

Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 5
13th October 2023



Prayer Theme Next Week: Chosen (Matthew 22: 1 – 14)

Invite everyone you can to the wedding.

In this Sunday's Gospel, everyone is invited to the wedding feast. Some of the guests are caught off guard and are not dressed in their finest clothes for the celebration. How prepared are we for the feast that God invites us to? Are we too distracted with other things? St Paul perfectly describes the clothing that God intends us to wear.

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience... Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. (Col 3: 12 – 15)

Lord,

May we clothe ourselves in compassion and love. We especially pray all those affected by conflict and natural disasters in our world today.

May the peace of Christ reign in our hearts.

Amen

BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Lukas Lublinskis - intentional and prophetic

Aurelia Sawka - intentional and prophetic

Year 8: Charlotte Dudaniec - attentive and discerning

Year 9: Ellie Roberts - intentional and prophetic

Year 10: Grace Collum - generous

Year 11: Taylan Brown - intentional and prophetic



Being One of Ours

Dia de la Hispanidad

Thursday 12th October is Dia de la Hispanidad.

This is the National Day of Spain and is celebrated as a day commemorating Spanish legacy worldwide.



To celebrate, some Year 8 and 9 pupils attended a lunchtime fiesta, trying Spanish food, listening to Spanish music and having a go at a piñata!

National Black History Month Poetry Competition 2023

October is Black History Month; the month presents an opportunity for children and young people to learn more about Black history and to celebrate the contributions black people have made to society. Each week in October we will remember the actions of an individual who hasn't always received the respect or recognition they deserve because of the colour of their skin.



This year, nationally Black History Month is dedicated to honouring the achievements of black women, with the theme of 'saluting our sisters'. We are delighted to launch the National Black History Month Poetry Competition 2023. We want to honour the amazing achievements and contributions of black women in various fields – from literature, music, science, politics, and social care to campaigners, nurses, and everyday heroes who have made a difference to our lives.

We hope to recognise the significant impact of black women in a range of areas, while inspiring and empowering future generations. Students can submit a poem about a pioneering black woman who has made an impact in their chosen field, explaining why she is an inspiration to you. Students should remember, the poems don't have to be about famous people; they can be about members of your family, women who have inspired you in your community, or even about you and your experiences as a woman or young person. We want you to get creative and have fun with it!

All poems should be submitted to Mrs McNeela (cma@olchs.lancs.sch.uk) by 10th November and will be entered into a national competition which will be judged by a panel made up of experts from the world of poetry and literature. They will consider creativity and originality. The judges will be looking for poems that capture the spirit of Black History Month and celebrate the achievements and contributions of black women with winners announced on world poetry day which is celebrated on 21 March 2024.

Reflections from Castlerigg

Some of the Year 7 pupils shared their experiences on retreat at Castlerigg

As soon as we got to Castlerigg I instantly felt taken care of, there was a good mix of activities and down time with our mates. The main focus was Growth and we thought of ways we can grow and other things can grow. For example we thought of ways plants can grow, to stay healthy they need food, water, sun light which we found out wasn't too far off what we need to survive. We also went for a walk into the town and it led us to a lake which we got to skim stones in. That was fun.

For three days we went to Castlerigg and we had lots of fun!

On the first day, we got an introduction to Castlerigg and our theme was growth. During the evening, we did some group work with people we don't usually talk to. This helped us make new friends and work with different people within our form.

The next day we went the Lake District and at night we got to have a party and even the nun and priest started dancing!

I really recommend this to future Year 7s!

As soon as we got to Castlerigg I knew that we would have a good time! Our theme was growth, we got to do many fun activities based of this theme such as planting out very own bulb!

I definitely recommend this experience to the next group of Year 7s because it is a place that I will never forget! We learnt so much about Jesus and God and did many fun games!

Police Officer Visit

On Friday morning Maria Morris from Lancashire police came into school to talk to Y7 about her career in the police force. She spoke about why she entered the profession and the highs and lows of being an officer, including helping lots of people when they need it most, supporting sometimes the most vulnerable people of society. Maria used to attend OLCBS and will be the first member of our brand new Alumni Group. We absolutely love it when past pupils are involved in shaping our current pupils and helping guide them with their future choices.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

This year 17 pupils took part in the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award. There are four sections to complete the Silver Award. They involve helping the community/environment, becoming fitter, developing new skills, planning, training for and completing an expedition. Through a DofE programme young people have fun, make friends, improve their self-esteem and build confidence. They gain essential skills and attributes for work and life such as resilience, problem-solving, team-working, communication and drive, enhancing CVs and university and job applications. Top employers recognise the work-ready skills Award holders bring to their business.

