

Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 12
6th December 2024



The Theme Next Week - The 2nd Sunday of Advent

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us of John the Baptist's powerful message: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" (Matthew 3:3). Advent is a time of preparation, not just for Christmas festivities, but for the coming of Christ into our hearts and lives.

John calls us to repentance, urging us to clear away the distractions, sins, and obstacles that may block our relationship with God. His words challenge us to reflect on how we live our lives and to ask, What needs to change in me to welcome Christ fully?

In our busy world, preparing the way for the Lord might mean making space for prayer, showing kindness to those around us, or serving others with humility. It is through small, intentional acts of love that we prepare a straight path for Christ to enter our lives and transform us.

This Advent, let us heed John's call and take steps toward becoming the people God calls us to be—people of hope, peace, and love.

Loving Father,

As we journey through Advent, help us to prepare our hearts for the coming of your Son.

Guide us to remove the obstacles that keep us from fully living in your light.

Fill us with the courage to seek forgiveness, the humility to serve others, and the joy of sharing your love.

May we, like John the Baptist, be messengers of hope and prepare the way for Christ in our homes, schools, and communities.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Oscar Girling and Libby Scott - curious and active

Year 8: Lexi Forbes - intentional and prophetic

Year 9: Dominik Dabrowski - loving and compassionate

Year 10: Hannah Griffiths, Louie Brooks, Sol Evans, Jacob Wilcock - faith-filled and hopeful

Year 11: Kayla McLaughlin - attentive and discerning



Being One of Ours

COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION WEEK

**STARTS ON 9TH
DECEMBER**

News

Computer Science Education Week sparks excitement every December. It is an annual event that aims to promote computer science education and increase awareness of the importance of computing skills in today's digital world. This year it is celebrated from the 9th to 15th December.

The week chosen for this celebration is significant because it includes the birthday of Admiral Grace Hopper (9th December), a pioneer in the field. She invented the first compiler and famously dealt with a real "bug" in a computer.

The week features various initiatives, including the Hour of Code, which encourages students and people of all ages to engage in coding activities. The week highlights the significance of computer science in fostering problem-solving skills, creativity, and critical thinking.

Remember, *Computer Science Education Week* is more than just a series of events. It is a gateway to understanding the role of technology in shaping our future. It is about sparking curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking among students, educators, and tech enthusiasts alike.

To celebrate **Computer Science Education Week** there are a variety of tasks for you to complete. Do one, two or all seven! Those who complete the tasks will receive a reward point (evidence will be needed on each of the tasks).

TASKS

Monday 9th December

Grace Hopper's Birthday – collect the Grace Hopper Quiz from Ms Worthington or Mr Bell. Research Grace Hopper and answer the questions. Return your quiz for marking.



Being One of Ours

COMPUTER SCIENCE WEEK

Tuesday 10th December

Take part in the international coding competition!

Join at <https://codementum.com/hour-of-code> - join the competition by logging in and then use the code below to join our class.

Year 7: ZA6UTA | Year 8: TWEXVU | Year 9: EW48TN | Year 10 and 11: KADPEV

Complete the tasks set. Bring screenshot evidence to show participation.

Open until the 15th

**Wednesday 11th December**

Scavenger Hunt – collect a scavenger hunt sheet from Ms Worthington or Mr Bell and complete the questions about Computer Science Heroes and return for marking. Answers can be found: <https://www.csedweek.org/heroes>

Thursday 12th December

<https://hourofcode.com/uk/learn> - complete at least one challenge on *hour of code*. Bring in your certificate you receive at the end, or screenshot it and show Ms Worthington or Mr Bell.

Friday 13th December

Have a go or enter the Alan Turing Cryptography Competition run by Manchester University. It is hard! Good luck.

<https://www.maths.manchester.ac.uk/cryptography/index.php?year=2024>

**Saturday 14th December**

Programming tasks. Complete one of the festive coding tasks. This can be done on Scratch (KS3) - (<https://projects.raspberrypi.org/en/projects/snowball-fight>). And Python (KS4) - (<https://projects.raspberrypi.org/en/projects/turtle-snowflakes>).

Sunday 15th December

Do some research about a pioneer in Computer Science, there are many out there! Include a picture, key fact(s) about them and what they did for computer science. If you need inspiration for pioneers, look in Ms Worthington or Mr Bell's classroom. Bring in or share your poster with Ms Worthington or Mr Bell.

All evidence should be brought in to school by Wednesday 18th December

Being One of Ours

ADVENT

As the season of Advent begins, the Embroidery Club has gifted the OLCHS Gardening Club a handmade Advent calendar, to be filled with seeds for the days of Advent.

