

Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 30
15th May 2026



I will not leave you. John 17: 1-11

*I believe I will see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.
(Psalm 27)*

As we enter the 7th week of Easter, we are in the time between the Ascension and Pentecost, when the flame of the Holy Spirit descends on the Disciples. They were waiting in faith, not fully knowing what would come next, but trusting in God's promise. The Holy Spirit gives them all the courage and wisdom that they need to continue the mission of Jesus. In the same way – we can feel unsure or overwhelmed, but God promises to stay close to us, even when we do not feel strong in faith.

Dear Lord,

**Help us to stay united in your love, to trust in you in times of uncertainty,
and to know that we are filled with your Holy Spirit.**

Amen



BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Thomas Murray - learned and wise

Year 8: Dante Gibbs - active and compassionate

Year 9: Rayyan Ashraf - attentive and discerning

Year 10: Caitlin Lambley - active and curious



Being One of Ours



Duke of Edinburgh Silver Practice Expedition

Over the past few months, some of our Year 10 students have been working hard towards their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. As part of the programme, students have shown commitment and dedication by volunteering weekly, developing new skills, and improving their physical fitness in preparation for the expedition section of the award.

At the weekend, students completed the practice expedition element of the award, which consisted of three days of walking along a route they had planned themselves, alongside two overnight camps. Throughout the expedition, students were required to be completely self-sufficient, carrying all the food, clothing, and equipment they needed for the duration of the journey.

The expedition began near Newby Bridge in Cumbria and travelled through some of the area's most spectacular scenery before finishing in Coniston. Along the route, students were fortunate enough to spot deer in the surrounding countryside, adding to the memorable experience of exploring the Lake District.

In the evenings, the calls of tawny owls could be heard around the campsite, helping to send everyone off to sleep after long and demanding days of walking.

Despite challenging conditions at times, students demonstrated excellent teamwork, initiative, and resilience throughout the expedition. They supported one another well, navigated independently, and showed determination in completing each stage of the route.

As with any practice expedition, there were valuable lessons learned ahead of the assessed expedition; particularly the importance of packing lightly, with many students discovering that carrying fewer clothes would make their rucksacks much easier to manage!

Overall, the weekend was a great success, and all students should be extremely proud of their efforts and achievements. Well done to everyone involved.

photos >>



Year 8 The Entrepreneur Competition

Congratulations to the winning Year 8 team **Triple Treats Cupcakes** who came 1st place in the final of the 2026 Entrepreneur Competition.

Winning team: Eden, Annie, Ellie

Well done to all Year 8 pupils who have successfully taken part in this year's competition run through their Design & Technology lessons. Pupils were given a £10 loan by OLSHS and were challenged to make as much profit as possible setting up their own businesses.

The Entrepreneur Competition Final 2026



FAITH IN ACTION CYMFED Award

Pupils have worked all year towards the Faith in Action CYMFED Award; putting their faith into action and reflecting on how their efforts impact the lives of others.

We also thought about how helping others changes us too - developing our faith and giving us a deeper desire to serve. As well as supporting charities such as CAFOD and MARY'S MEALS, pupils also contributed in projects outside of school such as supporting reading sessions in primary school, working at local food banks and taking part in church dance festivals!

Those pupils involved had to complete a final piece which will be sent to an external moderator.

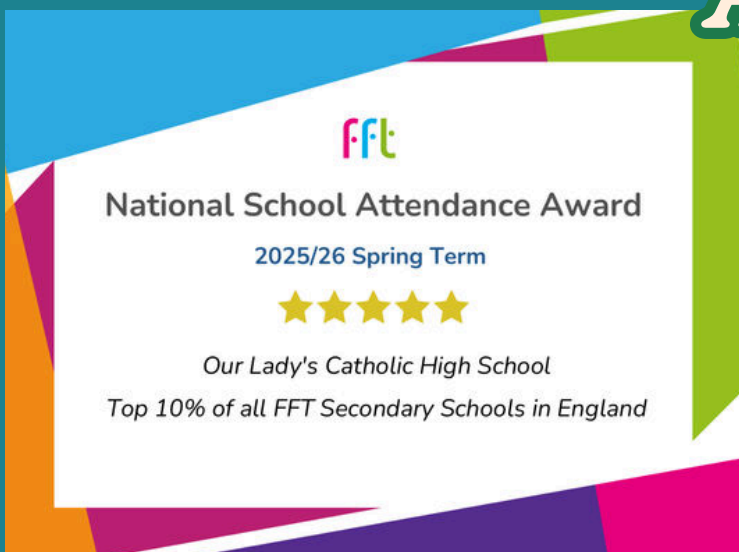


Attendance Award

Our Lady's has been recognised with an FFT National Attendance Award, placing our school in the top 10% nationally for attendance.

