

# Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 3  
22nd December 2023



We come to the end of the Autumn term which began with the disruption caused by the government's overnight decision to reclassify RAAC and has meant significant building work taking place. I am delighted that this has now finished and we will have handover of the full building on the first week back. Any areas that contained RAAC (mainly in small sections of corridors) have been addressed and we have also completed the renovation of our Learning Support Area which has created a great new facility to support those with SEND. I have been incredibly impressed with the way our pupils responded in the early weeks to classroom changes and corridors out of use. They showed a real maturity in responding to this and just got on with their lessons and working to the best of their abilities. I am also very grateful to the staff who dealt with significant disruption and moving of classrooms so we could ensure all pupils were in school learning.

Our new Year 7 have made a great start to their time at our school, getting involved and striving to achieve their God-given potential. They have become One of Ours and it is great to see them taking an active role in the life of the school. Our Year 11 pupils completed their GCSE Mock Examinations, and they will receive their results at a special Mock Examination Results Day in January. Their conduct throughout the examinations was outstanding and all our invigilators who come into school for the examinations commented on this.

All year groups have worked hard this term and have got involved in the vast array of clubs and extra-curricular visits that we have shared on our weekly newsletter. We know that those pupils who engage with the wider life of the school feel more part of the community and do make stronger progress, so I would encourage families to speak with your child and get them involved with the many activities that take place.

As we approach the end of term and prepare to celebrate the great feast of Christmas, I am reminded of the words of Pope St John Paul II to young people when he said:

*"Christmas is a ray of light for all, because it reveals to us God's love and makes us feel the presence of Jesus with everyone, especially with those who are suffering. Just for this reason Jesus willed to be born in poverty and in the abandonment of a cave and to be laid in a manger."*

It is a reminder for all of us that at Christmas we celebrate Jesus, the light of the world, coming into our lives and helping dispel the darkness. The Christmas season is a reminder to Christians that despite hardships, God chose to join himself to humanity and still remains by its side. Pope Francis said to a group of children who visited the Vatican on 15th December:

*"Christmas is a reminder that God loves us and wants to be with us,"*

*Being One of Ours*

Pope Francis recalled that more than 3,000 children have died since the outbreak of war in the Holy Land, as well as the more than 500 children that have died in Ukraine and the thousands that died during the years of war in Yemen.

*"Their memory, in turn, invites us to be lights for the world, to touch the hearts of many people, especially those who can stop the whirlwind of violence,"* the pope said.

He added that only by loving God and loving one another *"can the world rediscover the light and the peace that it needs"* and which was proclaimed by the angels who announced Jesus' birth.

And so I wish all our school community, their family and friends a very happy, blessed and peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone in January 2024.

Mr Charnock

## BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Ryan Ireland - learned and wise

Year 8: Lilia Wood and Ella Nagy - active and generous

Year 9: Charlie Couper - being prophetic and intentional

Year 10: Lydia Tucker - faith filled and hopeful

Year 11: Jacob Blackburn, Lizzy Moran, Liam Swarbrick - generous



## Staff v Year 11 Netball

On Tuesday, the mighty staff netball team took on the Year 11 mixed netball squad for a charity match. The staff were keen to retain their title after a close fought match last term. At half time Year 11 were ahead by two goals and the second half of the fast-paced game saw the staff slowly claw their way back to scrape a

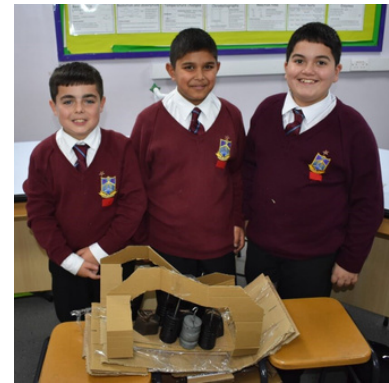


3-2 victory. Year 11 did themselves proud and fought valiantly right up until the final whistle. Miss Lewis would like to thank all the staff who took part together with pupils who came along to support this fantastic event.

We raised £50 for CAFOD.

## STEM Club

After much eager anticipation from Year 7 pupils, STEM club launched at the start of this half term. The first challenge for the pupils was to design a bridge that would hold the maximum number of weights without collapsing. The bridges were designed and completed with varying success - the winning team making a bridge holding a whopping 10Kg!



During the following session, pupils used vinegar, cardboard and aluminium foil with a lot of resilience to power LED lights.

In our final week, we used microscopes to conduct a 'moss safari'. Pupils prepared a moss sample and were able to identify organisms including nematode worms.

We look forward to more STEM in 2024!

Miss Patel, Mr Panton and Mrs Webber

## Year 8 Rewards Trip

101 Year 8 pupils were involved in the Christmas Rewards Trip to the Intu Trafford Centre. The pupils were extremely excited and had wonderful time exploring, buying little pocket money gifts and having tea/Millie's Cookies. It was a lovely celebration to mark what has been a very busy term.



