

Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 23
13th March 2026



The Healing of the Blind Man (John 9: 1-41)

In the Gospel of John, Jesus heals a man who had been blind from birth. Jesus tells him to go and wash, and “he went and washed and came back seeing.” The man trusted Jesus and followed his word. Through this encounter he not only receives his physical sight, but also comes to believe in Jesus. During the season of Lent, we are invited to reflect on our own lives and ask God to open our eyes to his presence, helping us grow in faith and trust.

Lord Jesus, light of the world, open our eyes during this Lenten season to see your presence in our lives. Help us to trust you and follow your word each day.

Amen.

BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Shanvi Rana - learned and wise

Year 8: Teddy Jones - generous and learned

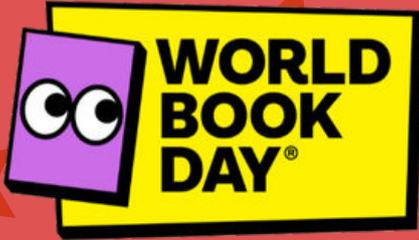
Year 9: Ryan Ireland - curious and active

Year 10: Harry Kirkman - curious and active

Year 11: Grace Robinson, Meera Patel - grateful and generous



Being One of Ours

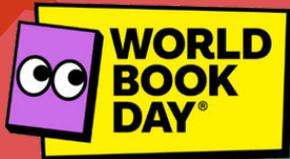


AUTHOR VISIT



To celebrate World Book Day and National Careers Week, we were delighted to welcome author Stewart Foster to our school. Stewart delivered an inspiring talk to all our Year 8 pupils, sharing his journey to becoming an author and some of the challenges he faced along the way. He also introduced pupils to several of his books and spoke about the ideas and experiences that inspired his writing. Pupils had the opportunity to ask thoughtful questions, and many took the chance to purchase books and have them signed.

Stewart later delivered a creative workshop to a small group of Year 7 pupils, where each pupil selected a book and had it personally signed. The group asked a range of insightful questions and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Over the coming weeks, a selection of Stewart Foster's books will be available in the LRC. We encourage pupils to take a look and borrow one – you might just discover a new favourite author!



Drop Everything and Read

As part of our celebrations for World Book Day, pupils across the school took part in a special Drop Everything and Read event. At the signal from our very own Mr Pill over the tannoy, lessons paused and classrooms fell silent as everyone enjoyed the start of a gripping story.

Key Stage 3 pupils explored the chilling opening of *Tales of Terror* from the *Black Ship* by Chris Priestley, while Key Stage 4 pupils read the powerful opening of *The Knife That Killed Me* by Anthony McGowan.

The event gave everyone a chance to slow down, enjoy reading together, and experience the excitement of being drawn straight into a story. It was a wonderful way to celebrate World Book Day and remind us all of the power of a great book to capture our imagination.



Recommended reading





Year 8 **The Entrepreneur Competition**

All Year 8 pupils are taking part in *The Entrepreneur* enterprise competition in their Design & Technology lessons.

Pupils will be working in groups of three and have been given a £10 loan by OLCHS (repayable on 8th May - Forms O,U & R and 7th May - Forms L, A & D).

They must run enterprising activities (the Easter holidays will be good for this!) which will allow them to make as much profit from their loan as possible. All profit is to be kept and equally distributed within the groups.

Each group will make a short presentation (including photographic evidence) to their class about their activities and a winning team from each class will be selected.

The following rules must be adhered to:

- Pupils are not allowed to do the lottery or play the lottery.
- Pupils must not sell goods within school time under any circumstances. This includes selling sweets on the quad or yard at break or lunch.
- Pupils should refrain from cake sales and car washes, trying to be more creative with their ideas.
- All groups will be expected to pay the £10 loan back in full.
- The work that pupils do in their groups must be divided up equally between all three members. **Profit must be shared out equally at the end of the activity.**
- Groups **MUST provide photographic evidence** of their activity.



The UK Youth Parliament elections have been taking place this week across high schools and youth zones in Preston & South Ribble.

