



Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 14
19th December 2024



End of Term Message from Mr Charnock

Dear Parents, Carers, and Friends of Our Lady's,

As we approach the end of what has been a truly remarkable term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful achievements and events that have shaped our school community over the past few months.

Firstly, I would like to commend our Year 7 pupils for the fantastic way they have settled into life at Our Lady's. From their first day, they have embraced the opportunities and challenges of secondary school with enthusiasm and determination, and it has been a joy to see them already becoming an integral part of our community.

This term has been filled with hard work, dedication, and achievement. Our pupils and staff have given their all, not just in lessons but also in the huge range of extra-curricular activities that have taken place. From sports teams to performing arts, from clubs to competitions, there has been something for everyone, and the newsletter is packed with highlights that celebrate this vibrant aspect of school life.

The Catholic Life of our school has also been at the heart of this term. We began the year by coming together in faith with an INSET Day Mass for staff, where we were joined by staff from St Anthony's and Holy Family Catholic Primary Schools.

Our Year 7 pupils and their families gathered for a beautiful Mass of Welcome, marking the start of their five-year journey with us. It was especially moving to share this celebration with Headteachers from our Family of Primary Schools, each of whom received a candle as a symbol of the faith that continues to unite us.

As part of their induction, Year 7 pupils also took part in a spiritual and reflective retreat at Castlerigg Manor. These residential visits helped them grow in their understanding of the faith life of our school and foster a sense of community within their tutor groups.

We have celebrated key moments in the liturgical calendar with great reverence, including the Feast of All Saints and our Remembrance Day Reflections, where the school fell silent to honour those who have sacrificed so much for us. Our Gospel Music Workshop and Concert, in partnership with St Mary's and St Andrew's Primary School, was a joyous celebration of music, prayer, and worship, bringing families together in a spirit of thanksgiving.

Our school's commitment to serving others has also been evident through the incredible charity work this term. From the Macmillan Coffee Morning, which raised £200, to the CAFOD Fast Day, where pupils brightened up the school and raised £1422, and the Fox Street Cake Sale led by the Romero Action Group, the generosity of our community has been humbling. We have also launched our annual Salvation Army Food Bank Collection, ensuring that families in need will feel supported this Christmas.

Being One of Ours



As we prepare for the festive season, I want to express my deepest gratitude to all our pupils, staff, and families for their continued commitment to "Being One of Ours". It is your faith, hard work, and care for one another that make Our Lady's such a special place.

I leave you with this reflection from Pope Francis:

"May the joy of the Gospel fill the hearts of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept His offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness, and loneliness. With Christ, joy is constantly born anew."

Let us take this message into our hearts as we celebrate the birth of Christ, the Light of the World.

A Christmas Prayer

Loving God,

As we gather with family and friends this Christmas,

Help us to remember the true meaning of this season.

May the gift of Your Son fill our hearts with peace and joy.

Grant us the grace to share His love with all we meet,

And to bring light to those in darkness.

Bless our school community and keep us safe

Until we gather again in the New Year.

Amen.



On behalf of all the staff and governors at Our Lady's Catholic High School, I wish you a happy, holy, and blessed Christmas. We look forward to welcoming you back in January 2025, refreshed and ready for another exciting term.

With every blessing,

Mr Charnock

Headteacher

BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Elliot Holden - curious and active

Year 8: William Collins - intentional and prophetic

Year 9: Bobbie Burnett-Cherry - intentional and prophetic

Year 10: Kieron Allen - intentional and prophetic

Year 11: Emily Barnes - faith-filled and hopeful



OUR LADY'S

Christmas Events

On Sunday 15th December, Our Lady's choir joined with choirs from Cardinal Newman College and St Wilfred's Church, taking part in our joint annual Carol Service at St Wilfred's Church, Preston. This is always a special event, reflecting the grandeur of the beautiful church. As well as providing the soloist at the start of Once in Royal David's City and singing traditional carols, pupils from Our Lady's showcased John Rutter's 'Angels' Carol', which was met with rapturous applause.

On Monday 16th December, pupils from Our Lady's choir visited a local Care Home for the elderly, where they brought festive greetings, sat and talked with residents and performed a number of Christmas favourites. Residents had a good old sing along and invited us back again next year.

