



Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 37

11th July 2025



The Theme Next Week: The Good Samaritan. Luke 10: 25-37

Who is my neighbour?

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus reminds us that true kindness has no boundaries. The Samaritan helped a man in need, even though others walked by. He didn't stop to ask where the man was from or what he believed, he simply saw someone who needed help and acted with compassion. This story teaches us that our neighbours are not just our friends, but anyone who needs our care and love. Every day, we have the chance to be Good Samaritans by showing kindness, standing up for others, and offering help without expecting anything in return.

Dear Lord,

Help us to open our hearts to others, to see those in need, and to act with love and courage.

May we always be ready to help, serve, and care for everyone we meet, just as Jesus taught us.

Amen.

BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Lilly Mae Sleddon - learned and wise

Year 8: Isla Kilshaw - learned and wise

Year 9: Caitlin Lambley - intentional and prophetic

Year 10: Libby Pearson - compassionate and loving

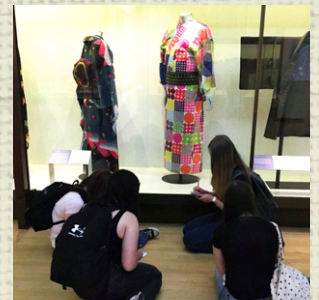


Being One of Ours

GCSE Textiles & Art visit to London

On Thursday 3 July, 19 students from Year 10 GCSE Textiles and Art went on a day visit to London, attending and being inspired by the work at the annual *New Designers* graduate expo. Students also had an opportunity to view textiles and craft work from around the world at the V&A museum.

It was a long day of travelling around the city, but students were enthusiastic and engaged with the exhibitions, and even managed to see Buckingham Palace on foot.



Well done to all students on being excellent representatives of Our Lady's.

LANCASHIRE BOOK OF THE YEAR

This year a class of Year 9 pupils have participated in judging the **Lancashire Book of the Year** competition. They read over thirty longlisted books between them, reduced to a shortlist of twelve after the first round of voting. Some of the pupils had the wonderful opportunity to enjoy a day out at UCLan, at the Celebration Event, where they heard the shortlisted authors talk at length about the craft of writing, about creating characters and plot, and about the impact of AI on the creative world. The event was attended by schools from all over Lancashire and there was a real buzz of excitement in the audience when the competition winner was announced. (A.J. Clack for '*Lie or Die*'.) Pupils were able to buy books throughout the day, and enjoyed meeting the authors and having their books signed.

One of the pupils said, "It was a really inspiring and brilliant experience. I particularly enjoyed hearing the authors speak and answer some important questions."



Year 6

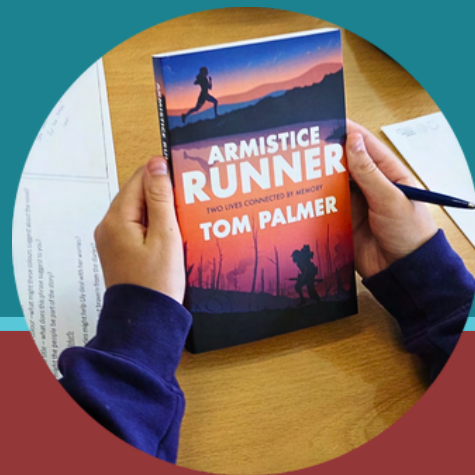
TRANSITION

DAY

Last week in school we warmly welcomed pupils who will be starting Year 7 at Our Lady's Catholic High School this September.

Headteacher Mr Charnock led the pupils in their first school assembly at Our Lady's.

Our incoming students experienced a full day of lessons, getting to know the school site, and meeting key staff. As always, pupils were full of enthusiasm and curiosity.



The English department were delighted to welcome our future Year 7 pupils to Our Lady's for their Transition Day and as part of marking the start of their journey with us, pupils were gifted a copy of *Armistice Runner* by Tom Palmer.

Reading plays a big part in life at Our Lady's – not only in English lessons, but across all areas of school life. We want our pupils to develop a love of reading and *Armistice Runner* is a brilliant way to get them started.

Pupils were introduced to the book during their English lesson on Transition Day and we will be discussing it further in September. We've also got an exciting author visit and workshop with Tom Palmer during the autumn term!

We hope this gift sparks a love of reading and gives our new pupils something meaningful to connect over as they begin their time at Our Lady's.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

COMPETITION

Computer Science Enrichment – Summer Holiday Challenge Boost Your Digital Skills with iDEA!

