

# 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

28<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I'm writing this week's letter with the sun streaming through the window and a sense that spring isn't so far away. I love this time of year, and the 'hope' that the prospect of a new season and new life brings.

I hope everyone enjoyed the half term break. As you may be aware, I have a particular passion for running, and it was a lovely surprise when, on the first day of the holidays, I bumped into some St Michael's pupils at Southport parkrun. Max and Ava were the first male and female to cross the line, and it was great to have a chat to them afterwards and to celebrate their success. Others from St Michael's had an exciting week too, with our trips to Iceland and London both returning with some lasting memories. I am so grateful to staff who arrange these events so that these experiences can happen. That's one of the things that makes Saint Michael's so special, that genuine desire for pupils to grow in, 'body, mind and spirit'.

Worship this week has focused on one of our Tutorial Patrons, Richard Adams. Pupils and tutors did a brilliant job educating us on the history of Fair Trade. I loved the drama performance, as it really helped to illustrate why Fair Trade is so important. It has certainly made me think about my shopping choices going forward.

On Wednesday I was invited to visit STEM club after school. Pupils showed me how they had, not only built their own robots using Lego EV3 and Spike Prime sets but had then coded them using a computer programming language similar to 'Scratch' in order to complete certain tasks on the 'challenge mat'. Even more impressively, they are preparing for a competition when they will need to complete 7 tasks in under 5 minutes. Wow!

We've had a variety of assessments and exams taking place in recent days. I was amazed at the dishes that those studying food had created for their GCSE exam; they certainly put my culinary efforts to shame! I hear that GCSE dance pupils also successfully recorded their performances on Thursday as well. Year 7 and 10 began their series of internal exams at the end of the week. It was the first time Year 7 have managed this and we know it can be nerve-wracking, but we hope that practising how things work lower down the school, helps to make it easier in the future. Well done to all pupils for their effort and the resilience shown.

Yesterday, a group of Year 9 pupils headed down to London for a prestigious trip to Parliament with Mrs Brotherton and Mrs Ferguson. Once in London, pupils did a scenic walk along the Mall to Buckingham Palace, then along Birdcage Walk to see a group of the King's Guards before entering the Palace of Westminster. The group then went into the Speaker's apartments to meet Sir Lindsay Hoyle where pupils had the opportunity to ask questions of the Speaker before being taken on a tour including; Westminster Hall, the Lobby, St Stephen's Hall and the public galleries of the House of Commons and House of Lords. They finished the day with a brisk walk past 10 Downing Street before boarding the tube to Euston and coming home. What an experience!

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It was, of course, also wonderful to meet Year 11 parents at Revision Evening. Once again, I so appreciated those who took the time to say hello and to make me feel so welcome. Having supported my own 5 children through their GCSEs, I understand what a challenging time the run up to these exams can be, so I hope that what we shared went some way to alleviating that pressure. As I said at the event, it is so important that we encourage our children to strive for excellence but also to keep a balance. Let us never underestimate the happiness factor! If you have any feedback on the event, we shared a link on the day and would very much appreciate hearing your views.

The 'Headteacher's Gold Stamp' was out again today to recognise pupils in Year 9 who had produced some phenomenal work in geography, creating spectacular volcanoes. I look forward to seeing more of these in the coming week.

It wouldn't be a week at St Michael's without sporting success to celebrate! This week, the district handball finals took place for Year 11 and after a brilliant effort, the girls came in third place securing bronze medals, with the boys winning their game and claiming gold! Year 9 boys were also crowned champions, this time in the district basketball competition. Finally, the Year 8 and 9 girls' football team played in the Lancashire Cup quarter final against Blessed Trinity, beating them 3-0. The whole team came to see me afterwards to tell me, muddy boots and all; what a fabulous day that was!

We have another busy week in school next week, including Year 8 Consultation Evening. I know that lots of pupils and staff are also looking forward to World Book Day on the same day! I've included a list of all events at the end of this letter.

I'll finish with a quote from one of our other Tutorial Patrons, Mother Teresa, that sums up how we can make a difference in our everyday choices, including shopping ethically,

*'I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.'*

Have a restful weekend and enjoy the sunshine!

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong  
Headteacher

### **Events next week**

Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 March	Y10 exams am and Y7 exams pm
Monday 3 March 6pm	Germany Trip Parents' Meeting in school
Wednesday 5 March 1:20pm	Lent Eucharist in the Armstrong Centre led by Rev David Ward – all pupils welcome
Thursday 6 March	World Book Day
Thursday 6 March 5-7pm	Y8 Consultation Evening