



Our Lady's Catholic High School



A National Teaching School

Friday, 16 September 2016

Name Form

Our Prayer theme next week is **Riches and Poverty**

MESSAGE FROM MR RANSON

As we come to the end of our second full week back at school and I am delighted to say that our new Year 7 pupils have made a wonderful start. We place great emphasis on manners and relationships at our school and it is so lovely to see how the new pupils ask for help in such polite ways and remember to say thank you and smile. Such simple things are sometimes forgotten in our 'modern world' but we value them greatly. The new pupils are helped greatly by the example they see from older pupils and staff.

I should like to congratulate our outgoing Year 11 pupils, the class of 2016. They achieved outstanding success with 77% of pupils gaining 5 or more GCSE passes at grade A* - C including mathematics and English for all pupils who sat exams at our school. Of particular note was the level of progress made by the pupils during their 5 years with us with both mathematics and English pushing toward 90% for 3 or more Levels of Progress. Our Staffing and Curriculum Governors will scrutinize all aspects of examination performance to see any areas where we can improve. My greatest pleasure is, and always shall be, seeing pupils grow and mature into fine young adults, tolerant of differences and positive in belief. I would like to therefore pay tribute to all of the teachers and staff who worked so hard to support those pupils who now have left us and ask you to join with me to recognise the great success achieved by our pupils.

We are very pleased to welcome new staff who started at Our Lady's last week and have come to us from a variety of places and bring with them a breadth of experience:

- Miss Anna Bagley – Catholic Teaching Alliance – Teacher of Mathematics
- Mrs Caroline Buyers – Central Lancaster High School – Teacher of Mathematics
- Ms Janette Crosbie – Peebles High School – Pastoral Support Assistant
- Mr Aaron Fisher – Ingol Primary School – Learning Support Assistant
- Mr Matthew Goring – Edge Hill University – Teacher of Resistant Materials
- Mr Simon Hewitt – Rivington and Blackrod High School – Assistant Principal Teacher of PE
- Mrs Angela Hey – Blackpool Council – Attendance Improvement Officer
- Mrs Anna Moir - All Hallows Catholic High School – Teacher of English
- Mr Christy Morris – York University – Learning Support Assistant

PUPIL SAFETY

Please be aware that from Monday 19th September the school gates will be closed from 3.20, when the school buses arrive until 3.40, when they leave (on Tuesdays 2.20-2.40). For car users this will mean that there will be no access to the school grounds between these times. To avoid congestion parents/carers are advised therefore, not to approach school at the end of the school day but instead to ask their children to meet at an agreed rendezvous away from school.

CYCLING TO SCHOOL

Please would all parents be reminded that any pupil riding to school must:

- a. Have parental permission
- b. Have signed a cycling contract and returned this to school
- c. Wear a cycle helmet

Pupils who are seen leaving school without a helmet or have not completed a signed contract will be instructed to leave their bicycles in school, until we are in possession of the correct paper work and they have a cycle helmet. Cycling contracts are available from Mrs Bilborrow.

19 STEPS/HOME FOR LUNCH

If pupils wish to travel to school via the footpath up the 19 steps please would parents send a written note to Mr Fitzpatrick requesting permission. He will then issue a pass to allow access via this route. Also if you wish your son/daughter to return to your home or a relative's house each day for lunch again please confirm in writing to Mr Fitzpatrick who will issue a pass.

YEAR 11 HOMEWORK SUPPORT

Homework support sessions for Year 11 pupils will run on Tuesday 2.30 pm – 3.30 pm in room 33, Wednesday 1.50 pm – 2.20 pm in room 30, Thursday 1.50 pm – 2.20 pm and 3.30 pm – 4.40 pm and Friday 1.50 pm – 2.20 pm. The sessions will begin on Tuesday, 20 September and all Year 11 pupils are very welcome.

DRAMA CLUBS

A number of dance/drama clubs are available to pupils. Please see the table below for details:

Club	When and where	Instructions
Dance club	Monday 1.40 pm – 2.10 pm Drama studio	All pupils are welcome. Suitable shoes and leggings are required.
Drama Musical Theatre Club	Monday 3.30 pm – 4.45 pm Drama studio	Year 7 – 9 pupils are invited. Pupils will work towards performing a full show, in 2015 Annie and 2016 Matilda/Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Drama kit needed

PE KIT

There are a small number of girls who have been sold a boys polo top as part of the new PE kit from Top One Clothing. After contacting Top One clothing, they have agreed that once they have the new girls PE top in stock within the next week, they will exchange this for the boys polo top. This is regardless of the fact that the top has been worn or whether you have still the receipt. Any problems please contact Miss Lewis on 326925.

PE VOLUNTEER

Mrs Lin is looking for a volunteer football coach to work with a group of girls on a Wednesday evening after school. This role would be perfect for a college pupil who is an aspiring PE teacher or someone who simply wants to gain some valuable volunteering experience. Anybody interested please email Mrs Lin directly on zli@olchs.lancs.sch.uk

SHIN PADS

As of Monday, 26 September all pupils taking part in football during PE lessons will be required to wear shin pads. This is a new addition to the OLCBS PE kit and is solely for pupil safety.

FOOTBALL BOOTS

The PE department are very low on supplies of spare football boots. If any family has boots, in any size, they no longer need please could they send them into school for the attention of Mrs Lin.

FILM CLUB

Film Club is held in the LRC every Thursday after school until 4.30pm for pupils in Year 8 or above. The pupils choose their film which is watched over a 2 week period. Popcorn and orange juice are provided free of charge. A parental permission form is required which can be obtained from Mrs Halsall in the LRC.

Dates to remember

Friday, 30 September – Macmillan Coffee Morning
Tuesday, 4 October – Year 7 Welcome Mass
Thursday, 6 October – Open Evening
Friday, 7 October – INSET day, pupils at home
Thursday, 13 October – Year 7 Information Evening
Friday, 28 October – School closes for half-term at 3.30 pm
Monday, 7 November – school opens