

# Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 17  
24th January 2025



## Jubilee for Schools Launch Day

Today we celebrate the launch of the Jubilee Year 2025 in school.

*'God has anointed me... to proclaim good news to the poor, liberty to captives, and new sight to the blind; to set the oppressed free.' Luke 4:18*

To watch the CAFOD 'Jubilee for Schools Launch Day' video, please [click here](#).

Father in heaven,  
may the faith you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.  
May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.  
Amen.

Today at Our Lady's, pupils have been involved in Jubilee launch day arts and crafts activities which will be displayed in and around school. Throughout Jubilee year, we will have a range of activities and events, please visit Our Lady's Jubilee 2025 webpage and bookmark it for future details. [CLICK HERE](#)



## BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Georgia Shirley - grateful and generous

Year 8: Inaaya Masood - intentional and prophetic

Year 9: Dottie-Grace Alty, Oliver Lutan - attentive and discerning

Year 10: Riley Inglis - eloquent and faithful

Year 11: Esther McDonald-Romero - curious and active



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# ENGLISH

## *in the Spotlight*

Welcome to this week's school newsletter where it is the turn of the English department to shine a spotlight on all things great in English and the interesting topics pupils have been studying recently.

### MEET OUR TEAM

Miss Slade – Principal Teacher of English / Teaching and Learning Mentor  
Mrs Zolotarczuk – Assistant Principal Teacher of English  
Mrs Wing – Teacher of English / Literacy Coordinator / Teaching and Learning Mentor  
Mrs Stopyra – Teacher of English  
Mr La Roche – Teacher of English / Assistant Learning Manager Year 8  
Mr Copley – Teacher of English  
Mrs Singleton – Teacher of English

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## What Are We Studying?

Currently, pupils are studying a range of texts!

**YEAR 7** are studying 'Oliver Twist'.

**YEAR 8** are working on non-fiction.

**YEAR 9** are studying 'Macbeth'.

**YEAR 10** are working with Unseen Poetry.

**YEAR 11** are completing their GCSE Literature study of 'A Christmas Carol'.

Our exciting, enriching and challenging curriculum.

## BEDROCK Learning

New this academic year, Bedrock Learning (a programme that supports the development of vocabulary and reading) is showing impact already. In the first term, Year 7 pupils have learned 5,000 new pieces of vocabulary and been exposed to 15,000 new pieces of vocabulary. In addition, the Year Group have made 17% progress.

Year 7 pupils complete Bedrock Learning in school through their LRC lesson fortnightly and as part of their homework. To make progress pupils need to be gaining approximately 20 points per week. Completion rates are high, and the department are grateful for the support from parents and guardians.



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## What's Coming Soon?

✓ The Revision Plan for Year 11. Last academic year we rewrote our revision plan, producing an even more comprehensive and focused plan and set of resources than before. We look forward to launching this soon.

✓ Poetry Slam for Year 7 and Year 8.



## What Extra-Curricular Opportunities are There?

### Year 7 Fiction Addiction Club:

This reading club runs weekly on Tuesday lunchtimes in the LRC with Mrs Towers, our fabulous Librarian, and Miss Slade, our Principal Teacher of English. We complete a craft or quiz style activity and read the opening of novels to inspire us to read them. Pupils' feedback on the club is excellent: they enjoy the activities and range of novel openings.



### Year 7 Bedrock Club:

To support the Bedrock programme, and help pupils to keep up the homework part of this, our Principal Teacher, Miss Slade, runs a Bedrock Club on Wednesday lunchtimes in Room 10. Pupils come along with their lunch and catch up or get ahead. There's a lovely atmosphere and all Year 7s are welcome. Those who need to catch up are required to attend in order to ensure the programme is successful for them.



### Debate Club:

All pupils are welcome at the Debate Club coordinated by Mrs Stopyra and run by the pupils for the pupils. Debate Club runs on Fridays in Room 12 and pupils choose their topics to debate. A lively debate can always be expected!



#### The benefits of debating are as follows:

1. Pupils improve their critical thinking skills.
2. Pupils acquire better poise, speech delivery, and public speaking skills.
3. Pupils retain more information.
4. Pupils Improve their listening and note-taking skills and increase their self-confidence.
5. Pupils enhance their teamwork skills and collaboration.
6. Pupils develop more confidence to stand up for the truth when a discussion is promoting falsehoods or inaccuracies.
7. Pupils learn better ways to state one's point with gentleness graciously.
8. Pupils learn to identify holes in their theories and concoct more balanced arguments.
9. Pupils learn to better structure their thoughts.
10. Debating is lots of fun!



