

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 25th April 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the Trinity term, I hope you managed to enjoy some of the lovely weather during the Easter break. Our France and Germany trips returned successfully and it sounds as though both groups had a fabulous time. Pupils were, once again, complimented for their exceptional behaviour by the tour operators and the public, and I am so grateful to the staff who gave up their time so that these experiences could happen.

I do love the holidays, but I also really enjoy being at school and spending time with pupils and we have had a fantastic first week back. Mr Neville has led our worship this week, talking to us about the suffering church. It was so thought provoking to realise that there are locations around the world, where people don't have the same freedom as we do to talk about their faith, or even to own a Bible. We so often take these things for granted and I was reminded of that again this morning when we celebrated Eucharist during period 1. Rev Jean Kouacon joined us from Adlington St Paul's church and talked to us about the importance of trusting in God in our daily lives and turning to him when things seem tough. How wonderful to be able to talk about these things openly in school.

Our Year 11 are soon to start their busy series of exams and this week, we've seen a hint of this, with the Btech Tech award pupils sitting a written exam, as well as our French and German speaking exams taking place. From what I hear all have really given of their best. These exams continue next week and we wish pupils taking those subjects well.



One of my absolute highlights this week was interviewing twelve wonderful candidates for the posts of Head Boy and Head Girl. Our Chair of Governors, Mr Metcalfe, Miss Watson, who oversees pupil leadership and Mr Kirkpatrick joined me for this important afternoon. I have worked in five previous schools, but I have never heard pupils speak so articulately or present themselves with such confidence and respect. They all handled the nerve-wracking process wonderfully and after much deliberation, we were delighted to appoint Evelyn and James to the positions.

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



The other ten pupils, Hannah, Freya, Edie, Grace, Lilah, Oliver, Edward, Jake, Ben and Edward will make up our Team of Deputies and will play a key part in school life next year. We were delighted that the Diocesan Director of Education, Mr Parks was in school that day and was able to congratulate pupils and celebrate with us. Well done to them all.



We really encourage all pupils to get involved in leadership at St Michael's and there are so many opportunities here. Miss Watson has kindly created a list of possibilities for the next academic year, and I have included this at the end of the letter - perhaps this might be a conversation starter between you and your child about what they might be interested in now, or in the future. Wellbeing Mentor (Year 9 and 10), Peer Mentor (Year 10) and Subject Mentor (Year 7-10) applications will launch over the next term for 2025-26. The deadline for applications for the Senior Pupil Leadership Team in sport, dance, drama, music and worship is on Monday and pupils will be interviewed by the department leaders over the coming weeks.

As you know, it's a big priority for me to build links with the local community, and this week I was welcomed to Charnock Richard CE Primary School, where I met the Headteacher and pupils. What a joy to see where our young people join us from. Next week, I'm looking forward to visiting Brindle St James Church for their Wednesday evening service. I may see some of you there.

It might only be the first week back, but I've had the Gold Stamp out already. Year 7 have shown me some brilliant chocolate creations and some wonderful efforts to represent Easter around the world. Just this morning, I have also looked at a fantastic costume design and explanation for Romeo and Juliette from a Year 9 pupil.



In the library, Mrs Allcock has announced the winning entries for the Design a Book Token national competition which took place during World Book Day last month. The in-school winners and runners-up have been selected and received their prizes and certificates. There were some fantastic designs following the theme of Read Your Way and the winning entries are on display in the Armstrong Centre. I am still amazed by the effort that young people put into home learning and projects here at St Michael's. It's one of the things that

sets the school apart for me, that absolute determination that pupils have, to be the best that they can be.

Before the holidays I mentioned that we would be grateful for any donations for our school grounds and garden. If anyone would still like to contribute, we'd be especially grateful for fruit and vegetable plants. The full list is on my letter dated 21st March (available on the website). Thank you in advance.

I also wanted to remind you that at St Michael's we move into our new academic year after the June half term holiday. This means that pupils 'move up' a year (Year 7 become Year 8 etc). This is always an exciting time, as pupils receive their new timetables and meet their new teachers. This year, this will take place at the start of the second week back after the holiday, the week beginning 9th June. This differs slightly to what was previously advertised, to allow Year 11 to have full support from their teachers in their critical final days in school. Pupils in Years 7-10 will therefore get their new timetables and organisers on Friday 6th June.

As pupils move up, we know that soon we will be welcoming our new Year 7 pupils to St Michael's. In preparation for this, on Thursday next week we have the first of our Introduction Evenings for parents of Year 6. If you are involved in this, do make sure you attend on your allocated evening (we have another on 8th May). I look forward to seeing some of you there.

As we start the Trinity Term, I would also like to welcome to school Miss Poulter in the RE department and Mr Ganderton, who joins our team of Teaching Assistants.

I'll finish with a quote from a book that Mr Neville referenced in his worship this week,

'The more we know about each other, the more connected we become.' (Everything Sad Is Untrue by Daniel Nayeri)

My hope is that we can continue to deepen our home-school connections as we work together.

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Events Next Week

Throughout the week	Worship led by Mrs Rongong: Sermon on the Mount - Don't be anxious
Wednesday 30 April	Y9/10 girls' North of England Indoor Cricket Finals at Headingley
Thursday 1 May 6:30pm	Y6 Introduction Evening (half of the new Year 7 intake)
Thursday 1 May	Y7/8 Maths Challenge
Thursday 1 May	Deadline for Y10 Work Experience placements to be organized
Thursday 1 May	Y10 Reports go home
Friday 2 May	Fr Paul Robinson visiting RE lessons

Pupil Leadership Positions 2025-26

Year 7

School Council (representative per tutorial)

Bridge Buddy (two representatives per tutorial)

Eco Council
Social Action Team
Ethos Council
Subject Mentor (some subjects)
Pupil Librarian Team

Year 8

School Council (representative per tutorial)
Eco Council
Ethos Council
Social Action Team
Subject Mentor (some subjects)
Pupil Librarian Team

Year 9

School Council (representative per tutorial)
Eco Council
Ethos Council
Social Action Team
Wellbeing Mentor
Subject Mentor (some subjects)
Pupil Librarian Team

Year 10

School Council (representative per tutorial)
Social Action Team
Ethos Council
Social Action Team
Wellbeing Mentor
Subject Mentor (some subjects)
Peer Mentor
Pupil Librarian Team

Year 11

School Council (representative per tutorial)
Social Action Team
Pupil Librarian Team
Prefect
Senior Pupil Leaders (Sports Captain/Vice Captain/Council, Dance Captain/Vice Captain/Academy,
Principal Musician/Music Council, Principal Director/Assistant Principal Directors and Worship Leads)
Deputy Head Boy/Girl (team of ten, with a Deputy pair attached to each year group)
Head Boy/Girl