

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 28th March 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I'm sure it won't surprise you to hear that we have had another incredibly busy week in school. I can't help but feel exceptionally proud to be headteacher here. Whether it be wider curricular activities, conduct in lessons or attitude to exams, pupils' behaviour is exceptional. This week we heard the news that we have been recognised as being in the top 10% of non-selective schools and the top 20% of all schools nationally for student progress for the summer 2024 exams. This only goes to confirm that St Michael's is a place where pupils really can, 'grow in body mind and spirit'.

It is particularly nice when we get positive feedback from members of the public about pupils, and we have had several people email us or voice how impressed they were with our Year 7s when they were out and about in Chorley at the start of the week, collecting data as part of a geography study. It is so appreciated when people take the time to let us know the positive impression we have given to the local community, it certainly cheered my day. We had some pupils on a visit to Leeds last Saturday as well, as Year 11s studying history, took a trip to Leeds Armoury - it sounds like they had a really good day too.

Year 11 art and textiles pupils have had their practical exams this week. These require such effort and dedication, and they have all worked so hard to prepare and give their best on the day. We are so impressed with their approach and commitment this week.

On Tuesday I joined Year 8 for worship as 08 pupils shared the history of William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army. We were treated to a drama performance that told the tale of how, at the age of 15, he began preaching the gospel and his commitment to fighting poverty and hunger began. Pupils explained how his faith was active, not passive and how he modelled the power of perseverance. As always, it was a fabulous start to the day, that left me pondering.

Have you ever wondered what the collective noun is for a group of vicars or clergy? A Google search informed me that there is a range of nouns, depending on the purpose of the meeting. On Thursday morning, we had an 'assembly' of clergy (a group of clergy gathered for a purpose), for our first 'clergy breakfast' of 2025. We are so blessed to have such a supportive team, willing to come to school to lead Eucharists, being available for clergy drop-in sessions for pupils and contributing to learning in lessons. It was fantastic that so many of them could join us from our local churches so that we could get to know one another and discuss how to work even better together. I am planning to visit these churches to experience a Sunday service over the coming months and am really looking forward to visiting Whittle St John this coming weekend.

I had to do some catching up with Gold Stamps this week, as I needed to see the group of pupils who recently represented Lancashire at the English Schools' Cross Country Championships in Sussex. This achievement is particularly noteworthy, as representing the county really is a significant feat - well done to all of them. Other Gold Stamps this week went to yet more volcanic creations, the girls' cricket team (more on that later), and a young man in Year 8 who has raised £150 for our Zambia Appeal with a sponsored silence.

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It's been another week with dance at the forefront. Last weekend was the Chorley Schools' Dance Competition and I was delighted to hear that our Year 9 group and our Year 10 group both placed second in their categories. Last night we had the opportunity to watch them and others at our Dance Showcase. What can I say, other than, 'wow!' It was hard to contain my emotion as I watched the different performances, that ranged from incredibly moving and reflective, to heart-stopping acrobatics. It really was fabulous, and I am very grateful to our wonderful dance team for making it happen, not to mention the many others who gave up their time to help backstage. This event was, without a doubt, a highlight for me since joining St. Michael's in January.

This week has also been an exceptional week for sport, so I've given Mrs Dempster, Curriculum Leader for PE, space to share the department's success:

It is impossible to write and put into words how unbelievable the achievement of our pupils has been this week. I think there are not enough superlatives. I am in awe of our students winning 3 Lancashire tournaments in 3 different sports, it's just phenomenal.

6 of our pupils were chosen to represent Lancashire across Years 8-11, having previously represented St Michael's and Chorley, in the English Schools' Cross Country. The pupils have done remarkably well to be selected for a very tough course down in Sussex. Well done to Max (213rd), Henry (98th), Lyra (274th), Millie (22nd), Jack (166th) and Ava (130th) for these outstanding performances across a nationwide event.

On Monday our under 13 girls' and boys' handball teams competed in the Lancashire handball finals playing outstandingly well. The boys won a close final 7-6 to be crowned Lancashire Champions. These boys will now represent Lancashire in the Northwest Finals. The girls, after some excellent play, have learnt a lot having just missed out on qualifying for the final.

In 2012 at the London Olympic Games, Britain had 'Super Saturday' and this week we had 'Wonderful Wednesday'.

The under 15 girls' indoor cricket team beat a fantastic Stonyhurst team 88-72 in the final, after some outstanding bowling and fielding, to be crowned Lancashire Champions. These girls will now represent Lancashire in the North of England finals being played at Headingley after Easter.

The Year 7 boys went to the Lancashire Indoor Athletics Finals at Stanley Park and, after winning all bar one race on the track, and with some fabulous field events, were crowned Lancashire Champions by 17 points from their nearest competitors.

Finally, in the evening, the Year 7 boys' football team played in the Chorley Hospital Cup Final, at Victory Park, against a very spirited Bishop Rawsthorpe team, prevailing as 3-0 winners. A very proud team claimed their trophies after a fantastic performance.

I think this week the phrase 'God gave you the talent, you bring the effort' has most definitely been lived out by our pupils.

We are ending the week with another really significant day. We were honoured to welcome Bishop Philip North, the Bishop of Blackburn, to school this morning. After leading our Lent Eucharist service, he addressed 15 pupils and their parents who have successfully completed the Archbishops' Young Leaders Award. This is a scheme which is designed to empower Young

Leaders to transform society and inspire others to do the same and we are very proud of these pupils for achievement.

After the ceremony Bishop Philip visited lessons and met with pupils who went to Zambia. We were delighted that he could also officially open our newly renovated building. Once a pottery workshop, it has now been converted into a meeting room and offices, which we can use for internal and external meetings, as well as for pupil events such as MFL speaking tests. This building has been named the 'Johnson Centre' after Mrs Johnson, in recognition of her many years of dedicated service to St Michael's, the pupils, staff and community.

Unbelievably, in the midst of all this busyness, Miss Nicholson still found time to organise staff karaoke to raise funds for Zambia. I hope pupils enjoyed listening to staff sing some duets at lunchtime!

As we look to our final week in the run up to Easter, we have a great deal happening in school again. I would really like to encourage you to come along to our rearranged Wellbeing Evening, which is taking place next Thursday. Sam Tyrer, our guest speaker, is highly recommended and I am sure you will find it a worthwhile event. If you would like to join us, please could you let us know, using the link below:

[Wellbeing Evening Form](#)

Have a wonderful weekend.

With kind regards,



Mrs Rachel Rongong
Headteacher

Events next week

Monday 31 March	Dance lunchtime showcase – all pupils welcome in the Hall
Tuesday 1 April	Lunchtime concert in the Armstrong Centre – all pupils welcome
Tuesday 1 April	Year 9 catch-up vaccinations
Tuesday 1 April	Year 8 alumni apprenticeship day
Thursday 3 April 6:30pm	Wellbeing Evening for parents/carers
Friday 4 April	End of term services at St George's Church