



# Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 6  
17th October 2025



## The Theme Next Week: Luke 18: 1-8. The Parable of the Persistent Widow

Jesus encourages us to be persistent in prayer and trust that God hears us. Just like the widow who never gave up, we are reminded to keep faith alive, especially when things seem difficult or unfair. God is always working behind the scenes to bring justice and answer our prayers, even if it doesn't happen right away. Keep trusting and never lose hope.

**Dear Lord,**

**Thank you for always listening to our prayers. Help us to be patient and persistent, trusting that you are working for our good. Give us faith to keep going, even when answers seem delayed. May we always remember that you care deeply for us and are always by our side.**

**Amen.**

### BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Joseph Riley - intentional and prophetic

Year 8: Annabelle Cogle - faith-filled and active

Year 9: Jade Ross - compassionate and loving

Year 10: Emilia Eastham, Megan Iddon - intentional and prophetic

Year 11: Meera Patel - attentive and discerning



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# Bon appetit

## YEAR 10 GCSE FOOD TRIP

Pupils from the Year 10 GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition class recently enjoyed a fabulous meal at Angels Restaurant. The pupils were able to experience fine dining in one of the area's best restaurants. It is anticipated that pupils will use the experience to give them inspiration for their own dishes throughout the course.



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## Our Oracy Essentials

This week, we are excited to introduce all of our pupils to **Our Oracy Essentials** during Information Assemblies. These Essentials focus on five key areas designed to help students develop strong speaking and listening skills – both for success in school and in their future lives beyond the classroom. All classes will be working with these Essentials throughout the year, supporting every pupil to become a confident, articulate communicator who can express themselves clearly and actively listen.

We will empower all our pupils to be effective communicators for life.



Read  
more  
Books



## READING LEADERS

We are incredibly proud to share that 16 enthusiastic Year 10 pupils have been trained by Coram Beanstalk to become Reading Leaders. For the past three weeks, they've been meeting every Friday morning with their Year 7 Reading Partners to share the joy of books, build confidence, and develop a shared love of reading – all while enjoying a few biscuits together! It's been truly wonderful to see the older students take on this mentoring role with such enthusiasm and care, and to witness the special connections forming through the simple pleasure of reading a good book together.

Today a reader, Tomorrow a leader!



## SCIENCE WEEKLY CHALLENGE

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

### Science In The News

The BBC are running a series of six articles on how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is changing medical research. This week's **Science In The News** looks at two of those articles.

Read the article about how AI uncovers new ways to tackle difficult diseases and then answer the following question.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c791ng0zvl3o>

**Question 1:** What does the article say is the typical time needed to get a new drug to market.

Read the article about how AI can spot diseases that doctors aren't looking for and then answer the following question.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c791ng0zvl3o>

**Question 2:** What does the article say are two advantages of using AI rather than traditional analysis by radiologists?

### Home Research

Each of the articles refers to AI. Research this technology to help you answer the following question.

**Question 3:** Give a simple explanation of what AI is.

## National Association of Boys & Girls Clubs Annual Award

### OUTSTANDING LEADER AWARD 2025

Congratulations to Youth Worker Terry Mattinson who has been nationally recognised for his contribution to youth services.

Terry's **Outstanding Leader of the Year 2025** award is in recognition of his exceptional leadership, long-standing dedication, and transformative impact on youth development across Lancashire. For over more than four decades, Terry has inspired generations of young people, built inclusive and forward-thinking programmes, and played a vital role in the growth and success of local youth clubs.





# Information

OUR LADY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

# YOUR PRESENCE MAKES A DIFFERENCE



ATTENDANCE MATTERS ALL DAY EVERY DAY

**Good attendance** is one of the most important factors in helping every student achieve their full potential.

Students with 95–100% attendance in Year 11 are almost twice as likely to achieve a Grade 5 or above in both English and Maths compared to those attending between 90–95%. Missing just 10 days of school in Year 11 can reduce the likelihood of achieving a Grade 5 in English and Maths by around 50%.

