

# Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 26  
2nd April 2026

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



## Easter Message from Mr Charnock

As we come to the end of what has been a truly remarkable term at Our Lady's Catholic High School, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our entire school community for their continued support, commitment and spirit.

This term has been full of wonderful learning. Our classrooms have been alive with curiosity, resilience and achievement, with pupils embracing challenges and striving to do their very best. It has been a joy to see the progress being made across all year groups, and to witness the dedication of both students and staff in creating such a vibrant learning environment.

Beyond the classroom, our pupils have continued to flourish through their involvement in the rich extra-curricular life of the school. From sporting successes and creative performances to charitable work and leadership opportunities, our young people have shown generosity, enthusiasm and a willingness to contribute to the wider life of our community. They are a credit to their families and to our school, and I am immensely proud of all they have achieved this term.

As we enter the Easter season, we are reminded that this is a time of hope, renewal and new life. In the words of Pope Francis: "Easter is the celebration of the victory of life over death, of hope over despair." This message is at the heart of our faith and offers us reassurance and encouragement, especially in times of challenge.

The Gospel reminds us: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen." (Luke 24:5-6). In these words, we are called to be people of hope, to look forward with faith, and to recognise the presence of new beginnings in our lives.



*Being One of Ours*

# Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 26  
2nd April 2026



As a school community, let us take this time to rest, to reflect, and to renew our sense of purpose, carrying the hope of Easter into all that we do.

Let us pray:

**Loving God,  
We thank you for the many blessings of this term,  
For the gifts and talents of our pupils,  
And for the dedication of our staff and families.  
As we celebrate the joy of Easter,  
Fill our hearts with hope, peace and renewed strength.  
Guide us to be people of kindness, compassion and faith,  
And bring your blessing upon all in our school community.  
Amen**

I wish all our pupils, families and staff a joyful and peaceful Easter. May this holy season bring you rest, happiness and hope.

God bless,  
Mr Charnock



## BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

**Year 7:** Miley Miller - learned and wise

**Year 8:** Joel Jones - learned & wise

**Year 9:** Henry Draper - eloquent and truthful

**Year 10:** Zack Kiraga, Ryan Matyanga, Tommy Butler, Lilian Ezeani, Ajit Singh - curious and active

**Year 11:** Holly Jones - curious and active



*Being One of Ours*



## LENT SERVICE

Our theme this year was 'Come Back To Me'.

At this time of the year we reflect on how we can return to God. He is always ready to forgive our sins and accept us with open arms.

Our pupils led a wonderful and moving Lent Service.

[> Photo & Video Album](#)

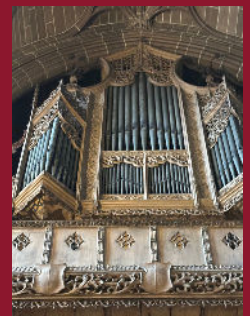


## Religious Education CATHEDRAL VISIT

Last Friday our Year 7 students enjoyed a memorable and enriching trip to both the Anglican and Catholic Cathedrals in Liverpool as part of their Religious Education studies.

The visit provided a valuable opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of the Eucharist by experiencing two different Christian traditions in meaningful and engaging settings. At each cathedral, students explored the significance of worship, the role of sacred spaces, and the ways in which the Eucharist is celebrated within Anglican and Catholic communities.

Throughout the day, students demonstrated curiosity, respect, and thoughtful reflection, making the most of this unique learning experience. The trip not only enhanced their classroom learning but also encouraged a greater appreciation of faith, tradition, and the diversity within Christianity.



We are proud of the excellent conduct shown by Year 7 and look forward to building on this experience in future lessons.



## National Space Academy Inspires Year 7 and Year 10 with Space Masterclasses

On Tuesday 31 March, we were delighted to welcome the National Space Academy, who delivered two exciting and interactive masterclass sessions for our Year 7 and Year 10 students. Funded by the Academy, these workshops brought real-world space science into the classroom, sparking curiosity, creativity and future career ambitions.

### Year 7: Life in Space & Astrobiology

Year 7 took part in a two-hour masterclass exploring what it might be like to live and work in space. The session introduced students to the possibilities and limitations of long-term space travel, as well as the emerging field of astrobiology, affectionately described as "professional alien hunting" by the presenters.

