



# Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 27

11th April 2025



## Headteacher's End of Term Message – Mr Charnock

As we approach the end of what has been a truly fantastic term here at Our Lady's, I want to take a moment to reflect on all that we have achieved together and to thank you – pupils, families, and staff – for your continued support and commitment to our school community. Each week in our newsletter, we've been proud to share just a snapshot of the many successes, opportunities, and moments of grace that have filled the term.

Our pupils continue to grow in the virtues we hold at the heart of our mission. They have been **grateful** for the opportunities presented to them, and **generous** in sharing their time and talents with others. Whether on the sports field, in the music room, during clubs and trips, or through acts of service, our pupils have embraced the richness of school life. It has been a joy to see so many becoming truly **active** and **curious**, taking part in the wide range of extra-curricular activities on offer and making a meaningful contribution to the life of the school.

To our wonderful Year 11 pupils: as you enter the final stretch before your GCSEs, we are with you every step of the way. You have been attentive to your studies, and we encourage you now to be **intentional** in your revision and use of time over the coming weeks. Be **hopeful** and **faith-filled** as you prepare – believing in your ability and trusting that your hard work will bear fruit. You are not alone on this journey, and we are here to support you.

As we move into Holy Week and prepare to celebrate Easter, we are reminded of the profound message of love, sacrifice, and hope at the heart of our faith. Pope Francis reminds us:

*"Christ's resurrection is not an event of the past; it contains a vital power which has permeated this world. Where all seems to be dead, signs of the resurrection suddenly spring up."*  
(Evangeli Gaudium, 276)



*Being One of Ours*



# Our Lady's Catholic High School



May this Easter be a time for all our families to pause, reflect, and be renewed in spirit. Let us look for those signs of resurrection in our own lives – moments of kindness, healing, and joy – and be prophetic in sharing them with others.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father,

As we draw near to Easter, we thank You for the blessings of this term.

We pray for our families, that they may find rest, peace, and time together during this break.

Be with our pupils, especially those preparing for exams, guiding them with wisdom and courage.

May the joy of Christ's resurrection fill our hearts and homes with light and hope.

Amen.

Wishing all our families a happy and holy Easter. May the risen Lord bring you joy, peace, and renewed strength.

With every blessing,

Mr Charnock

## BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Willow Barnes - compassionate and loving

Year 8: William Collins - curious and active

Year 9: Jacob McCarthy, Monica Nixon - compassionate and loving

Year 10: Daniel Holden - intentional and prophetic

Year 11: Eva Kennedy - faith-filled and hopeful



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# Computer Science & IT *in the Spotlight*

Computer Science is more than just a subject  
– it is a gateway to the future.

This year within the Computer Science department, we have looked to focus on enrichment and careers.

Enrichment in Computer Science is about more than just improving technical skills within lessons –

it involves preparing pupils for both the current technological landscape and future innovations.

The world of technology is ever changing and our pupils need to be prepared for those changes and challenges.

## TEACHERS

Ms Worthington – Principal Teacher of Computer Science and IT  
Mr Bell – Assistant Principal Teacher of Computer Science

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# Preparing for Future Careers

Computer Science is not only about understanding technology that we have in our hands and pockets but it is also about using it to innovate and solve real-world problems. Without realising it, IT and Computer Science is relevant to everyone! When pupils think about jobs within the Computing sector, the main jobs pupils come up with are hackers, programmers, game and web developers and technicians. The aim of this year has been to open their eyes to other possibilities.



So far this year we have given opportunities to all classes and year groups.



The  
**Faraday  
Institute**  
for Science and Religion

We have competed in the **Faraday Challenge** which is a national science and engineering competition organised by the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion which is supported by the UK government. The aim of the Faraday Challenge was to inspiring young people to engage in hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) projects. Not only was this a competition, it encouraged students to consider STEM careers and develop a passion for innovation.

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# Computer Science & IT

*in the Spotlight*

## Lancashire Cyber Festival Education Week

Pupils have also had the opportunity to take part in the week-long Lancashire Cyber Festival.

The week allowed pupils to think about and be inspired by the potential cyber related career pathways that are available to them. This was to support the opening of the National Cyber Force Headquarters in Samlesbury. Cyber Security and the jobs this could provide for our pupils couldn't get any closer! It is important for pupils to understand that these opportunities are open to them right on their door step! Applications for GCHQ are open for the Cyber Specialist Development Program and our pupils need to know and be prepared for the future possibilities!

