

Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 37
10th July 2026

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



Sowing Seeds (Matthew 13: 1-9)

*"But other seed fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!" — **Matthew 13:8-9***

As we enter the final week of this school term, we thank you for the many seeds of learning, kindness, faith, and friendship that have been sown throughout our school community. Nurture these seeds so that they may grow and bear fruit in the lives of our children, staff, and families.

Grant us strength to finish the term well, with thankful hearts, patience, and joy.

May we continue to encourage one another and reflect your love in all that we do.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen



BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Jerisha Justin - truthful and eloquent

Year 8: Asa Edwards - compassionate and loving

Year 9: Calym Hardman - compassionate and loving

Year 10: Dottie-Grace Alty, Caitlin Lambley - curious and active

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Being One of Ours

Our Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition in the Lake District was a fantastic adventure, taking us from Coniston, through the stunning Langdales, and finishing in Grasmere.

Over the course of the expedition, students demonstrated outstanding determination, resilience, and teamwork. They navigated challenging mountain terrain, carried everything they needed, and supported one another every step of the way. The camaraderie throughout the group was exceptional, with everyone encouraging each other to keep going, even when the days became demanding.

One of the highlights of the expedition came with an extra-early start, as the group headed to the local village hall to watch the England vs Mexico football match together. England's victory gave everyone an extra boost of energy and set the tone for another fantastic day in the fells.

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Expedition Success



Evenings were spent working together to cook meals, organise camp, and reflect on the day's achievements. These shared experiences helped build confidence, independence, and lasting friendships.

The route took us through some of the most beautiful countryside in the UK, with breathtaking mountain views, peaceful valleys, and spectacular scenery providing the perfect backdrop to an unforgettable expedition. Despite the challenges, the students showed incredible mental strength, embracing every obstacle with a positive attitude and determination to succeed.

We are incredibly proud of every participant for their commitment, resilience, and positive spirit. It was a memorable few days in the Lake District and a brilliant example of what can be achieved through perseverance, teamwork, and a sense of adventure. Well done to everyone involved.

Being One of Ours

STEM CHALLENGE



On 1st July, eleven Year 8 and 9 OLCBS students had the opportunity to take part in a STEM challenge day at the University of Cumbria. They worked in mixed teams with other schools to complete a robotics, medical diagnosis and E-fit image challenge. All our students worked extremely well and thoroughly enjoyed the activities. We are delighted that two of our students, Theo and Bree-Anna were part of the winning team and will progress to the regional finals in January.



INNOVATION AWARD

Three Year 9 pupils won the Innovation award at the BAE Challenge final on 26th June 2026 for their team 'Pandas Marvels', who designed a floating device to keep our local waterways clean from plastic rubbish. They received a tour of the facilities and a very nice lunch.

Congratulations to:
Amanda, Harry and Eva.



LANCASTER UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

KS3 AND KS4 MATHS CHALLENGE 2026

On Tuesday and Wednesday last week, pupils from Years 7 to 10 attended the annual mathematical competition at the Lancaster University School of Mathematics (LUSOM) held at their Preston campus. The challenges tested pupils' mathematical understanding with tasks involving both individual skill and teamwork. Competing against schools from the local area, pupils solved some difficult problems but unfortunately missed out on the top places this year.

All pupils had an excellent attitude, worked brilliantly as a team and supported each other using their individual strengths.

The pupils involved were:

Victor C (Year 7)
Delilah R (Year 7)
Lewis R-B (Year 8)
Kourtney F (Year 8)
Audrey U (Year 9)
Jaiden C (Year 9)
Aiden B (Year 10)
Tara M (Year 10)

YEAR 7 Lancaster Castle visit

On Monday the winners of the Year 7 castle competition were taken on a trip to Lancaster Castle for a tour of the castle as a reward for their hard work.



Being One of Ours

SUMMER Reading

Our Lady's Catholic High School has signed up for the First News 2026 Summer Reading Scheme. Thank you!

Our award-winning weekly newspaper is jam-packed with headlines, sport, entertainment, world news and our education resources provide news-based learning across KS2 and KS3.

The First News Summer Reading Scheme is a free initiative for all pupils of National Year of Reading schools. It provides all pupils at your school with free digital access to First News.

This includes:

- 📱 App and web access to the weekly First News newspaper and archive
- 📰 Daily news stories to read, listen to or watch
- 🎮 Weekly First News quiz, polls, puzzles and more

Information

The First News Summer Reading Scheme is a free initiative for all pupils of subscribing schools. It gives them full digital access to our award-winning children's newspaper, games and puzzles via the First News app throughout the summer holidays. The scheme helps children stay curious, informed and reading while school is out – supporting families and helping schools reduce summer reading loss with trusted, age-appropriate news and engaging activities.

