Dear Parents and Carers,

As I write this newsletter, we have just become aware of the devastating events that have occurred at Manchester Arena following the Ariana Grande concert on Monday evening. Our deepest sympathy, thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of all those affected. We remember too, the emergency services and all those who are working to offer comfort, support, medical care and leadership in the face of this atrocity.

Although this has been a short half term, it has been packed with a wide range of activities and events which continue to enrich the learning experience here at St Michael’s. Pupils have participated in holidays abroad, educational visits, competitions and impressive fund raising activities! Life here never stands still, there is so much to commend and celebrate as you will see in our newsletter.

Year 11

Our Year 11 pupils have been well prepared and are approaching their examinations with confidence. Attendance at the compulsory revision sessions in school and careful preparation and planning at home is essential, but just as important is for them to maintain a healthy perspective on all that they do from now until the examination period ends. Good routines coupled with some recreational activities will help them keep that crucial balance of staying healthy in ‘body, mind and spirit.’ I would like to thank parents and carers of Year 11 for their continued support of school and of these exceptional young people; they are a credit to you! They have been a dedicated year group who have made many memorable contributions to the life of St Michael’s over their five years. The staff and governors wish them every happiness and success.

Examination results will be available for collection from 9.00 on Thursday 24 August. If a pupil is unable to attend and wishes someone else to collect results on their behalf, they have been asked to see Mrs Goldsmith with a letter giving authorisation for this or alternatively, they must provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope and results will be posted on that date.

Student Leadership

Thank you to all our current Year 11 pupils in leadership roles; Prefects, Deputies, Sports, Dance, Drama and Music Captains to name but a few, but in particular to Callum Eastwood (Head Boy) and Rebecca Everitt (Head Girl) for their outstanding work and commitment. All of these pupils have been wonderful ambassadors for St Michael’s.

Following a rigorous selection process from many exceptional applicants, we have appointed our senior leaders for the academic year 2017-2018. I am delighted to announce that Lewis Kos will be our Head Boy and Emily Crook will be our Head Girl. Assisting them will be Deputy Head Boys Benjamin Agbenu, Ethan Blan, Harry Collins, William Farrimond and George Lewis, along with Deputy Head Girls Georgia Cooper, Sally Dempsey, Geri Foley, Mia Hainsworth and Ophelia Jones. I am absolutely certain that this team will also do a fantastic job in their new roles.

Uniform

Thank you to all parents and carers who support us in our drive for the very highest standards of uniform. The correct school uniform may be purchased from our preferred supplier ‘JADA’ located on Eaves Lane.

We would particularly ask for your support in relation to the following aspects of our uniform regulations:

- **P.2 Fund raising cyclists**
- **p.3 Ski trip Blencathra**
- **p.4 France holidays**
- **p.5 Football winners**
- **p.6 A winning musician**
- **p.7 Maths medals**
- **P.8 Art Display**
- **p.9 Fantastic fundraising**
- **p.10 Martial arts in Malta**
- **P.11 Mosque visit**
- **p.12 Amazing athletes**
- **p.13 Sports Heats**
- **P.14 Attendance matters**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Fund raising cyclists
- Ski trip Blencathra
- France holidays
- Football winners
- A winning musician
- Maths medals
- Art Display
- Fantastic fundraising
- Martial arts in Malta
- Mosque visit
- Amazing athletes
- Sports Heats
- Attendance matters

Therefore, choose Excellence within a Christian context

Headteacher: Mrs J Jenks BSocSci Hons PGCE
Deputy Headteachers: Mr J Chadwick BEd Hons, Mrs C Hooley BA Hons
Message from the Headteacher continued...

Boys’ trousers need to be of a traditional style (not skinny fit) and girls’ trousers need to have the St Michael’s cross on the pocket.

Skirts - The length of the skirt must be no more than three inches from the knee and waistbands must not be rolled over.

