

# 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 2

**Mon 19 Feb**  
**Y11 Photographs**

**Thurs 22 Feb**  
**Y9 Consultation**  
**Evening**

**Mon 26 Feb**  
**Y9 Options forms**  
**deadline 9am**

**Wed 28 Feb**  
**Y8 reports**

**Thurs 29 Feb**  
**Y11 Revision**  
**Evening**

**Fri 1 Mar**  
**Non Uniform Day**

**Thurs 7 Mar**  
**Y8 Consultation**  
**Evening**  
**World Book Day**

**Mon 11 Mar**  
**Y8 Option form**  
**returned**

**Tues 12 Mar**  
**Y11 tracking**

**Fri 15 Mar**  
**Y7 Zumba for**  
**Zambia**

**Mon 18–Thur 21**  
**Mar**  
**Y10 exams**

**Fri 22 Mar**  
**Ceilidh for Zambia**

**Thur 28 Mar**  
**Easter services**  
**End of term**

## St Michael's Newsletter: Lent 1

### *Message from the Headteacher*

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope the contents of this Newsletter will give you a flavour of life at St Michael's in what has been an exceptionally busy half term.

#### **We Will Rock You**

Thank you to all who attended our fantastic production of 'We Will Rock You'. It was a real joy to be able to welcome so many parents/carers and friends of St Michael's to share in this uplifting and joyous experience. Thank you for your lovely messages of thanks to our pupils and staff. The Performing Arts Department once again excelled in providing fantastic opportunities for our young people to truly shine. This is 'Team St Michael's' at its best and a reminder of our mission for all to flourish through opportunities for growth in body, mind and spirit. I know that the memories of this



show will live with the young people involved forever. 'Thank you' to everyone who made this wonderful experience possible.

#### **Zambia Appeal**

As a Christian school where the Christian values of compassion, service and thankfulness are part of our daily life, I continue to be humbled by the generosity of our pupils and staff in their charitable giving. As you are aware we are endeavouring to build lasting and sustainable links with a school and community in Lusaka. Thank you for all that you are doing to support our fund-raising activities. Our 2024 Lent Appeal will be supporting Zambia.

#### **Parental Support and Communications**

Thank you to all parents for the vital role you play in 'Team St Michael's' and in supporting your child's education. Attendance at our consultation evenings continues to be superb. Thank you too for always taking the time to complete our questionnaire surveys which form an essential part of ongoing school improvement.

Please can I reiterate to all parents the comments I recently made at Options Evening. We treasure the partnership we have with all our parents/carers and want to remain united in our efforts to enable our young people to flourish and grow in all areas of school life. However, we are currently facing an unprecedented and unsustainable volume of messages and calls from parents/carers. The majority of staff employed at St Michael's are teachers who are in the classroom teaching lessons all day and when they are not in direct contact with pupils are spending time planning lessons, assessing and meeting with pupils on a one-to-one basis as part of our 'Every Child Matters' (ECM) interviews. Time is a finite resource and every minute spent responding to communications is time that is not being spent with young people. Whilst we do fully appreciate there will be occasions when parents/carers need to contact school outside the usual consultation evenings, information evenings, informing us of pupil absence, or for reviews of pupils with SEND and/or the support of outside agencies; we ask that all parents/carers would consider the following before or when contacting school:

Is the contact necessary?

Will the way in which you approach school still send a message to your son/daughter that you are working in partnership with school (even if you wish to raise a concern)?

Is the contact succinct, professional and reasonable in tone and frequency?

I am deeply saddened, particularly having worked at St Michael's for over three decades, to feel the need to send a message requesting that our staff are always treated with dignity and respect. Thank you for your appreciation and understanding that these comments about communication are made so that we can focus our time and energy on the young people in our care; which is what your precious sons and daughters deserve.

**Attendance**

Thank you for your support in helping us to sustain high levels of attendance and punctuality. I remind parents that I am unable to authorise holiday requests and that leave of absence can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. Attendance really does matter and there is a clear correlation between time spent in school and attainment.

**Learning**

Please may we remind you that the curriculum plans are sent home annually for parents at the start of the year, at the time of consultation evening and are always available on the website. <https://www.saint-michaels.com/curriculum>

**Reading**

Thank you for all that you are doing to promote reading for pleasure and wider reading to your son/daughter. A reminder that World Book Day is on Thursday 7 March. As usual, there will be various activities taking place throughout the day and Year 7 will be invited to dress up as a book character. Further information will follow.

**Year 11**

Year 11 pupils are working hard to prepare for their GCSE examinations. They have been issued with a revision planner and timetable in assembly this week. Individual examination timetables will be issued after half term. We look forward to seeing Year 11 pupils and parents/carers at Revision Evening on Thursday 29 February.

**Staffing**

We look forward to welcoming Mrs Brunsden back to school after half term following her absence on maternity leave. We are extremely grateful to Ms Tait for once again returning to St Michael's to cover this period and wish her well.

I hope that you have a good half term break and as we approach Lent, you may wish to consider the Diocesan Lent Course as part of your reflections and a brand new discipleship App '[Fruitful](#)' which has been launched by the Bishop of Blackburn, Rt Rev Philip North.

Yours sincerely

*J.L. Jenks*

Headteacher







### Holocaust Memorial

Deputy Headboy and Headgirl Christopher and Molly represented school with Miss Simons and Mr Kirkpatrick at the Holocaust Memorial service in Astley Park on Holocaust Memorial Day. They also had a TV appearance as BBC North West attended the event!

### Netball

It was wonderful to have Ireland Netball player and ex Head Girl Niamh O'Leary training our Y8 & 9 team ahead of the North West finals. The team came in the top ten teams in the region—what a fantastic achievement. Well done team and thank you Niamh!



### Lent 1 X (Twitter) news

January  
2024

### We Will Rock You

Audiences were treated to a fantastic celebration of all things Queen when more than 100 pupils performed We Will Rock You last week. It was an amazing display of talent with incredible singing, dancing and acting, as well as special effects, costumes and set. Thank you to all the dedicated pupils and staff who gave of their time for so many months putting this fabulous show together.



### Football Champions



Congratulations to our Year 7, Year 10 and 11 football teams, who were crowned Chorley and District Champions this week. Well done girls!!!

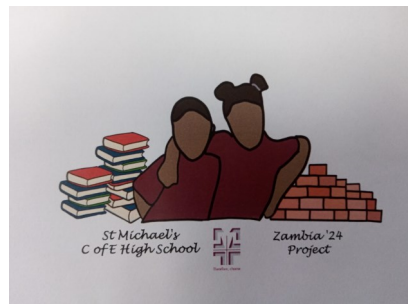
February  
2024

### Zambia Appeal

We have now raised almost £35,000 for our Zambia Appeal. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported and donated to this worthy cause.

Events this half term have included a staff quiz night, raffles and stall during the production and will culminate in a Valentine's Karaoke on Friday. We are also very grateful to primary schools and community groups who are holding their own Zambia Appeal events to support our project, as well as the numerous companies who have donated money and raffle prizes.

Next term, events include another non-uniform day and staff karaoke, pupils will be backpacking at Tesco in Horwich on Saturday 24 February and a Ceilidh evening.



### Y9 Curriculum Enrichment

Pupils have continued to support their community during Enrichment time this half term. We have been helping with the food bank at St Laurence's Church and continuing to assist at Cuerden Valley Park.



### 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>