

Our Lady's Catholic High School

Friday, 27 January 2023

Newsletter No 18



The theme for next week is The Presentation. Luke 2 (22-32)

I have seen the salvation which you have prepared for the nations, a light to enlighten the people.

Simeon, an old prophet, has longed for this moment. He knows that God has promised to send someone to save the people, to bring new hope. When the baby Jesus is presented in the temple in Jerusalem, he is accepted, but later, as a man, the temple rejects him because they do not understand his message of love and salvation for everyone. Do we accept Christ? Can we follow his example of love and compassion? When we accept him, we too can live in peace.

Dear Lord,

Open my eyes so that I may see you. Open my lips so I may speak of you.

Open my understanding so that I may understand your Word.

Amen

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	Zack Kiraga	7O	for being attentive and curious every lesson and showing determination to succeed.
Year 8	Scarlet Stansfield	8U	For inspirational artwork being, curious and active.
Year 9	Georgia Beesley	9A	For helping and encouraging another pupil, generous and compassionate.
Year 10	Farrell Carrig	10A	For his positive attitude to work experience organisation, curious and active.
Year 11	Evie Aiton	11U	For hard work and positive attitude, learned and wise

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE – LANCASTER YOUTH 2023

This year pupils in Years 10 and 11 are invited to join the Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Travel is by coach leaving on 20 July and you would spend a week supporting the elderly, sick and disabled pilgrims from the Lancaster area. This is a life affirming and faith filled experience. Many young people choose to return year after year. The cost of the pilgrimage is £695 fully inclusive per pupil. We will be fundraising in school and pupils are encouraged to approach their own parish for a financial contribution. Interested pupils should see Sarah Lee in the Chaplaincy Office for an application form. The deadline for applications is 17 March.

YEAR 11 MOCK INTERVIEWS

As part of our preparations for Year 11 applying for college and the subsequent interviews that they will have to attend, the pupils took part in mock interviews on Tuesday. They came back to school dressed in formal interview wear ready to be grilled by over thirty members of the business community who had kindly given up their time to support our pupils. The Year 11 pupils showed what it is to be One Of Ours, giving an excellent impression of both themselves and Our Lady's. The feedback from the interviewers was glowing and each individual pupil will now receive personalised recommendations on how to improve for their next interview. We are very grateful to all of those people who gave up time to help with this incredibly worthwhile event, and we pass our congratulations on to the Year 11 pupils who performed so very well despite the nerves.

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APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITY

We have been asked to share the following information. Roberts Steel hair salon, which is situated on Garstang Road in Fulwood, has a Level 2 apprenticeship in hairdressing vacancy for 2023. It is a local family run business in its 16th year of trading. Any Year 11 pupils who are interested should send their CV to:

natalie.rs@roberts-steel.co.uk

RESPECTFUL PARKING

Unfortunately, we again have had contact from local residents reporting that our parents/carers are blocking access to their properties at school drop off and collection times. Please may we remind all parents and families the importance of road safety and respectful parking. A particular area of concern is Rossall Drive where residents are increasingly unable to leave their premises due to cars blocking them in.

PRIME

Due to the increased social and financial pressure on pupils and parents in the purchasing of this drink, we have taken the decision to ban the drink Prime at school. Should a pupil choose to bring Prime into school it will be confiscated and disposed of. It will not be returned under any circumstances. Thank you for your support.

PSHE DAY 2

On Friday, 3 February, pupils will come off timetable for the day in the second of three personal development days. These days give pupils the opportunity to develop their understanding in wider world issues and also enhance their personal skills. Each year group has a different theme tailored to their age.

Year 7 PSHE Topics: Online Safety

Your image, Online Presence, Financial Risk, Media and Online Bullying

Year 8 PSHE Topics: RSE

Puberty and Contraception, Readiness, Choices, the Law, Consent and Peer Pressure

Year 9 PSHE Topics: Fundamental British Values

Tolerance, Equality, ~Judiciary, Faith, Discrimination and Democratic processes

Year 10 PSHE Topics: Faith and Justice Day

Trading, CAFOD, Young Leaders, Injustice and Prayer and Reflection

Year 11 PSHE Topics: Being Healthy

Physical Health, Mental wellbeing, Health and prevention and Art therapy

DUKE OF EDINBURGH PROGRAMME

Last week we were delighted to be again celebrating the achievements of our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh students after a two-year break due to Covid. We would like to congratulate the 54 students in Year 10 for their dedication over the last year in completing the Duke of Edinburgh Award. To complete the Award you need time management, resilience, teamwork and leadership skills and we have seen these qualities grow and develop in the young people who took part. The Award is not just about the physical challenge, it also includes developing a skill and volunteering. At our Lady's we talk about students being One Of Ours and the qualities that being one of ours requires; we are proud with how generous our students have been with their time, supporting our school and our local community through volunteering, collectively they have contributed more than 800 hours of community service. They have been encouraged to develop a skill, and we have had a huge range of skills which have been started or enhanced through the Award. Students have also been active, improving their physical ability through taking part in both team and individual sports and they have been attentive and compassionate towards each other whilst on expedition.

