

Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 30 16th May 2025



John 13:31-35 The Golden Rule.

'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another.'

In this powerful moment from John's Gospel, Jesus speaks just after Judas has left to betray him - a turning point that sets in motion his Passion. Rather than respond with fear or anger, Jesus speaks of the depth of God's love.

Then comes his "new commandment": love one another as I have loved you. This love is not just about kindness, but a self-giving, unconditional and forgiving love that reflects God's own heart. As we reflect on these words, we're challenged to ask: Do we love others with the same compassion and patience Christ has shown us? This love is our clearest mark as followers of Christ – putting our love into action.

Lord Jesus,

Teach us to love as you love - selflessly and deeply.

Help us be signs of your presence in the world through our love for others.

Amen.

BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Georgia Robertson Tones - compassionate and discerning

Year 8: Brody Carr - active and curious

Year 9: Isabelle Holden - active and curious

Year 10: William McCondichie - compassionate and loving





At Our Lady's the Art Department offers an exciting and dynamic curriculum designed to spark creativity, inspire imagination, and develop practical skills. Our wide-ranging activities cover everything from traditional drawing and painting techniques to innovative including projects, portraiture, sculpture, and cultural explorations such as African mask design. Students have the opportunity to experiment with various materials, including watercolours, acrylics, pastels, and more, while also learning about the importance of colour, tone, composition.

Throughout the year, our students are encouraged to express their ideas, discover new artistic techniques, and build confidence in their creative abilities. We aim to provide a supportive and inspiring environment where students can explore their artistic potential and produce work that they are proud of. Whether you're drawing a portrait, creating a ceramic sculpture or designing your own unique mask, the Art Department is the perfect place to unlock your creativity and immerse yourself in the world of art!



In Year 7, students are focused on building foundational art skills and exploring a variety materials and techniques. Through experimentation with line, tone, and colour, students develop their creative abilities and begin to express themselves more confidently in their work. These skills were put into practice as students delved into portraiture, learning about the proportions of the face, the structure of facial features, and techniques to capture likeness. The work of famous artists such as Frans Hals, Picasso, and Tracey Emin provided inspiration for students as they created their own unique portrait artworks.

Next, students explored African mask design, diving into the rich cultural traditions behind these striking and meaningful works of art. After researching various designs and their significance, students were inspired to create their own mask designs, reflecting their understanding of this fascinating artistic genre.

Finally, students studied the life and art of Henri Rousseau, learning about the challenges he faced and the resilience he showed in becoming one of the world's most beloved artists. His work, now exhibited globally, inspired students to reflect on the power of persistence in achieving artistic success.

In Year 8, students explored the rich traditions of Aboriginal art, researching this ancient and indigenous culture to gain a deeper understanding of its history and significance. They then developed their own dot paintings, refining their painting techniques and learning to create intricate designs inspired by Aboriginal styles.

This work led to an exciting project on the Great Barrier Reef and the vibrant, whimsical fish painted by artist Vincent Scarpace. Students experimented with blended colour using oil pastels to develop their designs before moving on to create 3-dimensional ceramic sculptures, bringing their vibrant aquatic ideas to life.





To conclude the year, students turned their attention to figure drawing, studying the work of Gustav Klimt. They learned about the proportions of the human figure and developed their skills in capturing the human form through drawing, gaining both technical knowledge and a greater appreciation for the beauty of the human body in art.

In Year 9, students explored the theme of Word and Image, focusing on the work of influential artists such as Bob and Roberta Smith, Barbara Kruger, and Teesha Moore. Students were encouraged to understand and express their own creative and personal intentions through a combination of text and imagery, emulating Moore's distinctive style.

The exploration continued with a deep dive into the Pop Art movement, where students studied the historical context behind the works produced during this vibrant period in art history. They learned how Pop Art reflected and responded to consumer culture, mass media, and societal changes.

Students applied this understanding by creating impactful, shaded drawings of sweet and crisp wrappers, exploring the connection between everyday objects and art. These drawings then became the foundation for large-scale papier-mâché sculptures, allowing students to bring their 2D designs into 3D, creating bold and striking representations of consumer culture.

At KS4, students follow the AQA Art, Craft, and Design syllabus, providing students with the opportunity to refine their skills, expand their artistic vocabulary, and develop their own voice in preparation for their final exam and future artistic endeavours.