This summer, we are inviting all OLCHS students to take part in the Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award (iDEA) – a free, online programme designed to help develop digital, enterprise, and problem-solving skills that are essential for the future.

At Our Lady's, the Computer Science department is passionate about helping students grow their confidence and abilities in the digital world. That is why we are proud to offer iDEA school-wide.

What is iDEA?

iDEA offers a wide variety of interactive, online challenges called badges in areas like:

- Coding
- Cybersecurity
- Animation
- E-safety
- Business and enterprise

As you complete badges, you will progress towards internationally recognised Bronze, Silver, and (soon) Gold Awards – a fantastic addition to your CV, personal statement, or college application.

Why take part?

- Learn independently at your own pace
- Explore topics you're interested in
- Build real-world digital skills
- Boost your confidence
- Have fun while learning
- Compete with classmates on the leaderboard

Whether you are planning a future in tech or just want to broaden your horizons, iDEA is a brilliant way to stand out and show your initiative.



How to Get Started:

1. Sign up for free at [idea.org.uk](https://www.idea.org.uk)
2. Use your school email (e.g. 24TSmith@olchs.lancs.sch.uk).
3. Join your class using the link posted on Google Classroom.
4. Year 10 students not taking IT or Computer Science – use the code: OLCHSYr10

Let's see how many badges you can earn by the end of summer.

Who will reach the top of the leaderboard?

We can't wait to see what you achieve! Prizes available to the winners in September!

— The Computer Science Department.



Silver Assessment

SUCCESS

We are incredibly proud of the fourteen students who recently completed their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award assessed expedition, an unforgettable three-day journey through some of the most stunning and challenging landscapes the Lake District has to offer.

The route began in Coniston, winding through the majestic Langdales, on into Borrowdale, and finally finishing near Grasmere. Along the way, the students experienced the full spectrum of Cumbrian weather, from glorious sunshine to steady rain and of course, the inevitable Lake District midges.

Throughout the expedition, the students demonstrated remarkable resilience and perseverance, embracing both the physical demands of the trek and the mental challenge of navigating unfamiliar terrain. Their teamwork and mutual support shone through in moments of fatigue and triumph alike.

As part of the assessment, each student delivered a verbal presentation at the end of the expedition. Topics explored included the impact of human activity on the environment, changes in vegetation with altitude, and the animals and insects native to the Lake District. Their thoughtful observations and clear communication impressed the assessors and reflected the learning that had taken place throughout the journey.

Congratulations to all involved. Your dedication, spirit, and reflection have done Our Lady's proud.

Visit Our Lady's Facebook page to see the recent posts and photos from the DoE expedition.

[Click Here](#)

OLCHS
Alumni

Jemma's Record Breaking Swim To The Isle Of Man

Jemma Wolstencroft, a former pupil of Our Lady's Catholic High School, successfully completed the English Channel swim in 2023 – an extraordinary achievement in itself – and now Jemma is preparing for an even greater challenge in 2026: to become the first person to swim from mainland England to the Isle of Man, unassisted and without a wetsuit. **This will be a world record attempt, pushing the limits of open-water endurance swimming.**

To help fund the logistics and safety support required for such an ambitious swim, Jemma has launched a GoFundMe campaign:

To support Jemma please click here



Being One of Ours

Information



Saturday 19th July
Harrington Building
UCLan Campus, Preston

We're bringing you a whole day packed with bookish events!

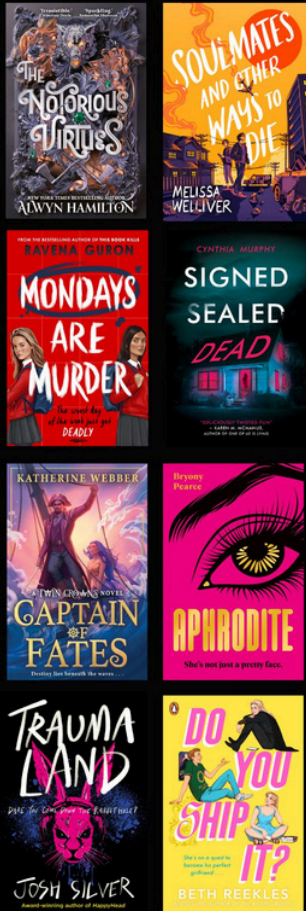
WORKSHOPS

PANEL EVENTS

CAREERS ADVICE

AUTHOR SIGNINGS

STALLS



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Household Support Fund



Funded by
UK Government

Lancashire County Council have a fund that can be used for new school uniform.