Last weekend the students completed their 3 day assessed expedition in the Lake District. This involved walking a route they had planned through checkpoints to meet their assessor as well as carrying all the food and equipment they needed for the 3 days in their rucksacks. The route took them from the Ferry at Windermere south towards Newby Bridge taking in Gummars Howe before heading back North again to finish in Windermere.



This account of the award was written by Mark Anas.

The Silver Duke of Edinburgh award is a great way to challenge yourself and your friends. Leading up to our silver award we did 6 months of volunteering (eg, some people worked at a charity shop), in addition to this 6 months of physical activities (eg, going to the gym) and finally, we did 6 months of a skill (eg, cooking).

For our Duke of Edinburgh expedition, we had to work as a team to pack as light and strategically as possible to give ourselves the best chance at succeeding. We had to pre-plan meals and sort who carried which parts of the group kit. In addition, the company gave us special equipment to ensure our safety.

Day 1 started smoothly, morale was high, and singing up the hills and valleys really helped distract us from the steep ramps and helped us pace ourselves. However, as the early dusk rose, we got lost next to a large hill. We eventually realised that we were only 50 metres away from the path but this delay meant we got into camp 1 in the dark.

Day 2 started equally as well, but everyone's morale was at a mediocre level. Singing improved the mood and kept it there. The start of this day was a lot less hilly and much more down hill, but this also meant that the end was full of large hills and at one point a fell with over 310 metres of elevation.

Day 3 started with a little uphill and high morale (because it was the last day). This was the first time we tried to change the morale booster to instead of singing it becomes constant conversation. This ended up not working and we reverted. We finished the walk in Windermere in the sunshine with a huge sense of achievement.

Many of these students are keen to go onto do the Gold Award later this year which, if achieved, will be celebrated at an Awards ceremony at Buckingham place or St James Palace. We are really proud of all of their achievements and wish them luck if they go onto other Awards.

Netball

The Year 11 netball squad were away to Corpus on Thursday. The A team were up first against a strong Corpus side. We played well in the first half and the game was end to end, with neither team being able to gain a substantial lead. At half time, there were just two goals in it with Corpus ahead 8-6. After a few tactical changes, we came out positively in the second half and dominated the play. Despite fighting hard, Corpus extended their lead to win 12 goals to seven. Player of the match went to Katie Brown. She made several key interceptions down court and got numerous rebounds in Corpus' shooting circle.

The B team game followed. Yet again, we faced Corpus' A team and so it was always going to be a tough match. However, the girls did not let this deter them and they had a strong first half trailing by just 3 goals at the interval. Again, the second half was end to end. Unfortunately, we just struggled with the final pass

into the circle to shoot. Captain, Freya Jones led by example and fought hard to win the ball, whilst Ella Lee had a strong game at Centre, working the ball effectively down court. In the end though, Corpus were just too strong and the final score was 7 goals to 1 in our opponent's favour. Player of the match went to Gaby Karakasheva thanks to her tireless work centre court getting into space and creating numerous attacking opportunities.



Girls Football

Both U14 and U16 were in action this week against Broughton. Under 14s lost 2-1 unfortunately. With some great chances in front of the net it simply wasn't our day. Huge well done to all players. Player of the game was Georgia Collum.

U16s played some lovely football especially down the wings. We defended hard and created some wonderful opportunities that just didn't end in the back of the net. The final score was 2-0 to Broughton although OLCHS took the points due to default. Player of the match went to Heidi Clark.