This is a tremendous achievement.

The certificate recognises what we already know to be true about our school: this is a place where pupils want to be. A place where they feel welcomed, valued, safe and known. A place where they belong as **One of Ours**.



Being One of Ours

English CURRICULUM

OLCHS pupils in 8B1 enjoyed an inspiring virtual author event this term during their LRC lesson on 7th May, taking part in a live session with Katherine Rundell hosted by Waterstones.

The event gave students the opportunity to hear Katherine Rundell discuss her writing journey, the inspiration behind her books, and the creative process involved in becoming a successful author. Pupils also learned more about her latest novel, 'Impossible Creatures', and had the chance to listen to readings and answers to questions from schools across the country.



As part of the session, pupils explored the importance of reading, imagination, and storytelling, while also developing their understanding of careers linked to English and the creative industries. The event helped pupils see how skills developed through reading and English lessons – including creativity, communication, analysis, and empathy – can lead to a wide range of exciting future careers.

Pupils represented the school brilliantly throughout the session, showing enthusiasm and thoughtful engagement with the themes and ideas discussed.

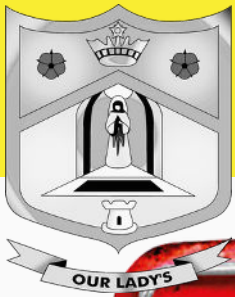
Read
More
Books



READING LEADERS

A huge well done to our Year 9 pupils who have successfully completed four hours of training with the Coram Beanstalk charity to achieve their Reading Leaders qualification. Throughout the programme, pupils worked incredibly hard to develop their understanding of the nuances of reading and how they can effectively support younger pupils in building confidence and improving their reading skills. Their dedication, maturity, and enthusiasm were evident throughout the training, and we are incredibly proud of their achievements. In September, these pupils will proudly take up the mantle of our school's Reading Leaders, beginning the first 10-week cycle of support when our new Year 7 pupils arrive.





Our Lady's Catholic High School



BOOK NOW



29TH JUNE - 1ST JULY

TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/OUR-LADYS-CATHOLIC-HIGH

"GREASE" is presented through special arrangement with and all authorised performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW) www.theatricalrights.co.uk

Being One of Ours



COMPOS
Comprehensive Oxford Maths
and Physics Online School

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD STEM OUTREACH FOR Y10 AND Y11 STUDENTS IN STATE SCHOOLS

COMPOS offers a full bursary for state school pupils to participate in online, super curricula Oxbridge-style tutoring in physics and maths. Students in the programme receive:

- Dedicated tutor
- Small-group learning (8-10 students)
- After-school, weekly tutorials
- Two assignments to complete each month—one in maths and one in physics
- Webinars with additional instruction and opportunities

Amazing results—COMPOS students outperform their peers by 170% at A Level/Highers!

Who will COMPOS benefit the most?

Students good in physics and maths: Any student with or expecting a mix of 7s, 8s and 9s in their GCSEs or As in National 5s are suitable candidates.

Year Groups: Students should be in Y10, 11 or 12 in October 2026.

Underrepresented backgrounds: We encourage candidates who belong to groups underrepresented in STEM due to location, ethnicity, gender or family background.

COMPOS runs from late October '26 to July '27 for Yrs 10 and 12, and until February half-term '27 for Y11. Admission is via an entrance assignment, and we have about 1000 places. We're not looking for geniuses – hard working, motivated students who can commit to the programme will benefit the most.

The entrance assignment will be released 17th August and the deadline to complete it is 23:59hrs Thursday 1st October 2026

Registration for 2026-27 [CLICK HERE](#)
(runs from May to August).

USEFUL RESOURCES

Staying Safe Online -
May 2026 Bulletin



Community Support
Information



CATHOLIC
TEACHING
ALLIANCE

Job Vacancy ITT Primary Lead

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

CTA Trainee Teacher

For more information see our website
www.catholic-teaching-alliance.org



WE ARE HIRING



2026 Diary Dates

Friday 22 May

Half Term - School closes at 3pm

Monday 1 June

All pupils return to school

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





FOOTBALL FINALS



Year 8 Preston Schools' Cup Final

OLCHS 1 – 1 Broughton

Our Lady's Catholic High School met Broughton High School in the Preston Schools' Cup final held at Deepdale Stadium on 5th May, which ended in a 1-1 draw, meaning that both teams shared the trophy - a fair result on the day.