Within Component 1 students have explored themes such as Natural Forms and later undertaken a more personally directed project of study. Students develop their own sketchbooks, fully engaging with a wide range of materials, tools, and techniques, including painting, tone, ceramics, oil pastels, and inks, among others.



Themes are drawn from a variety of sources, including inspiration from artists, cultural themes, and students' own personal experiences and explorations. This approach encourages students to create work that is dynamic, creative, and deeply personal, ensuring that each student's project is entirely unique and reflective of their individual journey as an artist.

As you can see our diverse and engaging curriculum aimed to build technical skills while encouraging personal expression and an appreciation for global art traditions.

Extra curricular opportunities.

There are extensive opportunities for students to enrich their project work and receive more personalized tuition in art. For KS4 students, the art room is open 4 lunchtimes a week and 3 evenings after school, providing students with the chance to access individualised learning, make use of the department's materials and facilities, and further develop their skills outside of regular class time.

Additionally, a KS3 Art Club is run during the first half of the year, offering students who are passionate about art or wish to expand their creative repertoire the opportunity to explore new mediums such as pastels, ceramics, paint, and papier-mâché. This provides a supportive space for students to experiment, express their creativity, and develop their artistic techniques beyond the classroom.















Bringing the Curriculum to Life

We strive to bring the art curriculum to life with enriching experiences that inspire and motivate students. This year, we had the pleasure of welcoming visiting artist Iman Murphy, who brought examples of his own work, shared insights into his life as an artist, and taught students how to imitate his unique style and techniques. Students had the opportunity to apply what they learned and incorporate these techniques into their own artwork, gaining valuable hands-on experience.









YEAR 241 2025

Good luck to Our Lady's Catholic High School Year 11 pupils currently sitting their GCSE exams.

We are all so proud of you and your hard work will pay off.



A Celebration Mass in thanksgiving for our time at Our Lady's Catholic High School.

Class of 2025

"Love one another as I have loved you John 13:34









Congratulations winning Year 8 team 'Sweet Charms' who came first place in the final of the 2025 Entrepreneur Competition.

Well done to all Year 8 who pupils successfully taken part in this year's competition run through their Design & Technology lessons. Pupils were given a £10 loan by OLCHS and were challenged to make as much profit as possible, setting up their own businesses.



Winning team: Sweet Charms

YEAR 7 Choco-Tastic challenge.





Congratulations to all Year 7 pupils who took part in the Chocotastic Challenge.

Eight winning teams selected from a very high standard of presentations in classes.

Each team was asked to develop and promote a healthy chocolate bar product concept and present their ideas.



News





Congratulations to Our Lady's pupil Zarish Shahbaz, whose artwork earned third place in her age group in the Lancaster Diocesan Art Competition. This year's competition celebrated the



upcoming Jubilee Year of 2025, proclaimed by the late Pope Francis as a sacred time of renewal, reflection, and grace, traditionally observed every 25 years. Centered around the theme "Pilgrims of Hope," the competition invited young artists to explore the Catholic journey of faith and transformation, highlighting the vital role of hope amid life's challenges.

The Jubilee Year encourages Catholics worldwide to deepen their spiritual lives through prayer, participation in the sacraments, and pilgrimages to sacred sites such as the Holy Doors in Rome. It also calls on individuals to live out the mission of Jesus by fostering reconciliation, compassion, and spiritual growth in their communities.