**SIGN UP
NOW**



online guidance

As we approach the summer break, we would like to share some helpful information with our families about supporting children to manage their digital lives safely and positively. With more free time often leading to increased screen use, these resources offer practical advice and tips to help children develop healthy online habits. We have also included an activity pack for families to complete with their children over the holidays if they wish, providing an opportunity to talk, reflect, and explore digital wellbeing together.

Being One of Ours

Information

Local Schools Offer



Advance discounted rate of £40 for a
Family Pass 2 adults, 3 children
available online now at www.greatecclestonshow.co.uk

Or as a special offer to local school children
present this poster (digital/printed) at the pay booth
to receive the advance family pass rate of £40 on the day.



Click Here!

The Catholic Teaching Alliance
celebrated another outstanding
year of teacher training
CLASS OF 2026



READ MORE >>

Lancashire County Council

Children's Creative
Writing Workshop with
Author Nathan Parker

CREATIVE
WRITING



WHAT'S ON AT THE MET

18 JULY - 15 AUGUST

**Events & activities
for all the family.**

To book a ticket for an event, go to
www.visitpreston.com/The-Met

VisitPreston



In
Certain
Places



Being One of Ours

Information

USEFUL RESOURCES

**Staying Safe Online -
July 2026 Bulletin**



**Community Support
Information**



WE ARE HIRING

Our Lady's
Catholic High School

- **Learning Support**

APPLY NOW



2026 Diary Dates

Wednesday 15 July
Whole School Mass

Friday 17 July
End of term - School closes at 12.35

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



Being One of Ours

ROUNDERS

Year 7 and 8

On Tuesday, our Year 7 and Year 8 rounders teams hosted Corpus Christi in two closely contested fixtures.

Captained by Emily S, the **Year 7 team** were tied at 5½ rounders each at half-time after an evenly matched first innings. The team capitalised on several half-rounders in the second innings and backed this up with some tight fielding to edge a thrilling contest, winning 11½–11.

The **Year 8 team**, captained by Eden P, were narrowly behind at the halfway stage but produced an impressive second-half performance to turn the game around and secure a 9–7½ victory.

Congratulations to Scarlett O and Eden P, who were deservedly named Players of the Match for their outstanding performances.



Year 7

Preston Schools' Rounders League

Year 7 and Year 8 were back in action in the Preston Schools' Rounders League with an away fixture against Fulwood.

The **Year 7 team**, captained by Emily S, were involved in another thrilling contest. Trailing for much of the match, the team showed great determination and resilience right to the end. With just a few bowls remaining, Chikamso E scored a crucial half-rounder to earn the team a well-deserved draw. Player of the Match was Maja N, who stepped in to bowl despite never having taken on the role before. She rose to the challenge brilliantly and produced an excellent performance.

The **Year 8 team** enjoyed a dominant display from the very start. Led by Eden P, they batted consistently throughout the match and backed it up with some excellent disciplined fielding to secure an impressive 10.5–2.5 victory.

It was a fantastic all-round team performance and a deserved win.



ROUNDERS

Year 7

Preston Schools' Rounders League

On Thursday, the Year 7 Rounders team travelled to Broughton to compete in the Preston Schools' Rounders League. Having already played the team earlier in the tournament, the girls knew they were in for a competitive and exciting match.

Broughton proved to be very strong fielders. They communicated well as a team and trusted each other's catching ability, ensuring that almost every ball hit into the air was caught. OLCCHS battled hard but didn't field as effectively as they could have and missed several opportunities to get batters out. After the first innings, the score stood at Broughton 3.5 rounders, OLCCHS 3 rounders.

The second innings began with Broughton determined to get batters out. Their bowler used spin effectively, causing many of our shots to loop into the air. Broughton's fielders capitalised on this,

catching almost every aerial hit and resulting in six of our batters being out from their first hit.

The remaining three players worked hard to keep the innings going, showing resilience and scoring some valuable rounders.

Broughton then took advantage of their strong fielding performance and batted confidently to extend their lead. Despite the girls' determination and effort throughout the match, Broughton secured the win with a final score of 7 rounders to OLCCHS's 5.

Well done to all the girls for their hard work and teamwork. Although the result didn't go our way, there were plenty of positives to take from the performance, and the team will look to build on these in their next fixture.

Year 9 and 10

Huge congratulations to our Year 9 and Year 10 rounders teams on their fantastic victories over Fulwood.

Our **Year 9 team** secured an impressive 4.5–2.5 win, while our **Year 10 team** were equally outstanding, winning 8–3.

