

Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 3
29th September 2023



Prayer Theme Next Week: Harvest

This Sunday's Gospel is a parable about doing what God wants.

We pray for world leaders, that they will protect the Earth, our common home.

Creator of all, may our leaders know that the eyes of the world are on them. Fill them with wisdom as they make decisions for the planet and its people. Help them to think about the poorest people first.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We pray for world leaders: that they may make wise decisions for the good of all the members of our global family.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all the food God has provided. May all leaders work together so that everyone has enough to eat.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Loving God, we stand
with our sisters and brothers,
who have done little to cause
the climate crisis,
yet are forced to endure its impacts.
Give us determination
to work with them for justice,
generosity
to share your gifts more fairly,
and inspiration
to care for creation together,
until everyone can live life to the full.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Connie Richardson
Learned and wise

Year 8: Dominik Dabrowski
Kind and compassionate

Year 9: Hannah Bree and
Charlotte Walker
Loving and compassionate

Year 10: Jack Lancaster
Attentive and discerning

Year 11: Farrell Carrig
Compassionate and loving



GCSE Art Gallery

Please click on the image below to view an interactive gallery of a small selection of GCSE art work from our 2023 cohort.



Pupil Fundraisers

Hannah Bree and Charlotte Walker, two of our Year 9 pupils, hosted a coffee morning and raffle at St Anthony's church on 24 September to raise money to help towards cost of Castlerigg for those struggling financially.

The girls raised £85 and as such, both girls have been nominated for the BOOO prize for year 9 this week, demonstrating our virtues of being loving and compassionate. Well done to both Charlotte and Hannah.



European Day of Languages

As part of our celebrations for European Day of Languages this week, pupils and staff have been greeting each other in a different language each day. We had Italian on Monday, Bulgarian on Tuesday, German on Wednesday, Portuguese on Thursday and French on Friday.



In addition, we have had a form quiz running in each year group and pupils have been invited to complete the individual passport challenge to earn green writing rewards points. They can join the European Day of Languages Teams group with the code hp06fkq and the deadline to hand in to Mrs Crossley in Room 46 is Monday 2nd October.



Lancashire Fire and Rescue Visit

On Friday 22nd September Mark Woodward visited school to talk to Year 8 about what Lancashire Fire and Rescue do, the dangers of Bonfire Night, and about the career opportunities within the service. The pupils were mesmerised by his speech and found it very difficult to believe that every firefighter has only 1 minute 30 seconds to get to their fire engine once a call has been made. Mark then answered some very thought provoking questions from the pupils.



Castlerigg

The first groups of Year 7 pupils have arrived and are settling in to enjoy the activities at Castlerigg



Fleetwood Triathlon

Congratulations to Thomas Beesley (70), Jake Blackhurst (10L) and Finley Murray (10L) who took part in the Fleetwood Triathlon on Sunday to round off the season. All competed hard in their different age groups and enjoyed the competition. A brilliant achievement by them all.

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Practice Expedition

Two weeks ago a group of Year 11 students completed their Silver DofE practice expedition in the Yorkshire Dales. These are the reflections from one of the group members.

The mornings were spent preparing ourselves for the walk 15 km walk everyday that some hoped would be our last or others who were excited for the next. The nights were spent together singing and looking at the sky, a great feeling after hours of treacherous and hill-filled walking.

When we walked through the villages, we marvelled at the pre-modern era of architecture coupled with the beautiful hillside landscape; it made it an amazing place to walk around in.

During our DofE expedition, we had many highs and lows. There were times during our journey where we were all very exhausted, but after we pushed through the exhaustion, we had a runner's high type of feeling. This happened at various points, like the top of a massive hill or after long stretches of farm land after farm land.

Furthermore, the memories that we shared in DofE will live with us forever, one of the best times in our lives where we experienced true gratitude for our work and dedication to finish.

This weekend they are on their assessment in the Lake District. We wish them all the very best of luck and good weather.

Open Evening

I wrote to parents last week to give an update on the remedial work being carried out following the change in government guidance surrounding RAAC. We have been delighted to welcome all our pupils back into school and they have responded incredibly well to the change in logistics around using outside paths to get to their classrooms. The building contractors are working hard, and they plan to have completed the remedial work in the small sections of corridors by October half-term which will enable access to all our classrooms.