Ties – School crested clip-on tie

(Pupils who are moving into Year 9 in July will make the transition from maroon ties and jumpers to black ties and jumpers.)

Hair – In the last term there have been an increasing number of pupils from all year groups having their hair cut extremely short. Please may I take this opportunity to remind you of our policy.

‘Hair must be of a naturally occurring shade. No shaven heads (this includes the back and sides) or lines cut into the hair. Plain black hair bands/slides only’

Haircuts that are a ‘number 1’ or shorter may result in your child being withdrawn from lessons and working in our ‘Personal Guidance Unit’ until the hair has grown to what school considers to be an acceptable length. The policy also states that ‘The school will be the final arbiter regarding suitability of dress and appearance.’

Thank you again for all that you do to help reinforce our high expectations and standards.

New Academic Year

The new academic year will begin on Monday 10 July. Year 9 will embark on their Key Stage 4 curriculum, studying their chosen option subjects and beginning the GCSE programmes of study. As parents and carers, you will be aware of the increased challenge of the new GCSEs. I assure you that we are doing everything we can to support our pupils through this era of change, prioritising as always, outstanding learning and teaching. I am confident that with your continued support, our young people will respond positively and continue to excel. Making every lesson count, behaving well in class, concentrating fully and being a good ‘self-manager’ is the key to success!

We look forward to the new term with anticipation; another fast-paced few weeks which will include the Chorley and District Athletics Competition, Year 11 Prom, Summer Music, Year 6 Induction Day and Christian Values Enrichment Days to name but a few of the scheduled activities! We would also like to take this opportunity of saying a fond ‘temporary’ farewell to Mrs Jessica Smith and Mrs Elizabeth Burgess as they start their maternity leave after the half term break. We send them best wishes at this exciting time!

Your involvement in all aspects of life here at St Michael’s is not only very much welcomed and appreciated, but is essential if our Christian ethos and that of ‘Team St Michael’s’ is to thrive. Thank you once again for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Jenks

Headteacher

Fund raising cyclists

BADGES of achievement have been presented to a dozen young cyclists who joined in the St Catherine’s Hospice charity bike ride.

Nine of our Year 7 pupils, one Year 8 and two Year 11s were amongst the crowds who cycled the 21 mile Guild Wheel around Preston to help the hospice.

Well done to all who took part! They were: Keira Boyes, Sophie Hennigan, Daisy Brown, Sophie Cross, Katie Hiles, Evie Smith, Tom Brooks, Rachel Hiles, Adam Weiss, Nathan Cross, Oscar Grimes and Esme Partington.
Skiing fun

A TEAM of sporting Year 10s and 11s took to the Austrian pistes over the Easter holidays for another super successful ski trip.

Organiser, Mrs Dempster, writes: ‘This year the ski trip returned to Zell-am-See with a wonderful group of Year 10 and 11 students.

‘The weather and skiing were absolutely fantastic.

‘At the start of the week 30 of the 41 students had never skied before and by the end of the week after some expert tuition from our wonderful instructors they were all skiing like professionals.

‘All groups managed to make it up to, and skied down from the Top of Salzburg at 3029m.

‘The very early starts did not seem to dampen any enthusiasm to get out on the slopes each day.

‘After some stunning scenery, many hilarious falls and some good nights’ entertainment, the group returned exhausted but with many students having been bitten by the skiing bug and already planning their return to the sport.

‘Thanks to all for a wonderful week.’

Brilliant Blencathra

AN ACTION packed weekend was enjoyed by all when sixty pupils from Years 7 and 8 went to Blencathra this half term.

They took part in activities including team challenges, low rope courses, orienteering, gorge scrambling and river and flooding studies.

They also demonstrated their teamwork, communication and coordination skills whilst enjoying the beautiful countryside of the Lake District.

Head of Geography, Mr Clark, said: ‘The students were absolutely fantastic and their behaviour was exemplary.