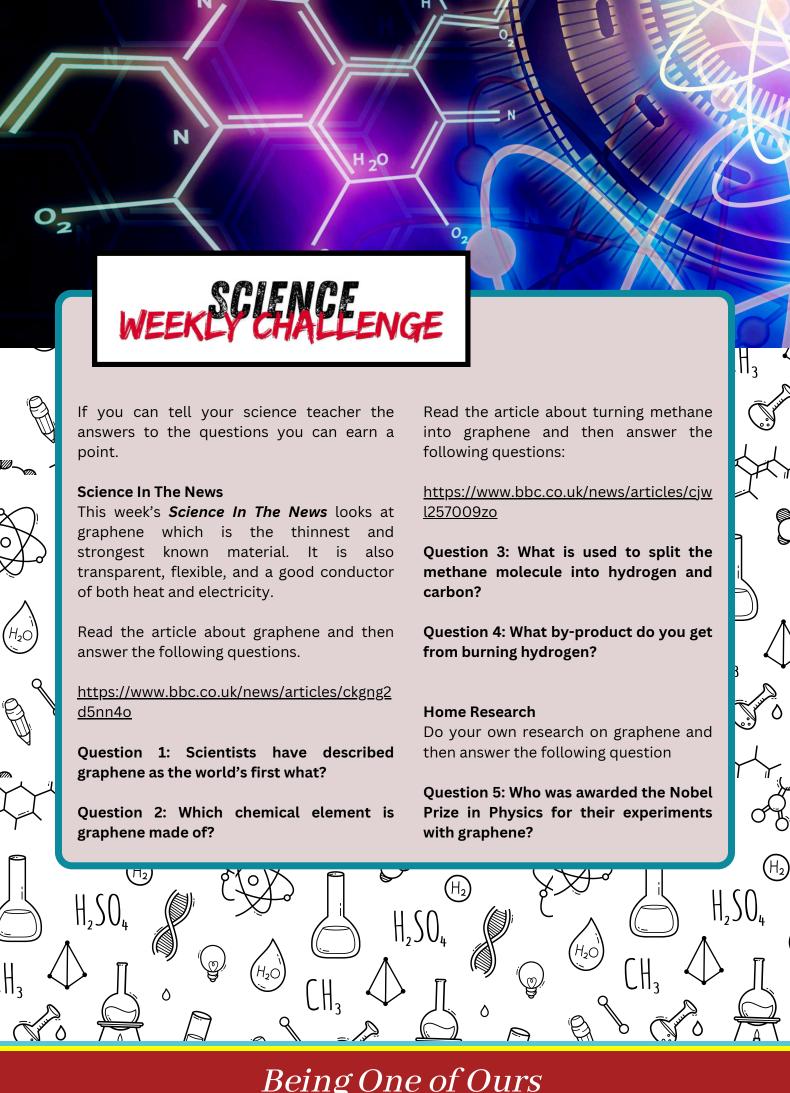


Fourteen of our students recently completed their three-day Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales. Blessed with excellent weather, they showed fantastic teamwork and navigation skills over challenging terrain. Along the way, they learned valuable lessons about route planning and packing the right food (and the right amount!).

Their assessment expedition takes place at the start of July, and their instructor praised the group for being humble, resilient, and supportive throughout. In addition to the expedition, all students are also committing to one hour each week of volunteering, developing a skill, and taking part in physical activity—a demanding but rewarding challenge over three to six months.

Staff are incredibly proud of their determination and the way they represented the school. Well done to all involved!





Information

SCHOOL EUS



HOME-SCHOOL TRANSPORT- SEASON TICKET RENEWALS AND NEW APPLICANTS ACADEMIC YEAR 25/26

As our school is served by county council contracted bus services we have been asked by the School Transport Team from Lancashire County Council to share the following information with our parents/carers:

For children who are not eligible for Home-to-School transport assistance, it is a parent/carer's responsibility to get their child to school. However, where there is spare capacity on the school buses, Lancashire County Council offer the facility for parents/carers to purchase a discounted annual season ticket. Spaces are limited and allocated on a first come, first served basis. The county council will not provide extra services for non-statutory pupils.

Season ticket renewals – The county council has just begun the renewal process for next academic year (25/26). This means that those who currently hold season tickets have been invited to renew their tickets for next year. We advise renewals to be returned by 1st June. The process of re-applying is done using the paper application form sent to the current user in the post. Parents should be reminded that if they haven't received their child's renewal form to email the School Transport Team: schooltransport@lancashire.gov.uk

New applicants - From 1st June, parents/carers can make an online application for a season ticket pack for 25/26 via the following link: School bus season tickets - Lancashire County Council. The packs are dispatched from July onwards. Please be advised it can take 15 working days from requesting the season ticket application pack. Once application packs are received by parent/carers, they must be completed and returned to the county council as directed.

Please note that the terms and conditions of using the school bus service state that when a student boards the bus, they must either present the driver with a valid pass/season ticket or pay the bus fare. Some of the county council's school bus services operate a 'pass only' policy, therefore any late applications for season tickets may not receive their pass for the start of the 25/26 academic year and will not be able to board the bus until they can show a valid pass/season ticket.

