

July 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

The end of another academic year is rapidly approaching and I want to share with you some highlights from our wonderful school community. The year has been a very busy and successful one and I have been so proud of students and staff.

As you know the Diocesan inspection reported that we are an outstanding Catholic college. We are very proud of this accolade and it is only possible due to the whole community working together to put our faith and our values into action and at the centre of all that we do. Whilst it doesn't say it in the report, during the inspection Rachel, our Chaplain, was described as phenomenal by the inspectors. We have always known that but are very pleased that her amazing work was recognised by the Diocese.

Year 11 and KS5 students have studied hard for their exams with the unending support of their teachers. We have celebrated with them at the end of their exams and we look forward to results days when their efforts will be rewarded. To those of you who have children who will not be returning to Our Lady's in September I thank you for your support. It has been a pleasure to work with you as your sons and daughters have moved through our school.

Beyond the classroom there have been a large number of trips. Students have been to France, Liverpool, London, Castlerigg, Boarbank, Blackpool Pleasure Beach and a group of students and staff are currently in Uganda working in the schools there that we support. Wherever we have taken our students people have commented on their exemplary behaviour and how smart they are.

Our students have competed in sporting fixtures and in other ways throughout the year. We are very proud of all our athletes but must mention Oliver Ball who broke his own 300m district record and to Paige Hunter who won the district 1500m.

All these activities are only possible due to the commitment of our staff. Our students are very fortunate that we have so many staff prepared to give up their time to ensure they have a wide educational experience. To see photos of activities during the school year visit our Facebook page, website or our twitter feeds @OurLadysHT, @OLCCSport and @OLCC6th.

In January we were awarded Lancashire School of Sanctuary award. We are the only local secondary school to have achieved this and it is based on our work welcoming refugees and others new to the area. The inspectors wrote so many lovely things about our school but I feel this quote sums us up very well 'The school of sanctuary award aptly describes a school that is universally inclusive and focuses on developing and celebrating the talents of everyone who learns and works there.'

We have also been busy raising money for those less fortunate than ourselves. I thank you for supporting our charity events including food collection for the Olive Branch, money for Lancaster and District Homeless Association, Ugandan schools and clinic and lastly NeuroDropin the recipient of the sponsorship for our annual walk. I am always amazed at the sense of justice our students have and their endless energy and enthusiasm for raising money for good causes.

More 'thank yous' and goodbyes need to be made to a number of staff who will be leaving us at the end of this term; some to put their feet up and enjoy a less hectic life, others to take up positions at new schools. They are Mrs Kitchen, Mrs Eaves, Mr Tim Milner, Mrs Ogle, Mr Woodruff and Mr Kitchen. All of these staff have contributed so much to Our Lady's over many years, we will miss them and wish them well for their futures.

Word of what a great school Our Lady's is has spread and we are delighted to say that our Year 7 will be full in September and we currently have a waiting list. This is wonderful news and we look forward to welcoming our new students in September. Our Open Evening for entry in 2019/20 will be on September 20th. I do hope many of our students will help out on the evening. Please let other parents who are considering secondary schools know about the date.

Looking forward to September, please check our uniform expectations before buying new uniform. We now have another supplier Uniform Direct Ltd. Details of both uniform suppliers and uniform expectations are on our website olcc.lancs.sch.uk We have been specific about length of skirts and hair styles. We will accept skirts bought anywhere that are to the knee for the whole year. They do not have to be purchased in the uniform shop.

To conclude I thank you all for your continued support for Our Lady's. We pride ourselves on being a family school and we could not do that without your involvement and help for all that we do to educate our young people. I wish you all a wonderful holiday and we look forward to seeing the students again on Wednesday 5th September.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Seddon
Headteacher