



Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 32

6th June 2025



This Sunday we celebrate Pentecost. (John 20: 19-23)

'As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you. Receive the Holy Spirit.'

Pentecost is a profound moment in the life of the Church, marking the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. Pentecost is often called the "birthday of the Church" because it signifies the beginning of the Church's mission in the world. It reminds us that the Holy Spirit is active and present today, guiding, uniting, and inspiring us to live as faithful witnesses of Christ. As we reflect on Pentecost, we are invited to open our hearts anew to the Spirit's gifts and to be courageous in living out our faith.

Come, Holy Spirit,
fill our hearts with your fire and love.
Renew us with your grace,
guide us in truth,
and strengthen us to share your peace.
May your gifts inspire us
to live boldly in faith and unity.
Amen.

BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Bree-Anna Brown - eloquent and faith-filled

Year 8: Silene Piotrowicz - intentional and prophetic

Year 9: Annette Joseph - intentional and prophetic

Year 10: Lucas Ward - loving and compassionate



Being One of Ours

modern languages

Bonjour

in the Spotlight



Hola!

Languages are for life: They are part of the cultural richness of our society and the world in which we live and work.

Learning languages contributes to mutual understanding, a sense of global citizenship and personal fulfilment.

This Year

This academic year the languages department has launched the new GCSE specification with Year 10, with new content and assessment. This GCSE develops pupil knowledge in the themes of **my personal world, lifestyle and wellbeing, my neighbourhood, media and technology, studying and my future**, and **travel and tourism**.

Enrichment

Enrichment is more than speaking and writing in a language, it is about learning phonics, taking part in half termly competitions such as crepe making, and learning about the links between languages and careers.

We pride ourselves on being one of the departments that offers two overseas trips a year! Just recently for example, our Year 8 pupils enjoyed the wonderful trip to Normandy where they visited WWII battlefields, strolled around French towns, experienced local French culture, and explored the amazing UNESCO World Heritage Site of Mont-Saint-Michel.

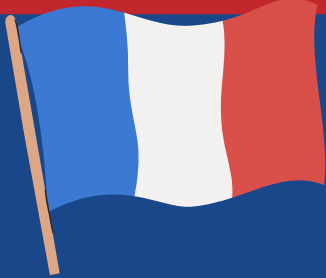
Normandy
2025



Being One of Ours

modern languages

What pupils are learning at the moment in French!



Year 7 are looking at describing what sports and activities they do depending on the weather.

Year 8 are learning how to describe films they like and dislike.

Year 9 are discussing music of the present and past.

Year 10 are describing somebody they admire and the reasons why.

Year 11 have worked hard on their GCSE examination preparation and must be commended on their recent speaking exam performances!

What pupils are learning at the moment in Spanish!



Year 8 are learning present tense verbs to describe hobbies and frequency words.

Year 9 are discussing food.

Year 10 are describing recent holidays using the past tense.

Year 11 have also worked hard on their GCSE examination preparation and must be commended on their recent speaking exam performances!

CAREERS

AHEAD

Hola

ابحرم

สวัสดี

IS IT JUST ABOUT LANGUAGE?

ようこそ

Hallo

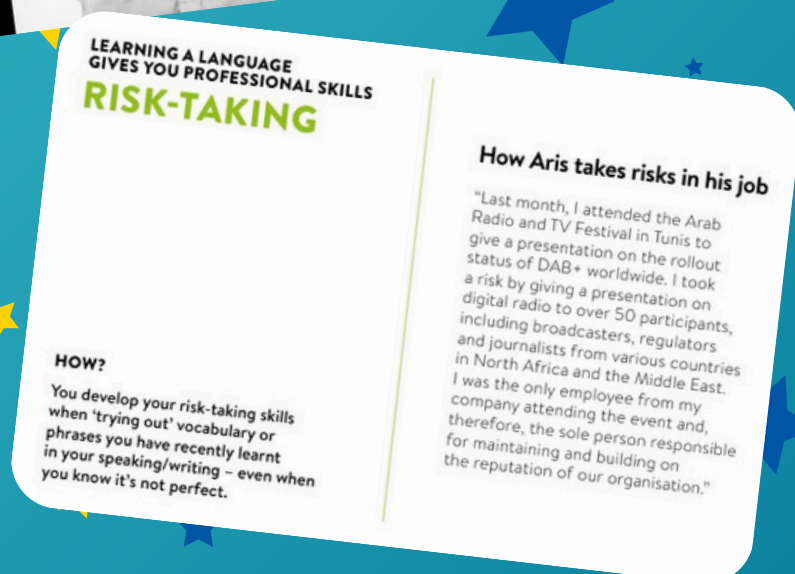
Merci!

