



Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 35

27th June 2025



The Theme Next Week: Witness (Matthew 16:13-19)

'You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.'

Jesus asks his disciples who they believe he is. Peter boldly confesses, *"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."* This moment reminds us that faith is a gift from God, revealing the true identity of Jesus to our hearts. Jesus then gives Peter the keys to the kingdom, entrusting him – and, in turn, all of us, with the mission to build his Church and be witnesses of his truth. As followers of Christ, we are called to confidently proclaim who Jesus is, not just with words but through our actions. We are called to be witnesses, sharing the hope and love of the kingdom with others and standing firm in faith in all circumstances.

Lord Jesus,

You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Help me to know you deeply and to witness your love boldly.

Grant me the grace to build your Church through my words and actions,

and to be a faithful servant of your kingdom.

Amen.

BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Jonah Maduka - faith-filled and active

Year 8: Ryan Ireland - compassionate and loving

Year 9: Lilia Wood - curious and active

Year 10: Georgia Collum - curious and active



Being One of Ours

Community Tea party



It was an absolute privilege for Our Lady's Catholic High School when we organised and hosted a traditional afternoon tea party in school last week for the local community – a wonderful event that brought people together, connecting community and generations.

Tables in the school's Art Theatre were adorned with elegant tablecloths, vintage teacups and saucers, and tiered stands brimming with an assortment of sandwiches and array of delicious cakes. It was a wonderful occasion with over 48 people attending from different care homes in Preston together with local residents, joined by Our Lady's pupils and staff, with everyone chatting and having a wonderful time together.



Comments from people from the local care homes and community:

"The young people made us very welcome and thank you to Our Lady's school"

"I made some new friends and had a good chat to people and the young people"

"The young people were very kind to us and we had a good laugh"

"The young people's entertainment was really good. Thank you"

Comments from OLCHS pupils:

"It helped my confidence talking to people and making new friends"

"You feel good doing something positive and being involved"

"I enjoyed being with my friends and making new friends with another generation"

Thank you to everyone involved in putting this fabulous community event together and to the Burns Price Foundation for their support.





UCLan Year 8 & Year 10 Workshops

This term, two Year groups had the fantastic opportunity to visit the University of Lancashire (UCLan) to take part in exciting, hands-on science experiences that brought their classroom learning to life.

Our budding Year 8 scientists took a giant leap into the world of space exploration. Their mission? To assess the potential for life on Mars. Pupils programmed robotic rovers to navigate simulated Martian terrain and collect soil samples. Back in the lab, they tested the samples for signs of life, searching for water, chloride ions, nitrates, and organic molecules. The activity sparked curiosity and critical thinking, giving students a real insight into how scientists investigate life beyond Earth.

Across both trips, pupils represented the school exceptionally well. Their enthusiasm, behaviour, and scientific skill were outstanding, and the staff at UCLan praised their focus and engagement. These experiences not only deepened students' understanding of science but also inspired many to consider future careers in STEM.

Year 8 – Life on Mars?



Year 10

Year 10 students visited UCLan to complete one of their upcoming GCSE Physics required practical's – **investigating acceleration**.

Working in university laboratories with linear air tracks, OLCHS pupils explored how force and mass affect acceleration, applying Newton's Second Law. Pupils collected and analysed data with impressive precision, demonstrating not only excellent scientific knowledge but also maturity and teamwork throughout the session.

The Physics of Acceleration



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 articles about oxygen being produced from rock under the ocean and on the moon.

Read the article on 'dark oxygen' and then answer the following questions.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cq6gg5mnn8eo>

Question 1: What do scientists say might be taking advantage of the oxygen?

Question 2: What scientific process might be generating the oxygen?

Read the article on how to make oxygen on the moon and then answer the following questions.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cd7nr8wv5r9o>

Question 3: What is lunar regolith composed of that enables oxygen to be extracted?

Question 4: How much regolith do scientists think would be required to provide an astronaut with oxygen for a day?

Home Research

Do your own research to find out more about regolith and then answer the following question.

Question 5: Why is regolith not soil?

SHOWTIME



OUR LADY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
PRESENTS



The Addams Family

TICKETS
ON SALE
NOW

CLICK HERE

MONDAY
JUNE 30
19:00
OPENING
NIGHT

WEDNESDAY
JULY 2
19:00

THURSDAY
JULY 3
19:00
FINAL
PERFORMANCE



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

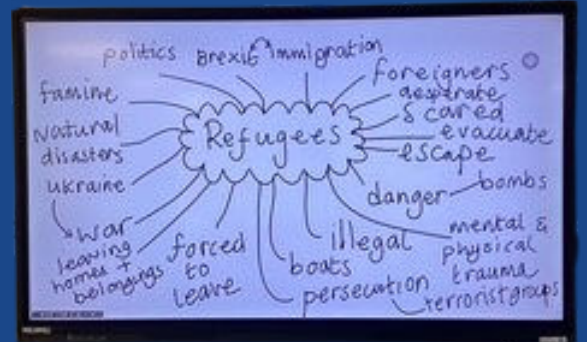
"THE ADDAMS FAMILY Young@Part" is presented through special arrangement with and all authorised performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW), www.theatricalrights.co.uk

Being One of Ours

Refugee Week

This week students have been learning about Refugee Week and its theme, **“Community is Our Superpower.”**

We shared inspiring refugee stories, reflected on the role of faith and compassion, and encouraged pupils to think about small ways they can help build a more inclusive community, both in school and beyond.