## Year 8 Cake Sale

During this time of Advent, Year 8 decided to hold fundraising cake sales. Each form chose a different day and produced a wonderful fare of baked goodies. The year group as a whole have raised over £240 and have chosen to donate it to St Catherine's Hospice, a charity close to the heart of many Year 8 pupils.



## Year 11 Football

Year 11 boys faced DACA in the second round of the Lancashire Cup on Monday evening. It was a hotly contested game from the very first whistle with both teams finding themselves in good positions but failing to find the back of the net. DACA broke the deadlock midway through the first half before a thunderbolt strike from Jack Meers brought the scores level with 15 minutes to play.

With the scores level on the final whistle, it was straight to penalties to decide which school progressed through to the next round of the cup. Due to a number of goalkeeper absences, it was down to (usual) right winger, Alex Bridge to stand between the sticks and keep goal for the shoot out. After 5 penalties it was still all square - two fantastic penalty saves from the stand-in keeper Bridge! With the penalties now in the sudden death stages, DACA scored meaning Our Lady's had to score or be eliminated from the competition - and with the ball sailing over the crossbar, our Year 11 cup run came to an end.

The boys showed great character to come back from a goal down and fought hard throughout the game. Their next chance for a taste of cup victory will be in the Preston Schools' knockout cup after February half-term.

## Ian Murphy Art Workshop

On the 14th December Ian Murphy, a Wigan born artist, visited our art groups. He talked about his work and life as an artist; how he uses travel as an inspiration for his work. He demonstrated techniques he uses which incorporate pen and surface textures. We applied this to our theme of Natural Forms and worked on a variety of pieces throughout the day.



## Percy Pig Raffle Winner



90 raised £90 for the Salvation Army when they raffled a Percy Pig cuddly toy.

# Information

## Mental Health Support During the Holidays

We know that some students find the holiday period challenging for their wellbeing, as they lose the structure and routine of school so we want to remind you of the resources available on our website which can be accessed here:

<https://www.olchs.lancs.sch.uk/school/information/wellbeing/>

We have also reminded them that teachers and support staff will not be checking their school emails during the holidays.

Kooth is also at hand during the winter holiday period if you, or someone you know needs extra mental wellbeing support during the holiday season.

SUPPORT FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING



DURING THE SCHOOL BREAK

Do you enjoy playing maths games, doing puzzles, and solving intriguing problems?



### What is a MESME Maths Circle?

- A maths circle is a group of six students that come together to solve and discuss maths problems. Together you'll tackle topics that you won't see in your maths class.
- You'll have the chance to discuss your ideas and build your confidence with other like-minded mathematicians.
- Anyone with an interest in maths is a mathematician!

## LUSoM Year 7 MESME Circles

The MESME Circles will be hosted at the Lancaster University School of Mathematics building every Wednesday from 17th January 2024 16:30 - 17:30

Scan the QR to book



# Information

## 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](http://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.



**Thursday 28th December, 10:00-3:00pm.**  
**Moor Nook Children and Family Wellbeing Services, Burholme Road, Ribbleton, Preston PR2 6HN.**

Please visit <https://getstuckin.org.uk/> to book your place! (Booking goes live 1st December)



**Lancashire**  
County Council



**Thursday 4th January**  
**10:00am- 3:00pm**

**Preston Central Neighbourhood Centre**  
**Brieryfield Road, Preston, PR1 8SR**

**Please call 01772 531948 or email**  
**[cfwprestongroups@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:cfwprestongroups@lancashire.gov.uk) to book your place!**

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SUPPORT FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING



DURING THE SCHOOL BREAK

## Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 20 December - OLCHS Christmas Variety Show 6.00 pm

Thursday 21 December - School closes for Christmas break at 12.35 pm

Monday 8 January - All pupils return to school

Friday 9 February - Half-term – school closes at 3.00 pm

Monday 19 February - INSET DAY – pupils at home

Tuesday 20 February - All pupils return to school



Are you looking  
for tuition?

BOOK YOUR  
CHILD'S PLACE  
FOR JANUARY  
HERE

Conexus  
Tuition

REGISTER NOW



# Careers

## Year 11 Mock Interview Information Assembly

On Monday 8 January Year 11 will have an information assembly about their mock interviews due to be held on 30 January. Pupils will be given very specific guidance on how to prepare, the dress code and making a good first impression. They will also receive a form by email. It is imperative that pupils complete and return this form by Friday 12 January so that we can match them as best we can with the most suitable employer.

## Year 7 Futures/Careers Day

On Tuesday 9 January all of Year 7 will be off timetable to participate in a 'Futures Day'. The theme of the day is STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Pupils will participate in a variety of activities during periods 1-4, then BAE engineer Mark Murray will share his experience with Year 7 pupils.

## Careers Cafe

On Thursday 11 January a journalist will be the guest speaker in our Careers Cafe to share knowledge and experiences of his career path with our pupils. If you have a child in Year 10 or 11 who would like to book a place, please email Mrs Lin directly [zli@olchs.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:zli@olchs.lancs.sch.uk)

