



Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 38

18th July 2025



A Message from Our Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another academic year and look ahead to the summer holidays, I want to take this opportunity to thank you — our wonderful parents and carers — for the unwavering support you offer your children and our school. I also extend my sincere gratitude to our dedicated and talented staff, who work tirelessly in the service of our young people, and to our committed governors, whose wisdom, care, and vision continue to guide our school so faithfully. Their focus is always for the good of our pupils, and I am deeply grateful for all that they do.

We are blessed with a very special school community, one in which pupils and staff alike seek to live out the virtues of **Being One of Ours**. It is inspiring to see our young people becoming ever more *grateful* for their gifts and *generous* in their use of them; *attentive* to their experiences and *discerning* in their choices; *compassionate* and *loving* in word and action; *faith-filled* and *hopeful*, *eloquent* and *truthful*, *learned* and *wise*, *curious* and *active*, *intentional* and *prophetic*. These virtues are not just words on a page — they are lived out daily in the life of our school.

Our pupils have worked incredibly hard this year, striving to fulfil their God-given potential, and immersing themselves in the rich life of our school. The sheer number of opportunities they have embraced — from curriculum trips and retreats, to sporting fixtures, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, residential to Normandy, Barcelona and Castlerigg, clubs, rewards trips, and evening celebrations — has been truly exceptional. One particular highlight was a first in our school's history: our girls' football team were crowned National Champions, winning 8–2 in the final at West Bromwich Albion's home ground. A remarkable achievement and a proud moment for us all.

We concluded our school year with our Whole School Mass — always a highlight and a deeply moving celebration of our faith and community. Canon Peter Draper was our principal celebrant, joined by several local priests and special guests. It was a beautiful expression of who we are as a Catholic school, united in faith and purpose.

In June, we said farewell to our Year 11 pupils with a joyful and prayerful Leavers' Mass, followed by a memorable Prefects' Ball. They have been an outstanding year group and we look forward to celebrating their success when they receive their examination results in August.

Being One of Ours

This time of year also brings change in our staffing. We bid farewell to a number of colleagues:

- **Miss Bowker** and **Miss Norton**, both Teaching Assistants who have supported pupils so well this year;
- **Mrs Martin**, our Senior SEND Support Worker, who has served with care and dedication since 2017;
- **Mr Hickey**, who has taught Music part-time this year;
- **Mr Davidson**, a valued member of the Mathematics department since 2021, who leaves us to travel the world;
- And **Ms Consiglio**, who retires after 25 years of devoted service as a Teacher of Art. Her legacy of creativity, compassion and commitment will not be forgotten.

We thank them all for their contribution to the life of Our Lady's and send them forward with our prayers and warmest wishes.

Looking ahead, staff return on **Monday 1st September**. **Tuesday 2nd September** will be our Progress Day, with individual meetings for pupils and their form tutors — those invited to attend will already have received further details. Our new **Year 7** pupils begin their journey with us on **Wednesday 3rd September**, and all pupils return on **Thursday 4th September** for the start of what promises to be another exciting and enriching year.

As we enter the summer break, I leave you with these words from **Pope Francis**, a reminder of the beauty of rest and the importance of family:

"Together with a culture of work, there must be a culture of leisure as gratification. To put it another way: people who work must take the time to relax, to be with their families, to enjoy themselves, read, listen to music, play a sport."

— **Pope Francis, General Audience, 2015**

May this summer be a time of renewal and joy for you and your families — a chance to rest, reconnect, and make treasured memories. Thank you for all your support this year. I look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

With every blessing,

Mr R Charnock

Headteacher

BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

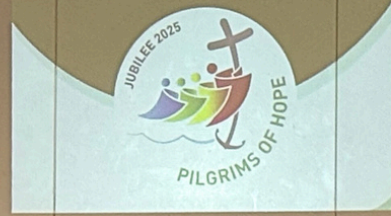
Year 7: Sophia Corrias - generous and faith-filled

Year 8: Belle Cunningham - generous and grateful

Year 9: Pearl Dsouza - compassionate and loving

Year 10: Liam Battle - compassionate and loving





Wednesday 16th July 2025
Whole School Mass



Being One of Ours

On Wednesday 16th July we came together to celebrate our Whole School Mass with our pupils, staff, school governors and special guests including the Mayor of Preston.

In this Jubilee Year we pledge to be 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

Being One of Ours

YEAR 7 CASTLE PROJECT

The project was for Year 7 pupils to design and build their very own model castle, a type of castle studied this year in History – it could be a motte and bailey, a stone keep, or even a castle that has been improved and fortified from the original Motte and Bailey, like the Tower of London.

The standard of entries was immensely high and pupils demonstrated exceptional effort to win.



On Monday the winners of the Year 7 castle competition were taken on a trip to Lancaster Castle for a tour of the castle as a reward for their hard work.





Our Lady's CELEBRATION

Pupil and Staff Summer Charity Fair

Our pupil and staff **Summer Charity Fair** held in school yesterday, Thursday 17 July, was a wonderful occasion with all forms each running a stall to raise money for charity.

