



Our Lady's Catholic High School



A National Teaching School

Friday, 25 February 2022

The theme for next week is LENT (Matthew 6: 1-18)

Give – Fast - Pray

Lent begins this week on Ash Wednesday. We are called to give, fast and pray. It's a great time to reset, step back and evaluate our own lives and our relationship with God. You might give something up or make room for something new – something that will make a positive difference in your life. It is also a time to help someone in need in a practical way, or in giving to charity, and praying for someone or an entire community in need of prayer. So, what will you do?

Dear Lord

As I enter this time of Lent, I now spend a few moments thinking about what I can do to make a difference to the lives of others. What positive changes can I make to my own life?

(Spend a few moments in silence)

Amen

NETBALL NEWS

With the Preston Schools' netball league well under way, the Year 7 and 8 teams were playing Christ the King on Wednesday, 23 February. Despite not having the home advantage, all three teams got off to a flying start taking early leads. Defensively we were strong by making it very difficult for Christ the King to get the ball in their circle to shoot. Consequently, our opponents had limited shots at goal. Centre court players brought the ball confidently down the pitch using a wide variety of dodges to get free. Finally, our shooters quickly got their eye in and made the most of their scoring opportunities. In the second half, none of the teams took their well-established leads for granted and they continued to work hard to widen the scores between them and their opponents. The final scores were 9-0 to the 7A team, 7-1 to the B team (who once again had to play Christ the King A team) and 8-0 to Year 8. Players of the match went to Charlotte Potts, Liana Kiraga and Lydia Tucker respectively. With the Preston School's netball tournament looming next week, confidence is high in all three squads. Year 7A have not yet been defeated in the Preston School's league. A great effort to all three teams, well done!

BASKETBALL NEWS

On Wednesday, 9 February, the Year 8 Basketball team travelled to St Cecilia's RC High School to continue their Preston District Basketball tournament. One game was played last week, and two games were left remaining. The first game was against Archbishop Temple. Similar to the previous week, the game started quite tentatively, with players from both teams making simple mistakes. But the team quickly remembered the feedback from their loss and started to pass the ball forward with pace, rather than needlessly dribbling the ball. Our Lady's were the better team throughout the game, having more possession and shots. However, just like the previous week, shots were limited to set shots taken quite far away from the baskets. Lots of shots but lots of misses. Archbishop capitalised on a mistake and we were punished. The game finished 2-0 to Archbishop. However, the score line was not a fair reflection of the performance. The team was positive despite their defeat; they knew they were the better team. This attitude clearly helped establish a strong start against St Cecilia's. Nevertheless, shots remained from distance and the accuracy was not consistent. Finley Murray produced a superb three point shot to lift the team and give them an early 3-0 lead. Owen Inglis was instrumental in dribbling past opponents to create numerous chances throughout the game. Despite his close misses, he had the courage to frequently shoot when opportunities opened up. Despite St Cecilia's pulling one back and coming close on a few other occasions, Our Lady's continued to dominate and eventually won the game 7-2. Overall the team finished second in their group of three. Despite two losses, they all knew the difference between the two teams was minimal and they all left knowing how they can collectively and individually improve their performance. Well done to Archbishop Temple School for winning the group

YEAR 11 MOCK INTERVIEWS

Before half-term Year 11 pupils took part in a careers-oriented exercise to prepare them for their college and apprenticeship interviews. This was an incredibly successful event involving over 25 employers from a variety of different sectors ranging from architects to engineers, surgeons to social workers. Each Year 11 pupil experienced a 10 to 15 minute interview matched to their own areas of interest, during which time they were questioned by the employers to give them a real taste of applying for jobs. I am pleased to say that the pupils took a very mature approach to this event and gave an excellent account of themselves. The volunteers were incredibly impressed and have supplied some very detailed individualised feedback which the Year 11 pupils will be receiving shortly.

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

As a part of the careers strategy that we offer at Our Lady's the Year 10 pupils took part in the annual work experience visits before half-term. We had over 160 pupils in a number of work placements where they discovered what it was like to be employed by different organisations. The Year 10 pupils gained experience in schools, solicitors, construction, landscaping and garages, alongside many other workplaces. The feedback from the employers has been fantastic and they have frequently praised the openness, politeness and approachability of our pupils and their work with members of the public. They really have shown what it means to be a member of the Our Lady's community. Congratulations Year 10!

YEAR 7 FUTURES DAY

Recently Year 7 spent a day focussing on the skills needed to become an engineer of the future. They were set a number of engineering problems based around various nursery stories and then set the task of fixing these. During the day they were able to design and build chairs for the three bears, catapults and parachutes for Hansel and Gretel, boats to carry wolves, chickens and humans across rivers and building a bridge for the Billy Goats to cross. Finally, to round off the day, Year 7 were treated to a talk by Mr Mark Murray, Head of Engineering at BAE systems, who is responsible for ensuring that the Typhoon fighters are ready and in full working order. This was both enlightening and inspiring and hopefully will mean that a large number of our pupils feel ready to take on the challenge of becoming the engineers of the future.

YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR

On Thursday, 24 February, we held our second ever Our Lady's Young Musician of the Year Competition, with over forty students competing for three winners' titles. There were students from all year groups taking part across a number of instrumental disciplines and they all showed great talent and courage performing solo pieces for their peers. Mrs Morris, former Principal Teacher of Drama, Learning Manager and OLCMS Legend, came in for the day to be our judge and said that she really enjoyed listening to all the performances. We had two competition categories, Intermediate and Senior, which were split according to approximate grade level. There was a really supportive and encouraging atmosphere among the students and I hope to see even more taking part next year! Myself, Mr Robinson and the students would like to express our thanks to Mrs Morris for judging, Mrs Calman for coming in to accompany some of our students on the piano and to all the instrumental tutors for supporting the competition, Mrs Hayler.

Intermediate Competition

Winner: William McCondichie (voice)

Runner Up: James Pham-Whittle (piano)

Senior Competition

Lower School Winner: Owen Law (piano)

Lower School Runner Up: Louie Brooks (voice)

Upper School Winner: Owen Dickinson (voice)

Upper School Runner Up: Katie Bell (flute)

Dates to remember

Thursday, 24 March – Year 7 Parents' Evening

Thursday, 7 April – School closes for the Easter Holidays at 12.45 pm

Monday, 25 April – school opens

Monday, 2 May – School closed for May Day

Friday, 27 May – School closes for half-term

Monday, 6 June – School opens

Thursday, 21 July – School closes for the Summer Holidays at 12.45 pm