

Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 16
16th January 2026



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

Saved by Grace (John 1:29-34)

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world... (John 1:29).

John the Baptist helps others recognise Jesus and points them towards him. As a community, we are called to do the same in everyday ways - through kindness, patience and care for one another. In these simple actions, we become witnesses to God's love and help faith grow among us.

Let us pray...

Jesus, Lamb of God, bless our community. Help us to live with compassion and faith, and to reflect your love in all that we do.

Amen.

BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Alex Hatch - learned and wise

Year 8: Kane Atkinson - compassionate and loving

Year 9: Olivia Leigh - attentive and discerning

Year 10: Isabelle Edmonds - curious and active

Year 11: Evie Holland-Bass - compassionate and loving

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Being One of Ours

Design & Technology

A group of 30 OLCHS Year 9 Design and Technology pupils were given the opportunity to learn how past pupil Ben Robinson became a successful freelance designer. Ben explained how, after completing his GCSE in D&T Graphics he moved on to study Graphics further at Preston College and at the same time set up his own successful business - *There Was An Idea*. Pupils also learnt how local designer Tom Walmsley used his love of football and playing FIFA to become a leading social media designer for Premier League clubs and players. The creative session was a fantastic opportunity for Design and Technology pupils to gain invaluable advice from two local entrepreneurs.



 SEE PHOTOS



Last half term, our Year 8 pupils took part in the brand new OLCHS Gothic Spirit Award, writing their own original gothic short stories. From eerie settings to mysterious characters, pupils really embraced the genre and produced some fantastic pieces of creative writing.

The standard of entries was very high, making it a tough job for our judges. Each English class chose five finalists before the overall winners were selected.

We are delighted to announce the winners of the Gothic Spirit Award 2025 below:

- 1st - Aleena Mohamed
- 2nd - Heidi Carter Darwen
- 3rd - Danté Lewis

The winners received certificates, chocolate prizes and Amazon vouchers, and their opening paragraphs are published opposite. We will also be sharing the work of other shortlisted finalists over the next few weeks.

Competitions like this give pupils a taste of where writing can lead, from becoming an author to working as an editor or publisher in the creative industries.

Well done to everyone in Year 8 for taking part - your enthusiasm and creativity really brought the gothic spirit to life and we're looking forward to running more writing competitions in the future!

Year 8 Gothic Spirit Award Competition Winners

'Elena - Whispers Beyond the Sign'

by Aleena Mohamed

The winter's morning was wrapped in thick fog, hiding the world in pale shadows. Frost clung to the ground; each breath turned white in the cold air. The sun was weak and hazy, barely breaking through the mist, while the silence made the day feel slow to begin. A group of students gathered for their Duke of Edinburgh expedition. The room buzzed with laughter, voices fluttering like birds in the cold air. Mrs Wardley called the register – 32 names answered- and with maps and equipment ready, they set off north.

'The Hospital' by Heidi Carter Darwen

The rotten smell of decayed logs wafted through the air of York, accompanied only by the small chirps of any bird that dared to sing at this hour. Dark clouds were formed around the Millers' Manor, casting a spell of rain upon the large expanse of a family's land. Pitter patter, it chanted against the slate roof, falling into the drain pipe that lay just above a bay window, where a small child snored. The wind blew gentle breaths across the garden, forming a peace that felt too perfect, almost uncanny.

'Chapter 1: Unearthing The Undead' by Danté Lewis

The church can hide more secrets that we know, but sometimes it's better to keep it that way. I'm William, the town detective and tracker, investigating mostly cases that are not odd, like "I lost my jewels" or "I can't find my ring anywhere". But this time it is far from the usual. It is unnatural! Not even just unnatural. No, supernatural, ...

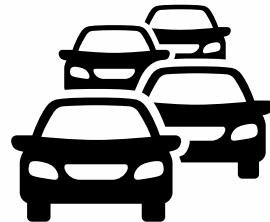
News & Information

Upcoming Parents' Evening

Year 10 - See the Diary below or
please visit the school website

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.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Staying Safe Online -
OLCHS

Community Support
Information



online safety information

Online Safety
Newsletter

CLICK HERE



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

click here

**PROM
NIGHT**



2026 Diary Dates

Thursday 22 January

Thursday 29 January

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

FOOTBALL

Y7 GIRLS CROWNED PRESTON SCHOOLS' FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

Huge congratulations to the Year 7 girls, who were crowned winners of the Preston Schools' Football League at the Finals Night on Wednesday 14 January 2026.

