

Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 13
12th December 2025



The Third Week of Advent (Matthew 11:2–11) Rejoice!

In this Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist asks Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come?" Jesus responds by pointing to the good that is already happening: the blind see, the lame walk, and the poor hear Good News.

As we light the rose candle on the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday, we are reminded to look for these signs of God's love in our own lives; kindness, healing, forgiveness, and joy. Advent invites us to notice the good around us and to share it with others through our words and actions.

The pink candle reminds us that Christmas is drawing near, and it calls us to rejoice because God's love is already at work in our lives.

Loving God,

As we celebrate this week of joy, open our eyes to your presence around us.

Help us bring hope and kindness to others as we prepare our hearts for Jesus.

Amen.

BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Erin Morey - learned and wise

Year 8: Fred Hall - grateful and generous

Year 9: Amelia Buchan - curious and active

Year 10: Lilia Wood - attentive and discerning

Year 11: Logan Cardwell - faith filled and hopeful



Being One of Ours

Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday and Thursday, pupils and staff enjoyed a fabulous Christmas lunch in the school restaurant. It was a wonderful atmosphere with delicious homecooked food, games, and also a visit from Santa!

Thank you to our fantastic Catering team.

photos & videos

[click here](#)



School blouses / shirts, trousers / skirts and normal school shoes must be worn but everything else can be changed!

Please note the following guidelines:

- A Christmas jumper MUST be worn as a pre-requisite for anything else.
- The jumper must not contain any inappropriate images or words.
- Once a jumper is worn, Christmas hats/ earrings can then be worn.
 - No acrylic nails or false eyelashes are allowed.

Join in and make a difference. Staff too.

All proceeds will go to CAFOD. Payments of £1 (or more) to be made via Scopay or cash on the day.

Friday 19th December

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY





Salvation Army Christmas Appeal

Over recent weeks OLCHS pupils and staff have been donating toys and sweets for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal.



Primary ADVENT SERVICE

Our Lady's Primary Advent Service speaker this year was Claire Colleran from Mission Together. We raised £153.00 for the charity at the end of the evening.



OUR LADY'S

PSHE

DAY 2

Click here 

As part of the school curriculum, pupils at the beginning of the week took part in PSHE Day 2, Personal Development:

Year 7 PSHE Topics: 2. Online safety

Your image, online presence, financial risk, media, online bullying, gambling.

Year 8 PSHE Topics: 2. Relationships sex education

Puberty, Intimacy, choice and consent, the law, peer pressure.

Year 9 PSHE Topics: 2. British values

Tolerance, respect, equality, diversity, judiciary, Faith and Religion and democratic processes.

Year 10 PSHE Topics: 2. Faith and justice

Cafod, young leaders, injustice and communities, how to be a great generation and reflections.

Year 11 PSHE Topics: 2. Be healthy

Physical health and fitness, coping with criticism, mental wellbeing, healthy approaches and preventions.

The GCHQ Christmas Challenge



Christmas Challenge 2025

The Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) is one of the UK's intelligence and security agencies. At GCHQ, people use cutting-edge technology to identify, analyse and disrupt threats to the UK.

Their work covers a wide range of missions, including counter-terrorism, serious and organised crime, cyber security, defence, supporting the NHS, and protecting the nation's economic resilience. In short, they help keep the country – and its people – safe.

So, what is the Christmas Challenge?

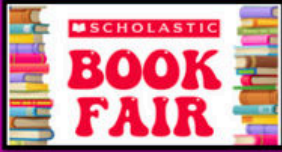
Each year GCHQ releases a free festive puzzle pack created by its own codebreakers. The Challenge contains a set of clever logic, maths, pattern-spotting and code-breaking puzzles. They're designed especially for young people (roughly ages 11–18), but anyone can have a go. The puzzles are best tackled as a team, encouraging different ways of thinking and perseverance – just like real problem-solving at GCHQ. The 2025 Challenge goes live on **Wednesday 10 December** and can be downloaded from the GCHQ website.

Parents, staff and pupils are invited to take part in this year's GCHQ Christmas Challenge. Good luck!

CLICK HERE TO PLAY

Being One of Ours

News & Information



Our 2025 Book fair has raised over £80 in FREE BOOKS for our school library. Thank you to all those who contributed.



READING LEADERS

We have celebrated the completion of this term's Reading Leaders programme, marking a proud moment for everyone involved. Our Year 7 pupils were recognised for their dedication throughout the 10-week programme and were each presented with a certificate to celebrate their fantastic achievement. We also honoured our Year 10 pupils, who received their Reading Leaders badges in recognition of their outstanding commitment, guidance, and leadership. A huge well done to all pupils for their hard work, enthusiasm, and brilliant progress. We look forward to a new term of Reading Leaders commencing in January with a new cohort.