Being One of Ours

Preparing For Future Careers

Learning a second language significantly enhances career prospects by boosting employability, opening doors to international opportunities, and improving communication skills. Beyond immediate job benefits, it also fosters cognitive abilities and cultural understanding, making individuals more versatile and attractive to employers.

Opportunities to exploit Careers related enrichment and skills-based learning linked explicitly to languages evidenced. For example, Year 10 Spanish have recently explored working abroad in hospitality, in making holiday bookings and in travel companies, as well as in hotels abroad or in England in companies like Air BnB, and Year 9 read profiles of language graduates, discussing and noting down the skills beyond words that language learning offers.



Being One of Ours

missio

Today. Tomorrow. Together.

Read the great article below, celebrating a wonderful Mass which our pupils were honoured to lead the music and drama for. The work of Missio is so important and our pupils learned so much from being involved.

Full article please **click here**.



*Morning
Coffee*
in the community



Our Lady's Chaplain Sarah, would like to thank each of our pupils on a wonderful job at this week's **Coffee Morning** with our friends from Sherwood Court.

NEVER 
MISS A
MONDAY

ATTENDANCE MATTERS.

How It Works

Students with perfect attendance every Monday will earn the chance to win exciting prizes.

1. Eligibility:

All students are eligible to participate in the "Never Miss a Monday" attendance competition. Students must attend school every Monday for the entire duration of the competition to be in the running for prizes.

2. Tracking Attendance:

Teachers or school staff will track student attendance every Monday.

3. Weekly Prize Draws:

At the end of each week, all students who attended school every Monday that week will be entered into a raffle to win a prize.



Being One of Ours

SHOWTIME



OUR LADY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
PRESENTS



The Addams Family

MONDAY
JUNE 30
19:00
OPENING
NIGHT

WEDNESDAY
JULY 2
19:00

THURSDAY
JULY 3
19:00
FINAL
PERFORMANCE

TICKETS
ON SALE
NOW

CLICK HERE



Tickets available on ticket source
www.ticketsource.co.uk/our-ladys-catholic-high

"THE ADDAMS FAMILY Young@Part" is presented through special arrangement with and all authorised performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW), www.theatricalrights.co.uk

Being One of Ours

SCIENCE WEEKLY CHALLENGE

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

Science In The News

This week's **Science In The News** looks at two developments that have the potential to make significant contributions in computing.

Read the article and watch the video (half way through the article) on new computing chips. Then answer the following questions.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c791ng0zv13o>

Question 1: What scientific field of physics do the new chips make use of?

Question 2: Traditional computers store data in "bits." What is the name of the device that stores data in quantum computers?

Read the article about a supercomputer using AI to develop vaccines and then answer the following questions.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy5kley15pyo>

Question 3: What type of skin cancer is the technology being used to improve detection rates?

Question 4: How might the waste energy from the supercomputer be used?

Home Research

Do your own research into supercomputers and how their power is measured in FLOPS. Then answer the following question.

Question 5: What does FLOPS stand for?

