

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



Therefore, choose

Growing in Body, Mind and Spirit



Forthcoming events

Michaelmas 1

Thursday 25 Aug
GCSE results day

Thursday 1 Sept
Start of term

Friday 2 Sept
Y7 photos

Thursday 8 Sept
Y7 Information
Evening

Thursday 15 Sept
Open Evening
(early school
closure)

Monday 26 Sept
Staff training day

Thursday 29 Sept
Christian Values
Enrichment Day

Thursday 20 Oct
Y11 Consultation
Evening

Friday 21 Oct
Berlin, Krakow,
Prague visit

St Michael's Newsletter: Trinity 2

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents / Carers

This has, once again, been a very busy and intense half term with the demands of the GCSEs, the start of the new academic year and various wider-curricular activities, including Christian Values Enrichment Days, sporting and musical events and visits from our feeder primary schools. I trust that you follow all that is happening in school through our twitter feed and that you will enjoy reading the brief summary enclosed.

We trust that our wonderful former Year 11 pupils who enjoyed a fantastic 'prom' this half term will be successful in their GCSE examinations. Examination results be available for pupils at 9.00am on Thursday 25 August. They have been a truly magnificent group of

will be available for pupils at 9.00am on Thursday 25 August. They have been a truly magnificent group of young people and we wish them well in the future.

This half term we welcomed our New Year 7 pupils for their induction day. They gave a very positive first impression and were clearly looking forward to coming to St Michael's in September. I am sure that they will embrace all of the amazing opportunities available to them.

Congratulations!

There has been much for our young people to celebrate at recent events. Summer Arts was a resounding success with various talented and exceptional musicians, dancers and actors. Similarly, our Year 11 GCSE Art and Textiles display, held on the same evening, truly showcased the talent and creativity of our young people.

For an amazing 20th consecutive year (excluding absences due to the pandemic) we were Chorley and District Athletic Champions; an absolutely wonderful achievement and a testament to the great ability, talent, dedication and drive of pupils and staff. Well done to all who have represented school so well and a huge thank you to parents and carers who support all the wider-curricular activities. We have just heard this week that we have been awarded the Sports Mark Gold award.

Uniform

Thank you for your continued support in helping to meet our high expectations and standards of uniform. If you are intending to purchase new items of uniform in the summer please can I remind you of the importance of labelling all individual items. Our full uniform and appearance regulations are in the personal organiser as well as on the school website. Please may we ask for your continued support in helping to ensure that the following aspects of our dress code, are adhered to at all times:

Shoes: Black traditional style. No trainer style or canvas allowed. See images on the website if unsure.

Hair: This must be of a naturally occurring shade. **No shaven heads (no shorter than a number 2 sides and back).** No lines cut into the hair or extreme fashion styles. Plain hair bands/slides-black only.

Ties: Clip on ties only (which should be free from graffiti/ pen marks)

Skirts should be no more than three inches from the knee and waist bands should not be rolled over.

Failure to follow the uniform and appearance policy will result in working in isolation from the rest of the class. School will be the final arbiter of uniform related



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Attendance

Thank you for your support in helping to avoid taking your children out of school in term time. Please may I remind parents and carers that any requests for absence may only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. Attendance at school is one of the biggest influences on success. We would ask all parents to support us by ensuring that your son/daughter attends school regularly. Like all schools we are working hard to help ensure that our attendance figures return to the high levels that they were prior to the pandemic. We would ask for your full support in this matter.

Building projects

We continue to work on upgrading our facilities. We are hoping that later next year that work will begin on refurbishing the school hall, a project that has only been made possible through the support of St Michael's Trust. Thank you to the large numbers of parents/ carers who contribute to this. It is not surprising in the current economic climate that contributions have declined. If there are any parents/ carers who do feel in a position to be able to support The Trust, then please email admin@saint-michaels.lancs.sch.uk and we will forward the necessary paperwork to you. Unlike many of our feeder primary schools we don't have a PTFA, Summer, Christmas Fairs etc. and The Trust is therefore our vehicle for fund raising to support the work of the school and maintain our vibrant and well cared for learning spaces. In addition to the planned work on the hall, work will begin on improving the servery in the kitchen as we strive to reduce the lunchtime queues.