USEFUL RESOURCES

Staying Safe Online - OLCHS

Community Support Information



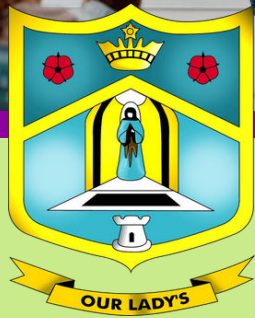
**Online Safety Newsletter
December 2025**

CLICK HERE



Being One of Ours

Information



Are you a former pupil of Our Lady's considering a career in teaching?

The Catholic Teaching Alliance has over 10 years of delivering successful teacher training courses based at Our Lady's Catholic High School.

- Begin your teaching journey in local schools.
- Train to become a primary (3-7 or 5-11 years), secondary (11-16 years) or sixth form (14-19 years) teacher.

Inspire others
Transform lives
Teach

We are recruiting now for courses starting in **September 2026**.

View all our teacher training (PGCE with QTS) courses [here](#).

For further information please contact us.

Call 01772 326931 or
email CTAPGCE@olchs.lancs.sch.uk

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



2025 Diary Dates

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



Being One of Ours

NETBALL

YEAR 7 & 8



Year 7 and Year 8 hosted Fulwood on Thursday in a strong afternoon of fixtures. Both teams started confidently and created chances, though goals proved hard to come by in the first half. Year 7 went into the break with a narrow three-goal advantage, while Year 8 held a two-goal lead.

Persistence paid off in the second half. Year 7 extended their dominance to secure an impressive 7-0 victory, and Year 8 maintained control to finish 4-0 winners. Players of the match were Emily S for Year 7 and Amber L for Year 8, both showing excellent composure and accurate shooting under pressure.

FOOTBALL U16 GIRLS

The U16 girls battled through blustery conditions to secure an impressive 4-0 victory against Lostock Hall, despite a slow start that saw them struggling to find their rhythm. Strong winds disrupted early passing play, but the team gradually settled, growing in confidence as the match progressed.

Goalkeeper Evie remained composed throughout, making smart decisions and helping the defence maintain a well-earned clean sheet. At the other end of the pitch, Karley R delivered a standout performance, netting an outstanding hat-trick and causing constant problems for the opposition back line. The fourth goal came from sustained team pressure, reflecting the squad's determination to overcome the elements and take full control of the game.

By the final whistle, the team's perseverance, discipline, and improved link-up play shone through.

A 4-0 win in tough conditions is a testament to their hard work and growing cohesion. An excellent result to build on for the remainder of the season.



Careers



LANCASTER UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

LUSOM would like to share with you some upcoming outreach opportunities taking place in the new year that may be of interest to high achieving mathematical students.

SCIENCE REVISE 16:30 - 17:30 from Wednesday 7th January - Wednesday 3rd March

An 8-week revision programme designed to support your Year 11 GCSE Physics and Chemistry revision. The lectures will run online each Wednesday (in term time) with our Physics and Chemistry teachers.

 **SIGN UP**

OPEN DAY 10:00 - 12:30 on Saturday 14th March

Students have the opportunity to tour our purpose-built building, attend a talk from the Head of School, Peter Tiltman and speak with staff and current students to learn more about life at LUSoM.

 **SIGN UP**

YEAR 11
Careers
Mock
Interviews



On Thursday 22nd January 2026, Our Lady's Catholic High School annual Mock Interviews will take place for Year 11's in school from 2pm until approximately 5.30pm. This involves the pupils being asked a series of questions in an interview setting to prepare them for the future. We are looking for volunteers to conduct the interviews and aim to match pupils to a sector they may be interested in. If you feel this is something you could help with, please email careers@olchs.lancs.sch.uk with your name and include your role within the organisation where you work

Being One of Ours



BRITISH ARMY INSIGHTS: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS & GUARDIANS

RECRUITING

Event: British Army Insights – A Guide for Parents & Guardians

Date: Tuesday 20 January

Time: 18:00 – 19:00

This online session is designed to give parents clarity and confidence about the opportunities the British Army offers young people.

Why it matters:

Recent research with over 600 parents and guardians revealed:

- Only 27% feel fully confident supporting their child through the application process.
- Nearly half (49%) want to attend an online session and receive resources about Army apprenticeships.

What parents will gain:

- A real look at life in today's Army, including roles, training, and qualifications.
- Inspiring stories from those with lived experience, plus practical advice and Q&A time.
- Insights into how the Army helps young people build confidence, resilience, and valuable life skills — all while earning and learning.

Bonus: Attendees receive a FREE downloadable resource to help support their child's career choices.

**REGISTER
NOW!**

Being One of Ours