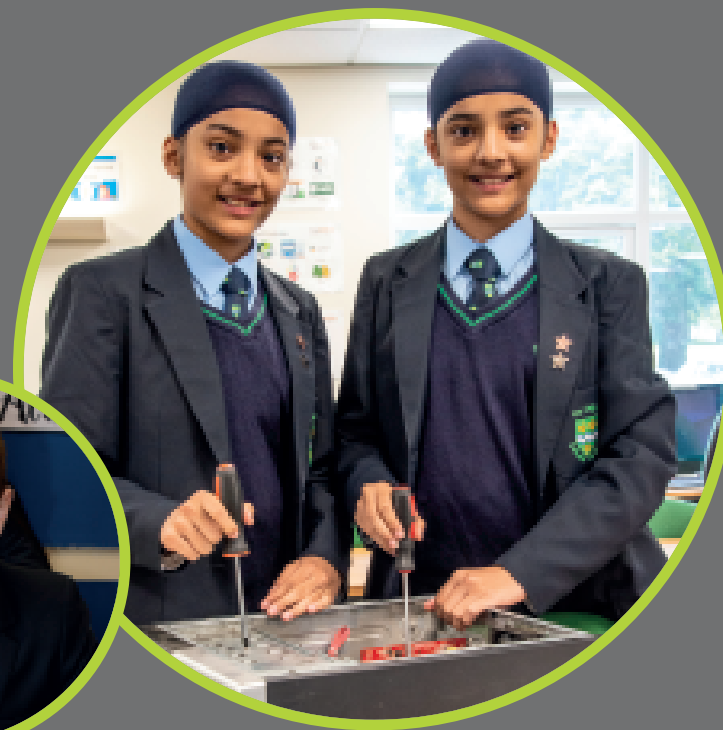
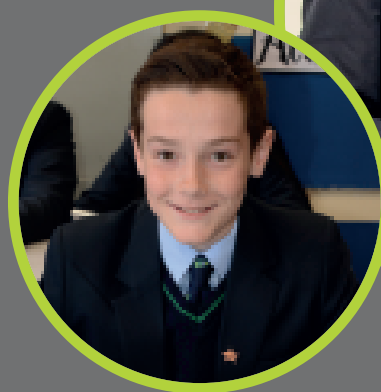
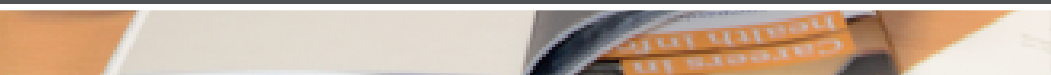




# Our Lady's Catholic College



Learn, Live, Love together in a Caring Catholic Community





# Welcome to Our Lady's

Thank you for reading our prospectus and for considering Our Lady's Catholic College for your child. I understand what an important decision this is for all parents and children and I hope this publication will give you a flavour of life at Our Lady's Catholic College and help you decide that we are the best place for your son or daughter in the next and crucial stage of their education. Parental partnership is so important to us, as we have the joint aim of developing your child both academically, spiritually and socially, and nurturing them into becoming confident and well-rounded young adults.

When selecting a school for your child I appreciate that you not only want to ensure that they succeed to the best of their ability academically but also that they can enjoy many other experiences, beyond the classroom, to develop them as a person. At Our Lady's we put a great deal of thought and effort into a holistic approach to ensure we are addressing the whole individual, including their physical, mental, and emotional health.

Our Lady's Catholic College has a history of producing excellent exam results at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 and of sending students off to the best universities and apprenticeships so you can be confident that they will have the opportunity to follow the career of their choice. I suggest however, that you may also consider the question of 'who do I want my child to be?' At Our Lady's we draw inspiration from the words of Oscar Romero:- 'Aspire not to have more but to be more', and we work tirelessly to ensure the students strive to be the very best version of themselves and that they mature to use their gifts and talents to benefit others and society so that they become confident, happy and fulfilled adults.

