Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 11 28th November 2025





The Theme Next Week: The First Week of Advent (Matthew 24:37-44)

Stay awake so that you may be ready.

As we light the first candle of Advent, we focus on the theme of hope. Advent reminds us that even in busy or challenging times, hope can be found in small but meaningful moments - kind words from a friend, a helping hand, or the joy of learning together. This week invites us to slow down, look for signs of hope in our community, and become signs of hope for others. May this season encourage us to keep our hearts open and our spirits bright.

Loving God, fill our hearts with hope as Advent begins. Help us to notice the goodness around us and to share kindness and peace with one another. May your light guide our school community throughout this season.

Amen.

BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Hope Wilson - compassionate and loving

Year 8: PJ Dickinson - compassionate and loving

Year 9: Chloe Blundell - compassionate and loving

Year 10: Annette Joseph - compassionate and loving

Year 11: Oliver Mower - compassionate and loving



News



Celebration Morning

Last Friday our school community came together for a joyful Celebration Morning to honour the outstanding academic achievements of our pupils. We were joined by Nick Burnham, Principal of Cardinal Newman College, and Jane Barnes, Headteacher of St. Anthony's Primary School. It was a wonderful opportunity to recognise the hard work and dedication shown by our pupils throughout the previous academic year. Guided by our Being One of Our Virtues, we celebrated the gifts and talents each child brings to our community and their commitment to learning. We extend our warmest congratulations to all pupils who were recognised, and we look forward to seeing their continued success at Our Lady's.















The Great Lancashire Debate 2025

Our fabulous Year 9 pupils have participated in the finals of **The Great Lancashire Debate 2025** at County Hall in Preston. They have walked in the steps of a privileged few pupils, especially selected from a breadth of talent from across Lancashire. They debated spiritedly and with conviction as they spoke in the historic Council Chamber in front of judges, County Councillors and five other secondary schools from the Lancashire area.

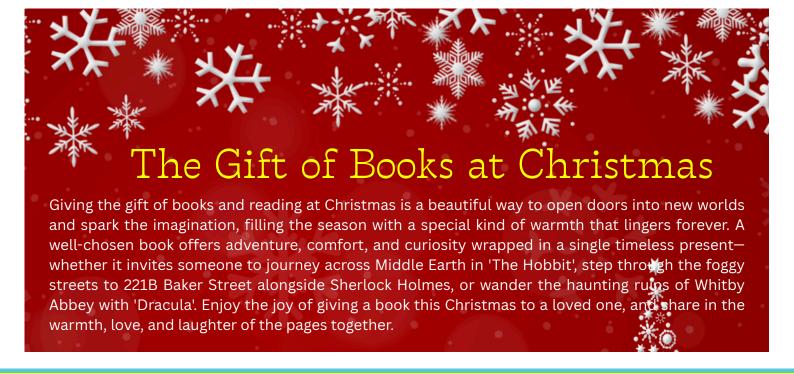
The judges thought that their debate, titled 'A Bigger and Better Guild Wheel', was a fabulous concept which would "benefit the wider Lancashire area".

The pupils impressed the judges so much that they walked away with the title of **Secondary School Local Area Winner.**

This is a fantastic and unprecedented achievement for Our Lady's Catholic High School and we hope that their participation will inspire other pupils in the school to grow in their own confidence and potential.

Well done Year 9 - you truly embody what it means to be **One of Ours** and we congratulate you on your success.







A Wicked Night at the Arc Cinema!

On Monday evening, 57 excited pupils enjoyed a special trip to the Arc Cinema in Preston to see Wicked: Part Two. The students were an absolute credit to the school—enthusiastic, well-mannered and fully immersed in the magic of the performance. From breathtaking vocals to stunning visuals, the film captivated everyone and sparked plenty of lively discussion on the way home. It was a fantastic cultural experience that many described as the highlight of their term.



CHRISTMAS VARIETY SHOW AUDITIONS

This term saw the exciting auditions for our Christmas Variety Show, and what a spectacular turnout it was! Over 40 acts—featuring nearly 70 pupils—took to the stage to showcase their incredible range of talents. From singers and dancers to comedians, musicians, and everything in between, the standard was truly outstanding.

Choosing the final performers was incredibly difficult, but with limited space we were able to select 15 acts to feature in the show. We want to say a huge well done to every single pupil who auditioned. Your courage, creativity, and commitment made the event a joy to watch.

If you didn't make the final lineup this time, please don't give up—you were fantastic, and we can't wait to see you audition again in future events.

