

# Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 22  
6th March 2026



## The Woman at the Well (John 4:5–42)

Jesus meets the Samaritan woman in the middle of an ordinary day and an ordinary task - drawing water. Yet in that quiet moment, he sees her fully and offers something deeper: living water. In Lent, we are reminded that Christ meets us not only in sacred spaces, but in the everyday places of our lives, inviting us to bring our thirst, our questions, and our brokenness to him. Like the woman, we are called to leave our jars behind and share the good news that we have encountered the one who truly satisfies.

**Dear Lord**

**You meet us in our ordinary moments and know our deepest thirst.**

**Give us the living water of your grace,**

**that our hearts may be renewed and our lives transformed.**

**Help us to trust in your mercy**

**and to share the joy of meeting you with others.**

**Amen.**

## BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Hunter Wild - compassionate and loving

Year 8: Scarlett Bailey - attentive and discerning

Year 9: Eva Grebenicenco, Amanda Murray - grateful and generous

Year 10: George Denton - curious and active

Year 11: Mckenzie Gavin - intentional and prophetic



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## Girls' Cyber Event

### Greentech Games

Twelve OLCHS Year 8 girls attended the Greentech Games – a CyberFirst MEGA Event at Brockholes Nature Reserve.

The event brought together 300 Year 8 girls from schools across the region for an exciting and inspiring day focused on STEM, technology and cybersecurity. The day was delivered by IN4 Group and aimed to encourage girls to explore future career opportunities in the digital and technology sectors.

Throughout the day, the girls took part in a range of hands-on workshops, exploring areas such as cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, robotics and problem-solving. These interactive sessions gave pupils the opportunity to work alongside industry professionals, develop new skills and gain insight into the wide variety of careers available in technology.

The Greentech Games form part of the CyberFirst Schools & Colleges initiative, led by the National Cyber Security Centre, which supports young people in building confidence and interest in cyber and digital careers.

The girls presented themselves and the school exceptionally well throughout the day. They were a credit to themselves and to the school, demonstrating excellent behaviour, enthusiasm and engagement, and returned feeling inspired, motivated and more confident about the opportunities open to them in STEM subjects and future careers.



### Photo Album



## TeenTech Event



TEEN  
TECH

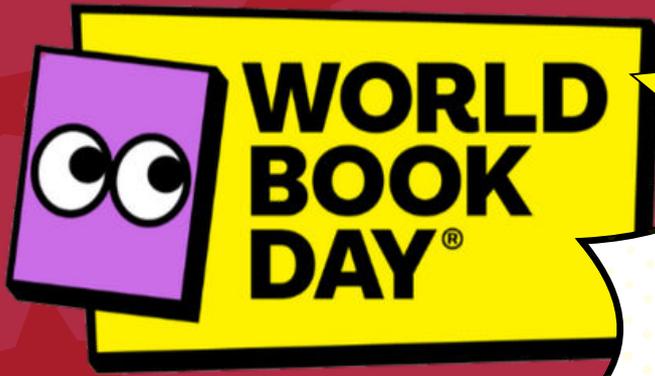
### Lancashire Festival 2026 Virtual Innovation Live Event

Just before half-term, the whole of Year 9 took part in the TeenTech Lancashire Festival 2026 Virtual Innovation Live Event, an exciting online experience designed to inspire the next generation of innovators, engineers, and entrepreneurs.

The virtual event brought together leading employers and tech experts to show how subjects studied in school link to real-world careers. Through live talks, interactive sessions, and virtual exhibitions, students explored developments in areas such as artificial intelligence, digital technology, engineering, healthcare, sustainability, and the creative industries.

Pupils heard directly from professionals from the BBC, Oracle, and GCHQ, learning about their career journeys, the skills they use daily, and opportunities in fast-growing industries. Students submitted thoughtful questions during the live sessions, which impressed the industry professionals and encouraged pupils to reflect on how their own interests and strengths could shape future career paths.

The festival, delivered by TeenTech, aims to raise aspirations and highlight the wide range of careers linked to science, technology, engineering, and maths. The session also inspired some pupils to get involved with the national TeenTech Awards competition – watch this space!



