

Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 11
1st December 2023



Prayer Theme Next Week: Advent. Be ready! (Matthew 24: 37 – 44)

'Stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

(Matthew 24:44)

The four weeks of Advent are a time of preparation and of waiting – waiting for the return of Christ at the end of time; and waiting to celebrate once again the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. So, we gather to begin our time of waiting and preparation. Together we will share our story of God who - before time began – loved us, chose to come among us, and knew that we would gather here today. It is a story that ends in light but begins in darkness.

Advent is a journey that we each make, a journey that is often full of the bright lights of distraction – present buying, food shopping, decorating our homes. This year we have seen more and more people displaced through war, conflict and natural disasters. Pope Francis asks us to hold in prayer all people who are making journeys during Advent.

(CAFOD REFLECTION)

God of peace

As we prepare to celebrate your birth may we find time to quieten our hearts and our minds in this busy world.

Lord, may we be witnesses to this indescribable peace.

Amen.

BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Sam Bolton - curious and active

Year 8: Caitlin Lambley - compassionate and discerning

Year 9: Charlie Whelan - curious and active

Year 10: Bartosz Kazmierczak - faith filled and hopeful

Year 11: All Year 11 pupils - attentive and discerning throughout their mock examinations



Being One of Ours

Year 11 Mock Examinations

This week our Year 11 pupils have worked exceedingly hard completing their mock exams. Over the week they have spent in total over 22 hours completing these exams and have had a real taste of what it means to sit a full suite of GCSE examinations.



At all times the Year 11 pupils have behaved amazingly and their conduct in the examination room has been absolutely perfect, we are all incredibly proud of the way that they have conducted themselves over the past 8 days and we hope that this preparation for the summer will stand them in very good stead. They will receive their examination results early in the New Year and we keep our fingers crossed that they get the grades that they deserve. Well done Year 11!

Year 8 Rugby

The Year 8 rugby team played their two first fixtures of the year at Preston Grasshoppers RFC on 27th November. Their opponents were Ashton CSC and Archbishop Temple and although Our Lady's were not victorious in either of these games it was tremendous to see the development they have made since Year 7.

Sam Walmsley scored an outstanding individual try, evading numerous opponents to make it beyond the try line and he followed this up with a successful conversion kick over the posts. The team will have another round of games in the new year and are already looking to improve on their results. Other members of the team included Bobby Peace, Oliver Kelly, David Baginski, William Fox, Ajit Singh, Andreas Egidi, Filipp Kondrashov and Patrick Taaffe.



U14 Girls Football

On Tuesday 28th November the U14 girls travelled to Longridge to compete in a league fixture. With a depleted team due to absence and injury, we knew we had a tough game on our hands. The fixture was played on an astro pitch which meant the ball was moving extremely fast. With some fantastic saves from Evie and a wonderful goal from Georgia Collum, we went into half time 1-nil up. In the second half Longridge showed tenacity and strength, taking every opportunity available to them, which unfortunately resulted in us conceding a goal. Both teams demonstrated wonderful sportsmanship. Final score 1-1.

Sporting News

Year 11 Lancashire Cup Football

Our Year 11 boys played Broughton in the first round of the Lancashire Cup this Monday. The game was evenly matched from the very beginning with both teams coming close to opening the scoreline - but for the post to be in the way, or some stunning work by both goalkeepers.

Broughton did, however, find the back of the net first to take the lead but a lovely weighted through-ball from Bruce Leeming to Declan Abbott saw a cool and calm finish bring scores level before the half time whistle.

The match was being played at Corpus Christi however, due to their inset day, the floodlights had not been switched on and the light began fading fast within the second half. This did not deter either side with both teams pushing on to take advantage in the match. With 15 minutes left to play, Broughton chipped our goalkeeper and looked sure to hold on to their winning position.

With 4 minutes left and the light all but gone, a floated corner from Rhys Spickett caused a goalmouth scramble which resulted in the ball bundling over the line and an equaliser was found by Our Lady's. (It was so dark at this point, it was hard to confirm who scored it!).

Then, in the closing minute .. the light now gone.. one last kick of the ball up-field from Henry Latham in our goal caused a bit of chaos for the Broughton back line. Their goalkeeper rushed out to kick the ball clear only for it to bounce off the back of Liam Taylor's head, rebounding the ball into the back of the net.

Final score 3-2 with Our Lady's progressing through to the next round of the cup where they will play Darwen Aldridge Academy (date to be confirmed).

Netball

On Monday the Year 7 and 8 A teams were away to Broughton. The Year seven team were missing two key players. However, we held our own in the first half and were very much still in the game going into the second half with just two goals separating us and Broughton. Chiamaka Ezeani and Beth Walmsley defended brilliantly, but the whole team rushed their passes at times and Broughton capitalised on our mistakes. The final score was 8-1 to our opponents. Player of the match went to Chiamaka.