As we have several corridors with restricted access, we have taken the decision to postpone our annual Open Evening which was due to take place on Thursday 5th October. Each year we welcome over a thousand visitors through the door on the evening but with the restricted access to certain areas of the school it just would not be possible to accommodate everyone. In its place we will be hosting a Virtual Open Event which will go live on our school website on 5th October. The following week, we will also hold our Open Day tours which we hold each year however, this year we will increase the number we offer. We will be opening online booking for these tours shortly via our website.

On Thursday 5th October, school will finish at our normal time as there is no requirement to prepare the building for an in person Open Evening. Friday 6th October remains an INSET day with pupils at home as per our published calendar.

Mr Charnock

Open Day Visits

We are delighted to announce that booking is now open for our Open Day visits which will take place during the week of Monday, 9 October – Friday, 13 October. These visits are for Year 6 pupils and their parents/carers only. If you would like to book a place, please follow the link below to request a ticket for each person attending, for example for 1 pupil and 2 parents you will need to book 3 tickets.

www.ticketsource.co.uk/our-ladys-catholic-high

Information

Admissions 2024

The process of applying for high school places for September 2024 has now begun for year 6 pupils. Parents wishing to choose Our Lady's should apply online by following the link below or via the link on the school website.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/starting-secondary-school/>

Parents should ensure that preferences are selected in the correct order as Lancashire County council always aim to offer places in order of preference. Please be aware that it is necessary to apply even if a brother or sister is already at our lady's and it is imperative that all applications are received before the deadline of 31 October 2023.

In addition to the Lancashire application process, we ask that a supplementary information form is completed if you wish to be considered on faith grounds. The online form is available for completion on the school website www.olchs.lancs.sch.uk on the admissions page. To provide a baptismal certificate or faith reference please email admissions@olchs.lancs.sch.uk. We no longer accept paper copies of the supplementary form.

Parent Governor Election

Pupils who are the youngest in the family will be bringing home ballot papers for the Parent Governor Election this week. If you wish to vote, please follow the instructions, complete and return the ballot paper in the envelope provided by Monday, 9 October at 12 noon.

Homework

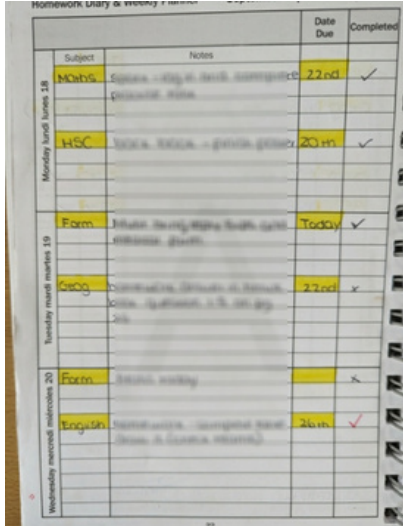
This week, all pupils have received their homework timetables. As we know, homework plays a significant role in our pupils' academic progress, and we greatly appreciate your support in this regard.

Each homework task is designed to take approximately 20-45 minutes to complete. We firmly believe that through the consistent completion of their homework assignments, pupils not only reinforce the lessons they learn in class and deepen their understanding of the subject matter, but also cultivate valuable skills in time management and independence.

To ensure your child is on track with their homework, we kindly request your involvement. Please take a moment to engage with your child regarding their homework assignments. You can ask them to show you their planners or the completed homework tasks to get a sense of their progress.

We understand that some pupils may require a quiet space to focus on their homework. Our Learning Resource Centre (LRC) is available every day until 4.30pm (4pm on Tuesday), providing a peaceful environment for pupils to work on their assignments. Please encourage your child to take advantage of this resource, if needed.

If, at any point, your child is struggling with their homework or has questions about the assignments, we strongly encourage them to reach out to their teachers. They should approach their teachers for clarification or assistance before the deadline. Additionally, you can support your child by reminding them to communicate with their teachers or assist them in sending an email if necessary.



