



Our Lady's Catholic High School

A National Teaching School



Friday, 21 July 2017

Name

Form

Summer holidays are always a time for excitement but, for some, they can be a time of challenge. The first week or two are a chance for us to rest ("Come to me and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28) and after that it can get a bit boring unless we fill our time up. Just because it is our time off doesn't mean that we should stop looking to do good and make a change in the world ("never tire of doing good. 1 Thessalonians :13). So use the break well and, above all, take care of yourself and your families. God bless.

Lord, as we travel together in faith, we thank you for our school and all who are part of it. We pray that we grow, love and learn to be more like you in our thoughts, words and actions. Amen.

MESSAGE FROM MR RANSON

Over the past two weeks we have been privileged to host a visit from Father James Ayaga SJ, Mr Peter Masine and Mr David Mukasa. Father James is the Headteacher of our partner school St Peter Clear School in Dodoma, the capital city of Tanzania and Michael and David teach physics and geography respectively. Our two schools have so many similarities and the Catholic Gospel values on which each of our school are founded provide a clear and obvious bond. We were able to provide numerous resources for them to take back but, welcome as these gifts were, they commented that the warmth of their welcome and the ideas and conversation that they have shared with both staff and pupils were by far the most valuable part of the experience. Father Ayaga wrote to me and I quote a small part of his letter:

'..... Thank for the wonderful conversations and great food that we have enjoyed together. Thank you for making us feel welcome and supported. Thank you for giving up a lot for our sake. We will always treasure the generosity, care and love that has been extended to us. Thank you so much. Thank you indeed to all members of staff of Our Lady's for being so welcoming.'

In truth it is our school which has benefitted from their presence which has made us a richer place indeed and we thank them for their visit and hope that Marafiki continues to grow between our schools.

We wish to all of you a restful and enjoyable holiday and hope to see everyone safely back with us in September.

Mr Ranson and all of the staff at Our Lady's

2017 PUPIL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 7th Annual Golf Open Championship took place on Thursday, 13 July on a very warm and sunny afternoon. 17 pupils from years 7, 8 and 9 took part and played some excellent Golf over the challenging 9 hole course. The competition was won by Sean Dobson of 9U who completed the course in 26 shots, finishing -1 under par. Romeo Singh of 8R managed to get a hole-in-one on hole 4 but this was not enough to take the title and he finished in second place on level par. A fantastic afternoon was had by all who took part.

HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

Our Attendance policy states that any absence attached to either side of a school holiday will be assumed to be a holiday taken in term time and such absences will be classified as 'unauthorised' unless evidence is provided which proves otherwise. We ask for this evidence to be fair and consistent with all families. In addition we will expect to meet with parents whose children have taken such absences and the child will be taught separately until the meeting takes place. We will always meet with parents at the earliest possible opportunity. Should your child be ill on a day attached to a school holiday we ask that you provide evidence of this; an appointment card from a doctor or a dated and named prescription would suffice. Please contact us on a landline or briefly call in to school for us to see you. The principle is that attendance at school is a legal requirement and duty and we must do all that we reasonably can to support this. Finally, may I remind all families that any unauthorised absence for holidays or otherwise in Year 11 will result in the invitation to attend the Year 11 Prefects' Ball being withdrawn.

ACCELERATED READER SUCCESS

Pupils who have read over one million words this year in our Accelerated Reader program were treated to a morning Ten Pin Bowling. Well done and well deserved everyone!

UNIFORM

Please remember our three uniform suppliers are Smart Clothing on Lancaster Road, Top One in the Miller Arcade and Monkhouse on Fishergate. Bang Bang have recently opened at new premises, in the Old Dan Kerr Bridal Shop at 91 Lancaster Road, Preston. Please make sure that all skirts cover the knee and don't forget to leave room for growth. No skinny trousers are allowed only those of a traditional cut. Finally, please replace any jumpers which have developed holes with new ones for the start of term.

200 CLUB WINNERS

Congratulations to the following winners of the 2017 draws who all win £30:

L Wignall, A & L Wright, T Mattinson, E Howarth, D Wiltshire, D Cornes, E & A Craven, M Greenwood, L Steele, C Livesey, M Crane, Y Thompson, M Sherman, J Lawless, D & C Smithson, S Singleton, N Gixti, S Whittam, N Dixon, M Bell, J Crowther.

INFORMATION FROM LCC ABOUT HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT

September 2015: The County Council removed further discretionary elements of the previous policy. All new pupils starting at school will only be paid transport assistance if they attend their nearest school and live more than three miles away. When undertaking assessments there is no longer any consideration of which Geographical Priority Area a pupil lives within and schools in neighbouring districts and local authorities are also considered.

Denominational transport assistance is still available but only where a pupil is attending their nearest faith school and the parental contribution is paid. In determining the nearest faith school for denominational transport assistance the County Council no longer considers whether a particular school serves a parish in which the pupil lives.

Dates to remember

Monday, 4 September – school opens for Year 7 pupils only
Tuesday, 5 September – school opens for all pupils
Thursday, 5 October 2017 – Open Evening
Friday, 6 October – INSET day
Friday, 27 October – School closes for half-term
Monday, 6 November – school opens