‘All students worked as a team and supported each other throughout all activities. This truly demonstrated the ‘Team St Michael’s’ spirit.’
MORE THAN 90 keen linguists have discovered the flavours of the French capital over the past few weeks.

During the first week of the Easter holidays 48 pupils from Years 8-10 set sail for Bruges, sampling the chocolate shops and experiencing the beauty of this Medieval Belgian city.

They then spent a day in Paris, visiting the Sacré Coeur cathedral, Montmartre, the Latin Quarter of the city, the Eiffel Tower and enjoying a sail down the Seine.

The holiday culminated in a day at Disneyland, where the group were there on the actual 25th anniversary day, enjoying a special parade and celebration.

Similarly, 47 pupils headed to Paris over the May Bank Holiday weekend, this time stopping at the impressive Keukenhof Tulip Gardens outside Amsterdam before heading to Paris.

Their Parisian adventure included viewing the Mona Lisa in the Louvre Museum and having a spin on the big wheel at the Place de la Concorde.

Organiser, Mrs Hooley, said: ‘Both trips were a great success and the pupils really enjoyed their experience of the French capital.

‘The trips were an excellent opportunity for the pupils to sample French culture and practise their language skills.

‘Many Eiffel Towers and cuddly Mickeys have returned to Chorley!’

We love Paris in the Springtime

Viewing the Mona Lisa at the Louvre

At the Eiffel Tower

At the Sacré Coeur

The beautiful Keukenhof Gardens in Holland
Year 11 winners!

The boys have been runners-up in the contest in Years 8, 9 and 10 but have always been beaten in the finals of the competition.

But this year, their final year together, they were delighted when they came away with first place!

PE teacher, Mr Henson, said: ‘They’re a dedicated and resilient group and after narrowly losing in extra-time last year, managed to reverse this and overcome a strong Holy Cross side to win 3-2 in literally the last kick of extra-time from a cracking strike from Aaron Griffith.

‘They are a talented group of footballers and have been a pleasure to work with since Year 7.

‘Winning in such dramatic fashion after three cup final defeats highlights that learning really is a long-term journey.

‘The lads have never given up. They’ve turned up in numbers to each training session and I am proud that they have managed to win the cup in their last ever football match at school.’

Online tips for the term

Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) are promoting 10 ways for teens to use the internet safely and responsibly so I thought I would share these within this newsletter as our ‘top tips’ for the term.

1. THINK before you post
2. RESPECT other people online, don’t gossip
3. ASK for permission before you meet with people you have met online or give out details
4. DON’T feed the cyber bullies
5. Block the sender, ignore the mean message and file a report
6. SPEAK up and tell someone if you see someone being cyberbullied
7. CLEAN up your profile and delete any photos you wouldn’t show your grandparents!
8. USE the privacy settings
9. MONITOR what others post about you
10. KEEP adults in the loop! Tell them who is adding you, if you see something suspicious etc
TALENTED clarinet player
Faye Bamford performed to perfection taking first place in a national music competition this half term.

The Year 9 pupil, who has been playing the clarinet for five years, took first place at the Alderley Edge Music Festival, beating ten other woodwind players – some of them adults!

She impressed the judges with her rendition of the 1st Suite from the Victorian Kitchen Garden by Paul Reade.

Faye, who is taking Music GCSE at school, took part in the Grade 6 and 7 class and was put in for the competition by her music teacher Victoria Fletcher. Faye also plays in the Lancashire Band.

She said: ‘I was excited doing the festival. I had done a lot of work and it was fabulous it all paid off.’

A winning musician

OUR TOP table tennis team is celebrating winning bronze medals in the county championships.

Two teams of Year 8 boys won both first and second place in a Chorley tournament meaning they qualified for the Lancashire County Championships.

They took part in a round robin to decide on the top four players that could attend the county tournament and the successful four were Will Dempsey, Dan Lilley, Will Gregory and Will Hopper.