All members of the Year 8 team were excited to be playing at the home of Preston North End once again, after being successful in the final in Year 7. This time they were playing as an 11-a-side team meaning they had the whole pitch to play on. The game began well for both teams, with early chances being created in each penalty area. The Our Lady's goalkeeper Archie G was brought into action early on to come out and clear the ball from several Broughton attacks while his opposite number was also forced into making saves from Max O and PJ D. But it was Broughton that broke the deadlock after a low strike found the corner of the net.

Going into the second half Our Lady's knew they needed an early goal to get back into the game, but it took a little longer to happen. Ethan R, Esa A and Ernie P worked hard to create scoring opportunities both down the wing and through the middle, before Liam A struck a low shot from inside the box into the corner to spark celebrations as Our Lady's pulled level with 10 minutes remaining. Both teams pressed for a winner and Broughton nearly found one but for man of the match Archie G to make an incredible save to keep the scores 1-1. The game finished with this result, meaning both teams shared the trophy for this year. Other members of the Our Lady's squad included Cai D, Freddie P, Matthew H, Roman O, Will A, Elliot C, Louis M and James S.

U14 Preston Schools' Cup Final

OLCHS 3 – 1 ABT

Congratulations to the 14 girls who proudly represented Our Lady's Catholic High School at Deepdale in the Preston Schools' Cup last Wednesday.

We knew from the off that it would be a difficult game, having played them before and previously being beaten 2-1. However, with careful tactical team positioning, clear defensive strategies, and by taking every attacking and shooting opportunity, the girls produced an outstanding performance to secure a

fantastic 3-1 victory over Archbishop Temple School.

Goal scorers included two goals from captain Amelia B and one from the fantastic Ruby C.

The team's determination, teamwork, and resilience were evident throughout the match, and they should all be extremely proud of their achievement. Well done to everyone involved on a brilliant result.

Player of the Match was awarded to Scarlet A.



FOOTBALL FINALS



U16 Preston Schools' Cup Final OLCHS 3 - 1 Fulwood

Out of a possible three girls' finals, it is an outstanding achievement that Our Lady's Catholic High School teams have been involved in all three and have gone on to win two out of the three finals.

The U16 girls are already Lancashire Champions, but over the past five years they had never quite managed to secure a victory at Deepdale on their own, although they previously shared the title with Broughton High School. This year, however, they achieved that long-awaited success in fantastic fashion.

It was an emotional game for the Year 11 players as they pulled on the OLCHS shirt for the final time, having proudly represented the school over the past five years. The team were also missing goalkeeper Evie Mitchell, who is currently away on England duty at the U17 Women's Euros in Ireland.

Once again, with carefully planned tactical decisions and so blessed to have another goal keeper in the team, the girls produced another outstanding performance to secure a 3-1 victory over Fulwood Academy.

The girls showed tremendous strength, tenacity, and determination, especially in the second half where they created lots of shots on target and kept the pressure on throughout.

Their determination, teamwork, resilience, and commitment throughout the competition have been exceptional, and everyone involved should be incredibly proud of their achievements. Well done to all players.

Goals came from Charlotte D, Georgia C and captain Karley R.

A huge thank you also goes to Holly W for stepping in as assistant coach on Wednesday whilst continuing her recovery from a back injury. Her support and encouragement were greatly appreciated by the whole team.

Mrs Lin would like to thank the parents of the Year 11 players. They have supported the team throughout their time at OLCHS and Mrs Lin will miss them dearly.



U13 FOOTBALL FINALS

Best of luck to Our Lady's
U13 girls football team
competing in two big finals
next week.

Tues 19th May - LSFA County Cup

Thur 21st May - ESFA National Cup

We are so proud of you.



Preston Dragons Dragonboating Team

Congratulations to OLCBS Year 9 pupil Chloe, who is participating in the 7th Barcelona International Dragon Boat Festival.

38 teams from 15 countries will compete at this year's Dragon Boat Fest 22nd - 24th May 2026.

We look forward to hearing how the Preston Dragons get on.

NEWMAN

CARDINAL
NEWMAN
COLLEGE

FEST

WEDNESDAY 1ST JULY 2026

**Check your emails
for the booking link!*

*CONDITIONAL OFFER HOLDERS ONLY

MAY 2026

BRITISH ARMY CAREERS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter shares helpful updates, resources, and opportunities from the British Army to support young people as they explore career options and build skills.
- British Army Supporting Education



APPRENTICESHIPS & CAREERS

GET

SKILLED

QUALIFIED

CONFIDENT

STARTED

**CLICK
HERE**

Being One of Ours