We are proud that attendance at Our Lady's Catholic High School continues to be well above the national average — a reflection of our students' dedication and our supportive school community.

## USEFUL RESOURCES

October Online Safety  
Newsletter



Community Support  
Information



October 2025  
Information



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# Information

## Teacher Training courses based at OLCHS

Is teaching for you?

**Over 10 years of excellence delivered by the Catholic Teaching Alliance.**

We are in our 12<sup>th</sup> year of providing teacher training locally. The PGCE with QTS programme is underway for our current trainees, and we are now recruiting for courses starting in September 2026.

## Where will you be this time next year?

View all the courses available at

<https://www.catholic-teaching-alliance.org/pgce-courses.html>

Inspire others  
Transform lives  
Teach

Train with us...



Teacher training (PGCE with QTS) is available:

- Early Primary (3-7 years), General Primary (5-11 years).
- Secondary (11-16 years), Secondary with post 16 (14-19 years).

Please contact us for further information:

Call 01772 326931 or email [CTAPGCE@olchs.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:CTAPGCE@olchs.lancs.sch.uk)

Website: <https://www.catholic-teaching-alliance.org/>



## 2025 Diary Dates

**Thursday 23 October**  
Year 11 Parents' Evening

**Friday 24 October**  
Half Term - School closes at 3pm

## 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

## England Success

Huge congratulations to 'One of Ours', Our Lady's pupil Evie, and the whole Young Lionesses in the England Lionesses WU17 EURO26 qualifying campaign.

The Young Lionesses are through to the next round of qualification for the 2026 UEFA Women's Under-17 European Championship.

England women's Under-19s topped their group with a 5-0 victory over Montenegro in the Young Lionesses' 2026 UEFA Women's Under-17 European Championship qualifying campaign.



*One of Ours*

## GYMNASTICS

The North West Classic Challenge was recently held at Robin Park in Wigan.

Gymnasts from several clubs across the North West of England competed throughout the weekend.

Our Lady's pupil Charlotte competed in the Copper 13 category.

Charlotte was thrilled to achieve 1st place on vault, becoming Lancashire Champion and secured 2nd place on bars, beam and floor and finishing 2nd overall in the county.

A fantastic achievement, well done!



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## NETBALL YEAR 11

Congratulations to the Year 11 netball team who had a fantastic win against Broughton in the Preston Schools' netball league. Our Lady's dominated from the onset and even managed to prevent Broughton from scoring at all in the second half. The final score was 21-4 to Our Lady's. Player of the match went to Liana K thanks to her numerous interceptions in the shooting circle.



## CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP

Around 60 of our dedicated athletes took part in the Preston District Cross Country Championship on Wednesday 8th October around the fields of Archbishop Temple School. The conditions were great and enabled many of our runners to run fantastic races. It was fantastic to see so many of our students making top 10 finishes, demonstrating true commitment and character and representing our school proudly.

A special mention goes to Emily from Year 7, who claimed the gold medal - winning her respective race!

There were many other individual successes, but the PE Department were impressed with each and every member of the team. Each playing their part in what was a hugely successful event.





# Sporting News

## ***U13 Girls Football***

Huge well done to the U13 girls football team who beat Archbishop Temple 10-0 in the second round of the cup. Player of the match went to Eden P.



## ***County Football***

Congratulations to Eden and Coco who played their first game for Lancashire at the weekend against Warwickshire. Lancashire won 9-0, with Coco scoring a hatrick. Eden played at right back and then left back and kept a clean sheet throughout the game not allowing a goal past defence. We are so proud of the girls and wish them the very best of luck for their next fixture.

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# CAREERS

## ASSEMBLIES

In school we have held Careers Information Assemblies for Our Lady's pupils to gain insight into their future pathways once they leave high school.

