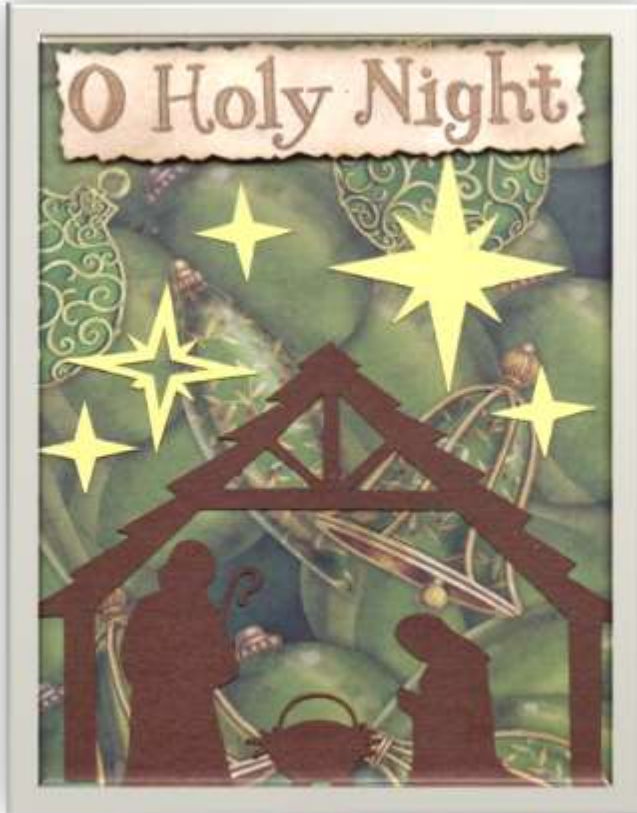


Our Lady's Catholic High School

Friday, 16 December 2022

Newsletter No 14



It has been a wonderful Autumn term with so much going on. Our Year 7 pupils have settled well into the life of our school establishing themselves as One of Ours and joining in the countless activities available to them. It has been fantastic to see lots of extra-curricular activities taking place from Sport to curriculum trips to residential visits to Berlin and Castlerigg. It has felt like the constraints of the past few years on these additional school events has finally lifted and pupils can engage with the amazing opportunities afforded them. We have finished our week with our Advent liturgies where our pupils led each year group in reflecting on the message of Christmas, calling them to be inspired, like the wise men, to follow the star that leads to Jesus – the light of the world.

We say goodbye to Mrs Sue Pickles who is retiring, we wish her well.

I share with you a reflection below from Pope Francis' Christmas homily from last year and encourage you as a family to go to the stable of

Bethlehem, whether at home or in your local church. Finally, I offer our continued thanks to you as parents for your support for the school and on behalf of the staff and governors may I wish you and your families a very happy, holy, and joyful Christmas.

Homily of Pope Francis 2021

Dear brothers and sisters, I would like to invite every man and woman to the stable of Bethlehem to adore the Son of God made man. May each one of us draw near to the crèche in our own homes or in the church or in another place, and try to make an act of adoration, inside: "I believe you are God, that this baby is God. Please, grant me the grace of humility to be able to understand."

In approaching and praying by the crib, I would like to put the poor in the front row, those whom—as Saint Paul VI used to exhort—"we must love because in a certain way they are the sacrament of Christ; in them—in the hungry, the thirsty, the exiles, the naked, the ill, prisoners—He wanted to be mystically identified. We must help them, suffer with them, and also follow them because poverty is the surest path to possess the Kingdom of God in its fullness" (Homily, May 1, 1969).

Let's return home with the angel's song: "Peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!" Let us always remember: "In this is love, not that we loved God that he loved us [...] he first loved us" (1 Jn 4:10, 19), he has sought us. Let's not forget this.

This is the reason for our joy: we are loved, we are sought for, the Lord seeks us to find us, to love us more. This is the reason for joy: knowing that we are loved without any merit, we are always loved first by God, with a love so concrete that He took on flesh and came to live in our midst., in that Baby that we see in the crib. This love has a name and a face: Jesus is the name and the face of love—this is the foundation of our joy.

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BOOO VIRTUES PUPILS

Below are some of our pupils who have shown outstanding commitment to the BOOO Virtues this week and have been chosen by their Learning Manager for recognition.

