

Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 19
7th February 2025



The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes - Our Lady of Lourdes Statue Tour

"Do whatever he tells you." (John 2:5)

Our Lady of Lourdes holds a special place in our Diocese as our Patron. The 11th February marks her feast day, and we are privileged to be the first school on the tour to receive this beautiful statue, marking the Centenary of the Diocese of Lancaster.

In 1858, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Saint Bernadette in Lourdes, France. Mary asked for prayer, repentance, and a chapel to be built on the site. These apparitions continue to inspire millions of pilgrims each year to turn to Our Lady for healing and intercession. Mary's appearance at Lourdes to Saint Bernadette reflects her deep compassion for and identification with the poor. Saint Bernadette came from a very humble and uneducated background, yet Mary chose to appear to her in the simple grotto at Lourdes.

God our Father,

You chose Mary to be the Mother of your Son and our loving Mother too.

As we welcome this statue of Our Lady of Lourdes,
open our hearts to her example of faith and humility.

May her prayers and presence draw us closer to you,
through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord.

Amen.



BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Bella Farnworth, PJ Dickinson - curious and active

Year 8: Serah Sajosh - compassionate and faith-filled

Year 9: Rometh Senevirathne - eloquent and truthful

Year 10: William McCondichie - compassionate and loving

Year 11: Emily Barnes - learned and wise



Being One of Ours

THE TOUR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES STARTS AT OUR SCHOOL!

During this special tour, three statues of Our Lady of Lourdes will journey to every primary and secondary school in the Diocese, staying in each school for three school days. These statues have been blessed and commissioned to encourage devotion to Our Lady, deepen our faith, and strengthen the bonds between our diocesan schools.

Our Lady of Lourdes holds a special place in our Diocese as our Patron. In 1858, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Saint Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, France. Identifying herself as the Immaculate Conception, Mary asked for prayer, repentance, and a chapel to be built on the site. These apparitions continue to inspire millions of pilgrims each year to turn to Our Lady for healing and intercession. Some of our own pupils will be travelling to Lourdes this summer to help on the Diocesan Pilgrimage.

We strive to be a community that embodies these values - a Church that honours the dignity of every person, valuing their lives, regardless of background or ability.

LET US REFLECT

We are called to treat each individual in the light of Pope Benedict XVI's words:

Each of us is the result of a thought of God.

Each of us is willed.

Each of us is loved.

Each of us is necessary.

Amen



Our Lady's Catholic High School

Year 7 Parent Feedback

Very Satisfied /
Satisfied

How well do you feel that we ensure that your child is safe?

100%

How well do you feel that we provide classwork which challenges pupils?

98%

How well do you feel that we give you information regarding attendance and its impact on your child?

100%

Thank you to our Year 7 parents who recently completed the Parents' Evening Questionnaire and provided the wonderful feedback.

How well do you feel that we give you information regarding attendance and its impact on your child?

100%

How well do you feel that we ensure your child is "One Of Ours"?

98%

How well do you feel that we provide pupils with someone they can talk to if they have worries or concerns?

100%

How satisfied are you that we pass on information in the school newsletter?

98%

Lancashire Cyber Festival Education Week 2025

This week within school we have been celebrating The Lancashire Cyber Festival Education Week.

There have been various events that pupils have taken part in. The aim of the week is to inspire and enable young people to understand the potential cyber related career pathways open to them and highlight the county's once in a generation cyber opportunity brought by the National Cyber Force Headquarters being established in Lancashire.

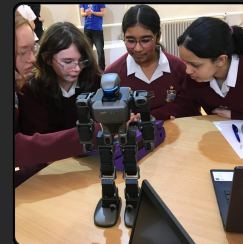
Year 10 pupils were invited to Preston College to enjoy a range of interactive Cyber and Tech related activities as well as wider topics including Languages, Psychology and Maths. Pupils discussed potential training and career options in STEM and cyber.

On Wednesday, the whole of **Year 9** took part in a virtual *TeenTech Innovation Live* session. The session was live and interactive and allowed pupils to ask questions and participate with quiz questions. The session was on the topic of AI and Cybersecurity with leading employers showcasing exciting aspects of their work. Pupils could ask questions to a member of the research and development team at the BBC as well as two members of ORACLE, one being an apprentice. Pupils asked some great questions and some were asked during the live session. Pupils were also invited to join the TeenTech awards if they chose to take part. **Please speak to Ms Worthington if you would like more details.**



On Thursday, 30 Year 8 girls were invited to the CyberFirst MEGA event organised by IN4 Group on behalf of CyberFirst at Chorley Town hall. The aim of the day was to empower a diverse range of young people to consider exciting careers in cybersecurity, with a particular focus on encouraging girls to build skills and interest in technology early in their education.

