

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



26th September 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

Where do I start to update you on this week's activities? It's been such an amazing few days; I do hope your children have enjoyed it as much as I have!

The sunny weather has made this week extra special, the perfect backdrop for all our outdoor activities on CVE (Christian Values Enrichment) day on Thursday; but more about that later!

Worship this week was led by our Head of English, Mrs Magdi. We entered the hall to rousing battle music, setting the scene perfectly for the tale of St Michael and the Dragon. Educating pupils on St Michael, our school namesake, is a tradition at this time of year, as St Michael's day falls on 29th September. Mrs Magdi spoke of the battle between good and evil in Revelation 12:7-12, how light overcame darkness and the dragon (Satan) was driven from heaven by St Michael and his angels. She went on to draw a parallel with our own lives, the 'dragons' that we face and encouraging us to be courageous advocates and to stand up for what is right. The message that we, as individuals, can affect change was so very encouraging; it was such an uplifting message!

Early in the week, the sporting events began. For those parents new to school, you'll soon realise that there is a lot of sport to celebrate at St Michael's; isn't that brilliant! I love the fact that we encourage all pupils to get involved and to take part in our wider curricular offer; it means there really is something for everyone.



The first cross country event took place at Albany High School on Tuesday; this was the first opportunity for our new Year 7 to represent us, and they did a fantastic job. The Year 7 boys' team earned gold medals, whilst the girls brought home bronze. Individually they won a gold, a silver and two bronze medals - wow! What a start to the year! The Year 8 and 9 boys' team also claimed bronze medals, with two individual silver and bronze medals. We couldn't be prouder. The next cross-country event is on 7th October at Holy Cross, where selection for the Chorley and District Team will be taking place. If anyone was unable to run

this week, but would like to join in, please speak to Mrs Dempster.

This week saw the strong start to the St Michael's football season continue. The Year 8 team played their English Schools' 1st round match against Standish High School, where a dominant display saw them run out 7-0 winners, with Olly scoring a hattrick. The team will now travel to play Coop Walkden next Friday in Round 2. Year 7 played their first ever game for St Michael's on Wednesday

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against Southlands in the group stages of the Chorley Cup. They put in a brilliant performance and came away with an 8-0 win with Bertie completing a second half hat-trick.

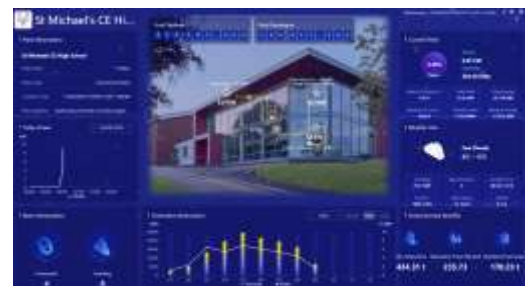
We have heard of some phenomenal individual sporting achievements out of school this week too. Thank you so much to families for sharing these successes, it is great that we can celebrate them together. Fleur in Year 9 has been selected as one of 23 players who will join the Under 14s County football team, what an achievement! Nicole in Year 8 has also been selected, as well as being signed on again by Manchester United, whilst Esme in Year 11 is now in training with Stoke's Under 21 team. Maya in Year 10 has been selected for under 16s Lancashire football as well as under 16s Lancashire cricket – what an achievement!



In other sporting news, Sophie in Year 7 has trialled for Manchester Thunder Netball pathway. Sophie has been successful and has been awarded a place out of 280 girls in the performance black squad (highest team) in the U12 category. She will represent Manchester Thunder in matches and train with the team on a weekly basis. Well done, Sophie, we can't wait to hear how you get on!

It's not just sport we are celebrating, though. As many families will know, staff can nominate pupils for a headteacher's Gold Stamp if they produce work of an exceptionally high standard. At the very end of last week, I awarded a stamp to Charlie in Year 10 for his Christian theology project in RE.

We are also proud to be a school that has a strong environmental focus; I wonder if you know that we have our own solar panels? This week, we celebrated crossing the saving of £100,000 since February 2023, saving the school money, whilst also saving the planet!



I've asked Mrs Hooley, Deputy Headteacher to feedback on CVE day; behind the scenes she has a team of staff organising, planning and beavering away to make these moments memorable experiences. This is what she had to say:

Christian Values Enrichment Day



Our **Year 7 pupils** enjoyed a meaningful Christian Values Enrichment Day, which included a visit to the beautiful Blackburn Cathedral. During their visit, they learned about the history and significance of the cathedral and took part



in a thought-provoking talk on the theme of 'growing in spirit' and the meaning of spirituality. They also gained a deeper understanding of the Eucharist through an informative session exploring its symbolism and importance in Christian worship. Back at school, pupils engaged in reflective prayer stations in our Training Suite and participated in team building and 'getting to

know you' activities within their tutorial groups. The pupils represented the school wonderfully with their excellent behaviour, and the day was a great success.

