

# Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 10

24th November 2023



## Prayer Theme Next Week: Youth. (Isaiah 43:1)

*Have no fear, I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. (Isaiah 43:1)*

On National Youth Sunday (The Feast of Christ the King) the WORLDWIDE Church celebrates and prays especially for all young people. Pope Francis used the reading above from Isaiah to address the youth at World Youth Day this year. This also applies to you, young or old! In God's eyes, we are all precious children, and he calls us each day in order to embrace and encourage us, to make of us a unique and original masterpiece.

*Let us reflect.*

Each of us is an "original", whose beauty we can only begin to glimpse.

Each of us is called by name.

All of us have been called by name.

Not impersonally,

but by name.

*(Pope Francis, World Youth Day 2023)*

## BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Amelia Buchan and Rose Bartlett - compassionate and loving

Year 8: Annette Joseph - attentive and discerning

Year 9: Hannah Bree - compassionate and loving

Year 10: Grace Collum - attentive and discerning

Year 11: Sirona McGuire - intentional and prophetic



*Being One of Ours*

## Personal Development – Curriculum for Life

On Wednesday 15th November pupils experienced their first PSHE Day of the academic year.

**Year 7** covered the theme of 'Be Healthy'. Topics included deciding how to eat well, reaching puberty and adolescence, pregnancy and reproduction, maintaining a healthy work/life balance and characteristics of mental health.

**Year 8** held a 'Faith and Justice' Day. Topics included prayer, equality, refugees, faith in action, volunteering and stewardship. With special thanks to the external guest speakers from CAFOD.

**Year 9** focussed upon 'Mental Health' with sessions on wellbeing, mindfulness, coping strategies, spotting the signs, social media and mental health, signposting where to find help.

**Year 10** looked at 'Healthy Relationships' covering marriage and family, adoption, consent, drug awareness, reproduction and sexual health.

**Year 11** held their 'Futures Day' with a theme of achieving future success. Sessions included Post-16 choices, CV writing, mock interview preparation, personal statements, apprenticeships, finance management. A huge thank you to Compass Bloom, Channel 3 Consulting and Ask Apprenticeships for their expert inputs on the day.

Feedback on the day has been really positive and we look forward to the next PSHE Day taking place on Monday 22nd January.

## Year 8 Geography

Last week 8B1 completed a wonderful piece of homework which was designed to develop their research and academic writing skills and also their use of tier 3 language in Geography. Students applied themselves really well to the task and there were some wonderful articles which would not be out of place in the Wideworld geographical magazine. Special mention to Zack Kiraga and Lacey Wlazlo for going above and beyond.



# Sporting News

## Year 9 Rugby

The Year 9 rugby team played two fixtures at Preston Grasshoppers RFC on Monday 20th November as part of the Preston Schools' district competition. The team played both Archbishop Temple and Ashton Community Science College and played with tremendous heart and commitment. We were unfortunately beaten in both games by some very strong and fast individuals from both opposition teams however the quality of rugby played by Our Lady's was often more impressive.



We did not quite take advantage of some excellent counter-rucking opportunities but the squad did make some excellent progress. Jayden Beetham scored an excellent solo try after being released with the ball on his own 20m line by Archie Latham and managed to sprint the length of the field to score.

Other members of the squad included Oliver Mitchell, Calvin Maduka, Oliver Mower, Owen Dalton, Patrick McCaul, George Hargreaves, Jared Palmer, Joshua Davies, William McBride and Finlay Mitchell.

## U14 Basketball

The combined Year 8 and 9 basketball team have entered two squads in the Lancashire Cup this year and it was the turn of the A team to play a fixture this week. They travelled to Tarleton Academy on Wednesday 22nd November and recorded an excellent 38-14 victory to put them at the top of their group after 2 games so far. The points were evenly shared around the 10 player squad, though some stand out performances came from Thomas Williams and Jack Fletcher. Their ball handling and direct drives towards the basket were often too good to stop. Others in the winning team included Finlay Mitchell, Sam Walmsley, Charlie Whelan, Bobby Peace, Bobby Walsh, Oliver Kelly, Patrick McCaul and Daniel Holden. The team's final opponents will be Ormskirk School in early December.

## Years 7 and 8 Netball

Years 7 and 8 travelled to St. Cecilia's on Thursday last week for their first away game of the season. Teams 7A and 8A played first. Both got off to flying starts, building a substantial lead by half time. It was really pleasing to hear both teams encouraging each other throughout the matches, demonstrating great sportsmanship. We utilised the skills and tactics practised during training. Consequently, 7A won 9-0 and 8A won 7-2.

