



SALUS POPULI

Our Lady's Catholic College Curriculum Intent

May 2019



Aspire
not to
have more
but to be
more...



'Inspired by our divine teacher Jesus ... our mission is to give every one of our young people the holistic education that enables them to live life to the full. Central to enabling that fulfilment will be;

- Helping them develop wisdom, as well as knowledge, so that their future choices will enhance their lives and the lives of others.***
- Nurturing in them a sense of awe and wonder.'***

OLCC Mission statement

Our Lady's Catholic College draws from approximately 28 Primaries across the Lancaster and Morecambe district and although we have 27% of Catholic students currently, we welcome students of all faiths. Our numbers have grown over the last four years and we have a total of 713 students in Years 7 - 11, with 111 in the 6th form, including over a third of students, counted as Disadvantaged students (36%) across the school. Our school operates in the context of a Grammar School system within the district and as such, we have a lower proportion of more able students and a higher number of low ability students. We are a truly comprehensive school and teach across a full range of abilities, catering well for all of our students' individual needs. Our Curriculum reflects this across all Key Stages, where our offer is differentiated to suit our learners. In KS3 all learners take the same breadth of subjects, although our more able S Band cohort study languages in greater depth while A Band students have additional literacy and a greater focus on practical subjects. In KS4, our Progress 8 model, in addition to core subjects, gives students choices in both academic and vocational subjects. This is the same in KS5 with both academic and vocational choices. Our academic success consistently places us in the top 10% nationally for pupil progress at KS4. At KS5 our students are in the top 3 non-selective schools in Lancashire for facilitating subjects and the average Vocational Level 3 grade is Distinction*.

The Catholic ethos of the school is at the heart of our work and our curriculum provision. We aim to develop the whole child: physical, moral, social and spiritual, in addition to ensuring that every learner is empowered to progress to achieve at the highest level. We aim to inspire students to life-long learning, raising their aspirations and developing a sense of awe and wonder in the world around them, enabling them to embrace opportunities, beyond their current experience.

We provide a high- quality curriculum for all which is tailored to meet the distinctive needs of all groups of students. Learners acquire knowledge through a range of different subjects and experiences which prepares them as future citizens. Students are intellectually developed and in addition to curriculum knowledge, long term memory is built through interconnections of ideas, concepts and skills across all subjects, in every year group. The curriculum is constructed to address key issues which pertain to OLCC students, such as building self esteem and increasing individual aspirations and is designed to strengthen skills and knowledge, for example, in Literacy, addressing writing skills, particularly for boys and developing vocabulary. Our aim is that students will gain in confidence in making choices and increase their knowledge and understanding of the world around them.

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All teachers and staff at OLCC, engaged in teaching and learning, are partners in learning and continually develop student skills and competencies to inspire students to achieve and be the best they can. Senior and Middle leaders lead and manage Subject and Pastoral Teams to ensure a high-quality curriculum which embodies our aims and values. Staff are supported with external and internal CPD, based on whole school, departmental and pastoral targets. Continuous dialogue at all levels, within ASM/Departmental meetings, ensures successful implementation and delivery of the curriculum at OLCC.

Curriculum aims

We aim to ensure that students:

- Enjoy learning, make progress and achieve their full potential.
- Become confident individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives.
- Are responsible and make a positive contribution to society.

To promote this, the curriculum:

- Is broad balanced and relevant.
- Encourages all students to reach their full potential.
- Builds on existing knowledge, skills and understanding.
- Reflects the context of our community and catchment and builds on British values.
- Develops confidence, self-esteem and independence.
- Develops respect for other people and the environment.
- Prepares students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

At OLCC all staff model the qualities and attitudes which we foster in our students and are embedded within our systems and practice. They are also integral to our Catholic ethos.

'**Aspire not to have more but to be more,**' (Oscar Romero) is embodied within our school community and we embrace this throughout our curriculum with our core values, based on Marcus Stock's Beatitudes:

- Faithfulness & Integrity - Being loyal and self-disciplined and regulating emotion and behaviour of self and within learning.
- Humility & Gentleness- being humble, understanding others' needs and feelings and showing them kindness.
- Truth & Justice- being sincere, speaking the truth, taking on challenge and ensuring fairness and equality.
- Forgiveness & Mercy - showing compassion and forgiving others. Approaching life with curiosity and energy, expecting the best in the future and working to achieve it.
- Purity & Holiness - loving God and obeying God's law.
- Tolerance & Peace - recognising and respecting others' beliefs & practices, being aware of and thankful for the good things that happen.
- Service & Sacrifice- taking care of others, being persistent and resilient despite obstacles.

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Academic Aspiration

Our vision is for all our students, regardless of background and circumstance, to make outstanding progress and achieve grades which will open doors to the future of their choice. We want our students to be curious and develop a thirst for knowledge; we want them to be resilient and to value effort; we want them to understand that sometimes failure is an essential part of the learning process and to recognise that developing a positive, 'can do' attitude will help them to set and achieve aspirational goals.

Extra Curricular

We believe that extra-curricular activity, both inside and out of school, are vital to the holistic development of young people, fostering their physical, social and emotional health. We want our students to have additional opportunities and to demonstrate determination, creativity and perseverance in order to overcome challenges, to understand that hard work and commitment lead to a greater chance of success and achievement.

SMSC

The Catholic ethos is at the heart of our work. We aim to develop the whole child spiritually, enabling them to question the meaning & purpose of life. We give students a moral education to live by principles to guide their choices. We want to give students a social education to help them to relate to self and others and a cultural education which teaches them the rites, rituals & customs & practices, developed within communities.

