

Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 16
17th January 2025



The Theme Next Week: Revelation, The Wedding at Cana. (John 2: 1 -11)

Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim.

'Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.' So, they took it. When the master tasted the water now become wine, he did not know where it came from. He called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.' This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

The Wedding at Cana is one of three events in which God is revealed to us through Jesus Christ. In fact, the Feast of the Epiphany which we celebrated on the 6th of January, is not the only event that is referred to as an 'Epiphany'. The word 'Epiphany' means 'Revelation'. These events are The Magi's visit, The Lord's Baptism, and The Wedding at Cana. The Magi's pay homage, revealing the divinity of the child-king who will die for his people. Jesus' baptism in the Jordan reveals Jesus as the Son of God as the power of the Holy Spirit is poured down on him. The Wedding at Cana reveals the divine power at work as Jesus transforms water into wine. His first miracle.

Dear Lord, we need a miracle today.

Like Jesus changing water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana,
we need a miracle today.

We are tired of the hurts of this world.

We are discouraged in the face of injustice, war, poverty, and indifference.

Lord, in this year of jubilee, crown us with your love,

that in you we may be moved to acts of kindness, love, justice, and mercy.

Amen.

BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Teddy Jones - loving and generous

Year 8: Harry Catterall - learned and wise

Year 9: Charlotte Dudaniec, Ryan Matyanga - attentive and discerning

Year 10: Joshua Shibu - compassionate and loving

Year 11: Zainab Dasu - learned and wise



Being One of Ours

COFFEE MORNING



Being One of Ours

This week, Our Lady's pupils Phoebe, Bree-Anna, Teddy and Ajit did a fantastic job serving drinks and cakes and socialising with residents from the local care home. The residents and staff were singing the praises of our fantastic students and said that all the pupils who take part are a credit to our school.

Our Lady's Lay Chaplain Sarah was very proud of our pupils for representing our school in such a positive manner.



LOURDES 2025

LOURDES 2025 - With Mary, Pilgrims of Hope

Last year, seven of our young people raised funds and travelled by coach to Lourdes in France to support the Lancaster Diocesan Pilgrimage. Each gave up a week of their summer break to help and encourage elderly and disabled pilgrims. The young people work long hours taking people in their wheelchairs to daily Mass, on processions, on shopping trips and out to the local cafes! They did an amazing job and always with a smile.

This year, the Youth section will be going by plane to Lourdes and invite years 10 and 11 to take part. The cost is £795.00 full board, although early takers will get a £100 discount from the Diocese. We support any fundraising in school and parishes are always very generous.

This is a wonderful opportunity to serve and this year especially, a jubilee year, we are being called by Pope Francis to be Pilgrims of Hope.

All details are attached. If you have any questions, please see Sarah Lee, OLCHS Lay Chaplain.

[LEARN MORE](#)

YEAR 7 SPACE COMPETITION

Over the past several weeks, our Year 7 pupils embarked on an interplanetary adventure as part of the Space Exploration Competition, showcasing their creativity, ingenuity, and scientific understanding. Tasked with designing either a biodome for life on Mars, a rocket for space travel, or a rover to explore the Martian surface, pupils amazed us with their innovative ideas and detailed designs.

Entries ranged from intricate 3D models made from recycled materials to beautifully crafted posters filled with fascinating explanations and diagrams. Pupils demonstrated an impressive understanding of challenges such as oxygen production, water purification, energy generation, and the harsh conditions on Mars.

A special commendation goes to those who went the extra mile, incorporating clever engineering solutions, artistic flair, and clear, well-thought-out explanations into their work. The judging panel was blown away by the level of effort and enthusiasm shown by all participants.