In the county competition they faced ten other teams of high quality opposition with only four games separating the three best teams.

They were delighted to win third place.

Ping-pong perfection

For updates and reminders or just to keep in touch...

Why not follow us @SaintMichaelsCE

Parents are welcome to browse the school’s Moodle at http://moodle.saint-michaels.lanc.sch.uk

Click on Parent Zone > Log in as Guest User > Agree Site Policy > and there you are! Parents do not need a username for the public areas of Moodle.

The areas accessible to parents include weekly prayers, worship, weekly listings of clubs, revision advice, technical support and occasional questionnaires to give feedback on events.

Pupils can visit Moodle Club in H7 on any day of the week at lunchtime throughout the year for advice, support in accessing home learning, and the resolution of password concerns.

Do direct any enquiries about moodle to moodle@saint-michaels.lancs.sch.uk
**Maths medals**

THE BEST in Britain – St Michael’s pupils are just making mincemeat of other young mathematicians in the country!

Our competitive youngsters are last month’s top medal winners in the British Isles at Manga High!

All pupils use Manga High to practise their maths skills answering ‘prodigies,’ ten questions on a particular topic.

If they finish in time they are awarded a bronze medal. As the questions progress they get increasingly more difficult and if successful, silver and gold medals can be won.

A bronze medal is worth 1 point, silver 2 and gold 3. Last month our pupils were awarded 4,500 points in school – the highest in the country.

Well done Team St Michael’s!

**Total Medal Achievements**

![Medal Icons]

32,644 Bronze 10,211 Silver 16,710 Gold

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**Online-safety Evening**

TIPS for parents and carers for helping our young people stay safe online were shared at our annual Online-Safety Evening.

Mrs Jenks, Mr Chadwick and Mrs Rackstraw spoke at the evening to almost 100 parents, giving them some handy hints about the risks of the internet, whether it be social media or gaming.

Parents expressed their thanks for the presentation and gratefully took the information booklets.

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**Handball honours**

HANDBALL champions of Chorley is the latest accolade for our talented sportswomen!

The Year 9 girls’ handball squad did the school proud in the District Handball Competition at Southlands High School on Wednesday 3 May with the A team taking first place and the B team achieving 3rd.

PE teacher, Mrs Finch, said: ‘The overall quality of the players from all schools was impressive and our teams actually met in the semi-finals, where the first team won 4-0.

‘The first team then went on to beat Southlands High School in the final 7-3.

‘The team were powerful, dominant in defence and created numerous opportunities for our attack to score.’
OUR AMAZING evening of artwork once again drew large numbers of parents, carers and friends to the Training Suite.

Visitors marvelling at the talent of our Year 11 as they browsed not only their beautiful pictures and creative prints, but also their fantastic textiles work and their GCSE Design Technology and Graphics projects.

They were served biscuits made by the Food and Nutrition classes and were treated to musical performances as they enjoyed viewing the exhibits.
SQUASH enthusiasts Kara and Sam Lawrenson have been highly praised by their team coach for their help in raising money for an eight year old suffering with a rare illness.

The two talented players were among 30 who took part in a charity fun run to raise money for eight year old Elliot Eland who has Angelman Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder.

They also gave up their Saturday to man a stall at Leyland Morrisons aimed at raising awareness of the charity and collecting donations, making almost £300 in a day!

And the coach of their Leyland Lions Junior Squash and Racketball Club, keen fund raiser John Gibson, cannot praise their efforts highly enough, writing to St Michael’s to tell us: ‘They were brilliant and a credit to their school!’

John decided to hold the events after a parent of club members contacted him about Elliot who has profound development delays and will not develop speech. He will also have lifelong problems with his motor coordination and balance.

It is his parents’ dream to see him walk independently and he attends Rainbow House once a week where they are helping him achieve this goal. The family are encouraged to raise a voluntary contribution of £1,300 a year for Rainbow House to help support him and other children who attend.

