



# Our Lady's Catholic High School

CATHOLIC TEACHING ALLIANCE





# Welcome

**“Students are focused,  
mature, confident...  
friendly and happy.”**  
LANCASHIRE SCHOOL ADVISER

**“He has gone on a huge journey  
over the last five years and has  
really grown in so many ways  
thanks to the kindness, care and  
support given by you all.”**

PARENTS OF A YEAR 11 PUPIL





“One of the top 10% of non-selective schools in England.”

CHIEF EXECUTIVE SSAT

# Welcome

## to Our Lady's Catholic High School

This booklet celebrates what we truly believe to be a story of exceptional success at our school. Children who become **'One of Ours'** embark on an educational path that encourages the development of personal faith, integrity of action, independence of learning and the perseverance required to achieve one's absolute best.

**Our values** are drawn directly from **the Gospels**; they are at the heart of all that we do and everything else flows from this. The individual personality that God gives to each child is encouraged from the outset by understanding the Our Lady's Way. The eight pairs of words that express our values are brought to life through actions, taught and learned, that make our school community stronger and bring us all closer to God.

We are the lead school of the **Catholic Teaching Alliance** and work in partnership with the Diocese of Lancaster and numerous other schools to train the next generation of teachers to serve our Catholic schools. In 2019 we were asked to jointly lead the development of Abacus NW, along with Cardinal Newman College. This is a Maths Hub where training in the development of pedagogy and mathematics mastery teaching takes place for some 600 schools across the north west. Such responsibility is given to only a select number of **'Excellent'** schools and recognises the **exceptional quality of education provided here at Our Lady's** and our complete commitment to the professional development of all our staff.

**The highest standards** of behaviour, manners and respect are fundamental aspects of life at our school. We are very proud of our pupils and of their achievements and in turn our pupils are very proud of their school and uniform because, **'when you put on our uniform you put on our school'**. Our teachers and staff are exceptionally motivated, conscientious and achieve outstanding success for all our pupils.

Please ask others about us and come and visit to see for yourself.

Mr R Charnock, Headteacher

loving hopeful  
 attentive learned prophetic curious  
 faith-filled wise  
 generous grateful  
 eloquent discerning  
 intentional compassionate  
 truthful active



# Being One of Ours...

Children who become part of our school community embark on an educational journey that nurtures their personal faith, integrity, independent learning, and the perseverance needed to achieve their fullest potential.

Rooted in the teachings of the Gospels, our Catholic education forms the foundation of our beliefs and values. The virtues we cultivate are drawn directly from these teachings, shaping every aspect of our school life. From the beginning, we encourage the unique expression of each child's God-given personality through numerous opportunities to take responsibility, engage in school life, and work collaboratively as part of a team.

Throughout their time with us, our pupils grow in eight pairs of virtues, which we actively foster to ensure they are well-prepared to make a positive impact on the world when they leave us at the end of Year 11.

These virtues are woven into our daily routines and language, guiding us as we help each pupil grow in character and faith.

## Pupils at **Our Lady's** are growing to be ...

**grateful** for their own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and **generous** with their gifts, becoming men and women for others ...

**attentive** to their experience and to their vocation; and **discerning** about the choices they make and the effects of those choices...

**compassionate** towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and **loving** by their just actions and forgiving words ...

**faith-filled** in their beliefs and **hopeful** for the future ...

**eloquent** and **truthful** in what they say of themselves, the relations between people, and the world ...

**learned**, finding God in all things; and **wise** in the ways they use their learning for the common good ...

**curious** about everything; and **active** in their engagement with the world, changing what they can for the better ...

**intentional** in the way they live and use the resources of the earth, guided by conscience; and **prophetic** in the example they set to others.



**“Very pleased with the school. Staff have been excellent.”**

PARENT

**“Lovely teaching staff, all really friendly and definitely knew my child well.”**

YEAR 9 PARENT



Faith  
Learning  
Enriching  
Caring

Our Lady's Catholic High School



**“I am grateful for this brilliant learning environment at Our Lady’s Catholic High School. The Head and all of the teachers are extremely hardworking and very knowledgeable.”**

YEAR 8 PARENT

# Our Faith Community

**“The Catholic ethos of the school has gone from strength to strength.”**

YEAR 10 PARENT





**“In all my years of school Masses, I have never experienced such a wonderful, prayerful celebration of Mass.”**

MICHAEL CAMPBELL OSA,  
EMERITUS BISHOP OF LANCASTER

**Our Lady's is a Catholic school** and this is at the heart of who we are and all that we do. Our Mission is to **'support everyone to develop their faith in a supportive context,'** and we take this Mission very seriously.

What separates us from none faith schools is that we regularly **worship together**. This binds us and strengthens our sense of community and togetherness. Each school day starts and ends in prayer and pupils are encouraged and supported to lead these acts of collective worship. We celebrate Mass every Wednesday in our Chapel with each Form Group having responsibility for the preparation. Holy days of obligation are celebrated with voluntary Mass in our Arts Theatre. **The school year concludes with our Whole School Mass** when every person in our school community gathers in our Sports Hall to give thanks for all we have received.

**The Chaplaincy Team** are an integral part of our school and lead us in many events, including: 'Faith and Justice Days' with year teams; Services of Reconciliation during Lent; a Mass of welcome and celebration for Years 7 and 11 respectively, as they join and prepare to leave our school; **retreats to Castlerigg Manor** in Keswick and Year 7 'Days with a Difference' to help our newest pupils settle in at school.

