



Our Lady's Catholic High School



A National Teaching School

Friday, 3 September 2021

Our theme for next week is New Beginnings (Isaiah 35: 4 – 6)

“Courage! Take heart! God is here, right here”.

God is with us today and He loves us. It is important to know that God does not pick and choose who He loves. We are made by God and loved by Him. We are precious in His eyes. In Jesus' time on earth, he taught us to love – from the heart. To love and respect everyone equally and without judgement. Let us try to do as Jesus did.

Dear Lord

We come to you at the beginning of this academic year with our many feelings, expectations, fears and hopes. Help us to remember the comforting assurance from you: "I will always be with you".

Amen

MESSAGE FROM MR RANSON

We were delighted to welcome back our Year 11 pupils to their final year of life here at our school and at the same time to welcome our new Year 7 pupils who are beginning their secondary education at our school. I have come across so many lovely smiling faces and polite children and Mrs O'Beirne, our Year 7 Learning Manager, has told me what a great start they have made. We hope to build on the excellent work from our wonderful family of primary schools.

It does feel different going through school without wearing face coverings and putting back in place some of our well-established routines. We have been careful to not drop everything associated with C19. We have kept sanitising hands, additional cleaning, the Sports Hall outside path, restricted areas for lunch and break and a very strong request to all families to be testing your children at least twice a week.

Our prayer is very much that we may get through this academic year without any further disruption to learning and that everyone in our school community and beyond can remain safe and healthy.

We welcome our new staff joining us for their first term at Our Lady's and wish them success and fulfilment at our school:

Name			Role in school	Previous post
Miss	Abigail	Clegg	Teacher of drama	Players Drama School
Mr	Calum	Davidson	Teacher of mathematics	University of Lancaster PGCE
Mrs	Carmel	Pantlin	Deputy Catering Manager	HMP
Mr	Zubair	Patel	Temporary Teacher of science	Hays Education
Mr	Jonathan	Pill	Principal Teacher of drama	Worden Academy
Miss	Stephanie	Reece	Temporary Teacher of science	The Red Rose Alliance
Miss	Emily	Singleton	Temporary LSA	Small Wonders Nursery
Miss	Lorna	Turner	Teacher of science	The Heathland School

ACCESS TO SCHOOL SITE AT THE END OF THE DAY

Please understand that to keep our pupils safe we do not allow vehicles to enter our school site and between 3.20pm and 3.40pm (2.20pm to 2.40pm on Tuesday). The main gates will be closed to allow for safe movement of pupils out of the school gate.

MOBILE DEVICES

Please would all families be reminded that here at Our Lady's we define a mobile device as a device which can send or receive a message, such as a mobile phone, smart watch etc. Any mobile device that is used, switched on or in

sight during the school day will be confiscated by the member of staff and sent promptly to the Finance Office. The Finance Office will text parents to inform them of the confiscation and log the confiscation in the confiscation file and deposit the mobile device in the strong room until it is collected.

- Mobile devices will be returned to either:
 - the pupil on the following or subsequent day after 3.30 pm at reception, upon receipt of a signed note from a parent/carer;
 - in person to a parent/carer who calls into reception to collect the phone.

Parents who need to contact their child during the school day must do so through the school switchboard on 01772-326900 and never by mobile phone.

BIATHOL SUCCESS

Congratulations to the following pupils who have qualified for the British Schools Biathlon 2021 which will take place in Bath over the weekend of the 16 - 17 October 2021. This is a great achievement for the school to have 6 pupils qualify in an event which is dominated by private schools and generally athletes from the South.

The pupils are:

Finely Murray (Year 8), Lucy Beesley, Lucy Mulholland, Freya Jones (Year 9) and Emil Dawkins and Will Murray (Year 10)

SCHOOL TRANSPORT

If your child uses dedicated school transport, please read the information letter from Lancashire County Council on this matter. Following from this we confirm that **our pupils who use dedicated school transport must continue to wear face coverings for the full duration of the journey.** Please ensure that your child has an appropriate face covering for this purpose as, without one, they will not be allowed to use the bus.

SCIENCE IN THE NEWS

Ever present in the news at the moment is the impact that we are having on the environment around us. This week there are two articles on humans and the environment, find out about what is happening to the biodiversity of our trees and the detrimental affect we are having. In the other article discover about the **tidal-powered turbine, which its makers say is the most powerful in the world.**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-58394215>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-57991351>

SCIENCE PRACTICALS FROM HOME

Kick-start this year with a simple experiment that you can do at home. See the attached instructions and investigate Bernoulli's principle and how the flow of air can hold up an object.

Dates to remember

Friday, 8 October – INSET day school closed for all pupils

Friday, 22 October – School closes for half-term

Monday, 1 November – School opens

Thursday, 16 December – School closes for Christmas at 12.45 pm

Wednesday, 5 January – School opens for the Spring Term