	Subject	Notes	Date Due	Completed
Monday June 18	Maths	Circle - day in week, compass	22nd	✓
	HSC	Area, Perim. - grade 6/7	20th	✓
	Form	Home Learning Skills Book	Today	✓
Tuesday June 19	CoG	Constructive, Growth in School	22nd	✓
Wednesday June 20	Form	Home Learning		✓
	Eng Lit	Home Learning - compare text	26th	✓

We want to express our gratitude in advance for your support in these crucial educational activities. Together, we can help our pupils thrive academically and reach their full potential.

Information



Parent or carer



You can text a school nurse on

07312263554

We can help with all kinds of things like.....

Emotional Health & Wellbeing
Keeping Healthy Bedwetting
Sleep Bullying Dental Health
Growing Up Keeping Safe
Support with Medical Conditions
in School

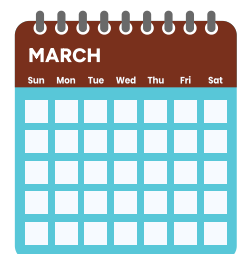
Confidentiality

We might inform someone if we are concerned about the safety of you, your child or someone else but we would usually speak to you first. Your messages are stored and can be seen by other healthcare staff who follow the same confidentiality rules. We aim to reply to you within one working day and you should get an immediate message back to confirm we have received your text. Texts will only be seen between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays). If you need help before you hear back from us, contact your GP, nearest walk-in centre or dial 111. If it is an emergency call 999 or go to the emergency department (A&E). Our text number does not receive voice calls or MMS picture messages. We support messaging from UK mobile numbers only (which does not include messages sent from landlines, international mobile numbers and some 'number masking' mobile apps). To prevent the health professional from sending messages to you, text STOP to our number. Messages are charged at your usual rates.



Dates for your Diary

- Monday 2 October - 7R and 7L go on Castlerigg retreat
- Friday 6 October - INSET day, school closed
- Tuesday 10 October - Year 7 Information Evening
- Wednesday 11 October - 7A and 7D go on Castlerigg retreat
- Friday 20 October - School closes for half-term
- Monday 30 October - Pupils return
- Tuesday 31 October - Year 11 speed networking event
- Thursday 2 November - Year 11 Parents Evening 1
- Wednesday 15 November - PSHE Day 1
- Thursday 16 November - Certificate Evening



Being One of Ours

Careers

Information Assemblies - Careers Week beginning 2nd October

Next week during Careers Information Assemblies each year group will have the opportunity to meet various representatives from a wide range of occupations. It is the responsibility of the Careers Lead teacher to ensure that all pupils at OLCHS are exposed to lots of different career opportunities and have the chance to ask questions and explore further if they would like to do so.

Every school is guided by The Gatsby Benchmarks when it comes to careers in education. Each of the 8 benchmarks is very specific and it is important that all pupils experience all eight. Next week all pupils will experience benchmark 5 - encounters with employers and employees. During your child's time at Our Lady's we aim to hit all of the benchmarks. If you would like further information on The Gatsby Benchmarks please click the link below.

<https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/careers-leaders/gatsby-benchmarks/>



Online Career Days

See below for dates of career and work experience days taking place online over the next couple of months. These are for students aged 13-18, they can register to join the online days through the website.

The days are designed to give students an insight into possible future careers with advice on how to apply to university followed by an afternoon session of work experience to help them see what the career may be like. Students will receive a certificate confirming their work experience.

Performing Arts Career Day - Saturday 30th September 2023

Medicine Career Day - Saturday 7th October 2023

Midwifery Career Day - Saturday 21st October 2023

Dentistry Career Day - Saturday 28th October 2023

Business Career Day - Sunday 5th November 2023

Psychology Career Day - Saturday 11th November 2023

Architect Career Day - Saturday 18th November 2023

Vet Career Day - Saturday 25th November 2023

Law Career Day - Saturday 2nd December 2023

Computer Science Career Day - Saturday 9th December 2023

Students can visit www.careerdays.co.uk to join a session in their field of interest and will receive a certificate at the end of the day confirming their work experience.