

# Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 8  
7th November 2025

## Lest We Forget



**“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down their life for their friends.” (John 15:13)**

Remembrance is not just about looking back, it is about carrying forward. As we recall the lives, stories, and sacrifices of others, we are invited to let their example shape who we are today.

To remember is to keep love alive, to let gratitude deepen our humanity, and to commit ourselves anew to peace and compassion in all that we do.

**Dear Lord**

**May the fallen rest in peace,  
and may we live as people worthy of their gift.  
Amen.**

## BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Eve Archer - faith filled and hopeful

Year 8: Anna Aspinall - attentive and discerning

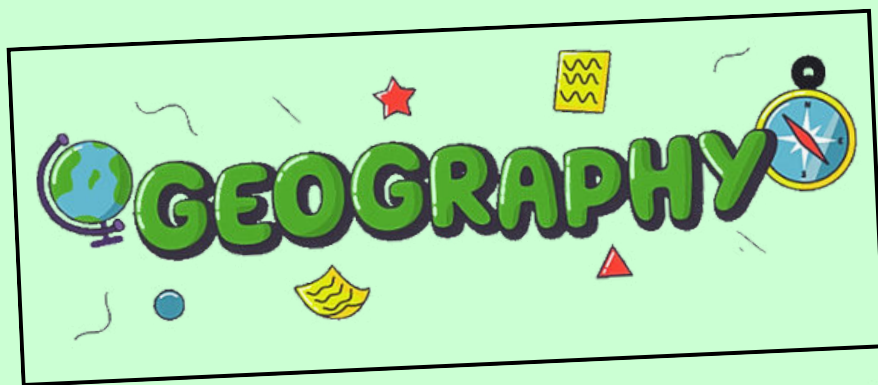
Year 9: Sam Nelson - attentive and discerning

Year 10: Francesca Johnrose - active and curious

Year 11: Maisey Rawsthorn - attentive and discerning



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“ It has been an engaging half-term for OLCHS pupils with lots of opportunities to share the realisation that Geography is everywhere! ”

**Ms Chabrel**  
**Principal Teacher of Geography**



## YEAR 7

The Year 7s have been taking a global tour since arriving to our school - with a half-term of lessons on the theme of 'Continents'. Looking at some of the physical and human geography highlights of each continent in turn.

## YEAR 8

Year 8 pupils have been studying microclimates, going to four different sites around the school to consider where would be the best place for a new school bench. Pupils used digital thermometers, anemometers and light meters to assist with their comparison of each site, as well as their own judgements on the environmental quality of the four sites. The field was the most popular choice of location in the write-ups read so far.

## YEAR 10

The Year 10s have started their GCSE course with some analysis of the impact and management of tectonic and climate hazards. This has required some big-scale thinking, looking at processes within the earth, and processes within the atmosphere.

## YEAR 9

The Year 9s have been studying tectonic hazards and finding out the difference between composite cone and shield volcanoes along different plate boundaries at different parts of the world. Here is Ryan with his composite cone volcano, formed at a destructive plate boundary, such as within the Andes mountains of South America.

## YEAR 11

Year 11 students have been completing their urban unit with their fieldwork to Liverpool. They undertook their surveys at two sites - the Albert Dock in the morning and Bold Street in the afternoon. At each site they surveyed members of the public for their opinions about these locations, they undertook a land use survey for the shops and services in these two areas and made judgements of the environmental quality of the buildings and infrastructure of these two well-known zones of Liverpool too. They found that Liverpool was busy with visitors who were enjoying their time in the city. They have now reviewed their fieldwork and the data they collected on the day in the classroom, as part of their preparation for Paper 3 in their GCSEs in Summer 2026.



## READING LEADERS

Read  
more  
Books



It has been another great week for our Reading Leaders. Pupils have shared and discussed a wide range of fascinating books, covering topics in science, history, and geography. The enthusiasm for reading has been inspiring, with many students visiting the LRC to choose new books after finishing their first ones so eagerly. It's been a fantastic half term filled with stories, biscuits, and new friendships – a true celebration of reading and community!



Our Lady's Catholic High School

## The Great Lancashire Debate 2025



Our Lady's Catholic High School proudly presents five talented Year 9 students – Chris, Nyla, Sam, Olivia, and Zac – who have made it to the finals of the prestigious Great Lancashire Debate 2025.

Not only have they earned the title of finalists, but we are also thrilled to declare that the team has triumphed over all other secondary schools in Preston to claim the title of **'Secondary Local Area Winner for Preston'**.