Creativity & Culture

Alongside our high aspirations for academic success, we passionately believe in the importance of education in its broadest sense and we ensure the fullest possible participation in art, music and drama. We want our students to appreciate that writing gives us access to ideas which challenge our thinking; that language gives us the opportunity to make our voice heard and present our own ideas with courage, conviction and impact; that the Arts open worlds which we might not otherwise inhabit. We ensure that students from all backgrounds can discover new talents and interests and develop existing ones.

Leadership

We value individuality, celebrate diversity and encourage our students to have the confidence to think for themselves, whilst emphasising the importance of tolerance and responsibility. We place great importance on both leadership and participation and encourage students from all backgrounds to take on roles of responsibility and engage in School and House activities. Each student should have a true sense of self-worth which will enable them to make wise choices, stand up for what is right and in doing so, be of value to society.



Curriculum design

KS3

Our curriculum groups run as sets 1-6 in our Siena and Assisi Bands, named after our Heroes of Faith but as the school intake grows we will run groups in parallel bands.

Our aim is that all students experience a broad and balanced curriculum in their first three years. We have an academic approach to the curriculum to prepare for KS4 which encompasses the core subjects of English, Maths and Science, plus RE, history, geography and languages. Additionally students study practical and creative subjects; PE, Technology, including Product design, Food, Textiles and also Art, Drama, Dance and Music. We consider these subjects an important part of their education, hence the decision to maximise these over the three year key stage. We believe that all students should have full access to this range of subjects to inspire and develop them as individuals, throughout their learning journey.

KS4

The curriculum follows the Progress 8 model. Therefore students study the core subjects of English maths and science. RE is also compulsory. Students have a choice from Geography, History and French plus a choice of options from a range of GCSE and vocational subjects. A small minority of students will not take a Humanity. Instead, they will do the Work skills BTec and an IT qualification.

We want to develop self-motivated and mature young people who enjoy learning. Therefore, our aim is to be realistic about how many subjects pupils will follow and the number of GCSE examinations and BTec courses for which they will be entered. Within the Romero/Teresa Pathway, students will study in sets and follow the curriculum we feel is appropriate for them.

For all groups, we offer:

Core subjects at GCSE to ensure good basic qualifications for all pupils.

An appropriate number of courses, both GCSE & BTec, according to ability and aspiration.

Achievable and appropriate goals for everyone.

Courses that enable students to progress on to their chosen career path.



EBacc

English, Maths, Science, History, Geography and languages are at the heart of our curriculum in KS3. We believe that these subjects will enable students to experience the full breadth of the curriculum and give them the opportunity to succeed, whatever their background and ability and as such, all students study these subjects for three years. In KS4 we offer the full suite of subjects for all students, so they have the opportunity to study the English Baccalaureat. Some choose to study a language, however, we do not insist upon this as we believe it is not always in the best interests of our students. We have a strong commitment to empowering young people and as such, we guide them carefully in their choices to enable them to thrive, grow and achieve success in the world.

Curriculum provision in KS3 & 4

Curriculum	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
En	8	8	8	9	9
Maths	8	8	8	9	9
Sci	6	6	6	10 (12)	10 (12)
Gg	3	3/4	4	5 (opt)	5 (opt)
Hi	3	3/4	4	5 (opt)	5 (opt)
RE	5	5	5	5	5
Opts				5 x 2	5 x 2
PE	4	4	4	2	2
Computing	2	2	2	5 IT (opt)	5 IT (opt)
Drama	1/2	4 carousel	5 carousel	5 (opt)	5 (opt)
Music	1	1 carousel	-		
Technology	3	5 x2 carousel	5 x 2 carousel	5 (opt)	5 (opt)
French	2	3	4	5 (opt)	5 (opt)
Spanish	2	3	4		
Art	2	5 carousel	5 carousel	5 (opt)	5 (opt)
Business,HSC, CCare, Dance				5 (opt)	5 (opt)
Workskills/IT				5 (Non Hum)	5 (Non Hum)



KS5

Our curriculum is all inclusive and we cater for a range of students and tailor their study to individual needs. We offer a broad curriculum in the 6th form which combines both A level and BTec Level 3 courses in to allow students to progress onto their selected pathway, whether this is further study or work. Students may take a variety of qualifications together and timetables may span across both year groups. The study of three main subjects is combined with RE in Years 12 & 13 and an Enrichment course in Year 12.

We also run a Level 2 course for approximately fifteen students to gain a L2 Diploma in Travel & Tourism, which is a key need area for our local community. This is usually combined with Maths and English GCSE resits, although some students take a L3 Btec combination. This is tailored to individual students.

PSHCE

In addition to our main curriculum we run PSHCE and an Enrichment programme across all year groups. PSHCE provision is evident within all curriculum areas and we have targeted drop down sessions for all year groups across the school year. We also have two school days throughout the year where we run Enrichment days which have specific themes for each year group. A comprehensive PSHCE programme runs in the 6th form. Our HRSE programme is established and runs primarily within RE but is also mapped and evident across all subjects.

Careers

Our Careers programme targets all year groups and we implement this carefully to raise aspirations and develop students' knowledge about appropriate pathways. We regularly work with external providers to run workshops, employment days, mock interviews and an annual careers fair. In addition, subject areas embed careers links and deliver these within their own schemes of work. We regularly have visiting speakers in school from eg Inspira, UCLAN, Lancaster University and local providers who provide students with a wide range of information on the local work force and appropriate careers paths. At KS4 and KS5, students have one to one IAG which allows them to plan for their future. We monitor our provision against the Gatsby Benchmarks to deliver a successful Careers programme.