

Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 38
17th July 2026

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



A Message from Our Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As another wonderful academic year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank every member of our school community for the part they have played in making this such a successful and fulfilling year.

Firstly, I offer my heartfelt thanks to you, our parents and carers, for the trust, encouragement and support you continue to show our school. The partnership between home and school is one of our greatest strengths, and together we enable our young people to flourish academically, spiritually and personally.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to our exceptional staff. Every day they go above and beyond in the service of our pupils, giving generously of their time, expertise and care. Their commitment to ensuring every child is known, valued and loved is what makes Our Lady's such a special place. My thanks also go to our governors for their dedication, wisdom and steadfast commitment to the long-term success of our school. Their decisions are always guided by what is best for the young people and families we are privileged to serve.

This year has once again been filled with countless moments that have made us proud. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, through music, drama and the arts, in our chaplaincy, through charitable service or in the many enrichment opportunities available beyond the school day, our pupils have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, resilience and generosity.

Our school virtues continue to shape everything we do. It is inspiring to see our pupils striving each day to become more grateful and generous, attentive and discerning, compassionate and loving, faith-filled and hopeful, eloquent and truthful, learned and wise, curious and active, intentional and prophetic. These are not simply words displayed around our school; they are qualities we see lived out in the everyday actions of our young people.

There have been many highlights throughout the year. Our girls' football team once again made history by successfully defending their National Championship and earning the honour of representing England at the British Isles Tournament. Across every year group we have celebrated remarkable academic achievement, outstanding attendance, tremendous success in sport, music and the performing arts, and the incredible commitment shown by pupils through trips, retreats, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, rewards visits, residential experiences and so many clubs and activities that enrich life at Our Lady's.

Being One of Ours

One of the greatest moments of our year came as we gathered together for our Whole School Mass. Celebrating the Eucharist as one community reminds us of our shared mission and identity as a Catholic school. It was a beautiful celebration of faith, hope and thanksgiving, bringing together pupils, staff, governors, clergy and guests in prayer and fellowship.

We also celebrated our wonderful Year 11 pupils as they completed their journey with us. Their Leavers' Mass and Prefects' Ball provided fitting opportunities to give thanks for all they have contributed to our school community. They leave us with our prayers, our admiration and every good wish for the next chapter of their lives. We look forward to welcoming them back in August to celebrate their GCSE results.

This time of year also brings change within our staff family. We say farewell to colleagues who begin new adventures or retire after faithful service. We thank each one for the difference they have made to the lives of our pupils and assure them of our prayers as they embark upon the next stage of their journey.

As we look ahead, staff return to school on Tuesday 1st September. Wednesday 2nd September will once again be our Progress Day, providing valuable one-to-one meetings between pupils and their form tutors. Our new Year 7 pupils will begin their exciting journey with us on Thursday 3rd September, before we welcome the whole school community back on Friday 4th September for what promises to be another exciting year.

As we prepare for the summer holidays, I encourage every family to enjoy this precious time together. In the busyness of modern life, summer offers the opportunity to slow down, to rest, to laugh together, to explore, to pray and to create memories that will remain long after the holidays have ended.

Pope Leo XIV has reminded us that hope is something we are called to share with one another. In his first message to the Church, he said:

"Peace be with you all. This is the peace of the Risen Christ – a peace that is disarmed and disarming, humble and persevering."

May that peace fill your homes throughout the summer months. May these weeks bring you rest after the year's hard work, joy in the company of family and friends, and renewed hope for all that lies ahead.

Thank you once again for your continued support throughout this academic year. It is a privilege to serve this wonderful community, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in September as we continue our mission of Love, Learn, Grow together.

With every blessing,

Mr R Charnock
Headteacher

BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Anam Akram - discerning and wise

Year 8: Scott Wells-Walmsley - intentional and loving

Year 9: Jonah Hurtault - attentive and discerning

Year 10: Ruby McDonald, Lacey Egan - eloquent and truthful





OUR LADY'S
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Whole School Mass
15 July 2026



Being One of Ours



Whole School Mass

One of the greatest moments of our year came as we gathered together on Wednesday 15 July for our Whole School Mass. Celebrating the Eucharist as one community reminds us of our shared mission and identity as a Catholic school. It was a beautiful celebration of faith, hope and thanksgiving, bringing together pupils, staff, governors, clergy and guests in prayer and fellowship.