Kara explained: ‘Our squash club has helped John out before as he does a lot of work for charity and we were all happy to help.’

‘ONE BIG Tickle’ was the title of a coast to coast bike ride tackled by school’s Resource Manager Mr Roe over the Easter holidays.

This was also in aid of helping Elliot Eland’s family raise money for his treatment and Mr Roe, who lives near Elliot’s family, was also keen to do everything he could to help.

He raised £1,175 in sponsorship for the 146 mile challenge which took him from Whitehaven to Tynemouth.

‘I originally saw the plea for help on Facebook and the family live down the road from me and next to my daughter.

‘I just thought, I need to do everything I can to help the little lad! He is a lovely boy and he scurries along the floor and then won’t let you go!’

‘The bike ride was really challenging and I was glad to see the end of the first day, but the second day made up for it, especially when we saw the sign, Newcastle 14 miles!’

Mr Roe has taken part in other charity cycles before and is presently considering taking part in his first marathon.

The riders—very thankful to arrive on the East coast!
TALENTED brothers Nathan and Brandon Crowther are celebrating international success after scooping a stash of medals at a martial arts competition in Malta.

They both had the amazing honour of representing Great Britain at the Malta International Karate Open Championships where more than 550 top class participants from 19 other countries competed against each other.

They both train at the Musuko Karate Academy and represented the country under the WIKO-GB; the World United Karate Organisation.

Nathan, from Year 11, took part in four categories and was extremely successful, winning a medal in all four; three bronze medals in team and pair events and a silver medal in the individual kata category.

He only just narrowly missed out on the gold medal to the current European under 18’s champion by 0.3 points!

Brandon, from Year 7, took part in three categories and was successful in two of them, winning a bronze medal in team kata and a silver medal in the individual kata.

He tied in first place after two rounds in the individual event so had to participate in a third round ‘kata off’ just narrowly missing out on the gold medal by 0.1 points!

This was the first international event that the boys have been to but, according to Brandon, they have their sights firmly set on entering many more.

‘It felt really good going to the competition,’ Brandon says. ‘It was something I really wanted to do.

‘It was exciting going on the plane to Malta and you could see the mountains out of the window and the food in the hotel was really different!

‘The competition was two days and I was nervous at the beginning because I normally go to local competitions and only just started going to the big ones.

‘I felt really happy and proud when I was taking part.’

Brandon and Nathan have been doing karate for about eight years and Brandon also recently won 3rd place out of 49 participants in a competition in London.

‘My ambition is to go to the WKF competition in France,’ Brandon adds. ‘And eventually the Olympics!’

YEAR 7 pupils in their Learning to Learn lessons have been taking part in a fantastic chocolate project where they have invented their own type of new chocolate treats!

Here are some of their yummy creations!

Chocolate heaven
WE WILL say a fond farewell to our Year 11 pupils this half term as they began their study leave and take their GCSE exams.

The staff of St Michael's wish them the best of luck and will see them on their way with a poignant leaver’s service on the last Thursday of this half term.

**Leavers’ Service**

**Understanding faiths**

YEAR 9 pupils had the opportunity to experience a new place of worship, when they visited a Mosque this half term.

Islam is studied as part of the RE course and the pupils went to a mosque in Blackburn where they received a warm welcome from Anjum Anwar, a good friend of St Michael's.

Anjum has worked with teachers at school for many years and she was previously the diocesan dialogue development officer.

Pupils had the opportunity to explore features of the mosque and also had the chance to ask searching questions about Islam in the modern world.

Organiser and Curriculum Leader for Humanities, Mrs Berry, said: ‘As a Christian school we see building bridges between different faith communities as a key part of our mission, in direct response to the example and teaching of Jesus about love.

‘Given the misinformation about Islam which is often prevalent in the media, these visits are an important part of our pupils’ personal development.’

**Artwork of the Month**

THE TITLE of artwork of the month has been scooped by Year 10’s Tess Birtles.