Young people aged 11-18 are eligible to vote in the UK Youth Parliament elections.

Here at Our Lady's we have been supporting the election process, to allow OLCHS pupils the opportunity to vote.

News & Information

IMPORTANT

St Anthony's Church Car Park



Parents and carers are asked to note that scaffolding will be erected around St Anthony's Church from **Monday 30 March**, with building work taking place for approximately **seven weeks**. During this time, **the entrance to the car park from St Anthony's Drive will be closed throughout the day**. Access to the car park from **Cadley Causeway** will also be closed **between 8.30–9.00am and 2.30–3.30pm**, with **staff and parishioner vehicles only able to enter outside of these times**. For safety while contractors are on site, pupils are asked to **walk around using the pavements on St Anthony's Drive and Cadley Causeway rather than crossing the car park**. The work is expected to be completed and scaffolding removed by **Friday 15 May**.

USEFUL RESOURCES

**Staying Safe Online -
March' 2026 Bulletin**

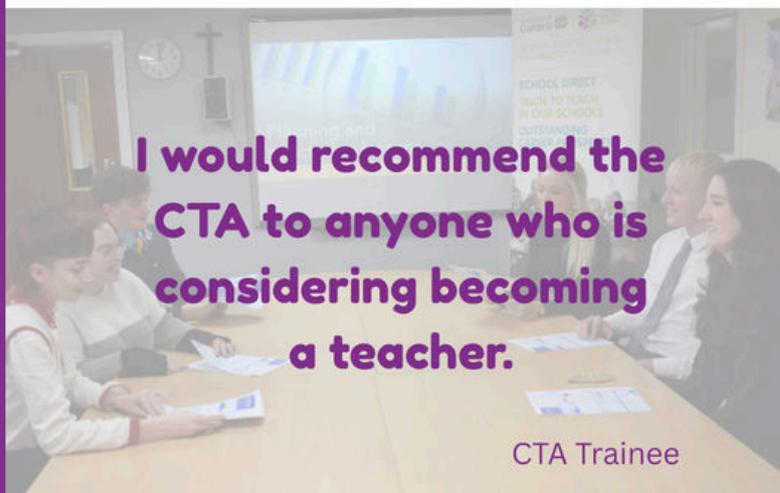


**Community Support
Information**



Being One of Ours

Inspire Others Transform Lives Teach



I would recommend the CTA to anyone who is considering becoming a teacher.

CTA Trainee

PGCE with QTS courses available:

Primary (3-7 or 5-11 years)

Secondary (11-16 years) or

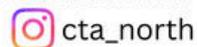
Sixth form (14-19 years)



CATHOLIC
TEACHING
ALLIANCE

CTAPGCE@olchs.lancs.sch.uk

01772 326931



2026 Diary Dates

Tuesday 17 March
Careers Fair in School

Thursday 26 March
Normandy Trip Information Evening for Parents

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



Sporting News

BADMINTON

The U16 girls badminton team took on Fulwood Academy and St Cecilia's RC High School in the Preston Schools' competition on Monday 9th March. Our Lady's took an A and B team showing the strength and quality of girls badminton.

St Cecilia's narrowly beat the A team by 2 points after both teams had won two of their 4 games to claim overall victory with Our Lady's A coming second, Our Lady's B were third and Fulwood Academy were fourth place. It was lovely to see the support the girls gave each other, even when the A and B teams had to play against themselves!



VOLLEYBALL

The Year 11 boys volleyball team travelled to St Cecilia's RC High School on Thursday 5th March for a series of games against St Cecilia's, Archbishop Temple School and Moor Park High School.

Volleyball has seen an increase in popularity in Preston schools over the past few years and this was evident in the excellent quality of volleyball played on the evening. The team demonstrated a wide range of skills and found their feet by the last game, forcing St Cecilia's into a drawn game at the whistle.

Players in the team included Archie L, Jack P, Charlie W, Josh M, Calvin M, Bobby W and Lincoln S.



