



Our Lady's Catholic High School



A National Teaching School

Friday, 1 October 2021

The theme for next week is HARVEST (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Each one should give as much as he has decided, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

We all know that many people in the world are starving, very poorly paid or live in a polluted environment. Their 'harvest' is little and ours, in comparison, is plentiful. Parents, carers, pupils and staff all do an amazing job at Our Lady's. We share our harvest by helping those who have little or nothing. Let us celebrate this and continue in our wonderful and generous efforts.

We pray that God may walk beside all those who need our help. We also pray that we may have the courage, hope and grace to be guardians of our common home in our own ways.

Amen

ROAD SAFETY AND RESPECTFUL PARKING

We have received notification from a member of the public who lives close to school that on occasion she has been unable to leave to take her own children to school due to cars blocking her drive. Please would all families be reminded that the area close to school becomes very congested with traffic and the large volume of pupils at the start and end of each day. Pupil safety for all drivers is paramount and safe driving is essential. We ask that all families are respectful of local residents when choosing where to park.

ST ANTHONY'S CAR PARK

As a consideration for the safety of younger pupils we have been asked by the Headteacher of St Anthony's to remind all families that they should not park on the primary school car park to pick up or drop off Our Lady's pupils. The car park is for families whose children attend St Anthony's only. Additionally, the car park is not to be used as a short cut to avoid queuing traffic on St Anthony's Drive.

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

Please would all parents be reminded that the ballot closes at 12 noon on Monday, 4 October. All ballot papers need to be returned to school before that time.

PSHE DAY/DAY OF REFLECTION

Pupils actively engaged in challenging activities and thought-provoking discussions on their first PSHE Day / Day of Reflection. PSHE Days represent a huge opportunity to help our children and young people develop. The knowledge and attributes gained will support their own wellbeing and attainment and help young people to become successful and happy adults who are able to make a meaningful contribution to society.

Topics and themes covered are listed below -

Year 7 - Day of Reflection

Pupils also looked at how to ensure that throughout the year they will live up to the Year Group Motto 'Be kind, work hard'. Throughout the day we had the chance to get to know our Form Group better, through a mix of team building activities and faith building activities. Pupils have given extremely positive feedback from the day, and our favourite activities included the affirmation game with Form Tutors, the Emmaus walk with Father Mario, Sister Sheinrose and Terry, and creating the stars and pledge cards for our chapel and Welcome Mass.

Year 8 - Online Media

How the media portrays young people, online bullying, your body, your image, online presence and reputation, financial risks and gambling.

Year 9 - Be Healthy

Healthy living, drugs awareness, risks and consequences of substance abuse, hygiene and vaccination, reducing the cancer risk.

Year 10 - British Values and Citizenship

Tolerance, respect and diversity, judiciary, democratic processes and citizenship, equality and diversity, discrimination - protected characteristics.

Year 11 - Internet Safety and Harms

Positive role models, influencers and digital manipulation, trolling and sexting, forums and online bullying, fake news, kick starters and crowdsourcing.

Feedback received has been excellent and we are very much looking forward to our next PSHE/RSE Day scheduled for Wednesday, 10 November.

FRESHERS' FAIR

On Thursday, 30 September, Year 7, 8 and 9 had the opportunity to attend Freshers' Fair. This was an opportunity to come along and see what clubs and activities are on offer to them. There was: Music Club, Debate Club, Sports, History Literature, Chaplaincy, Marafiki and Gardening, to name but a few. It was a great success, and Year 7, 8 and 9 showed themselves to be keen to get involved in life at OLCHS.

OPEN EVENING REMINDER

Open Evening will take place on Thursday, 7 October 6.00 pm until 8.30 pm. School will finish on that day at 12.45 pm to allow for preparations for the evening. Year 7 pupils will act as guides on the evening and need parental permission to take part. Pupils in Years 8-11 who help out on the evening need permission from the department in which they will be helping, along with parental permission. Parental letters have been issued and these need to be signed and returned to school before pupils can take part. All visitors are encouraged to wear face coverings on the evening and where possible take a Lateral Flow Test beforehand.

YEAR 7 MASS OF WELCOME

Our Year 7 Mass of Welcome took place on Friday, 24 September. We were joined by some very familiar guests, who wanted to share in our celebration mass, to continue to strengthen and enhance our transition experience. Pupils were proud to support members of their Year Group who had volunteered to lead us in prayer, our theme again focussed on 'A New Creation', following on from our Day With A Difference. We particularly enjoyed the beautiful singing led by three Year 7 pupils, and the presentation of the candles to our Primary Head Teachers which represents our journey of faith together.

TRIATHLON SUCCESS

Congratulations to William Murray, Finley Murray and Lucy Beesley who all competed in the final Triathlon of the series in Fleetwood on Sunday, 26 September. William finished 3rd in the male youth category, Finley finished 9th in the T2 male category and Lucy came 6th in the T3 female category. All three students are looking forward to the British Schools Biathlon in Bath to complete a very successful season.



TEACHER TRAINING COURSES STARTING SEPTEMBER 2022

The Catholic Teaching Alliance, based at Our Lady's will be accepting applications for our teacher training courses from **Tuesday 12 October 2021**. Minimum requirements are GCSEs in Maths and English (and Science for primary training), plus an honours degree.

Teacher training is available in all phases (PGCE with QTS):

- Early Primary (3-7 years)
- General Primary (5-11 years)
- Secondary (11-16 years, in Preston or Blackburn)
- Secondary with post 16 (14-19 years)

Please contact us for further information, or to book onto one of our online information sessions, call 01772 326931 or email ctaschooldirect@olchs.lancs.sch.uk

Website: www.catholic-teaching-alliance.org/train-to-teach.html

Dates to remember

Thursday, 7 October – Open Evening, school closes for pupils at 12.45 pm

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