#### Topics included:

- How chemical reactions work in human and animal bodies
- Adaptations needed for survival beyond Earth
- The challenges of microgravity
- How hydrogen fuel cells can be used in space exploration

#### Hands-on activities included:

- Glow-stick chemistry to demonstrate energy and reactions
- Borgon's adaptation challenge, exploring alien biology
- Marshmallow and syringe experiments to model pressure changes
- A pressure-suit demonstration to show how astronauts stay safe

Students were fully immersed in each challenge, discovering how scientific principles underpin life beyond our planet.

### Careers in the Space Sector

Across both sessions, students learned that the space sector is rapidly expanding—and not just for aspiring astronauts. There are hundreds of careers within the industry, ranging from engineering and robotics to communications, design and environmental science.

One of the most surprising and fast-growing areas discussed was the demand for space lawyers—specialists who help write laws governing satellites, space tourism, planetary protection and the peaceful use of space. This eye-opening conversation showed students that no matter their skills or interests, there could be a place for them in the future of space exploration.



### Year 10: Understanding Our Universe

Year 10 students explored humanity's ongoing journey to understand the cosmos. This two-hour workshop examined how we use satellites, telescopes and space technology not only to look outward into the universe, but also to study our own planet with greater accuracy than ever before.

#### Activities included:

- Thermochromic oceans, modelling the effects of heat on Earth's seas
- Building simple telescopes to understand optics and observation
- An exciting infrared camera activity revealing hidden patterns and heat signatures

The session encouraged students to think critically about scientific discovery and the tools we use to achieve it.

### A Day of Discovery

It was a highly engaging and inspiring day for all involved, filled with hands-on learning and big-picture thinking. We are grateful to the National Space Agency for providing our students with such a memorable experience—and for reminding us that the next generation of space scientists, engineers, and innovators may very well be sitting in our classrooms today.

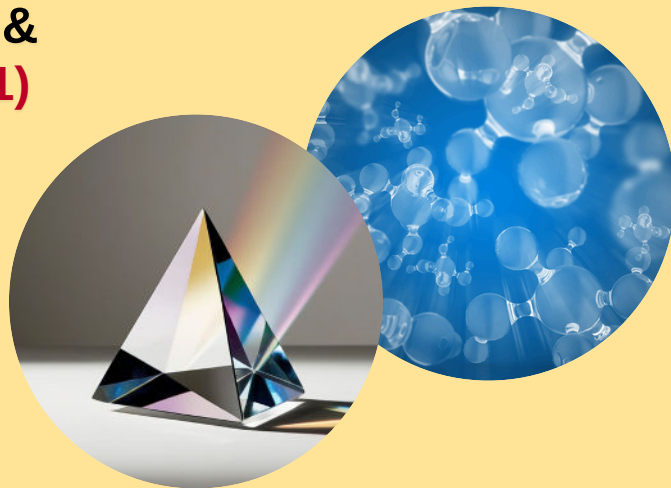
More careers info can be found here [Careers Advice and Information](#)

## Junior Chemistry Challenge (Y10) & Physics Intermediate Challenge (Y11)

We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of our students in two national competitions: the Junior Chemistry Challenge and the Intermediate Physics Challenge, run by the British Physics Olympiad.

Our Year 10 students demonstrated exceptional skill and scientific curiosity in the Junior Chemistry Challenge, with two students achieving Silver awards. Their success reflects not only their strong understanding of chemistry, but also their enthusiasm for problem-solving and applying knowledge in unfamiliar contexts.

Equally impressive are the accomplishments of our Year 11 students in the Intermediate Physics Challenge. Competing against students from across the country, two of our physicists earned a strong silver award, showcasing their analytical thinking and resilience when tackling complex physics problems.



These achievements are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students. We are incredibly proud of their success and look forward to seeing how they continue to develop their passion for science.

**Chemistry Silver Awards:** Ajit S, Zack K  
**Physics Silver Awards:** Samuel G, Ted W



## 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 OLCBS (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.

# Get involved



*Join the production team*



**SET DESIGN  
& PROPS**



**COSTUME &  
WARDROBE**



**SOUND &  
MICROPHONES**



**LIGHTING &  
PYROTECHNICS**

Our Lady's is really excited to be working on this year's school production of Grease, and we would love to invite members of our school community to be part of the journey.