.....continued

## Debate Club:

We are especially keen to have some younger debaters and want to have a team of current Year 8 pupils ready to compete in the Great Lancashire Debate next academic year. **Could this be perfect for your child?**

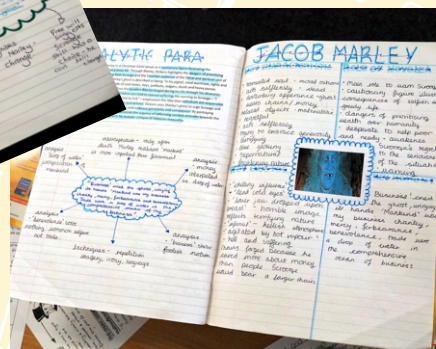
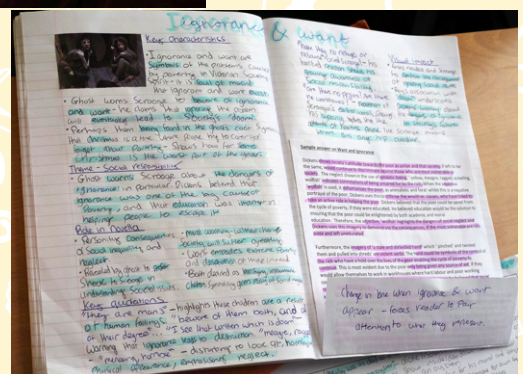
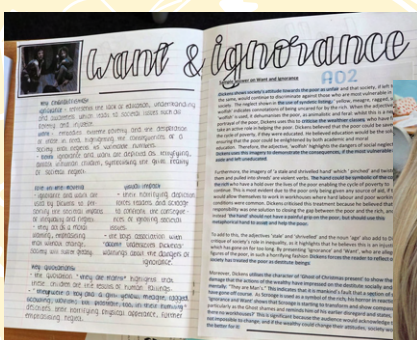
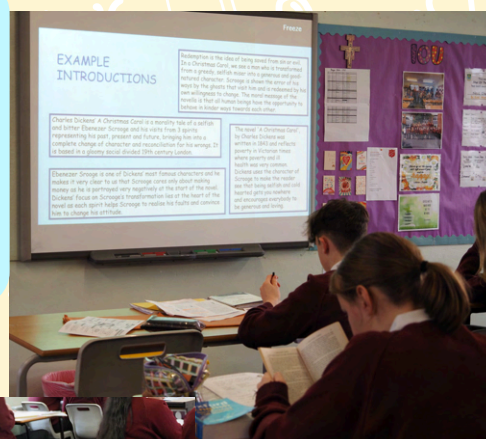


## Year 11 Boys' Revision Club:

To support boys with their revision in Year 11, Mrs Zolotarczuk coordinates a revision club in which she and the English Team support pupils with their revision. As the Revision Plan begins, we will focus on this. Pupil voice and attainment data from last academic year evidences that this is an incredibly effective form of support for pupils. The biscuits are also always appreciated!

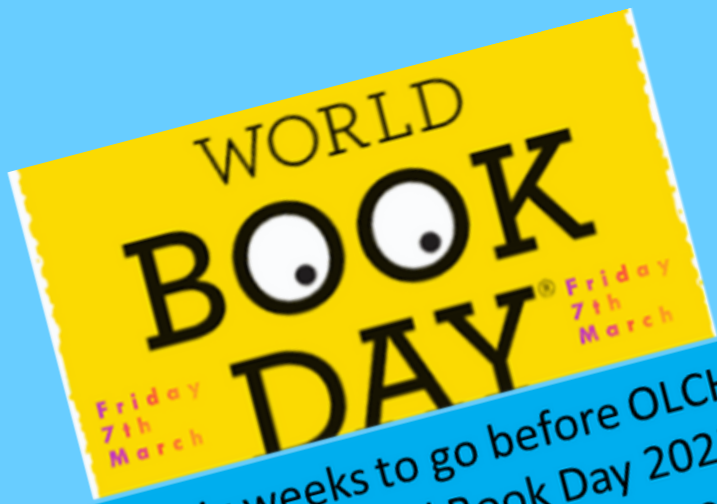


# YEAR 11 ENGLISH CLASSWORK



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Only six weeks to go before OLCHS celebrates World Book Day 2025. Start planning your costume!

