Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of term the pace of life at St Michael’s shows no sign of slowing down! As you will see from the contents of this bumper newsletter that we have much to celebrate and be thankful for. This term has been packed full of trips and special events including the Theatre of War, visits from feeder primary schools, Maths and STEM events, and the Christian Values Enrichment Days.

It has also been a very intense term of hard work and examination preparation for our GCSE candidates. We wish our wonderful Year 11 pupils every success in these examinations, the results for which are released on Thursday 25 August, and of course, success in the future.

We were delighted to be notified by the SSAT that St Michael’s has qualified (on 2015 GCSE results) as one of the top 10% of non-selective schools nationally for student attainment and in recognition of being in the top 10% of schools nationally for value added progress. Every school in the country has been ranked according to how well they performed in their GCSE results in 2015 in new rankings released by SSAT.

This is great recognition of the dedication, enthusiasm and commitment of all who are part of ‘Team St Michael’s’. Our major focus remains that of pursuing ‘Excellence within a Christian context’ and these results are a vindication of our belief in high expectations, great teaching and ambition for every young person.

Congratulations!

Throughout every subject area our young people continue to excel through talent, hard work, determination and the support of dedicated and outstanding members of staff. Details of our remarkable achievements and outstanding sporting success in a variety of activities are documented in the newsletter.

Once again our talented sporting individuals and teams have done exceptionally well this year, and long may this continue. Thank you to all parents and carers for their superb support, often in cold and wet conditions!

We thank them all for their outstanding contribution to school and wish them health and happiness in the future.

These changes will make a significant difference to our young people and staff.

Fond farewells

This is a time of year when invariably, we say goodbye to a number of valued colleagues.

Mrs Andrea Harrison is moving to St Joseph’s RC High School in Horwich and Mrs Jennifer Menzies has secured a promotion at Manchester Communication Academy.

Mrs Sarah Gough and Mrs Sarah Tudor are moving on to areas outside of teaching.

We wish them all for their outstanding contribution to school and wish them health and happiness in the future.

Our Presentation Ceremonies take place on Thursday 21 July and you will be notified if your child is to receive an award.
Term comes to an end at 13.00 on Friday 22 July.

This is my final Headteacher contribution to the newsletter. As many of you know I came to St Michael’s in September 1982 to teach Physical Education and have had the tremendous opportunity, joy and honour to work with some amazing, dedicated and conscientious members of staff, governors and most importantly pupils and brilliant supportive parents and carers, many of whom I used to teach. In fact, one of the reasons I am retiring is I do not know how I would react to a child who came up to me and said: “You taught my Grandma!”

It has often been said that your school days are the best of your life, my ‘school days’ seem to have lasted a long time! I trust and hope that having been lucky enough to spend nearly all my teaching career at this wonderful school that a little of the best is still yet to come.

I would like to take this opportunity to say that it has been such a great privilege and honour to lead this special and distinctive Christian school and I consider myself so blessed and fortunate in the prayers, support and encouragement I have received in my role as Headteacher from the whole of Team St Michael’s!

A sincere thank you to all.

I know that with such great support Mrs Jenks will excel in her role as the new Headteacher and the school will continue to thrive and flourish.

I wish her and the school every success in the future.

May I wish you all a restful, safe and happy summer holiday!

Yours sincerely

J Heaton
Headteacher

AMAZING violinist Molly Becker will be taking her place in the orchestra playing at the Royal Albert Hall for the Last Night of the Proms.

And this talented musician will also be performing at another Proms concert, after successfully securing her place with prestigious national orchestras.

Molly, our Year 11 Principal Musician, has been playing the violin for 13 years and has already passed her Grade 8 examination.

She plays with several North West orchestras, including with the Junior Royal Northern College of Music all day every Saturday and with the Halle Youth Orchestra on Sundays where she co-leads the orchestra.

She was nominated by Bolton Music Service to take part in one of the first nights of the Proms, either the 23rd or 24th of July, and was delighted when she found out she had secured a place in the orchestra playing on these days.

She will join 26 other young musicians from around the country for this event and will be having intense rehearsals for a week in July for this.

For the Last Night of the Proms she had to send off an application form and perform a video audition, playing excerpts selected by Prom organisers.

Molly was again successful and will now form part of the BBC Youth Ensemble playing on this final prestigious night!

Molly said: ‘It is such an incredible thing to be offered to do.

‘I am so excited and it feels great to have this once in a lifetime opportunity. It is such an honour!’
Mrs Heaton says farewell

MRS JULIE Heaton has always lived true to her belief that the children are at the absolute heart of St Michael’s and has dedicated her career to helping them develop, not only in thought, mind and body, but also in spirit.

Living ‘life in all its fullness’ she believes is a fundamental right for every child and says that it has been an absolute privilege to have been instrumental in seeing ‘so many boys and girls grow and mature into young men and women that we are so proud of!’

She says she feels ‘lucky’ and ‘blessed’ to have spent the majority of her teaching career at St Michael’s and hopes more than anything that her legacy will just be that the children over the years whose lives she has touched will realise how brilliant and wonderful they are!

Mrs Heaton is retiring after 33 years at St Michael’s where she has held positions including Head of PE, Head of Fry House, Head of Year 10, Assistant Headteacher in charge of Pastoral, Deputy Headteacher in charge of Pastoral and then Curriculum and finally Headteacher.

But she began her career as a PE teacher, Miss Tyrer, coming to St Michael’s after a stint at Southlands on supply as a Science teacher!

‘My first love was always sport,’ she says. ‘I was inspired by my PE teacher, Mrs Jackson, and my English teacher, Mrs Kershaw, to come into the profession as I really loved these teachers.

‘Mrs Kershaw once asked me ‘what are you going to do with your life Julie’ and I didn’t think I was good enough to be a teacher, so I just told her I would probably work with my dad in his fledgling coach firm ..., but really I wanted to say – I just want to be like you!’

‘My dream was actually to be a Blue Peter presenter!’

Julie attended St Alban’s CE High School (now Albany) in Chorley and, after doing her A Levels at Wigan Tech, worked for a year at Leyland Motors. She then took a Geography degree at Bradford University followed by a PGCE at North Cheshire College.

