church of England Academy  
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Outdoor canopy where we have improved dining options



New welfare facilities for our pupils supported by the trust



The Armstrong centre housing the library, Chapel and modern ICT facilities.

## Welcome!

St Michael's Trust raises funds to supplement the school budget for the benefit of all the pupils at the school.



St Michael's Church of England High School has a justified reputation as one of the best schools in Lancashire. Opened in 1965, the school was established through the generous contributions of the Foundation Parishes. The first Headteacher Mr Roy Moore, along with the Governors, founded a trust fund to financially support the future development of the school.

In the continued economic turbulence of government funding for education, school budgets are not able to support building improvements. Academies can apply for 'Continued Improvement Funding' but this is to address significant condition need or projects addressing health and safety issues.

It is vitally important to constantly invest in our facilities to ensure we continue developing the best possible learning environment in which our pupils and staff work and learn.

## How can you help?

Each year we ask our new parents to consider donating money to the Trust to help us improve the quality of education for your sons and daughters. All monies given will be used specifically for the benefit of pupils.

## Our plans

We are currently looking to source funding for refurbishment to our Gymnasium. Along with an upgrade to the current sporting and fitness apparatus, we are seeking funding to improve the building interior and furnishings.



The Trust has supported the funding of The Armstrong Centre, which incorporates our library and chapel, the Glasshouse dining area, ICT facilities, a dedicated first aid suite, a new pupil meeting room and just last summer, refurbishment of our main hall, none of which would have been possible without the support of the St Michael's Trust Fund.



## Your gifts

St Michael's is extremely fortunate to have so many parents who invest in our, and their child's future.



## How to contribute

Most of our parents in the past have chosen to make payments to the Trust during the five years their child is at St Michael's, either monthly or annually.



Please consider carefully how much you are able to give. We are ambitious in our plans but with a future of increasing costs and reducing funding, our ability to complete our plans within the school budget is limited. We want your children to have the best educational facilities and resources – with your help this can be achieved.

**Thank you for your support**