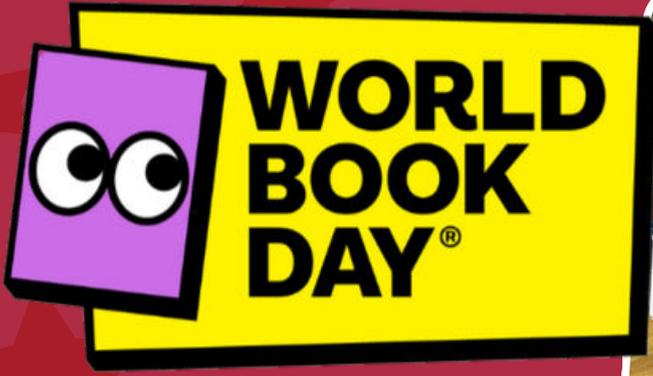
Another outstanding year of costumes on display at Our Lady's for this year's World Book Day.

# PUPILS

OLCHS pupils and staff have truly entered into the spirit of World Book Day 2026.



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# STAFF



# CLASSROOM DOORS



# News & Information

Inspire others  
Transform lives  
Teach

## Teacher Training Courses

PGCE with QTS courses available:

**Primary** (3-7 or 5-11 years)

**Secondary** (11-16 years) or

**Sixth form** (14-19 years)



CTAPGCE@olchs.lancs.sch.uk

01772 326931  cta\_north

## USEFUL RESOURCES

Staying Safe Online -  
Feb' 2026 Bulletin



Community Support  
Information



**IMPORTANT**

## St Anthony's Church Car Park



Due to maintenance work taking place at St Anthony's Church, please can parents and pupils avoid parking / walking through the church car park until further notice. Thank you.

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# Information



**RUGBY**  
PLAYER RECRUITMENT

**GIVE RUGBY A TRY!**

WE INVITE CURRENT YEAR 10 & 11 PUPILS TO COME DOWN TO GARSTANG RUGBY CLUB TO GIVE RUGBY A TRY WITH OUR U15/16 TEAM AND FUTURE COLTS

COME & TRY FOR FREE! NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!

CONTACT HELEN WILLIAMS 07546844077 OR THROUGH OUR SOCIALS

 Garstang RUFC Juniors  Garstangrugby



**Art and Creative Workshop: Meet Lela Harris**  
For young people aged 14-19

### Date & Time

Saturday, 7 March from 11am - 1pm

### Location

No. 9

### Age range

For Young People, aged 14 - 19

### Cost

FREE

### Ticket needed?

Yes, ticket needed



## 2026 Diary Dates

**Friday 6 March**  
World Book Day

**Tuesday 17 March**  
Careers Fair in School

**Thursday 23 April**  
Year 8 Parents' Evening

## 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





## CRICKET U15

### OUR LADY'S U15S SHINE AGAINST BROUGHTON

On Thursday, Our Lady's Under 15 cricket team, captained by Mollie O'G, travelled away to Broughton for an exciting match. After losing the toss, Our Lady's were put into bat first.

The team worked hard to post a very respectable total of 72 for 6. It was a determined batting performance, with players supporting one another and keeping the scoreboard moving under pressure.

When Broughton came in to bat, Our Lady's showed excellent teamwork and focus in the field. The bowling attack was outstanding, with three wickets each from Mollie O'G and Zuzanna R, putting Broughton under constant pressure. A standout moment came when Zuzanna took an incredible catch, preventing the ball from reaching the back wall for six runs – a crucial moment in the game.

Behind the stumps, Ella G was fantastic as wicket keeper, showing great awareness and skill to support the bowlers and keep the pressure on.



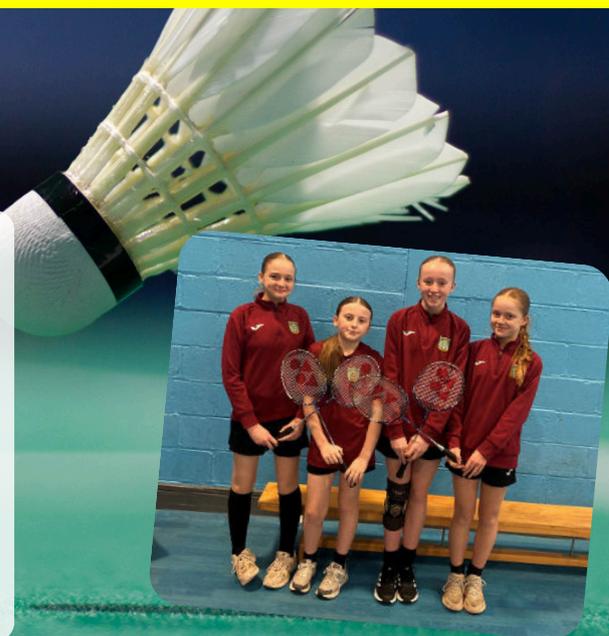
Thanks to this brilliant all-round performance, Broughton were bowled out for 50 runs, giving Our Lady's a well-deserved victory. The win means the team now progresses to the next round – a fantastic achievement.