After weeks of preparation and passionate discussion, the team impressed judges with their “outstanding” performance, showcasing eloquence, critical thinking, and teamwork. Their voices stood out among dozens of schools across the county, and we can't wait to see them represent our school in the final round on Wednesday 26th November 2025.

You are all truly **One of Ours**. Best of luck in the finals!



## Being One of Ours

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DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER

## Black History Month 2025 at Our Lady's High School

This October, our school community came together to celebrate Black History Month, a time to recognise and honour the incredible achievements, stories, and contributions of Black people throughout history and today.

As part of our celebrations, students listened to a series of short podcasts sharing inspiring voices and experiences that highlight courage, creativity, and resilience. These stories encouraged thoughtful discussion and reflection across all year groups.

In response, our students produced a wonderful range of creative work, including artwork, posters, and poems inspired by what they had read, seen, and heard. The standard of work was outstanding, showing both understanding and appreciation for the themes of equality, justice, and pride.

Congratulations to our winners:

**Sofia** (Year 7)

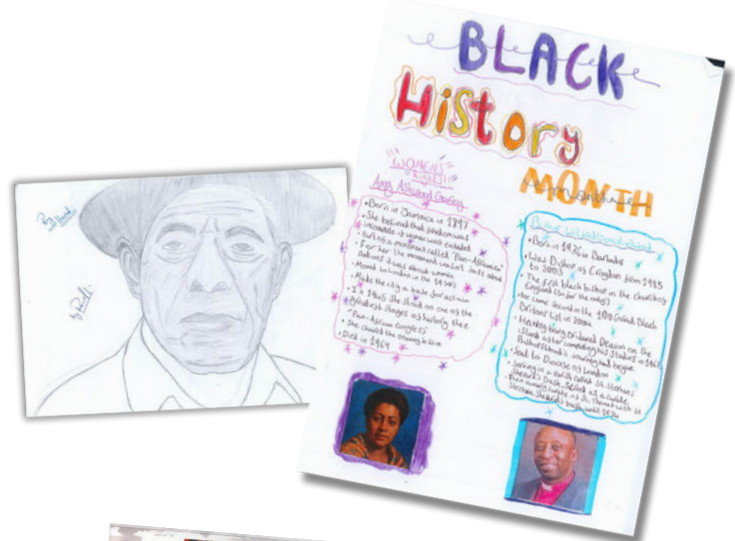
**Bree-Anna** (Year 8)

**Buena** (Year 9)

**Rometh** (Year 10)

**Overall winner: Zack** (Year 10)

Thank you to everyone who took part for making this year's celebration so meaningful. Let's continue to learn from and be inspired by these stories all year round.



### A Sea Shanty/Wave

Zack (14)

In honour of Richard "Dickie" Barr (1888-1955)

READ MORE



Wave—  
salt on his lips,  
a mutter from the ocean's mouth—not his,  
the ocean's breath,  
his brother,  
home and away at once.

Wave—  
of hands  
many  
bro



Our Lady's  
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**WE ARE  
HIRING**

join our team



**Term Dates**

2026 / 2027

**CLICK HERE >**

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# Information

**community gateway**

## Shape your Space

We are excited to launch a brand-new way for you to have your say in shaping the communities where you live.

Shape Your Space is all about giving you the chance to choose the community projects you would like to see in your area.

**CLICK HERE**

## Get jolly, raise money!

at our *Santa Dash*



**The Year Of The Butterfly - 40 Years -**

Sign up at [stcatherines.co.uk/santa-dash](http://stcatherines.co.uk/santa-dash) or call 01772 629171

QR code

Dash around Preston Docks with two laps (5k) or try our new four lap (10k) option!

For £15 (£10 for children), you'll get a Santa suit, medal, and hot buttly - or enjoy £2.50 off per fee if you bring or make your own outfit.

Sunday 7th December, 9am (10am start) Preston Docks, PR2 2YN

Proudly sponsored by **marsdenrawsthorn**

**St Catherine's Hospice**  
Together With Compassion

## USEFUL RESOURCES

**November Online Safety Newsletter**

**Community Support Information**

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE SLANG

Using moovs form - and for many young people, it's not just how they talk, but how they show their identity and feelings. Slanging form seems to help at all connect and show understanding, even if it feels like something's being said that's not.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

- GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION**
- RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS**
- SHELDING BULLYING OR EXCLUSION**
- PERFORMING FOR THE ALGORITHM**
- CONTENT MODERATION WITH CODED SPEECH**
- LONG-TERM DIGITAL FOOTPRINT**

