

27 March 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are rapidly approaching the end of another term so it is time to update you on what has been happening at Our Lady's. As you are aware we had our Denominational inspection in February. We have received the final report and are delighted to tell you that we are an outstanding Catholic school. The inspectors described the students as 'inspirational'. I would encourage you to read the full report but I have included just three of the comments that we are proud of and that we feel sum up Our Lady's.

'The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding.'

'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.'

'Pastoral leaders and support staff with responsibility for pupils who have learning needs or are vulnerable are faithful and trustworthy in their delivery of Christian values. They demonstrate unstinting and compassionate commitment to pupil welfare.'

<https://goo.gl/73HWWS>

Next term we will embark on exam season for all year groups. I would like to ask you to support your child/children in preparing for their exams. Firstly by ensuring they prepare by revising thoroughly. Most students underestimate how long it takes to learn their work thoroughly and you can help by encouraging them to study every evening and helping them plan their revision time. It is also best if you minimise the distractions e.g. phones, tablets and game consoles. They cannot focus on their work if they are constantly checking social media and messages. Your child/children will also need plenty of sleep and a good diet to help them maximise their performance.

The second way you can help them is to ensure they have the correct equipment for the exams, so I ask you to make sure they have restocked with black pens, pencils, a calculator and maths equipment and that they bring them to school daily.

I appreciate that exam time is very stressful for students and their families but we know from experience that the hard work will pay off and getting students into good study habits in Key Stage 3 will help with the extremely important GCSEs, BTECs and A levels. I wish all our young people the best of luck and am confident that they can reach or exceed their targets.

We have recently had many comments about how smart our students look in their uniform. I believe that shows the pride they have in their school and themselves. Thank you for ensuring they wear their uniform correctly. May I take the opportunity to remind you that our uniform expectations remain until the summer holidays, including that skirts should reach the knee and that school shoes should be worn.

Thank you for your patience with the road works. I would like to remind you NOT to wait in the bus bay and if at all possible collect from Lune St.

Another big thank you for all your support in fundraising for Uganda. During Lent the students have been amazing and I am sure that many of you have kitchens have been working overtime baking cakes and cookies for them to sell. I know that you will have also been giving them money to spend at cake sales, penalty shootouts, lucky dips and for mufti day. The Uganda team do appreciate all the hard work and I know the schools and clinic in Uganda will be thrilled with the resources we will be able to buy for them.

School continues to be very busy with many extra-curricular activities, including a trip to France which set off early on Monday morning. For all our recent news visit our website <http://www.olcc.lancs.sch.uk/>. You will also find us on Facebook and on my twitter address @OurladysHT

It only remains for me to thank you again for your continued support and wish you and your families a happy and holy Easter.

Yours sincerely



Helen.Seddon
Headteacher