Our Lady's Catholic High School



Newsletter No. 7
23rd October 2026



Reflection and Prayer

As half-term approaches, it is wonderful to be able to reflect on the last eight weeks at Our Lady's. Our new Year 7's have been to their Castlerigg retreats in Keswick and today they will celebrate their Welcome Mass with Fr. Andrew Dawson (St. Anthony of Padua). Our wider school community: including Primary Schools and our Year 7 parents will also be with us to celebrate. A full report will be in our next newsletter.

Year 7's have gained confidence and purpose each and every day and they have taken our school virtues to heart, helping and supporting one another throughout the half-term.

Across the school today we are also celebrating achievements in every year group. Students have achieved great success in all subject areas and in many various extracurricular activities. This week Mr Pill and many of our performing arts students across various year groups, entertained residents at Banksfield Nursing Home. With a harvest festival theme, they performed a drama and delighted staff and residents with singing and dancing. Our gardening students have planted spring bulbs this week and considered how what we do now affects the future. Our prayer for this week allows us to pray with this idea in mind.

Dear Father God, Thank you for this past half term, and for all the Joy we have shared together.
As we look forward, may we nurture all that we have invested in, and all that we have learned together to realise a bright and fruitful future.
Lord, we pray for your blessings upon our community,
both now and in the future,
Amen

BOOO Virtues

Congratulations go to:

Year 7: Logan Irwin - grateful and generous

Year 8: Eve Archer - curious and active

Year 9: Heidi Carter-Darwen - generous and prophetic

Year 10: Brody Carr - attentive and discerning

Year 11: Emilia Eastham, Zuzanna Rapa - grateful and generous



B:M2026

DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER

Celebrating Black History Month: Honouring the Past, Inspiring the Future

Throughout Black History Month, our school community has been taking part in a range of activities to celebrate Black history, culture and achievements. From inspiring assemblies to creative classroom projects, students have explored important stories, challenged misconceptions and reflected on the contributions Black people have made to British society.



Photo www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk

Honouring Black Britain – Form Time

During Form, students have listened to audio stories of inspirational individuals who have made a difference to British life.

Through audio stories, students have learned about influential figures such as Professor Sir Patrick Vernon, recognised for his work celebrating the Windrush Generation. Students have also discovered lesser-known individuals whose dedication to their communities has made a lasting impact, highlighting that you do not need to be famous to make a difference.

French – Celebrating African Culture

In French, students in 7D have been learning about Léopold Sédar Senghor, the celebrated poet and first President of Senegal. Inspired by his work, students produced their own colourful poems, combining creativity and language learning with an appreciation of African culture and history.

Drama – Exploring the Windrush Generation

Year 9 Drama students have been exploring the experiences of the Windrush Generation through the story of Gilbert and Hortense Joseph. They devised performances imagining the challenges faced by Caribbean migrants arriving in Britain, particularly Black women seeking employment in London.

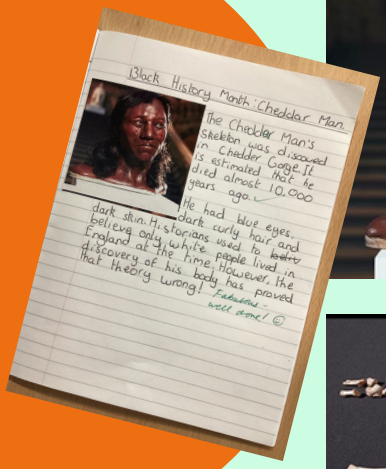
Students also recreated historical photographs of passengers aboard the Empire Windrush, bringing these important stories to life through drama and creativity.

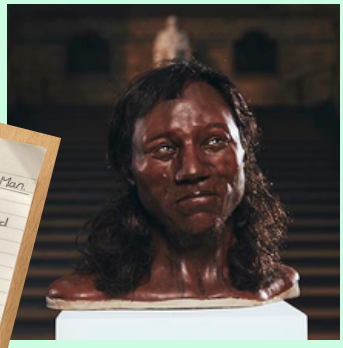


News

History – Discovering Cheddar Man

History students have been exploring the fascinating story of Cheddar Man, whose 10,000-year-old skeleton was discovered in Somerset. DNA analysis suggests he had dark skin, blue eyes and dark hair, challenging assumptions about Britain's earliest inhabitants. Students produced informative work reflecting on this discovery and Britain's diverse history.





The model of Cheddar Man rendered by Kennis & Kennis Reconstructions features in the Channel 4 television documentary The First Brit: Secrets of the 10,000 Year Old Man © Tom Barnes/Channel 4



Special Assembly – Preston's Black History

We were delighted to welcome Mr Clinton Smith and Mr Silius Toussaint from the Preston Black History Group, who delivered an inspiring assembly to Year 9, 10 and 11.

They shared stories about the experiences of Black people who settled in Preston, their work raising awareness of local Black history and the Windrush Generation. Mr Toussaint also shared his first-hand experiences of life in the area, reminding students that Black history is an important part of our own local heritage.

Black History Month Competition

Students have also been invited to enter our Black History Month Competition, celebrating a Black individual who has made a positive difference to their community or British life.