30 girls were also invited to CyberFirst MEGA Event which allowed the girls to access technology (including VR headsets, Spheros, robots, as well as using AI to generate images) The girls had a fantastic day and it has had a massive impact on the girls as they now, "Understand how it is all connected in the real world." Hopefully the day will have done as it needed to, to inspire and allow the girls to consider a future career in the sector.

Pupils took part in a virtual innovation live session where pupils could ask questions to professionals in the field of AI and Cybersecurity, including apprentices, working in ORACLE, the BBC as well as an expert who worked high up in cybersecurity whose identity needed to be kept a secret! It made pupils think more about what career prospects are in IT and Computer Science.



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## National Careers Week

During National Careers week, pupils were given further insight into jobs that they may (and us!) didn't realise were possible! Pupils looked at how Art and Computer Science work incredibly well together.

**"There is no creativity without technology, and technology does not exist without creativity."**

**- Jerome – Meow Wolf.**

Pupils looked into how marine biologists, NASA, Instagram, Microsoft, Google, cybersecurity companies use Computer Science and not in the obvious ways! Pupils were surprised in what can be achieved! Fingers crossed they will one day make it in ways they never knew.

There are more enrichment and career engaging activities coming up which will hopefully continue to motivate and inspire pupils, including Curry's, Raspberry Pi's, Manchester Airport!



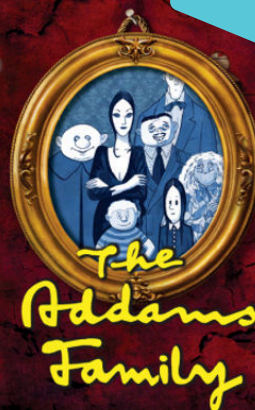
*Being One of Ours*



# SHOWTIME

OUR LADY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS...

JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2<sup>ND</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup>  
AT 19:00



TICKETS  
ON SALE  
NOW  
[click here](#)



Historical Association  
The voice for history



## Great opportunity for students at OLCHS!

We are running a competition to find the best writers of historical fiction in years 7, 8 or 9. There will be prizes in school and the best 5 will be entered into a national competition.

We would love as many people to enter as possible. To help you choose your story, think about the following:

- It must be Historically accurate – even down to the choice of names which characters are given. Research is key! You might think it is a good idea to base your story around something you have studied in class.
- A riveting read with a good plot!

- A convincing story – i.e. is it possible that these events could have happened and this character could have lived at the time?
- Use of historical knowledge
- Effective use of historical vocabulary. What are the key words they you might want to use to show how accurate your story is.
- Your entry must be between 400 words and 3500 words (but remember a long story is not always best!)

Entries must be received by Friday 16th May, but you can get your entries in earlier. Your work can be handwritten or typed.

Talk to your History teacher if you need any help to get you started.

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## Year 8 The Entrepreneur Competition

# News

All Year 8 pupils will be taking part in **The Entrepreneur** enterprise competition which will be launched in their Design & Technology lessons next week.

Pupils will be working in groups of three and will be given a £10 loan by OLCHS (repayable on 9th May - Forms O, U & R and 6th May - Forms L, A & D).

They must run enterprising activities - the Easter holidays will be good for this! - which will allow them to make as much profit from their loan as possible. All profit is to be kept and equally distributed within the groups.

Each group will make a short presentation (including photographic evidence) to their class about their activities and a winning team from each class will be selected.

The following rules must be adhered to:

- Pupils are not allowed to do the lottery or play the lottery.
- Pupils must not sell goods within school time under any circumstances. This includes selling sweets on the quad or yard at break or lunch.
- Pupils should refrain from cake sales and car washes, trying to be more creative with their ideas.
- All groups will be expected to pay the £10 loan back in full.
- The work that pupils do in their groups must be divided up equally between all three members. **Profit must be shared out equally at the end of the activity.**
- Groups **MUST provide photographic evidence** of their activity.

## YEAR 7

# Choco-Tastic Challenge!



All year 7 pupils are taking part in the Chocotastic Challenge as part of their Design and Technology lessons. **Pupils will be expected to complete homework tasks related to the challenge which will be set by their class teacher.** The pupils are working in groups of three to design materials to promote a new healthy chocolate product. The tasks which each group must complete are:

- Design a fun mascot
- Design suitable packaging
- Design a leaflet / poster

Pupils may wish to consider other ways to promote their product too. Each group will then present their ideas to the rest of their class in lessons next week. Forms O, U & R will present on Friday 9th May and forms L, A & D on Thursday 8th May.