This is her first completed GCSE piece of work and was chosen because of her innovative and creative use of materials.

She has used PVA glue and inks to create this work based on her study of the artist Kandinsky.

Well done Tess!
LYDIA Wilcock and Finty Royle are both celebrating after coming 1st and 2nd respectively in a duathlon.

They both took part in the Katie Hewison Duathlon where they had to run, then cycle, then run again!

Lydia, who is in Year 11 came first, with Finty, who is in Year 10, coming a close second.

Lydia trains with Chorley Athletics four times a week and has been doing competitions for two years. She became interested in athletics through her sister Moyah, who coaches.

She is presently keen to get into the Lancashire Athletics team and last season she won the North West Season—taking part in eight races and coming overall first.

Like Finty, Lydia’s ambition is also to take part in the Olympics. ‘I like the triathlon because you do more than one thing,’ she says. ‘My favourite is running and cycling is probably my least favourite.’

FINTY has been running for four years and became interested in duathlons and triathlons because her father takes part in these events.

She mostly trains on her own, but is part of the Red Rose Road Runners.

Last year she represented Lancashire in the national cross country championships in Loughborough.

And this half term she also took part in an Aquathlon, where the competitors, swim then run, coming second!

And Finty’s ambition is to take part in the Olympics.

‘I enjoy doing the competitions because they motivate me to achieve more,’ says Finty.

KEEN linguists sampled a taste of Spanish culture when they took part in an afternoon of language learning.

On Wednesday 24th May, 16 Year 8 pupils perfected a few useful phrases in the language ready for use over the summer.

They participated in various language games and activities to learn some useful vocabulary and phrases with Spanish teacher Mrs Moreno.
SCIENCE Ambassadors from Years 8 and 9 have been bringing science to life once again for primary school children in the region.

They have been working with Year 5 pupils at Brintsall Saint John’s Primary and Coppull Saint John’s Primary School.

The Science Ambassadors visit the school and spend a couple of hours demonstrating interactive science activities.

The Year 5 pupils are encouraged to join in and they made a Glove-a-phone – a device made from a latex glove, a cardboard tube and a straw, which they can then use to make rather unusual sounds.

Organiser, Mrs Ashurst, said: ‘The Science Ambassadors and the Year 5 pupils enjoy the visits and it helps to boost the confidence of our pupils because they lead the activities and have to present to the children.’

In June our Year 9 Science Ambassadors will be taking part in the Physics Olympics at Albany Academy.

Teams of four pupils take part in challenges and compete against other local schools. Last year we came away with 3 trophies so hopefully we will be successful again this year. More news on this will follow.
Our current attendance figure of 97.2% remains well above both county and national level. Once again thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support in ensuring your child’s attendance and punctuality is the best it can be.

Attendance of 90% or less means that you are absent from lessons for the equivalent of one half-day every week and four whole weeks of lessons over the school year. This is now the level for ‘Persistent Absence’. 80% attendance is the same as having a day off every week.

As few as 17 missed days over the school year reduces your chances of success. Your GCSE results could drop by one grade across all subjects.

If your attendance is 80% from Year 7 to Year 11, you will have missed over one full year of education.

**Impact on GCSE outcomes:**
- 95% + Attendance = Very good chance of achieving 5 or more A*-C Grades
- 90% Attendance = Less than 50% chance of achieving 5 or more A*-C Grades
- 88% Attendance = Less than 35% chance of achieving 5 or more A*-C Grades

FEMALE footballers were victorious in an end of season tournament, taking first place against schools from Chorley, Leyland and Blackburn.

Curriculum Leader for PE, Mrs Dempster, says: ‘After some impressive performances in the round robin where the girls only conceded 2 goals in the whole tournament, and out scored all other teams, the girls were victorious collecting their trophy and medals.

‘It was an excellent performance from the whole squad. Well done ladies.’