



# Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 36

4th July 2025



## The Theme Next Week: Peace. (Luke 10:1-9)

*"Your peace will rest upon him."*

In this Gospel, Jesus sends His followers out with a simple message: *bring peace*. As parents, carers, staff and members of the community, we are also sent - into classrooms, homes, meetings, and daily routines. We don't always have control over every challenge, but we can choose to carry peace with us. A calm presence, a kind word, a listening ear - these are small acts that can bring great comfort and strength to others.

*Loving God,*

*As a community, help us to carry your peace into all we do today.*

*May our words bring encouragement,*

*our actions show kindness,*

*and our presence offer calm and hope.*

*Bless our homes, our classrooms, and our relationships.*

*Let your peace rest upon us.*

*Amen.*



## BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Asher Pilkington - active and intentional

Year 8: Isabelle Jack - compassionate and loving

Year 9: Lilia Wood, Jemma McMaster,

Romy Lawrenson, Lucy Turner - intentional and prophetic

Year 10: Archie Nugent - compassionate and loving



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# MATHS

## in the Spotlight



### LANCASTER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

Selected pupils from Years 9 to 10 attended a mathematical competition at the Lancaster University School of Mathematics (LUSOM). The challenges tested pupils' mathematical understanding over four rounds with tasks involving both individual skill and teamwork. Competing against schools from the local area, Our Lady's entered two teams made up of two Year 9 and two Year 10 pupils. All pupils had an excellent attitude, worked brilliantly as a team and supported each other using their individual strengths. In the end the scores were tight but Our Lady's came out worthy winners and brought the trophy home for the first time! The other OLCHS team placed fourth, again an amazing achievement!

The pupils involved were:

#### First Place Team:

- Zack K (Year 9)
- Tommy B (Year 9)
- Samuel G (Year 10)
- Tessa R (Year 10)

#### Fourth Place Team:

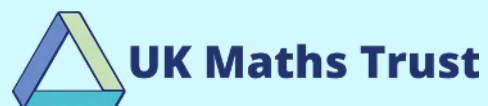
- Naomi L (Year 9)
- Ajit S (Year 9)
- Liana K (Year 10)
- Jakub D (Year 10)



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# UKMT *Junior* Maths Challenge



Pupils in classes 7B1, 7B2 and selected pupils from 8B and C classes took part in the **UKMT Junior Maths Challenge**, a national problem-solving competition promoting mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency of mathematical techniques. 24 of our students achieved a certificate based on their score which was a fantastic achievement.

Kourtney F in Year 7 achieved '**Best In Year**' and a silver certificate, and Emily B in Year 8 achieved '**Best In School**', receiving a silver certificate for the challenge.

The full list of winners is listed below:



## BRONZE

### Year 7

Ethan A  
Amaya A  
Arvin A  
Jake E  
Finney G  
Archie G  
Karol J  
Ayaan M  
Daria S

### Year 8

Reon A  
Amad E  
Julius G-S  
Jacob H  
Oliver H  
Isabelle J  
Josh J  
Robert M  
Silene P  
Hannah R  
Julia R  
Jade R  
Maisey R

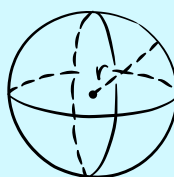
## SILVER

### Year 7

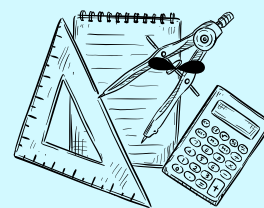
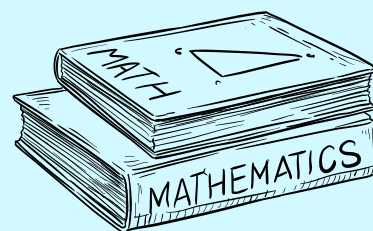
Kourtney F **Best in Year**  
Theo L

### Year 8

Emily B **Best in School**  
Chiamaka E



$$V = \frac{4}{3} \pi r^3$$



In addition to this, Samuel G in Year 10 qualified for the UKMT 'Pink Kangaroo' Challenge and narrowly missed out on achieving a Bronze Kangaroo certificate by 10 points. Great effort Samuel.

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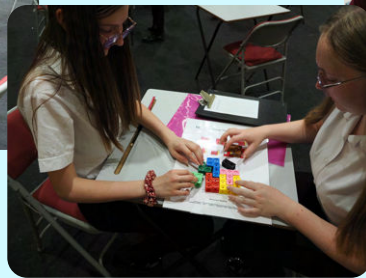
# FunMaths

## ROADSHOW

The FunMaths Roadshow took place on Thursday 19 and Friday 20 June. Every pupil in Years 7, 8 and 9 and some from Year 10, were given the chance to take part in a series of problem solving tasks supported by OLCHS pupils from 10x1E.