When she came to St Michael’s she remembers times in teaching being very different.

‘There were no Schemes of Work, no proper assessments and we could do what we wanted.

‘For six months in PE we just played games - Pirates in the gym, we had snowball fights, made snow angels when it was winter, played hockey, netball, badminton and even went to Astley Park just having fun!

‘And then I remember thinking, we should probably have something in place to show progression, enhance skills and develop real knowledge and understanding.’

Mrs Heaton has fond memories of working with some of the ‘characters’ of St Michael’s over the years, including Mrs Barbara Dowding, Jackie and Dave Watson, Headteachers Mr Roy Moore and Mrs Nicholls, who she says was a great influence on her.

She also has some more amusing memories!

‘A certain member of staff once had a slight limp and I was taking part in worship with her and following her behind the cross to the front of the hall.

‘On that particular day I had accidentally put on one brown shoe and one blue shoe and because they were different heights I had a limp as well ... and everyone thought I was limping behind and taking the micky!’

Mrs Heaton has many exciting adventures still to complete on her bucket list and has an intention of travelling – Australia, New Zealand, the Rockies, South America and South Africa and she has been inspired by her son, Patrick, to get involved in Voluntary Services Overseas work.

She is also planning to play golf and spend time on her garden.

‘Team St Michael’s has been my life in many ways,’ she says. ‘I will obviously miss the students, staff, parents ... but it is to my relief that I haven’t stayed here long enough for someone to say ‘Miss, you taught my grandmother!’

‘I have put my heart and soul into the school and, although I cannot say every day has been easy, it has never been a chore.

‘I’ve always tried to do my very best and be the very best and my faith has grown from working here. I know that God has been guiding and helping me, even when I’ve got it wrong!

‘I am absolutely thrilled that Mrs Jayne Jenks is going to take over as Headteacher of St Michael’s. I am leaving school confident that St Michael’s will thrive and develop under her Christian leadership.’
MRS JENNIFER Menzies is leaving us for pastures new and after the summer will be taking up a position as Lead Practitioner of Cookery at Manchester Communication Academy.

She has worked at St Michael’s for the past five years after coming here as a Newly Qualified Teacher. Her promoted position takes her nearer home.

Mrs Menzies has run many successful cookery clubs during her time here and has recently expressed her delight at one of her former students, Toby Hull, getting a position at a two Michelin starred restaurant!

‘I’m going to miss St Michael’s loads,’ she says. ‘I’ll miss the children and all the staff.

‘I’ve learnt so much working here and everything has been amazing.’

SUPER Science teacher Mrs Andrea Harrison will be leaving us after nine years at St Michael’s, returning to the school she once attended.

Mrs Harrison tells us below of her career in teaching so far …

“In 1998, after working as a “real scientist” for 10 years I started a PGCE at MMU. My teaching placements were at Smithills High School in Bolton and Lowton Community Sports College where I was offered my first teaching post and stayed for 8 years.

In 2007 I moved to St. Michael’s and during my time here I have promoted literacy initiatives within the Science department and developed and introduced activities for APP. I have run National Science and Engineering Week activities for KS3 classes and more recently secured funding to enhance learning opportunities in the field of Ecology. I have also contributed to the making costumes for school productions.

I am now continuing my teaching career at St Joseph’s in Horwich, which incidentally is the school I attended. My new teaching room will be the lab that was my form room when I started there in 1977 and it still looks (and smells) the same!

I have had a very enjoyable nine years at St. Michael’s and I will miss the friendship and camaraderie of the staff. The resilience, humour and determination of young people still never fails to amaze me and as such I have had many memorable moments here. Perhaps the most unforgettable were the school production of Les Miserables and Mr Kirkpatrick dancing at the Leaver’s Prom; both moved me to tears but for very different reasons.”

Mrs Sylvia Tansey has worked at St Michael’s since January 2015 when she came to cover Mrs Lee’s maternity leave.

She has worked previously at St Michael’s from 2001-2003, which was her first experience of teaching languages and she classes us as her ‘teaching’ school!

Mrs Tansey, who has German parents residing in Düsseldorf, has also started the popular German Film Club at lunchtimes.

She is not intending to continue teaching languages but is setting up her own business, delivering motivational and aspirational sessions in schools, based on the experiences and training she has had in other schools and on courses.

‘I want to show young people that they can be successful in spite of setbacks and hardships,’ she says.
This year we are saying goodbye to the delightful Head of Dance who has given her all to the Dance Department for the past 14 years.

Mrs Sarah Gough writes...

“I qualified as a PE and Dance teacher from Liverpool John Moores University in 2001 and was fortunate to gain my position at Saint Michael’s as a PE and Dance teacher straight away. I still remember on my interview day, I was the last to be interviewed and the Headteacher at the time, Mr Hardwick, came to get me and said: ‘If you do a good interview here kid you’ve got a good chance of getting this job.’ Luckily I did! I have had a wonderful time as ‘Head of Dance’ in my 15 years here. It’s been a privilege to lead the Dance Department into being one of the best Dance Departments in Lancashire, both because of our success at GCSE level and due to the extra curricular experiences we have offered our pupils.

Some highlights have been:

- Taking our Boys Dance Company to perform at The National PE Conference in 2008; two boys who were part of this group, Alex and Rowan Chambers, have gone on to become Professional Dancers, dancing regularly with Will.i.am and Rita Ora alongside teaching Street Dance internationally.

- Taking Kim Ellison and her dancers to perform her GCSE Dance choreography at The Royal Opera House after I nominated her for the Young Creatives Dance Initiative with Youth Dance England in 2010.

- When the Dance Academy successfully applied for UDance North West with a piece inspired by Bronze, Silver and Gold in the Olympic year 2012 and the whole school performed the Olympics inspired ‘Big Dance’.

- In 2013, our Dance Captain, Sophie Warren, had her GCSE Dance choreography chosen to be performed at UDance North West, beating competition from local dance schools and Youth Dance groups.

- Hosting a 'Day of Boys Dance' in 2014 as an audition platform for 'Matthew Bourne’s ‘Lord of The Flies.’ This enabled our current Dance Captain, Nathan Crowther, to secure himself a main role of 'Percy', alongside other boys from across the North West. Nathan was interviewed by BBC North West news alongside Matthew Bourne and met many famous faces including David Walliams.

