

Headteacher's Letter

As we approach the last few days of the term, it is with great pride that I reflect on what has been a highly successful and productive first term.

The children continue to be an absolute credit to you all. In and out of class, their behaviour has been exemplary. There have been over 4000 achievement points, 22 Headteacher Awards and four rewards breakfasts awarded in recognition of their hard work, enthusiasm and kindness to one another this term.

We are also very proud of the high standard of uniform across the school. The children look very smart and continue to wear our uniform with pride. Thank you for your continued support on this matter and we will continue to accept nothing but the highest of standards in this regard.

Academically, we continue to set the standard. The Department for Education recently released their performance data for 2024 and we are delighted to see our school achieve a Progress 8 score +0.75. This score ranks us as the highest performing school in the Archdiocese, third highest amongst all schools and colleges in Lancashire and 35th of all Catholic schools in the country. Such success reflects not only the academic progress that our pupils make but also the nurturing environment and the ethos of excellence that our school embodies. It further demonstrates our staff's ability to inspire, challenge, and support our children in achieving their full potential – a mission that lies at the heart of Catholic education.

Our Year 11 pupils have recently completed their GCSE mock examinations and I am pleased with the mature approach they have taken toward these assessments. Class teachers are now marking their papers and on our return after Christmas, teachers will begin to focus on areas requiring further focus and improvement. If your child is in Year 11, I would like to remind you of our extensive after school revision sessions and recommend that all pupils in the year group attend as many sessions as possible.

Outside of the classroom, there have been many extra-curricular opportunities for our pupils this term. Pupils across different year groups have visited many places including museums, colleges, universities, WW1 Battlefields, Christmas Markets in France and more recently Liverpool Empire Theatre to watch Aladdin. On the sporting front, it is excellent to see such high participation rates. We have achieved lots of success across the year groups.



The cast of We Will Rock You are busy rehearsing in readiness for hitting the stage early next year. It is exciting that we have a production to look forward to and Mrs Chapman-Dean, Mrs Harrison, Mrs Mitchell and the cast are working really hard to put on a great show for us all.

During the season of advent, the church encourages us to prepare for the birth of Jesus through charitable giving. This advent our school community has donated over £4000 worth of toys to various children's charities. We have also donated hundreds of pounds worth of non-perishable food items to our local food bank. The selflessness and generosity of our pupils, who have worked hard to raise money through charitable events, has been a pleasure to see.

Our school choir has also performed at local care homes in Chorley and our reading intervention pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 recently took their favourite books to read to the residents at Astley View Care Home. Such simple acts of kindness bring so much joy to the residents at this festive time and it has been very well received. Our pupils' pride and sense of service towards our community has never been so strong.

Our carol concert was a great success as were our annual Christmas dinners, where we were joined by Fr Mark, Fr Ball, Fr Graeme and Fr Peter. We will bring the term to a close with our Christmas service at St Gregory's church, where as a community we reflect on a very successful term, and look forward to another exciting and busy one when we return in January.

Thank you for your continued support, and on behalf of the staff and governors of our school, I wish you and your family, a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Mr Lindley

DfE Performance Tables 2024

Top Performing School

- Number one performing school in Chorley
- Highest performing school in the Archdiocese
- 35th of all Catholic schools in the country



Holy Cross

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

School Newsletter

December 2024

Advent - Christmas Dinners

More than 570 pupils and 50 staff enjoyed a sit down Christmas lunch served by the Senior Leadership Team and Fr Mark, Fr Ball, Fr Graeme and Fr Peter on Tuesday 17 December and Thursday 19 December.

Twenty nine tables for each sitting were decorated and laid out for all to enjoy along with crackers and festive cakes. A special thank you to Julie and her team at Mellors for putting on such a tasty lunch, helping everyone to get into the festive spirit.





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School Newsletter

December 2024

Advent - Care Home Reading Visit

Pupils were praised after a visit to Astley View Care Home to read to the residents.

Reading Intervention teacher Miss Leeming said: "Some of our Reading Intervention Pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 took their favourite books to read to the care home residents. It was such a lovely time and the residents loved it. They were full of compliments for our pupils."



Advent - Christmas Carols

Our school choir visited Marley Court, Meadow Bank, Buckshaw Retirement Village and Coniston House Care Homes. The pupils not only sang beautifully but they were amazing at interacting with the residents. There were lots of tears of joy and Christmas cheer.

This was a lovely festive activity which both the pupils and residents thoroughly enjoyed.



Pupils were also in good voice at our Carol Concert held in school. At the hour long concert, where the community were invited, there was a selection of festive music and readings.

Advent - Christmas Card Competition

Year 8 pupils Imogen and Charlie were shortlisted for the Archdiocese of Liverpool Christmas Card Secondary School Competition.

Charlie said: "I didn't expect to be short-listed. I just did my best and I was happy to get down to the final two for Holy Cross."

Imogen said: "I like art so it was a nice surprise to be short-listed."



Advent - Christmas Jumpers

Pupils and staff enjoyed wearing colourful and fun festive attire for our Christmas Jumper Day.

There were snowmen, Christmas trees and Father Christmas on show, all in support of the local food bank. The participation was fabulous.