## Recycle Old Costumes!

If you have an old costume that no longer fits, or you simply want to donate a previous costume for someone else to wear for World Book Day, please bring in to school and give to Mrs Wing.

If you require further details please contact Mrs Wing by email on [SWI@olchs.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:SWI@olchs.lancs.sch.uk).

# LA CHANDELEUR



## OUR LADY'S CHALLENGE

### La Chandeleur

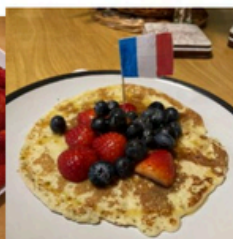
To celebrate this, have a go at making your own crêpe or crêpe cake!  
See some of last year's entries on the photos below.

Email a photo of your creation to [ecr@olchs.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:ecr@olchs.lancs.sch.uk) by **Friday 7th February**

The Catholic holiday of Candlemas, celebrated every year on February 2, is a feast of crêpes that are meant to commemorate the purification of the Virgin Mary and the presentation of baby Jesus. In France, this holiday is called la Chandeleur, Fête de la Lumière or Jour des crêpes.



PRIZES FOR  
THE BEST  
ENTIRES





# NO MORE KNIVES

[message.org.uk/nomoreknives](http://message.org.uk/nomoreknives)

## News



A huge thank you to Terry Mattinson, Youth Worker at Our Lady's Catholic High School, for organising the **No More Knives Tour** visit to school on Monday.

Thank you also to the No More Knives team for such an insightful and memorable day with all year groups.

It was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to add to their personal development as part of our wider curriculum.



## PSHE

### Topics covered this week in PSHE.



#### **Year 7 PSHE Topics: 2. Online safety**

Your image, online presence, financial risk, media, online bullying, gambling.

#### **Year 8 PSHE Topics: 2. Relationships sex education**

Puberty, Intimacy, choice and consent, the law, peer pressure.

#### **Year 9 PSHE Topics: 2. British values**

Tolerance, respect, equality, diversity, judiciary, Faith and Religion and democratic processes.

#### **Year 10 PSHE Topics: 2. Faith and justice**

CAFOD, young leaders, injustice and communities, how to be a great generation and reflections.

#### **Year 11 PSHE Topics: 2. Be healthy**

Physical health and fitness, coping with criticism, mental wellbeing, healthy approaches and preventions.



This week our Head Boy and Head Girl have been presenting to all Year Groups about keeping safe online and the dangers of sextortion. Sextortion and online enticement has increased 300% in the last two years. Please click on the link for more information on this topic and how you can help your child keep safe. [CLICK HERE](#)

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# 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* looks at advances in two areas of medical science.

Read the article about mapping cells in the human body and then answer Questions 1 & 2.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c23829l8kzro>

**Question 1:** How many cells does the article suggest are in a human body?

**Question 2:** As well as biology, what other subject is identified as being necessary for this research?

Read the article about the new blockbuster drugs that are taking on super bugs and then answer the following questions.

**Question 3:** What are bacteria doing that makes antibiotics less effective against them?

**Question 4:** What does the article identify as the most frequently isolated pathogen?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c8Ovrjkkrrero>

### Home Research

The second article focuses on antibiotics. Do your own research to find out more about them and answer the following question.

**Question 5** Who invented the first antibiotic and what is it called?



# Information



## FREE HEART TEST

For anyone aged 14 - 35

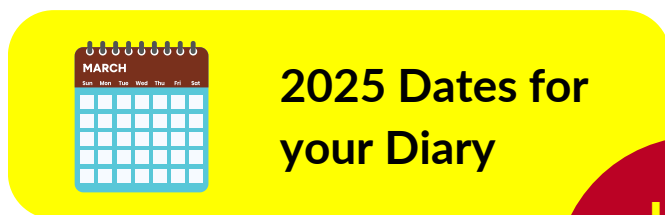
**SATURDAY 29TH & SUNDAY 30TH MARCH 2025**