Putting on a show of this scale takes a huge team behind the scenes, and we know we have some incredibly talented parents and carers who may be able to support us.

We are currently looking for help with:

- Set design and construction
- Prop making and sourcing
- Costume alterations or support with costumes
- Sound, lighting or AV (if you have any experience in this area)

Whether you have professional experience, a creative hobby, or simply want to get involved and support the students, we would love to hear from you.

Being part of the production team is a fantastic way to support the school, meet other parents, and play a role in creating something really special for our pupils.

If you are interested in helping in any way, please get in touch with Mr Pill via the school office or **email [jpi@olchs.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:jpi@olchs.lancs.sch.uk)**

Thank you in advance for your support – we can't wait to bring Grease to life!

*Being One of Ours*

# Information

**LOOKING FOR THINGS TO DO THIS SPRING?**  
HOLIDAY & FOOD ACTIVITIES 2026

SPRING IN LANCASHIRE:  
EAT, PLAY, REPEAT!

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

**SEND**  
Games Day @ Moor Nook  
Ready, Set, Compete!  
Competitive Games Day - SEND Session, 10:00-12:00  
Join the Fun: Games, Challenges & Friendly Competition

Eligibility: Ages 11-16 (Year 7-11) on Free School Meals.  
HAF codes will be sent to parent/carers' email addresses.  
Book now on the Holiday Activity website Need help?  
Email: PrestonTYS@Lancashire.gov.uk

Happy Easter

HolidayActivities

[app.holidayactivities.com/login](http://app.holidayactivities.com/login) #HAF2026 Department for Education Lancashire County Council

**LOOKING FOR THINGS TO DO THIS SPRING?**  
HOLIDAY & FOOD ACTIVITIES 2026

SPRING IN LANCASHIRE:  
EAT, PLAY, REPEAT!

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April**

**SEND**  
Giant Inflatables @ Moor Nook  
Giant Games. Giant Energy.  
Challenge Hour: Giant Inflatable Games for SEND 11:00-13:00

Eligibility: Ages 11-16 (Year 7-11) on Free School Meals.  
HAF codes will be sent to parent/carers' email addresses.  
Book now on the Holiday Activity website Need help?  
Email: PrestonTYS@Lancashire.gov.uk

HolidayActivities

[app.holidayactivities.com/login](http://app.holidayactivities.com/login) #HAF2026 Department for Education Lancashire County Council

**HOLIDAY & FOOD ACTIVITIES 2026**  
**WHAT'S ON THIS SPRING**

Scan the QR code to book your space

Holiday activities and Food

**Moor Nook Family Hub / The Zone - Easter Activities**

Easter Arts & Crafts - Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 15:00 - 19:00 Open to all young people  
Competitive Games Day - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 10:00 - 12:00 (SEND) 17:00 - 21:00 (Open Session)  
Inflatable Games - Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 11:00 - 12:00 (SEND) 14:00 - 18:00 (Open Session)  
Blackpool Sandcastle Waterpark Trip - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April Leaving Moor Nook at 11:00 Returning around 16:30

HolidayActivities

[app.holidayactivities.com/login](http://app.holidayactivities.com/login) #HAF2026 Department for Education Lancashire County Council

**LOOKING FOR THINGS TO DO THIS SPRING?**  
HOLIDAY & FOOD ACTIVITIES 2026

SPRING IN LANCASHIRE:  
EAT, PLAY, REPEAT!

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

Games Day @ Moor Nook  
Ready, Set, Compete!  
Competitive Games Day - open session, 17:00-21:00  
Join the Fun: Games, Challenges & Friendly Competition

Eligibility: Ages 11-16 (Year 7-11) on Free School Meals.  
HAF codes will be sent to parent/carers' email addresses.  
Book now on the Holiday Activity website Need help?  
Email: PrestonTYS@Lancashire.gov.uk

Happy Easter

HolidayActivities

[app.holidayactivities.com/login](http://app.holidayactivities.com/login) #HAF2026 Department for Education

**LOOKING FOR THINGS TO DO THIS SPRING?**  
HOLIDAY & FOOD ACTIVITIES 2026

SPRING IN LANCASHIRE:  
EAT, PLAY, REPEAT!