There were so many memorable moments so please check out the OLSHS social media for photos and videos.

In total we raised an amazing £1,003.41 for charity.



YEAR 10 JUNIOR PHYSICS CHALLENGE 2025

We are delighted to celebrate the outstanding achievement of our Year 10 students who took part in the Junior Physics Challenge, organised by the British Physics Olympiad (BPhO). This national competition is designed to stretch and inspire young physicists with thought-provoking problems that go beyond the standard curriculum.

Our pupils rose to the challenge brilliantly, with several students performing exceptionally well. We are especially proud to announce that the school was awarded four Gold Awards, a testament to the talent, hard work and curiosity of our young scientists.

The Gold Awards were presented to:

- Jermy M
- Jakub D
- Muhammad P
- Ted W

Their success reflects not only their individual effort, but also the strength of the science teaching and enthusiasm for physics across the school.

A huge well done to all who took part – we are incredibly proud of your achievements.

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.

Information



....to read

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](#)

CLICK HERE!

USEFUL RESOURCES

July Online Safety Newsletter

Community Support Information



Saturday 19th July

Harrington Building
UCLan Campus, Preston

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

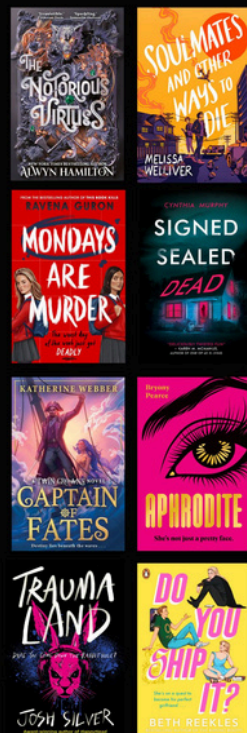
WORKSHOPS

PANEL EVENTS

CAREERS ADVICE

AUTHOR SIGNINGS

STALLS



Being One of Ours

GCSE Results 2025



**GCSE Results will be available from school at 10am
on Thursday 21st August 2025**

****PLEASE DO NOT PHONE FOR RESULTS****

Results will only be issued to pupils themselves, unless prior special arrangements have been made.

If pupils are not able to come into school, results may be emailed to pupil school email addresses only, but this must be requested in advance by emailing Mrs Gavell lga@olchs.lancs.sch.uk no later than – Friday 18 July.

Members of staff will be in school on Results Day.



2025 Dates for your Diary

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





Sporting News

ROUNDERS SEASON

Congratulations to the Year 7, 9 and 10 rounders teams who have won the Preston Schools' league this week after beating Archbishop Temple and Fulwood in the play off finals. All four Year groups went through to the final round after winning their half of the league. Year 8 narrowly missed out in their final, finishing a very close runners up to Archbishop.

Well done to all four teams on a fantastic season.

YEAR 7

On Monday 14 July the Year 7 girls travelled to Archbishop to play in the final. Both OLCHS and Archbishop teams have met once before in the group stages and it was very close. The first innings of 20 bowls saw some errors from the OLCHS girls, with all players being out by bowl 17. Archbishop were well drilled and fielded brilliantly catching every opportunity to get the running batsman at 4th base. First innings finished Archbishop 4, to Our Lady's 3.

After a quick team talk and change in tactics from Captain Fearne B, we began to score more rounders and take opportunities to steal lots of ½ rounders at 2nd base. We finished on 8 rounders. Archbishop's second innings were halted by our wonderful fielding. Back stop to second base was fabulous along with Willow's bowling. Final score OLCHS 8 Archbishop 6. Player of the Match went to Fearne B.

Well done to all the players.

YEAR 8 & 10

On Monday 14 July the Year 8 and Year 10 rounders teams took part in their play off finals after winning their half of the Preston Schools' rounders league. Both Year groups were up against Archbishop away, and the matches were extremely close. Year 8 were winning by 1.5 rounders at half time, but a strong second innings fielding saw Archbishop get several of our players out early. Consequently, they won 12-10.5.

Year 10 were missing four regular players, but worked extremely hard to narrowly sneak a win after two late rounders from Zofia M and Meera P clinched the game 9 to 7.5.

A great effort from everyone involved.