Students from all year groups have stitched the numbers onto festive felt, and now continue the seasonal crafting by making Christmas cards featuring embroidered designs.



CHRISTMAS Toy APPEAL

The Salvation Army cake sale at Our Lady's raised a wonderful £138.84 recently, and during this week the proceeds were used to purchase toys and gifts for the **Salvation Army Christmas Toy Appeal**.

Thank you to Terry our school Youth Worker, our school Chaplain Sarah, and Mrs Lloyd for organising, and to the following OLCHS pupils

for their valuable help: Wiktoria Katie Grace
Charlotte Mia Aalayah



SCIENCE WEEKLY CHALLENGE

If you can tell your science teacher the answers to the questions you can earn a point.

Science In The News

This week's *Science In The News* takes a look at cold temperatures. The first article is about British scientists who are studying the physics of ice fracturing in the Antarctic. The second is the first in a series of videos about temperature.

Read the article and then answer the following question.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-68822086>

Question 1: What scientific instruments are being used in the study?

Now read the article about advanced mirror technology being used in the Extremely Large Telescope and also in Quantum mirrors.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09rzqp3>

Question 2: What were the ingredients of Fahrenheit's second fixed point used to calibrate his temperature scale?

Question 3: In their quest to create absolute zero in the lab, what medium are scientists using in the second phase of cooling?

Home Research

Dr Helen Czerski is a physicist currently researching at University College London (UCL). Find out about her and then answer the following question.

Question 4: In which specific scientific field does she do her research?

News & Information



Our Lady's Catholic High School

Year 11 Parent Feedback



Very Satisfied /
Satisfied

How satisfied are you that we know your child as an individual?

99%

How satisfied are you that we provide classwork that challenges pupils?

100%

How satisfied are you that we give you information regarding attendance and its impact on your child?

98%

Additional Comments From Parents

“Thank you to all the teaching staff, very high standards.”

“Good, positive parents’ evening. Friendly and helpful pupils on the night. Well done and thank you.”



2024 Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 18 December
Advent Liturgies

Wednesday 18 December
Christmas Variety Show 6pm

Thursday 19 December
End of Term – school closes at 12:35

OLCHS
SOCIAL
MEDIA



Being One of Ours

Information

Think of Her THIS CHRISTMAS

LANCASHIRE
WOMEN

Donation appeal:

- Fluffy Socks
- Eye/Face masks
- Bath bombs
- Body butter/lotion/hand cream
- Candles (small)
- Chocolates/sweets
- Hot drink sachets
- Individually wrapped teabags
- Face rollers/beauty tools
- Lip balm
- Hair accessories

Have you got anything on our winter appeal list that you could donate? If so, please drop it off at one of our centres.

Please help spread the word so that we can make as many pamper parcels as possible for our women!

LANCASHIRE
WOMEN



YOUNGMINDS

Wellbeing Advent Calendar 2024



LANCASTER UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Final Open Day
Saturday 1st
February 2025

The final LUSoM Open Day will take place on
Saturday 1st February, 10:00am - 12:30pm.



REGISTER NOW

Being One of Ours



Sporting News

NETBALL YEAR 10

Last Thursday, the Year 10 netball squad, captained by Emma F, were away at Moor Park. We were missing a few of our regular players. Consequently, we didn't get the start we would have liked in the first quarter. However, the team got into their stride by the second quarter and began to dominate play.

By half time we were leading by twelve goals.

The team kept their focus and determination and continued to pull away, winning the game 17-3.



Player of the match went to Macy W, as a result of her hard work to create attacking opportunities.

This was the last game of the season for Year 10, having only lost to St. Cecilia's and Longridge in very close matches. We are now just awaiting confirmation of our position in the league once all the other schools have completed their fixtures.

A great effort though ladies, really well done! Miss Lewis is extremely proud of everyone's efforts over the course of the season.

YEAR 9

On Wednesday of this week, the Year 9 netball squad were away at Christ the King for their final fixture of the season. The 9A team played first. We were a little slow off the mark and made a few unforced errors, but we soon gained our composure, slowly managing to pull away in the first half. Our confidence was high going into the last 15 minutes and we dominated play with our opponents having very few opportunities to shoot. The final score was 17-2 to Our Lady's, with player of the match being awarded to the captain, Romy L.



Next up was the Year 9B team, who, once again, had to play our opponents A team. However, the pupils were eager to finish the season with a win and made a really positive start. We had a narrow two goal lead by half time. The team continued to play their own game in the second half, keeping possession of the ball really well.

