



Our Lady's Catholic High School



A National Teaching School

Friday, 6 July 2018

Our Prayer theme next week is **Grace**

It is interesting to know that Jesus is taken aback by the lack of faith among his own people (what does He make of the world today?). Lack of faith seems a normal thing for lots of people but that means that lots of people are underestimating the grace that God has given us. God's grace is the air that we breathe, the beauty of the world, the life within each of us, the coincidences that bring us "luck" and the fact that we are here at all. God's grace shows itself in countless ways and is never-ending.



Lord, in our struggles to believe help us to look up at the world, to think about the things that happen in our lives and to recognise the good that comes from our Father, almighty God. Amen.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH SILVER

Whilst most reach for a deck chair when the temperatures soar to 30 degrees, our intrepid Year 10 Silver DofE Groups loaded up their bags, put on their boots and jumped in the minibus heading to the Lakes for 3 days of navigation, camp craft and fitness training.

The groups all began the journey in Grasmere. Bypassing the gingerbread store, they made their way up the steep path to Easedale Tarn where they planned to have lunch. Despite not having been on an expedition since their Bronze 9 months ago, the teams soon got into the swing of things and their map reading was spot on. They even moved on to doing some micro navigation which is a challenging skill. On the way up to the Tarn the teams made the most of every bit of shade as above the tree line they were exposed to high temperatures which, combined with steep terrain, made the journey very tough - not that you would know as the teams worked together to motivate the ones that found it more challenging and kept their spirits high throughout. Once at the top, the teams were greeted by breath-taking views but the way down was almost as tricky as the way up with a steep descent into the Langdales. Once back at camp the teams put up their tents, made their tea and then watched the sun set down the Valley.

With another hot day ahead, the teams decided that an early start was the best way to avoid the heat. Once again the teams worked together to pack up camp and depart for the day's adventure. For many this was their favourite route with several commenting that if you took a picture and sent it to a friend you would not believe it was the UK. Again, the map reading was spot on and so the teams were able to get back to camp early and spend the late afternoon playing sport in the camp with other DofE teams.

We awoke on the third day to more spectacular weather and cloud free skies. The teams had the end in sight and completed the final day with a spring in their step, taking care with their map reading so that they did not have to walk further than they needed. After 3 days of walking it was a relief to reach Coniston so that they could give their sore feet and tired shoulders a rest. It was a privilege for all the staff members to support such motivated and resilient young men and women in their practice expedition and if this weekend was anything to go by, their assessment in Anglesey in 2 weeks' time promises to be fantastic.

MARAFIKI GARDEN PLANT SALE

On Thursday, 12 July the Marafiki gardening club will be selling a collection of their produce during the school production of Billy Elliot. There will be a selection of flowers and bedding plants, including hanging baskets, a selection of herbs, peppers, chilli plants and other vegetables. The stall will be set up in reception for collection at the end of the show. Prices ranging from 50p to £10. All proceeds will go back into the garden.

SPORTS COUNCIL

OLCHS PE Department have introduced a Sports Council this year! The first meeting was held on the 21 May 2018 and two subsequent meetings will have taken place by the end of the academic year. The aim of the council is to improve the pupil voice of how sport is promoted, delivered and celebrated at Our Lady's. Each form has a Sports Council representative who are required to attend meetings and feedback to their form where required. The first two meetings have been hugely influential, and we look forward to its continued success.

Dates to remember

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

Friday, 5 October – INSET Day – pupils at home

Friday, 19 October – school closes for half-term