Following a whistle stop lunch break, the choir moved on to St George's Shopping Centre, where the hard work of raising money for CAFOD really got started! Pupils sang their hearts out, to the delight of the general public, who were generous and complimentary of the singing and the manner of our pupils.

£120 raised for
CAFOD



Being One of Ours

REWARDS ASSEMBLY



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



Being One of Ours

ST CATHERINE'S HOSPICE

COMPETITION

As part of a competition for local pupils to have their designs featured in the St Catherine's Hospice 2025 Calendar, six Our Lady's pupils were successful in having their artwork selected, including on the front cover of the calendar.

Suzie Richards and Carole Hoyle of St Catherine's Hospice came into school this week to present goodie bags for the winning Our Lady's pupils and congratulate them on their wonderful achievement.

Suzie and Carole commented that this had been one of their most popular Calendars to date, and had completely sold out.

Well done to each of our pupils, we are so very proud of you and for **'Being One of Ours'**.



Being One of Ours

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 bilateral symmetry. Two eyes, two arms, two legs - we are roughly symmetrical on the outside, but inside we are all over the place! We just have one heart, which is usually on the left, one liver on the right, one spleen and one appendix. "Why is that?"

Listen to the Podcast and then answer the following questions.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w3ct42d4>

Question 1: From what creature do scientists think that bilateral symmetry originated?

Question 2: From an evolutionary perspective in what way is bilateral symmetry useful?

Question 3: Are human faces symmetrical?

Question 4: Which internal organ may be the cause of our insides being asymmetrical?

Home Research

The podcast talks about bilateral symmetry in organisms. Do your own research to answer the following question:

Question 5: What other types of symmetry can be found in organisms?

Information



If you need urgent help for your mental health - call NHS 111
If you think a child is in immediate danger – don't delay call the police on 999.
Children's Social Care out of hours, Call: 0300 123 6722.

SUPPORT SERVICES

As we approach the festive season, we want to remind our pupils and families that the school will be closed during the Christmas holidays. This is a time for rest, celebration, and spending time with loved ones. However, we understand that some children may need support during this period. For those who do, we have attached a list of helpful resources and contact information.

All children have been sent these contacts to their school email address. These services are available to assist with any challenges or concerns over the holidays. We encourage anyone to reach out if needed and we look forward to welcoming our children back on Monday 6th of January.

OLCHS SOCIAL MEDIA



2024 Dates for your Diary

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

Monday 6 January 2025
All pupils return to school

CLICK HERE **LIVE PARENT/CARER SLEEP WEBINAR**

Sleep is a **SUPER** Power

We all need sleep, and some of us would like even more of it!

This webinar aims to provide an overview for parents/carers on the purpose of sleep, the impact of poor sleep, and advice and strategies to improve sleep and overcome some common sleep difficulties. The strategies may be applied to both adults and children and young people.

When:
Tuesday 28th January; 11am – 12.15pm
Thursday 30th January; 1pm - 2.15pm

Join Our Webinars!
Our webinars are open to all young people and parents/carers of students who attend our allocated schools and colleges.

Register now using the link below or simply scan the QR Code to secure your spot!

<https://bit.ly/JanuarySleepWebinar>

To attend please sign up before 5pm Monday 27th January.

SCAN ME

COMPASSBLOOM@COMPASS-UK.ORG 01772 280123
@COMPASSBLOOM
UNIT 8 BALFOUR COURT, OFF HOUGH LANE, LEYLAND, LANCASHIRE, PR25 2TF

Sporting News

FOOTBALL

YEAR 7 & 8

In the final week of an extremely busy term across the PE extracurricular calendar, the boys' football leagues drew to a close with two of our Year groups making the league finals within their district competitions.

Year 8

Monday saw our Year 8 boys play Fulwood in their league final. Both teams had their share of possession in the first 10 minutes, but the deadlock was broken with a fantastic curling effort into the top corner by Callum T. Just five minutes later, the Our Lady's lead was doubled after Zac B coolly lobbed the Fulwood goalkeeper from the edge of the box.

With just seconds to go before the half time whistle, the Fulwood striker slipped the ball past the Our Lady's goalkeeper reducing the lead to just one goal at the break.

