



Our Lady's Catholic High School



A National Teaching School

Friday, 15 December 2017

Our Prayer theme next week is **Rejoice**

This is a short Advent and we already find ourselves lighting the third candle - the candle of Joy. This week we change the mood of Advent from reflection and preparation to the theme of *Gaudete* - literally meaning to rejoice. This is the invitation that many of us have already taken up to enter into this season with joy, with happiness, with anticipation. How do we manage to fit the joy of receiving gifts in with the real joy that comes with the birth of Christ? That's the reason for the season.



Lord, as we get closer to your Nativity, enable us to receive the joys of salvation that you bring with your birth. Help us, among all the distractions, to remember the reason for the season. Amen.

MISSION WEEK

This week has seen our Whole School Mission come to fruition with a great week of celebration and reflection. Every year group has had sessions in our Arts Theatre with our Mission Team – Animate Youth Ministries – where they have been exploring our Mission Theme of 'Travelling Together in Faith'. All of our lessons have been focussed on the Mission Theme with a huge variety of activities taking place across all curriculum areas. We finished our Mission Week today with the celebration of a Whole School Mass where Father Simon Gore (Mission Team Director) inspired us all to take our Mission out into the world.

WINTER COATS

Please remember, especially over Christmas when families may be buying clothing for presents, that only a weather proof coat may be worn over the school uniform for school. It is very upsetting for a child to have an expensive garment bought for Christmas and then to be told that it cannot be worn for school. Sweat shirts, knitted cardigan jackets, track tops, leather coats and denim coats are not acceptable for school use. A simple, weather proof coat that will provide insulation from the cold as well as being water proof is what is needed. Finally, we do not accept bold writing on coats. With thanks for your support.

YEAR 8 REWARDS TRIP

Last Thursday, 65 Year 8 pupils and 10 staff went bowling for their Christmas rewards trip. Everyone had an excellent evening with some fantastic bowling scores. Every pupil behaved in an outstanding manner and were a credit to themselves, the school and their parents.

OLCHS LIP SYNC CONCERT 2017 - WEDNESDAY, 20 DECEMBER

Tickets are selling out fast for this year's Lip Sync Concert. Tickets are available from the finance office, at break and lunch times. Tickets are only £1 with all monies raised going to CAFOD. Pupils will have the opportunity to watch some of their teachers perform and watch the heavily anticipated 2017 Lip Sync Staff Video. There will be collection buckets on the day for loose change, as well as raffle tickets being sold Monday and Tuesday.

WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE ON-LINE WORLD?

Many parents worry about what their children are exposed to in the on-line world and keeping track can be difficult because things change and develop so quickly and our children always seem to be at least one step ahead of us. With this in mind Lancashire County Council have produced guidance aimed specifically at parents and you may find this useful. It can be accessed by following the link below:

<http://www.lancshiresafeguarding.org.uk/online-safeguarding/parents-and-carers.aspx>

LANCASHIRE APPRENTICESHIP EXPO

This event will take place at Preston Guild Hall on Tuesday, 13 March from 3.30pm - 7.00pm and will bring together some of the county's leading employers to inform young people about apprenticeships. Employers confirmed so far include BAE systems, Forbes Solicitors, Lancashire Fire and Rescue, Leyland Trucks, Vincent's Solicitors, Preston's College, Westinghouse and United Utilities. A full list of exhibitors is available on www.appexpo.co.uk. If you are looking to gain an apprenticeship on leaving school go along to this event and find out more. Be professional and remember these are employers recruiting!

Dates to remember

Thursday, 21 December – School closes for Christmas at 12.45 pm

Monday, 8 January – School opens

Thursday, 11 January – Year 10 Parent/Carers' evening from 4.00 pm – 6.30 pm

Thursday, 25 January - Year 8 Parent/Carers' evening from 4.00 pm – 6.30 pm

Friday, 9 February – School closes for half-term

Monday, 19 February – INSET day

Tuesday, 20 February – School opens

Thursday, 1 March - Year 9 Parent/Carers' evening from 4.00 pm – 6.30 pm

Thursday, 15 March - Year 7 Parent/Carers' evening from 4.00 pm – 6.30 pm