### Preston College

On Monday we welcomed Dave Elliot from Preston College to speak to Year 11 about the courses Preston College offer, which included T Levels, Apprenticeships and BTEC courses. Pupils were advised to visit all of the local colleges by Dave to ensure pupils can make an informed decision. Preston College held their first Information Evening on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October and have another in November which we strongly urge pupils to attend. Dave also focused on the importance of passing Maths and English at school so pupils can really focus on their chosen subjects when they arrive at college. Pupils who do not attain a minimum of a Grade 4 in Maths or English will resit it at college. Dave also spoke with passion about apprenticeships - the opportunity to learn while you earn and the importance of being proactive and approaching companies now to secure them. We can't thank Dave enough for coming into OLCHS and providing such expert advice.

### The Dutchy of Lancaster

On Tuesday morning we welcomed past pupil Rob Stone to share his career journey since leaving Our Lady's Catholic High School in 2017. Upon leaving high school Rob went to Cardinal Newman College to study A-Levels based on subjects he really enjoyed as he was not sure about the career he wanted. Rob was brought up on a farm so land / agriculture has been a significant part of his life. Rob left Cardinal Newman and went to study agriculture at university in Cirencester. During his university course Rob was supposed to undertake a lengthy work placement but due to the COVID outbreak it was shortened to just 1 week. After university Rob got a job related to his degree but he really did not enjoy it. He was then contacted by the people he did his university work placement at and was offered a job there. Rob now looks after The Duchy at Lancaster and his talents have recently enabled him to meet the King. We are so proud of Rob and we thank him for coming back to Our Lady's to share his career path. Rob gave Year 9 wonderful tips which included, pick options subjects you really enjoy; it is ok to not know what you want to do; if you are not happy in your career don't be afraid to try something new. Year 9 asked some wonderful questions including pay, what subjects Rob studied at Year 9 and what he enjoyed about his current job.





# Careers

## Working with children

On Wednesday we welcomed alumni pupil Sasha Hawsworth. Sasha left Our Lady's in 2010. Sasha was very honest about her time at Our Lady's, stating she did not always find it easy for lots of different reasons but worked hard and achieved fantastic results along with playing exceptional football. Sasha left school and went to college where she gained the qualifications to work with children. She worked in a nursery which she really enjoyed. Recently Sasha worked in CAMHS, supporting pupils with ADHD and is currently doing her Masters' qualification so she can also prescribe medication in the future. Sasha advised pupils to find their passion and work hard to achieve their goals as when you put your mind to it you can achieve anything you want and never let anyone say that you can't. We cannot thank Sasha enough for coming in and talking to our pupils. Sasha we are so proud of you.



## Degree Apprenticeship

On Thursday we invited past pupil Grace McGarvey back to Our Lady's to share her career journey with our Year 8. Grace went to study at Cardinal Newman College after leaving Our Lady's and decided to do a degree apprenticeship, which currently has two more years left to run. Grace felt university wasn't for her and she wanted to learn and earn whilst in the role. Grace spoke passionately about pupils doing subjects they enjoy and not to worry if they were not sure what they wanted to do.

Grace also spoke about the importance of good mental health, exercising and spending time with friends. We are so proud of you Grace and can't thank you enough for sharing your career story so far with us.



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# Careers

## CARDINAL NEWMAN COLLEGE

A huge thank you to Amy from Cardinal Newman College who visited Our Lady's on Monday to speak to Year 11. Amy discussed the vast choice of A-Levels that are available at Cardinal Newman along with T-Levels and BTEC courses. Amy gave invaluable information about the application process and how pupils need to apply before the Christmas break.



Open  
Events

The next Cardinal Newman Open Day is  
**Saturday 15th November.**

[click here](#)

## PRESTON COLLEGE

YEAR 10 & 11

## OPEN EVENTS

**CLICK  
HERE**

WEDNESDAY **1 OCTOBER** 4PM - 7PM

SATURDAY **8 NOVEMBER** 10AM - 2PM

[www.preston.ac.uk/fe-open-events](http://www.preston.ac.uk/fe-open-events)

SEE FACILITIES MEET STUDENTS & STAFF EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS

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