The presentations will involve pupils creating a PowerPoint presentation as well as a well rehearsed speech to deliver to their class. Groups may wish to make samples for their classmates to taste!

# Flame <sup>CYMFED</sup> 2025

## UNSTOPPABLE

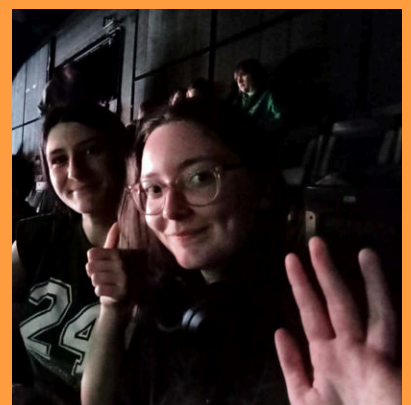
F A N T H E F L A M E O F H O P E

THE UK'S LARGEST CATHOLIC YOUTH GATHERING  
**SATURDAY 15TH MARCH 2025**  
AT OVO ARENA, WEMBLEY

“

Flame was a really positive Catholic concert that helped us, as young people, to deepen our faith. It featured inspiring talks, engaging live music, and opportunities for prayer and reflection. Being with so many other young Catholics created a strong sense of community and highlighted the lively spirit of the Church's youth. We found ourselves feeling uplifted and more inspired in our faith journey afterwards, which was a truly valuable aspect of the event.

*Solomon & Zac*  
*Year 10 OLCBS pupils*



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## Easter Eggs



OLCHS pupils visited The Salvation Army this week to drop off our wonderful collection of Easter Eggs kindly donated by our school community.

The staff who welcomed us were extremely grateful for our contribution.

We continue to live by our virtues by being pilgrims of hope!!



**Our Lady's Catholic  
High School**

## Year 10 Parent Feedback



**Very Satisfied / Satisfied**

How well do you feel that we ensure your child is "One Of Ours"?

**100%**

How well do you feel that we ensure that your child is safe?

**100%**

How well do you feel that we provide pupils with a clear idea of progression routes when leaving school?

**98%**

How well do you feel that we ensure school is well disciplined and orderly?

**100%**

How well do you feel that we provide classwork which challenges pupils?

**100%**

How well do you feel that we provide pupils with someone they can talk to if they have worries or concerns?

**99%**

How well do you feel that we ensure high standards of uniform are maintained?

**100%**

How satisfied are you with that the reports give a clear picture of your child?

**98%**

How well do you feel that we set homework that helps your child to improve their understanding?

**99%**

How well do you feel that we know your child as an individual person?

**100%**



## PE DEPARTMENT - NEW PE KIT LAUNCH



Our Lady's Catholic High School PE Department have teamed up with Official Kit, Part of the Total Insignia Group as our sole PE uniform supplier as of September 2025.

From the start of the next academic year, we will be bringing in a totally new PE uniform which will be more suitable to the modern day PE student, **better value for money** and exactly the same for both genders. The new kit will be Joma branded which offers superb performance quality for sporting activities at a fraction of the cost of the current PE kit.

Our new suppliers, Official Kit, are a well established sports and school kit provider based in Blackburn and have partnerships with a number of local high schools already, as well as providing kit and equipment across professional sport working with the likes of Preston North End, Burnley FC, and the Ryder Cup. Orders will be **placed online** and shipped out to your home address making purchasing and replacing items of kit quicker and more convenient for our parents.

The new kit will consist of **three compulsory items**: Burgundy (badged) crew neck t-shirt, black shorts and black socks.

These items will need to be brought to all PE lessons across the year but there will also be additional, optional, items which you may wish to purchase for outdoor lessons across the winter months. These are a burgundy (badged) 1/4 zip jumper, a badged, black waterproof jacket and plain black, Joma tracksuit bottoms.

The new PE uniform will be **compulsory for all new Year 7 pupils** joining us in September 2025 however, pupils from other years will have the **option** to purchase and wear the new kit from September if they wish. Please be aware that the new PE kit will be compulsory for **All** students from **September 2026**.

Should you need to replace a PE kit in the final term, please do NOT feel you have to commit to buying the current PE uniform which will soon be discontinued. Please encourage your son/daughter to speak with their PE teacher who will be able to source some good quality items which can be used until the end of the academic year.

More information and confirmation of the webshop going live will be sent home via Synergy and published in the school letter in the coming months.



