

Our Lady's Catholic College

Learn, live, love together in a caring Catholic community



18th January 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Happy New Year to you and your families. I hope that you enjoyed the Christmas break and the long time to recover after Christmas. It was wonderful to welcome pupils back to school last week. Thank you for sending them back looking so smart and well equipped ready for their learning.

Attendance

Last week's attendance in school was very encouraging, it was above national and regional figures. It is extremely important to maintain high levels of attendance for your child for many different reasons. Any days off result in a loss of learning. That content won't be taught again and your child's absence will not be taken into account by exam boards in the future. Having broken attendance (a day off each week or fortnight) means that pupils will miss 5 hours of new learning each time but will struggle to understand the work they do the following week because lessons are taught in a sequence which relies on prior knowledge.

Research shows a significant link between attendance and exam success. Pupils with poor attendance risk achieving poor results and then have less opportunities for jobs in the future. They also develop bad habits for the world of work where poor attendance and poor punctuality can result in dismissal.

Attendance is important for more than just attainment. Regular school attendance can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a protective factor for mental health and wellbeing. Pupils are involved in extracurricular activities which they enjoy and develop other skills in.

So thank you for ensuring your child is in school. If your child is absent regularly (most children should have full attendance most weeks) then please look at this and even if your child has a cold or cough, make sure they attend. If you are struggling with this, please contact school for support.

Progress Evenings

This term we have our annual Progress Evenings where you can meet your child's subject teachers. It is important to attend these evenings to find out how you can support your child with their learning. The dates for this year's Progress Evenings are below. A letter of invitation and information how to make appointments will be sent to you on Synergy.

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LANCASTER LA1 2RX
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Headteacher
Helen Seddon BSc Hons



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25th January - Year 12/13 progress evening 4pm to 6.30pm

8th February - Year 7 progress evening 3.30pm to 6.30pm

22nd February - Year 10 progress evening 3.30pm to 6.30pm

29th February - Year 8 progress evening 3.30pm to 6.30pm

7th March - Year 9 options evening 6pm

14th March - Year 9 progress evening 3.30pm to 6.30pm

School events

This is a very short half term but we are busy in school preparing for our Dance Show. Shows are on 31st January, 1st and 2nd of February. Tickets are available in school and I would encourage you to come along and join us for the evening.

We also have a Sixth Form retreat to Hying Hall 6th-8th February. If your child is interested but not signed up yet they need to see Ben O'Flynn, our Lay Chaplain.

Year 7s have the opportunity to stay at Savio House 11th-13th March for their retreat. Ben has been giving out letters and we need these and the deposit back to secure a place.

Rewards Trip

This will take place on 19th March and will be to the Trafford Centre. The criteria to be offered a place on the trip is 95% attendance for spring term, with no suspensions from school, please contact e.hartley@olcc.lancs.sch.uk if you require more information at this time.

New Mission Statement

Last term we reviewed our mission statement with pupils, staff and governors. We are pleased to now introduce our new mission statement.

Our Lady's Catholic College is a family of faith where we are nurtured to aspire, achieve and serve. Through Christ's example, we grow in virtue as God's masterpiece.

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Below is an explanation for the use of different terms in this statement and why it is important to us here at Our Lady's.

Family of Faith

All members of our school community, pupils, staff and governors, are part of the Our Lady's family. Each one as important as another. We are a Catholic school and so Christ is at the centre of our school and our decisions are guided by his teachings. We also welcome pupils of different faiths and those who have no faith. We hope that they will learn a little more of what we believe as Catholic Christians as we pray and celebrate together.

Aspire

St Oscar Romero's quote "Aspire not to have more but to be more" is important to us at Our Lady's. We want all members of the community to aspire to be the best they can be academically, socially, morally and culturally. By all aspiring to be our best, by growing in virtue, we can help make a positive change in our school, our community and in global issues.

Achieve

We aim for all members of our community to succeed at reaching or accomplishing all their goals, especially through effort. Those goals will be academic but may also be performance, sporting or career goals.

Serve

St Paul directed us to 'Serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul'. We serve God by following his commandments and by bearing witness to his Gospels. Jesus taught us in one of his parables. 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' so we understand that in serving God we serve others. We take this very seriously and each term focus on helping others in and beyond our community. For example, we regularly support two local food banks, local homeless charity and the schools in Uganda that we work with.

Christ's example

Throughout the Gospels Jesus Christ shows us how to live through his teachings but also by his actions. We must try to imitate his example of love, especially for those who are most vulnerable.

God's Masterpiece

St Paul told the Ephesians 'For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the

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good things he planned for us long ago.' At Our Lady's we believe that everyone in our community is unique and made by God in his image. Each one of us is loved unconditionally by God. As an artist treasures their masterpiece so God loves us as we are and as a school we love and appreciate each child and staff member.

This mission statement has been introduced in form times and in assemblies. We hope the key ideas of aspire, achieve and serve will be firmly embedded this term and that any visitors to school will see that our Mission Statement is a lived reality for pupils and staff.

Next Half Term

We finish on Friday 9th February for half term. School opens on Monday 19th February. It will be a week A.

Your sincerely,

Helen Seddon

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