Pupils showed great resilience as they worked together to find a solution and it was lovely to see pupils celebrating their successes and wanting to do more. The event provided a different environment for pupils, with some requesting extra tasks!

There were also some pupils who learnt to play dominoes for the first time and became very competitive in the end.



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# News & 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. Formerly delivered 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 NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 games 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 new features like GameChat and a USB-C camera. As more children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT**  
Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games like *Cyberpunk 2077* and *Warzone* have been released on the platform. With the Switch 2's improved performance, developers will be able to port even more mature-rated games. These may appeal to children due to their popularity, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.
- IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES**  
The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If payment details are saved and the protection is disabled, children may unknowingly make costly purchases – including game add-ons, cosmetic items or online game releases – without parental approval.
- UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES**  
While GameChat is a new feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch Online service. Many free-to-play titles like *Fortnite* or *Splatoon* allow voice or text chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted contact.
- GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION**  
GameChat enables live chatting with up to 10 people, even across different games, with national voice and screen sharing. Though children under 16 are restricted to interacting only with approved friends, the sheer interactivity could raise privacy concerns or create pressure to remain online longer.
- CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS**  
The optional USB-C camera supports video calling and facial overlays in games. However, this also raises the risk of cyberbullying or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are essential to manage how and when it is used.
- POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS**  
Nintendo's mascot, Mario – along with Pikachu, Donkey Kong and others – remains highly appealing to younger audiences, especially after the success of the recent film, *The Super Mario Bros. Movie* (2023). These beloved icons are central to Nintendo's branding and other features in merchandising, adverts and in-game promotions, creating strong emotional attachments in children and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

- CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS**  
Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying one, ensure the content matches your child's age. Use the Nintendo Parental Controls app to monitor gameplay, set screen-time limits and manage friend requests.
- REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS**  
Chat profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only, but it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings. Use the Parental Controls app to switch off voice or video chat if necessary.
- REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS**  
Avoid accidental spending by removing credit cards from the device. Instead, consider adding funds via prepaid eShop cards or requiring a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to approve transactions manually.
- ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS**  
Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console's built-in tools allow them to mute screen-time and video clips, which can be helpful in reporting any harm. An open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Yusef Coombes is the Games Editor of *Daily Star* and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new titles, he's also a parent and understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published on sites including *IGN*, *Technic* and *gamer* more.

[#WakeUpWednesday](#) The National College

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...to read

CLICK HERE!

## USEFUL RESOURCES

July Online Safety Newsletter

Community Support Information

online safety info

July 2025 Information

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# Information

## WE ARE HIRING

join our team

view our latest vacancies

[www.olchs.lancs.sch.uk/our-school/vacancies/](http://www.olchs.lancs.sch.uk/our-school/vacancies/)



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click  
here!



### 2025 Dates for your Diary

**Friday 4 July**  
Sports Day

**Friday 11 July**  
Rewards Trips

**Wednesday 16 July**  
Whole School Mass

**Friday 18 July**  
End of Term - School Closes at 12.35

### 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



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# Sporting News

## *CRICKET*

### *U15 GIRLS TEAM*

On Wednesday, the U15 girls cricket team, captained by Grace C took part in their final tournament of the season. After competing in a local tournament, they qualified for the County Championship, where they finished runners-up to automatically qualify for the regional finals at Sale Cricket Club, in Manchester, alongside 3 other teams from around the North West.

We batted well in our opening game against Parland, scoring a respectable 55 runs from 50 bowls. However, our opponents, who went on to win the whole tournament narrowly beat us by just 6 runs. Game number two was much more positive with Zuzanna R batting well, hitting fours and sixes to get us off to a flying start. Umika P also hit a six to give us quick early runs. With consistent batting throughout, we gained a total of 85 runs. We were equally strong in the field with Martyna K and Umika P taking an early wicket each and Mollie O'G got two batters out with her pinpoint depth and accuracy when bowling. There was also a fantastic catch by Rose B, resulting in our opponents only managing to put 45 runs on the board.

The squad were feeling confident going into our third match and Ella G got two wickets. However, our opponents had depth in their batting order and managed to beat us 67 to 59.

Consequently, we went into the playoffs for third and fourth place, where we faced Sale High School. We started rather shakily with some wides being bowled and a lack of communication in the field resulted in our opponents quickly racking up 89 runs off 50 bowls. However, Lena S stopped a shot going for four with a fantastic dive on the boundary. The girls were a little disheartened at half time, but after a positive team talk we started off more productively with the bat. In the final over, we needed just two runs from three bowls. The pressure was on for both teams. Then Alice S stuck a perfectly timed shot to score 4 runs. Our opponents also bowled some wides, which we capitalised on and we ended up winning 95-89 in a real nail biter of a match.