Year 8 pupils took part in a powerful and engaging Christian Values Day, exploring the themes of justice and community (koinonia). The day was split into two halves, each offering unique opportunities for learning and reflection. In one half, pupils delved into topics around immigration and migration, developing empathy for refugees and considering the importance of tolerance in a multicultural society. This formed part of their PSHE programme and encouraged thoughtful discussion around diversity and inclusion. A highlight of the day was a visit from John and Jade Reynolds, TikTok creators from Bamber Bridge, who shared their inspiring experiences as a family navigating life with a wheelchair user. Pupils asked insightful questions and gained a deeper understanding of empathy and acceptance. The other half of the day was filled with energetic team-building activities led by PE staff and Chorley School Sport Partnership (CSSP), including sporting challenges and a vibrant 'colour run' around the school field. With pupils turning shades of pink and purple, it was a joyful and memorable experience that brought everyone together in fun and friendship.



Year 9 pupils had an unforgettable experience during their CVE Day, thanks to a vibrant and energetic visit from the performing arts group Bangdrum. The day was filled with rhythm, movement, and cultural exploration as pupils took part in dynamic workshops showcasing world percussion and dance styles. The sessions touched on the rich histories and traditions of Egypt, West Africa, and Cuba, with a strong focus on Brazilian Street and Carnival culture. Pupils enthusiastically joined in with percussion and dance activities, including Capoeira – a

Brazilian martial arts dance – as part of the Afro-Brazilian Carnival celebrations. Bangdrum has been working with our school for an incredible 24 years, and it remains a privilege to welcome their talented team. As a social enterprise committed to building stronger communities through the performing arts, Bangdrum's visit offered our pupils a unique opportunity to celebrate diversity, creativity, and global culture in a truly memorable way.

Year 10 pupils took part in a truly inspiring CVE Day, centred around the theme of *hope* and focused on careers education and oracy. This was the first time we had run a day like this, and it was a resounding success. Pupils engaged in a range of practical and interactive sessions designed to help them prepare for future opportunities, including interview technique coaching, a 'goldfish bowl' task and exploring the Morrisby careers platform. They also gained valuable insights into work experience and observed a live mock interview to learn best practices. The highlight of the day was a one-to-one interview with one of our 30 visiting volunteers, including parents, governors, and friends of the school. We've already received glowing feedback from our interviewers, praising pupils for their confidence, politeness, and willingness to receive feedback. One interviewer commented, *"His answers were well considered and authentic which for me, made him stand out. I've interviewed at a few schools over the years and also take on apprentices – if he presented himself to me for a real role, he would be head and shoulders above the rest."* Wow - we are so proud of all our pupils! Their maturity and enthusiasm made the day

a meaningful and memorable experience, helping them take important steps toward their future with hope and ambition.

Year 11 pupils enjoyed a well-deserved break from their studies with a fun and relaxing trip to Alton Towers as part of their CVE Day. With the sun shining, spirits were high as pupils explored the park and braved some of its most iconic rides, including *The Smiler*, *Wicker Man*, and *Oblivion*. Whether they were seeking thrills or simply soaking up the atmosphere, everyone found something to enjoy. Meanwhile, Mrs Johnson took a more leisurely approach to the day, enjoying several pieces of cake and cups of tea in the café - a well-earned treat!

The trip provided a fantastic opportunity for pupils to unwind, bond with friends, and recharge before the busy term ahead. It was a joyful and memorable day for all.



At the end of a brilliant day, in the evening, we then celebrated our annual Staff and Governor Eucharist in school. We were so blessed to be joined by Bishop Joe, who led the service for us so wonderfully. For the first time we also had a staff worship band playing too, it was a beautiful end to the day. Special thanks to Mr and Mrs Harrison for the donation for flowers in celebration of St Michael's day.

I'll finish with a reminder that school is closed to pupils on Monday. We look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Tuesday; until then enjoy the sunshine and thank you for being part of Team St Michael's!

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Rongong'.

Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Important Dates

Monday 29 th September	Staff training day – school closed for pupils
Wednesday 1 st October	Year 11 photographs
Thursday 9 th October	Open Morning 9.30am-12noon – all welcome to attend
Tuesday 19 th November	Advance warning, Year 11 mock exams start