Fr Andrew of St Anthony's Parish spoke wonderfully to our pupils and school community, providing words of wisdom, hope, reflection, calmness and promise as we end the school year and look forward to the summer break.



Fiction Addiction CELEBRATION!

Our Year 7 Fiction Addiction Club celebrated the end of a fantastic year with a wonderful Mad Hatter's Tea Party! Throughout the year, pupils have spent their Tuesday lunchtimes enjoying books, getting creative with crafts, and having lots of fun with Mrs Birkby and Miss Slade.

The club has been a great opportunity to share a love of reading, make new friends, and enjoy plenty of imaginative activities together. It has been a year filled with laughter, creativity, and, of course, lots of fantastic stories.

Mrs Birkby and Miss Slade have thoroughly enjoyed running the Fiction Addiction Club this year and look forward to welcoming a new group of Year 7 pupils to the club from September.



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Inviting local businesses,
organisations and
individuals to partner with
our award winning girls
football team



OLCHS to represent England at a Prestigious International Football Tournament

sponsor
the team

MORE
INFO



To help support the girls team with travel costs of attending, OLCHS Class 7A have also raised £112, with more donations still coming in.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated, baked, and helped make the fundraising such a success. Your generosity and support is greatly appreciated.

“ Good luck to the girls from everyone in 7A – we're all cheering you on! ”

Being One of Ours

RE

Year 8 RE Visit to the local Mosque

As part of their Religious Education studies, our Year 8 pupils recently enjoyed a visit to a local mosque to deepen their understanding of Islam.

During the visit, pupils explored the wudu area, where they learned about the importance of ritual washing before prayer, before visiting the main prayer hall. Here, the imam explained key features of the mosque, the significance of prayer in Islam and answered pupils' thoughtful questions, bringing their classroom learning to life.

The visit was both informative and engaging, giving pupils a valuable opportunity to experience a place of worship first-hand while developing greater respect and understanding of another faith. Throughout the day, our pupils were a credit to the school, demonstrating excellent behaviour, curiosity and respect.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the imam for his warm welcome, generosity and the time he gave to make the visit such an enjoyable and memorable learning experience for our pupils.



Animal Care Team

Mrs Ardern would like to thank our animal carers for all their work in looking after the animals this year, for all the sweeping, tidying, care and organisation.

As a special treat, pupils were treated to Domino's Pizza for lunch, and when asked about their highlights from the year, they said that the new summer house being built and gaining two new guinea pigs were amongst some of them.

As Sarah our school chaplain leaves to move on to a new job, we would like to say thank you for her endless support with the group and for looking after animals frequently at the weekends.



CELEBRATE DIVERSITY



Diversity Fortnight 2025

Celebrating Inclusion Through Learning

Over the past two weeks, our school community has embraced Diversity Fortnight, taking part in a wide range of enriching experiences that celebrated different cultures, faiths and life experiences. This builds on the work we do every day through our Inclusion Calendar, which promotes equality, celebrates diversity and fosters a strong sense of belonging for every member of our school community. Through lessons, workshops, educational visits and guest speakers, pupils have developed empathy, broadened their understanding of the world around them and reflected on the importance of inclusion in our everyday lives.

We were also delighted to welcome the Mayor of Preston, who visited to see the wonderful work taking place across the school. During the visit, the Mayor spoke with pupils about the activities they had been involved in and was particularly impressed by their confidence and maturity when discussing the importance of belonging. Pupils spoke thoughtfully about what inclusion means to them, how the fortnight had helped them develop empathy, and why everyone deserves to feel welcomed, valued and respected. The visit recognised the fantastic work taking place across the school and celebrated our pupils' commitment to creating an inclusive community.

Stepping Stones Workshop

Our Stepping Stones workshop encouraged pupils to step into the shoes of others and consider how life circumstances can shape opportunities. Through an interactive activity, students explored different character profiles and responded to real-life scenarios by stepping forward when situations applied to them.

This powerful experience helped pupils understand how poverty and socio-economic factors can affect people's lives, opportunities and wellbeing. They reflected thoughtfully on the links between financial hardship, homelessness, mental health and decision-making, developing empathy and critical thinking as they discussed complex social issues.