Year	Name	Form	Reason
Year 7	Kayah Jakiel	7R	For being attentive and discerning in all aspects of school life and making a fantastic start at Our Lady's.
Year 8	Meera Patel	8R	For being generous and giving to all.
Year 9	Emily Barnes	9A	For being compassionate and loving and kind to everyone she meets.
Year 10	Ava Chesworth	10R	For displaying outstanding continued commitment of our school and local community.
Year 11	Asher Shahbaz	11R	For being generous and grateful

VACANCIES

We currently have three vacancies, further details of which are available on the website:

- Marketing and Communications Officer – 30 hours per week, term-time only plus 3 days
- Temporary Pastoral Administration Assistant (maternity cover) – 27.7 hours per week, term-time only
- Learning Support Assistant – 27.7 hours per week, term-time only

YEAR 7 CHRISTMAS DISCO

On Tuesday, 13 December 123 pupils attended the Year 7 Rewards Christmas Disco. The dance floor was filled from the second the music started, and we all had a ball. From the ticket sales £100 is going to the school Christmas charity Crisis and £40 to St Anthony's club who hosted our event.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

It has been a busy few weeks in the Music Department. Earlier this week the School Choir visited Abraham House Residential Care Home, bringing with them some festive cheer! Pupils from all year groups were involved, featuring a mixture of solo performances, choral renditions and sing-along fun.

On Wednesday, the choir performed in St George's Shopping Centre, raising £120.00 for 'Crisis'. It was brilliant to see how relaxed and confident our pupils were as they sang and swayed, brightening the day of passers-by.

On Sunday, 18 December starting at 6.30pm, the choir will join with Cardinal Newman College and St Wilfred's Choir at St Wilfred's Church in Preston, as they take part in the annual Carol Service. The service is open to members of the public.

OLD TRAFFORD TRIP

On 14 December, 44 of our year 10 and 11s following the Sport Studies course attended a trip to Manchester United Football Club at Old Trafford football stadium. After a 30 minute explore of the various artefacts in the MUFC museum, the pupils participated in a workshop focussing on how the media influences many of the workings of the football club both on and off the pitch. There was an opportunity for the pupils to try on match worn shirts of their heroes (and some of their teachers' heroes) before completing a behind the scenes tour of the stadium. Pupils had access to areas such as the executive match day seating, changing rooms, players' tunnel, dug outs and press conference room, enjoying many a photo opportunity. The trip was a great success and the pupils left with new

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knowledge and understanding of examples that can be used within their coursework and exams, as well as memories and photographs of a fantastic visit.

STAFF V PUPILS NETBALL

On Thursday lunchtime the much-anticipated Teachers versus Year 10 and 11 mixed netball teams Christmas match took place. Both staff and pupils have been training hard for this event. Year 10 were first on court against the staff squad. The game was end to end with both sides making key interceptions. Teachers kept their composure under pressure and had a three-goal lead at half time. We managed to build on this in the second half and the game finished 6-0 to staff. A great effort from Year 10, they made the game a real challenge, ensuring Teachers had to work extremely hard for their goals. In the second half we faced the Year 11, who have been training as a squad for quite some time. Their experience paid off. Jay Pearson made it very difficult for us to get the ball in the circle to our shooters. Will Murray shot very well despite Mrs Murray marking him tightly as Goal Keeper. Teachers had several shots on goal, but we found it difficult to convert them and Year 11's were quick to intercept and get the ball down court. Consequently, they won 5-2.

It was a fantastic atmosphere with over 50 pupils watching and shouting encouragement to each team. We raised £55, which pupils decided to donate to Crisis. Thank you so much to the following staff who volunteered to help this brilliant event take place:

Mr Waring, Mrs Lin, Mr Newsham, Miss Lewis, Mrs Lloyd, Miss Hawksworth, Mrs McNeela, Miss Bradford, Mrs Murray, Mrs Ardern, Mrs Crossley and Mr Pill.

Dates to remember

Wednesday, 4 January – school opens
Thursday, 12 January – Year 11 Parents' Evening 2
Thursday, 26 January – Year 10 Parents' Evening
Thursday, 2 February – Year 8 Parents' Evening
Thursday, 9 February - Paris Trip
Friday, 10 February – school closes for half-term
Tuesday, 21 February – school opens
Thursday, 23 February – Year 9 Parents' Evening
Thursday, 23 March – Year 7 Parents' Evening