

Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 27
24th April 2026



John 10:1-10

*“I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved...
I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”*

In this Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus uses the image of the shepherd and the gate to show us that he is both our guide and our protection. He knows each of us personally and calls us to follow him with trust. In a busy world full of competing voices, this passage reminds us to listen for what is true and good, and to choose the path that leads to life.

Dear Lord

Help us to recognise your voice and follow where you lead.
Keep us safe in your care and guide us to live life to the full.
May we be the bringers of love and compassion; filled with
courage and joy.

Amen



BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Pola Dydzian - generous and grateful

Year 8: Heidi Carter-Darwen - learned and wise

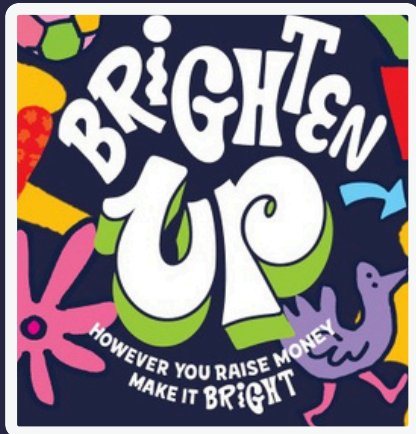
Year 9: Harry Young - compassionate and loving

Year 10: LaShawn Timpunza-Mvula - intentional and prophetic

Year 11: Hannah Griffiths, Liana Kiraga, Georgia Lythgoe - generous and loving



Being One of Ours



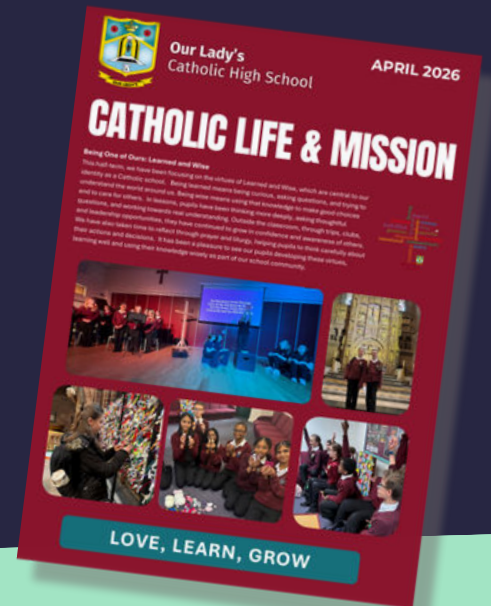
Just before the Easter break, we brightened up and had a wonderful bake sale for CAFOD.

Thank you to everyone who made or brought in

cakes and bakes, and to all pupils and staff who contributed by helping or donating.

In total we raised £737 for charity

Click the image below to read the OLCHS Chaplaincy newsletter



News from the LRC



We welcome Mrs Birkby, our new Literacy Enrichment Manager, to Our Lady's Catholic High School.

Mrs Birkby is delighted to be the new member of staff running the OLCHS Learning Resource Centre (LRC) and is very much looking forward to assisting pupils with their reading.

LRC Services

Open at break, lunch and after school until 4.30pm for:

- Fiction and Non-fiction book loan
- Magazines
- Comics and Graphic books
- Study guides
- Quick Pics-easy to read, short books
- Computers for Bedrock and homework
- Printing
- Stationary Shop
- Pre-loved books and DVD's for sale
- Flash stock clearance sales
- Scholastic Book Fair in November

Year 7 and love books? Why not join Fiction Addiction? meet every Tuesday for book chat and crafts.

Future ideas?? This is your chance to shape the LRC - what else would you like to see?

Enjoy the quietness of the LRC for reading after school, not just homework.





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.

New OLCHS Summerhouse



Animal carers in school are delighted with the new OLCHS summerhouse that they have received through a 'Tesco Stronger Starts' grant that Our Lady's applied for to enhance our animal care area.

This should mean that Our Lady's pupils are warmer in the winter months from now on, providing a safe place for our animal carers. 😊

★ Pupils have been enjoying furnishing the summerhouse with benches and cushions.