Although Fulwood did not have a Year 10 team, they were happy to play against both our Year 9 and Year 10 teams, making for a great afternoon of competitive rounders.

The standard of play was fantastic from both teams, with some particularly impressive batting from OLCCHS. The girls were incredibly supportive of one another throughout the matches, cheering for both teams whenever a rounder was scored.

Mrs Lin said it was a joy to watch and umpire the games.

Well done to both schools for demonstrating excellent sportsmanship and making it such an enjoyable afternoon of rounders.

Sporting News

**In next
weeks
newsletter..**



***SPORTING* HEROES**

Read all about our end of year Sports Presentation Evening, plus our recent Sports Day.

Being One of Ours

CAREERS **YEAR 9** **ASSEMBLY**

Apprenticeships

On Wednesday, we were delighted to welcome back to Our Lady's, former students, Alex and Charlie, to share their career journeys since leaving OLCHS, and to inspire our Year 9 students to consider apprenticeships as a pathway after they leave high school.

Charlie spoke positively about his time at OLCHS, particularly his enjoyment of Sociology. After leaving school, he enrolled at college because he felt it was the expected next step. However, he soon realised that college was not the right path for him and decided to pursue an apprenticeship instead.

Charlie explained how he used the Government apprenticeship website to apply for a range of opportunities. He shared an important message with our students: **perseverance is key**. Before securing his apprenticeship, Charlie was turned down by at least ten companies. Rather than giving up, he continued applying until he found the right opportunity.

For Charlie, an apprenticeship offered the perfect balance of learning while earning. After successfully completing his apprenticeship, he is now working at Cameron Jones Estate Agents, where he enjoys meeting new people and helping clients through the exciting journey of buying a home. His story demonstrated that setbacks can often lead to the right opportunity if you remain determined.

Later that morning, we also heard from former OLCHS student, Alex, who spoke openly and honestly about his own journey after leaving school.

Alex shared that he found school challenging at times and wasn't sure what career he wanted to pursue. However, he knew that college was not the right option for him. Instead, he focused on applying for apprenticeships and was delighted to secure an electrical apprenticeship with John Turner.

Alex spoke enthusiastically about his career, explaining that he enjoys the variety his job offers. From travelling across the country to diagnosing and solving electrical issues, Alex said no two days are the same. His passion for his work was clear to see and demonstrated the many opportunities that apprenticeships can offer.

Alex encouraged our Year 9 students to begin **researching apprenticeship opportunities early** and reminded them not to be discouraged if they are unsuccessful with their first application. His message of resilience and determination reinforced the importance of perseverance when working towards career goals.

Together, Alex and Charlie delivered an inspiring assembly, demonstrating that there is no single route to success. Their honest accounts highlighted the value of apprenticeships and showed our students that there are many different pathways into rewarding careers.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to both Alex and Charlie for giving up their time to return to OLCHS and sharing their experiences. Their advice, honesty and encouragement provided our Year 9 students with valuable insight and inspiration as they begin thinking about their own futures.



CAREER JOURNEYS YEAR 10

A huge thank you to past pupil Natasha Connor for returning to OLCCHS to share her inspiring career journey with our Year 10 pupils.

Natasha reflected on her time at Our Lady's, explaining how much she enjoyed History with Mrs Finnerty and how Mr Reed encouraged her love of singing. She was an active member of the school choir, took part in school productions, and developed a passion for performing that has stayed with her ever since.

Like many young people, Natasha wasn't certain of her career path when she left school. She initially thought she wanted to become a nursery nurse or a nurse and went on to experience a variety of different jobs. Through each role, she discovered more about herself and realised that her true passion was singing. Today, Natasha works for the NHS during the day while also performing with a band, playing gigs across Preston.

Natasha encouraged our Year 10 pupils to see value in every opportunity, explaining that each job taught her something new and helped her develop valuable skills. She reminded students that no experience is ever wasted and that every step contributed to her finding a career that brings her happiness. Natasha also spoke honestly about not always finding school easy, but reflected on how her experiences at OLCCHS helped shape the person she is today. Her message to Year 10 was simple but powerful: "Don't settle for something that's just okay. Life is short—find something you love."

Natasha, thank you so much for taking the time to return to OLCCHS and share your story. Your honesty, encouragement, and inspiring journey will undoubtedly stay with our pupils as they begin thinking about their own futures.



AWARDS CEREMONY



Congratulations to two former OLCCHS pupils for being recognised at the recent Preston Vocational Centre Awards Ceremony 2026.

2026 AWARD WINNERS

Student of the Year
Holly J

Outstanding Achievement in Painting and Decorating
Kieron Allen