



Our Lady's Catholic High School



A National Teaching School

Friday, 10 December 2021

The theme for next week is The Good News. (Luke 3:10-18) 3rd Week of Advent

Someone is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

John the Baptist came to announce the Good News to the people at the beginning of Christ's ministry. The news that the one coming would take away our sins, forgive us and allow us the opportunity to start afresh - we only need to say sorry and mean it. During Advent, we prepare ourselves for the arrival of the birth of Christ. It is a time to say sorry and to forgive too. In forgiving others, we echo the example of Christ. Let us get our hearts ready for the Good News!

**Lord Jesus,
Teach us to be grateful in all things.
Help us to be generous in our thoughts, words and actions.
Prepare us for the Good News of your Son, Jesus.
Amen**

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

Please see the leaflets attached with this Newsletter for information on how families who are struggling financially may get help this winter.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our annual Christmas lunch took place on Wednesday, 8 December and despite the challenges of staffing difficulties our wonderful catering team provided pupils and staff with a delicious meal. Pupils had a lovely time and were very generous with their thanks to the restaurant staff.

MORRISONS GOOD TO GROW VOUCHERS

Thank you to all of those who donated their Morrisons Good to Grow Vouchers to the Marafiki Garden. We had 2,255 vouchers to spend which was absolutely amazing! Our order has now been placed with Morrisons and we will be expecting new equipment, flower seeds (including those specifically to attract butterflies), a hedgehog house and a bee/insect house within the new year. Pupils chose the products they wanted to see/use within the garden. It seems like attracting and looking after wildlife is big on their list! Thank you again for your support with our garden. The Marafiki Team.

GUEST SPEAKER

On Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 December, all Year 9 pupils were involved in a workshop with a guest Islamic speaker to support their current Religious Education study of Islam. Pupils listened to Amjad talk about Islamic beliefs, values and challenges as a UK Muslim in 2021. Pupils were engaged; answering questions posed and asking their own interesting questions and listening carefully to the answer. Many pupils had their own name written in beautiful Arabic calligraphy that they were able to take home. Pupils will have an opportunity to discuss what they learned or anything they deepened their understanding of, and to ask any further questions, in their next RE lesson.

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.

FOOTBALL NEWS

On Wednesday, 8 December the U14 girls travelled to Leyland to play Bishop Rawstorne in the last round of the Lancashire cup. It was cold, rainy and Bishop Rawstorne were late on the pitch for the planned 3pm KO. It was clear from the first 10 minutes that it was going to be a very tight game. They had a fantastic defence and our midfield players struggled to keep their position which created a large gap through the middle which they took full advantage of and cost us 2 goals. With a little creativity up front and finally using our wing players we were also able to match their goals and at full time it was a very even 2-2. With light fading and gales blowing, the referee decided to go straight to penalties. Mrs Lin was very confident as Scarlett Willans had made some fantastic saves and was up for the challenge. The choice to stand forward for a penalty was an individual one. Five players stepped forward. They included Heidi Clark, Mia Gould, Gracie Burns, Casey Eden and Lexie Eastham. We scored all but one and Scarlett saved the day with 2 magnificent saves. Full time OLCHS 3-1 on penalties. There was lots of fabulous singing on the bus on the way home to celebrate. The team have now reached the quarter finals. Training resumes first Monday back after the Christmas break. Huge well done to all players. Manager's Player goes to our rock in defence - Miss Heidi Clark.

On Thursday the Year 7 girls travelled to Ashton to start their journey in the Preston Schools' Cup. Mrs Lin was very excited to see the girls play as they have been training hard on Wednesday evenings after school. The team consists of 11 players who have gelled so nicely as they have one thing in common, they absolutely love football with a number of them dedicating many hours travelling and playing each week.

Our first game was against Moor Park. We dominated from the onset and found our flow relatively easy. As it was the first time, they had all played together as a school team, Mrs Lin was very impressed with the way they listened to each other as they passed the ball with confidence amongst the team. Final score was 10 - 0 with Holly Wilson scoring a magical 6! Other scorers included Evie Mitchell, Georgia Collum, Orla Chew and Lily-May Singleton

Next, we played Ashton. They were organised from the onset and seemed to know our team really well. They targeted key players immediately and tried to break down our flow. Initially we struggled to score but after a few mins the goals flowed nicely. Final score 4-0.

We have Broughton and Christ The King to play after Christmas.

SCIENCE IN THE NEWS

If you can tell your science teacher the answers to the questions you can earn a point.

Scientists say they have made a major step forward in storing information in molecules of DNA which may one day replace computer hard drives. Read the article to find out the answer to the following question.

Question 1: What do scientists say would be the volume of DNA required to store every movie (film) ever made?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-59489560>

Podcast

The Reith Lectures take place annually at this time of year. This year the lectures are about Artificial Intelligence and the first lecture is titled "The Biggest Event In Human History." Listen to the Podcast and answer the following question.

Question 2: Where are the lectures being given?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001216j>



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Videos

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is an area of rapidly developing science and technology. Watch this video and answer the question

Question 3: What is Ai-da the first robot to do?

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-59510318?ns_mchannel=social&ns_source=twitter&ns_campaign=bbc_live&ns_linkname=59510318%26Robot%20artist%20writes%20and%20performs%20poetry%262021-12-02T18%3A09%3A58.000Z&ns_fee=0&pinned_post_locator=urn:bbc:cps:curie:asset:ee9ad8a8-0f8f-4bf3-97fc-a6cc698248e4&pinned_post_asset_id=59510318&pinned_post_type=share

Home Research

Have you ever wondered why the sea looks blue? Use the internet, or another reference source, to answer the following questions?

Question 4: Why does the sea look blue and who first correctly explained this?

Dates to remember

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

Wednesday, 5 January – School opens for the Spring Term

Friday, 11 February – School closes for half-term

Tuesday, 22 February – School opens

Thursday, 28 April – Year 7 Normandy Trip

Monday, 2 May – School closed for May Day