**Longridge High School**  
Preston Road  
Longridge  
PR3 3AR

This screening has been funded in memory of Andrew Key

**TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT PLEASE VISIT:**  
[HTTPS://WWW.TESTMYHEART.ORG.UK/PRIVATE/](https://www.testmyheart.org.uk/private/)  
**PASSWORD: Longridge25**

CardiacRiskintheYoung 
 @CRY\_UK 
 www.c-r-y.org.uk



**Thursday 30 January**  
Year 7 Parents' Evening

**Tuesday 4 February**  
Year 9 Options Evening

**10-14 February**  
Year 10 Work Experience

**Thursday 27 February**  
Year 9 Parents' Evening

**Thursday 13 March**  
Year 8 Parents' Evening

**LIVE**  
**School**  
**Calendar**



OLCHS SOCIAL MEDIA

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## ***INDOOR CRICKET***

### **Preston Schools' Indoor Cricket Competition**

A group of over forty Our Lady's girls from Year 7 to Year 10 have been training hard after school every Friday for the past few weeks in preparation for the annual Preston Schools' Indoor Cricket Competition. We have been fortunate enough to have Lauren Burrow in to lead the sessions. Lauren works with the Lancashire Cricket Foundation and one of her main roles is to promote girls' cricket in the area. It was the turn of the U13 team to play first and Miss Lewis had a very difficult decision to make in terms of who was in the squad, as commitment to training has been fantastic, but we were only able to enter one team.

A squad of eight was selected to compete against Broughton and Archbishop. We played the hosts, Archbishop first. The captain, Umika P took three wickets thanks to her fantastic speed and accurate bowling. We also had some excellent catches from Eden P, Katie H and Scarlett A. All the girls fielded well, backing each other up and making it hard for Archbishop to get runs on the board. Consequently, we won our first game 67 runs to 55.

Next up we played Broughton, who are always challenging competitors. There was some excellent fielding from Beth W and Melody B. Once again, we took lots of early wickets as a result of consistent bowling from Umika P, Fearne B and Georgia S. Batting was also strong as the team were more settled having got one win under their belt. The end result was a 77 to 64 win for Our Lady's. We now go on to represent Preston in the next round of the competition where we face teams from all over Lancashire.



Good luck to the U16 squad who play next week.



A top-down view of a table tennis table with a black net. Two red paddles with blue handles are positioned on either side of the net. A white ball sits on the table surface near the net.

# Sporting News

## **TABLE TENNIS**

### Girls Table Tennis

The second round of the Preston Schools' table tennis competition took place at Christ the King after school on Wednesday. Both the U13 and U16 teams were confident having secured a clean sweep of wins last week. However, this week we were challenged more, having much closer matches. The U13s beat Christ the King 5-3, then drew 4-4 against Archbishop Temple A.

U16s beat both Archbishop Temple A and B 6-2 and 8-0 respectively. Unfortunately, they lost in a very close match against Corpus A 6-2.

A great effort from both age groups. We wish the girls luck as the tournament continues next week.

## **NETBALL**

On Monday the Year 7 and 8 netball teams ventured to Longridge for their Preston Schools' netball fixture. Year 7 were first to take to the court and they dominated right from the first whistle. Isabel W shot brilliantly to help us establish a seven goal lead by half time. We continued to build on this in the second half, with the final score being a convincing 11-0 win to Our Lady's. Player of the match was awarded to Eden P. She showed tremendous determination throughout the game, working tirelessly to attack and defend Centre court.

Next up were Year 8. They had had a much closer match against their opponents. We made it difficult for ourselves in the first half as we made a few unforced errors by trying to play too fast. By half time we were in the lead by just one goal. After a half time team talk to settle the nerves and a couple of tactical positional changes, we came out fighting for a win. However, so did our opponents, with neither team being able to establish a comfortable lead. In the end, it ended up a well-deserved 8 all draw.

Player of the match was awarded to Chiamaka E. Thanks to her great defending, she made the Longridge attack having to work hard for the ball.

## NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

**10-16 FEBRUARY 2025**

### RESOURCES



At HSBC, we believe apprenticeships are the future of the workforce – a gateway to valuable skills and meaningful careers. **National Apprenticeship Week** is a time to celebrate the incredible opportunities apprenticeships offer to young people, parents, and educators.