There is criteria to be met, please click on the link for information and the application.

www.preston.gov.uk/householdsupportfund

To view Our Lady's school uniform policy, please [click here](#)

USEFUL RESOURCES

July Online Safety Newsletter

Community Support Information



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI-ENABLED SCAMS

Artificial intelligence (AI) is quickly becoming a widely used tool, with lots of positive applications being discussed and developed. Sadly, however, as with most technology tools, there are those who will seek to use it for malicious and dishonest practices, with children and other vulnerable groups particularly at risk.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PHISHING EMAILS: BETTER & QUICKER
Phishing scams - emails designed to trick people into handing over login details or money - are not new, and do not rely on AI. However, AI has made them even more dangerous. Criminals can now generate highly convincing emails that mimic authenticating an organisation's name, branding and language. This makes phishing campaigns harder to spot, especially for young people who may not yet know how to spot a scam.

ONLINE MARKETPLACE FRAUD
Online marketplaces are now a common way to buy and sell everything, from second-hand clothes to cars. Criminals are exploiting this by using AI to enhance or complete fake product descriptions, photos, and product reviews, making it harder to spot. This makes it difficult for young people to verify the goods before parting with any money.

VOICE IMPERSONATION
AI can now realistically impersonate a person's voice when it is fed samples of someone's speech patterns. This is a scary prospect, especially when voice calls have been enabled on an smartphone to prevent fraudulent calls with convincing use of AI deepfake audio as part of a voice phishing scam. The criminals used this to trick a young person of 16-year-old to convince her parents she had been kidnapped and was in trouble.

EMPLOYMENT SCAMS
Using AI, criminals can create fake online profiles that seem completely real. These synthetic identities can chat with young people about fake job offers, waiting for them to supply a CV or passport. In 2021, the Guardia Civil reported a scam targeting young people with promises of quick cash, paying for the least.

INFLUENCER & INVESTMENT SCAMS
AI tools now make it easy to manipulate video and audio, with technology advanced that can generate entirely fake content using the likeness of celebrities or influencers. Criminals are using this to promote, fake products or services, which young people can be particularly susceptible to. Some influencers are in a common tactic, luring people into investing in schemes that do not exist. Some influencers are the criminal simply disguised with the money.

ROMANCE SCAMS & SEXTORTION
AI chat bots can now mimic real conversations, often accompanied with realistic fake photos and videos, which makes it easy for criminals to build trust with young people. Using generative AI, this can lead to young people falling for romance. In 2021, the NCSC Cyber Safety Centre received 14 reports of sextortion. In the first five months alone, police received an average of 12 monthly reports involving sextortion, showing how serious and targeted this threat has become.

THINK CRITICALLY
The key to addressing the increasing growth of AI-enabled scams is to think critically and share caution. Inform children that AI-generated content is likely to be true, then it probably is. Encourage them to stop and consider whether they are being misled or pressured before taking any action. For example, if a social media post expresses urgency, proceed with caution. If content seems unusual, even from a friend, parents should check their account has been hacked.

USE TRUSTWORTHY SITES AND SERVICES
Online marketplaces are useful when buying and selling items, however, where possible, encourage children to purchase companies and their online shopping sites. These companies are likely to have more sophisticated cyber security, safeguards in place, underpinned by consumer regulations, meaning they can control how products and services are displayed and tracked on their sites.

SEEK TO VERIFY
Criminals may breach an influencer's account or spread misinformation and fake content, however, they are limited to single networks, sites or services. Where possible, these children have to verify information to check its legitimacy by cross-checking, using known links to phone the person who is the subject of a suspicious email or checking content via an individual or company website or social media site to verify the information. The greater the risk, the more effort we should expect to confirm whether the information presented is true or false.

REPORT IT
As the sophistication of access increases, the likelihood of being tricked by these and increased, especially when not paying attention or acting quickly. It is important that young people know how to report incidents as they happen. Show children how to report their concerns to the social media platform, banks, and other individuals or organisations (linked or trusted). It is also important to report incidents to police, contact Action Fraud, and effective reporting channels, contact Action Fraud.

Meet Our Expert
Gary Hinchey is the Director of IT at UCLan, a former independent board member in the private sector, and a member of the Digital Futures Council. This Chair of the Digital Futures Council is an association of Network Managers in Education (NME) Acknowledged.

