



# Our Lady's Catholic College



Learn, Live, Love together in a Caring Catholic Community



SALUS POPULI

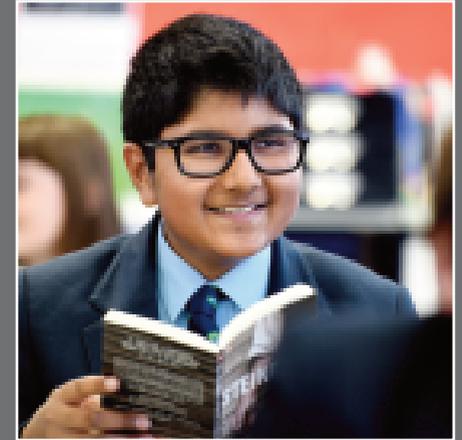
# Welcome to Our Lady's

Thank you for reading our prospectus. We hope that this will give you a flavour of life at Our Lady's Catholic College and will encourage you to choose our school as the best place to educate your son or daughter in the next and crucial stage of their education. We look forward to a successful and enjoyable partnership as we work together to develop your child's full potential; academically, socially and spiritually.

When choosing a school for your child you will want to be sure it can ensure your child succeeds academically and that they will be able to take advantage of the many other experiences, beyond the classroom, that help them grow into a confident well rounded adult. You will want to choose a school that you are certain will help them become 'what they want to be'. At Our Lady's we have 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 just under 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. This does not mean that we are a school only for Catholics. 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 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. After all it is not my, or even Ofsted's opinion that really matters - it is theirs.





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# Learn in a caring Catholic community

There has not been a better time to choose Our Lady's Catholic College to educate your son or daughter, as we have a track record of great results at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 and we are recognised as one of the best schools in the country for improving the educational prospects of all the children who attend. Whether your son or daughter is academically gifted and needs excellent grades for a prestigious university course or whether they are not as confident academically and need lots of additional help, we will do everything we can to ensure they achieve their personal best.

Our success is due to the commitment and expertise of our wonderful teaching and support staff and the confidence they inspire in our young people. As Ofsted said 'staff know individual students well and go that extra mile to ensure that students have the help they need to become independent and successful learners.'



We believe that our young people should be inspired by learning and our dedicated teachers make this a daily reality. The Diocesan inspectors noted that *'The sheer enjoyment of pupils and their keenness to improve their learning and progress are clearly evident'*.

Targets are set at the start of each academic year for all our students and school will report on your son or daughter's progress three times a year and at an annual Parents' Evening. These evenings provide an invaluable opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their subject teachers and to find out how you can help him or her at home to achieve their full potential.

We take great care to ensure that our curriculum provision meets the needs of all our young people and that they find the content relevant and accessible but challenging, regardless of their academic ability. This is demonstrated by the high number of our students following the most demanding of university courses and becoming doctors, lawyers and following other professions. Whilst the vast majority of our students follow a rigorous traditional curriculum, including sciences, humanities and languages, we also encourage them to continue with the creative arts, which we believe 'sustain and preserve the heart and soul of our civilisation'.

We believe that once your son or daughter is part of the Our Lady's family, it is our responsibility to educate them until they are ready for the next step; whether that is university, further training or employment. Therefore you can be assured that your child will not be turned away at the end of Year 11 but we will find an academic course to suit their ability, ensuring they can continue to study in the community they have grown up in with teachers who have watched them mature and take great pride in their success.





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# Live in a caring Catholic community

Whilst we appreciate that your son or daughter's exam success will be important to you, we know that your choice of secondary school will also be based on the non-academic features of the school. 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 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 or undertake the Duke of Edinburgh programme. 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 too and we aim to educate beyond the classroom to give our young people a wider perspective of the world.





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# Love in a caring 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.

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 respect for one another. 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 'The school is a haven for the pupils it serves. Care and guidance are of the highest order and pupils pay tribute to the support they receive. They are articulate and enthusiastic about their school, its caring community and the belief that each is valued and supported to achieve their best in a Christian environment.'

Our Lady's Chaplaincy team is a 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 2012 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.



*'I know for a fact I wouldn't have got my results if it hadn't been for Our Lady's. There was always someone I could go to for support not only in lessons, but also in many other vital aspects. They never gave up on me when I was stuck.'*

Trisha Valencia



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Aspire  
not to have more  
but to

be  
more



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