Our Lady's is a Voluntary aided 11-18 comprehensive school of over eight hundred students and we are here to serve all the primary schools in Lancaster, Morecambe and the surrounding district. We were judged to be a Good school by Ofsted in December 2016 and would encourage you to read the report. We are very proud of being the only Catholic secondary school in the area and have been judged to be an outstanding one in February 2018. Again, please read the diocesan report, which is available on our website. This does not mean that we are a school only for Catholics; we wish to serve all the young people in our area. 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 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/or 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, who are as proud of our community as I am. After all it is not my, or even Ofsted's opinion that really matters - it is theirs.







# Academic Standards

Parents and carers recognise that the quality of academic provision on offer at Our Lady's Catholic College, proven by our success at GCSE and A Level, as well as in other qualifications such as BTEC. We strongly feel that academic progress is as important as getting top grades and recognise that attaining a lower grade with hard work is just as much an achievement as gaining an A\*. That said we keep our standards high for all our students, regardless of ability. The expectations we have is that all try to be the best that they can be. We ask no more or less than that.

Our retention into Sixth Form is very high, with the majority of our students wishing to remain at Our Lady's. Our student know that here they have best chance of excelling and entering into the world of higher education, employment or training.

A great deal of emphasis is placed upon developing the quality of teaching and learning through research based strategies, whether this be more traditional teacher-led activities or lessons where students themselves take more of a lead. Regardless of the style of teaching or teacher, we strive to ensure all lessons contain high degrees of both challenge and engagement.

Teachers and support staff here care about what they do and the young people they work with. Students appreciate this and enjoy their lessons, which play a key part in them achieving such high standards.



*'After moving to Our Lady's, I have never felt happier. I was welcomed by a wonderful form tutor and people who have now become my best friends. Also, Our Lady's has great teachers and great learning. Although I'm in year 8, I can tell you that you will never want to leave!'*

Year 8 student



# Enrichment

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 and be a member of our GIFT team in the chaplaincy department. It is by 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 at lunchtime and after school too, we aim to educate beyond the classroom to give our young people a wider perspective of the world and we encourage all students to take part. We believe that offering extra-curricular opportunities helps students to develop their leadership skills and grow into well-rounded socially responsible citizens.

Throughout the school year we have a number of days that students can put their 'classroom' learning aside and focus on their own personal development. The chaplaincy team run a Day with a Difference programme for each year group – concentrating on various topics such as Faith in Action or Refugees. We also have three enrichment days a year, and students take part in a number of activities with a different focus based around personal, social, health or economic education.

Many trips run throughout the year – in last academic year there were 138 visits held – these are both curriculum based and enrichment trips and include residential stays, theatre visits, museums, universities, trampolining, Blackpool Pleasure Beach, to name just a few!

*'I am glad that I decided to come to Our Lady's because I used to be very shy and didn't take many opportunities.*

*Since I have arrived, they have taken me out of my comfort zone and I have taken loads more opportunities.'*

Year 8 student







## Caring for Students

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 Progress Leader 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 consider Our Lady's to be a family school, student and parental feedback tells us that we provide excellent pastoral support and ensure that every child is treated as an individual. We pride ourselves on being an inclusive school and our Learning Support Department provides excellent support for those students with special educational needs or disabilities. We work very closely with parents and partner primary schools to ensure a smooth transition for SEND students.



*'Year 8 student – "I am glad that I came to Our Lady's because I was really shy and unconfident in primary school but after a while in Our Lady's, I came out of my shell. The teaching here is amazing and all the staff genuinely care about the children.'*

Year 8 Student

# Our 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. We teach our students not only about the Catholic faith but also about many other world faiths.

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 tolerance. This extends to our wider world and our students are unstinting in their support of charities including our local food bank, CAFOD and schools in Uganda where we have helped build new classrooms and provided equipment and training. The Diocesan inspectors described the essence of what we believe makes us unique 'There is a sense that each whole person is being formed, not just his or her intellect. Pupils of all ages are able to articulate that they feel valued for who they are. This was borne out in three separate inspirational interviews with groups of pupils from Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. Pupils show pride and belief in the school and what it stands for.'



Our Lady's Chaplaincy team is a real 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 2018 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.

*"The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding. Pupils take pride in their school and believe that they are better people for attending here. Pupils gain a great deal from the solid and positive role models among staff and sixth form students."*

Diocesan Inspection Report 2018





Aspire  
not to have more  
but to be  
more



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