....to read

## USEFUL RESOURCES

What's On Guide



Community Support Information



April Online Safety Newsletter



## Train to Teach with the Catholic Teaching Alliance

Start date September 2025

Are you looking for a teacher training course?

The Catholic Teaching Alliance offers **1 year PGCE with QTS** (qualified teacher status) teacher training courses:

- **Early Primary** (3-7 years) or **General Primary** (5-11 years)
- **Secondary** (11-16 years) or **Secondary with post 16** (14-19 years)

*I would recommend the CTA to anyone who is considering becoming a teacher.*

CTA Primary Trainee



Minimum requirements are GCSEs in Maths and English (and Science for primary training), plus an honours degree.

Please contact us on 01772 326931 or alternatively:

Email [CTAPGCE@olchs.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:CTAPGCE@olchs.lancs.sch.uk)

Website: [www.catholic-teaching-alliance.org](http://www.catholic-teaching-alliance.org)

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## IMPORTANT

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are committed to ensuring that menstruation does not hinder any child's educational experience. To support this, we provide free period products to all children who need them. This initiative aligns with the government's period product scheme, which aims to ensure that "period products should be available for all who need them, when they need them, so they can access education." ([gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)).

Currently, sanitary towels are available in the girls' toilets.

After half term, we will also be offering tampons in the Year 10 and 11 toilets. If you feel it would be helpful, please take some time to discuss with your child which period products work best for them.

Additionally, we have a supply of period pants available for any student who would like to access them.

If you or your family need support in supplying period products, please do not hesitate to contact the school, and we will be happy to provide support.



### 2025 Dates for your Diary

**Monday 28 April**

Pupils back to school

**Wednesday 30 April**

Normandy Trip starts

**Thursday 1 May**

Year 11 Celebration Mass

**Friday 2 May**

Year 11 Celebration Assembly

### SCHOOL TIMES

Arrive at school / Go to waiting areas	8.40- 8.45
Pupils go to Form rooms / Locker time	8.45- 8.55
Form Time	8.55-9.15
School finishes	3pm