Finally, two former pupils deserve a mention. Firstly Simon Donellon, who became our first Professional Male Contemporary dancer in 2014. Simon achieved an A* in GCSE Dance and was our Dance Captain whilst at school. He went on to achieve top A-level grades at Winstanley College, then successfully auditioned for The Rambert School of Ballet & Contemporary Dance. Having studied there for 3 years, Simon became an ‘apprentice dancer’ for The Richard Alston Dance Company, which is one of Britain’s flagship Contemporary Dance Companies.

The ultimate satisfaction as a teacher is to see a former pupil come round ‘full circle’. Jenny Reeves left St Michael’s in 2006, having achieved an A* at GCSE level and then studied A-levels including dance at Newman College. Jenny successfully auditioned for The London School of Contemporary Dance to study a 3 year degree and then completed a year at Laban Conservatoire as part of their graduate touring company ‘Transitions’, performing nationally and internationally. She has since returned to Lancashire and is now a Dance Artist for The Ludus Dance Company. Jenny first experienced Ludus whilst she was at Saint Michael’s as their educational touring company used to come to school for a week’s residency. They inspired her to audition for their youth dance company which helped her gain a place at LSCD. I was lucky enough to watch Jenny teach a few weeks ago and she has been recently featured in the ‘Participate’ magazine, which is a national dance supplement where her journey as a dancer from pupil to teacher was case studied.

I have been fortunate enough to teach some wonderful pupils and there are too many to mention. Many have gone on to dance careers on cruise ships, at Disneyland and also to become dance teachers.

I am going on to teach dance on a more freelance basis, teaching more dance groups after school hours some of which will be at Saint Michael’s on a Monday evening. I am looking forward to a new challenge but am also very sad to leave, taking many many wonderful memories with me, but also leaving the Dance Department in very capable hands.”
IT IS with regret we are also saying goodbye to English teacher Mrs Sarah Tudor this summer.

Mrs Tudor began teaching at St Michael’s in 2009 and her passion and enthusiasm for her subject has certainly left a positive mark on the lives of many of our pupils.

Mrs Tudor became an English teacher after qualifying at Manchester Metropolitan University and then began her career at Rochdale Matthew Moss School in 1998.

She has some fond memories of her time at St Michael’s including a particular Shakespeare trip, where she remembers sharing a room with Mrs Clapp, both forgetting to set their alarm, and accidentally sleeping in one morning, being awoken by Mr Thorpe telling them they were late for breakfast!

Mrs Tudor has no definite plans for the future, except spending time with her family and friends being the top priority, she has a long list of books she wants to read and says she just wants to ‘live!’

‘I will miss everything about being at St Michael’s,’ she says. ‘The staff, the pupils, being in the classroom and what children can teach you instead of what you teach them.’

WHEN former pupil Toby Hull chose Catering as one of his GCSE options little did he realise that he was actually taking his first step into a career in the hospitality industry.

But lucky Toby, now aged 18, has just secured a place at a top 2 Michelin starred restaurant, Gidleigh Park in Devon, as a Commis chef.

After St Michael’s Toby decided to further his studies at Runshaw College, Leyland, and enrolled on the Professional Chef and Food Beverage Diploma Level 2 course in 2014.

The course explored food preparation, cooking and food and drink service together with learning about wine, beverages, legislation, customer care and opportunities in the industry. Practical experience was gained working in the college’s Foxholes Brasserie both in the kitchen and front of house.

During the first year of the course more emphasis is placed on front of house skills. Toby was given a work experience placement at Shaw Hill Golf resort and Spa Hotel which led to a part-time job working as a waiter and bar tender. He was also named “Student of the Year”.

Food preparation took priority in the second year and Toby went on a three week work experience placement at the five-star luxury hotel, Gidleigh Park.

The Executive Head Chef Michael Wignall was impressed by Toby and offered him a job where he has started this July.

Well done Toby!
**Watch that water!**

THE DANGERS of dipping in open water were brought home to all pupils this half term in the run up to the summer holidays.

The Fire Brigade explained how swimming in ponds, rivers and reservoirs often had hidden dangers, especially when swimming in secluded places.

Pupils were warned not to take risks and to warn others of the potential unseen dangers.

---

**EU—IN or OUT?**

HUNDREDS of pupils attended the Big Debate to hear the arguments for and against leaving the European Union one lunchtime this half term.

Pupils in the Debating Club confidently and forcefully expressed their arguments, with pupils from all years listening attentively and forming their own opinions about ‘Brexit.’

After both sides had debated on issues such as the financial implications and immigration, pupils were given a card to raise, showing whether they were ‘in’ or ‘out.’

Although it was hard to call, it did seem the ‘IN’ campaign had a slight majority.

Congratulations go to our debating politicians, Georgia Cooper, Amber Bentley, Jennah Bullock, Finty Royle, Callum Deighton and Holly Clark, who were commended by both Mr Clark and Mrs Brotherton for their careful research and presentation of their arguments.

**Casting the votes**

ALL PUPILS have been encouraged to join in the EU—IN or OUT debate and have been looking at the arguments for and against Brexit in their tutorials.

Interested pupils were encouraged to vote and final numbers were:

- **IN** = 479
- **OUT** = 268

**The beautiful Big Vote display in the entrance hall.**
TEAM St Michael’s once again swept the board, beating all other Chorley schools in every year at the annual Chorley and District Athletics.

This is the 17th consecutive year that St Michael’s has had a clean sweep and the 22nd time out of 24 when we have emerged victorious in all four year groups.

A team of more than 100 young athletes journeyed to Robin Park in Wigan for the athletics competition, one of the biggest days in the sporting calendar.

All teams from Year 7 through to Year 10 were represented in all the athletic events and despite the threats of thunderstorms for the day the weather actually held with all events except the high jump able to take place.

Curriculum Leader for PE, Mrs Dempster, said: ‘Team Saint Michaels were as always outstanding in their effort, attitude and exemplary sportsmanship.

‘We are very proud that our new Year 7 team settled fantastically into the winning mentality, not only winning by over 40 points but also setting three new records on the day.

‘There were many outstanding individual performances with personal bests falling across all the years and across all the events.

