

# St Michael's Church of England High

## A Church of England Academy

Headteacher: Mrs J Jenks BSocSci Hons PGCE

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

Growing in Body, Mind and Spirit



Therefore, choose

### Forthcoming events Lent 1

**Thurs 11 Jan**  
**Y10 Consultation**  
**Evening**

**Friday 12 Jan—Tues**  
**16 Jan**  
**Y8 exams**

**Tues 16 Jan-Thurs**  
**18 Jan**  
**Y9 exams**

**Thurs 18 Jan**  
**Wellbeing Evening**  
**(all years)**

**Thurs 25 Jan**  
**Y9 Options Evening**

**Wed 31 Jan-Sat 3**  
**Feb**  
**School Production**

**Tues 6 Feb**  
**Y11 Reports**

**Wed 7 Feb**  
**Y9 short reports**

**Thurs 8 Feb**  
**Y7 Consultation**  
**Evening**  
**Y11 Runshaw Inter-**  
**views**

**Fri 9 Feb**  
**Y11 Runshaw Inter-**  
**views**

## St Michael's Newsletter: Michaelmas 2 21/12/23

### *Message from the Headteacher*

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a busy term at St Michael's! Our young people have excelled in so many aspects of school life and there really is a great deal to celebrate and be proud of.

#### **Advent**

Our Christmas Carol Service took place at St Peter's Church on Thursday 15 December with the choirs providing beautiful musical accompaniment to an uplifting service, predominantly led by our Senior Year 11 pupils. Thank you to St Peter's and to Rev Jo from Euxton for her words. We are grateful for the support of our local clergy who have led weekly Eucharist services throughout Advent for our pupils and staff at



lunchtime. Collective Worship has also seen a focus on the season of Advent, including our Advent Appeal (St Laurence's Food Bank and our Zambia '24 Project) and a Christingle Service. The pupils have also joined in our annual Carols in the Quad.

#### **Helping Others - Community Christmas Party**

Our partnership with the local and wider community is something that we treasure. We were delighted to welcome local residents, members of our Foundation Parishes and residents of local residential homes amongst others to what has become a much-appreciated community Christmas Party. This year's event was hosted by a small group of pupils as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award and supported by pupils from our Social Action Committee. The pupils have given of their time and talents most generously and have brought a great deal of joy into the lives of others in so doing.

#### **Zambia Appeal**

Parents/ carers are aware that we are amid what we think is the biggest fundraising event in St Michael's history. To facilitate the construction of toilet blocks and support school and community projects in Lasaka, 15 pupils and 5 staff will be visiting in Summer 2024. Thank you for all you are doing to support us in trying to reach our £60,000 target. Our usual charitable giving in school raises between £5,000 and £10,000 per annum, so I'm sure you appreciate the scale of this challenge particularly in times of austerity. The links to our fund raising pages are below. We have been overwhelmed with the support from pupils, parents/carers and local businesses. Thank you!

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/stmichaelszambia24project>

#### **Awards Evening**

We were delighted to welcome back our Year 11 Leavers to receive their GCSE certificates. Rev David Ward was our guest speaker and it was lovely to be able to celebrate their progress and attainment together. 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 Examinations**

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. A date for your diaries; we are holding our Revision Evening for Year 11 pupils and parents on **Thursday 29 February at 6.30pm** where revision techniques and tips for wellbeing will be shared. When we return to school in January, pupils will be having a series of assemblies to share information about revision, wellbeing and how to successfully approach the remaining months at St Michael's. We continue to work hard with all our pupils, but are particularly mindful of trying to address the national attainment gap between boys and girls at GCSE.

### **Wellbeing Evening**

We would like to offer a warm invitation to parents and carers of pupils in all years to attend our Wellbeing Evening. This will be held at 6.30pm in the school hall on Thursday 18 January. Information will be shared about mental health, wellbeing and also how young people can stay safe online. Parents often ask staff individually about support for their children with wellbeing both generally and at times when they are preparing for examinations. All of these things are considered on the evening and I do urge you to attend to feel better informed about the sources of help that are available for your son/daughter. We are delighted that in addition to input from our own staff, we are expecting representatives from Lancashire's Children and Family Wellbeing Service, the School Nursing Team and an Educational Psychologist to also be presenting on the evening.

