



Our Lady's Catholic High School



A National Teaching School

Friday, 7 September 2018

Name Form

Our Prayer theme next week is **Community**

In this week's Gospel, Jesus uses an Aramaic word 'Ephphetha' which means 'Be Opened' when he is healing a man who is deaf. He does this within a small community with the community looking on. This idea of being open links beautifully with community. All communities should be open to the stranger, open to love, care and compassion.

Lord, help us to be open to the plans You have for us and our communities. Help us to always show love, care and compassion to everyone we meet. Show us how to be open to people we do not know and bring them in to our communities where they will always be shown love and kindness. Amen.

MESSAGE FROM MR RANSON

May I extend a very warm welcome back to school to everyone who is part of the community of Our Lady's. I hope that you have enjoyed a restful holiday with your families and return refreshed and ready for the challenges that a new year brings. A particular welcome goes to all of our Year 7 pupils who begin the secondary phase of their educational journey here at our school. They and their families are very welcome and it has been a great pleasure to see so many bright and smiling faces and such well mannered and caring pupils. Mrs Finnerty has been similarly impressed with the start that they have made during their first week.

I am delighted to be able to share with you news of the outstanding success of last year's Year 11 pupils. This was the year group who faced the greatest change of all in terms of new examination specifications and the new grading system. Their results are simply excellent and form a rich reward for the consistent hard work and dedication with which they approached their studies. The specifications may have been new but the principles that underpin success are not. Concentrate very hard during lessons, work with determination at home; accept advice; believe in yourself; have rest and keep things in proportion and finally to support each other as part of a family.

I dislike throwing around statistics but I know that parents like to hear of key indicators and these are:

| Percentage achieving a GCSE in ... | Standard pass (Grade 4 – 9) | Strong pass (Grade 5 – 9) | High pass (Grade 7 – 9) |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| English | 88% | 73% | 22% |
| Mathematics | 87% | 70% | 32% |
| Both En and Ma | 82% | 61% | |
| 5 GCSEs including English and Maths | 71% | 57% | |

- A standard pass (Grade 4) is the equivalent of an old Grade C
- A strong pass (Grade 5) is the equivalent of a low, old Grade B
- A high pass (Grade 7) is the equivalent of the old Grade A
- Both Grade 8 and Grade 9 are the equivalent of the old A* Grade

A full list of subject achievement will be published shortly on our website. These results really are very good indeed. The emphasis that is given in government performance tables to English and Mathematics masks the outstanding achievement within other subjects, both GCSEs and vocational. These qualifications are also of vital importance to the career aspirations of our pupils. Do please look out for the full listing of subject by subject performance.

We are rightly very proud of these achievements and I commend to you the excellent and dedicated work of our teachers and support staff, all of whom, in conjunction with our wonderful families, have made such achievement possible for our pupils.

Finally, we are delighted to welcome colleagues new to our school but firstly I welcome someone who is very familiar to you; Mrs Jackie McArdle, who takes up her new position within our school as Assistant Headteacher. Her particular areas of responsibility are pastoral care of upper school pupils and whole school rewards and behaviour.

Teaching staff

- Mrs Kate Cree - Holy Cross Catholic High School, Chorley – Principal Teacher of Science
- Mrs Jenny Evans – Eden Boys' School, Preston - Temporary Teacher of Art
- Ms Nadia Ghanim – Fulwood Academy – Temporary Teacher of Science
- Mrs Janet Jones – Corpus Christi – Temporary Teacher of RE
- Mrs Zoe Lin – change of role – Learning Manager Year 8
- Mrs Sarah Little – Harper Green School, Bolton - Temporary Teacher of Languages
- Mr Aidan Nelson - St Gabriel's RC High School, Bury – Assistant Headteacher

Non-Teaching staff

- Mrs Amy Gregson – St Mary's Primary School, Langho - Part-time Business Support Officer
- Miss Emily Loughran – Valuation Office Agency – Data/Cover Manager
- Mrs Gemma Murray – Change of role – Business Support Officer (part-time)
- Mrs Helen Porter – Ashton CSC – Exclusion Unit Teaching Assistant
- Mrs Gemma Slater – Change of role – Temporary Cover Supervisor (part-time)
- Mr Richard Teasdale – St Benedict's Catholic High School, Whitehaven - Chaplain

UNIFORM

Many thanks for the excellent support to ensure that children have returned to school looking smart and are dressed in accordance with our uniform arrangements. Form Tutors have advised any pupil whose uniform does not quite meet our standards and we would be grateful if any changes could be made by Friday, 14 September.

CAT TESTS

All Year 7 pupils sat their CAT tests on Friday, 7 September. Cognitive Ability Tests (CAT tests) are taken by all Year 7 pupils in all schools across Lancashire. These tests do help us, as a school, by providing more information about a pupil's ability.

ADMISSIONS – SEPTEMBER 2019

The process of applying for high school places in September 2019 has now begun for Year 6 pupils. Parents wishing to choose Our Lady's should apply online at <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place.aspx> or via the link on Moodle. Parents should ensure that preferences are selected in the correct order as Lancashire County Council always aim to offer places in order of preference. Please be aware that it is necessary to apply even if a brother or sister is already at Our Lady's and it is imperative that all applications are received **before the deadline of 31 October 2018**. In addition to the Lancashire application process we ask that a Supplementary Form is completed. These forms are available on the school website or from reception.

VACANCY

We currently have vacancies for a Deputy Catering Manager/Cook and a Temporary Catering Assistant to work in our Restaurant. Further details, including Job Description and Application Forms, can be found on the school website www.olchs.lancs.sch.uk.

DISCUS SUCCESS

Congratulations to James Lupton who recently won gold in Discus at the Northern Athletics championships held at Wavertree in Liverpool, throwing a personal best of 41.72m which places him 7th in the UK rankings for his age group. Well done James!

Dates to remember

Wednesday, 26 September - Year 7 Welcome Mass

Friday, 28 September – Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thursday, 4 October – Open Evening

Friday, 5 October – INSET day, pupils at home

Wednesday 10 October – Open Day tour of school, Thursday, 11 October – Open Day tour of school

Thursday, 11 October – Year 7 Information Evening

Friday, 19 October – School closes for half-term at 3.30 pm

Monday, 29 October – school opens