USEFUL RESOURCES

June Online Safety
Newsletter

Community Support
Information

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides engage 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 change through. Currently delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, visit www.nationalcollege.ac.uk.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 game console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and more features to its console, as well as a new software suite to upgrade it. It's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT**
Nintendo's parental controls for the Switch 2 are designed to be more flexible than those of the original Switch. While the Switch 2's improved performance, increased storage and the ability to play more games in 4K resolution may be seen as positive, it also means that more mature content is available. Parents should be aware of the age ratings and content descriptors for games and apps. The Switch 2 also has a new 'Family Sync' feature, which allows parents to monitor their child's playtime and spending. However, this feature is not foolproof, and parents should still be vigilant about their child's online activity.
- IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES**
The Nintendo eShop allows purchases to be made using a Nintendo Account. Parents should be aware that the Switch 2 has a new 'Family Sync' feature, which allows parents to monitor their child's playtime and spending. However, this feature is not foolproof, and parents should still be vigilant about their child's online activity.
- UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES**
While Nintendo has introduced new features, it has also made it easier for children to access online play. Parents should be aware that some games allow for unrestricted online play, which can be a risk for children. Parents should be aware of the age ratings and content descriptors for games and apps. The Switch 2 also has a new 'Family Sync' feature, which allows parents to monitor their child's playtime and spending. However, this feature is not foolproof, and parents should still be vigilant about their child's online activity.

GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION

Parents should be aware that the Switch 2 has a new 'Family Sync' feature, which allows parents to monitor their child's playtime and spending. However, this feature is not foolproof, and parents should still be vigilant about their child's online activity.

CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS

The Switch 2 is compatible with the Nintendo Camera Module, which allows for more immersive gameplay. However, this feature also raises privacy concerns. Parents should be aware of the age ratings and content descriptors for games and apps. The Switch 2 also has a new 'Family Sync' feature, which allows parents to monitor their child's playtime and spending. However, this feature is not foolproof, and parents should still be vigilant about their child's online activity.

POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

Nintendo's iconic characters, along with others, are a major draw for children. Parents should be aware that these characters are often used in games that may be inappropriate for children. Parents should be aware of the age ratings and content descriptors for games and apps. The Switch 2 also has a new 'Family Sync' feature, which allows parents to monitor their child's playtime and spending. However, this feature is not foolproof, and parents should still be vigilant about their child's online activity.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS**
Every Switch 2 game comes with an ESRB rating. Before buying a game, check the rating and content descriptors. Use the Nintendo eShop's parental controls to restrict playtime and spending.
- REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS**
Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only. Use the Nintendo eShop's parental controls to review friend lists and chat permissions.
- REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS**
Avoid accidental spending by removing credit cards from the device. Instead, use a prepaid card or a credit card with a low limit. The Nintendo eShop can also be set to require a PIN for purchases.
- ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION**
Talk to children about online safety, reporting inappropriate behavior, and understanding the importance of privacy. Encourage them to talk to a trusted adult if they feel uncomfortable.

Meet Our Expert
Lynne Coleman is the Games Editor at Daily Star and has been working in the gaming industry for over 10 years. She is a parent and understands the importance of online safety. She has written and edited many articles on online safety, including those on the Switch 2.

WakeUpWednesday
@wake_up_weds
@wake_up_wedsday
@wake_up_wedsday

...to read

CLICK
HERE!

Information



Our Lady's Catholic High School

JOB VACANCY

Operations Manager

An exciting opportunity has arisen for the position of Our Lady's Catholic High School Operations Manager who will have day to day responsibility for the management of the school site.

Salary between £31,067 and £35,235 per annum (pay award pending).

For more information and how to apply please visit the [vacancies](#) page on our school website.



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

Sporting News

ROUNDERS SEASON

YEAR 7

Huge congratulations to the Year 7 rounders team who beat Archbishop Temple on a very warm and hot Thursday afternoon. The game finished 9.5 rounders to OLCBS and 6 rounders to Archbishop.

This means the Year 7 girls are undefeated this season. Well done ladies.

YEAR 8

On Wednesday Year 8 took on Archbishop at home in the Preston Schools' Rounders League. The game was very close with Our Lady's having a narrow 1.5 lead at half time. In the second half, we capitalised on some of our opposition's play and managed to score quite a few full rounders. OLCBS fielded tightly making it hard for Archbishop to score half rounders at second base, aided by the quality catching of Melody B. Umika P and Rose B bowling consistently and with pace, not allowing the Archbishop batters to get in a rhythm. Although Archbishop slowly began to close in on our score, we stayed cool under pressure and won the game 9.5 rounders to 8.5.