Information

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formally developed by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit thenationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EMOJIS

Emojis are more than playful expressions – they form a fast-evolving digital language that many adults struggle to decode. For young people, this secret code is central to how they communicate identity, humour and emotions. With over 5 billion emojis sent daily on Facebook Messenger alone, understanding these symbols is key to engaging meaningfully with digital youth.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION**
An emoji like 🤔 (Thinking up emoji) might seem friendly to adults, but teens often interpret it as sarcastic or passive-aggressive. These differing interpretations can create confusion or unintended tension in cross-generational conversations.
- SHIELDING BULLYING OR PEER PRESSURE**
When embedded in emojis, mean-spirited jokes or exclusionary language can fly under the radar, forming the 'veer' or 'leaver' emoji seen in social ways. It's used to undermine peers in subtle ways.
- RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS**
Emoji meanings can change overnight. A person sending 🙄 (Eye-roll emoji) once signified exasperation but might now be interpreted as a warning sign about someone's behaviour.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- LEARN THE LINGO**
Stay updated with emoji trends and definitions using resources like emojiexplains.org or Urban Dictionary. Knowing current meanings builds confidence when engaging with young people and helps spot potential concerns early.
- ASK, DON'T ASSUME**
Approach unfamiliar emoji with curiosity rather than suspicion. A light-hearted "What does 🙄 (Eye-roll emoji) mean these days?" can open conversation and show that you respect their knowledge.
- EMOJI CHEAT SHEET**
The following slang terms and emojis are some common examples – please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list.

COMMON EMOJIS:

- 👉 (Pointing hand) Over-the-top or "pointing"
- 👌 (Clasp hands) Cool, stylish or "clap"
- 👀 (Eyes) Watching drama or "stare"
- 👄 (Mouth) Over-the-top or "stare"
- 👁️ (Eye) Watching drama or "stare"
- 👂 (Ear) Eavesdrop or "stare"
- 👃 (Nose) Confidence, sassiness, or "stare"
- 👅 (Tongue) Flirtatious or "stare"
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POTENTIALLY CONCERNING EMOJIS

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Meet Our Expert
Keith Brown is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of emojiexplains.org, the world's number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Queen's School of Business and Technology.

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www.thenationalcollege.com

....to read

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about OFCOM MEDIA REPORT 2025

Every year, Ofcom releases its Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes Report, offering fresh insights into how young people are using digital platforms. The 2025 edition highlights key safeguarding concerns as children's engagement with social media, gaming, and live streaming continues to grow. This guide pulls out the top statistics from the report, focussing on the main areas of concern for parents and educators.

ONLINE LIVES
Children are engaging with social media and online content at increasing rates:
37% 3-5s have access to social media; however, only a small proportion use it independently of parents.
79% 3-17s have a social media profile, with 16% including a public photo.
66% 3-17s watch livestreamed videos regularly, with 16% of them answering their own content.

ONLINE GAMING
Gaming remains popular but raises concerns:
74% of children say they play with someone they know, while 32% report playing with strangers.
62% of parents worry about their children talking to strangers while gaming.
31% of children still game online chat with people they don't know.

PARENTAL CONCERNS
Parents are increasingly worried about online risks:
70% fear their child may see age-inappropriate or sexual content.
68% fear exposure to content that promotes self-harm.
72% worry about their child distinguishing real from fake information.
69% are concerned about online bullying.

SCREEN TIME
Screen time is still a major challenge for parents:
70% of parents of 13-17s say it's difficult to manage screen time.
33% of 8-17s think their own screen time is too high.
At 29% v. 24%, boys were more likely than girls to disagree that their screen time is too high.

18 HARMFUL CONTENT & INTERACTIONS
A significant minority of children continue to have negative feelings about social media and messaging apps:
Nearly four in ten 8-17s believe that people are mean or unkind to each other online all or most of the time.
Girls aged 8-17 are more likely than boys to say they have experienced someone being nasty or hurtful to them online (34%).
One third of teenagers agree that it's important that people can say what they want online, even if it offends someone.

ONLINE SAFETY IN SCHOOLS
Parents who were worried about children reported needing to discuss online safety at school:
92% of children aged 8-17 report at least one lesson on online safety and most report feeling more confident.
The top three topics covered are:
63% How to recognise harmful content.
63% How to keep personal information safe.
62% Being kind and respectful online.