On Thursday, 17 January we celebrated these achievements with a pizza party and presentation in which Jenny Tough, guest speaker, gave a motivational talk. Jenny is widely respected in the outdoor community, and it comes with good reason. In 2021, she completed a global challenge to run, solo and unsupported, across a mountain range on every continent, including three world-first traverses. She's also competed in long-distance bike packing races,

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including twice being the first woman to complete the Silk Road Mountain Race and first woman in the Atlas Mountain Race – considered two of the toughest off-road bike races. Jenny is an adventurer, film maker and author and she shared some of the stories from her challenges and the life lessons she has learned from them. Students were particularly impressed with the way Jenny showed resilience with the mantra “the harder the challenge the sweeter the reward”.

AUTHOR VISIT

On Friday, 20 January 2023 Year 7 enjoyed an author visit via Zoom from Phil Earle. Year 7 pupils thoroughly enjoyed listening to the inspiring talk by the Carnegie award winning author of his transition novel, 'When the Sky Falls'. Behaviour of the Year 7 pupils was exemplary, their participation was excellent, and the questions asked were phenomenal! Phil Earle has asked us to pass on his thanks for making the event brilliant.

BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH

This weekend marks the return of the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. Families across the UK are asked to spend an hour watching their gardens and green spaces to count the number of birds and the different species that visit. The results of this are then compiled and form the basis of the endangered species list for the next few years in the UK. The event runs across 27 - 29 January and all details, including an identification guide for the birds, can be downloaded from the RSPB website at

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/everything-you-need-to-know-about-big-garden-birdwatch/>

FREE FACE-TO-FACE TEACHER TRAINING INFORMATION EVENTS

Do you want to know more about teacher training locally? If you are (or soon to be) a graduate, you could train towards the PGCE with QTS (Qualified Teacher Status) qualification with the Catholic Teaching Alliance (CTA) in schools in the local area.

We have **two free, no obligation, information events** this term, open to undergraduates, graduates and those looking for a change of career. Come along to talk to our programme leaders.



For more information on Secondary teacher training:

Date: Friday 10 February

Time: 2.30-3.30pm

Venue: The Training Centre, Our Lady's Catholic High School, Preston PR2 3SQ

To find out more about Primary teacher training:

Date: Thursday 9th March

Time: 4.00pm – 5.00pm

Venue: Our Lady & St Edward's Primary School, Preston PR2 3LP

If you are interested in either or both events, please contact the CTA office on CTASchooldirect@olchs.lancs.sch.uk or **01772 326931** to book your place.

NETBALL RESULTS

Year 7 and 8 had their final league game of the season on Monday, away at Broughton. Both year groups had a nail-biting start with Broughton taking an early lead. However, Our Lady's fought hard and the scores were tied at half time. After a tactical chat, we came out much more positive in the second half and although the game was, once again, end to end we were able to capitalise in the shooting circle, converting more of our shots. Romy Lawrenson and Emma Finnigan shot well under pressure, despite Broughton's best attempts to stop them. Zuzanna Rapa, Brianna Cobb, Meera Patel and Macy Wilson got some fantastically well-timed interceptions to allow us to re-gain possession of the ball at critical times within the game. Consequently, Year 7 won their match 4-1. Player of the match was awarded to Romy Lawrenson. Year 8 were also victorious with a narrow 5-4 win. Player of the match

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went to Evie Mitchell, who got free from her player effectively and fed some great passes into the shooting circle. A fantastic effort from everyone involved. Both teams are in great spirits in anticipation of the upcoming Preston Schools' tournament in March.

EXAM INVIGILATORS NEEDED

As the exam season approaches, we are in need of invigilators to assist our Learning Support pupils during their exams. Full training will be given and enquires should be made to lga@olchs.lancs.sch.uk

Dates to remember

Thursday, 2 February – Year 8 Parents' Evening
Monday, 6 February – Work Experience week begins
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