Our winning entries go to:

Trimandeep S

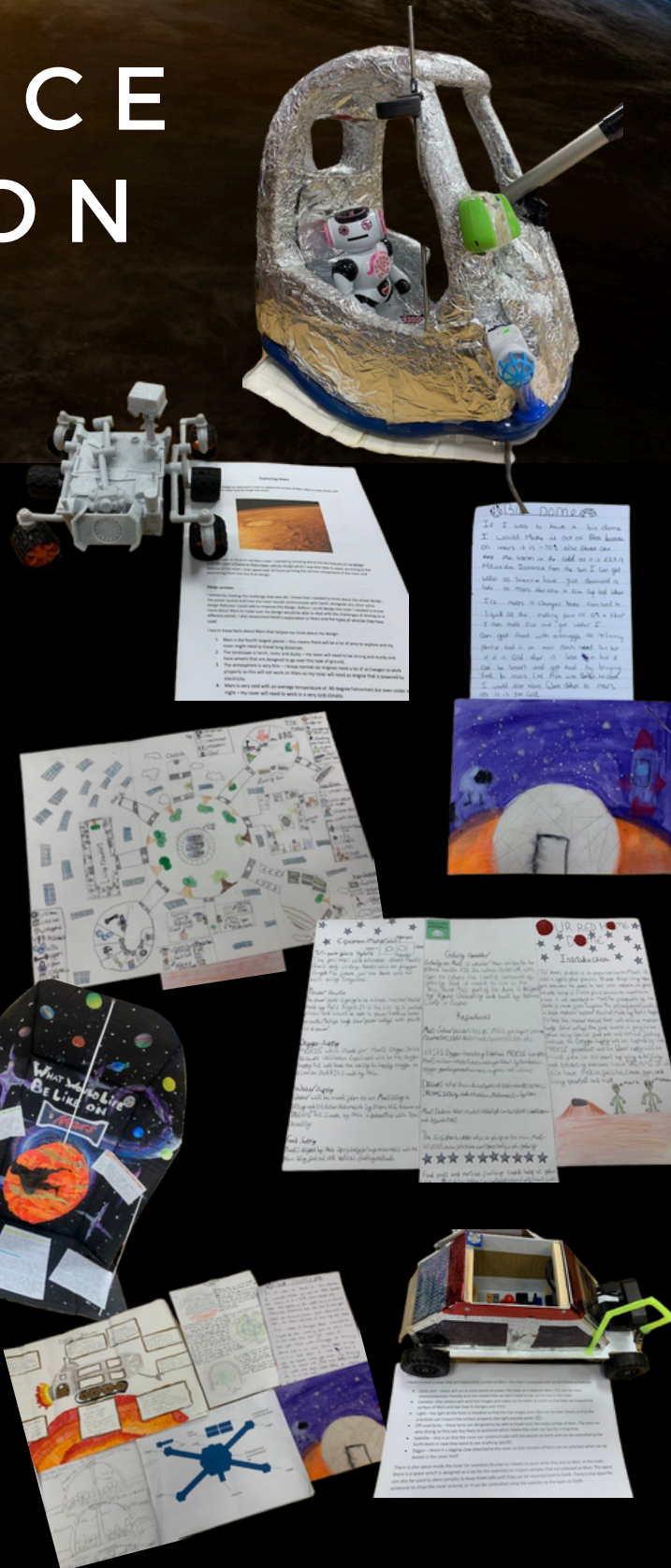
Anna A

Ben B

Theo L

Laura P

Congratulations to all pupils who took part in the competition – your work truly reflects our school's commitment to curiosity and excellence. We would also like to thank parents and guardians for their support in encouraging pupils throughout this exciting project



National IET Faraday Challenge

On Monday 13 January, Hutton Grammar school invited a team of Year 8 pupils from Our Lady's to take part in the National IET Faraday Challenge. The group of six Year 8 pupils worked together to design and build a prototype for a product that could assist a need; educate a child; or for someone who takes part in a sport.

Pupils had a budget to spend on materials to make their prototype, so they had to think carefully about the product they were going to make. Pupils had to design, develop, create and present their ideas and the prototype to a group of judges. No further details can be given about the task as the competition is live. Pupils were marked on each area including teamwork.

There was strong competition from the other teams and on this occasion OLCHS pupils narrowly missed out on going to the next stage of the competition. However, their ideas, teamwork and presentation skills were exceptional! Each pupil left with an Industrial Cadets Challenger Award for completing a hands-on problem solving and critical thinking activity.

Pupils presented themselves and the school extremely well against the other five schools from Preston and surrounding areas. A massive well done to pupils from Our Lady's, Chris, Michael, Elliot, Chloe, Orzela and Zarish - you did a fantastic job.

