



Our Lady's Catholic College  
*An Outstanding Catholic College for all faiths*





## *Welcome to Our Lady's*

Thank you for reading our prospectus. We hope that this will give you a flavour of life at Our Lady's Catholic College and will encourage you to choose our school as the best place to educate your son or daughter in the next and crucial stage of their education. We look forward to a successful and enjoyable partnership as we work together to develop your child's full potential; academically, socially and spiritually.

As we begin the second half of our first 100 years, it is a new chapter for Our Lady's as I have the great privilege of becoming the school's Headteacher. I intend to continue the wonderful work of Brendan Conboy and assure you that we will continue to be academically successful yet remain the caring and family based community we have always been. My passion for and commitment to Our Lady's ensures that you can be confident that I and all the staff will continue to do everything we can to make your child's time at Our Lady's a happy and successful one.

Our Lady's is a Voluntary Aided 11-18 comprehensive school of just under eight hundred students and we are here to serve the community in Lancaster, Morecambe and the surrounding district. We were judged to be a Good school by Ofsted in 2012

and would encourage you to read the report. We are very proud of being the only Catholic secondary school in the area and have recently been judged to be an outstanding one. This does not mean that we are a school only for Catholics. It means that we root our core values and practices in the Gospel values of Jesus Christ and in the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. Our new mission statement 'Learn, Live, Love in a Caring Catholic community' was created by students, staff and governors and we all try to make this our daily reality. Living by these core values ensures that you and your child will be a very welcome addition to our community.

I would like to invite you to join us on our Open Evening and to make an appointment to let me show you round our school on a normal working day. On either occasion you will get the opportunity to hear from our delightful young people. After all it is not my, or even Ofsted's opinion that really matters - it is theirs.

*'Aspire not to have more but to be more.'*  
Oscar Romero





## *Learn in a caring Catholic community*

There has not been a better time to choose Our Lady's Catholic College to educate your son or daughter, as we have a track record of great results at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 and we are recognised as one of the best schools in the country for improving the educational prospects of all the children who attend. Whether your son or daughter is academically gifted and needs excellent grades for a prestigious university course or whether they are not as confident academically and need lots of additional help, we will do everything we can to ensure they achieve their personal best.

Our success is due to the commitment and expertise of our wonderful teaching and support staff and the confidence they inspire in our young people. As Ofsted said "staff know individual students well and go that 'extra mile' to ensure that students have the help they need to become independent and successful learners"

We believe that our young people should be inspired by learning and our dedicated teachers make this a daily reality. As the Diocesan inspectors noted "The sheer enjoyment of pupils and their keenness to improve their learning and progress are clearly evident".

Targets are set at the start of each academic year for all our students and school will report on your son or daughter's progress three times a year and at an annual Parents' Evening. These evenings provide an invaluable opportunity to discuss

your child's progress with their subject teachers and to find out how you can help at home to enable him or her to achieve their full potential.

We take great care to ensure that our curriculum provision meets the needs of all our young people and that they find the content relevant and accessible but challenging, regardless of their academic ability. This is demonstrated by the high number of our students following the most demanding of university courses and becoming doctors, lawyers and following other professions. Whilst the vast majority of our students follow a rigorous traditional curriculum, including sciences, humanities and languages, we also encourage them to continue with the creative arts, which we believe 'sustain and preserve the heart and soul of our civilisation'.

We believe that once your son or daughter is part of the Our Lady's family, it is our responsibility to educate them until they are ready for the next step; whether it be to university, further training or employment. Therefore you can be assured that your child will not be turned away at the end of Year 11 but we will find an academic course to suit their ability and so ensure they can study in the community they have grown up in, with teachers who have watched them mature and take great pride in their success.

*'Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.'*  
Francis of Assisi





## *Live in a caring Catholic Community*

Whilst we appreciate that your son or daughter's exam success will be important to you, we know that your choice of secondary school will also be based on the non-academic features of the school. Your son or daughter will come to Our Lady's as a child and leave as an adult. We pride ourselves on how we prepare our young people for life beyond the school gates. Of course this can only be achieved with a close partnership between home and school.