‘We could not be more proud of the thoroughly deserved results based on the outstanding training and dedication to improve that the team has shown since the start of the athletics season.

‘An absolutely fantastic result as we are winners for all years groups, as well as overall champions. Another phenomenal display of team St Michael’s!’
A CATHEDRAL congregation was taken on an emotional journey and even moved to tears by a dramatic ‘Theatres of War’ presentation by our pupils.

The St Michael’s youngsters from all years were performing as part of Blackburn Cathedral’s Commemoration of the Battle of the Somme.

Two other Lancashire schools were also involved in services having been invited to creatively explore the themes of suffering and the waste of trench warfare through the medium of music or drama and by writing an original piece of theatre.

During the past two years, in commemoration of the Great War, St Michael’s pupils have been looking at the lives of men whose acts of bravery and sacrifice are recorded in a memorial album compiled by Susannah Knight.

This book contains a record of over 780 men from the Chorley area and highlights the far-reaching effects war was to have on the families and communities of those who lost their lives for their country.

For the Easter services in school, pupils were inspired to use dance, drama and music to tell the story of Edward Rennard, whose portrait hangs in Astley Hall. Rennard, the son of the vicar of Heap

ey Parish Church, was one of a group of four officers, all of whom died as a consequence of leading their men into battle; Rennard was killed at Guillemont on the 8th August 1916 at the age of 21. They performed this again at Blackburn Cathedral.

Curriculum Leader for Performing Arts, Mrs Cunningham, said: ‘It was truly amazing – St Michael’s at its best.

‘The professionalism, the poignancy – to experience those young people across all year groups working together and re-living the lives of so many men from Chorley who fought and lost their lives in service for their country was an inspiration to all who were able to attend.

‘The presentation took the audience on an emotional journey moving many to tears as lives on the battle fields and at home were destroyed.’”

Joanna Booth, Education Officer at Blackburn Cathedral, said: ‘Thank you so much for the stunning performance that your students put on for our Theatres of War project. It was absolutely brilliant – well written, superbly choreographed and the acting was so professional - indeed the whole performance was so polished that it really deserves a wider audience in a proper theatre.’

Parents are welcome to browse the school’s Moodle at http://moodle.saintmichaels.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.
ALMOST 350 primary school pupils popped in to St Michael’s to enjoy a morning of Superhero Science!

Twelve schools were represented by Year 3-5 pupils who came to a practical lab session to build the tallest structure out of marshmallows and spaghetti for their superhero, based on the theme of Big Hero 6 and Hiro’s Microbots.

This was organised by St Michael’s and Curriculum Leader for Science, Mr Allcock, in alliance with the Primary Ogden Partnership.

Pupils also watched a Superhero science magic show by Dr Matt Pritchard. They were challenged to consider if superpowers are fact, fiction or feasible in the future?

They explored invisibility, super strength, body armour, levitation and mind control to find out what they do (or don’t) have to do with real science.

Teacher Miss Heald, from Manor Road Primary School, said: ‘We had a fantastic time at Saint Michael’s today, learning loads of exciting science facts through a very entertaining and fun magic show. From magnetic frogs to jet man and mindreading, we learned absolutely loads.’

Mr Allcock adds: ‘In the future hopefully some of these pupils will go on to be the scientists and engineers that develop technologies that enable us all to have super powers!’

SCIENCE busking is the name of the game for our keen Science Ambassadors who are going into primary schools sharing their Scientific prowess.

The Science Ambassadors are a group of pupils who have an enthusiasm for Science and who want to share this with others.

As part of their role the Science Ambassadors go ‘Science busking’ to local primary schools to help raise the profile of Science to the young people there.

A group of Year 8 and Year 9 Ambassadors have recently visited Charnock Richard Primary School to work with the Year 4 pupils.

Organiser Mrs Ashurst, said: ‘We spent about an hour there, where our pupils presented and demonstrated some simple Science activities and the primary children took part in some activities that they may not normally have opportunity to do.

‘Our pupils were absolutely fantastic! They interacted with the pupils in a mature and sensible manner and really did Saint Michael’s proud, and the pupils at Charnock Richard were equally brilliant. They were enthusiastic and enjoyed the activities, and their behaviour was exemplary.

‘A great morning was had by all.’

‘The plan is for Science Ambassadors to visit one primary school each half term and we’re really looking forward to booking the next school.

‘Any schools that would like to book a visit from our Science Ambassadors can contact me directly and we can make arrangements.’
Our guitar star!

A STAR on the guitar ... talented Year 11 pupil Jake is making it big on TV!

Jake Heaton is presently down to the last 8 in the Sky Arts TV show ‘Guitar Star’ and is anxiously waiting to see if he can emerge as overall winner!

He has been playing the guitar since he was four years old and is of Grade 8 standard.

He plays both classical and rock music and is in a band called ‘The Lost Chord’ with three friends, including James Oates, another Year 11 pupil.

They play at gigs including birthdays, weddings, at pubs, colleges and outdoor events and Jake once played at a festival in front of 2,000 people.

Jake auditioned for the programme, which is in its second series, and says, he ‘wasn’t nervous!’

‘I never get nervous when I’m playing,’ he explains, ‘but it was weird because TV was new for me.

‘I was a bit annoyed actually because the piece I played, Spirit of Radio, by Rush, is over four minutes long but they stopped me after a minute and didn’t get to hear the best part!’

Talented triple jumpers

TWO OF our talented young athletes are celebrating sporting success after coming 4th and 7th in the Triple Jump at the English Schools’ Athletics Association competition.

Year 11 pupil Katie Shingler and Year 10’s Finlay Campbell, both who train with Wigan Harriers, travelled to Gateshead International Stadium on July 8 and 9 to take part in the prestigious tournament where they competed against young athletes from all round the UK.

And both were absolutely delighted with their performance; Finlay taking 4th place and Katie taking 7th.

Both students had been put forward by school PE staff with their personal bests in various athletics events to see how they rated against other schools in Chorley.

As their results were the best, they then represented Lancashire in the county schools’ athletics tournament, which was where both Katie and Finlay won the Triple Jump.

Finlay has been involved in athletics for two and a half years and says he was really excited about going to the English competition.

