



Our Lady's Catholic High School



Thursday, 21 July 2022

MESSAGE FROM MR RANSON

A number of staff are leaving our school this year and I should like to commend their work to you and offer sincere thanks for everything that they have done for our pupils over the years. We also wish them success and happiness in whatever the next stage in their lives brings.

Miss Steph Reece – St Bede's, Blackburn
 Miss Tambi Maple – Dallam School, Milnthorpe
 Mr Steven Smith – Christ the King, Southport
 Mrs Emma Maskell – Barton St Lawrence Primary School
 Mrs Mandy Gunson – Retirement
 Mrs Linda Soderberg – Kirkbie School, Kendal
 Miss Lorna Turner – Cardinal Newman College
 Mrs Paula Hardacre – part-time work in the family business
 Miss Abi Clegg – Players Drama School
 Mrs Rebecca Wilson – Players Drama School

My Retirement

Now that my 19 years as Head Teacher of Our Lady's draws to a close I should like to express my most sincere thanks to the wonderful, talented and dedicated colleagues with whom I have shared my journey. These colleagues are represented in every operational area of our school: Administrative, Catering, Catholic Teaching Alliance, Chaplaincy, Cleaning, Finance, IT Network, Learning and Pastoral Support, Site Maintenance, Teaching, Technical Support. In my time, many colleagues have themselves retired or moved on to work at other schools, some to lead schools of their own. Countless people have begun their career in education at our school and many of them are still with us. School is like an ocean liner going from port to port and the journey is remorseless; I got on board in 2003 and now I get off in 2022. Those with whom I have worked have all contributed to making the ship run so smoothly, repairing faults and designing new aspects. Every year we drop some people off and welcome others on board, both staff and pupils. Now it is my turn to leave.

One of the great honours and privileges of my career is to have been trusted by our Governing Body with setting the direction of sail but whatever I have done has only been made possible through the collective endeavour of so many people along the way. Those people know who they are, and I extend my most sincere thanks to each of them.

I also pay tribute to our parents and carers both past and current. Schools work at their best when there is a strong bond of trust; where the values developed within school are the same values as those developed at home. These shared beliefs have been one of the great assets in supporting our mission to help our children grow in the Image of God, make so much progress, create so many special memories and shape their lives as they move into adulthood.

When I arrived in 2003 we soon developed the concept of, 'Being One of Ours'. So many people, staff and pupils alike, who have left our school have told me of their pride in referring to themselves as 'One of Ours'. I too share that pride. I now leave our school in the most capable of hands. Parents were asked to pray for me when I began my headship and I ask you to pray for Mr Charnock that his leadership of our school will be blessed with the same support and belief that I received throughout my tenure.

With my very best wishes

Always 'One of Ours'

Nigel Ranson

Head Teacher 2003 – 2022

CASTLE COMPETITION WINNERS

The Year 7 Castle Competition winners had a lovely morning at Lancaster Castle, the tour overran by 45 minutes because the pupils had so many questions for the guide. They were very engaged and were a credit to the school. Helen, the tour guide, said the pupils were lovely, asked some challenging questions and had a real eye for detail. They were fascinated. She was particularly impressed with Logan Cardwell. He answered a question that she said she's never had a pupil get right before. She seemed genuinely surprised. Mrs Armitage was very proud of them as well; they showed the school in a very positive light.

HAPPY, SAFE SUMMER - REMINDER FROM PRESTON POLICE

As the summer holiday is fast approaching it is important to remind students what we expect of them in terms of behaviour whilst they are enjoying their break. We also want to ensure they feel confident to keep themselves safe and away from crime and anti-social behaviour. In recent months, unfortunately there have been some knife crime incidents in Preston. The police are robustly investigating these, and anyone involved with knives will be dealt with. Most youths state when they carry a knife it is for protection. However, did you know that 7 out of 10 youths are stabbed with their own knife. So, please don't carry a knife. If you believe or see something that could put you in danger i.e. someone has a knife or something that could be used as a weapon. Don't approach them, tell your friends you are leaving, don't be persuaded to stay with them. If you need a place of safety, make sure it is a well-lit area, or there is a group of people and tell a responsible adult e.g. parent, police or neighbour. We have also had an increase of children entering derelict buildings and a number of these been set alight. This is arson and is extremely dangerous to the individuals involved as the buildings are not safe. Also, the local residents are at risk as fires spread extremely quickly. We want you to enjoy your holiday but don't want you to put yourself at risk so please don't enter these buildings. Hopefully it is a long hot summer, and you can enjoy yourselves outside. But please be mindful not to try and cool down by entering bodies of water e.g. lakes / rivers or the dock. It may look inviting but unfortunately every year there are tragic accidents. We want you to come back to school next year safe and well.

Thank you and enjoy your summer
Preston Police

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES OVER THE HOLIDAYS

A reminder that although school may be closed there is still help and support available for you. All students up to the age of 18 can access Kooth: <https://www.kooth.com>

The Anna Freud "my self-care plan" has lots of helpful tips and strategies
[https://www.annafreud.org/schools-and-colleges/resources/my-self-care-plan-secondary/%20/vm2/staff\\$/SXB/Activ%20Software/](https://www.annafreud.org/schools-and-colleges/resources/my-self-care-plan-secondary/%20/vm2/staff$/SXB/Activ%20Software/)

Talkzone, a Lancashire service is available daily from 2.00 pm to 10.00pm talkzone@lancashire.gov.uk.
You can chat online or call 0800 51 11 11.



SCIENCE IN THE NEWS

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

Scientists in Finland have installed the world's first fully working "sand battery" which can store green power for months at a time. Could this be a solution to storage of green energy that is produced at times when it is not needed?

Question 1: Up to what temperature is the sand heated?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-61996520>



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Question 2:

Video

As resources are depleted on Earth, many scientists suggest the asteroid belt could be mined instead. Watch the video and then answer the question.

Question 3: Between which two planets in our solar system are most of the asteroids orbiting the sun?

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-61985813?ns_mchannel=social&ns_source=twitter&ns_campaign=bbc_live&ns_linkname=61985813%26Why%20asteroids%20are%20the%20next%20prize%20in%20the%20space%20race%262022-06-29T23%3A36%3A46.000Z&ns_fee=0&pinned_post_locator=urn:bbc:cps:curie:asset:81cec06d-9e33-4e7c-a6b0-9408517696b3&pinned_post_asset_id=61985813&pinned_post_type=share

Home Research

For many years scientists have been studying the amazing pictures produced by the Hubble Telescope. Now the more powerful James Webb Telescope is operational and first pictures of the Universe from about 13 billion years ago are being released. There are lots of articles about it in the news and below are a couple of links on the BBC Science Page. Research the James Webb Telescope and then consider the following question.

Question 4: Scientists say the Big Bang occurred about 13.8 billion years ago which was followed by a period called the Dark Ages around 13.7 billion years ago. Why was the universe a dark place during this time?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-62140044>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-62122859>

Dates to remember

Friday, 2 September – School opens for Year 7 and 11 only
 Monday, 5 September – School opens for all pupils
 Friday, 9 September – Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Assessment Weekend
 Friday, 7 October – INSET day school closed for all pupils
 Friday, 21 October – school closes for half-term at 3.30 pm
 Monday, 31 October – school opens
 Friday, 16 December – school closes for Christmas
 Wednesday, 4 January – school opens