



# Our Lady's Catholic High School



A National Teaching School

Friday, 22 June 2018

Our Prayer theme next week is **The Saints**

This week we hear another Nativity story, this time of Saint John the Baptist - the cousin of Jesus. Saint John was the one who prepared the way for the Lord (as we hear in the season of Advent). The question this week is: what are saints? They are people who, like John, show us the way to God. They are ordinary people who lived extraordinary lives through their faith, their service and their love of God. No saint was perfect (because nobody is) but they lived in such a way that they point the way towards God. In an age where we still look to idolise others, we could do with learning from the lives of the saints and recognise that there are future saints who live among us today. Let us ask what the people of Judea asked: "What will this child be?"



**Lord, we pray that we can be influenced by the lives of the saints and know that we can follow their example to grow closer to you. Amen.**

## ONE OF OURS

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Isabella Cebrero who very sadly died on Friday, and also for her family. She was, and always will be one of ours.

**Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.**

**May she rest in peace.**

**Amen**

## ONLINE GUIDANCE

Schools have received a warning about an online game which we wanted to pass onto you. The game is known as Doki Doki also known as Doki Doki Literature Club. It does warn it is not suitable for children however the graphics used and the anime approach are clearly aimed at young people. It sells itself as a literature based site about teenage girls but the content is very disturbing and is linked to some serious safeguarding concerns. On a similar theme you may be aware of concerns regarding the Netflix series 13 Reasons Why. The Samaritans have issued some useful advice for at <https://www.samaritans.org/news/guidance-viewers-netflix-drama-13-reasons-why>. Their view is that although the series may be about issues facing young people it is not suitable viewing for all teenagers. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of our pastoral staff to discuss any concerns, Mrs Howard.

## ENRICHMENT DAY 3

Year 7 explored what it means to be British, learning about democracy and British Values. Talks were delivered from the key British Institutions of the Fire Service and the NHS, about water safety, arson and when to call an ambulance. Pupils had lesson on how to do CPR and how to use a defibrillator. Finally, a military company came in to develop core army values of courage, determination and integrity.

Year 8 pupils took part in a number of workshops throughout the day looking at various issues surrounding staying safe online which included; grooming, sexting and cyber bullying. The day started with a talk from an online safety representative from Lancashire County Council and ended with pupils watching a very moving and hard hitting film about one family's experience of the murder of their son following grooming via online gaming.

Year 9 looked at the themes of Love and Relationships. In Art pupils looked at the qualities needed to have healthy friendships and relationships. Pupils in Music created melodies on the theme of relationships. Pupils developed their team-building skills with the help of the PE department. In English pupils looked at how to rebuild lives and communities if relationships break down. Pupils also studied the psychology and science of love! In Drama pupils developed scenarios based on the unrealistic expectations that reality TV and social media have on relationships.

The theme of our Year 10 Faith and Justice Day was 'Share the Journey' which was inspired by Pope Francis' call to respond with compassion to protect the human dignity of people who have been forced to flee their homes. Throughout the day

pupils reflected on the refugee crisis by participating in a variety of workshops. Pupils took part in a symbolic solidarity walk to step out in support of our global neighbours. They experienced an interactive sensory reminiscence session to encourage them to find out more about their own family's journey (Lancashire Memories). Examples of injustice challenged pupils (Columbans) and they had to reflect upon the harsh realities of life which some people face every day (CAFOD). Groups reflected on the obstacles which we have to overcome in life and then worked to build bridges using limited resources of paper and sellotape. Form groups created amazing posters to show how each one of them is part of a special community and is branching out. Finally pupils had the privilege to meet two refugees and hear their moving story. Thank you to all who worked with our pupils and to Year 10 for taking part so well.

### **CITY ATHLETICS COMPETITION**

The annual Preston City Athletics competition took place on Tuesday, 19 June. The girls' team had great depth in both the Under 13 and Under 15 age categories. We had many individual winners throughout the course of the day. Ellie Sumner, Angel Ojumobi and Anna Thompson won the 100 metres, Discus and 1500 metres respectively. This was a massive achievement as they were all Year 7 pupils competing predominantly against Year 8 students. Kelsey Corcoran and Grace Wignall also fought hard but narrowly missed out on a win, finishing a very respectful second place in the 200 and 800 metres. There were also very convincing wins for the under 15 girls, Annie Duffy in the 800 metres and Emily Mayson in the 1500 metres. In addition, Elodie Chesworth finished joint first in the Discus. Emma Clayton and Grace McGarvey also finished second in the 100 and 200 metres respectively.

The boys' team also worked extremely hard, each pupil giving maximum effort in their individual events. All field events took place in the morning and many members of our team threw or jumped personal bests to win their event. These included James Lupton (discus 42.35) and Liam Corless (triple jump 10.95). The Under 15 middle and long distance runners dominated their events with many pupils winning their event comfortably. Matthew Farrell ran a very tactical 300m final, saving his energy for a brilliant sprint finish to win by 5 metres. Cian Hayes, Tom Durney and David Alker also won the 800m, 1500m and 3000m respectively. All three maintained their lead throughout the race and were too strong to be caught by any opposing competitors. Laim Burns (long jump), Owen Strickland (shot putt) and Harvey Joliffe (javelin) all finished in podium positions which also helped give Our Lady's boys' team a convincing win in their age group.

### **3AAA APPRENTICESHIPS**

3aaa Apprenticeships are a national Training Provider with a regional base in Blackburn and are now working with Preston based employers. They will be offering apprenticeships in: Technology – (IT, Web, Software and Telecoms Professional; Software Development Technician and Infrastructure Technician), Digital Marketing and Assistant Accountant. For more information contact: 01254 952 194 or [appyblackburn@3aaa.co.uk](mailto:appyblackburn@3aaa.co.uk) Website: [www.3aaa.co.uk](http://www.3aaa.co.uk)

### **POETRY SLAM FINALS 2018**

The finals of Our Lady's 5<sup>th</sup> Poetry Slam competition took place this week. Having progressed through the group stages held in English lessons, the finalists from Year 7 took to the stage on Tuesday morning and, in front of their whole year group, boldly performed a variety of highly entertaining poems. Our panel of judges (Mr Bell, Miss Saunders, Miss Turner and Mrs O'Beirne) were faced with a very difficult decision of choosing the winners but in the end awarded Lily Machin and Rachel Wilson as the 'selfie takers' runners up and Millie Colosimo, Tallulah Hodson and Lucy Brown as the highly amusing, worthy winners. Likewise, the Year 8 final took place on Wednesday morning and the standard was incredibly high; choosing a champion certainly proved to be a challenge! However the judges (Mr Taylor, Miss Holmes, Mrs Smith and Mrs Morris) eventually gave second place to Louisa Henshaw's impressive solo performance and 1<sup>st</sup> place to Jack Sweeney and Lucas Taylor for their original poem entitled 'Social Media'. Well done to all the participants and a particular thanks to our 'host with the most', Mr Fitzpatrick who not only professionally compered both finals, but managed to teach us all some lines of poetry along the way!

#### **Dates to remember**

Wednesday, 27 June – Sports' Awards Dinner  
Thursday, 28 June – New Parents Evening  
Monday, 2 July – Year 6 Induction Day  
Tuesday, 3 July – Prefects' Ball  
Friday, 13 July – Rewards Trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach  
Friday, 20 July – School closes for the end of term  
Tuesday, 4 September – school opens for Year 7 only  
Wednesday, 5 September – school opens for all pupils