Katie has been doing athletics since she was ten years old, taking part in events including sprinting, hurdles, jumping and the heptathlon. This will be the second time she has competed in the games, as last year she qualified in the Long Jump.

She has strong ambition to continue athletics in the future but still has her feet firmly on the ground.

She said: ‘I do have ambitions but at the moment I want to just focus on moving through the junior rankings and see what happens!’
Christian Values Enrichment Day

**Year 8**

TYROLEAN dancing and making mini Black Forest Gateaux were among the activities enjoyed by Year 8 on their Enrichment Day.

Tolerance, community, understanding and acceptance were the Christian Values explored when they looked at the culture and traditions of European countries.

The pupils took part in numerous activities aimed at increasing their understanding of different European nations, whilst also celebrating the importance and necessity of learning languages.

As well as Food Technology, pupils enjoyed making origami butterflies out of German dictionaries and had a Spanish or French lesson as part of the European Day, which also involved quizzes and competitions.

Some pupils also took part in the traditional ‘Schuhplattler’ dancing, the thigh slapping routines of the Austrian Tyrol.

**Year 9**

STEWARDSHIP was the main Christian Value highlighted for Year 10 on their Sustainability Day.

They were encouraged to think about issues surrounding our future energy needs whilst appreciating the importance of working together as a global community and recognising as individuals it is their responsibility to promote the values of compassion and stewardship for our world.

**Year 10**

spent the day at Runshaw College sampling their first taste of college life.

The whole year group visited the college for the day, choosing their own subjects and courses to explore.
Christian Values Enrichment Day continued...

Year 7 went to Chester Cathedral as part of a joint RE, History and Geography trip.

They looked at the impact of the cathedral on the local community both in days gone by and in the present, they carried out a survey about the influence of the cathedral, they explored the life of the cathedral in Tudor times and also took part in a short act of worship led by clergy.

Curriculum Leader for Humanities, Mrs Berry, said: ‘Year 8 had a brilliant Humanities day at Chester Cathedral. They explored this incredible building and found out about how it is used for worship by Christians today.

‘Our youth worker, Dan, led a session on worship for some pupils. A big focus was exploring the impact of the cathedral now and in the past.

‘Some pupils found out about how the cathedral supports Christians in Russia and had a go at painting icons.

‘The cathedral still has a very rare example of a Consistory Court and with Mr Cree as a very convincing judge some pupils re-enacted cases from Tudor times.

‘Others explored the life of a monk, making beeswax candles and trying their hand at calligraphy.

All pupils carried out Geography fieldwork. We finished with a service in the nave when our fantastic Year 7s from the Armstrong Choir sang.

‘Back in school we used the information to produce presentations on the impact of the cathedral.’

Football fever

FIVE hundred football loving folk flocked to the school hall to watch England take on Wales as a special end of academic year treat.

A lively atmosphere pervaded when more than half the school joined in the fun, supporting their favourite teams playing in Euro 2016.

For updates and reminders or just to keep in touch... Why not follow us

@SaintMichaelsCE
FORMER St Michael’s pupil Phoebe Cribb is celebrating winning a prestigious scholarship allowing her to study at a US University for the next four years.

And the dedicated 17 year old is determined to share her experience with others, encouraging more young people to be aware of the life changing Sutton Trust US Programme for which she is now an ambassador.

Phoebe attended St Michael’s from 2009-2014 and then went on to study for her A Levels at Cardinal Newman College in Preston.

Last summer she was one of 150 out of 1,600 applicants selected for a summer school in the US at the Ivy League Yale University.

The aim of the programme was to encourage academically talented low and middle income British students to consider studying at American universities.

On the summer school Phoebe benefitted from an intensive programme of support administered through the US-UK Fulbright Commission. This included help with applications, college choices and admissions tests.

Following this she was offered funding and a scholarship to study at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania for the next four years.

Phoebe is an active member of the community, being passionate about raising awareness of autism and climate change, which has resulted in her running two 10ks and two half marathons.

Her compassion for others is demonstrated through her commitment in being a youth volunteer for the Archdiocese of Liverpool pilgrimage to Lourdes, a student mentor, a volunteer at an arts club for disabled children, a young carer for her autistic sister and a student ambassador for CAFOD, the official aid agency of the Catholic Church.

One of the reasons she was initially attracted to the US is the ability to ‘customize’ her degree through a liberal arts education whilst fulfilling her wanderlust of being immersed in a completely new culture.

She is excited at the prospect of studying psychology, international relations, economics and art and experiencing an education that caters to all of her academic and extracurricular passions.

Phoebe said: ‘This programme has given me opportunities which have changed my life.

‘I have made lifelong friends and have even been able to give back to the programme and help the next cohort of Sutton Trust Students as a Team Leader. The Sutton Trust has given me a chance to live my dream of studying at Bryn Mawr whilst also opening up my future to endless possibilities.

‘I am now an ambassador and a team leader for the programme so I would love for as many students as possible to be made aware of this life changing programme.’

Sir Peter Lampl, Chairman of the Sutton Trust and of the Education Endowment Foundation, said: ‘Over the next four years, these talented students will benefit from the broad and flexible curriculum that US universities offer, as well as full financial aid packages so that they will graduate with little or no debt.

‘I hope that more bright young people from low and middle income homes will see the successes of this group and the hundreds of Sutton Trust alumni currently studying in the States and realise that a university education in America is well within their grasp.’

Any young people wanting further information can contact Hilary Cornwell or Conor Ryan at the Sutton Trust on 020 7802 1660 or David Mannion at the US-UK Fulbright Commission on 0207 498 4020.
A perfect prom

THE BEAUTIFUL ladies and handsome gentlemen of Year 11 arrived in style on Prom night.

A fire engine, fancy cars including an Aston Martin, MGB Roadster, Jaguar XJ, a Ford Escort Rally car and even an ice cream van turned up outside Mytton Fold Hotel on July 1.

The pupils were served a chicken dinner, before dancing the night away!

The girls and the guys looking lovely!
TWO RELENTLESS readers from St Michael’s have had the honour of casting the final vote for the county’s book of the year award.

Joshua Saaiman and Cameron Wilkes joined other Year 9 pupils from around the county at County Hall in Preston on Saturday 18 June where they influenced the choice of the best young adult fiction novel of the year.

