

St Michael's Church of England High School

A Church of England Academy

Headteacher: Mrs J Jenks BSocSci Hons PGCE

Deputy Headteachers: Mr J Chadwick BEd Hons, Mrs C Hooley BA Hons PGCE

Growing in Body, Mind and Spirit



Therefore, choose



Forthcoming events

Lent 1

Thursday 6 Jan:
Year 10
Consultation
Evening

Thursday 13 Jan:
Year 11
Information
Evening

Fri 7—Thurs 13 Jan:
Yr 8 and Yr 9 exams

Tues 1—Sat 5 Feb:
School Production
"Beauty and the
Beast"

Tues 8 + Thurs 10
Feb:
Year 11 PIPE
meetings

St Michael's Newsletter: Michaelmas 2

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

The Christmas holidays are almost upon us and, as always, it seems such a short time since we were welcoming everyone back after the summer! Our traditional Christmas Carol Service took place at St Laurence's Church on Thursday 9 December with the choirs providing beautiful musical accompaniment to an incredibly moving service. Last week Miss Nicholson led our Christingle worship and this week we have our carols in the quad in addition to our end of term services, all of which help us to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

Awards Evening

Although we were unable to hold our Awards Evening in its usual format, it was a real joy to welcome our former pupils back to school to collect their Awards and GCSE certificates. We wish them well in their next steps and thank them for the amazing contribution they made to life at St Michael's.



Year 11 GCSEs 2022

The majority of Year 11 have been working diligently during their mock examination period. We have been impressed by their maturity and determination to succeed and hope they take some time to relax and recharge their batteries over the Christmas period! We are holding an Information evening for Year 11 parents on Thursday 13 January at 6.30 pm. (It will be confirmed nearer the time whether this will be held remotely or in school.) The purpose of the evening is to share with parents the contingency plans that schools have been asked to put in place in relation to GCSEs in 2022. We would urge all parents/ carers to attend this evening so that you are fully informed about the assessment process and the implications for your son/ daughter. Further details will follow in the new year. A letter from Ofqual about this can be found [here](#).

Communication

Thank you to parents/ carers for your continued support for all that we strive to achieve for your sons/ daughters. As we regularly state, so much more is accomplished when we work in partnership together and pupils hear a consistent message about our expectations from home as well as from school.

Please may I remind you of the correct communication procedures to follow if you wish to speak to a member of staff: The tutor or appropriate subject teacher should be the first point of contact. If the issue cannot be resolved via the tutor/ subject teacher then please do contact the Pupil Manager/Curriculum Leader. There is also 'drop in clinic' on Tuesday from 3.30-5.00pm, which is currently being held via telephone, and therefore we do ask you to make an appointment via the school office.

All communication from parents with staff should be via one of the following routes:

1. Telephone the office
2. Use School Synergy- click on 'contact school' and select the appropriate option. Your query will be directed to the appropriate colleague who will respond in due course.
3. If there are any difficulties with either of these methods then the back -up option is to email admin@saint-michaels.lancs.sch.uk
4. It is only in exceptional circumstances, due to the specific needs of individual children who may be on support plans etc. that staff will communicate with parents directly by their school email.

A small number of parents / carers are currently emailing staff directly, often out of school hours, and if this continues unchecked it will have a significant impact on wellbeing and pupil learning. I am sure that you understand the reasons why I have asked staff not to respond to emails from parents/ carers that are sent in the evenings, at weekends or during holidays. Thank you for your support and understanding with this matter.

Covid Testing

Thank you to all parents/ carers for your continued support in ensuring that our pupils are completing twice weekly lateral flow tests. Please can we ask you to continue with this in the new year, and also help by ensuring your child arrives to school wearing a face mask and have a spare in their bag. We believe this has had a significant impact on helping to keep pupils and staff at St Michael's safe.

Covid testing will again be taking place in school when pupils return on Tuesday 4 January. This will be completed during tutorial time, supported by staff who have received training to supervise this testing. On our website <https://www.saint-michaels.com/information/covid-19-resources>, you will find the latest letter to parents/ carers from Dr Sakthi Karunanithi, Director of Public Health in Lancashire. His letter gives national guidance in response to Plan B, details on vaccinations for pupils, testing and the changes to close contacts. On the website, there are also links for parents/ carers to report any positive COVID-19 results. Please may we request that if your child tests positive over the Christmas period, that this is still reported to school.

This half term has once again seen pupils and staff engaged in a wide variety of activities helping our pupils to 'grow in body, mind and spirit'. Please do follow us on Twitter to keep up to date with all that is happening in school. A snapshot of some of the highlights of the half term is attached. Our pupils continue to make the whole school community proud by being involved in many activities and events beyond the curriculum.

