

July 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

The end of another academic year is rapidly approaching and I want to share with you some of the highlights from our wonderful school community. The year has been a very busy one and I know that all the students have taken up many of the opportunities presented to them, both in the classroom and beyond.

The exam season is finally over and we have waved goodbye to Year 11s and Year 13s, though the majority of the Year 11s will return to Sixth Form in September. We are optimistic that the hard work of all the students will bear fruit and that on results days in August we will have many happy, smiling faces. The Key Stage 5 results will open doors for our Year 13s to university courses, further training or apprenticeships. We wish them all well. They have enriched our school community and we will miss them but have told them all they will always be a part of the Our Lady's family and to stay in touch.

Beyond the classroom there have been a large number of trips. Students have been to France, Liverpool, The Imperial War Museum, The Lake District, Blackpool Pleasure Beach and many more.

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 is now the district record holder for 300m. Our Sixth Formers won the Lancaster University Analytical Chemistry competition beating our local schools; a great achievement.

The creative side of our young people has also been shown throughout the year. The annual Talent Show was again very difficult to judge. The Dance Show included so many students from all year groups, many of whom also choreographed dances and We Will Rock You rocked all three nights! The art and technology work on show during the recent exhibition was a pleasure to see and again demonstrates the creativity of our staff and students.

We are also very fortunate to have a very active Chaplaincy team. This year we launched the Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) team and they have been very busy with many different activities throughout the year. They have been a great asset to the school, helping us grow spiritually and have put their faith into action to help others in our community and beyond. The Castlerigg and Boar Bank retreats were well attended and were amongst the highlights of the year for students and staff involved.

All these activities are only possible due to the commitment of our staff and our students are very fortunate that we have so many staff prepared to give up their time. These activities also cost the school and in the current financial climate I do need to consider which extra-curricular activities we can provide. I would be very interested to hear of any businesses who may be interested in supporting or sponsoring activities e.g. The Duke of Edinburgh Award. Sadly, we will not be able to run this next year due to the cost of the licence. Other schools charge each participant over £200 to take part but I do not feel we should expect that from our parents. If you know of anyone who may be able to help, please let me know.

More thank yous and goodbyes need to be made to a number of staff who will be leaving us this term; many to put their feet up and enjoy a less hectic life, others to take up positions at new schools. They are Mrs Gordon, Mrs Newson, Mrs Beech, Mrs Newby, Miss Crawford, Mr Reid, Mrs Hobbs and Mrs Lee. All of these staff have contributed so much to Our Lady's over many years and we will miss them.

Looking forward to September, please check our uniform expectations before buying new uniform. 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. I do not want you to be in a situation where you have to replace uniform in September.

I would like to remind you that the Full Governing Body has approved the following modified model, therefore from September 2017 we will be operating the school day as detailed below. The letter informing you of this can be found on our website www.olcc.lancs.sch.uk

	Start	Finish
School Starts Registration	8.45am	9.05am
Period 1	9.05am	10.05am
Period 2	10.05am	11.05am
Break	11.05am	11.20am
Period 3	11.20am	12.20pm
Period 4	12.20pm	1.20pm
Lunchtime	1.20pm	2.00pm
Period 5	2.00pm	3.00pm

It is only left for me to 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 believe our school has lived up to the words of Oscar Romero that we have emblazoned on our school wall "Aspire not to have more but to be more". I wish you all a wonderful holiday and we look forward to seeing the students again on Tuesday 5th September.

Yours faithfully,



Helen Seddon
Headteacher