

Our Lady's Catholic College

Learn, live, love together in a caring Catholic community



20th July 2023

Dear parents and carers

As we reach the end of another academic year, I want to thank you all for your ongoing support and for having chosen Our Lady's Catholic College for your child.

We have had a successful year as demonstrated by the Celebration assemblies this week. It is wonderful to be able to reward and celebrate so many pupils in each year group for their learning, attendance, behavior and effort.

School joined together for whole school Mass on Tuesday. As always this was a wonderful celebration and the pupils joined in with great reverence and respect. This is always a very special way to finish our academic year and we are fortunate to have the services of Fr John Paul as a Chaplain to enable us to do this. You will also receive the Chaplaincy newsletter to share the great work that has been happening in school.

There are a few things we need to draw your attention to before we close.

Behaviour

It is with gratitude we write to thank you for your support with the launch of the new smart device policy this term. Pupils have adapted really well to the change and the support from home has made a huge difference to the success of the implementation. In the four weeks since the launch only 21 devices have been confiscated. On any given day in school, there are over 800 pupils with phones, which is 4000 smart devices a week, 16,000 potential confiscations over the launch period. I am pleased to inform you that 0.001% of devices were confiscated. We thoroughly appreciate your support and celebrate our pupils' maturity at adapting to change. The policy will continue in September, when any pupils seen with their devices out in the building, will have it confiscated and an hours detention will be issued for the same day. Parents will continue to collect at 4pm for first confiscation and 4pm the next day for a second confiscation.

We have also consulted with pupils, parents and staff and have rewritten our behaviour and rewards policy for the next academic year. We will send the completed document home to you all and will be talking through with all pupils at the start of term. The routines are there to help pupils have the best environment and attitude to their learning and also be safe and happy during out of lesson times.



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Uniform

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 are grateful for your support in ensuring pupils wear their uniform correctly. Please check that pupils are still wearing their blazers when setting off for school. We still expect pupils to wear school shoes; trainers are only allowed to be worn if they have a medical note or to be brought for PE lessons. Skirts are to be knee-length and pupils will be asked to replace shorter skirts or wear trousers, which may be preferable for the colder months, if the skirt they wear is too short. This includes 'rolling up skirts' which pupils are aware is against the rules. 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. The uniform has not changed to include pencil skirts.

Please check on the website for full uniform expectations, including information about haircuts and piercings. We have been very specific about length of skirts and hair styles. Please note that if a pupil has piercings in the nose, tongue or other part of the body, other than the lower ear lobe, they are not permitted to wear a stud or ring in them. They will be expected to remove a stud or ring during school time.

We do understand that uniform items can be expensive and have been asked to recommend Morecambe Food Bank's Uniform Shop. Donations are accepted and if you need uniform there is a form to request items <https://morecambebay.foodbank.org.uk/uniform-project-2/>

Next Academic Year

School starts at 8:40 and finishes at 15:05.

Pupils will enter school, at the start of the day, by either the gate at the front of school, close to the MML, or by the gate on the back field.

All pupils will return to school on ***Wednesday 6th September*** and there is a staggered start as below:

- Year 7, will arrive at 8:40
- Year 12 and 13 will arrive at 10:05
- All other year groups at 11:30

For the first day of school, all groups will be form-based until 13:20; this is so they can receive important information for the start of the year, in particular about the new classroom and out of lesson routines. There will be no need for any year groups to bring a PE kit on the first day.



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Equipment may need restocking. Students are required to have the following items:

- Rucksack - large enough to carry all things needed for the day
- A pencil case. This should contain all of the below
- 2 black pens
- 2 green pens
- An HB pencil
- A ruler
- Pair of compasses
- A protractor
- A pencil sharpener
- A rubber
- A calculator
- Basic set of colours (12 being the minimum)

We are again, 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 2023/24 is provisionally booked for 13th September, starting at 5:00pm. Please let other parents, who are considering secondary schools, know about the evening. Further details will follow in September and we will be looking for pupil volunteers to meet and help our visitors on the evening.

Exam Results Days 2023

6th Form results day, for A levels and VTQs is: Thursday 17th August at 9am for Year 13 and 10.30am for Year 12

GCSE and BTEC results day is: Thursday 24th August at 9am for year 11 and any students from Sixth form doing Level 2 courses

Results can be collected on the days and times above. Sixth formers from the sixth form study area and Year 11 from the MML. We ask pupils and parents to enter through our main doors.

To conclude, I thank you all for your continued support for Our Lady's, during another academic year. 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 ask for your prayers for our staff and pupils as we start the summer break. May we have a restful and enjoyable break and all return safely in September.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday and we look forward to seeing the students again from September 6th
This will be Week A. We very much look forward to welcoming all of our pupils back to school. If you have any concerns, please feel free to get in touch.



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Yours sincerely

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