A big thank you also to our amazing Site Team for constructing the summerhouse.

Watch the video



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**

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

Being One of Ours

USEFUL RESOURCES

**Staying Safe Online -
April 2026 Bulletin**



**Community Support
Information**



Our Lady's Catholic High School

OLCHS ALUMNI COME BACK HOME



TRAIN TO BE A TEACHER

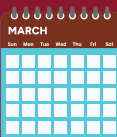
Train with the Catholic Teaching Alliance (CTA) at Our Lady's Catholic High School and start your PGCE with QTS in September 2026.

For more information: www.catholic-teaching-alliance.org
Call: 01772 326931 or Email: CTAPGCE@olchs.lancs.sch.uk



WE ARE HIRING OLCHS VACANCIES

**CLICK
HERE**



2026 Diary Dates

Monday 4 May
May Day - School closed

Tuesday 5 May
Year 11 Celebration Mass

Thursday 14 May
Year 7 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





BASKETBALL

Our Lady's 14 – 5 Corpus Christi

Our Lady's Year 7 Basketball team extended their unbeaten streak to six wins with a disciplined win over Corpus Christi in the Preston Schools' League. The fixture served as an ideal opportunity to rotate the squad, with a 13-man roster providing some players the chance to earn their first minutes for the school.

The team appeared slightly out of practice during the first three periods, likely a result of the two-week Easter break. However, what they lacked in offensive polish, they made up for with sheer defensive effort. Every player contributed to a high-pressure setup that kept Corpus Christi at bay throughout the contest.

The highlight of the match was the debut of Dex. Delivering a high-intensity performance from start to finish, Dex covered significant ground and scored a clinical basket to help seal the win. His work rate was rewarded with the MVP award.

The squad looks ahead to maintain this momentum as they approach the business end of the season.



Careers

**CARDINAL
NEWMAN
COLLEGE**

SPORTS ACADEMY TRIALS



If you have received an offer from Cardinal Newman College, have you also considered trying out for one of their college sporting teams.

Please see below for details of the upcoming trials, and do check your inbox for an email from Cardinal Newman on how to book on:

Have you booked your Sports Academy Trial? Don't miss out! At Cardinal Newman College, our Sports Academy Programme offers competitive opportunities in:

- Men's Football - Trial Date - 22nd April 4.45-7.00pm**
- Women's Football - Trial Date 21st April 4.45-7.30pm**
- Netball - Trial Date - 28th May 9-3pm**
- Basketball - Trial Date - 26th May 10-2pm**



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**

 **REGISTER NOW**



ENGINEERING APPRENTICE (CLITHEROE)

Location: Clitheroe **Salary:** Year One : £20,000 + Full Accommodation Cost's Covered

Are you passionate about how things work? Do you love solving problems and learning new skills? Whether you are looking for a career change into engineering or just starting out on your career journey, our 4 year Engineering Apprenticeship is the perfect opportunity to ignite your career and earn while you learn in a hands-on, supportive environment.

 **LEARN MORE**

Being One of Ours



University of Lancashire
Training 2000

APPRENTICESHIP VACANCIES

Lincoln Lewis Solicitors
Office Admin Apprentice
Blackburn
£300.00 per week
Business Admin

Wills HVAC Services
Electrical Control Panel
Apprentice
Burnley
£320.00 per week
Engineering

Exchange Coffee Co
Apprentice Engineering
Operative
Blackburn
£256.70 per week
Engineering

Airtech AMG
Apprentice Maintenance
Engineer
Blackburn
£302.00 per week
Engineering

Dobson and Beaumont Ltd
Apprentice CNC Machinist
Blackburn
£312.00 per week
Engineering

D A Design Automation
Apprentice Machinist
Chorley
£320.00 per week
Engineering

Global Bakery Solutions
Engineering Apprentice
Nelson
£304.00 per week
Engineering

Unicorn Precision
Sheet Metal Fabricator
Apprentice
Accrington
£304.00 per week
Engineering

Apply online: www.training2000.co.uk





APPRENTICESHIPS