The workshop generated mature conversations and respectful debate, with pupils demonstrating excellent engagement throughout. It was a valuable opportunity for students to reflect on inequality and the importance of supporting those facing challenges.

Traditional Dance and Block Printing

Pupils immersed themselves in a Traditional Indian Block Printing session and a traditional dance workshop. The dance workshop encouraged confidence and appreciation of cultural traditions through movement and music, while the block printing activity allowed pupils to explore a traditional art form, designing and creating their own colourful prints inspired by authentic Indian patterns and motifs.



Exploring Hinduism at the Temple

Year 9 pupils enjoyed an educational visit to a Hindu temple (Mandir), where they experienced another faith first-hand.

The visit provided an excellent opportunity to explore Hindu beliefs, worship and traditions while appreciating the beauty of the temple's artwork, statues and colourful symbolism. Pupils showed great respect throughout the visit and made thoughtful comparisons between Hinduism and their own Catholic faith.

Many commented on how much they enjoyed the experience, describing the temple as "very colourful" and saying they had "learned lots of new things today." The visit strengthened pupils' understanding of religious diversity and promoted respect for different beliefs within modern Britain.



Learning Across the Curriculum

Diversity Fortnight extended beyond enrichment activities and was embedded across the curriculum.

In English, pupils explored texts and themes linked to identity, belonging and migration. In Modern Foreign Languages, students celebrated different cultures and global citizenship. At Key Stage 4, Art students studied Outsider Art, exploring how artists from diverse backgrounds express identity, emotion and lived experience through creativity.

These cross-curricular opportunities reinforced the message that diversity, inclusion and belonging are an integral part of learning across all subjects.

Escape to Safety Exhibition

Pupils visited the Global Link "Escape to Safety" Exhibition, where they followed the journeys of three refugees forced to flee their homes.

The exhibition encouraged pupils to consider the difficult decisions refugees face and helped them develop empathy for people seeking safety. Students reflected on themes of conflict, displacement, resilience and hope, gaining a deeper understanding of the realities faced by refugees and asylum seekers.



Listening to Lived Experiences

One of the most powerful experiences of the fortnight was hearing from Yalas and Mohammad, who shared their personal journeys of becoming refugees and seeking asylum in the UK.

Their stories brought learning to life, helping pupils understand the human experiences behind the headlines. Students listened respectfully, asked thoughtful questions and reflected on the courage, resilience and hope shown by those forced to leave their homes in search of safety.

Throughout the fortnight, pupils also took part in assemblies exploring migration and the positive contribution migrants make to our communities, culture and economy. These assemblies challenged misconceptions while encouraging pupils to appreciate the richness that diversity brings to society and the importance of welcoming those who seek a new beginning.

Celebrating Diversity Every Day

Diversity Fortnight is one of many events within our annual Inclusion Calendar. Throughout the year, pupils take part in experiences that celebrate different cultures, faiths, identities and perspectives, helping to create a school where everyone feels welcomed, valued and respected.

By embedding inclusion into everyday school life, not just during special events, we continue to build a culture of empathy.

YEAR 11 PREFECTS' BALL

Year 11 pupils and staff joined together to celebrate and mark the leaving of the year group with the school's annual Prefects' Ball.

As always, the year group made an unforgettable entrance witnessed by family, friends and staff. Below are a range of photos showing the red carpet entrance. The evening was a roaring success.

Have a wonderful summer Year 11 and best wishes for your upcoming GCSE results in August.



WATER SAFETY



OLCHS pupils have received an important water safety talk in school this week, providing students with the knowledge and confidence to stay safe in, on and around water.



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.