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April**

Giant Inflatables @ Moor Nook  
Giant Games. Giant Energy.  
Challenge Hour: Giant Inflatable Games 14:00 - 18:00

Eligibility: Ages 11-16 (Year 7-11) on Free School Meals.  
HAF codes will be sent to parent/carers' email addresses.  
Book now on the Holiday Activity website Need help?  
Email: PrestonTYS@Lancashire.gov.uk

HolidayActivities

[app.holidayactivities.com/login](http://app.holidayactivities.com/login) #HAF2026 Department for Education

**LOOKING FOR THINGS TO DO THIS SPRING?**  
HOLIDAY & FOOD ACTIVITIES 2026

SPRING IN LANCASHIRE:  
EAT, PLAY, REPEAT!

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March**

Easter Crafts @ Moor Nook  
Spring Into Crafting Fun!  
Hop Over to The Zone for Easter Creativity  
Moor Nook Family Hub - 15:00-19:00

Eligibility: Ages 11-16 (Year 7-11) on Free School Meals.  
HAF codes will be sent to parent/carers' email addresses.  
Book now on the Holiday Activity website Need help?  
Email: PrestonTYS@Lancashire.gov.uk

Easter basket

HolidayActivities

[app.holidayactivities.com/login](http://app.holidayactivities.com/login) #HAF2026 Department for Education Lancashire County Council

**LOOKING FOR THINGS TO DO THIS SPRING?**  
HOLIDAY & FOOD ACTIVITIES 2026

SPRING IN LANCASHIRE:  
EAT, PLAY, REPEAT!

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April**

Waterpark Adventure Awaits!  
Day at Blackpool Sandcastle Waterpark  
Depart 11:00 • Return approx. 16:30 - Moor Nook

Eligibility: Ages 11-16 (Year 7-11) on Free School Meals.  
HAF codes will be sent to parent/carers' email addresses.  
Book now on the Holiday Activity website Need help?  
Email: PrestonTYS@Lancashire.gov.uk

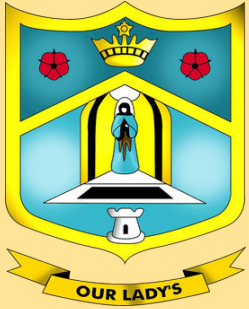
Safari animal

HolidayActivities

[app.holidayactivities.com/login](http://app.holidayactivities.com/login) #HAF2026 Department for Education Lancashire County Council

*Being One of Ours*

# Information



## WE'RE HIRING!

See our vacancies

**CLICK  
HERE**

**ONLINE WORRY GROUP**

A SAFE SPACE TO UNTANGLE YOUR WORRIES –  
AN ONLINE GROUP FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN HIGH  
SCHOOL

To watch the video  
please click below

**CLICK HERE**



**Centre of  
Sporting  
Excellence**

**Year 11 Easter  
Taster Sessions**

**Sport and Football** Tuesday 31st March

**Personal Training** Tuesday 7th April

**Netball** Tuesday 7th April

Preston College | 10am to 12pm | registration from 9.45am



For more information please [✉ jcollum@preston.ac.uk](mailto:jcollum@preston.ac.uk)

[@pnecommunity](#) [f](#) [@](#) PNECET [www.pnec.net/pnecet](#)



Our Lady's Catholic High School

## OLCHS ALUMNI COME BACK HOME



### TRAIN TO BE A TEACHER

Train with the Catholic Teaching Alliance (CTA) at Our Lady's Catholic High School and start your PGCE with QTS in September 2026.

For more information: [www.catholic-teaching-alliance.org](http://www.catholic-teaching-alliance.org)  
Call: 01772 326931 or Email: [CTAPGCE@olchs.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:CTAPGCE@olchs.lancs.sch.uk)

## USEFUL RESOURCES

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



**Community Support  
Information**



*Being One of Ours*

## Exam Information

Our internal examinations begin on Monday 30th March with our exam practices being held on Thursday 26th March (for Year 7) and Friday 27th March (for Years 8 to 10). For these practices, and the examinations, pupils will need to be **fully equipped**. For all examinations pupils will need:

- Two black pens
- A pencil
- A ruler (preferably 30cm)
- A sharpener
- Specialist equipment for certain exams such as a calculator, protractor or compass

**Due to examination board rules these should be stored in a clear pencil case or bag.**

Please check with your child that they have these things ready for the examination practices so that they can perform at their absolute best. We know that they will be excellent!