During this session pupils visited a number of different workshops around the room. This included Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality, Microbits, Speeos, Robots and many more. The day included programming the different items to solve problems. All of the girls had a great time. Comments included, "Brilliant!", "Very educational and very worthwhile.", "If other girls have the opportunity to go, I highly recommend it!".



Our school was also commented on by a speaker from Lancaster University who was extremely impressed with the girls' skills in binary as well as the way they conducted themselves. Well done girls.

WORLD BOOK DAY

Friday 7th March

Friday 7th March, 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.



Being One of Ours

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 ways in which scientists are using technology to better understand two different natural phenomena.

Read the article about imaging the interior structure of a storm cloud and then answer the following questions.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce9317wk1v7o>

Question 1: What technology did the satellite use to capture the cloud structure?

Question 2: How do low level clouds help cool the Earth?

Read the article about modelling tsunamis and then answer the following questions.

Question 3: How fast were the waves moving in the 2004 Indonesian tsunami?

Question 4: What type of system do the engineers use to simulate a tsunami?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czr378e17p7o>

Home Research

The second article mentions the magnitude of earthquakes. Do your own research on magnitude and intensity of earthquakes and then answer the following question.

Question 5 What scientific instrument is used to measure the magnitude of an earthquake and what scientific quantity is it measuring?

Information

NEW HORIZONS

A 12 weekly programme to kickstart your personal development and gain a Level 1 certificate, plus a Level 2 in Mental Health First Aid

FREE Wellbeing Session includes massage, nails beauty & more

Time for yourself, light refreshments & free gifts!

Regain your confidence, connect with others & learn transferrable skills in a warm, safe and welcoming space

Starts Friday 6th June 2025, 9.30am-2.30pm
at Moor Nook Hub, & The Zone, Burholme Road,
Preston, PR2 6HN

Please ring 01772-539444 to book a place



Moor Nook Hub & The Zone, Burholme Road, Ribbleton, Preston, PR2 6HN

SEND COURSE FOR PARENTS



Starts 4th March 2025
TUESDAYS 9.30am-2.30pm
Moor Nook Hub & The Zone
Burholme Road
Ribbleton
Preston
PR2 6HN

Session 1/2 - Introduction to special educational needs and disability

Session 3/4 - Understand Equality and Diversity in context of SEND

Session 5/6 - Principles of promoting person centred approach for individuals with SEND

Session 7/8 - Understanding SEND and learning

Session 9/10 - Living with special educational needs and disabilities

10 WEEK
FREE
COURSE



Moor Nook Hub & The Zone, Burholme Road, Ribbleton, Preston, PR2 6HN. Ring 01772-539444 to book a place.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Community Support Information



February Online Safety Newsletter



What's On Guide

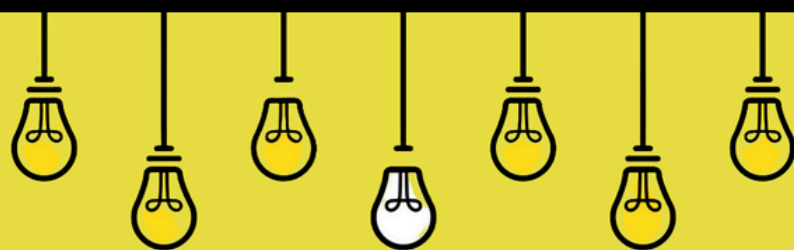


Scams & Fake News Guide



Being One of Ours

Information



CAREERS FAIR



**Our Lady's
Catholic High School**

Our Lady's annual Careers Fair will take place on 18th March from 10am until 2.30pm for pupils in Years 7 to 10.

If you wish to have a stand on the day, please email careers@olchs.lancs.sch.uk for further information.



2025 Dates for your Diary

Monday 10 February
Year 11 Revision Plan Launch

10-14 February
Year 10 Work Experience

Thursday 27 February
Year 9 Parents' Evening

Thursday 13 March
Year 8 Parents' Evening

**LIVE
School
Calendar**



SCHOOL TIMES

Arrive at school / Go to waiting areas	8.40- 8.45
Pupils go to Form rooms / Locker time	8.45- 8.55
Form Time	8.55-9.15
School finishes	3pm

Except Tuesdays (ONLY)

Pupils finish at 2.30pm

OLCHS SOCIAL MEDIA



Being One of Ours

INDOOR ATHLETICS



Sports Hall Athletics Competition

Thirteen Year 8 students made up our Year 8 Sports Hall Athletics team and competed in the district championships at Preston College on Wednesday morning. It was a fantastic event with 11 high schools across Preston competing against each other in a number of running, throwing and jumping events.

The pupils are great ambassadors for our school with their behaviour and performances shining throughout the event.