Well done to everyone involved for a great team effort and a brilliant result. A big thank you to Mathilda H who umpired and kept score in the game.

## BADMINTON

On Monday the U16 badminton squad participated in the first round of the Preston Schools' tournament at Fulwood. We were fortunate enough to be able to enter two teams, competing in singles matches.

We faced some tough opposition, particularly from St. Cecilia's, and results were mixed with some wins and some losses. However, for several of our players, it was their first taste of competitive badminton, and we hope to build on this as the tournament continues next week with doubles.



Headline Sponsor:  
**NatWest**  
Thrive



## EXPLORE WHAT'S POSSIBLE AT NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK 2026

2 – 7 MARCH



## NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK 2026

Pupil information assemblies have been focused on careers, and we've loved welcoming back members of our OLCHS alumni and guest speakers to share their journeys with OLCHS pupils.

### DWP

We were delighted to welcome Neil Mitchell, Project Manager at HMRC, to speak with our Year 10 students about career pathways after leaving school. Neil shared his journey from college to university, explaining that he didn't always know exactly what he wanted to do – a message that really resonated with our students. He spoke passionately about the importance of pursuing things you enjoy, while also being open to opportunities as they arise.

Many of our Year 10s were surprised to learn that HMRC offers a wide range of career opportunities, including highly popular apprenticeship routes. It was fantastic for them to see just how many different pathways are available beyond traditional routes.

We cannot thank Neil enough for taking the time to visit and share his experiences. Mrs Lin has no doubt that he has inspired a number of our Year 10 students to think more broadly and confidently about their futures.

### Career Talks *in School*

- Newman College
- NHS Surgeon
- DWP
- Architect Technician
- Business Owner
- Maths Tutor
- Preston College
- Lancashire Fire & Rescue
- Photography Company
- Myerscough College & University Centre





## NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK 2026

### Inspiring Careers Talk for Year 9

Year 9 students welcomed Laura Ballance, a consultant breast surgeon at Chorley Hospital, who delivered an engaging and informative careers talk.

Laura spoke about her journey into medicine, explaining that she studied medicine in Manchester, but initially had very little idea which area of medicine she would eventually specialise in. This reassuring message helped students understand that career pathways can develop over time and do not always need to be fixed early on.

She described the wide variety of responsibilities within her role, including meeting new patients, completing follow-up appointments, and performing surgery using both laparoscopic (keyhole) and robotic techniques. Alongside her clinical work, Laura also teaches others and leads research aimed at improving patient care.

Laura also emphasised the importance of volunteering, planning ahead, and speaking to as many people as possible who work in careers students are interested in, in order to gain a broader and more realistic understanding of different professions. She concluded her talk by encouraging students to follow their dreams and remain determined in pursuing their goals.

We are very grateful to Laura for taking the time to inspire our Year 9 students and share her experiences.



### Former Pupil Inspires Year 8 with Creative Career Path

We are proud to welcome back former pupil Adele Brindle, who returned to lead an assembly for Year 8 students about her career journey since leaving OLCHS.

Adele spoke about her love of Art during her time at school and explained how she was keen to pursue a career that allowed her to develop this passion. She described how her role as an **Architectural Technologist** enables her to transform drawings and designs into real-life buildings, working through the intricate processes required to ensure projects are completed on time and within budget.

The assembly gave pupils a fascinating insight into a career that many were previously unfamiliar with. Students asked thoughtful and insightful questions throughout the session, which Adele was more than happy to answer, further deepening their understanding of the profession.

We are extremely grateful to Adele for giving up her time to return to school and share her experiences so openly. We are incredibly proud of her achievements and all that she has accomplished since leaving OLCHS.



## NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK 2026

### Newman College

Former pupil Erin McKeivitt spoke honestly about her career path since leaving OLCHS, reminding pupils that it's okay not to know exactly what you want to do – and that there's no need to panic.

Erin encouraged students to follow subjects they enjoy and shared how her experiences helped shape her career in education.

We are incredibly proud of Erin and grateful for the inspiration and reassurance she shared with our pupils.