## HELPING YOUR CHILD REVISE

With internal and external exams approaching, supporting your child with effective revision can make a real difference. Here are some key strategies:

**Create a Study Routine** – Encourage a regular schedule with focused study sessions and breaks.

**Use Active Revision Techniques** – Mind maps, flashcards, and past paper practice help retention.

**Encourage a Distraction-Free Environment** – A quiet space with minimal interruptions boosts focus.

**Support Wellbeing** – Ensure they get enough sleep, exercise, and balanced meals.

Encouragement and small rewards go a long way. Every little bit of revision adds up.



**Year 11 Revision Sessions Available**

## 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



## 2026 Diary Dates

**Thursday 2 April**  
End of term - School closes at 12.35

**Monday 20 April**  
All pupils return to school

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

# Sporting News

## FOOTBALL



The Year 10 football team were victorious in the Preston Schools' Football Association league final, beating Ashton CSC 6-5 on penalties after drawing 2-2 at full time. The game began with both teams have control of the possession at different points, creating chances in each others penalty boxes. Our Lady's took the lead when Mikey S was able to pull the ball across the penalty area for Jack F to convert from close range.

The score remained the same until just after half-time when a pin-point shot from the kick off eluded our goalkeeper and sailed in to tie the game at 1-1. Our Lady's took back the lead 5 minutes later after Mikey S was fouled in the penalty area and Charlie M converted the following penalty kick.

Into the final 10 minutes and Ashton began to pile on the pressure, looking for an equalising goal. It came after a hopeful long ball was chested across and into the goal from an opposition midfielder. This took the game to penalties. Both sets of players took some excellent spot kicks with the first 10 penalties all being scored. Charlie M then saved the first Ashton sudden death penalty and Jacob A converted the next penalty to win the match.

Other penalty scorers included Bobbie B-C, Charlie M, Harry K, Oliver K and Mason D. The team were delighted with their win after being beaten in the Year 9 cup final by Ashton previously.



*Being One of Ours*

## BRITISH ARMY INSIGHTS: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS & GUARDIANS

RECRUITING



Sign up for an informative session designed to give parents & guardians clarity, support and confidence about the opportunities the British Army offers young people.

**Tuesday, 28 April 2026**  
**18:00 - 19:00**

### Why does this session matter?

Recent research with over 600 parents and guardians showed that only 27% felt fully confident supporting their young person through the Army application process. This session is designed to help change that by bringing reliable information together in one place.

During the session, parents and guardians will:

- Get a simple overview of the journey into the Army
- Hear from other parents
- Learn about the support available, including:
  - Brand new parent-focused resources
  - Opportunities to sign up to our monthly newsletter
  - A new webpage designed specifically for parents and guardians

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Are you a practitioner looking for a new opportunity?  
Are you interested in a career in early years?  
Are you looking for an apprenticeship?  
Do you teach at a school, college or university and would like to make links?

**EVERGREEN EARLY YEARS**

**We are having a Careers Open Day**

**Thursday 9th April 2026**  
9:30-11:00 & 1:30-3:00

Come and visit one of our three beautiful settings and learn about our 'Evergreen Way'.

You will have the opportunity to meet some of our dedicated team and understand what it is like to work at Evergreen Early Years.

Discover the learning and progression opportunities available at Evergreen.

Learn about our partnerships, research and development prospects.

Please email to register your interest, what you would like to get from your visit and which time slot you would prefer.  
[Jackie@evergreenfutures.co.uk](mailto:Jackie@evergreenfutures.co.uk)

Find us on the grounds of  
Queens Drive Primary School on  
Blackbull Lane, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 3LA

## Open Day

Evergreen Early Year is a small group of three nursery settings in Fulwood and Garstang.

To introduce what the early years sector is about, we are holding a careers open day on the 9<sup>th</sup> April.

This will give young people a chance to see one of our settings, speak to some of our team and ask any questions they may have if they are interested in early years as a career choice.