The team demonstrated outstanding determination throughout the competition, working exceptionally well together and showing great focus by listening carefully to Mrs Lin's individual target setting. Remaining undefeated for the entire league, the Year 7 girls truly deserve this fantastic success.

Special congratulations go to Willow P and Grace M, who were both selected as Player of the Match by their opponents – a wonderful achievement and testament to their performances.

With this achievement celebrated, the team now turns its energy and focus towards the Deepdale Cup.



ENGLISH FA GIRLS U13 SCHOOLS' CUP

Huge congratulations to the OLCHS U13 girls who beat Thistley Hough Academy 2-1 in their hardest game to date. We had lots of opportunities to score but their keeper was outstanding and managed to save goal after goal.

It was 0-0 at half time. Second half provided scoring opportunities for both teams and Thistley scored from just outside the box. This really fired the OLCHS girls up and within 2 minutes Coco SV made it 1-1. Rio A scored the second goal very quickly after.

Thistley did not give in and fought all the way to the final whistle.

It was a very long journey for the girls all the way to Keele University but they took it in their stride and played some wonderful football.



E S F A



TABLE TENNIS

The Under 13 and Under 15 teams had their First Preston School table tennis fixtures away against Corpus Christi. Both teams played competitive matches and showed determination throughout the afternoon.

The two teams had some close matches against Corpus Christi, with several strong individual performances. Meera P, Rose B, and Eden P each secured individual wins for the school. Georgia S performed particularly well, winning both of her matches and demonstrating excellent skill and focus.

Although our opponents were slightly stronger overall, the teams competed well and gained valuable experience. The matches provided a good learning opportunity, and the players showed resilience and positive attitudes throughout.

Overall, the fixtures were useful and encouraging, and the teams will take what they have learned into next week's fixtures as they continue to improve.



Careers

STEM

STEM SUCCESS in Year 7

On Friday 9th January, Year 7 pupils took part in an engaging STEM Day that combined science, technology, engineering and maths with sustainability and teamwork.

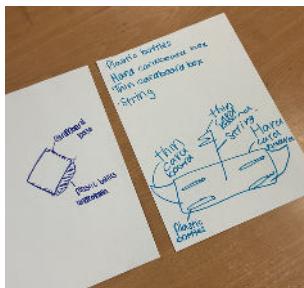
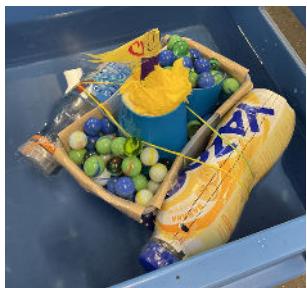
As part of the project, pupils were challenged to design and build solutions using recyclable items. This encouraged them to think creatively about reusing materials and to consider how STEM skills can support environmental responsibility.

A strong focus was placed on working together. Pupils collaborated effectively in groups, showing excellent communication skills by listening to each other, sharing ideas, and respecting different viewpoints. Their teamwork played a key role in the success of their projects.

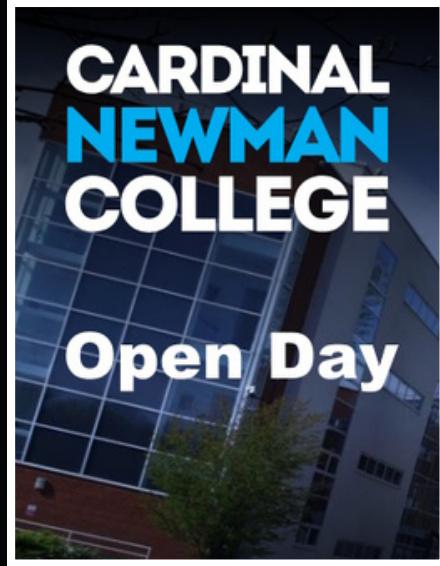
Creativity was also on display, with pupils exploring imaginative designs and innovative ways to use every day recyclable materials.

In addition to the practical work, pupils were fortunate to receive an inspiring talk from Mark Murray, a BAE engineer. He spoke about his career at BAE Systems and shared insights into some of the interesting projects he has worked on, giving pupils a valuable real-world perspective on careers in engineering.

Overall, the project was a great success and helped pupils develop creativity, problem-solving skills, collaboration, and an understanding of future STEM pathways.



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