



# Our Lady's Catholic High School

A National Teaching School



Friday, 24 March 2017

Name .....

Form .....

Our Prayer theme next week is **Giving**.

When Jesus gives the gift of sight to the blind man in this Sunday's Gospel, the authorities are more concerned that he has done this on the Holy Day. Sometimes we hold ourselves back from giving to others because it might be "against the rules" or we worry about what others might think of us. Jesus reminds us to ignore "the rules" and to give what we can to others regardless of the consequences.

**Lord, help us to be charitable in our thoughts, words and actions. Let us give without fear; love without limits and be faithful to all who we meet.**

**We pray also for those who have been the victims of violence in our country and beyond. Lord, we ask for peace in our world, an end to conflict and respect for all. Amen. (Prayer from 8U).**

## HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

We wish to ensure that contact between parents/carers and school is as strong and purposeful as possible. In so doing we must ensure that we manage expectations in a realistic manner to ensure that the most urgent matters receive priority and that we use the most appropriate means of communication in each instance. To assist I should like to clarify the following:

- Appointments to meet with teachers – these should be made in advance via telephone or email. Teachers have commitments throughout the day and unfortunately are not therefore available to meet without notice.
- Email - is a great way of informing school of general matters and its use is very welcome. However a teacher may only be able to access their emails at the end of the school day. Please therefore expect a reply within 48 hours.
- Telephone – voicemail will often be listened to only at the very end of the day due to meeting other scheduled commitments; hence, again it may take 48 hours to return your call. Please consider whether your enquiry could be better expressed in an email, as a telephone call requires both parties to be available at the same time.

We always give priority to our core business of teaching in the classroom but we do also wish to communicate with our families in the best manner possible. Your support in helping us achieve this is appreciated greatly.

## PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor to join our Full Governing Body. Nomination forms have been sent out this week to the youngest pupil in each family. Any parent who would like to apply should complete the nomination form and return it to Pam Bilsborrow at school by 12 noon on Tuesday, 18 April. For enquiries or further information please email [pbi@olchs.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:pbi@olchs.lancs.sch.uk)

## TABLE TENNIS NEWS

Congratulations to the U13 girls and U16 boys' table tennis teams. Both qualified in the group stages to progress to the Preston Schools Finals held at Broughton on Tuesday, 14 March. The girls played in a best of three round robin and finished second to Broughton. Similarly, the boys also came second losing to Broughton in the final. Well done to everyone involved! The PE department would also like to thank everyone who helped host the group stages of the tournament. A range of pupils helped officiate the events which were held on two separate nights. Both nights catered for multiple schools and ran successfully.

## **RUGBY NEWS**

Unfortunately the year 7 Rugby team lost both their fixtures this week. The team was rusty and were missing vital parts of the game, such as tackling and rucking, which proved costly. However, there were some great individual performances demonstrating both skill and bravery. They lost 3-0 (in tries) to both Archbishop Temple and Ashton. They listened to feedback and improved a lot in the second game which was pleasing to see. In spite of two defeats, it is a team with great potential.

## **BAE ROTARY TECHNOLOGY TOURNAMENT**

On Friday, 17 March OLCHS had another successful day at the BAE Rotary Technology Tournament held at Preston Grasshoppers RUFC. Two mixed teams were entered from Years 9 & 10, winning 2nd and 1st place respectively. The teams beat very strong competition from many other local schools. The brief was to design a 'mole' using basic materials and electronics components. The mole had to be capable of remotely removing debris from a 3m length of pipe, before reversing back down the pipe. The Year 9 pupils did exceptionally well as they entered the intermediate challenge- aimed at Years 10 and 11. Both groups created detailed portfolios to gain them high marks, whilst building robust, innovative vehicles.

## **AUTISM AWARENESS WEEK, 27 MARCH – 31 MARCH**

To raise awareness of autism and to support autism awareness week all teachers and support staff took part in a development session this week. The session looked at how to understand and support teenagers who are on the autistic spectrum. All pupils will also be having an awareness session in form time next week to help them understand and support autistic people they may meet, both in and out of school.

## **NHS CAREERS DAY – HAVE YOU CONSIDERED A CAREER IN THE NHS?**

On Thursday, 20 April from 4.30 to 6.00pm pupils who are considering a career in the NHS may go along to Royal Preston Hospital and explore the range of careers available, everyone is welcome. This would be a place to find out more if you are considering working within the NHS. For more information contact – [Brittany.Mollart@lthtr.nhs.uk](mailto:Brittany.Mollart@lthtr.nhs.uk)

Venue: Health Academy Centre 2, First Floor Skills Labs, Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Royal Preston Hospital, Sharoe Green Lane, Preston PR2 9HT

## **APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT TONI AND GUY**

Tony and Guy Hairdressers are recruiting now for Hairdressing Apprenticeships for school leavers. There is an open night on Monday, 3 April from 4.00pm at Toni and Guy, 86 Fishergate, Preston PR1 2NJ. For more information please contact Joanne Yates on 01772 202200

## **CASHLESS DINING SYSTEM**

We currently have a number of pupils with damaged lunch cards. Such cards cause the machines that read the information from the card to slow down and potentially be permanently damaged. From 18 April for two weeks staff in the Restaurant will advise pupils with damaged cards to buy a new one. These are available from the Finance Office for £1.50.

### **Dates to remember**

Friday, 31 March – School closes for Easter at 12.45 pm  
Tuesday, 18 April – School opens for the Summer Term  
Thursday, 27 April – Year 7 Normandy Trip  
Monday, 1 May – May Day, school closed  
Friday, 26 May – School closes for half-term  
Monday, 5 June – School opens  
Thursday, 29 June – Year 6 Parents' Evening – 7.00 pm  
Monday, 3 July – Year 6 Transition Day  
Friday, 21 July – school closes for the end of term at 12.45 pm