

Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 1
4th September 2026



Welcome Message from Our Headteacher

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It gives me great joy to welcome you to the first newsletter of a new school year at Our Lady's.

There is always something very special about the beginning of September: welcoming back familiar faces, greeting new colleagues and, most importantly, seeing our new Year 7 pupils begin their journey with us. I have been delighted by the way they have settled into school life and by the warmth with which our older pupils have welcomed them into our community.

Belonging is an important word for us at Our Lady's. We want every young person who walks through our doors to know that they belong here: that they are known, valued and cared for; that their God-given gifts matter; and that they are an important part of our school family.

This sense of belonging lies at the heart of our mission as a Catholic school **To Love, Learn and Grow**. We love because each person is made in the image and likeness of God. We learn because education opens our minds to truth, possibility and the world around us. And we grow—not simply in knowledge and qualifications, but in faith, character, confidence and our capacity to serve others.

Pope Leo XIV recently described education as **“a labour of love”**. Those simple words capture something very important about Catholic education. Our work is about far more than examination results, important though they are. It is about accompanying young people as they discover who they are, the gifts God has given them and the person they are called to become.

I would like to thank our parents and carers for the vital part you play in that mission. Thank you for ensuring that our pupils have returned smartly presented, well-equipped and ready to learn, and for continuing to reinforce the high expectations we have for them. The partnership between home and school remains fundamental to everything we seek to achieve.

Being One of Ours

This September, we are delighted to welcome new colleagues to the Our Lady's family.

Joining our teaching staff are:

Miss Hayes – Teacher of History

Miss Knowles – Teacher of English

We also extend a very warm welcome to our new support staff:

Mr Phil Johnson – Chaplain

Mrs Coakley – English Intervention

Mrs Marsh – Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Miss Glackowska – Cover Supervisor

Mr Fairclough – Cover Supervisor

Mr Bilsborrow – Science Technician

Mr Rawstrone – Apprentice Learning Support Assistant

Miss Cooper – Apprentice Learning Support Assistant

Each brings different gifts and talents to our community, and I know that our pupils and families will join me in making them feel very much at home at Our Lady's.

As we begin this new academic year together, I invite you to join me in placing our whole school community into God's loving care:

Loving God,

We thank You for the gift of our school community.

*Help us to make Our Lady's a place where everyone belongs,
where each person is known, valued and loved.*

*Give us generous hearts so that we may love,
curious minds so that we may learn,
and the courage and wisdom to grow
into the people You call us to be.*

Bless our pupils, our staff and our families.

Guide us in all that we do

and help us to walk together in faith, hope and love.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

I look forward with great hope and excitement to all that this year will bring. May it be a year in which every member of our community knows that they belong, strives to be the very best they can be and, together, we continue our mission **To Love, Learn and Grow**.

Mr R Charnock

Headteacher

2026

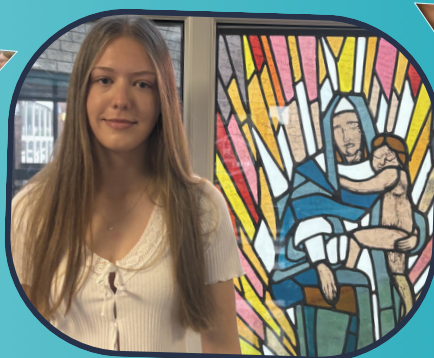
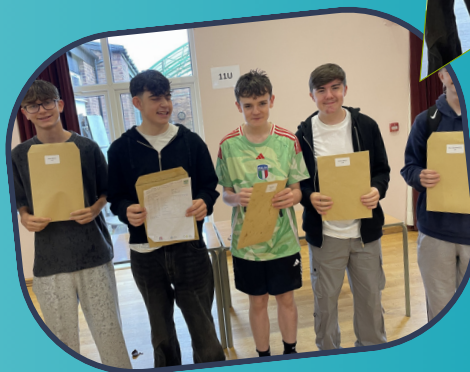
GCSE Results

Fantastic Results !

The Class of 2026 achieved an impressive set of GCSE results with some of the best outcomes on record.

The percentage of pupils achieving **five standard passes** including Mathematics and English rose again from strong results last year. The percentage of pupils achieving **five strong passes** including Mathematics and English **increased by over 10%** from a strong result last year, which is incredible.

