

10th July 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of another school year I want to share with you some highlights from our wonderful school community. The year has been a very busy and successful one and I have been so proud of students and staff.

Students have thrown themselves into activities beyond the classroom including trips, performing arts, sporting events and fund raising. I am delighted that they take St Oscar Romero's well used quote 'Aspire not to have more but to be more' so seriously and so many of them have shown us the very best version of themselves during the year.

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 our six newly crowned district champions from Year 7 Alfie Green - Javelin, Jakob Mecklenburgh - Discus and Bethany Mount - 800m; Year 9 Owain Kirkbride - Long jump and Nik Kailidis – Shot, and from Year 10 Oliver Ball - 300m.

We have also been busy raising money for those less fortunate than ourselves. I thank you for supporting our charity events including food collection for the Olive Branch, money for Lancaster and District Homeless Association, CAFOD and ACE, who we are supporting through our charity walk. I am always amazed at the sense of justice our students have and their endless energy and enthusiasm for raising money for good causes.

I have also been very impressed with the work of the school council this year. They have had many meetings with me and have completed a number of successful projects including recycling bins in student areas, a new water fountain, passes for lunch clubs and improving the condition of toilets. It is good to know that we have many excellent young leaders in school.

All these activities are only possible due to the commitment of our staff and our students. We are very fortunate that we have so many adults in school who prepared to give up their time to ensure our students have a wide educational experience. To see photos of activities during the school year visit our Facebook page, website or our twitter feeds @OurladysHT, @OLCCSport and @OLCC6th.

News of our success as a school is spreading and we are now oversubscribed for our new Year 7 and have waiting lists in the other years. This is wonderful news and we look forward to welcoming our new students in September. Our Open Evening for entry in 2019/20 will be on September 19th, starting at 5.30pm. I do hope many of our students will help out on the evening. Please let other parents, who are considering secondary schools, know about the evening.

More thank yous and goodbyes need to be made to a number of staff who will be leaving us at the end of this term; some to try a new career challenge, others to take up positions and promotions at new schools. They are Miss Hirst, Mr Bramhall, Mrs Watson, Mrs Pyne, Miss Roberts, Miss Sweeney, Miss Hunter, Mrs Smith and Sister Krystyna. All of these staff have contributed so much to Our Lady's over many years, we will miss them and wish them well for their futures.

As you will be aware, we are applying for The Wellbeing Award for Schools and have audited our current provision and made an action plan for the school. We are all surrounded by media that tells us of the huge concerns around young people's wellbeing and mental health. We intend to do even more work to support them through what can be a very difficult and challenging time of their life. We will talk to the students in September about these issues and give them practical advice about how to stay well physically and mentally and we will share more information with you then. If you would like any help or advice in the interim period we have a new 'Mental Health & Wellbeing Information Booklet' which is available in the reception office.

Looking forward to September, please check our uniform expectations before buying new uniform. Details of both uniform suppliers and uniform expectations are on our website www.olcc.lancs.sch.uk. 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.

To conclude I thank you all for your continued support for Our Lady's, especially in November when we had to come to terms with the loss of Miss Brindle. It was a very difficult time for staff and students and I am proud of how our school community came together as a family and supported one another. 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 wish you all a wonderful holiday and we look forward to seeing the students again on Wednesday 5th September at the later time of 10am. There is a later start to allow our new Year 7s a less stressful arrival on their first 'big day' with us.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Seddon
Headteacher