The whole team dug deep, showing true resilience and Miss Lewis couldn't be prouder as Our Lady's finished third in the North West! A fantastic effort by everyone!!!





# CAREERS

## ASSEMBLIES

This week all Year groups have had careers assemblies as part of meeting the **Gatsby Benchmarks - Employer Exposure**.

### Monday - Year 10

Michelle is the Director of Customer Services for a social housing organisation. Michelle talked about her experience when she was younger which helped shape and mould her aspirations in terms of careers resulting in her wanting to support people in the future with their housing. Michelle initially started her career at DWP as part of the fraud team and worked her way up the ladder to her current role. It was wonderful to hear that there are many other career opportunities involved in social housing which include data analysts, surveyors, legal advisors and maintenance roles. Michelle focused on key skills that are vital to her role which included problem solving, teamwork, empathy and the ability to be organised. Thank you Michelle for being so generous with your time, we really appreciate it.



career  
goals

### Tuesday - Year 9

On Tuesday we welcomed Ian Jones to talk to Year 9. Ian works for the Premier League and is in the process of moving roles to work with Birmingham City. Ian was so honest about his career path not always being straight forward but his passion to work in football and make a difference was evident throughout. It was wonderful to hear about the various coaches he has worked for and the impact he made. Ian spoke about apprenticeships which is a wonderful way to "learn while you earn". Apprenticeships are proving to be more and more popular with pupils as they gain hands on experience in a career they want to pursue whilst getting paid. Ian's message was very clear - it is so important to be happy in your career, if you are not change it, refocus, re-train, gain more experience, volunteer in order to ensure you are happy. This was a wonderful message for Year 9 as they begin to start their GCSE courses next year.





## Wednesday - Year 8

On Wednesday we welcomed Jade Burnett-Cherry. Jade works within the NHS and whilst she has changed career paths in the NHS, it is very clear that her passion to help and support people, often at their most vulnerable time, is something that is so important to her. Jade did her A Levels at Preston College and then went on to Lancaster University. Jade entered the NHS and was put in the first cohort of Rising Stars - she was the catering supervisor and then went on to be a healthcare assistant on a busy Neurosurgery ward. Jade talked about the compassion and organisation needed when on the ward as people are usually very poorly. Jade did various other careers and is currently working in governance as well as achieving being a registered nurse. Once again Jade talked about the many different careers with the NHS and not just being a doctor or nurse - they included radiology, apprenticeships, business and finance and medical engineering. Year 8 asked some very interesting questions at the end which Jade was happy to answer. Thank you so much Jade for giving up your valuable time.



## Thursday - Year 7

On Thursday we had past pupil alumni Charlotte Birch. Charlotte attended OLCHS and is currently a primary school teacher at one of our feeder primary schools. Charlotte spoke about how everyone around her knew she would be a teacher but she just wasn't quite sure. She studied A Levels and then went to university in Durham. She solidified her decision to be a teacher by gaining valuable work experience in a local primary school and whilst travelling in Thailand. Charlotte's passion for wanting to help, shape, mould and support the next generation oozed through her talk. She talked about how she loves her job and cannot imagine doing anything else. Charlotte, we are so proud of you and the inspiration you are to your current pupils and the ones who sat in front of you and listened so carefully on Thursday. You will always be **One of Ours.**



## Being One of Ours

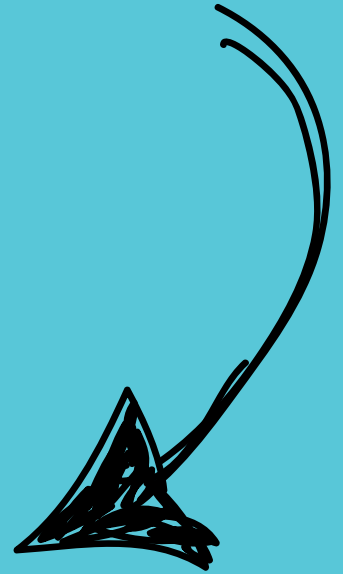
# Careers

PRESTON  
COLLEGE

CARDINAL  
NEWMAN  
COLLEGE

## CAREERS **TRANSITION** DAYS

In next week's OLCHS newsletter read all about the fantastic and invaluable transition days at Preston College and Cardinal Newman College for OLCHS pupils.



JULY 2025

  
**ARMY**  
BE THE BEST

**ARMY CAREERS  
NEWSLETTER**

[CLICK HERE](#)

At Preston College the Our Lady's pupils continue to excel, two of our students have won an Employability Award.

The tutors commented that "Ava and Abi have demonstrated exceptional dedication throughout the year, consistently putting in their best effort every lesson. Their commitment to excellence is reflected in their impressive achievement—passing every unit so far with a distinction. Their maturity and determination in pursuing success in the beauty course is truly commendable. Well done!".

Congratulations to Ava and Abi, you are making us so proud!

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