Thank you to Hutton Grammar School for the invitation.



COMMUNICATION

This week our students have been refining their communication skills, focusing on becoming more eloquent speakers. Through engaging exercises, they've worked on key aspects like body language, speaking pace, and active listening.

- **Body Language:** Students are learning how posture, gestures, and facial expressions can enhance their message.
- **Pace of Speaking:** They are practicing speaking at a clear, controlled pace for better comprehension.
- **Active Listening:** Emphasis is placed on listening attentively to foster meaningful conversations.

These skills are helping students become more confident and effective communicators, benefiting both their academic growth and future interactions.



SCIENCE WEEKLY CHALLENGE

If you can tell your science teacher the answers to the questions you can earn a point.

Science In The News

This week's *Science In The News* is a roundup of some recent space exploration articles

Watch the video titled 'Astonishing moment when Starship booster caught in mid-air.' Then answer the following question.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/cq8xpz598zjt>

Question 1: What is the name of the Starship booster engines?

Read the article about the probe that is on its way to Europa, one of Jupiter's moons. Then answer the following question.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c1482xzrge1o>

Question 2: What is the instrument on-board that will be used to look for signs of life on Europa?

Read the article about the cosmic petrol station and then answer the following question.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5y3wzlvnn2o>

Question 3: What does Jas Tiruvuru say the technology will do?

And lastly, read about the solar observation mission and then answer the following question.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0qdy5dg7v7o>

Question 4: What does the article suggest that a Coronal Mass Ejection could weigh?

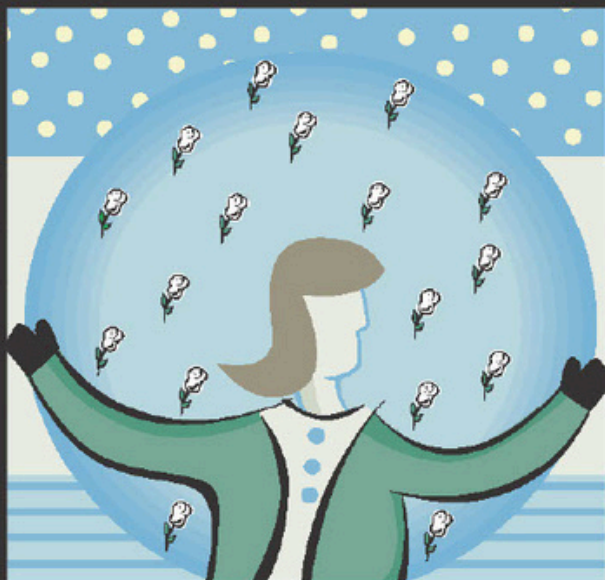
Home Research

Jupiter's moon Europa is a similar size to our own Moon but very much further away. Do your own research and then answer the following question

Question 5: What is the surface of Europa thought to be made up of?

The Sophie Scholl Awards

"Someone has to make a start." How about you?



Holocaust Memorial Day is commemorated each year on 27th January, the date of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1945. Holocaust Memorial Day remembers the millions of victims of the Nazi Holocaust, including six million Jews, and of other, more recent genocides.



RUNSHAW COLLEGE



Train to Teach with the Catholic Teaching Alliance

Teacher Training courses available for September 2025 start date

Are you looking for a new challenge?

Would you like a job where no two days are the same?

Have you considered training to be a teacher?

The Catholic Teaching Alliance offers 1 year PGCE with QTS (qualified teacher status) teacher training courses in the following phases:

- Early Primary (3-7 years) or General Primary (5-11 years)
- Secondary (11-16 years) or Secondary with post 16 (14-19 years)

Minimum requirements are GCSEs in Maths and English (and Science for primary training), plus an honours degree.

Please contact us for further information, call 01772 326931 or email CTAPGCE@olchs.lancs.sch.uk
Website: www.catholic-teaching-alliance.org

GARSTANG RUFC WOMENS
THURSDAY EVENINGS
Womens
TOUCH RUGBY
BARTON EQUESTRIAN CENTRE
STARTING 16TH JANUARY AT 7PM
FOR MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER
CONTACT KATY MAINE
07584073747
OR SHARON SWARBRICK
07936227857

Information

NO MORE KNIVES

message.org.uk/nomoreknives

We welcome the 'No More Knives' touring team to Our Lady's on **Monday 20 January** to talk to all the pupils around the dangers of knives. This is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to add to their personal development as part of our wider curriculum.