**Except Tuesdays (ONLY)**

Pupils finish at 2.30pm

### OLCHS SOCIAL MEDIA



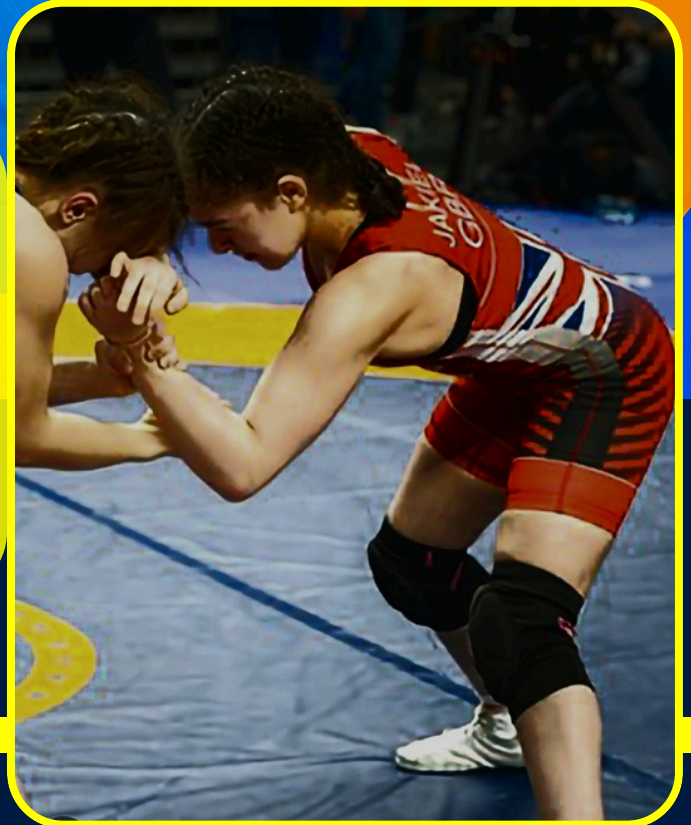


# WRESTLING

## Sporting News

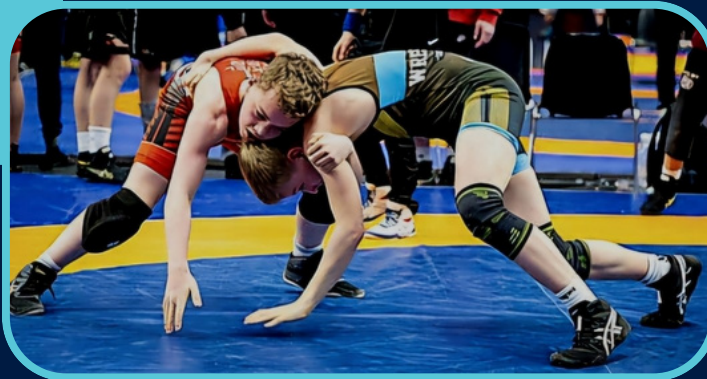
Our Lady's pupil Kayah, brought home a bronze medal from a recent highly competitive tournament. Kayah placed 6th out of 24 girls in her U15s | 50 kg category - this is a fantastic achievement, and she was the youngest but she managed to bring a medal home.

Kayah then followed it up with a special training camp by Olympic and World Champion Yui Susaki.



Filip also recently placed 10th out of 24 athletes in his U13 | 47kg category.

A wonderful achievement.



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## Year 9 Football

The Year 9 football team reached the final of the Preston Schools' Cup competition after a thrilling penalty shoot-out win over Archbishop Temple on Wednesday 2nd April. Our Lady's had struggled against this team in the past but started the game strongly. The wind played a huge factor in the game for both teams and it seemed to be helping the team playing into the wind. Our Lady's created a number of good chances with Mason D being very effective on the right wing, getting past his defender and offering lots of crosses into the box. Though it was Archbishop Temple that scored first from a looping cross that made its way over the defence and into the back of the net, it was not long before Mikey S converted a header at the back post to make the score 1-1. Into the second half and it was looking like the game might be going into extra time, but the Mason D long range strike made it 2-1 to Our Lady's, but within minutes the scores were level again after an Archbishop headed goal made it 2-2. The game went into extra time and the two teams could not be separated, which meant that penalties were needed. After 5 penalties had been taken the scores were again level at 3-3 meaning sudden death. A miss from Archbishop Temple meant that it was down to Harry K to take the winning penalty, which he did extremely calmly, sending the goalkeeper the wrong way to begin the celebrations.



## BEING ONE OF OURS

### Lostock St Gerard's JFC U16s V Burscough JFC U16s

Match report featuring Our Lady's pupils whose local junior football team, Lostock St Gerard's JFC U16s have won the league cup.

OLCHS pupils Lee R and Harrison C went on to win the U16s Mark Bottomley Memorial League Cup, on Sunday 6th April 2025, at Longridge Football Ground, against Burscough JFC. The two Premiership Team's battled hard for the cup, with a 1-1 draw at full time, but beating Burscough 4-2 on penalties.

McKenzie G (Year 10) unfortunately has been injured and been out for the full season, but has been supporting his team from the bench and was a part of Sunday's celebration. Four consecutive year's they've won the League Cup, which is a massive achievement, and a great way to end their junior football.







University of Central Lancashire

## Training 2000

Mrs Lin has been made aware of the following apprenticeship opportunities here in Preston with Training 2000.

Please click the links below for more details.

- ➔ [Apprentice Administrator 1517 - Preston - Training 2000](#)
- ➔ [Apprentice Business Administration Assistant 1476 - Preston](#)
- ➔ [Apprentice Legal Administrative Assistant 1536 - Preston](#)
- ➔ [All apprenticeships](#)

# Apprenticeships

# Apprenticeships



## Army Basic Training & Job Role Information Day

Saturday 10th May 2025,  
Reserve Centre, Kimberley Barracks, PR1 6PR.

Arrive between 1000 and 1200 (at a time that suits you best) bring family.  
Parking will be at the entrance or inside the centre (pull up at the gate).

A great opportunity to see, handle and get information about the kit and equipment you will be using during basic training. Also speak to Armoured, Artillery and Logistics soldiers about their job roles. Also Army staff about the subjects you will be taught. Additionally speak face to face with a recruiter and receive a full application update.

You are invited as an Army applicant, family and friends are also welcome.  
If a student in years 10 and 11 or FE education, you are welcome to attend.  
It will run from 1000 through to a 1245 finish. You will be there for roughly an hour.

- 15-minute presentation each hour about basic training and the following stands to visit.
- Map Reading
- First Aid
- Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear
- Weapon Systems
- Personal Kit and Equipment
- RAC, RA and RLC specialist role recruiters
- Application Progress Check

If in the application process reply by email to your recruiter. All others phone to give your name, with the number of people attending to book your place. **Any questions please get in touch on Tel.**

**01772 20 30 30**