



# Our Lady's Catholic High School

A National Teaching School



Friday, 12 July 2019

Our prayer theme next week: Rejoicing as one Family

On Tuesday we celebrate our Whole School Mass. Our theme is Rejoicing as one Family. In preparation we have been reflecting on how we can celebrate that we are one family and all of the things that bring us joy. What makes you joyful?

**Lord, help us to know and see all of the things that bring us joy. Help us to share our joy with other people so we can rejoice as one family together.**

**Amen.**

## **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absence for holidays or otherwise in Year 11 will result in the invitation to attend the Year 11 Prefects' Ball being withdrawn.

## **MOVEMENT OF THE MAY BANK HOLIDAY 2020**

We have now received official communication from Lancashire County Council relating to the movement of the May Day Bank Holiday from Monday 4 May to Friday 8 May in 2020 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Attached with this Newsletter is the revised holiday pattern for 2019-2020.

## **MARAFIKI GARDEN OPEN DAY**

On Friday, 5 July, the Marafiki gardening group held an open day to local schools, residents, staff, governors and pupils. During the morning we welcomed visitors from Corpus Christi Catholic High School accompanied by Mr Robinson who originally founded the garden during his time at Our Lady's. He was incredibly impressed with the progress that had been made to the garden since it was first set up 2 years ago and the fantastic ongoing work led by Mr Bilsborough. Mr Robinson brought 8 year 7 pupils to explain the purpose of the garden and the connection that it has with Tanzania. Mr Robinson is keen to get something similar up and running at Corpus Christi. Pupils had time to explore the garden but also take part in a number of activities, for example looking at the rate and temperature of decomposition in the compost heaps. They also planted their own herbs which they could take home. We then had members of the local pre-school, St Anthony's, who walked down to examine the garden. The children again had time to investigate the garden whilst being told about the different areas as well as a number of different activities. These included arts and crafts and a treasure hunt to find different features and plants in the garden. The children were then told that they were more than welcome to return to the garden with their parents and carers when they were picked up. A number of children returned to show off what they had learned and seen. All children were a pleasure and more than welcome to return to the garden in the future. In between visits, we also had a number of classes visit the garden. This included Science, Geography and Resistant Materials classes. Each class was looking at the garden relating to their subject area. The Science class looked at composting, photosynthesis and the plant life cycle. The Geography class looked at sustainability. The Resistant Materials looked at the creation of the planters, raised beds and bird boxes. In the afternoon, residents, staff and governors were invited to see the garden. Members of the Marafiki Gardening club showed the visitors around the garden to explain what we had done as well as talking to our guests. Strawberries, scones and jam and cream and a beautiful

strawberry and cream cake went down a treat. Local residents commented on how impressed they were with the garden and liked the way that pupils had an area to come to and learn different skills needed for growing plants as well as fruits and vegetables. There was a lot of hard work put into organising the day by both pupils and staff. Hopefully this will allow us to receive the last of the RHS School awards which we have been working towards for the last 2 years. To see our journey over the 2 years please see the school website. If you would like to visit our garden or donate, please contact Ms C Bown on [cbo@olchs.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:cbo@olchs.lancs.sch.uk) or Mrs Sewell on [kse@olchs.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:kse@olchs.lancs.sch.uk) or call the school. Thank you again for all of your support.

The Marafiki Gardening Club.

### **FUNMATHS ROADSHOW FOR YEARS 7 TO 9**

Recently over 500 pupils from Years 7 to 9 took part in the FunMaths Roadshow held in the sports hall. The Roadshow consisted of over 80 mathematical activities. Pupils working in pairs moved around the room tackling the activities in any order. This problem-solving event was non-competitive and was both challenging and enjoyable. Here's what some of the pupils thought;

- "I liked the physical problems because it really gets me thinking more" (Owen Hatton)
- "I liked having the challenge of doing different types of puzzles, not just one type." (Bobbie Matthews)
- "I liked trying lots of new questions and not giving up." (Iga Wojtasik)
- "I liked doing the red and black board, even though it took us ages." (Isabella Stutter)
- "The Roadshow challenged me to try as hard as I could and helped me learn some problem-solving skills" (Oliver Kearney)

### **CRICKET NEWS**

The Year 10 cricket team progress to the next stage of the Preston District cricket competition. They beat Eden Boys School on Thursday, 4 July. Our Lady's lost the toss and batted first. James Lupton fell victim to a cruel bounce and was clean bowled early on. However, Joseph Collins and Sam Moncrief formed an effective partnership and batted for the remainder of the innings. Our Lady's scored a respectable 58 runs. The team then produced an outstanding display in the second innings. James Lupton took four wickets; Aaron Hewitt and Max Hodson demonstrated quick reactions and high levels of coordination to make two brilliant catches! All four bowlers were accurate, and the fielders were encouraging and alert to limit the runs the opposition could score. Eden Boys were all out for ten runs. Our Lady's now face Corpus Christi in the next round which is due to take place next week. Well done to all involved.

### **ROUNDERS NEWS**

Huge congratulations go to the year 7 rounders team who competed in the Preston Schools' tournament on Wednesday. They finished second in their group and went on to play Longridge in the semi-finals winning convincingly. They then had to face a very strong Corpus team. The girls fought hard only narrowly being defeated by just half a rounder. It was a great effort from a very promising team. The pupils had a great afternoon and gained lots of experience from it.

#### **Dates to remember**

Tuesday, 16 July – Whole School Mass

Friday, 19 July – School closes for the end of term at 12.45 pm

Tuesday, 3 September – School opens for Year 7 pupils

Wednesday, 4 September – School opens for all pupils

Friday, 4 October – INSET day school closed for all pupil

Friday, 18 October – school closes for half-term

Monday, 28 October – school opens