



# Our Lady's Catholic High School



A National Teaching School

Friday, 14 February 2020

## **The theme after half term is: LENT (Matthew 5: 38 -48 Love your Enemies)**

As we begin the season of lent, we focus on how we can make a sacrifice for others. We might give something up, or give up our time to help others. In this week's gospel we are challenged even further; we are asked to love our enemies. Jesus argues that the love we give is not always related to the love we receive. It doesn't work like that. So, the challenge is to love, even if we receive nothing in return. We may not change anyone, and our love may even confuse some, but just keep loving! It's what we are called to do.

I have found a paradox, that if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only more love.

(St Teresa of Kolkata.)

**Dear Lord**

**Give me the strength to love, even when it hurts.**

**Amen.**

## **ENRICHMENT DAY 2**

**Year 7** spent the day looking at cultural development in our recent Enrichment Day. They focused on the cultural diversity that exists within our society, being aware of negative stereotypes that people project on to certain groups or individuals and considering how to be open minded, as well as embracing of cultural diversity. They were enthusiastic in discussions and reflective in approach. Well done.

**Year 8** pupils worked in groups to create a presentation about how they would tackle an issue within the local community. Pupils spent the day researching community issues, developing an idea on how to address this and creating a presentation to showcase their ideas. These were then presented to their form and the winner of each form went on to present to a panel of judges, who decided upon a winning project.

**Year 9** spent their Enrichment Day looking at the difficult topics of moral development and ethics. Their day was focused around what morality is, and the kinds of situations where we have to make moral choices. Pupils began by having to make a moral choice of who to give sweets to in class, but don't worry, everyone got some in the end! Pupils watched a film called 'My Sister's Keeper' which tackles the emotional issue of saviour siblings, followed by activities where pupils could voice their opinions and discuss their feelings. The final part of the day looked at places in the world that have experienced genocide, such as Darfur. This was linked to the recent Holocaust Memorial Day, and pupils were given the chance to write prayers for a part of the world that has experienced these horrific acts. The pupils were magnificent and approached everything with sensitivity and maturity, well done year 9.

**Year 10** pupils had Faith and Justice day where workshops were led by the Columbans and Ark. Also, workshops were presented by school staff which included a reflective walk based on CAFOD's Share the Journey, a small group bridge building challenge, a CAFOD activity based on asylum seekers and refugees and a creative task about our message to the world. Many thanks to all Year 10 pupils and to our school staff who contributed to our day and especially to James Trewby from the Columbans and Christine Seddon and the speakers she brought from Ark.

**Year 11** pupils participated in a variety of workshops for our theme of spiritual and moral development. Pupils enjoyed a workshop in our chapel and chaplaincy on spirituality, comprising of working in groups on the idea of 'journey' and prayer stations. Likewise, they enjoyed a workshop on morality which focused on the media. In addition, Year 11's creative sides were called, and they made a mosaic coaster and completed mindfulness colouring. Finally, pupils were able to choose activities from a menu for well-being and mindfulness and encouraged to think about maintaining their well-being as they enter an intense period of revision culminating in their GCSE examinations.

## **LAUNCH OF OUR NEW COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM**

After half term our new communications system "Schoolcomms" goes live. We are very much looking forward to using this new system as it will improve the way the school communicates with parents/carers. Initially parents/carers will receive communications via App based message or email but afterwards will also be used to

send out your child's school reports. We would like to thank parents/carers for downloading and registering the "School Gateway" App in order to receive these communications.

### **PRIMARY SCHOOL DANCE FESTIVAL**

On Wednesday, 12 February we held our 1st Primary School Dance Festival in collaboration with dance teacher Miss Moxham, a former pupil. 120 pupils from 6 primary schools attended in the morning to rehearse in our Arts Theatre with the stage lighting. All the pupils were very excited when putting their costumes and make-up on over lunchtime. The final performance started at 1.00 pm with over 100 parents watching and compared by our own Mr Thomas. The atmosphere was excellent and the standard of the performances brilliant. It culminated in a finale with all 120 pupils performing to cheers and applause. Prize certificates were awarded for different categories and all participants gained a certificate of their own. It was a great day for everyone.

### **PUBLIC SPEAKING SUCCESS**

Congratulations to both our Public Speaking teams who, on Saturday 8 February, took part in the annual District Rotary Youth Speaks competition held at Windermere School in The Lake District. Although the Intermediate Team (Liam McCaul, Allegra Marino and Beth Moir in Year 8) did not quite do enough to secure a top two place, Beth Moir was awarded the prize for best Proposer of the Vote of Thanks. However, not only was our Year 10 Senior Team the youngest team to compete in the older category (14-17 year olds), they confidently went on to win with their presentation on the subject of 'Rewilding', thus securing a place in the Grand Final to be held at UCLAN on Saturday, 9 May. Well done to Claudia Gornall, Kate Moir and Jasmine Dover!

### **NETBALL NEWS**

The Year 7 netball team continued their winning streak last week against Archbishop Temple School. With fantastic defending from Lily Heath and some lovely shooting from Zaara Patel and Stephanie Baxter the girls won convincingly. Final score 9-1.

The Year 8 team had a much more challenging game. Archbishop Temple had a fantastic shooter who scored from all over the circle. Our pace was a little fast and we just simply made too many forced errors. The second half was more fluent. Final score 10-16 to Archbishop Temple.

The Year 7 and 8 netball teams played Longridge and St Cecilia's on Thursday, 12 February. Both teams had convincing wins over St. Cecilia's 8-1 and 15-7 respectively. The matches against Longridge were end to end. We fought hard but narrowly missed out with Year 7 being beaten by just one goal and Year 8 losing by 2 goals. A great effort to both teams.

### **YEAR 9 SOCIAL**

On Thursday, 7 February 36 Year 9 pupils gathered at Tino's for a Pizza/Pasta Social. We participated in a limbo competition, did the conga, ate lots of pizza and danced the night away. It was a fantastic night.

#### **Dates to remember**

Monday, 24 February – INSET day pupils at home

Tuesday, 25 February – school opens

Wednesday, 26 February – Year 7 Normandy Trip Parents' meeting at 4.00 pm

Thursday, 27 February - Year 9 Parents Evening – 4.00 pm until 6.30 pm

Thursday, 19 March - Year 7 Parents Evening – 4.00 pm until 6.30 pm

Tuesday, 24 March – Year 9 Options Evening at 5.00 pm

Friday, 3 April – School closes for the Easter holidays at 12.45 pm

Monday, 20 April – school opens for the Summer Term

Wednesday, 29 April – Year 7 Normandy Trip

Friday, 8 May – School closed for VE day celebrations