Wakeup Wednesday

Use of this guide is at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 08.07.2023

CLICK HERE!

...to read

Information

click here!

WE ARE HIRING

join our team

view our latest vacancies

www.olchs.lancs.sch.uk/our-school/vacancies/



Being One of Ours

Pupil and Staff Summer Charity Fair



Our pupil and staff **Summer Charity Fair** will take place on Thursday 17 July 2025. This event is during the school day.

All forms will be running a stall to raise money for a range of charities both local and further afield.

Pupils are asked to bring in a **maximum of £5** in small change to spend.



2025 Dates for your Diary

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



Being One of Ours



Welcome to
Our Lady's Catholic High School
Sports Presentation Evening
2025

SPORTS PRESENTATION EVENING 2025

This week was the OLCHS Sports Presentation Evening, a time to celebrate everything that makes sport such an important part of school life: commitment, teamwork, and the determination of pupils giving their best – win or lose.

This year has been full of memorable moments, but one will go down in school history and that is the success of the Year 7 girls football team.

Huge congratulations to our Year 7 girls football team, who pulled off something truly special by winning the National Cup. That's right, the first time ever that a school from Preston has achieved this. The girls didn't just make our school proud, they made our whole city proud.

Within the district, we have shown our strength in depth across all sports. League Champions, cup winners and tournament giants in:

- Netball
- Handball
- Rounders
- Cricket
- Volleyball
- Athletics

The Sports Awards Evening is not just about trophies or titles, it is about recognising how much each individual has grown as athletes and as people.

Whether they were scoring goals, running track, leading warm-ups, or cheering from the sidelines, every contribution mattered. And when each of our pupils put on our school kit, they represented all of us, with effort, energy, and respect.

The captains, the first-timers, the quiet grafters, and the standout performers, they have all played their part. They have shown what school sport is all about - working hard, playing fair, and never giving up.

Each year the most prestigious award is saved to the very end of the ceremony. The Tim McVey award for outstanding achievement in school sport. This award has been created to recognise two pupils who have been inspirational. Their attitude and commitment to sport have reflected many of the attributes that former long serving head of PE, Mr McVey, displayed himself. As a result, they have been great role models throughout their time at Our Lady's. They have shown tenacity when faced with tough opposition and always strive to do their best in a fair and honest manner. As a result of their dedication, they have achieved success across a wide range of activities.

It was an absolute delight to award this year's Tim McVey award to Year 10 students Patrick McCaul and Charlotte Potts.



Sporting News

SPORTS DAY 2025

Our annual Sports Day, held last Friday, was an amazing day of sport, teamwork, and fun! All of our pupils (and staff) took part, smashed some records, and shared endless smiles.

With interform rounders, softball and athletics, it was a wonderful all-school occasion, and the sun was shining too!!

Form R was crowned overall winners.

Well done everyone.



Careers

CAREERS

TRANSITION DAYS

CARDINAL
NEWMAN
COLLEGE

On Tuesday 1 July all of Year 10 made their own way to Newman College to participate in their Taster Day.

Students selected the subjects they wanted to study, ranging from politics, media, dance, rock climbing, maths, physics, fine art and many more.

As always Year 10 fully immersed themselves in the experience. Hopefully this will help pupils begin to plan for their future after Our Lady's.



Being One of Ours

Careers

CAREERS

TRANSITION DAYS

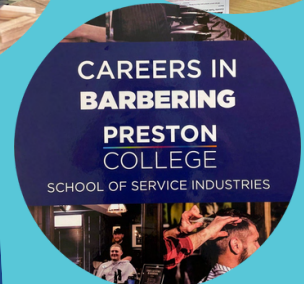
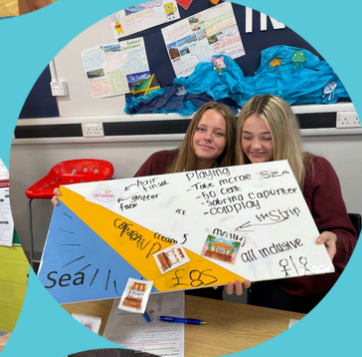
PRESTON COLLEGE

68 OLCHS pupils recently travelled to Preston College as part of their Careers Transition. Pupils participated in a wide range of practical activities. Activities included:

- Plastering
- Bricklaying
- Hair & Beauty
- Media
- Joinery
- Childcare

.....and many more.

Pupils displayed our virtues of being 'Curious and Active' throughout the day and received comments of praise from Preston College staff.



Being One of Ours