Entries can be a poster, artwork, poem or short written piece explaining who the person is, what they have achieved and why they are inspiring.

The deadline is **6th November**, with entries to be handed to form tutors.

We hope the conversations, discoveries and inspiration from this month will continue throughout the school year.

LEYLAND TRUCKS
A PACCAR COMPANY

Over the past two weeks, twenty Year 11 Design and Technology pupils have visited the Leyland Trucks factory to view the assembly line to understand the industrial processes used to make the trucks and to learn about career opportunities. This was both enjoyable and valuable for their GCSE coursework and exam preparation.



OUR LADY'S
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Year 7 Admissions for September 2027

Closing Date 31 October 2026

To apply for a place at Our Lady's Catholic High School for admission in September 2027 parents must apply via Lancashire's online application system. The closing date for applications is 31 October 2026.

ADMISSIONS 2028-2029

Changes have been made to the Admissions Policy for 2028-2029. There will be a 6 week consultation period and the policy will be available to view until Friday 11 December by clicking on the link below.

CLICK HERE

Inspire others
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CATHOLIC TEACHING ALLIANCE

CTAPGCE@olchs.lancs.sch.uk
01772 326931 cta_north

Information

USEFUL RESOURCES

Staying Safe Online - October 2026 Bulletin

Community Support Information



ANIMAL CARE

Mrs Ardern is looking for a parent / carer who may be a vet or a veterinary nurse, to possibly offer a one-off short session for our animal carer group.

If you can help, please email Mrs Ardern at **JAR@olchs.lancs.sch.uk**

2026 Diary Dates

Friday 23 October
Year 7 Mass of Welcome

Friday 23 October
Half-Term - School Closes at 3pm

Monday 2 November
All Pupils Return to School

Thursday 26 November
DofE Presentation Night

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

FOOTBALL
LANCASHIRE CUP

On Monday the U14 girls football team travelled to Colne to play against Fisher More RC High School in the Lancashire Cup. The OLCHS girls dominated from the first whistle and scored within 10 minutes. The goals then began to flow with two goals from Izzy W, Charlotte B, Rio A, Bella F and Ruby C. Final score 10-1 to Our Lady's.

We are very proud of you ladies, well done.

The girls play Stonyhurst in the next round of the cup.





FOOTBALL
LANCASHIRE CUP

The Year 7 boys football team played their first competitive fixtures of the year on Wednesday evening, taking part in the opening round of the Lancashire Cup at Corpus Christi.

Our Lady's made the perfect start against the hosts, taking control of the game from the opening whistle. The team were relentless in attack and produced an excellent all-round performance to secure a convincing 6–0 victory.

Confidence was high heading into the second game against Broughton, which promised to be a much tougher contest. Broughton made the stronger start and took an early 1–0 lead, but Our Lady's showed tremendous tenacity and resilience. The team continued to push forward, creating chance after chance, only to be denied by the goalkeeper, the post or a shot narrowly missing the target.

However, their persistence eventually paid off. From around 10 yards out, Charlie H struck the ball low and hard, seeing his effort rebound off the post, hit the Broughton goalkeeper and find its way into the back of the net. A little fortunate perhaps, but thoroughly deserved after the pressure the team had applied.

With the scores level, Our Lady's stepped up another gear in the second half and became the dominant side. Their determination was rewarded with two further goals, completing an excellent 3–1 victory.

Two games, two wins and top spot in the round-robin group, securing the team's place in the second round of the Lancashire Cup. A fantastic start to the season for Year 7.

NHS CAREERS FAIR

Sixteen OLCHS pupils had the fantastic opportunity to attend an NHS Careers Fair at the University of Cumbria, gaining valuable insight into the wide range of careers and opportunities available within the NHS.



Pupils engaged with a variety of healthcare professionals, asking questions and learning about the different roles, skills and qualifications required to pursue a career within the NHS.

The event, supported by University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust (UHMBT), highlighted that careers within the NHS extend far beyond traditional clinical roles such as nursing and medicine. Pupils discovered the exciting range of **non-clinical career pathways**, including Engineering, Finance, IT, Human Resources and Catering, demonstrating the diverse opportunities available within one of the region's largest employers.



The experience also provided valuable insight into local labour market information and future employment opportunities within the local community (Gatsby Benchmark 2). Through meaningful encounters with employers and NHS professionals, pupils were able to broaden their understanding of the world of work and the different pathways into healthcare careers (Gatsby Benchmark 5).
In addition, the visit offered pupils the opportunity to explore the benefits of higher education and university life, helping to raise aspirations and encourage them to consider their future educational and career choices (Gatsby Benchmark 7).



It was a fantastic and informative experience that allowed pupils to broaden their horizons, develop their career awareness and discover the many rewarding opportunities available within the NHS.

A huge well done to all 16 pupils for their enthusiasm, curiosity and positive engagement throughout the day. We would also like to extend our thanks to the NHS professionals, UHMBT and the university staff for providing such a valuable and inspiring experience.



OPEN EVENTS

Saturday 14th November 2026
Saturday 6th February 2027

click here