Player of the Match went to Melody B.

YEAR 9

On Monday 23rd June Fulwood Academy travelled to OLCBS to play Year 9 final fixture. It was a very sunny but blustery evening which impacted over arm throws and the bowlers.

The first innings finished to Fulwood being up by $\frac{1}{2}$ a rounder. In the second innings we batted slightly better and took more risks especially trying to get to second after backward hits. This hindered our batters as a number were not quite quick enough. We finished on 6 rounders at the end of the second innings. Our batting was outstanding in this half. We got 5 players out with the connection between Lena at backstop and Romy on first base. Final score was OLCBS 14 and Fulwood 13.5.

Well done to all involved, especially those who stepped in to replace those who were at the cricket.



Being One of Ours

Sporting News

CRICKET

U15 GIRLS TEAM

Last Thursday, the U15 girls cricket squad played in their second tournament at Torrisholme Cricket Club. It was all to play for as the top two teams go through to the county finals in Bolton. We were fortunate enough to field an A and B team. It was very hot conditions, but this did not deter us, with several players taking wickets, including Umika P, Ella G, Zuzanna R, Aleksandra D and Grace C.

The B team lost their matches. However, considering all of their opponents were A teams, they did themselves proud and made their opponents work hard for the win!

The A team had a bit of a shaky start losing narrowly to Carnforth, but then went on to beat Our Lady's B, and Lancaster Grammar School.

Players of the Match throughout the day went to Umika P, Megan I, Aleksandra D and Ella G.

The U15 girls cricket team, captained by Grace C, have been extremely busy over the past few days. After coming runners-up in a local tournament at Torrisholme Cricket Club, they automatically qualified for the CTS County Finals at Westhoughton Cricket Club.

We faced some tough opposition and lost our opening game to Unity College, Burnley 75-54. However, the team did not let this deter them and we went on to draw 55 runs a piece against Turton. We then faced Bishop Rawsthorpe and fielded absolutely brilliantly.

Ella G, Zuzanna R and Grace C managed to get three batters out early by hitting the wickets with pinpoint accuracy from mid-range throws in the field. Zuzanna R and Umika P then went on to bowl several players out in quick succession plus a catch from Rose B meant we got them all out for 49. Our Lady's did just enough with the bat and managed to rack up a score of 55. In our final match of the tournament we faced Ribblesdale, Clitheroe. We lost the toss and subsequently batted first, gaining a respectable 58 runs. The game went right down to the wire and the atmosphere was electric as Ella G bowled the last over with our opponents needing just 5 runs to beat us. However, the OLCBS team never stopped encouraging each other and we fielded tightly until the end, winning the game 58-54. Miss Lewis was extremely proud of how well the whole squad conducted themselves throughout the day.

The final standings saw Our Lady's finishing second with the top two teams going through to the Regional Finals next Wednesday at Sale Cricket Club, Manchester. We wish the squad the best of luck, they will have lots of training between now and then!!!





Sporting News

Town Sports 2025



SPORTING HEROES



Our Lady's Catholic High School

BEING ONE OF OURS

The annual **Preston District Secondary School Athletics Championships** was held on Wednesday 18 June at UCLan Sports Arena. It was the turn of Our Lady's PE department to organise and host the event which only happens once every 10 years!

The weather couldn't have been more perfect for a spectacular event which saw over 500 secondary school pupils from across the Preston district compete within various athletic disciplines, each earning valuable points for their school's overall scores.

There were notable victories including 1st place awards given to many of Our Lady's athletes throughout the day.

Once the grand finale of replay finals had been run, it was a short wait for the final scores to be inputted and the overall results announced. OLC HS U13s athletes came a very respectable 2nd place across the district, the U15s team going one better and claiming the winners shield for the age group. The final scores were announced and Our Lady's were confirmed as overall competition runners up, finishing 2nd place across the district.

A valiant effort by all competitors. The PE staff were proud of each and every pupil who took part and represented what it takes to be **One of Ours** at a full district competition.

Being One of Ours

Careers

Work Experience

Huge thank you to Tracey for attending Our Lady's to launch Year 10 Work Experience to our present Year 9 pupils. Tracey guided Year 9 pupils very carefully about their placement and the importance of self-placements and public liability insurance. Tracey set very specific deadlines for pupils over the next few months.

Due to Tracey being a visitor at school this is another employer encounter for OLCBS pupils which feeds directly into The Gatsby Benchmarks – which are a set of careers guidance standards for schools in England.



This week we would like to Spotlight a careers moment featuring Our Lady's pupil Hannah. Recently all of Year 10 completed their **Careers Fitness Day** and as part of the day all pupils discussed CV's and were given a template of a CV to write their own, with teacher guidance.

Hannah shared with her teacher Mrs Lin, how she had used the CV she created for a recent part-time job interview at a local ice cream shop. Hannah got the job and just wanted to share the great news with Mrs Lin.

Hannah we are so proud of you.



[REGISTER NOW](#)

Being One of Ours