Staff

Two colleagues have left us this term after many years' service to St Michael's: Mrs Michele Fletcher (Teaching Assistant) and Mr Andy Palfrey (ICT Technician). We thank them for all that they have contributed to the life of our school and wish them well for the future. We are delighted to welcome our new Teaching Assistant Mrs Claire Prince to the staff of St Michael's. We currently have a temporary vacancy for the post of Examinations Officer and a Teaching Assistant and are also recruiting an ICT technician. Details are on our website.

Winter weather

With the weather turning colder please may I ask that, should we be forced to close school during the school day, you have made contingency plans for your child. These should be recorded in their personal organisers to assist their tutors. The school website will be the main source of information should we be forced to close: <http://www.saint-michaels.com> School Synergy and our Twitter page will also send out this information. I assure you that school will only be closed after due consideration of the health and safety of everyone who learns and works here at St Michael's. The arrangements in case of unavoidable school closure are on the website [here](#) and pupils would have work available on School Synergy.

Uniform and Appearance

Thank you to parents for helping to ensure that your son/ daughter does wear a coat to school. Please may we remind you that these should be plain black coats without logos, (reflector strips are allowed). As pupils are expected to be outside at break and lunch times it also helps if they wear a school jumper.

School Focus

To maintain our high standards, we regularly focus on key aspects of school life. In recent weeks we have had a drive on punctuality to school and to lessons. Thank you for your support with this. When we return in January there will be a focus on school uniform, with particular attention being paid to skirt length, make-up, jewellery and coats. Please can we ask for your full support with this matter so that staff can focus their time and energy on our core purpose of learning and teaching.

Online Safety

The use of technology is essential in education, as we have particularly seen in the last two years. However, it is also important to consider the dangers of young people spending time online. Please find a link to our parent leaflet with useful information, tips and guides [here](#).

End of Term

Term ends on Friday 17 December at 13.00. Buses have been ordered for that time, following the morning Christmas Services.

The school is grateful for your acknowledgement of the difficult circumstances in which we continue to operate and for your understanding. As always, your continued support, kind messages and prayers have really helped to sustain our school community.

I wish you all a restful and peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year

Yours sincerely

J.L. Jenks



Michaelmas 2 Twitter news



Sporting triumphs

Well done to both our netball and basketball teams this half term! Both our Year 11 and Year 9 netball squads made it through to the regional round after some outstanding performances. Our basketballers started their fixtures of the year with an great victory against Armfield Academy.



No More Knives tour

The 'No More Knives Tour' came to St Michael's this half term. Christian organisation The Message Trust presented information and music, providing pupils with knowledge and skills to say no to knives. This formed part of our vital safeguarding and child protection procedures!



Charitable giving

Well done to all of Team St Michael's for making a difference in the community this half term. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to Children in Need, MacMillan coffee morning or our year group charities this half term.



Environmental debate

What a fantastic opportunity for our pupils Abbey, Ted, Archie and Luke, joining the debate on climate emergency with Rt. Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP and Mayor of Chorley Coun Steve Holgate. All six Chorley High schools were represented.



Remembrance Sunday parade

Our Head Boy Benedict and Head Girl Amy represented school by taking part in the Remembrance Sunday Parade in Chorley.



Cross country team

Well done to our ESAA North West Final Cross Country team. They took part in a fantastic race on a beautiful day in Trafford and represented St Michael's excellently!



November 2021

Football talent

Year 11 pupil Megan who plays for Manchester United Girls, scored an amazing 8 goals in 1 match against Everton in November. A fabulous achievement!



Wrestling champion!

Well done to Year 11 pupil Oliver who won a silver medal representing the UK in a wrestling championship.



Careers Fair

Year 11 pupils and parents had the opportunity to speak to colleges and employers at the first Year 11 Careers Fair. More than 30 providers attended!



St Michael's pupils return to Highgrove House!

Pupils in Year 9 were delighted to once again be able to entertain the residents of our local care home by singing Christmas carols in the car park. Residents were also

presented with art-work created by our talented youngsters.



December 2021

Our first St Michael's School Jam!

Raspberries grown in our school garden, picked by Year 9s during Curriculum Enrichment, have been made into jam by volunteer young chefs in Year 10. We are hoping to give these as Christmas gifts to members of our school and wider community.



Christmas Carol services

It was lovely to see so many parents, carers and friends at our Christmas community carol service at St Lawrence's Church on Thursday 11 December. Our brass players are also presently performing Carols in the Quad for different year groups each morning. We are also looking forward to our end of term Christmas services.

