



Our Lady's Catholic High School



A National Teaching School

Friday, 6 September 2019

Name Form

Our Prayer theme next week is **Preparation**

What will this year bring? In this week's Gospel, we are asked to follow Jesus and leave everything else behind. It's a tough message, but Jesus is really asking His followers if they are really serious! If they mean business. Being prepared to take on the next year with all its successes and challenges is a tough call. We need to be ready and make sure we have enough bricks, (energy, perseverance, patience etc) to complete the task.

Dear Lord, give us the strength and love that we need to prepare us for the year ahead and help us to put our trust in You in times of difficulty. May there be hard work, faith and friendship. May the Lord begin it with us and stay with us.

May we, together, walk humbly with our God.

MESSAGE FROM MR RANSON

May I extend a very warm welcome back to school following what I very much hope was a restful and enjoyable holiday with your families. We return refreshed and ready for the challenges that a new year brings. A particular welcome goes to all of our Year 7 pupils who began with us on Tuesday of this week. 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 Wing, their Learning Manager and Miss Holland, her Assistant have been similarly very impressed with the start that they have made during their first week. Already they are looking like, 'One of Ours'. The summer break has been a very busy time at school. We have run a summer school here at school for Year 7 pupils, during the first week and also a water sports holiday in France for Year 9 pupils. Very significant upgrades have taken place to all of our IT systems which will be of great advantage to learning in classrooms. We have installed a brand-new science laboratory which extends our provision to seven laboratories. We have been short of laboratory space for years and we are delighted to have handed over to us such a wonderful new room. A significant proportion of the money required to create this room came from Gift Aid donations received from our parents. Taking part in the Gift Aid scheme really does make a tangible difference to your child's experience at our school. Please contact Mrs Reeves yre@olchs.lancs.sch.uk should you wish to take part or hear more about the scheme.

This year was one of tremendous success for our departing Year 11 pupils. The scale of their success is enormous and places them right up there as one of the most successful year groups ever at Our Lady's. Congratulations to them all and very best wishes for the next phase of their education and training.

I dislike throwing around statistics, but I know that parents like to hear of key indicators. A full list of subject achievement will be published shortly on our website. The emphasis that is given in government performance tables to English and Mathematics can mask 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:

Teaching staff

- Miss Victoria Barker - Teacher of Science – Catholic Teaching Alliance (North)
- Miss Chelsea Bradford - Teacher of Science – Preston Teaching Alliance

- Miss Hannah Crawley - Temporary Teacher of RE – Catholic Teaching Alliance (North)
- Mr Ian Proctor - Associate Principal Teacher of Mathematics - Darwen Vale Community Academy
- Ms Julia Slade - Principal Teacher of English – Montgomery High School, Blackpool
- Mr Steven Smith - Teacher of RE – De La Salle School, Basildon
- Mr Will Smith - Teacher of Mathematics – Future Teaching Scholars programme
- Mrs Sarah Thompson – Temporary Teacher of Geography – Carr Hill High School

Non-Teaching staff

- Mrs Karen Briggs – Cover Supervisor - Southlands High School, Chorley
- Miss Sarah Lee – Lay Chaplain – Freelance Teacher of Drama

We hope that they soon settle into our ways and routines and have a most fulfilling and rewarding time here at Our Lady's Catholic High School.

ADMISSIONS – SEPTEMBER 2020

The process of applying for high school places in September 2020 has now begun for Year 6 pupils. Parents wishing to choose Our Lady's should apply online at <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/> 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 2019**. In addition to the Lancashire application process we ask that a Supplementary Form is completed if you wish to be considered on faith grounds. These forms are available on the school website or from reception and should be returned to school by 31 October 2019.

PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor to join to Governing Body of this school. Further details will follow in next week's Newsletter. For any enquiries or further details please contact Pam Bilsborrow on pbi@olchs.lancs.sch.uk

COLLEGE OPEN EVENTS

For Year 11 pupils considering sixth form education here are some dates for college open events:

Cardinal Newman College

Saturday, 12 October from 10.00 am until 1.00 pm, Saturday 16 November from 10.00 am until 1.00 pm and Saturday, 1 February 10.00 am until 1.00 pm

Preston's College

Tuesday, 1 October from 4.00 pm until 7.30 pm, Saturday, 2 November 10.00 am until 2.00 pm and Wednesday, 11 March 4.00 pm until 7.30 pm.

Dates to remember

Thursday, 3 October – Open Evening, school closes for pupils at 12.45 pm
 Friday, 4 October – INSET day school closed for all pupils
 Friday, 18 October – School closes for half-term
 Monday, 28 October – School opens
 Thursday, 7 November – GCSE Certificate Presentation Evening
 Friday, 8 November – Presentation Assemblies – school closes at 12.45 pm
 Thursday, 19 December – School closes for Christmas at 12.45 pm
 Monday, 6 January – School opens for the Spring Term