Information



GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ | **OFFICIAL ATTEMPT**

The Big Socker Challenge

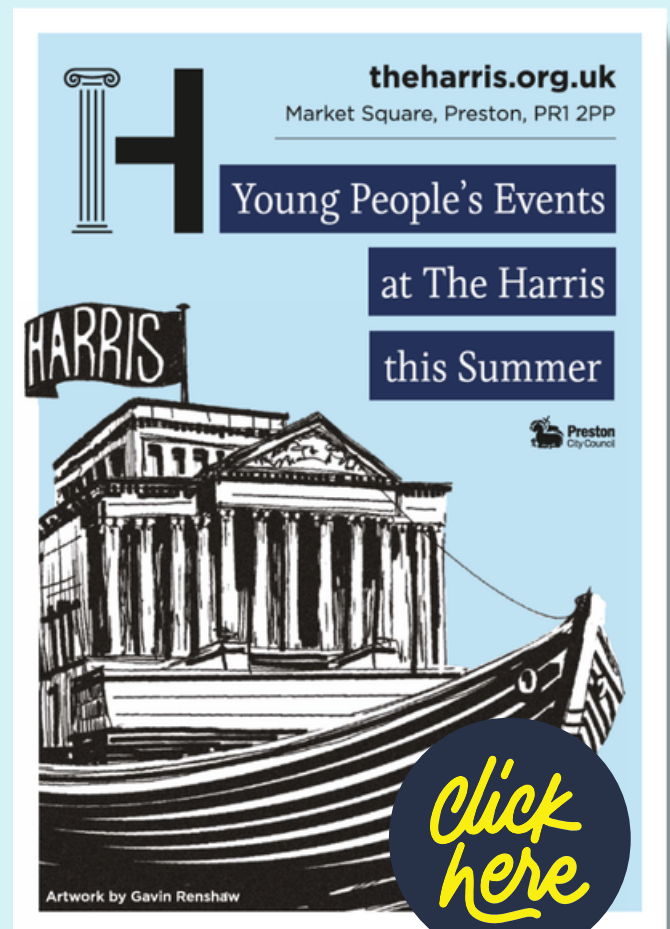
Most pairs of socks kicked into a washing machine in one hour (team)

Chorley FC | **Currys**

	Sunday 19th July
	Chorley FC, The Grant Store Stadium
	Gates open at 12pm
	Kick off 2pm

FREE ENTRY!

First 500 spectators will receive a **FREE** ticket for a Chorley FC pre season friendly!



theharris.org.uk
Market Square, Preston, PR1 2PP

Young People's Events at The Harris this Summer

HARRIS

Artwork by Gavin Renshaw

Click here



REGISTRATION DAY

PLAY RUGBY

SUN 30 AUGUST & SUN 6 SEPTEMBER
U6-U11 9am U12-COLTS 10:30am
ALL WELCOME! WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU AT:
Hudson Park, Off High St, Garstang, Preston, PR3 1EB

For individual teams pre season training contact Helen Williams 07546844077 for more info

Garstang RUFC Juniors
 Garstangrugby



**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

Preston City Council

In Certain Places

Being One of Ours

USEFUL RESOURCES

Staying Safe Online - July 2026 Bulletin

Community Support Information



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

A Parent Guide for
Lancashire Families

EVERY CHILD DESERVES TO FEEL SAFE

If you are worried about a child, trust your instincts and seek help.
Early support can make a big difference to a child's life.
Lancashire offers a range of services to help children,
young people and families when problems first emerge.



KNOW THE SIGNS

A child may need support if you notice:

- ◆ Sudden changes in behaviour
- ◆ Bullying or friendship difficulties
- ◆ Unexplained injuries
- ◆ Fearfulness or anxiety
- ◆ Poor attendance at school
- ◆ Neglect of basic needs
- ◆ Worrying online activity or contact



If something doesn't feel right, talk to someone.



IF YOUR CHILD TALKS TO YOU

DO:

- ✓ Stay calm
- ✓ Listen carefully
- ✓ Reassure them
- ✓ Take what they say seriously
- ✓ Seek professional advice if needed

DON'T:

- ✗ Promise to keep secrets
- ✗ Interrupt or ask leading questions
- ✗ Dismiss their concerns



Children need to know they will be listened to and protected.



GET HELP EARLY

Early Help Services Can Support With:

- ◆ Parenting support
- ◆ Emotional wellbeing
- ◆ Speech, language and communication
- ◆ Family challenges and practical advice
- ◆ School-related concerns

Early Help supports children and families as soon as problems emerge, helping prevent issues from becoming more serious.



ONLINE SAFETY MATTERS

Talk regularly with your child about:

- ◆ Social media
- ◆ Gaming
- ◆ Privacy settings
- ◆ AI-generated images and online risks
- ◆ How to report online concerns



Encourage children to speak to a trusted adult if anything online worries them.



