



Our Lady's Catholic High School

A National Teaching School



Friday, 15 March 2019

Our prayer theme next week: Transformation

This week in the Gospel, we hear the story known as the Transfiguration. The word transfiguration means: 'a complete change of form or appearance.' When Jesus was transfigured, He became more radiant and beautiful and His disciples could hardly look at Him and they hardly recognised Him. A good way to think about the transfiguration might be to think about a caterpillar turning into a butterfly. Almost unrecognisable!

Lord, as we reflect upon Your transfiguration, help us to think about how we can change our own lives. Help us to understand the areas where we need to change. Give us the courage to change our thoughts, words and actions.

Amen.

FIRST WORLD WAR CENTENARY BATTLEFIELD TOUR

As part of the of the Legacy 110 project, Mrs Armitage and two pupils from Year 9 travelled to Ypres and the Somme. The four-day tour focused on remembering the fallen, evaluating the successes of the Battle of the Somme through visits to different parts of the battlefield and discussing how important Remembrance still is. They visited the graves and memorials of soldiers connected to people within the school and who belonged to the 'Preston Pals'. They were humbled to witness the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, where one of our pupils had the honour of laying a wreath.

SCIENCE TRIP TO LONDON

Last weekend, 42 year 9 pupils went to London to visit the Science Museum, Natural History Museum, London Eye and Bodyworlds Exhibition. This trip was part of British Science Week. The Bodyworlds Exhibition is a touring exhibition, which travels worldwide, of real human bodies - with their musculature, skeleton and organs exposed. This unusual exhibition allowed the pupils to discover more about their own internal body structure.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT AT OLCHS - A FAIRWARE SCHOOL

For two weeks each year, (this year it was Monday 25 February to Sunday 10 March) thousands of individuals, companies and groups across the UK come together to celebrate the people who grow our food, people who live in some of the poorest countries in the world and who are often exploited and badly paid. This year we focused on the people – in particular the women – who grow the cocoa in the chocolate we love so much. The Fortnight started with each year group learning about the campaign in our Lenten themed assemblies led by our Chaplain Richard and Eden, Becky and Rebecca (Year 8) from the Fairtrade group. Pupils were surprised to hear the facts about how many cocoa farmers still earn less than the living income. Year 8s learned more about this in their Geography lessons and produced cartoon strips showing how chocolate is made and the impact the Fairtrade Foundation has on cocoa farmers. Some classes even sourced Fairtrade chocolate to learn about the ingredients needed and where they have come from to make the final product. They particularly enjoyed sampling them at the end of the lesson! We finished the week with staff hosting a Fairtrade coffee morning, raising over £70 for the Fairtrade Foundation. We also had two Fairtrade stalls for staff and pupils which sold over £250 of Fairtrade products.

WORLD MATHS DAY THURSDAY, 14 MARCH

On Thursday pupils in Years 8 and 9 took part in the World Maths Day Challenge, either in class or for homework. Lucy Brown in Year 8 scored the highest number of points answering over 2000 Maths questions correctly, which is a fantastic achievement. Over six million students from over 190 countries took part. Students competed in 60 second "race" challenges with up to 3 other students from across the world or they challenged pupils from across their class. Pupils played against pupils of the same age from Germany, Peru, Portugal, Australia, Canada, Saudi Arabia amongst others.

VACANCY

We currently have a vacancy for a Pastoral Support Assistant to work within the Pastoral Support Team. This is a temporary position from Tuesday, 23 April until Friday, 19 July 2019. There is the possibility of an extension to the contract, this is funding dependant. Further details, including the Job Description and Application Forms, can be found on the school website www.olchs.lancs.sch.uk. The closing date for applications is Monday, 1 April at 12 noon.

YEAR 7 PARENTS' EVENING

Parents' Evening for Year 7 will take place on Thursday, 21 March from 4.00 pm until 6.30 pm. We ask parents and carers who are attending Parents' Evening to allocate at least one full hour to get to speak with all of the teachers. Parents and carers who arrive after 5.30 pm must understand that they may well not have sufficient time to see all of the teachers on the evening. We hope that you find the discussions to be valuable and informative.

LANCASHIRE APPRENTICESHIP AND CAREERS EXPO 2019

This excellent event will take place at Preston Guild Hall on Wednesday, 26 March from 12 noon until 7.00 pm. There will be representatives from over 70 exhibitors including the likes of Amazon, Sky, Police, Lancashire Fire, Greene King, Google, NHS and more. Pupils must pre-register at: www.findmyfuture.co.uk

HANDBALL NEWS

Congratulations to the U15 Handball team! They represented Preston in the Lancashire School Games Handball competition held at UCLAN Sports Arena on Friday, 8 March. They were one of twelve teams that progressed from the District level. The format of the competition consisted of two groups of six teams with the top two from each progressing to the knockout stages. Our Lady's played five games, winning two, losing two and drawing one. Unfortunately, they finished third overall in their group, narrowly missing out on a semi-final place. The top two teams in the group, however, did go on to meet in the final which highlights the strength within the initial group. There were some strong individual performances and it was a great experience for the boys to play a developing sport at County level.

The Year 9 team began their campaign in this new competition on Wednesday 14th March. The event took place at Eden Boys' School in Preston over two dates. In the first session the team played two games against St Cecilia's and Ashton CSC. The game against St Cecilia's was dominated by an outstanding power forward for our opponents who had excellent footwork and ball handling skills which allowed him to create shooting opportunities regularly. Goalkeeper Conor Ashe kept us in the game with some fine saves however the number of shots he was receiving meant that inevitably some would get through his defence. In attack we managed to penetrate the opposition's back line on some occasions however we were confined to shooting from distance. Jack Bashall and Kieran Carpenter did manage to score but the final result was 5-2 to St Cecilia's. Our second game against Ashton CSC was much closer, both teams counter attacking quickly and forcing each other's goalkeepers into making good saves. The same story unfolded with Our Lady's forwards shooting from too far out and often too high also. This game finished 2-2 and the team were delighted to gain their first points. They return to Eden Boys' School for their two remaining games in a fortnight.

Dates to remember

Thursday, 21 March - Year 7 Parent/Carers' evening
Tuesday, 26 March – Year 9 Options Evening
Friday, 5 April – School closes for Easter at 12.45 pm
Tuesday, 23 April – School opens for the Summer Term
Wednesday, 1 May – Year 7 Normandy Trip
Monday, 6 May – School closed for May Day
Friday, 24 May – School closes for half-term at 3.30 pm
Monday, 3 June – School opens
Friday, 19 July – School closes for the end of term