### **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.

Whilst we want to work in partnership with all parents/carers and seek to respond to any concerns that may arise, please can we ask that you are always mindful of the additional demands which you place on staff in relation to your son/daughter. We know that some of the challenges which our young people face are extremely complex and do require time and us working through situations together, often engaging support from outside agencies. However, I am sure that you appreciate that the demands on staff time are intense and increasing. Even at the end of the school day, staff (including the majority of pastoral staff) have meetings to attend, planning, preparation and assessment to complete as well as professional development events. We are very blessed to have such wonderful, committed and caring staff at St Michael's who really do go above and beyond expectation in supporting our young people. Thank you for your understanding in not taking advantage of this and trying to ensure that any matters you do raise with school are appropriate, done so in a reasonable manner and via the communication channels outlined below:

The tutor or appropriate subject teacher should be the first point of contact. If the matter cannot be resolved via the tutor/ subject teacher, then please do contact the appropriate Pupil Manager/Curriculum Leader.

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

1. Telephone the office
2. Use School Synergy and from your account click on "Contact School", or alternatively if you do not have a Synergy account use this link: [Parent Contact \(schoolsynergy.co.uk\)](https://schoolsynergy.co.uk) Your query will be directed to the appropriate colleague.
3. If the above methods are unsuccessful then please email [admin@saint-michaels.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@saint-michaels.lancs.sch.uk).
4. Come to 'drop-in clinic' on Tuesday from 3.30-5.00pm if you need to speak to a senior member of staff.

Please can we respectfully remind you not just to turn up to school to see a member of staff without an appointment.

Staff are entitled to have a break from work and uninterrupted time with their families. Staff will not respond to any emails which are sent by parents/carers late in the evening and during weekends/holidays. Please do not expect any response from school if you do choose to communicate in this way rather than following the correct school communication procedures. The detrimental impact which such communications are having on the wellbeing of staff and their ability to prepare fantastic lessons for all our young people is significant. The support and understanding of all parents/carers in this matter is much appreciated. The school website provides information of outside agencies that offer support in relation to various matters and of the procedures to follow in relation to any safeguarding concerns that may arise outside school hours.

### **Staff**

Mr Paul Clark has been promoted from his role as Head of Geography to Assistant Headteacher at another Church of England High School within the Diocese. We thank him for the fantastic work he has done in leading one of the strongest Geography Departments in the county and wish him every success and fulfilment in his new role. Mrs Anna Clare will take up the role of Head of Geography after Easter

with Miss O'Malley Acting Subject Leader until that time.

We have also welcomed, Beth Corbet as Pastoral Administrative Support Officer to school this half term.

### **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 and pupils would have work available on School Synergy.

[SchoolSynergy ~ Login](#)

### **Uniform and Appearance**

Thank you to parents for helping to ensure that your son/daughter does wear a plain black coat to school (small discrete motifs/logos only). As pupils are expected to be outside at break and lunch times it also helps if they wear a school jumper.

Thank you also for your support in ensuring skirts are kept no more than 3 inches from the knee and are not rolled over at the waistband. Children in breach of this will receive a consequence and should this be a persistent problem, it will be addressed as a matter of defiance and if necessary, your child will be expected to wear regulation school trousers as an alternative. We do appreciate your support with this matter and sustaining the highest expectations we have in relation to all areas of school life. We want to ensure that we are fair and support the vast majority of pupils who choose to follow the policy on a daily basis.

### **Attendance**

We continue to work hard to ensure that pupils' attendance at school returns to pre-Covid levels. Thank you for your support in this. You can check your child's attendance on School Synergy. Information on attendance and punctuality will be sent out in the new year but it is worth noting that an attendance of just 90% over the course of the new year equates to approximately 160 lessons missed, learning that simply cannot be retrieved.