Now in its 30th year, the Lancashire Book of the Year Award is the only award for authors of young adult fiction which is judged solely by their targeted readership.

The best book of the year is strictly decided by Year 9 pupils in a judging process which takes place over several months.

Throughout the various stages of elimination, participating pupils must work through over 100 titles until a final short list of four is decided.

Over the course of the school year, St. Michael’s judges have been involved in discussions with other Lancashire fourteen-year-olds through visits to the Skelmersdale library, the Chorley library, as well as three meetings at County Hall Preston.

At each meeting the pupils discussed the merits of numerous novels, hoping that their input might influence the final selection of the award winner.

The 2016 Lancashire Book of the Year Award ultimately went to Holly Bourne’s *Am I Normal Yet*, a story which focuses on a teenage girl’s struggle with OCD, complicated friendships and relationships with boys.

It was a near unanimous choice by the judges, who all commented how much they thoroughly enjoyed reading the story.

THIRTY pupils from St Laurence’s and 30 pupils from Brinscall St John’s Primary Schools have been to St Michael’s this half term to do some cooking.

The pupils used a range of skills and equipment including the prover to make bread.

They learnt about functions of ingredients, how to knead and how to shape bread.

You may be aware of the campaign being led by one of our parents, Natalie Kerr, who is campaigning for all UK residents to be placed on the organ donor register.

Her personal experience of a life-saving lung transplant means that this is an issue which is very dear to her heart.

If you would like to support Natalie or find out more please email natikerr@yahoo.co.uk or the link to her petition is https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/128473
A CHURCH representative cannot commend highly enough two of our young people who are hard at work in their Church community.

Sarah Minton, from St John’s Divine Church in Coppull, writes to Mrs Heaton:
‘This weekend one of your students Louise Guiver finished her period of service as Rose Queen for St. John’s Divine Church in Coppull and another student Abigail Cookson started her period of service for our church.

‘I am so proud of these bright young ladies for giving up their time and showing commitment to our church.

‘It is sometimes difficult for young people to openly show commitment to their Christianity and their community, however, these young ladies do.

‘I am so thankful and they are a true asset to our church, especially as we are in a period of interregnum. I just wanted to share my pride in your students and our young people.’
Sarah Minton (SJ JAM Club Leader)

The talented karter beat all other drivers in his class to achieve the accolade when the team went to Hooton Park, Ellesmere Port.

Challenging driving conditions did not deter the St Michael’s team when they attended their sixth meeting of the year, returning with six trophies.

Two of the trophies won were in Class 11, as Year 10 pupil Nathan Howard continued his recent good form with a 2nd place. Year 9’s Leo Crabtree also picked up a trophy for 7th place. Former Year 11 student Eleanor Mackley also competed in this class.

Class 14 saw four of our drivers competing, with Josh Fish, Year 11, on the podium with a 3rd place followed closely by former Year 11 James Harbot in 4th, Year 9 pupil Rowan Mackley in 5th and Year 11’s Nathan Groom in 9th place.

Former pupils Zoë Mather and Sam Palmer drove in Class 7 with Sam winning a trophy with a sixth place from a large grid of 21 karts.

In the Novice Class, in addition to Daniel Murray, we had four other drivers; Year 8’s Aaron Pollard, Samuel Perkins, Matthew Mather and Alex Fisher.

Our three remaining drivers in the club competed in Class 15 with former pupil James Scanlon in 2nd place, followed by former Year 11’s Cameron Livesey and Merrick Crook.
A RECORD Readathon has had pupils raising £2,340 for the charity this year – more than ever before!

Organiser, Mr Koole, said: ‘The 2016 Readathon was a run-away success.

‘This is an incredible achievement by our pupils who managed to accomplish the charitable task in only three weeks.’

By pledging to read a certain number of books within that time frame, pupils engaged the generous support of family and friends to sponsor their efforts.

The vast majority of our Year 7 pupils took part in raising funds which ranged from 50p to well over £100!
All funds raised through pupils’ efforts go to the Readathon charity, which supports literacy and reading programmes for seriously ill children in hospital.

This outstanding accomplishment by our Year 7 pupils truly highlights the kindness and generosity of the St. Michael’s school community, whose frequent fund raising efforts benefit others in need.

FANTASTIC heptathlete Evie Barclay has recently achieved seven Personal Bests in a Lancashire Athletics Competition and is now all set to take on the top young athletes in England.

The talented Year 10 pupil has qualified for the English Schools Combined Events Championships in Exeter in September where she will take on other athletes from around the country in her event – the heptathlon.

She astounded the other competitors when she qualified, as she was competing against several others a year older than her, and went to the Lancashire competition with the humble view of ‘let’s see what happens!’

She competed in hurdles, high jump, long jump, shot, 200 metres, javelin and 800 metres against young people from Manchester, Merseyside, Cheshire and Cumbria as well as Lancashire, achieving amazing PBs in all events.

Evie said: ‘I didn’t expect it at all. I was really amazed I got 7 PBs, and I was really surprised when I got through.’

Evie is very modest about her accomplishments and, although she does have dreams for the future, she is keeping well grounded, taking one step at a time!

SUCCESSFUL sportsmen and women have been totting up the trophies for the PE department this summer term.

The Year 9 rounders team won the District Championships in a very close competition, with the Year 8 A team also taking first place and the Year 8 B team being runners up.

A team of Year 7 and 8 boys and girls took on players from round Lancashire in the County Tennis Competition. They were positioned in 3rd place, bringing home bronze medals.

PE teacher, Miss Makinson, said: ‘All the teams showed fantastic commitment and a great level of skill. Congratulations to all!’
FANTASTIC effort was commended with gold headteacher’s stamps all round when pupils in Year 7 completed their skeleton project.

The youngsters in 7E have been learning how the bones and muscles work and were asked to design a poster or structure to show how and why muscles move in certain ways.

Their efforts were incredible and Mrs Heaton praised them all for their hard work!

SKILLFUL use of paint and accurate colour mixing has won Eleanor Fraser-Watts in Year 10 the title of this month’s creator of the Artwork of the Month.