Next, it was the turn of 7B and 8B. Again, they started positively and had the majority of possession. Unfortunately, we were unable to capitalise on our shooting opportunities when we got the ball into the circle. There was lots of good netball displayed. However, St. Cecilia's had the edge throughout. Both matches were closely contested, with 7B losing by just one goal and 8B losing by two.

# Sporting News

## Years 9 and 10 Netball

The Years 9 and 10 netball teams were away at Broughton on Thursday in the Preston Schools' netball league. 9A won their game 19 goals to 2. The whole team worked well to bring the ball down court and showed great consistency in the execution of skills and tactics. Player of the match went to Macy Wilson.

Year 10A had a tense game, end to end right until the final whistle. The final score was 7-6 in our favour. The whole team showed great tenacity and really pulled together when it was truly needed. Player of the match was awarded to Heidi Clark.

Year 9B and 10B, once again were faced with tough matches, playing Broughton's A teams as they are not able to field B teams. Both Our Lady's teams worked tirelessly, and the scores remained close throughout the duration of the matches. Broughton won the Year 10 match 7-2. Player of the match went to Nicola Zamorowska. The Year 9 game was also close with Broughton winning by just four goals. Player of the match went to Emma Gates.

## Year 7 Handball

On Monday evening, our Year 7s played their first handball fixture of the year against Eden Boys' and the standard of play was very high. Our Lady's got off to a strong start, moving the ball well and finding themselves in great positions. Had it not been for an outstanding performance from the Eden goalkeeper, we could have been out of sight by half time.

A formational reshuffle after half time allowed players to experience different roles within the team. More fantastic work across all areas of the court saw more goals for both teams.

Final Score: Eden Boys' 5 - 6 Our Ladys.

Stand out performances: Christian Bunev and Olivier Ruszkiewicz

## U15 Girls Football

On Monday the U15 girls football team played Broughton in the next round of the English Schools' Cup. This was an eagerly anticipated fixture. The girls from both schools are team mates at the weekends, they know each other's key players which made the tactics and formation of play very interesting.

We knew it would be a very tight game and could easily have gone to penalties. The large pitch really suits OLCHS, the girls are used to playing and passing the ball with more space and this really paid off. At half-time we were in the lead by 1 goal due to a brilliant strike from Holly Wilson.

The second half was very physical with opportunities for both teams especially OLCHS who had two free kicks directly in front of the goal, but it wasn't to be. With 10 minutes to go, Holly Wilson found space from a pass from Georgia Collum and scored another wonderful goal.

It was a fantastic game and so we head proudly on into the next round against Kirkbie Kendal School.



# Information

## Big Ambition Survey

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel De Souza, has launched a campaign called The Big Ambition. The Big Ambition provides a much-needed opportunity for the children of England to tell political decision makers what is important to them ahead of the General Election. She will be sharing their responses with Government to ensure that children's voices are heard. It is open to pupils and parents and can be accessed on the link below:

[www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition)

## Scholastic Book Fair



The Scholastic book fair is coming to our school on Wednesday, 29th November until Tuesday 5th December. It is being held in the LRC and all pupils will be welcome to view the selection of books at break time, lunchtime or after school. As Christmas is approaching, this is a great opportunity to stock up on new & exciting bestselling series, non-fiction and classics.

Every book purchased at our book fair helps our school to earn free books for the library. A cash-only system will operate. You can peruse the books online in advance at <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/bookcases/tt>

## Year 11 Careers - Mock Interviews

On Tuesday 30th January, our annual Mock Interviews will take place in school from 3pm for Year 11 pupils. This involves the pupils being asked a series of questions in an interview setting to prepare them for the future. We are looking for volunteers to conduct the interviews and aim to match pupils to a sector they may be interested in. If you feel this is something you could help with, please email [careers@olchs.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:careers@olchs.lancs.sch.uk) with your name and include your role within the organisation where you work.



# Information

## SCHOOL SYNERGY

UPDATE - accounts have now been created for pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 to access their pupil app to see clubs, behaviour points and any class messages. The login works from their school Microsoft office 365 email.

