

Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 17
23rd January 2026



loving
hopeful
curious
wise
grateful
discerning
compassionate
active
eloquent
prophetic
intentional
generous
attentive
faith-filled
learned
truthful

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand...

...the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light... (Matthew 4:12-17)

In this week's Gospel, Jesus calls us to turn our hearts back to God. Repentance is an invitation to change, to trust in God, and to live each day with renewed faith. God's Kingdom is near whenever we choose love, forgiveness, and hope, allowing the light of Christ within us to shine and bring light to others.

Let us pray,

**Lord, open our hearts to your mercy.
Help us to turn back to you
and to live as witnesses of your Kingdom.
Amen.**

BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

- Year 7: Lexi Jackson - grateful and generous
- Year 8: Bree-Anna Brown - curious and active
- Year 9: Jess Molyneux - attentive and discerning
- Year 10: Byron Corless - curious and active
- Year 11: Macy Wilson, Emma Finnigan, Charlotte Potts - intentional and prophetic

loving
hopeful
curious
wise
grateful
discerning
compassionate
active
eloquent
prophetic
intentional
generous
attentive
faith-filled
learned
truthful

Being One of Ours

Year 9 MEGA DAY



A group of ten Year 9 OLCHS pupils recently attended the Cardinal Newman College 'Mega Day', alongside four local High Schools. During the sessions the pupils explored the use of AI and what this meant to them and ideas about how this can be applied in their lives. Our pupils were split into two groups and were asked to identify a 'real-world problem' which was important to them. Pupils were then asked to develop an AI tool to assist in the improvement of their chosen 'real world' problem, using UN Global Goals to give them some ideas. Our groups chose 'Gender Equality' and 'Mental Health and Wellbeing' for their AI projects. Both teams had a budget of £100,000 to create their AI tool and used current AI tools such as 'PartyRock' and 'Midjourney' to help.

The day was very enjoyable, and both teams worked hard on their presentations in the Cardinal Newman lecture theatre, and although they didn't win, they had a great day learning lots of new skills and inspiration for the future!



Year 8 Gothic Spirit Award PART 2

In last week's newsletter the Gothic Award 2025 winners were announced. Here are some of the other wonderful entries we received:

Dear Percivil, by Elliot Holden

Dear Percivil,
I write to you bringing dire news. I'm sure you are aware that over the recent months, I have been on the brink of making history with 'The Experiment'. I have worked tirelessly, day and night, isolating myself in my laboratory for days upon end, all the while thunder clapped, lighting struck and the heavy London rain poured down on the roof. The sound reverberating through the entire house. The time rushed by and soon came the night of the experiment. Although it didn't quite go as was expected...

The Cleaner, by Phoebe McCann

Brooke Forest 9:15am
He unloaded his van and stood at the forest edge staring into the deep terrain of trees that looked like they went on forever until the end of time. 'Just one job. Just this one and then I can quit,' Jonathan muttered as he shakily stepped towards the forest. As Jonathan dragged his feet through the forest, tools and cleaning supplies on his back, he felt a pair of eyes watching his every move...

The Broken Bride, by Eden Palmer

I woke up in a dark forest. It was raining heavily. I looked up as my long white wedding lace dress trailed across the floor. I kept walking and walking until I came across an old abandoned chapel. It had cracked windows and an ash roof. I crept closer. When I got to the door, it creaked and I opened it slightly. I gradually pushed it open and felt a dusty breeze as if it was holding back sad memories. I walked in quietly and saw broken benches and ash everywhere. I recognised this place, but did not know why....

Waiting, by Oscar Cribelli

I stumbled through the endless hallways, my heart pounding. The sound of dripping blood alarmed my ears as I clung to one of the drawers. It had an accumulation of dust and one of its wooden legs was missing. Outside, the thunder tore open the sky as one of the lightning bolts struck a desolate tree, setting it ablaze.



BOYS' Drama Club

"EVERY LEADING
MAN STARTED
SOMEWHERE –
WHY NOT YOU?"

TUESDAYS
AT LUNCHTIME



"ZAC EFRON DIDN'T
START AS A STAR –
HE STARTED IN
DRAMA."

All boys invited.

See Mr Pill to get a green slip to get your
lunch then head straight to the Drama studio

LADS LADS LADS

Being One of Ours

News & Information



CATHOLIC
TEACHING
ALLIANCE

Inspire others
Transform lives
Teach

Teacher Training courses based at OLCHS

In-person Information Event
Friday 27 February at 2.00 pm

We are now into our 12th year of providing teacher training locally.

Could teaching be the next step after your degree?
Are you considering a change of career?
Where will you be this time next year?

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)

View all the courses available at
<https://www.catholic-teaching-alliance.org/pgce-courses.html>

Please contact us for further information,
call 01772 326931 or email
CTAPGCE@olchs.lancs.sch.uk
www.catholic-teaching-alliance.org/

Take on the challenge
Mount Toubkal Trek
ATLAS MOUNTAINS, MOROCCO

Find out more visit scatherines.co.uk call 01772 629171

Change lives, including your own on a five day adventure as we trek to the top of Mount Toubkal, standing proud at a height of 4,167m, the highest peak in North Africa!

