



Our Lady's Catholic High School

A National Teaching School



Friday, 21 December 2018

Our prayer theme next week: **Light the World**

In our Advent Liturgies, we reflected on Jesus the light of the world. How can we do our part to bring light to the world this Christmas?

Lord, we thank you for our families and friends this Christmas. We pray for courage in lighting the world and spreading peace and joy.

Amen.



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM MR RANSON

This year I draw from the words of Pope Francis when he spoke on 24 December 2017 when celebrating Mass at the Vatican. Pope Francis was born in Argentina in 1936 to Italian parents who were immigrants. He called on Catholics to remember Mary and Joseph's journey, and the difficulties they faced, when considering the treatment of migrants and the dispossessed today, saying:

"It was a land that was not expecting them. A land where there was no place for them." "So many other footsteps are hidden in the footsteps of Joseph and Mary. We see the tracks of entire families forced to set out in our own day. We see the tracks of millions of persons who do not choose to go away but, driven from their land, leave behind their dear ones. In many cases this departure is filled with hope, hope for the future; yet for many others this departure can only have one name: survival."

We keep in our prayers all of those who are lonely or who have so little at Christmas. May we share from our plenty. As Pope Francis went on to say, "True power and authentic freedom are shown in honoring and assisting the weak and the frail."

I wish for all of our families, children and staff a blessed and peaceful Christmas and a very Happy New Year. May God Bless you all.

CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL

At the beginning of Advent, we launched the Christmas Toy Appeal. Our aim was to help to support families who would struggle during the Christmas period and bring them a little bit of peace and joy. In assembly, we looked at the meaning of the advent wreath and candles and how each candle carried a different message. The candles represent hope, love, joy and peace. We then reflected on the importance of giving during the season of Advent and how we can prepare our hearts. This led us to thinking about what we could do practically to really make a difference, and the toy appeal was launched. It has been a fantastic way to live out the message of the advent candles and bring hope, love, joy and peace into people's lives during this season. On Friday, 14 December all of the toys were collected and packed into the car. We delivered them to the Salvation Army centre in Preston and they will sort the gifts into age groups and distribute the toys to families in need, ready for Christmas. The staff and volunteers at the Salvation Army were overwhelmed by the generosity of everyone at Our Lady's and have thanked all of the staff and pupils for their wonderful contributions.

YEAR 9 REWARDS TRIP

56 Year 9 pupils were rewarded for their excellent behaviour by a trip to the bowling alley last Thursday evening. All pupils had an excellent time and their behaviour was outstanding.

HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME - REMINDER

Our Attendance Policy states that any absence attached to either side of a school holiday will be assumed to be a holiday taken in term time and such absences will be classified as 'unauthorised' unless evidence is provided which proves otherwise. We ask for this evidence to be fair and consistent with all families. In addition, we will expect to meet with parents whose children have taken such absences and the child will be taught separately until the meeting takes place. We will always meet with parents at the earliest possible opportunity. Should your child be ill on a day attached to a school holiday we ask that you provide evidence of this; an appointment card from a doctor or a dated and named prescription would suffice. Please contact us on a landline or briefly call in to school for us to see you. The principle is that attendance at school is a legal requirement and duty and we must do all that we reasonably can to support this. Finally, may I remind all families that any unauthorised absence for holidays or otherwise in Year 11 will result in the invitation to attend the Year 11 Prefects' Ball being withdrawn.

BASKETBALL NEWS

The U14 Basketball team travelled to Tarleton Academy on Monday, 17 December. Our Lady's started the better of the two teams, keeping a healthy lead for the first twenty minutes. They played very well, passing and moving too quickly for the Tarleton players to manage. However, Our Lady's missed many shots under the basket which would prove costly. Tarleton had much taller players and they started to rebound more frequently in the last ten minutes of the game. The lead quickly reduced. Nevertheless, Leo Fletcher hit a three pointer with one minute left on the clock. It looked like it was going to be the winning basket. Unfortunately, it wasn't. Credit must be given to the home team for their resilience. They scored a basket immediately to reduce the lead to one with thirty seconds remaining. In the last ten seconds of the game, they missed a shot but once again, they won the rebound and scored their second attempt winning the game 21-20 right on the buzzer. The lads were disappointed, but they all enjoyed taking part in a fantastic game of Basketball.

The U16 team had a fantastic result against Archbishop Temple on Wednesday, 19 December, winning 30-15. Our Lady's were always in control of the game with Ed Cafferkey strong in defence against a powerful Archbishop forward, blocking many attempts while posting up to score some excellent points himself. Fintan McGuire's quick hands kept the ball moving rapidly around the court while others such as Liam Corless and Sean Dobson found the space to convert their chances. Excellent link-up play between George Pascucci and Sean Dobson extended our lead in the third quarter, supported by Lewis Atkinson in defensive positions. The key to the team's success was in creating space for others to drive to the basket and collecting rebounds from initial attempts. The team are keen to move forward from this success as they prepare for their final group game against Tarleton Academy in the new year.

CPR TRAINING

Over the last 18 months we have been rolling out CPR training to all pupils and are pleased to report that all Our Lady's pupils have now been trained in CPR. The British Heart Foundation have a mission to create a 'Nation of Lifesavers' and, as a school, we believe that this is a crucial life skill for all our pupils. Across the UK there are over 30,000 cardiac arrests outside of hospital each year, but the survival rate is less than 1 in 10. In Norway, all school children are taught CPR and the survival rate is 1 in 4. Moving forward, each new intake of Year 7 pupils will complete this training to ensure that all our pupils are capable of saving a life, should they ever need to.

APPRENTICESHIP EVENT

On 14 of January BAE Systems we are hosting an event at Preston North End football stadium to provide information about the different apprenticeships they offer as a business. The event starts at 4.30 pm and there will be apprentices representing the business and highlighting the different schemes on offer, along with formal presentations from 5.00 pm, 6.00 pm and 7.00 pm. Pupils who may be interested in an apprenticeship are very welcome.

Dates to remember

Monday, 7 January 2019 – school opens
Thursday, 17 January – Year 10 Parent/Carers' evening
Thursday, 31 January - Year 8 Parent/Carers' evening
Friday, 15 February 2019 – school closes for half-term
Tuesday, 26 February 2018 – school opens
Thursday, 7 March - Year 9 Parent/Carers' evening
Thursday, 21 March - Year 7 Parent/Carers' evening