The school year is defined by our **Collective Worship themes** that set the tone for so much of what we do. Pupils are encouraged to put their faith into action in a variety of ways, including active and vibrant charity events. At Our Lady's everyone is welcomed into and included in the spiritual life of our school.





**“My work has taken me into many schools over the years and Our Lady’s really stands out, in a positive way.”**

INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL  
CONSULTANT

# Our Learning Community

**“Behaviour is consistently outstanding.”**

LANCASHIRE SCHOOL ADVISER

**“The revision timetable is fantastic.”**

YEAR 11 PARENT

We have a strong reputation for **academic excellence** and we offer a broad and balanced curriculum which meets the needs of our pupils and, implemented alongside our nationally recognised careers programme, prepares each for the next stage of their journey.

We believe that each child is most likely to achieve when **great things are expected of them**, when they are fully engaged and thoroughly enjoying their learning. Every year we set very ambitious individual targets which encourage our pupils to always strive for their best in all that they do.

The progress pupils make towards their individual targets is **monitored rigorously and reported to parents** each term ensuring that both pupils and parents are always clear about what they need in order to improve. Attainment is assessed and reported to parents each term alongside grades for progress, homework, behaviour and effort.

We place a very high emphasis on **outstanding teaching and learning** and teachers use a range of engaging and stimulating approaches to deliver the curriculum. We use homework to extend learning beyond the classroom and provide regular written feedback so that pupils always understand what they need to do in order to continue to improve their learning.

At the end of Year 9 all pupils are able to choose from an **impressive range of over twenty courses**, including both academic and vocational options. In addition to the compulsory core subjects of Religious Education, Mathematics, English and Science, pupils are able to study up to two languages: French and Spanish, three separate sciences, Computer Science, Geography, History, Sociology, PE, Sports Studies, Art, Music, Drama, Business Studies, Health and Social Care, Information Technology, Textiles, Graphics, Resistant Materials, Food and Nutrition, and a range of vocational courses in partnership with a variety of post 16 providers.





**“I was worried on the first day that it might be big and scary, but everyone was so friendly and helpful that I felt totally settled in by the end of the week.”**

**YEAR 7 PUPIL**

# Our Caring Community

“Since day one we have been delighted with the support our son has got from the school ... and have felt there has been a real collaboration to delivering his educational needs.”

YEAR 11 PARENT

At Our Lady's we provide a **strong pastoral framework** of support and guidance for all pupils to ensure that they are able to learn well and achieve their full potential from year 7 through to year 11 and beyond. Integral to this is our **rewards system** which ensures that pupils are rewarded for being punctual, organised and ready to learn. We recognise commitment to school life through 'Being One of Ours' points and our 'Star Badge' scheme.

For pupils who are transferring to Our Lady's from primary school we provide a **specific programme of support and guidance**. We aim to enable all Year 7 pupils to settle in quickly, make new friends and thoroughly enjoy the challenge and excitement of their first few weeks at Our Lady's.

In the summer term before they join us, pupils are placed in one of six tutor groups. The Learning Manager (Head of Year) for Year 7, will provide support and guidance to ensure that the transition is smooth and free from anxiety. This is complimented by very close liaison between the pastoral team and our **excellent Learning and Pastoral Support teams**.



Our Lady's Catholic High School



“A real pleasure to see so many pupils so proud of their school and so enthusiastic.”

SCHOOL GOVERNOR

# Our Enriching Community

“My daughter transferred to Our Lady’s in Year 10 and life transformed for her. My son, very shy and retiring when he first arrived, has flourished beyond recognition. I put this down to the well-disciplined and excellent education they have both received.”

YEAR 11 PARENT



At Our Lady’s we expect all of our pupils to also **develop themselves outside of the classroom** by showing commitment to the wider school life and our global community. As such we provide opportunities for significant personal development, complementing our outstanding academic curriculum and building qualities of **resilience, leadership and responsibility**.

We are proud of the fact that our pupils constantly excel in all aspects of life beyond the classroom **nurturing their God given talents**. In recent years we have achieved local, regional and national success in events such as Young Enterprise, dance festivals, art exhibitions, public speaking and numerous sporting events.

**Our annual school production** is much admired with huge numbers of pupils acting, dancing, singing and performing to packed houses in our Arts’ Theatre. So extensive has been our involvement in the performing and visual arts that in 2020 we were awarded the prestigious **Gold Artsmark**.

**The Duke of Edinburgh** programme is well established and sees large numbers of pupils undertake and achieve the Bronze Award in years 9 & 10. So popular is it that the expedition has to be split into two groups over 3 days to accommodate all who wish to take part and over 20 staff go along to supervise and support. There really is a huge cross section of pupils taking part. We have recently introduced the Silver Award and are looking to see this grow over the coming years.

We have an enviable reputation for **exceptional sporting success**. Pupils at Our Lady’s have many opportunities to represent school in areas such as football, rugby, basketball, cricket, athletics, netball, hockey, climbing and rounders.

A wide range of **residential trips** take place each year, including visits to France, Spain and Poland. Closer to home there are regular visits to London, Liverpool and Castlerigg. We take part in many visits to centres of specific interest, museums, theatres, concerts and we run regular reward events.

Opportunities such as these provide **invaluable life experiences** that develop great relationships and foster positive life long memories of our school community.





# Our Lady's Catholic High School

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