Information









Information



Wednesday 26th November to Tuesday 2nd December (Payments by cash only please)



2025 Diary Dates

Monday 8 December PSHE Day 2

Thursday 18 December Christmas Variety Show

Friday 19 December End of term. School closes at 12.35pm

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

HANDBALL

The Year 9 handball team took part in a series of games at Eden Boys' School as part of a Preston district competition on Thursday 20th November. Our opponents were Christ the King Catholic High School and Eden Boys' School. The boys had been focusing on handball in their curriculum PE lessons and this was an excellent way for some of them to demonstrate the skills they had been mastering. Zac B, Callum T, Jayden R-C and Christian B scored plenty of goals while Olivier R was excellent as the goalkeeper, saving many shots from the opponents. Other members of the team included Jacob S, Michael O, Calym H and Jonah H. Our Lady's were unbeaten in their games on this occasion and all the boys had a fantastic time representing Our Lady's.



The Year 9 team travelled to West Lancashire in the second round of the LSFA County Cup competition where they faced St Bede's of Ormskirk. Our opponents had managed to secure the fantastic facilities of Burscough Football Club and the team were thrilled to be able to play on an excellent surface on Monday 24th November. Our Lady's took the lead soon into the game after Bobbie B-C intelligently lobbed the to goalkeeper once he had turned his defender from a long kick off goalkeeper Oliver K. St Bede's had soon equalised after a close header from a free kick. The game was particularly close with Our Lady's counter-attacking down both wings, making St Bede's defend very often. In the second half our opponents began to string some good passing combinations together and took the lead early in the half.



Although Our Lady's pressed and looked to create chances as the half progressed, we eventually left a little too much space in defence and within the last couple of minutes St Bede's managed to score another goal, finishing the game as winners, 3-1. We congratulate St Bede's and wish them luck in the next round as the Year 10 team wait to see who they play in the Preston district league final.



Huge congratulations to the U14 girls who have been crowned Preston League winners following fixtures before half term.

Outstanding goals came from Amelia B, Charlotte B and Rio A, with equally wonderful defending from Scarlett A, Izzy W and Eden P.

Sporting News

NETBALL

YEAR 10

On Thursday 20th November Our Lady's Year 10 netball team, captained by Naomi L, played at home against Christ the King. Showcasing the impressive depth of the squad, the team fielded a slightly different lineup than usual and quickly established dominance.

Despite the extremely cold conditions, Our Lady's produced an excellent first half and led 7–1 at the break. They continued to build on this momentum in the second half, maintaining control throughout and finishing with a commanding 14–2 victory.

Player of the Match went to Amy R for her accurate and composed shooting which was key to the team's success.

Overall, the Year 10 team demonstrated outstanding teamwork, resilience, and skill. With contributions from across the squad, Our Lady's once again highlighted the strength of their netball programme in a confident and well-deserved win.

Our Lady's Year 10 netball team, led by captain Romy L, delivered an impressive performance in their away fixture against Corpus Christi. Despite challenging weather conditions that disrupted passing in the opening minutes, the team settled quickly and soon found their rhythm.

By half-time, Our Lady's had established a commanding 8–0 lead through composed play, strong defensive pressure, and sharp movement in the attacking third. The second half saw them build on this momentum, maintaining control of the game and extending their lead to a final score of 17–0.

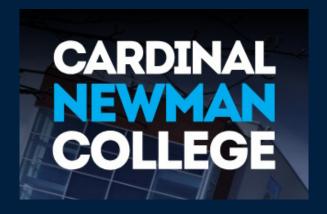
A standout defensive display earned Zuzanna R the well-deserved Player of the Match award. Her excellent interceptions consistently broke down Corpus's attempts to move the ball forward, preventing them from registering a single goal.











Year 11 Application Update

If your child has applied to Cardinal Newman College already, they will have had an early offer come through to their email.

PRESTONCOLLEGE

Mrs Lin would like to thank Preston College for attending OLCHS to do some one-to-one drop ins.

This gave pupils the opportunity to ask about courses, deadlines and the college scholarship programme.



Episode 2 of **Behind the Camo** series is coming up on Wednesday, 3 December at 6:00pm. If you haven't registered yet, there's still time to do so!

Behind the Camo is a four-part virtual event series that gives a real, honest look at life in the British Army. Each episode features serving soldiers answering questions people don't usually ask - covering different topics like career options, daily life, and common myths. It's a great opportunity to hear personal stories, explore the wide range of roles available, and see how Army life can be more supportive and rewarding than you might expect. Get insider knowledge, hear directly from those living Army life, and have your unanswered questions tackled.

In Episode 2, we dive into the career opportunities and qualifications available in the Army, showing how you can shape your own path, gain new skills, and even earn a degree while you serve. You'll hear from soldiers who've taken unexpected routes, embraced professional development, and discovered that the Army offers far more flexibility than most people realise.