### **Punctuality**

We are also working hard to ensure that pupils arrive to school punctually. I am sure you will agree that it is essential that pupils arrive to school on time (in tutorials by 08.50), ready to begin learning. We know that you will appreciate this is not only a statutory requirement, but moreover, is part of the collective responsibility we have to prepare our young people for life when they leave school, where poor punctuality is not acceptable either in college or in the workplace.

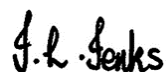
### **End of Term**

Term ends on Friday 22 December at 13.00. Buses have been ordered for that time, following the morning Christmas Services. The Lent term starts on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

As always, thank you for your continued support and prayers for school and all that we seek to do in partnership with parents/carers to enable our young people to grow and flourish in body, mind and spirit.

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

Yours sincerely



Jayne Jenks

Headteacher





## Michaelmas 2 X (Twitter) news

### Awards Evening

In November we welcomed back our Y11 leavers for their Awards Evening. Congratulations to all our former pupils!

### Remembrance Sunday

Head boy, Archie, and Head girl, Megan, attended the Chorley Remembrance Service with Mrs Jenks on Remembrance Sunday. 'We will remember them'.



November 2023

### Y9 Curriculum Enrichment

Pupils in Y9 have continued to make a difference in their community as part of the Curriculum Enrichment programme.

Pupils have been helping out at St Laurence's Church, helping to clear the grounds and clean the church. They have also been showing stewardship at both Astley and Cuerden Parks.



### Y9 Football Champions

Our Y9 boys football team have been crowned Chorley Cup Winners for the second year in a row after a 3-2 win against Bishop Rawstorne.

It was an exciting, close match which saw both teams



ahead at one point. St Michael's managed to hold on to their lead under a lot of pressure! Well done on a brilliant team performance!

December  
2023

### Community Christmas Party

Friends of St Michael's enjoyed a little bingo, a quiz and carolling when they attended the Community Christmas Party on Tuesday. Pupils spent time making our 'St



Michael's Jam' using strawberries and raspberries from the school garden and baking scones as a little gift for all the visitors.

### Year 7 Football Champions

Our Year 7 football team have been crowned Chorley Cup winners. They played against Holy Cross in the final. Well done to all!



### Advent Appeal

Our annual Advent Appeal is supporting two worthy causes this year.

#### St Laurence's Food Bank

Thank you for your donations which are being presented by each tutorial in our End of Term Services.

#### Zambia Appeal

We have now raised just over £27,000 for our Zambia Appeal and would like to thank everyone who has supported the fundraising and donated in any way!

This is about 45% of the intended total of £60,000!

Fabulous congratulations to Edward and James who raised more than £1,200 for the Zambia Appeal on a cold November weekend walking 32 miles from Blackpool to Chorley.



Other events this half term have included our non uniform day and the 'Push Up Challenge' where all pupils and staff accepted the challenge of together completing the equivalent number of push-ups as there are miles from Chorley to Zambia. This number was completely surpassed, with pupils actually completing more than 14,000 push ups! This was led by Mr Walker who himself also completed more than 6,000 push-ups!

On Saturday 9 December pupils, staff and parents entertained shoppers on Market Walk singing Christmas Carols.



They raised more than £400.

Staff took part in a karaoke on Monday this week raising a further £250- towards the Appeal. Pupils

also visited two local primary schools as they have also kindly agreed

to be involved with our Project and help with the fundraising with their young people.

We are also looking forward to our Y9 Fun Run which is set to take place on Thursday afternoon.



Thank you to everyone for your support. If you would like to make a donation, please do so through our Justgiving page at: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/stmichaelszambia24project>

### Easy Fundraising

Please could we take this opportunity to again kindly encourage you to consider registering with easyfundraising as it means that more than 7,000 brands will donate to our Zambia Appeal for free every time you use easyfundraising for your online shopping. Brands include Amazon, ebay, Argos, John Lewis etc. It takes minutes to create an account and it is completely free.

Thank you for your support.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/st-michaels-zambia-24-project>