Pastoral care is always important but especially in the first few weeks and months at a new school. Each year group has their own designated Head of Year who is supported by a full time Pastoral Support Officer. The PSOs are non-teaching staff so are available throughout the day to support students with any issues they may have. This support ensures that any problems that might arise are solved promptly and efficiently and that parents have an immediate point of contact at all times.

We encourage all our students to get involved in extra-curricular activities; to play sports and represent the school, to take to the stage in our very successful Dance and Musical productions or undertake the Duke of Edinburgh programme. It is participating in these activities that will help them make new friends, develop new skills and give them a pride and confidence in themselves and their school. There is a wide programme of enrichment activities provided at Our Lady's during the school day too and we aim to educate beyond the classroom to give our young people a wider perspective of the world.

*'Reach high, for stars lie hidden in your soul. Dream deep, for every dream precedes the goal.'*

*Mother Teresa*





## *Love in a caring Catholic community*

Visitors to Our Lady's always comment on the welcome they receive and the outstanding relationships they observe. We are told what a special place Our Lady's is and we agree. Catholic means 'all embracing' and we welcome everyone, regardless of their faith background. We strive to put Christ and his teachings at the centre of all we do, whilst respecting everyone's individual beliefs and encouraging them to grow spiritually whatever they believe.

At Our Lady's we are very proud of being a caring Catholic community. We celebrate everyone's God-given talents and encourage our young people to use their gifts to help others. All we do is based on Gospel values of love, joy, justice and respect for one another. This extends to our wider world and our students are unstinting in their support of charities including our local food bank, CAFOD and a school in Uganda that we have helped build and provide equipment and training to. We frequently use a quote from one of our heroes of faith Blessed Oscar Romero to demonstrate how we think our students should look at the world "Aspire not to have more but to be more".

The Diocesan inspectors summed up what we believe makes us unique "The school is a haven for the pupils it serves. Care and guidance are of the highest order and pupils pay tribute to the support they receive. They are articulate and enthusiastic about their school, its caring community and the belief that each is valued and supported to achieve their best in a Christian environment "

Our Lady's Chaplaincy team is a strength of the school. They are involved in many aspects of school life. Students are invited to celebrate different forms of liturgy and take part in retreats. Many who take these opportunities do not share our Catholic faith but enjoy the chance to have some quiet time and the opportunity to reflect on the big questions of life.

In 2012 we were judged to be an 'outstanding Catholic school' which means that we excel in this most important aspect of our work – the development of kind, responsible, emotionally rounded young adults.

*Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.'*  
*Catherine of Siena*





## *All are welcome in this place*

We have pupils at Our Lady's from all the following primary schools:-

Bowerham Primary, Bolton le Sands Primary, Boothferry Primary, Burnley Heasandford Primary, Burnley Springfield Primary, Carnforth North Road Primary, Cathedral Primary, Caton St Paul's Primary, Christ Church Primary, Cobbs Brow Primary, Croftlands Junior School, Dallas Road Primary, Ellet St John Primary, Great Wood Primary, Grosvenor Park Primary, Heysham Trumacar Primary, Holy Family Primary, Lancaster Road Primary, Long Croft Primary, Meadowhead Primary, Moorside Primary, Morecambe Bay Primary, Mossgate Primary, Newbarns Primary, Nether Kellet Primary, Our Lady of Lourdes Primary, Overton St Helen's Primary, Poulton le Sands Primary, Ridge Primary, Ryelands Primary, Skerton Primary, St Bernadette's Primary, St Joseph's Primary, St Luke's Primary, St Mary's Primary, St Patrick's Primary, Sandylands Primary, St Wilfrid's Primary, West End Primary, Torrisholme Primary, Westgate Primary, Willow Lane Primary.







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