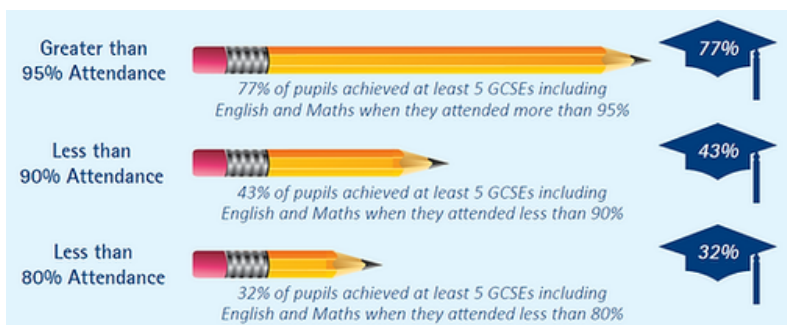
Football Results

Year 8 football - The Year 8A team suffered a couple of agonising losses over the past week. Losing 5-1 to Corpus Christi and 5-2 to Ashton CSC. The team felt disappointed with the results as it did not reflect their passion and determination in both games. Bobbie Burnett-Cherry has continued his goal scoring run, netting 5 goals in total so far.

Year 10 football - The Year 10 team began their league campaign with a narrow 2-1 loss against Ashton CSC. After taking the lead through Josh Barritt the team were pegged back after some impressive midfield work from the visitors. Harrison Collinson and Heidi Clark maintained composure on the ball to encourage the team to play some nice football from the back until a couple of loose passes were picked up by the Ashton midfield and two looping shots from distance hit the back of the net to give Ashton the 2-1 victory.

Information

Attendance



A reminder of the importance of good attendance in helping pupils to achieve their potential.

Pupil wellbeing and achievement depend on regular attendance in school.

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.

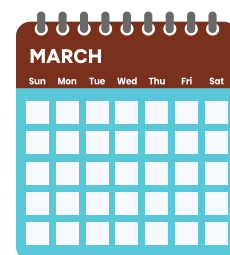
<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/starting-secondary-school/>

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.

Dates for your Diary

- 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
- Friday 17 November - Celebration Morning
- Thursday 21 December - School closes for Christmas break



Careers

Runshaw College Visit



As part of the careers journey for Year 11, Runshaw College attended school on Monday morning to speak directly with Year 11 about their choices when they leave OLCHS. All aspects of the College were discussed including A levels, apprenticeships and uniformed courses along with their state-of-the-art medicine facilities. We would like to thank Runshaw for coming into school and sharing the opportunities they have on offer.

Cardinal Newman Open Day

Reminder - It is Cardinal Newman Open Day this Saturday. Please use the link below to book on. All pupils in Years 10 and 11 are encouraged to view as many different colleges as possible to ensure they find the right place and course for them.

<https://www.cardinalnewman.ac.uk/apply-now/open-events>

Youth Engagement Opportunity

Preston Hospital youth participation groups are looking for new members who are interested in improving the services and opportunities offered to children and young people attending hospital or outreach services in the local area.

It is a good opportunity to build volunteering for C.V and college and university applications. The forum has previously supported improvements in the facilities of the ward, changes to the way some services run and changing the way in which transition through services happens.

They are looking for a range of young people who would like to be involved, those who have lived experience of the services we provide as well as anyone wanting to make a difference to the services they provide.



Do you want your voice to be heard?

We are young people in Lancashire passionate about improving the NHS for other young people.

- We meet on a monthly basis on a Wednesday at Education Centre 1 in Royal Preston Hospital
- Develop your skills whilst volunteering
- We meet for 2 hours from 6pm to 8pm
- For ages 11-18yr

Everyone is welcome, come along if you want your voice to be heard.

@LancsHospYV



Youth Voice
Email: Youth.Voice@LTHTR.nhs.uk

Careers

OLCHS Vacancies

The following vacancies are advertised on the school website:

Marketing and Communications Officer – Grade 5 – 30 hours per week – Monday-Friday, 9.00 am – 3.30 pm

Closing date – Monday, 30 October at 12 noon.

Assistant Business Manager – 37 hours per week – Monday-Thursday, 8.00 am until 4.00 pm and Friday, 8.00 am to 3.30 pm.

Closing date – Monday, 30 October at 12 noon.

Temporary Learning Support Officer – Grade 4 – 27.67 hours per week – Monday 8.40 am until 3.00 pm, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8.55 am until 3.00 pm and Tuesday 8.55 am until 2.30 pm

Closing date – Tuesday, 7 November at 12 noon.

IT Technician – full time 37 hours per week – Grade 5

Closing date – Friday, 17 November at 12 noon.