The second half saw Fulwood dominate in possession of the ball and before long the scores were level. The remainder of the match saw both teams have their chance to clinch victory and it seemed inevitable that one of the teams would eventually find the back of the net. Alas, with just 2 minutes left before the lottery of a penalty shootout, it was our opponents who took their chance and went on to win the game 3-2.

Mr Waring was immensely proud of the performance of all the players and looks forward to leading the lads in the upcoming Preston Schools' Cup competition in the new year.



Year 7

On Wednesday evening, the Year 7A and B teams represented our school in the district 7-a-side finals night. Both teams got off to a flying start with 1-0 victories in their respective round robin finals. Two draws in the last two games for the B team saw them come second overall, taking silver medals in the B team finals.

The A team continued their winning ways meaning their final match of the evening was a winners-take-all tie with a very strong St Cecelia's side. At the final whistle, neither team were able to break the deadlock meaning a penalty shootout would be needed to decide the district champions. The first three penalty takers were selected, and Archie G was looking confident between the sticks.

A fantastic save of the second St Cecelia's penalty and 100% strike rate from Our Lady's was enough to crown the OLCBS boys, champions of the district 2024.



Being One of Ours



BASKETBALL

U16

LANCASHIRE SCHOOLS' CUP

The U16 basketball team have completed their Lancashire Cup fixtures for the year after being put in a tremendously difficult group of schools for the group stages. However, the team made completely from Year 10 pupils, have made excellent progress since their initial winning game against Corpus Christi earlier this half term. The final three games came against Longridge High School, Clitheroe Grammar and Archbishop Temple and

although the team were not victorious in these games they grew as players and made excellent strides and we are confident they will be even better when in Year 11. Members of the final squad against Archbishop Temple included Lincoln S, Patrick M, Finlay M, Adam H, Daniel H, Charlie W and Dorrell S.

NETBALL

YEAR 7

Year 7 and 8 competed against Archbishop Temple in the Preston Schools' Netball league. Year 7 were on court first and made the most of having the home advantage. Amelia S and Georgia S demonstrated great versatility, both playing out of position in defence. We shot well in attack and kept our composure when bringing the ball down court. Consequently, we won the game 9-2, to remain undefeated in the league. Player of the match went to Eden P. She used her speed and agility well at Centre to work tirelessly to bring the ball down court to attack, but also got back quickly to defend.



YEAR 8

Next on court were Year 8. Like Year 7, we were missing a player, but the team showed great determination and played well in the first half to keep the game at two goals all. However, in the second half, Archbishop got a couple of early goals and we allowed our heads to drop slightly. As a result, our opponents began to pull away. The score ended 12-8 to Archbishop. Scarlett A made her match debut after coming back from an injury and played well at Wing Defence. However, player of the match went to Chiamaka E, due to her excellent marking in defence, really putting pressure on the Archbishop Goal Shooter.

Sporting News



Two Our Lady's pupils, Georgia and Karley were selected to represent Blackpool where they recently travelled to Wales to play against Llandudno.

Both Georgia and Karley played amazingly, with the final score 2-1 to Blackpool. Georgia scored both goals and Karley assisting 1. With Karley also winning player of the match.

In a recent Preston Schools' fixture against Rossendale, Georgia scored the first goal, and Holly, also of Our Lady's, also assisted.

These are wonderful sporting achievements from our pupils. Well done.

Being One of Ours



WRESTLING

Helsinki Tournament

Our Lady's pupil Filip, recently competed in the U13 category at the Helsinki Wrestling Tournament, where he secured a Bronze medal, which is a fantastic achievement.

The English Championships will be held at the end of February 2025.

Being One of Ours

CARDINAL NEWMAN COLLEGE

If you applied before the 1st December, you should have received a little something in the post from Newman College if your application has been processed.

Please keep an eye out on your emails this Wednesday for more information on your conditional offer.

**DID YOU RECEIVE
YOUR COIN?**



**PRESTON
COLLEGE**

**BOOK
YOUR PLACE
NOW!**



LEARN MORE >>

**APPRENTICESHIP
ADVICE NIGHT**

THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 4-7PM

**NATIONAL
APPRENTICESHIP
WEEK**

#NAW2025

10-16 February

**PRESTON
COLLEGE**



**EDF Apprenticeship
Vacancies**

Open On 27th December!
EDF open for applications over the
Christmas break

CLICK HERE

Being One of Ours