Year 8 had a tentative start with nerves getting the better of us. This led to several unforced errors. However, we soon settled into the match and the team's experience started to shine through. We were 4 goals up at half time with Broughton yet to score. We continued to build on this lead in the second half, thanks to some excellent dodging by Amy Ross to create attacking opportunities in and around the circle, whilst Jemma McMaster and Dottie Alty used their speed and athleticism well centre court to intercept numerous Broughton passes. The final score was 12-4 to us. Player of the match went to Amy Ross. However, Lilian Ezeani got teachers' player due to some fantastically timed interceptions, using her height well in the circle.

Diocese of Lancaster Lourdes Pilgrimage 2024

The Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes is now open for bookings! Last year, pupils raised money in school and in their local parishes. This is a wonderful opportunity for young people to grow in faith, learn new skills and make lifelong friends.

We call upon young people in the diocese 15+ to consider coming on pilgrimage. You will be given all the preparation, support and training you need. Many young people make decisions about future careers whilst in Lourdes. Find time to explore your faith, to learn about yourself and to make friends you will have for life. Many often say "you don't 'go' to Lourdes, you are 'called". Please answer the call in 2023!

lancasterlourdes.co.uk

All young people are asked to register as soon as possible. Forms and more details are available through Joe Walsh Tours - [Diocese of Lancaster Pilgrimage 2024 YOUTH SECTION - Joe Walsh Tours](#)

Youth Pilgrimage by Coach - 22nd July to 1st August 2024

The cost is £795 and can be paid in instalments. The pilgrimage includes an overnight stay in Paris.

Salvation Army, Preston - Toy Collection

We are now collecting toys and games for children and young people aged 0-18 years for the Salvation Army in Preston. Pupils can bring in any new items before the 15th December. Some form groups are already collecting treats and raising money to buy their gifts. Please support the cause if you are able to do so. Thank you.



Information

Primary Advent Service

Our Primary Advent Service with our cluster of Primary Schools takes place at St Anthony's Church, Fulwood on Wednesday 6th December at 6pm. Refreshments are available from 5.30pm in St Anthony's School Hall adjacent to the church. This is a wonderful celebration to begin this special time of year.

Our speaker is from Mary's Meals and there will be a cookie sale and a retiring collection for the charity.

All are welcome.



Dates for your Diary

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

Wednesday 13 December - Christmas Lunch for Years 7 and 8

Thursday 14 December - Christmas Lunch for Years 9, 10 and 11

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

Monday 8 January - All pupils return to school



Careers

The National Apprenticeship Show - February

The visit to the Apprenticeship Show last Friday with Year 10 pupils showed us the range of wonderful opportunities on offer for pupils. We have, therefore, decided to open up an additional opportunity for Year 11 pupils to visit the Apprenticeship Show in Manchester in February. Mrs Lin will contact pupils interested in apprenticeships directly.



Careers Cafe

On 7th December, we will have a solicitor sharing their knowledge and career path. This opportunity is for Year 10 and 11 pupils who are genuinely interested in law or the legal professions. Places are limited, if you would like your child to attend the Careers Cafe please email Mrs Lin directly zli@olchs.lancs.sch.uk

This event will also be advertised on Padlet in school.



BAE Apprenticeships

Fourteen Year 11 pupils have been invited to attend BAE at their Samlesbury site on 19th January to learn about the different aspects of the apprenticeships they have available.



BAE apprenticeship applications are currently live and have been for over a month. These are much sought after places and any pupil interested is encouraged to visit their website.

Being One of Ours

Careers

BBC Apprenticeships

Mrs Lin would like to draw these BBC Apprenticeship Opportunities to your attention:

Applications for the BBC's Level 3-5 apprenticeship schemes across Business, Editorial and Technology are now live!

Another 156 roles are on offer across 7 different schemes in 36 towns and cities in the UK. Go to the Level 3-5 Higher/Advanced Apprenticeships on our website www.bbc.co.uk/earlycareers

Applications for Levels 3-5 close on 8th January 2024 for most roles - Click [HERE](#) to see the Early Career Schemes on offer.

Fleetwood Nautical College Careers Event

Fleetwood Nautical College (FNC) Maritime Careers Event is taking place on Saturday 20 January 10.30 – 14.30. Open to anyone interested in a career at sea, click on the image below to register.



Also, follow this link for further events scheduled until July 2025 - <https://fleetwoodnautical.blackpool.ac.uk/maritime-careers-events-fleetwood-nautical-campus>