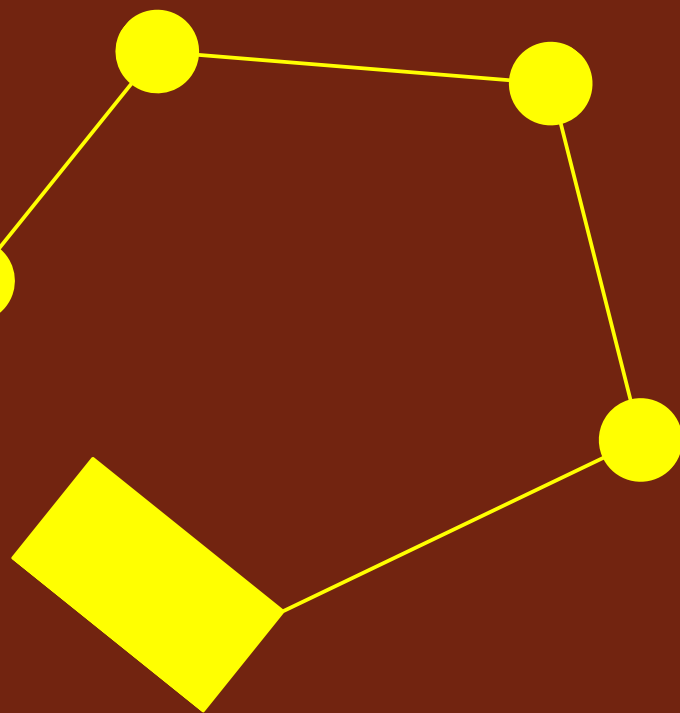
Being One of Ours

Sporting News

YEAR 9

On Wednesday the Year 9 girls won their rounders final against Fulwood. The girls dominated in the first innings showing some outstanding batting and fielding techniques. The link between Lena and Romy / Mollie was outstanding, resulting in the girls getting 6 Fulwood players out. We continued to dominate in the second innings with wonderful batting and some lovely fielding, including two lovely catches out by Zuzanna R and Lena S. Lena who captained the team was also voted player of the game by Fulwood.

Well done to all players involved.



MIXED ROUNDERS

Last Thursday Our Lady's played a mixed rounders fixture against Moor Park. We fielded first and kept our opponents to just 4.5 rounders. By half-time we had a 4.5 rounder lead. We built on this in the second half getting seven of their nine players out thanks to tight fielding and consistent catching. We also got our eye in with the bat in the second half and the final score was 17 to Our Lady's and 6.5 to Moor Park.

Player of the match went to Umika P who bowled accurately and scored numerous rounders.

Sporting News

YEAR 7 CRICKET



The Year 7 cricket team won the **District Pairs Cricket Competition** after beating Broughton High School in the final on Monday 14 July. Broughton batted first and secured a total of 141 runs. Their total was kept low after some outstanding fielding from Our Lady's. Both Louis M and Freddie P made some amazing catches in the field, while the likes of Teddy J, James S and Archie Mc provided accurate bowling to reduce their runs even more.

When batting, Cai D and Freddie P got the team off to a good start before Lewis R-B hit some back-to-back 4's along with his batting partner Louis M. Archie Mc and Teddy J then added another 30 runs of their own to take the total to 165 before the final pair of Archie G and James S sealed the victory, hitting 4 sixes and 2 fours along with many other runs to finish the game with 203.

The team were thrilled to win this competition after narrowly missing out winning the indoor competition last week, losing in the final to Eden Boys' School. The PE department are already looking forward to what they may achieve as a team in Year 8.

PUPIL GOLF COMPETITION



32 students from Years 7 to 10 competed in the annual Our Lady's Pupil Golf Competition on Wednesday. The 9-hole course was challenging but rewarding to all those who took part with par for the course being set at 27 shots, meaning a good golfer would complete the course in a total of 27. At the end of the event there was a tie for first place between Alfie W of Year 8 and Archie Mc of Year 7 who both scored an impressive 26 shots around the course. This forced a play off between the two pupils on hole 1 with the remaining students watching alongside. Archie Mc won the play off by one shot, securing the victory and taking home the trophy for the year.



Last weekend, Abigail D competed in a karate tournament in Bradford. In her age category she had to compete against three other opponents for three rounds each. Abigail did not lose any rounds and consequently won the Gold medal.

An amazing achievement, well done.

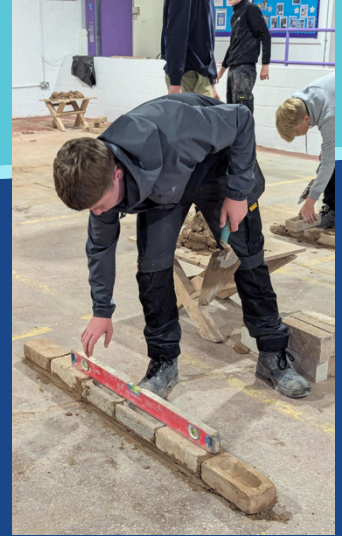
Being One of Ours

Careers



Year 9 have already begun preparing for their vocational studies next year by attending a taster afternoon on the Construction course at Preston Vocational Centre. Eight of our Year 9 pupils attended and as we can see they got straight to work by practising bricklaying. This will be only one of the skills they will learn at Preston Vocational Centre amongst others - they will also get to study plastering, plumbing, electrical wiring and painting.

You've made a great effort on the walls lads, good luck with the rest!



RIVER CONSERVATION APPRENTICESHIP

Love nature and the outdoors?

Join our team as a River Conservation Apprentice and kickstart your conservation career with hands on experience and qualifications!

Open to everyone, this two-year paid apprenticeship is the perfect first step into an exciting, rewarding role in the conservation sector.

APPLY NOW AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE
RIBBLETRUST.ORG.UK/JOB-VACANCIES



**CLICK
HERE**

For more
information

Being One of Ours