We are very proud of our pupils and the hard work and effort that they put in throughout their five years at our school. We wish them every success as they move to the next stage of their journey and we look forward to seeing them at their Certificate Evening in November.





OUR LADY'S CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL

WELCOME YEAR 7

LOVE | LEARN | GROW BEING ONE OF OURS

This week, it was wonderful to welcome our new Year 7 pupils for their first day at Our Lady's Catholic High School.

Pupils enjoyed a number of classes and received a warm welcome from Mr Charnock during the Year 7 Welcome Assembly.



'Around the World'



28 Year 6 pupils took part in this year's week-long OLCHS Summer School, with the exciting theme of 'Around the World'. Throughout the week, pupils enjoyed a fantastic variety of activities designed to introduce them to different cultures, countries and traditions.

Pupils took part in food tasting, arts and crafts, English and language activities, all linked to different countries from around the world. They embraced every activity with enthusiasm and demonstrated just how hardworking, curious and willing to learn they are.

Summer School was not only about learning and having fun; it was also a wonderful opportunity for pupils to build new friendships, grow in confidence and become more comfortable in their new surroundings, helping to ensure a smooth transition to Our Lady's and becoming truly **One of Ours**.

Our pupils were amazing throughout the week. They worked incredibly hard, listened carefully and began to demonstrate many of the OLCHS Virtues that are so important to our school community. Each day, pupils gathered together in the chapel for a time of prayer and reflection, providing an opportunity to pause, think about their experiences and give thanks for the day.

One of the highlights of the week was a trip to Blackpool Zoo, where pupils explored the world of animals and discovered fascinating creatures from different parts of the globe. They worked together to identify and record key information, putting their listening and learning skills into practice outside of the classroom.

On the final day, pupils gathered together for one last breakfast and lunch before taking part in an exciting drama lesson. The week concluded with a special celebration, as parents and carers were invited to join us for the pupils' presentation and their very own 'Around the World' expedition.

It was a fantastic way to finish an incredible week. Our pupils should be extremely proud of everything they achieved. They showed enthusiasm, kindness, resilience and a real willingness to learn, and we are delighted to welcome them into the Our Lady's family.

Being One of Ours

Information



OUR LADY'S
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

OPEN EVENING

Join us for our Open Evening
Thursday 1st October
6 pm - 8.30 pm

Being One of Ours



ATTEND TODAY
ACHIEVE TOMORROW!

Our 3 Week Attendance Drive

STARTS 7TH SEPTEMBER
ENDS FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER

TURN UP. BE HERE. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
Every day in school counts for your future.

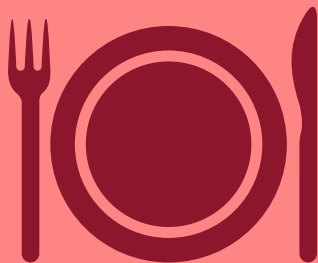
IN SCHOOL EVERY DAY? PIZZA Fridays!
YOU'RE ELIGIBLE FOR... **EARLY BREAK**

BETTER LEARNING **STRONGER FRIENDSHIPS** **MORE OPPORTUNITIES** **BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE!**

BE HERE. BELONG. SUCCEED.
Your future starts with showing up!

Thank you for supporting your child's attendance.
Together, we can achieve great things.

IMPORTANT



Changes to Free School Meal
(FSM) eligibility from
September 2026.

[CLICK HERE](#)



GARSTANG RUGBY CLUB

TRY GIRLS RUGBY!

AGES 6-18 YEARS

BECOME PART OF THE NORTH WEST ROSES
CONNECTING WITH 120+ GIRLS AGED 11-18 ACROSS THE REGION!
AGE 6-11 MIXED TEAMS @ GARSTANG

CONTACT KATY MAINE
07584 073747 FOR MORE INFORMATION

FREE TRIAL!

USEFUL RESOURCES

Staying Safe Online - September 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

Monday 21 September
Year 7 Pupil Photos in School

Friday 25 September
Year 7 Mass of Welcome

Thursday 1 October
Open Evening

Thursday 22 October
Year 11 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



CARDINAL NEWMAN COLLEGE

OPEN EVENTS

Saturday 10th October 2026
Saturday 14th November 2026
Saturday 6th February 2027

[click here](#)

RUNSHAW
COLLEGE

OPEN EVENTS

Next School Leaver Open Event:
Saturday 26th September 2026,
10am-2pm.

[click here](#)



[CLICK HERE](#)