### Lancashire Fire & Rescue

National Careers Week continued as we welcomed representatives from Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service to talk to Year 10 about careers in the fire service and the many different roles they offer. We also took this valuable opportunity to discuss Road Safety, E Scooters and E Bikes.



### Former Pupil Inspires Year 7 with Musical and Entrepreneurial Journey

Year 7 students were delighted to welcome back former pupil Lucy Best, owner of Fizzy Tree, who shared her career journey since leaving OLCHS.

Lucy spoke about her love of music and the challenge of gaining a place at Leeds College of Music, and how thrilled she was to study her passion. She reflected on moving away from home at a very young age, the challenges she faced living independently in Leeds, and the personal growth she experienced during this time.

Lucy also discussed her later experiences at University of Liverpool and her time in Australia, sharing how these experiences broadened her horizons and shaped her career.

In addition to her studies, Lucy is a fantastic singer with a beautiful voice. She has put this talent to good use, performing in many different settings, including weddings, and combining her musical passion with professional opportunities.

Throughout the assembly, Lucy emphasised the importance of resilience, following your passions, and embracing new experiences. She concluded by reminding students that anything in life worth doing takes dedication, hard work, and bravery. Her passion for her career was evident throughout, and we have no doubt it will have sown seeds of inspiration for many pupils.

We are extremely grateful to Lucy for returning to OLCHS to share her journey. Her achievements are a wonderful example of following your dreams and making the most of every opportunity.



## NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK 2026

### Education Specialist

Huge thanks to Daniel Lin who shared his career path with Year 11 at Our Lady's. Dan's message was very clear - work hard, be kind to others and seize every opportunity that comes your way.

Dan runs his own Maths tutoring business - Help Your Kids Maths - having taught at Our Lady's Catholic High School, Preston College, and was Head of Maths at a school in Bolton.

Thank you Dan for a fantastic presentation that was both insightful and inspiring, and shone a light on the wonderful world of careers, which will be so helpful to Our Lady's pupils.



### Preston College

Dave Elliot from Preston College delivered a talk to Year 9. Year 9 are at a pivotal point in their school career having just selected their options. Year 9 were outstanding in their approach and asked some very insightful questions.



### Myerscough College & University Centre

We welcomed Azz from Myerscough College & University Centre to speak to Year 10.

Azz spoke about the vast array of courses available at Myerscough, the difference between A Levels and T Levels, the process of applying for an apprenticeship and making an informed decision.

Huge thank you to Azz for supporting Year 10 with their future choices.



### Tempest Photography

A huge thank you to Naomi and Mae from Tempest Photography who stepped in at the very last minute to speak with Year 10 pupils, as our booked guest speaker was unable to attend.

Naomi and Mae spoke passionately about their careers in commercial photography and emphasised that it's important to enjoy what you do in your chosen career.



## NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK 2026

### Cardinal Newman College

On Thursday at Our Lady's, we welcomed Kirsty from Cardinal Newman College to talk to Year 9. Kirsty spoke about the different pathways for Post 16 Education and the wonderful opportunities available at the college. Huge thank you to Kirsty for helping guide our pupils so carefully.



### Medical Photography

During National Careers Week we welcomed Cat Lamoon and Shinlin from the Blended Learning Team at Preston Hospital. They spoke passionately about their careers in medical photography and the use of AI and AR in their roles. Year 7 were fascinated by their talk and asked some wonderful questions.



### In the Classroom

Together with a wonderful selection of guest speaker visits to Our Lady's during National Careers Week, teachers have also been delivering fantastic career events in the classroom, like the one photographed here in Science.



**A BIG thank you to everyone for making National Careers Week at Our Lady's a phenomenal success.**

# Careers

## YEAR 10

### rewards

## BREAKFAST

Rewards Celebration for Year 10 after doing amazingly well in their recent work experience.



## Bellway careers

### 2026 Apprenticeship roles now live

[CLICK HERE](#)



LANCASTER UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

### Open Day

Our final Open Day is taking place on Saturday 14th March, 10:00 – 12:30.

### Hello Our Lady's Catholic High School

We would like to share with you some information about our final open day of the academic year that may be of interest to your high achieving mathematical students.

Our application form is still open (and can be accessed via our website) with open day providing late applicants with the opportunity to discover more about LUSoM from staff and current students alike. The Admissions team is also on hand to support all applicants with any queries they may have.

We also welcome Year 10 students who may be at the start of their journey and are beginning to explore their sixth form options. For further information and the booking link, please see below.

[MORE INFO](#)

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