[Parent Letter >>](#)



A Guide to Staying Safe with the Stars Messaging App

[CLICK HERE >](#)



2025 Dates for your Diary

Monday 20 January

'No More Knives' Tour visits OLCHS

Wednesday 22 January

Year 11 Careers Mock Interviews

Friday 24 January

Paris Information Meeting for Parents

OLCHS SOCIAL MEDIA



OUR LADY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

KARAOKE CLUB

SINGALONG | BRING A FRIEND

Every Thursday | 3 PM

Rm 40 | Starts 23rd January

To sign up each week, simply find your Youtube backing track and paste it into the Karaoke Club email by the end of the day, each Tuesday.

Being One of Ours

Sporting News



TABLE TENNIS

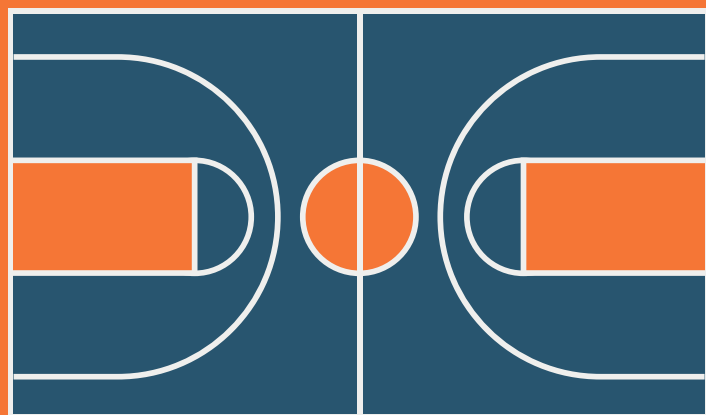
On Wednesday the U13 and U15 table tennis teams began their first round of matches in the Preston Schools' league, taking place at Christ the King. Both teams made confident starts in their singles matches, with the U13s beating Archbishop B 8-0, and Christ the King 7-1.



The U15 team have been training hard, practicing several times a week during lunch. This definitely paid off as they were also successful against Corpus Christi B, Corpus Christi C and Moor Park.

Both OLCHS teams are confident going into the second round next week. Congratulations to Georgia S, Kasia S, Candice C, Umika P, Meera P, Evie M, Georgia C and Charlotte W.

BASKETBALL



The Year 7 basketball team played their first game of the year against Corpus Christi. The team played brilliantly and came away 18-6 winners. Oscar C was the MVP scoring 10 points.

STEM *Challenge*

Last Friday, Year 7 completed their first Careers event which comprised of a STEM Challenge Day.

In forms, pupils were faced with different challenges from well-known story books such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears. With cardboard, tape, egg cartons, cups, lolly sticks, plus many more items, Year 7 planned and built their creations. Mrs Lin gave the whole year group three tips:

1. Use your current knowledge to guide and inform you.
2. Work as a team. Listen to each other carefully.
3. If it doesn't work adjust it, try again, and repeat.

Year 7 were outstanding. All the teams said how well they engaged in the day and worked together to achieve their aims.

During Period 5, Year 7 gathered in the Arts Theatre to receive a talk from BAE Engineer Mr Mark Murray. Mr Murray went to OLCHS many years ago and spoke about his career path directly from school to where he is today. Pupils were fascinated about his knowledge of the Nimrod and Typhoon, followed by lots of curious questions from Year 7. Thank you Mr Murray for taking the time to speak and engage with our Year 7.



Mock **YEAR 11** **INTERVIEWS**

Next week we welcome 32 outside visitors to OLCHS from various career fields to conduct our Year 11 Mock Interviews.

We wish all Year 11 the very best of luck.