WHO TO CONTACT



Lancashire Children's Services 0300 123 6720



Emergency Duty Team (Out of Hours) 0300 123 6722



NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000



Emergency Call 999 immediately if a child is at immediate risk of harm



999



USEFUL SUPPORT

Lancashire Safeguarding Partnership
www.lancshiresafeguardingpartnership.org.uk
NSPCC Parent Support
www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families



Support, advice and guidance are available for all families.

Working Together to Keep Children Safe

..... If in doubt, speak out.
Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. ♥



2026 Diary Dates

Friday 17 July

End of term - School closes at 12.35

Thursday 3 September

Year 7 First Day

Friday 4 September

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





SPORTING HEROES

A Wonderful Celebration of Sporting Success

It has been a joyous end to another memorable sporting year at Our Lady's, with both Sports Day and our Sports Presentation Evening providing the perfect opportunity to celebrate the incredible talent, determination and team spirit shown by our pupils.

Our annual Sports Day was a tremendous success, with the whole school embracing the excitement of healthy competition. From the traditional track events to the fiercely contested inter-form games, pupils gave their all throughout the day. Several school records were broken, making it an unforgettable occasion, and it was wonderful to see medal winners wearing their achievements with pride while cheering on their classmates. After a day of outstanding performances, Form D emerged as the overall champions and were rewarded with a well-earned early break on the following Monday morning.

The celebrations continued with our annual Sports Presentation Evening, held in the prestigious Invincibles Lounge at Preston North End. The venue provided a fitting setting as we recognised the commitment, dedication and sporting achievements of our students across the year. Individual and team awards celebrated not only success in competition but also the hard work, resilience and sportsmanship that define sport at Our Lady's.

One of the evening's most special moments was the presentation of the Tim McVey Award. Mr McVey retired in 2016 after 33 years of outstanding service to the PE department at Our Lady's, and this award honours two pupils who embody the qualities he championed throughout his career. It recognises students whose commitment, attitude and leadership have inspired others and made them exceptional

role models within our school community.

This year's thoroughly deserving recipients were Lena S and George D, whose dedication to school sport has been exemplary throughout their time at Our Lady's. Once the awards had been presented, it was time for the celebrations to continue. Students filled the dancefloor, enjoying an evening with friends before everyone came together for a fitting finale—a rousing rendition of Wonderwall by Oasis.

The PE Department would like to thank every student who has represented the school with such passion, commitment and enthusiasm throughout the year. We are equally grateful to our parents and carers for their continued encouragement and support, which plays such an important role in our sporting success.

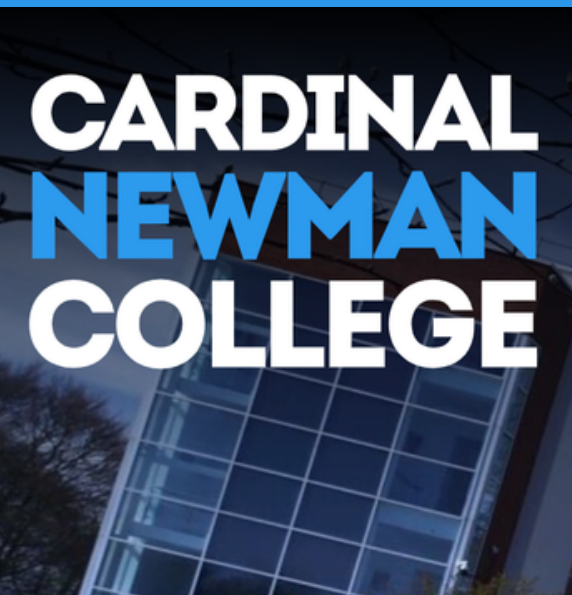
Congratulations to everyone involved in another outstanding year of sport at Our Lady's.



more photos ➔



Being One of Ours



CARDINAL NEWMAN COLLEGE

OPEN EVENTS

Saturday 10th October 2026

Saturday 14th November 2026

Saturday 6th February 2027

[click here](#)



R U N S H A W
C O L L E G E

OPEN EVENTS

Next School Leaver Open Event:

Saturday 26th September 2026, 10am-2pm.

[click here](#)