Curriculum Leader for Technology, Mrs Cardwell, also praised the work because of the great amount of detail included. Well done Eleanor!
FIFTEEN History teachers came to learn about more effective learning and teaching of the Holocaust when St Michael’s hosted our first ‘Holocaust Day.’

University College, London’s Centre for Holocaust Education, led a day’s training for teachers across the North West to support their teaching of the Holocaust.

Subject leader for History, Mr Egelnick, writes: ‘For us, in the history department, we are frequently asking ourselves the same questions over again.

How do we make learning about the Holocaust more meaningful for our students?

How do we ensure meaningful learning about history takes place whilst learning about such an emotive subject?

How can we teach about the realities of such horrific events in an age appropriate way with resources that carry impact but do not overwhelm or traumatise our students?

How do we make sure students do not leave our classrooms with damaging misconceptions about the perpetrators, collaborators, bystanders and victims of the Holocaust?

We welcomed 15 colleagues from other schools in the region, who also face similar challenges and with the help of the Centre for Holocaust Education we began to unpick and look possible answers.

‘It was a very insightful valuable day and has resulted in changes to the way we teach the Holocaust at St Michael’s in future.

‘As a department, in our lessons, we will especially be giving consideration to the rich history and diversity of Jewish life in Europe before the 1930s; a history, in places, that pre-dates European Christianity.

‘This is to help students to fully understand the impact of the Holocaust, by exploring what existed before.

‘A most sobering statistic is that 90% of European Jewish children were murdered during the Holocaust; who knows what they may have grown up to achieve and discover for the betterment of humanity, or even what their children and their children’s children may have done to contribute to make our world a better place?’
OUR incredibly talented musicians and singers treated an audience to a medley of music through the ages at the school’s annual Summer Music concert.

Soloists, ensembles, orchestras and choirs entertained a packed hall, with the evening culminating in a sing-along collection of songs from Oliver and Mama Mia.

Congratulations go to all performers who were absolutely fabulous!

THREE out of five trophies were awarded to fabulous St Michael’s physicists when they took on all other schools in Chorley in the Physics Olympics.

The Year 9 Science Ambassadors went to Albany Academy to take part in the competition.

The day involved our pupils competing with other Chorley schools to complete three construction challenges and a quiz.

Organiser and Second in Science, Mrs Ashurst, said: ‘We entered two teams and both did extremely well.

‘One of the challenges was to balance an egg on top of a tower made from spaghetti and jelly babies. Our team smashed that one, building a tower 97cm tall!

‘In the end we brought home trophies for three of the events and if we had scored just one more point on the quiz we would have brought home all five trophies.

‘The Science Ambassadors had a great day and their behaviour and team spirit was a credit to the school.’
HISTORICALLY, a tea party complete with fancy cakes and finger sandwiches seemed like the obvious choice to finish the year’s History Club events with.

‘It was also a chance to say a big thank you to our Year 11 Lead Historians for all their help and support with events like these over the year.

‘Special thanks to Mrs Menzies for lending us T3 and Miss Carter’s mum for making a huge traditional Victoria sandwich cake.

‘Last but not least, all those that helped prepare the food at lunch in T3.

‘We had been due to play croquet, but sadly the English summer weather put a stop to that so we settled for watching a BBC adaptation of the Edwardian classic ‘The Wind in the Willows’ and were joined by a number of staff, keen to have a cup of tea and taste the treats made by the group.

‘Alice’s tangy homemade lemonade was a tasty highlight for me!’

GOOD attendance is vital if a student is to make the best progress they can. Here are our attendance figures from Sept—June.

PUPILS in Year 9 were honoured to be consulted about plans for renovations to the Jewish Museum in Manchester. The pupils went to the Museum as part of their Christian Values Enrichment Day experience and met the architect who showed them plans for the brief of the new designs for the building.

Pupils explored her role and the purpose of a museum. They discussed the type of activities that would be most helpful and ways to help people to engage with some of the artefacts from the history of Manchester’s Jewish Community.

They also took part in a practical activity to consider the size of the room necessary to allow our group to experience a Sabbath meal during their visit.

HELPING the Jewish Museum
Christian Values Enrichment Days

**Wednesday 13 July**

**YEAR 8**
Year 8 explored Shakespeare, a selection of his plays and various aspects of his life on their first Christian Values Enrichment Day. They were involved in activities such as Elizabethan dancing in preparation for the end of term service.

YEAR 9
The Year 9 pupils who study Geography took part in an educational visit to Grasmere, exploring the impact of tourism on the Lake District village.

They collected data, interviewed locals and tourists alike and investigated features of the environment.

It was also an opportunity to explore God’s beautiful landscape and to study how humans interact with their surroundings.

On the other day Year 9 pupils spent a day exploring the Manchester Jewish community.

**YEAR 10**
Team building and super sleuthing were the two tasks facing Year 10.

Pupils worked in their tutorials learning cooperation and teamwork in various outdoor pursuits and challenges and for the other part of the day, were involved in computing and coding.

**Thursday 14 July**

**YEAR 8**
Year 8 on the second Christian Values Enrichment Day worked in groups to design a school product of the future. We saw a range of products, from multi-purpose pens, complete with USB drives to a ‘tablet’ table. Pupils completed a range of activities during the day, including making adverts and writing letters to the TV production company. At the end of the day, the groups pitched their designs to the dragons on ‘Dragon’s Den’ and the winners were chosen.

**YEAR 9**
The Year 9 pupils who study History took part in a new school educational visit taking in the Imperial War Museum. Details of this are available on page 25 of this newsletter.

**YEAR 10**
Bang Drum provided pupils in Year 10 with the rhythms and moves from Brazil.

Pupils took part in various activities where they could develop their own particular interests in percussion and dance or learning some challenging Afro-Brazilian songs.

Towards the end of the day the groups came together for a half hour performance to an audience of staff and pupils celebrating all they had learnt.

This was based on Brazilian and Afro Brazilian Carnival celebrations. It also included Capoeira (Brazilian Martial Arts) and Can-dombé songs.

**YEAR 11**
SKILLS FOR work including leadership, teamwork, communication and management were needed when Year 11 took on their Dragon’s Den style challenges during their Enrichment Days.