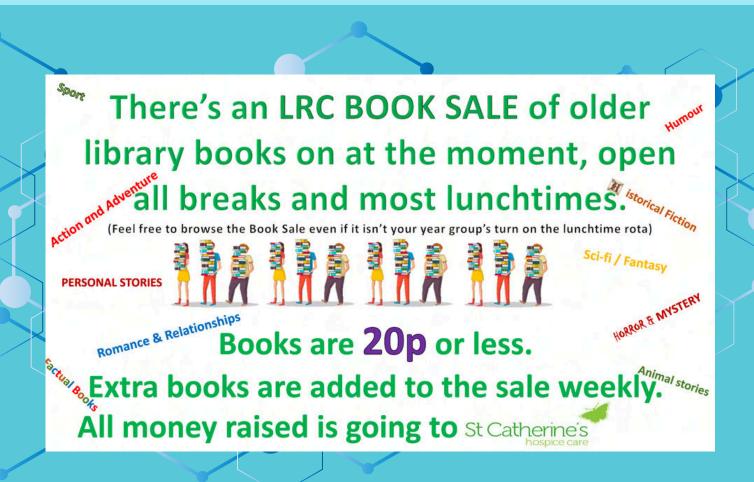
To plan your child's journey please visit: <u>Plan Your Journey | Traveline</u> or for other useful information please visit the county councils website: <u>Schools - Lancashire County Council</u>.

Information





Information





2025 Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 21 May

Years 7 and 8 AI Workshop

Friday 23 May

Half Term - School Closes at 3pm

Monday 2 June

Pupils return to school

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







Sporting News

FOOTBALL FINALS

The last week of this half term is filled with wonderful football finals.

Monday 19th May Birmingham YEAR 7 National Final 9.30am KO

Tuesday 20th May U15's Lancashire Final 7.30pm

Darwen FC

Thursday 22nd Y7 Lancashire Final 5pm KO

Darwen FC

It would be lovely to see as much support as possible at Darwen FC to cheer the girls on. Cash ONLY on the gates with prices at £3 adults and £1 per school child.





HOPPERS PLAYERS

The U16 girls team won 'Team Of The Year' at the Preston Grasshoppers presentation last week. Players at Our Lady's in the team are Georgia Lythgoe, Betsy Lee and Paige Hitchen. The Head Coach (Tino) said how proud he was to get so many girls playing and consistently performing at a high standard in training and matches.

Also representing Preston Grasshoppers regularly this season has been Hattie Lee in the U14 team.

Sporting News

ATHLETICS

Both Year 9 pupils competed in the Lancashire Championships at Stanley Park, Blackpool, last weekend. Jemma came second in her heats for the 100 and 200 metres to qualify for the finals where she came 4th in both events, narrowly missing out on a medal. However, she managed to gain the English Schools' qualifying time of 26.20 finishing in 26.00 for 200 and 12.80 for the 100, both of which were personal bests.

Dottie also did amazingly well, finishing 2nd in her heat for the 300 metres. This resulted in a place in the under 15 girls final. She ran a very tactical race and came third, gaining a bronze medal with a PB of 42.70.

A fantastic effort from both students. We wish them every success as the summer athletics season continues.





On Wednesday the U13 girls cricket team played in a tournament at Fulwood and Broughton. Our first game was against Broughton. We bowled well, but batting was a little inconsistent. Consequently, we lost by 21 runs. However, the girls dusted themselves off and after a tactical team came out positively against Archbishop getting a total of 98 runs. Archbishop then came into bat. We took lots of early wickets through consistent bowling and minimised Archbishop's runs by backing each other up well in the field, resulting in Archbishop only getting 20 runs. However, Broughton went on to beat Archbishop and so they advance through to the next round. A great effort from our team though!

Careers



A huge thank you to past OLCHS pupil **Leo Jessop** who led our Careers Cafe today. Leo currently works for <u>James Mercer</u> doing commercial / domestic engineering. Leo spoke about his time at Our Lady's, the importance of revising, but also the importance of seizing every opportunity that is available to you.

Thank you once again Leo for visiting us today.

We are so proud of Leo.





HERMAN FEST MONDAY 30th JUNE 2025 Booking is Now Open!

NEWMAN FEST BOOKINGS ARE NOW OPEN!

Calling all Applicants — Check your emails to book your spot at Newman Fest!

Join us for a day packed with fun, friends, and a first look at life at Newman. Whether you're exploring the campus, meeting future classmates, or diving into exciting activities, this is your chance to experience Newman before you join us.



Careers



Choices magazine, the ultimate parent and carer guide to apprenticeships and technical education.