Staffing

We are sorry to say 'goodbye' to a number of colleagues. Mrs Cunningham, Head of Performing Arts, and Mr Cunningham our SENDCO will be retiring in summer after a combined 77 year service. Mrs Hull, our Librarian, is also retiring after 15 years at St Michael's. (Please see the additional supplement for further details.) Miss Stebel, Miss Farish and Mrs Whiteley are leaving their posts as teacher of English, although we welcome Mrs Whiteley back in her new role as Pupil Support Leader.

Mrs Finch returns from maternity leave to her role as PE teacher, and we wish Ms Tait, who has provided cover, well in her next role. Our gratitude and thanks also to Mr Swarbrick, Mr Caddle and Miss Nichols. We wish them all every happiness and success in their next ventures!

Reading

Please can we ask for your help in encouraging your child to read both for pleasure and to engage in wider reading to supplement their academic studies. We recognise that reading is not just about pupils becoming more successful academically but reading regularly and widely, (whether that be fiction, the classics, poetry, non-fiction, newspapers or blogs,) will in turn improve their reading fluency, widen their vocabulary, improve their comprehension and ultimately lead to better outcomes. Attached along with this newsletter is a list of recommended reads. We look forward to hearing what your children have read over the summer when they return in September.

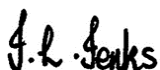
Readathon

Throughout the last two weeks, Years 8 and 9 have participated in the 'Readathon' which has raised a fantastic sum of £1146 for Read for Good - a charity that endeavours to provide new books and readers to children's hospitals throughout the UK. Thank you so much to all of the pupils (and their family and friends) who have made a great effort to help such a worthwhile cause.

Thank you to all parents/ carers for your continued support. It has been so wonderful to see parents back in school this year for our Information Evenings, and to share in some of our special occasions such as the Production, Arts Evening, Art Display and Presentations. We value enormously the role you play in 'Team St Michael's' and wish you all a safe and happy summer holiday.

Term Begins at 8.50am on Thursday 1 September.

Yours sincerely



Headteacher



Trinity 2 Twitter news

Y9 Enrichment

Pupils in Year 9 have been harvesting bumper crops of fruit and vegetables this half term.

Two boxes of potatoes have been donated to the Open Kitchen at Hollinshead Street Church and the strawberries (presently frozen!) are going to be made into jam and given as Christmas presents at the

Community Christmas Party.

Our very first elderflower cordial was sampled at the Art and Textiles display before the summer Arts Evening.



June 2022

Readathon

Pupils in Year 8 and 9 are presently getting their final sponsors for this year's Readathon. Thank you to all who have contributed and well done to all!



Archery

St Michael's pupils have become some of the first in the UK to have archery in their PE lessons!



Triumphant sporting achievements

Pupils in all years have once again emerged victorious in the District Athletics held this term at Robin Park.

This is the 20th consecutive competition (excluding the Covid years) St Michael's pupils have won the championship. Year 9 pupils are now district champions for rounders!

And the handball team have ranked in the top 8 teams in the UK.

A huge well done to these and all sports teams who have competed this half year.



Careers opportunities

We are incredibly grateful to all the local businesses and employers for allowing our



various careers pupils received was invaluable. Pupils have also attended both Runshaw and Myerscough Colleges for taster days.



July 2022

Art and Textiles Display and Summer Arts Evening

A fantastic evening of technology and arts were enjoyed by pupil, parents and friends in late June.



Christian Values Enrichment Days

Fun, fitness and teamwork were on the menu for pupils during their Christian Values Enrichment Days.

Pupils in Year 8 took part in teambuilding activities and learnt about looking after their wellbeing, as well as taking part in the performing arts ready for the end of term service.

Year 9 pupils have taken part in curriculum visits, including attending the Thackray Medical Museum, experiencing Grasmere and learning about Islam and Judaism, visiting a Mosque and Synagogue.

Year 10 pupils have completed their expedition, with all those who finished their walk, passing their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Pupils endured testing temperatures and showed real endurance on these days. Well done!



Appeal for a minibus driver

We would be really grateful to hear from any parents or friends who might be able to volunteer to drive pupils in the school minibs to Preston College on either a Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon (or both).

Anyone who might be able to help us should telephone the front office and ask for Mrs Baxendale.