To download the app pupils can click on the following links or search for School synergy student Select Our Lady's Catholic High School then login using Microsoft SSO

Google: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.synergy.student>

Apple: <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/synergy-student/id6444856817>

Take a 2 minute tour of the Student Portal <https://vimeo.com/499996009/88f1948328> . \*Please note. We are not currently using the homework feature on School synergy as homework is set and written in their school planner.

For information on how to login and navigate follow the linked image to the right to view a PowerPoint slideshow.

Should you have any problems logging in please email school.



**Other Year groups** - A message will go home when the next year groups are enabled. This is to allow the IT team to attend to any issues that arise with each year group.

## Kooth

Free, safe and anonymous support for young people  
<https://www.kooth.com/>



## Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 22 November to Friday 1 December - Year 11 GCSE Mock Examinations

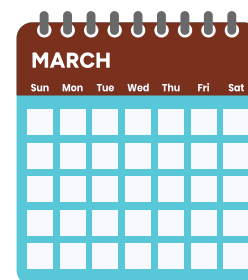
Wednesday 29 November to Tuesday 5 December - Book fair in the LRC

Wednesday 6 December - Primary Advent Service at St Anthony's Church at 6.00pm  
Refreshments in St Anthony's school beforehand at 5.30pm

Thursday 14 December - Christmas Lunch

Thursday 21 December - School closes for Christmas break at 12.40pm

Monday 8 January - All pupils return to school



# Careers

## Careers Cafe

On Thursday morning we welcomed Paul from Wade Construction to speak to a group of pupils who have shown a genuine interest in careers in the construction industry. Paul is a plasterer by trade, has been self-employed and now manages large projects around Lancashire for Wade Construction. He shared his insight and knowledge of the construction industry, of every step, from drawings to completion, with the pupils. The group asked pertinent questions in relation to working hours, apprenticeships, money earning potential and what life is like on a construction site. We were very fortunate to have this careers exposure as the building industry is very busy at the moment.



On 7th December the Careers Cafe will be hosting a local solicitor to meet pupils who are interested in careers in the legal field.

## The National Apprenticeship Show

On Friday 24 November Mrs Lin, Miss Halfpenny and 14 pupils travelled on the school minibus to the M&S Bank arena to experience, firsthand, the National Apprenticeship Show. Pupils showing a genuine interest in apprenticeships were invited and Mrs Lin felt that this was an opportunity that we simply couldn't miss. Over 40 exhibitors were at the show so the pupils were able to have meaningful exposure over a wide range of careers. Pupils discovered how to apply for an apprenticeship, the grades needed and hopefully made some valuable connections.



# Careers

## College Applications

Now that pupils have had visits from all the local colleges it is application time. Mrs Lin is aware that many pupils have submitted applications already and congratulates them. We urge any pupil who has not applied to do so before 15 December.



## OLCHS Alumni Group

It gives me great pleasure to announce former head-girl Emma Wilson, now a nurse, is the latest member of our newly created OLCHS Alumni Group. Emma epitomises everything that 'Being one of ours' means and we are delighted that she has joined our community. Emma recently came back into school to share her wealth of nursing knowledge and experience with current pupils our Careers Cafe.



Please follow the link to join the Alumni Group:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdXEOM9zjKi8Kj4GzxnEpXTHTIKt3nTbyclQ00K2-vqk3DFpg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdXEOM9zjKi8Kj4GzxnEpXTHTIKt3nTbyclQ00K2-vqk3DFpg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Thanks, Mrs Lin



# Careers

## OLCHS Vacancy - Marketing and Communications Officer

We have an exciting opportunity for someone to join our team. If you or someone you know might be interested in this role please read the information below and click on the link for the job pack.

Are you looking for a role which is fulfilling with a real sense of satisfaction? As our Marketing & Communications Officer, you'll have the opportunity to do something amazing.

We know that our Support Staff make a real difference to the success of our school and to every staff member and pupil in it. Everything we do is aimed at providing outstanding teaching, learning and support to our young people. We are extremely proud of our school, and we want to be able to promote that. As our Marketing & Communications Officer, you will be part of a great school and play a key part in our continuing success.

Are you looking for a role which is rewarding and fits around you? An opportunity to be part of our school community and to help promote our school whilst having the time to live your life? You get to do both working in this role. Working term time, in school hours means you can have the best of both worlds - a satisfying career and time for other commitments.

We are now recruiting for this important role and details can be found as [www.olchs.lancs.sch.uk/vacancies](http://www.olchs.lancs.sch.uk/vacancies)

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