We are excited to invite students to join us for our virtual events designed to inform and inspire students, parents, and teachers:

#### Virtual Events for Everyone

- **HSBC & You:** Discover the culture, values and opportunities that make HSBC a great place to start your career. February 11th, 2025, from 6:00-7:30pm. Register [here](#)
- **Apprenticeship Pathways and Selection Process:** Learn the steps to secure an apprenticeship and explore the wide range of options available. February 13th, 2025, from 4:00-5:00pm. Register [here](#)
- **Meet the Apprentices:** Hear directly from our current apprentices about their journey and experiences. February 12th, 2025, from 6:00-7:30pm. Register [here](#)
- **Skills Apprentices Need to Succeed:** A session for students eager to excel, focusing on the key skills apprentices need to thrive. February 10th, 2025, from 6:00-7:30pm. Register [here](#)
- **What Employers Look for in an Apprentice:** Insights straight from employers, helping students stand out in a competitive field. February 10th, 2025, from 4:00-5:00pm. Register [here](#)



#### Virtual Events for Teachers and Parents

- **How to Support Your Child:** Designed for parents and teachers, this session provides practical advice on guiding young people through apprenticeship opportunities. February 10th, 2025, from 6:00-7:30pm. Register [here](#)
- **T-Levels Overview:** Learn how T-Levels fit into apprenticeship pathways and why they matter for future careers. February 13th, 2025, from 6:00-7:30pm. Register [here](#)

Here at HSBC we look forward to inspiring all students and helping them take their first steps towards exciting career opportunities. Let's celebrate the National Apprenticeship Week together!

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## YEAR 11 MOCK INTERVIEWS

On Wednesday we welcomed a variety of 32 employers into school to complete Mock Interviews with Year 11. Over the next few months Year 11 will be attending college interviews, apprenticeship interviews and maybe even part time job interviews. We wanted to ensure that they are absolutely prepared for this experience and what better way than to go through the process. They were very nervous whilst waiting to go into the Arts Theatre, but their big smile as they left reassured us that it was very much worth it. The employers completed written feedback which pupils will receive in due course, but the employers spoke

very highly of the year group and were so impressed with the way in which pupils conducted themselves.

**WELL  
DONE!**



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## Apprenticeships

**CLICK HERE**

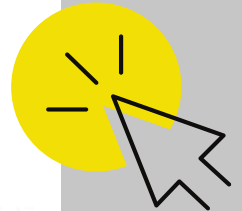


St Catherine's Hospice, Lancashire

20 January at 17:00 · 🌐

🔔 Job alert 🔔

## APPRENTICE CHEF



Love making food but crave a better work/life balance? 🤖

We're hiring an apprentice chef at [The Mill, St Catherine's Park](#)

If you've got a passion for great food and want sociable hours (yes, really!), this could be your perfect opportunity. Here's what you need to know:

- 🍅 37.5 hours a week, 5-day rota
- 🍅 No experience needed: We'll train you!
- 🍅 Variety: Work in the café, events, and hospice kitchens.
- 🍅 Earn while you learn: Gain a Level 2 Production Chef Apprenticeship.

Bring a positive attitude, a passion for food, and a willingness to learn—we'll do the rest!

👉 Apply before 31 January and start your journey with us:

<https://www.stcatherines.co.uk/jobs/apprentice-chef/>



**RAF WORLD**  
READY FOR TAKE OFF

**A FUTURE WITHOUT LIMITS**

**CLICK HERE**

JOIN US ON  
29<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025  
AT 7:30PM

ROYAL AIR FORCE  
REGULAR & RESERVE

NO ORDINARY JOB

VIRTUAL EVENT

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 step/s in their potential journeys.

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**CARDINAL  
NEWMAN  
COLLEGE**

**FINAL  
OPEN  
EVENT**



**CARDINAL  
NEWMAN  
COLLEGE**

**OPEN DAY**

**SATURDAY 1ST FEBRUARY**

**10AM - 1PM**

**APPLY NOW**

**CARDINALNEWMAN.AC.UK**



**LANCASTER UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS**

**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**

**School  
Leavers**

## Now Recruiting Apprentices

**Local Plumbing and Heating Company**

Please forward your CV by email to  
[chris@wmwilding.co.uk](mailto: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.



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