Wishing a fond farewell to staff

Mr Ian and Mrs Janet Cunningham are two of the longest serving members of staff at St Michael's and we are incredibly sad to say that this summer sees them take their retirement after a combined total of 77 years! The couple, who met at St Michael's, have both dedicated their entire teaching careers to the school, starting as newly qualified teachers and taking on new responsibilities over the years. They have been inspirational members of the teaching staff, familiar faces to literally thousands of pupils and instrumental in leading an array of wider curricular activities, the German exchange and school productions to name but two.

We are also saying a fond farewell to Mrs Dawn Hull who has worked as our school librarian for the past 15 years. The dedication and commitment of these members of staff is unprecedented and all will be incredibly missed.

Everyone at Team St Michael's wish them all the best for their retirement.

Mrs Cunningham

Having given 41 years of dedicated service to the pupils of St Michael's, Mrs Janet Cunningham is taking her retirement this summer.

Beginning her career as Miss Singleton, she has inspired generations of pupils, nurturing in them a love of both music and the arts but also sharing her passion for the outdoors, over the years.

She has taught under all St Michael's headteachers and was instrumental in school being awarded with Performing Arts College status in recognition of the outreach work done in the community. This led to both an extension of the performing arts facilities, the creation of the dance and drama studios and recruitment of new arts staff.

Mrs Cunningham, who also started the Chapel Choir, has been involved in 20 school musical productions and remembers each one fondly, recalling all pupils who appeared in each.

But this dedicated teacher of Music and the Performing Arts is also remembered by many pupils for her love of the outdoors, and along with Mr David Watson, leading the outdoor pursuits option at school.

Twice a week she could be found involved in activities including orienteering, canoeing or climbing and has also led visits backpacking in Scotland, exploring Iceland and she has taken music groups to Sweden and Salzburg.

It is also for her involvement in visits to Malham that she is fondly remembered by many, where '3rd year' pupils spent the week climbing Pen-y-Ghent, enjoying Malham Cove and abseiling, an activity she led four times a year!

'I worked it out that I've spent a year of my life sleeping in the same bed in the Malham youth hostel,' she said.

Janet is also particularly valued for her commitment to staff who are early in their careers, assisting both with trainees and early career teachers, as well as offering her extensive expertise through coaching.

'I love seeing new staff coming into their careers and celebrating the progress they make,' she said.

Mr Ian Cunningham has been at St Michael's for 36 years, also starting as a newly qualified teacher.

For the majority of his time here, he has been a dedicated member of the languages department, teaching mostly German with just a little French and Maths over the years.

He has played a major role in the continuation of the exchange links with Villingen Schwenningen and has taken many hundreds of pupils to this beautiful part of the world, encouraging them to be inspired by a love of both the German language and culture. Janet and Ian remain firm friends with their German exchange colleague Volker Becker and visiting him in Germany is an activity that the Cunninghams have already planned for the Autumn.

Mr Cunningham took over from Mrs Julie Heaton as Head of Fry house, before becoming Head of Year / Pupil Manager, predominantly for Year 8.

His calm nature and gentle manner with the pupils made him the perfect candidate for the position of Special Educational Needs Coordinator, a role he took on in 2015, leading a dedicated team of Teaching Assistants.

And what will they miss about St Michael's?

'We will miss the constant interaction with people, staff and pupils,' said Janet. 'The challenge of co-ordinating creativity and seeing ideas evolve and coming to fruition in our arts events, school celebration and acts of worship. Experiencing the very best of humanity day in day out.'

'St Michael's is a very big part of both our lives,' Ian said. 'The staff are not just colleagues but also friends.'

The Cunninghams are looking forward to spending more time with their daughter Helen and her husband Mike, travelling and going cycling, a pastime they both adore.

Everyone at Team St Michael's wishes them best wishes in their retirement.

Mr Cunningham



Mrs Hull

Mrs Dawn Hull is also taking her retirement after 15 years of commitment to school and we are also very sorry to see her go!

Mrs Hull began as an invigilator in 2007 but was then asked to take charge of the library, a position with which she has continued ever since, in addition to assisting with numerous essential school administrative tasks, admissions and helping with examination requirements.

Her husband, a teacher, is also retiring and they are both very much looking forward to being able to do more travelling outside of school holidays in their retirement!

At this time we are also very sorry to say goodbye to Miss Jo Stebel and Miss Charlotte Farish-Edwards and thank them for their commitment to the English department. We send them all our best wishes!