Sporting News

FOOTBALL



The Year 10 boys sadly lost 5-3 to Longridge High School in the quarter-final of the Preston Schools' cup competition, meaning that they will not be able to seek redemption by winning this year's competition (coming runners-up last year). However, it was a fantastic effort with some well taken goals by Mikey S, Bobbie B-C and Mason D.

This team do still have an opportunity to win silverware this year as they have made it to the league final where they meet Ashton CSC. So, we wish them luck that they can finish the year with some success.

Huge congratulations to the U14 girls who beat Longridge 3-0 in the first round of the cup. A wonderful display of team work and resilience. Well done ladies.



Congratulations to the U13 girls team who are through to the Semi-Final's of the (ESFA) National Cup and play at home on Thursday 19 March against Thomas Estley Community College from Leicester.



CRICKET

After beating Broughton in the first round, the Under 15 girls' cricket team qualified for the North Section, the next stage of the competition. They faced some tough opponents and narrowly lost their first match to Lancaster Girls' Grammar School, 57-56. The team quickly refocused for the next round against AKS, Lytham, fielding tightly throughout the game. Zuzanna R took two outstanding catches in the field, while Umnika P and Mollie O'G batted confidently to help secure a 68-55 victory.

In their final match, the team faced Bishop Rawsthorne. Once again, they batted and fielded brilliantly, but a few strong hits from the opposition in the final over meant Bishop Rawsthorne edged the game 85-77.



Overall, the team finished third in the North Section, just missing out on the play-offs. The standard of cricket throughout the competition was extremely high, and the girls represented the school brilliantly, showing excellent sportsmanship towards each other and their opponents. Miss Lewis was extremely proud of the whole team.

Preston North End **CAREERS** VISIT

A group of Year 9 pupils visited Preston North End for a careers visit on Thursday 12th March. The community education trust at PNE talked with the students about the various roles and responsibilities required for the day to day running of the club along with a full stadium tour.

Students were informed about various post-16 opportunities and asked lots of questions about the club and the jobs available. All students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and ended the trip knowing much more about the vast number of people needed to run a professional football club.



CAREERS FAIR *2026*



Our Lady's
Catholic High School

Next week at Our Lady's we will be hosting our annual Careers Fair for Year's 7 to 10.

25 Employers will be in school sharing valuable career advice and insights for our pupils.

Read all about it in next week's newsletter.



Apprenticeship webinar - sign up!



Beyond the stereotype: trailblazing women apprentices at IBM



Jessica Smith
Digital and Technology Solutions Degree Apprentice



Hear about:

- apprenticeships in the tech industry
- insights on how to apply
- advice for students considering similar pathways



Gemma Hall
Junior Management Consultant Apprentice

Register to join live on **Monday 16th March at 3:30pm**

If you can't join live, register anyway to receive a recording you can watch any time.

Register here:

amapps.uk/navigate-iwd



REGISTER NOW



The next free NavigATE webinar, Beyond the stereotype: trailblazing women apprentices, takes place on **Monday 16th March from 3:30-4:00pm**.

Hear from two female apprentices currently working at IBM. This session offers a valuable opportunity for young people to hear directly from women succeeding in the Digital and Technology Solutions and Management Consulting pathways within one of the world's leading STEM organisations.

During the webinar, the apprentices will share their experiences of:

- choosing an apprenticeship route into the tech industry
- navigating a STEM environment as young women
- developing confidence, skills and professional identity
- balancing study, work and progression
- their advice for students considering similar pathways

This event is ideal for students interested in STEM, digital careers, business, consulting, apprenticeships or simply exploring their next steps.

THE NORTH WEST APPRENTICESHIP & CAREERS EXPO



REGISTER NOW



The North West Expo is back in 2026 with an even bigger and better expo! Join us on Wednesday, 25th March 2026, from 12noon to 7pm (last entries at 6:30pm) at the Sir Tom Finney Sports Centre, PR1 2HE.

The event is FREE to attend and is open to everyone — whether you're a student, parent, teacher, careers advisor, job seeker, or someone looking for a career change. Come along, explore opportunities, and get inspired!