



Our Lady's Catholic High School



Friday, 1 April 2022

The theme for next week is God's Mercy (John 8: 1-11).

'Let the one among you who has not sinned be the first to throw a stone' (John 8:7)

The story is told of a young soldier who deserted his army. After a few hours he was caught by his own troops. The penalty for desertion was death. The soldier's mother heard what had happened and went to plead with the authorities to spare her son's life. The officer in charge said that because of the nature of his crime, he did not deserve mercy.

'I know he doesn't deserve mercy,' the mother answered. 'It wouldn't be mercy if he deserved it'.

That is the point about mercy: nobody deserves it. Mercy is a gift freely given. It cancels out our sin because it is the free response by the person who has been hurt by us. We still need to be sorry for our mistakes – but God always shows mercy to us. We should do the same.

Dear Lord

You invite all who are burdened to come to you.

Allow your healing hand to heal me.

Show mercy on me, Oh lord.

Amen.

JOURNEY TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Families have been completely supportive of our school rule that travel along the '19 Steps' footpath at the side of school, which emerges onto Boys Lane/Walker Lane, is strictly prohibited both to and from school and for all year groups.

We have recently been made aware that some children are choosing to walk across the fields between the back of what was Tulketh High School and Walker Lane, then emerging onto Beechwood Avenue and coming through the 'hole in the hedge' and onto St Anthony's Drive. This route is rarely a short cut and is not an appropriate route to or from school. May I ask parents and carers to enquire with your children as to the walking route they take to and from school and to explain that they should only use official roads and footpaths (with the exception of course of the '19 Steps').

With thanks for your support.

POTENTIALLY HARMFUL YOU TUBE VIDEO

Sam Tyrer, Prevention and Engagement Lead at Lancashire & South Cumbria Foundation Trust has made school aware of a character named Huggy Wuggy being viewed online by young people. The character can be easily viewed on Youtube channels and is a teddy bear with razor sharp teeth that sings worrying songs about hugging and killing. On one of the videos the bear asks the viewer to take their last breath. It is a very deceiving character, as hugs should be seen as something kind and loving, and because of its name it has been able to infiltrate firewalls and filters. Please would all families be aware and vigilant around what children could be watching.

VACANCIES

We currently have a non-teaching staff vacancy, and all details are available on the website under the vacancies tab:

- Business Support Officer reception – 14.5 hours per week

NETBALL NEWS

The Year 7 and 8 netball teams had their final fixture of the season on Friday 25 March, away at St Cecilia's. Year 7A were already league champions based on points but wanted to make it a clean sweep to remain undefeated all season. The team were a little apprehensive as we were missing a key player, Evie Mitchell, who was out of action due to a football injury. The team had a very tentative start and found themselves in the unusual position of being 4 goals down at half time. Following a team talk and a few tactical changes the girls were much more proactive in the second half. Meera Patel, who normally plays Goalkeeper, found herself at the other end of the court and shot well scoring two critical goals early in the second half. Liana Kiraga made her A team debut and played well at Goalkeeper intercepting several key passes to the St Cecilia's Goal Shooter. The whole team really pulled together, and the final score was 6-5 in favour of Our Lady's, in what was our closest game this season. Player of the match went to Goal Defence, Macy Wilson because she marked her player tightly throughout the game.

Year 7B were also missing a player, but they did not let this deter them. Eve Blackburn kindly volunteered to play out of position at Goalkeeper and showed great versatility in her new role. All our tough matches against A teams throughout the season paid off against St Cecilia's B team. Consequently, we were dominant throughout and had possession of the ball for a good portion of the game. Olivia Tuson and Macey Shay kept composure in the shooting circle, converting a high percentage of their shots on goal. This led to Macey being awarded player of the match. The final score was 10-3 to us.

Like their other two counterparts, Year 8 also had a player missing. However, Charlotte Finnigan bravely stepped in to replace Lexie Eastham at Goal Attack. The game was end to end. Jessica Moorcroft and Isabelle Potts had to work hard to defend against a quick St Cecilia's attacking duo. Chi Chi and Jiji Ojumobi made some key interceptions centre court. Despite the game being close at half time, St. Cecilia's came out strong in the second half and we found it difficult to make the last key pass into our shooting circle. The final score was 10-4 to our competitors. Player of the match went to Isabelle Potts who, yet again, played with great tenacity, never giving up throughout the game.

FOOTBALL NEWS

The Year 10 team had a fantastic win against Longridge High School in the preliminary round of the Preston Cup competition. Their 6-2 victory was made all the more emphatic after the team played with only 10 players for the duration of the match. Various illnesses and injuries have seen the initial team of 14 selected players be reduced to only 7 at one stage, before 3 willing pupils stepped up to fill the spaces. With only 10 players, but still a huge amount of talent and effort, the team started the match with the energy of what felt like 12 players! They were soon rewarded after captain Leighton Hewitt's solo run and shot from the edge of the penalty area found the bottom corner to give Our Lady's a 1-0 lead. The team played an extremely intelligent game, knowing they had to choose wisely when to work at a high intensity, to ensure they did not run out of energy too soon. It was the vision of Leighton Hewitt and speed and accuracy of Toby Atherton that helped to gain distance from our opponents as Toby scored two excellent goals to take us into half time 3-0 up. Stand-in goalkeeper Joel Craig had not had much to do in the first half as the new formation of 3 centre backs proved an excellent wall of defence, too strong for the Longridge attack to break through. Those defenders included Liam McCaul, Charlie Crook and Matthew Innes. Debutant Jay Pearson proved pivotal in the game, creating plenty of chances from his right midfield position and nearly scoring a goal himself, only to be denied by the post, however his effort was finished off by Harry Hargreaves from close range. The second half also saw Toby Atherton score the final goal of his hat-trick after the Longridge defence failed to be quick enough to react to another through ball. Leighton Hewitt also scored the second of his brace of goals after his quick feet allowed him to dance around the defenders and score from a tight angle. The fantastic team result will surely inspire them to continue to be successful as they face Moor Park in the quarter-final later this term.

CAREERS FAIR SUPPORT REQUEST

On Wednesday, 4 May our annual Careers Fair will take place. In previous years we have had a wide variety of information available to our pupils and are looking to replicate this. We are particularly interested in support from any companies within Lancashire. If you think you could lend assistance or know anyone who can, please contact cbo@olchs.lancs.sch.uk



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APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITY

Tony and Guy hair salon in Preston are holding an Open Day event for anyone interested in a Hairdressing Apprenticeship. If you are creative and interested in fashion please go along on Wednesday, 13 April between 12 noon and 5.00 pm to 86 Fishergate, Preston, PR1 2NJ. You will be able to meet the team, see the salon in its true working environment and ask questions about the apprenticeship.

Dates to remember

Thursday, 7 April – School closes for the Easter Holidays at 12.45 pm

Monday, 25 April – school opens

Monday, 2 May – School closed for May Day

Friday, 27 May – School closes for half-term

Monday, 6 June – School opens

Thursday, 21 July – School closes for the Summer Holidays at 12.45 pm