**Advice for Parents & Educators**

- KEEP UP, DON'T CATCH UP**
- ASK, DON'T INTERROGATE**
- ONLINE SLANG CHEAT SHEET**
- FOCUS ON CONNECTION OVER CONTROL**
- ENCOURAGE CRITICAL MEDIA LITERACY**
- POTENTIALLY CONCERNING SLANG**

Meet Our Expert

**Wake Up Wednesday** The National College

...to read

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# Information

## Secondary School Teacher Training Information Event

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

### Is teaching for you?

- Do you have (or are soon to be awarded) a degree?
- Are you interested in training for a career as a secondary school teacher? (Secondary PGCE with QTS, 11-16 yrs)

If you are interested, come in and have a chat with us over coffee and cake about the exciting opportunities available for teacher training in your local Catholic secondary schools. This is a free, no obligation, information event in the Training Centre at Our Lady's Catholic High School.

**Date:** Friday 14th November 2025

**Time:** 2.00pm – 3.00pm

**Venue:** The Training Centre at Our Lady's



Please contact our Secondary Programme Lead, Mr Gormally, to book your place. Please email [CTAPGCE@olchs.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:CTAPGCE@olchs.lancs.sch.uk) or call 01772 326931.



### 2025 Diary Dates

**Tuesday 11 November**  
Armistice Day

**Thursday 20 November**  
Class of 2025 Presentation Evening

**Friday 21 November**  
Celebration Morning. School closes at 12.35pm

**Wednesday 26 November**  
Year 11 mock exams start

### 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

## COUNTY FOOTBALL

Congratulations to Lincoln S in Year 11 who was recently selected for the Lancashire Under 16 football squad. Lincoln had to complete two trials, plus three friendlies before being selected for the squad of 30, when over a hundred boys trialled. Lincoln has his first official game on Sunday against Merseyside. We wish him every success for the season.



## STAFF V PUPILS NETBALL

During Friday lunch, the mighty staff squad competed in a thrilling netball match against the Year 11 mixed team. The Year 11's have been training hard every Tuesday lunchtime. Unfortunately, they had a slightly shaky start and the staff managed to capitalise on this to take a four goal lead. However, Year 11 soon settled into their stride and had a strong final third preventing the staff from scoring a single goal! The final score was 6-3 to staff, resulting in the staff remaining undefeated. The Year 11 squad are keen for a re-match soon. The event was really well supported by staff and pupils alike, and we managed to raise £80 which the students decided they wanted to donate this year to YoungMinds mental health charity.



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## NETBALL

The Year 9 and Year 10 netball teams recently faced Longridge in an exciting series of matches.

### YEAR 9

The Year 9 team had a shaky start but quickly found their rhythm in the second half, showing great determination and teamwork to secure an impressive 6-2 victory. Player of the Match was awarded to Isla K for her exceptional speed around the court, allowing her to lose her defender and create valuable space for her teammates.

### YEAR 10

The Year 10 team demonstrated confidence and control from the outset, establishing a strong 7-2 lead by half-time. They continued to dominate in the second half, extending their advantage to finish with a convincing 11-2 win. Player of the Match went to Romy L, who impressed with her consistent and accurate shooting throughout the game.

**Congratulations to all involved.**







## 2026 apprenticeship programme is now live!

Have you got what it takes to become our next apprentice? We've launched 30 roles across our business to start in September 2026.

**APPLY NOW**

**BAE SYSTEMS**



## WOMEN IN ENGINEERING

INSIGHT EXPERIENCES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Explore every perspective.  
Create game-changing advantage.

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# Careers



Join us on the 20th November at 3.30pm to learn all about T Levels. If you or someone you know is exploring their post-16 options, come along to find out why T Levels offer an excellent technical alternative to traditional A Level study.

You'll also get to hear directly from the Department for Education, as they cover:

- What are T Levels?
- Which subjects are available?
- Where can I study a T Level?
- What are the progression routes from T Levels?
- Where can you find out more?

Register to attend now:



**REGISTER NOW**



Congratulations to our cohort of Year 10 girls who are studying the Hair & Beauty Vocational Course at Preston College. They recently completed their facial assessment and achieved the amazing results of Amelia, Isabelle, Olivia and Laila all scoring a distinction - the highest mark available. This is a great start to your studies and well deserved success. Well done.



## .. *next week*

In next week's OLCHS newsletter read all about the Speed Career Networking event we held in school for our Year 11's and how helpful it will be with their future careers.



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## CARDINAL NEWMAN COLLEGE

click  
here

### Open Events

The Open Day dates for September 2026 entry are confirmed as:

[Saturday 15th November 2025](#)

[Saturday 7th February 2026](#)

10am - 1pm

Booking is now open for all Open Days, click the links above to secure your place.

## 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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