21st-25th October 2026
Distance: 26km | Duration: 5 Days
Grading: Tough

Registered Charity No. 512186. Company Limited by Guarantee: 1602467.

St Catherine's Hospice
Together With Compassion

USEFUL RESOURCES

Staying Safe Online -
OLCHS

Community Support
Information

IMPORTANT

St Anthony's Church Car Park



From 2nd February 2026 the car park at St Anthony's Church will be **closed** for approximately 8 weeks as the church undergoes outside maintenance work.

Being One of Ours

Information



Say YES to the prom dress

Our prom dress pop-up shop is back.

Featuring quality pre-loved dresses in a range of styles and sizes. We've got price points to suit every pocket and no appointment needed. Pop along and try on all of your favourites. Say yes to the dress and support your local hospice.

📍 The Garden Room, St Catherine's Hospice PR5 5XU

📅 Saturday 31st January
Sunday 1st February 2026
10 am to 4 pm

For further details, call our team on 01772 695299

St Catherine's Hospice



2026 Diary Dates

DATE	EVENT
Thursday 29 January	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 3 February	KS4 Information Evening
Friday 6 February	PSHE Day 3
Monday 9 February	Year 10 Work Experience Week

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

Sporting News

YEAR 7 & 8

The Year 7 and Year 8 netball teams hosted Longridge in a home fixture on Monday after school, with all teams producing strong performances.

The Year 7 team had a slow start to the match but showed great resilience. Following a positive and effective half-time team talk, they improved significantly in the second half and pulled away from their opponents to secure a 9-3 victory. Emily S, the team captain, was awarded Player of the Match for her excellent playmaking in attack and her consistent and accurate shooting.



The Year 8 team, captained by Isabel W, dominated the game from the first whistle. They established a commanding 9-0 lead by half-time and continued their strong performance into the second half, eventually winning 17-0. Rio A was named Player of the Match by Miss Lewis for her outstanding defensive skills, making numerous interceptions throughout the game. Longridge selected Eden P as their Player of the Match.



YEAR 11 BOYS

The Year 11 boys' team, captained by Patrick M, were also in action in a closely contested match. Showing great composure and determination, they held their nerve to win 9-8. Lincoln S received Player of the Match for his excellent playmaking and ability to find space to score.

Overall, it was a very successful set of fixtures, with all teams demonstrating strong teamwork, skill, and sportsmanship.

YEAR 8, 9 & 10



On Wednesday, Year 8, 9 and 10 hosted Broughton in a series of netball matches, achieving an impressive clean sweep against our opponents.

The Year 8 team, captained by Isabel W, delivered a convincing performance, beating Broughton 13-3. The team showed excellent teamwork and control throughout the match.

The Year 9 match, led by Lois W, was a nail-biter, with neither team scoring easily. Despite the pressure, the team dug deep to secure a 6-2 victory. Rose B was awarded Player of the Match for her outstanding ability to create attacking opportunities.

Finally, the Year 10 team, captained by Amy R, kept their composure in another closely fought game, winning 14-9. Player of the Match went to Dottie A, who used her speed and agility effectively to drive the ball down the court.

Overall, it was a fantastic afternoon of netball and a deserved clean sweep for our teams.

Careers

BAE SYSTEMS



Last Friday, sixteen Our Lady's Year 11 pupils visited **The Academy for Skills and Knowledge** at BAE. Pupils spent time visiting different apprenticeship workshops, an employability workshop and learned about the process of applying to be an apprentice.

Year 11 made an outstanding impression.

BAE apprenticeships are still open but do close mid February.



The countdown is ON!

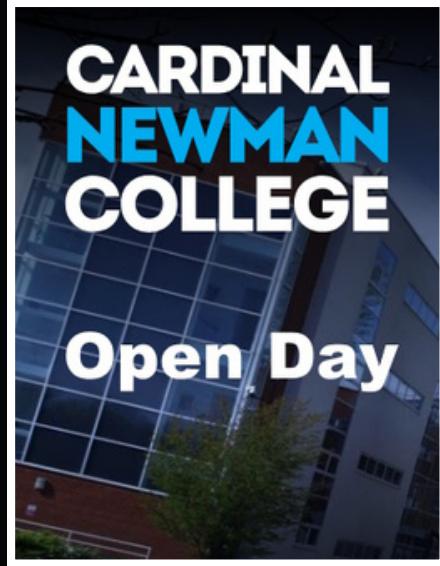
If you're aiming to join Cardinal Newman College this September, make sure your application is submitted by Tuesday 10th February.

Apply now and take the next step toward your future!

APPLY NOW

Being One of Ours

Careers



Our next open event is



Saturday 7th February 2026

10am - 1pm

**Click
Here**



HALF TERM WORKSHOPS

Suitable for YEAR 10 and
YEAR 11 pupils

CLICK HERE



Being One of Ours