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www.thenationalcollege.com

....to read

USEFUL RESOURCES

June Online Safety Newsletter

Community Support Information

online safety info

June 2025 Information

Being One of Ours

Information

Wellbeing Event

Wednesday
18th June
13:30-16:30

Moor Nook Family Hub and Youth Zone,
Burholme Road,
Preston,
PR2 6HN

Come along to find out about help and support available in your community from:

- Compass Bloom
- Homestart
- PNE Education Trust
- Creativity Works
- Lancashire Fire and Rescue
- Lancashire
- Barnardos
- Talking Therapies
- INTACT
- Breathing Space
- Community Roots
- Listening Ear
- Primary mental Health Team
- Key Charity
- Realise College

And lots more

PARENT CONSULTATION

Compass BLOOM
CENTRAL & WEST LANCASHIRE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAMS

Compass Bloom are the Mental Health Support Team at **Our Lady's Catholic High School**.

You can meet with one of our practitioners to talk about how best to support your child with anxiety or low mood.

Come and speak to us to talk about your child's mental health. We have bookable drop-in session slots on:
Thursday 12th June 10am - 1pm

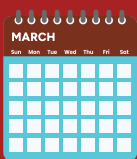
To book a slot with Lisa, one of our Practitioners, please email CWK@olchs.lancs.sch.uk
Slots last approx 30 minutes

GET IN TOUCH: COMPASSBLOOM@COMPASS-UK.ORG
01772 280123

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

FOLLOW US ON OUR SOCIALS: [f](#) [x](#) [in](#) @compassbloom

Compass BLOOM



2025 Dates for your Diary

30 June | 2-3 July

School Show - The Addams Family

Tuesday 1 July

Year 10 Newman College Taster Day

Tuesday 1 July

Leavers' Ball

Friday 4 July

Sports Day

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



Being One of Ours

CRICKET TRIP

On Wednesday, a group of 30 OLCBS Year 7- 10 pupils went on a Cricket trip accompanied by Miss Lewis, Mr Newsham and Mr Broderick to watch the women's and men's T20 blast at Emirates, Old Trafford. The atmosphere was electric thanks to the singing from Our Lady's students!

After entering a draw, we were fortunate enough to be selected to have sixteen of our pupils being the Guard of Honour. This involved going on the pitch to welcome the Manchester Lightning team and their opponents, the Leicestershire Foxes.

All the pupils and staff had a great time, the highlight being selfies with Sir Jimmy Anderson, England's all-time highest scoring wicket taker!



Being One of Ours



YEAR 10 FUTURES DAY

On Wednesday 4 June all of Our Lady's Year 10 participated in their Futures Day. The pupils engaged in sessions which included CV writing, Mock Interviews, mortgages, credit cards and a session from outside guests Rory and Megan from HSBC. All pupils now have the template and knowledge to finish their CV ready for their mock interviews in Year 11.

Year 10 conducted themselves brilliantly.



**CLICK
HERE**



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



Careers



[CLICK HERE >](#)

A poster for the RAF Preston Town Show. It features a blue background with a white jet aircraft flying over a green field. The text includes 'RAF PRESTON TOWN SHOW', '6TH - 8TH JUNE', '10:00 - 17:00', and a 'CLICK HERE!' button. Below the text, there are two columns of descriptive text and a QR code to book a free ticket.

RAF PRESTON TOWN SHOW
6TH - 8TH JUNE
10:00 - 17:00

CLICK HERE!

Get ready, Preston! The RAF is landing near you for an unmissable event of adventure, excitement, and hands-on activities for all ages. Whether you're an aviation enthusiast, a thrill-seeker, or simply looking for a fun family day out, there's something for everyone.

Step inside an RAF aircraft and capture the moment as you imagine life as a pilot. Test your agility and determination with our high-energy challenges or learn essential life-saving skills in one of our workshops.

Curious about where a future with the RAF could take you? Chat with our friendly team about the wide range of exciting careers and opportunities across engineering, logistics, medical, and more. We'll also have interactive activities and youth engagement experiences designed to spark inspiration and ambition.

With live music from a RAF band as they fill the town show with energy and atmosphere, the atmosphere will be vibrant from start to finish. So, rally your family, bring your friends, and join us for an unforgettable event of discovery, energy, and connection. We'll see you at Preston!

SCAN TO BOOK YOUR FREE TICKET NOW!

OR CLICK HERE TO BOOK

ROYAL AIR FORCE
REGULAR & RESERVE

FIND YOUR FORCE



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