**CARDINAL
NEWMAN
COLLEGE**

**FINAL
OPEN
EVENT**



**CARDINAL
NEWMAN
COLLEGE**

OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 1ST FEBRUARY

10AM - 1PM

APPLY NOW

CARDINALNEWMAN.AC.UK

RAF WORLD
READY FOR TAKE OFF

A FUTURE WITHOUT LIMITS

VIRTUAL EVENT

JOIN US ON
29TH JANUARY 2025
AT 7:30PM

CLICK HERE

ROYAL AIR FORCE
REGULAR & RESERVE

NO ORDINARY JOB

A wonderful opportunity for students to take part in the latest Free & online Royal Air Force - RAF World virtual event on the evening of Wednesday 29 Jan 2025.

This will provide students, and potentially even staff, with the opportunity to immerse themselves in to the RAF World and be able to speak to subject matter experts from across the 60 roles available within the RAF and recruiting staff about the next steps/s in their potential journeys.



GCHQ

**Cyber Specialist Development
Programme**



Being One of Ours

School Leavers

Now Recruiting Apprentices

Local Plumbing and Heating Company

Please forward your CV by email to chris@wmwilding.co.uk by the end of March 2025

Following a previously successful recruitment process, we would like to offer another opportunity to any school leavers to join our company.

We are a well established and busy Plumbing and Heating company and are currently seeking enthusiastic and conscientious apprentices.

We are a family run business based in Preston, having been established for nearly 75 years and carry out work for Lancashire County Council and University of Central Lancashire, amongst other organisations.

Please contact Chris Wilding on 01772 253127 should you need any further information.



**Final Open Day
Saturday 1st
February 2025**

The final LUSoM Open Day will take place on Saturday 1st February, 10:00am - 12:30pm.

REGISTER NOW

**Training 2000
Blackburn
Apprenticeships**

What happens next... for year 11 students

- Apply to Training 2000** (From November 2024 onwards)
- Come to our open evenings** (Wednesday 29th & Thursday 30th January 2025, 4.30-7.30pm)
- Prepare your CV** (From November 2024 onwards)
- We'll get in touch** (Initial contact in March 2025, arrange a meeting with you to discuss your application during the Easter holidays)
- Interviews with companies**
- Confirm your GCSE results** (August 2025)

Start your Apprenticeship

Aspiring Clubs for year 10, 11 and 12

Aspiring Engineers
A 4 week course delivered in engineering workshops on a Thursday evening covering:
• Sheetmetal / welding
• Computer Aided Design (CAD)
• CNC machining
• Electronics and electrical

When: Thursday evening 4.30 - 7.30pm: 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th Nov 2024
Thursday evening 6.30 - 7.30pm: 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th March 2025
Cost: There is a small cost to cover material of £20

Aspiring Optical Professionals
A 3 hour taster session looking at:
• Eye conditions
• Demonstration of magnifiers
• Different prescriptions and trial frames

When: Mon 3rd Feb 2025 | 1pm - 4pm
Mon 21st July 2025 | 1pm - 4pm

www.training2000.co.uk/aspiring-clubs

Aspiring Dental Nurses
A 3 hour taster session introducing you to:
• The role of a Dental Nurse
• Surgery tour looking at equipment and instruments
• Mixing alginate impression material

When: Mon 3rd Feb 2025 | 9.30 - 12.30pm
Mon 21st July 2025 | 9.30 - 12.30pm
• Discuss oral hygiene and diet speakers
• Current apprentices as guest speakers

Aspiring Accountants
A 3 hour taster session covering:
• Current apprentices as guest speakers
• Balance sheet activity
• Double entry bookkeeping activity
• Accounting board game

When: Wed 5th Feb 2025 | 9.30 - 12.30pm
Wed 9th July 2025 | 9.30 - 12.30pm
• Accountancy in the working environment
• Accounting card games

Aspiring Business Professionals
A 3 hour taster session looking at:
• Decision making
• Prioritising
• Project planning
• Communication in the workplace

When: Wed 5th Feb 2025 | 1pm - 4pm
Wed 9th July 2025 | 1pm - 4pm

Open days 2025
You'll have the opportunity to:
• Speak to our expert subject tutors and ask all your questions
• Have a tour of our site and training facilities

When: Wed 29th and Thurs 30th January 4.30-7.30pm
Furthergate Business Park, Wood Street, Blackburn, BB1 1AB

Being One of Ours