This paid off as the score on the final whistle was 5-1 to Our Lady's.

Player of the match went to Briannah C, who made some key interceptions in defence and worked tirelessly to bring the ball down court to our attack.

Sporting News

HANDBALL

The U14 handball team played in a standalone tournament held at Eden Boys School on Thursday 21 November. Boys in all Year groups have been covering handball in their curriculum PE lessons this half term and this was a great opportunity for them to showcase what they had been developing.

In their first game they beat Christ the King 10-2 with goals shared between Sam W, Awais A, George D, Bobby P and Jacob M.

In their second game they faced Eden Boys and the score was much closer. However, Our Lady's were victorious again, winning 5-2. Other members of the winning squad included Patrick T, Mason D and Charlie M.

Last Thursday, Eden Boys School hosted the district handball festival. The sport was relatively new to the players from all schools, but it was a delight to see how quickly and efficiently everyone had taken to the sport resulting in a very high standard of performance on show.

Our Lady's were victorious in all their games, coming away from the evening as district champions!





BASKETBALL

LANCASHIRE SCHOOLS' CUP

U14 The A squad for the U14 team had a tremendous victory against Longridge High School in the group stages of the Lancashire Cup competition. The team were trailing our opponents for the majority of the game until we took the lead in the later stages of the 3rd quarter. Our Lady's showed their greater levels of fitness by extending the lead in the 4th quarter before Longridge began a fight back of their own, but it was not enough and Our Lady's deservedly won 34-33. Members of the winning squad included Sam W, Alfie W, Will C, Sam S, Joshua T, Jack F, Oliver K, Zack K and George D.



U14 The U14 basketball B team played their second fixture of the season against Longridge High School on Monday 2 December as part of the Lancashire Schools' Basketball competition. The opposition were well drilled and played some excellent basketball throughout the game. The Our Lady's team took a while to get going but soon managed to create lots of scoring chances but the luck was not with them on this occasion and they conceded victory to Longridge. Members of the team included Nataniel R, Bobby P, Patrick T, Freddie M, Harry K, Byron C, Huey S, Christian B, Dane L and Oliver S.



Sporting News



U16 FOOTBALL

Last Thursday the U16 girls travelled to Rossall School, Fleetwood, in the 4th round of the English Schools' Cup. After a lovely sing-along on the bus, Mrs Lin and the girls arrived at the school and were greeted with the most beautiful football pitches with the sea glittering in the background. It was a truly wonderful setting.

We did not know much about the team having not played them before but wanted to ensure a good start and potentially a win. The game started evenly matched between both sides and took a while to settle.

Our Lady's had a few opportunities in the first 20 minutes but none converting into a goal. Just before half time we managed to make it 1-0 with a lovely goal from Georgia C.

At half time we discussed challenging the keeper at every opportunity and not just right in front of the goal. Holly W did just this and scored a fabulous goal immediately after half time.

With a final goal from Karley R we finished the game 3-0 to Our Lady's. We march on to the next round.



YEAR 7 FOOTBALL

On Friday 29 November the Year 7 girls travelled to Colne to play Park Central School in the next round of the English Schools' Cup. From the start of the game Mrs Lin sensed Our Lady's would dominate. Four minutes into the match, Our Lady's scored. This continued for the remainder of the game allowing Mrs Lin to use all of her substitutes and give the OLCMS Year 7 girls quality time on the pitch. Goals came from Charlotte B, Coco, Rio A and Bella F.

The girls have Archbishop Temple in the next round, which should be a great game.



FOOTBALL BOYS COMPETITION

Last Wednesday evening was the second week of the district 7-a-side schools' football tournament hosted at Ashton. The A team were looking to bounce back from the previous week and did so in style beating both Broughton A and Broughton B to claim top spot in the league heading into the final week of games.

Our B team continued their strong start and won both of their games, extending their lead at the top of the B team table - all but cementing their place in the Finals' night.



BOXING



Being One of Ours

Our Lady's pupil Malakai, took part in a boxing event last Saturday evening.

It was his first boxing match, and he won. Well done.

Congratulations Malakai.



Careers Cafe

Last week Lenny from the RAF attended our Careers Cafe. He spoke about all the different pathways into the RAF, the various tests, starting careers salary, different careers options in the RAF, the best time to apply and the various other opportunities available.

Pupils listened attentively and asked some really insightful questions.



Next week, on Friday 13 December in the Careers Cafe, we have an accountant coming to visit. Please come along for 8:50am to the Training Centre if you are interested to learn about careers in finance and accountancy. The Careers Cafe is open to Year 9, 10 and 11. Tea and biscuits included.