Competition was fierce with a number of schools appearing to dominate in different areas and events. As the competition drew to a close, the overall results were announced. Both the boys' and girls' team achieved a very respectable 3rd place, with Broughton taking silver and Archbishop claiming the top spot this year.

Next week sees the Year 7s take to the Sports Hall Athletics competition and we are hoping for another podium finish!

FOOTBALL

Huge congratulations to the U13 girls football team who beat Maghull High 6-3 last Friday. The girls now face a very difficult game against Chesterfield school away in Crosby on Monday 10th February. Good luck ladies.



Sporting News

TABLE TENNIS



Girls Table Tennis

On Wednesday the U16 table tennis squad competed in the final round of the Preston Schools' competition. We were missing two of our regular players, Evie M and Meera P. However, the team put in some good performances against Christ the King and Moor Park, beating both schools. We had a tougher match against Archbishop B. We tied the number of games won, and so had to go off the total points scored.

Unfortunately, our opponents managed to gain more points over the course of their matches against us. We also had close defeats against Corpus A and Archbishop A. Thanks go to Charlotte W, Georgia C, Wiktor G and Charlotte P.

The final results from the whole competition that has taken place over the past five weeks will be available soon.

Cross Country Running



Saturday 1st February was the **Lancashire Schools' Cross Country Championship** at Witton Park, Blackburn. Following their very impressive run in the district event back in October, eight OLCHS students were selected to represent Preston at the event. We are extremely proud of all our students making the step up to county level, all of whom did so prophetically. They really did our school proud with their performance.

Year 7 Race: Bella F (38/60), PJ Dickinson (46/60)

Junior Race (year 8/9): David B (22/57), Ben B (54/57)

Intermediate Race (year 10/11): Karley R (24/37), Luke K (2/48), Michael D (24/48), Jake B (27/48)

A very special mention to highlight Luke K's performance which has earned him a place in the Lancashire Schools' Cross Country team who will compete at the National Championship in Brighton later in the year!

Being One of Ours

CAREERS IN THE CURRICULUM

This week has been Lancashire Cyber Festival with many activities taking place around the county. With Cyber employment becoming a major feature for the foreseeable future Mrs Lin took sixteen Year 10 pupils who have a genuine interest in this role to Preston College to be part of the festival.

Pupils participated in four sessions, including making their safety online video which was edited by Preston College students, breaking codes, deciphering code and also trying to see through 'scam' emails in order to protect themselves online. Huge congratulations to Anna S and Eli N who both won £20 Amazon vouchers for the amazing input into the sessions. Unfortunately, we were unable to take any photos due to the theme of the day.

PRESTON
COLLEGE

Holly and Maisie in Year 10 have both continued to develop their skills on the Hair & Beauty course at Preston College. This week they have completed their Manicure Assessments and both achieved distinctions in the examination, they also completed their practical assessment in Nail Art and scored Merits. Well done girls!

Not to be outdone, the Year 11 group have also been completing these assessments and Ellie W has scored two merits in her assessments. A really pleasing achievement from all concerned!

nails



WORK EXPERIENCE

YEAR 10

We would like to wish Year 10 the best of luck as they embark on their Work Experience next week. We cannot wait to visit them and hear all about it.

YEAR 9

Work Experience 2026 for current Year 9 takes place from the 9-13 February 2026 and was launched this week with Mrs Lin. Letters regarding this will be sent just before the Easter break. It is never too early to start thinking where you would like to go and do your work experience.

LEYLAND TRUCKS

One of the UK's leading engineering and manufacturing companies is searching for 22 new apprentices

Could it be you?

Read the story

[CLICK HERE](#)



2025 at Leyland Trucks sees our most extensive offering of Degree level apprenticeships - with a total of six being offered across a range of business areas. In a couple of weeks we'll be exploring our office-based Level 6 schemes (Supply Chain & IT Software) but this week we turn our attention to the Design Engineer Scheme and the Controls System Engineer Scheme.

Engineering Level 6 Degree Level Apprenticeships. Offering a route to a degree qualification with no tuition fees, they are a great opportunity to gain practical experience in a real-world industry setting.

[CLICK HERE!](#)

A poster for Myerscough College & University Centre. It features the college's logo and the text 'INSPIRING EXCELLENCE'. The main heading is 'COURSE ADVICE MORNINGS'. Below this, it says 'Saturday 8th February' and 'Saturday 29th March Starts 10.00am'. At the bottom, it lists 'CENTRES IN PRESTON, BLACKBURN, LIVERPOOL AND WARRINGTON'. The poster also includes a banner for 'School Leavers | University Degrees | Apprenticeships' and several small images showing students in various activities like climbing, horse riding, and working with a dog.

Cadent
Your Gas Network

Take a look at our scheme:

Future Field-Force



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!

Being One of Ours