This was the 35th day of its kind, aimed at providing an insight into the skills needed for employment in today’s job market.

Pupils were asked to discuss the skills that today’s employers are looking for in potential employees and how the Christian values underpin them.

As pupils thought about getting a job they were introduced to the concept of vocation and why Christians might choose professions which are seen to be vocations as a way of fulfilling their calling from God.
Pokémon warning!

POKEMON Go is a new game where you collect and trade creatures called Pokémon (Pocket Monsters). The game makes it look like Pokémon appear in real life places by using the GPS and camera on your phone.

There are some dangers within the app, so please inform your children of the following, not to:
- Go to any obscure place to ‘catch’ a Pokémon
- Talk to strangers
- To disable payment information as the app can cost a lot of money

There are in-app purchases and other incentives which can cost up to £110 (14,000 Pokecoins). Make sure the app’s set up without payment details.

However, the biggest danger is that paedophiles have been using it to lure children to their house by placing their ‘pokémon’ creatures at their house in a hope that children will come, so children need to be made aware of this.

For more information about this new trend please go to the following website: https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/

Uniform matters!

We understand that many of you may be purchasing new items over the summer holidays so we feel it timely to remind all our children, parents and carers of our uniform policy with specific reference to a few areas.

· Girls skirts – Regulation ‘badged’ skirts from JADA. This is the only skirt which is acceptable. Skirts must be no more than 3 inches (about a bus pass) from the knee. Skirt waistbands must not be rolled over and shorts should not be worn underneath.

· Boys trousers - Black, not skinny fit, plain traditional style, high waisted, polyester/wool mixture. Underwear must not be visible. Belts should be black with a discreet buckle.

· Shoes - Black, traditional style. By this we mean that boots, trainers or ‘trainer style’, pump style, suede or canvas material are all not permitted. Black laces if lace-ups. Heels no higher than 3”. No logos/colour flashes, therefore brands such as Vans, Converse and such like are also not permitted. If you are unsure on the suitability of a shoe please feel free to contact school before purchasing or alternatively you can see pictures of suitable footwear on the school website.

In order to support all the students who do comply with the uniform policy, any pupil in breach of these regulations may have to work in isolation from the rest of their class.

The school will be the final arbiter regarding suitability of dress and appearance.

Our new head boy and head girl wearing their uniform smartly.
STUDENTS who have opted for History in Year 9 took part in the first educational visit to the Imperial War Museum as part of their Enrichment Day activities.

Subject Leader for History, Mr Egelnick, writes:

‘On Thursday 14 July, the History department led a trip to the Imperial Museum North (IWM North) as part of the Christian Enrichment Day programme at St Michael’s.

‘Our GCSE students study life in Germany from the end of the World War I in 1918 up to the start of the World War II in 1939 and the IWM North has much to offer in support for this part of the GCSE course, particularly a classroom based session where students handle original contemporary artefacts from 1930s Nazi Germany.

‘Using these artefacts, students pieced together a small insight into the diverse life experiences of a number of contrasting individuals living through this time, for example, the infamous Irme Grese an SS guard at Auschwitz to a young Aryan girl who rejected her Nazi education and kept her moral compass through the dark days of the 1930s.

‘This session was especially great as it allowed students to ‘do history’ like historians, based on directly interpreting the traces left behind from people’s lives without a text book.

‘At the museum there was a temporary exhibition called ‘Fashion the Ration’.

‘For textile students, who also study history, this provided an fantastic opportunity to explore the many ingenious ways and means people used to cope with limited materials and still look good during World War II; from making nightwear from left over RAF silk maps to modifying clothes designs to make rationed fabric go further without compromising on style.

‘Many of the principles from the war apply to the modern principles of making the fashion industry sustainable and accessible for all.

‘Also popular with students, were the Big Picture shows, projected on the walls of the main gallery. These conflict-themed short, and sometimes very emotive, films provoked thought on a range of issues related to the impact and experience of war, such as the different ways family and friends approach remembrance when they have a lost a loved one during conflict in the past and more recently in Afghanistan.

‘The Big Picture shows really compliment the permanent exhibits in the main gallery by bringing the objects on display alive and allowing students to realise the greater context about the brutal intended purpose and consequences of many of the items and their stories on display at the museum.

‘It was a real pleasure to take St Michael’s historians out of school and to share the experience of the museum with them. It was a really fantastic day and, although this was our first trip to the museum, I am sure it is the first of many to come.’

Mr Cree helping with History!
Thinkuknow are launching a brand new public awareness campaign. It is a three month campaign, and they are excited to introduce their first new resource entitled “The world changes. Children don’t”.

This short film tells the age-old story of Romeo and Juliet... with a modern twist. It shows how the lives of this young couple might play out online today, including the Lark ‘tweeting’ and Romeo ‘friending’ Juliet.

The important message this clip shows is that, although technology and social media can seem overwhelming and forever evolving, children and young people don’t change.

The Thinkuknow campaign has an aim of trying to remind parents that (just as when they were young), their children are still exploring and creating their identities, keeping up with their friends and dealing with adolescent pressures.

Although most of this now happens online, they want to remind them that the kind of parental support and advice which keeps their children safe ‘in real life’ will keep them safer online too.

The parents’ section of the Thinkuknow website provides information that covers a broad range of online safety issues from ‘nude selfies’ to what to do if you think your child is being groomed online.

Find it at: [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents)

The Online Safety Top Tips for this term are:

* Go onto the Think U Know website, parents section.
* Watch the new resource which has been produced, “The world changes. Children don’t.”
* Keep up to date with the new campaign which will feature a handful of new resources over the next few months.

Representatives from St Michael’s joined with the people of Chorley at the Chorley Pals Memorial early on the morning of July 1 to remember those who died in the Battle of the Somme.

Mrs Heaton, Mr Cree, our Head Boy Callum Eastwood, and Head Girl Rebecca Everitt, attended the event, remembering especially those men who served in the 11th East Lancashire Regiment who were killed at Serre in the first stages of the Battle one hundred years ago.

Over the following months at least 78 men from Chorley of different regiments and in different theatres of battle lost their lives.

Pupils from every tutorial said prayers and brought a poppy to the display in the entrance hall as part of our own memorial to the anniversary of the Battle.