

October 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome

We have enjoyed a purposeful and productive start to the new school year. Our Year 7 starters have settled tremendously well and are already an integral part of our community. The same can also be said about our new staff whom we welcomed to Our Lady's in September, they are already proving excellent additions to our staff body.

Open Evening

Our recent Open Evening saw the school almost bursting at the seams with prospective new starters. We welcomed over 700 visitors and they were treated to a range of fantastic activities on the night. The stars of the evening were our pupil helpers. They were outstanding ambassadors for Our Lady's, thank you if your child was one of them.

Uniform

We are a very smart looking school and extremely proud of the way each child looks. We are grateful for your support in ensuring they wear their uniform correctly. Please check on the website for uniform expectations, including information about haircuts and piercings. I also want to make you aware that you do not have to buy all items from the uniform shop, only those that contain the school logo.

Pupil Voice

One of the highlights of the last academic year was the work of the School Council. As a result of concerns raised by pupils the school has installed dedicated recycling bins. These are located in the inner courtyard and the gym courtyard. Care for the environment will be at the forefront of our newly formed Student Eco-Council. Please encourage your child to use these bins, or, better still, see if they can bring re-usable bottles to school. There are facilities available to re-fill them. We are also looking into the use of plastics in our school canteen.

Parental Portal

To access the portal please go to our school website at <https://www.olcc.lancs.sch.uk> and select parental portal from the communications section in the menu. If you haven't already checked your personal data on our Parental Portal please do so. You can also keep up-to-date with school by looking at our website, our Facebook page and our twitter feed, which is Headteacher OLCC.

Wellbeing in School

We are still working towards the Wellbeing Award for Schools and as part of this work we are starting a project with Lancashire MIND. If you have not yet completed the survey please do so, you can find the link on our website and on our Facebook page.

You will find a mental health continuum in pupil planners. We have designed this to help pupils recognise early signs of a problem and it has links to websites that they may find useful. We also have a parental booklet which we are giving out at parents' evenings, a copy of which you can find on our website.

Olive Branch

We would like to finish by thanking you for your generosity for The Olive Branch food bank. Yet again we have been amazed at how much food and money we have collected. We are very proud that our young people recognise the importance of looking after those less fortunate than themselves.

Next Half Term

We will finish for a well-deserved break on Friday 18th October and school will reopen on Tuesday 29th October, this will be a week B timetable. Please be aware that we will not be responding to Facebook messages during the holiday.

Thank you for all your support so far this year, we look forward to continuing working with you and your family.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs H Seddon
Headteacher