Pupils also took part in festive form time activities. As a school, we have donated a considerable amount of non-perishable items and Christmas food to Living Waters.



Advent - Charity



We received an amazing amount of gifts in aid of our Toy Appeal. A large donation of toys were gifted to Chorley SVP and pupils from Year 7, along with Mrs Chapman-Dean, also took a donation to Derian House.

We would like to thank all families that donated items to school.

Enrichment - Leadership



Our Leadership Academy will visit the Houses of Parliament in February, with a guided tour from the Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle.

The Leadership Academy is made up of pupils from Years 7-11 who meet once a week and talk about a number of issues, such as ways they can help to improve the school and the environment. They also listen to guest speakers and go on visits.

Last month, pupils from Year 10 and Year 11 Leadership Academy made the trip to Inspire Youth Zone for Parliament Week.

They met with the Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle regarding issues currently facing young people and discussed his role and responsibilities as the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Sir Lindsay will welcome 30 pupils, led by Leadership Co-ordinator Miss Duxbury, for a tour around Westminster in the new year.

Diana said: "It was interesting meeting Sir Lindsay Hoyle. He was very good at answering our questions – you can tell he is used to answering questions! It was a great experience especially as he was friendly, we got sweets and it was interesting having debates on politics. I might go into politics in the future."

Maebh said: "It was good to hear that our age group do have a say in the future and what we do now can have an impact. Sir Lindsay Hoyle said it is important to speak out and that young people's voices are heard in Parliament."

Aleksandra added: "I was a member of the Leadership Academy last school year and I enjoyed it as you go on tours of places and it prepares you for job interviews."

Enrichment - Jewish Museum Trip

Year 11 Religious Education pupils visited the Jewish Museum in Cheetham Hill on Tuesday 17 December.

Seventy pupils visited the Jewish Museum to help with their GCSE examination. They had the chance to look around the decommissioned synagogue and also learn about Holocaust survivors. They then made a short film about it using their iPads.

In the afternoon, they looked at Jewish Festivals and baked Challah Bread.



Enrichment - Workshop for GCSE Art Pupils



Artist Ian Murphy visited Holy Cross and put on a workshop for GCSE pupils.

Ian is from Wigan and is a British Fine Artist. Ian spent a day with our Year 11 pupils talking about mixed media and also about art and architecture.

It was an exciting and inspiring day as it was something different for our pupils.

Enrichment - 'Un Voyage Magnifique'



Forty Year 8 pupils had a fantastic time exploring what Northern France has to offer.

They undertook several visits which included a cathedral visit, a behind the scenes tour of a chocolate factory where chocolate is handmade, a behind the scenes tour of a traditional bakery and a museum visit to learn about the local ceramic industry.

The highlight of the trip was the visit to Arras Christmas Market where the children practised their language skills whilst experiencing some French culinary delights such as gaufres (waffles), crêpes (pancakes) and pain d'épices (gingerbread).



The pupils also enjoyed shopping for souvenirs and marvelled at the view from the Ferris Wheel.

At our beautiful hotel, we enjoyed hearty meals with a French flavour - boeuf bourguignon, bûche de Noël, croissants, fromage and of course, ESCARGOTS!

The pupils must be congratulated on their behaviour and engagement with the activities - they have all returned home with an improved understanding of French culture and language.



Enrichment - Trip to Lourdes was Inspirational

Ruby said a trip to Lourdes has "reaffirmed my faith in God".

The Year 11 pupil went on the Archdiocese of Liverpool trip with her grandma and friend. "It was a week long and I really enjoyed it. I got to speak to older people about their faith and also attended a number of community masses".

Ruby hopes to be an actress in the future and is a member of Stagecoach Performing Arts.



Enrichment - Year 9 WW1 Battlefields Tour



In October 2024, 90 Year 9 pupils and nine teachers set off from school on our annual pilgrimage to visit the battlefields, memorial and cemeteries of the First World War. We spent two days in Ypres, Belgium and visited Tyne Cot, Langemarck, Essex Farm, Vancouver Corner and the two best Great War Museums in the Ypres Salient.

The pupils also got to explore some of the only preserved original trenches of World War 1 and participated in the world famous Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate. The final two days of the tour explored the haunting and desolate battlefields of the Somme. Many of the original battlefields lie in land that has been left relatively untouched since 1918 and have an atmosphere that is profoundly moving. This is history in its most raw and bloody state.

Pupils visited Thiepval, Newfoundland Park, the Lochnagar Crater and the Somme Museum in Albert. Perhaps the most emotional experience was standing in the Chorley Pals trench at Serre. We remembered at that moment the dreadful carnage that awaited the men who went over the top at 7.30 am on 1 July 1916. Several pupils laid wreaths at the graves of relatives and tears were shed in remembrance, pride and sorrow. The tour finished with a meal at a French pub and a visit to the beautiful Canadian memorials and battlefields of Vimy Ridge.



The pupils were a credit to the school. An example was in a restaurant in Ypres when they cleared the dishes for the waiting staff of 101 people. The thankful and rather emotional restaurant owner told me that he had never seen a school group do that before.



"Let those that come afterwards, see that their names are not forgotten"



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CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

School Newsletter

December 2024

Pupil Sporting Achievements

Kian is a member of Team GB for American Football – but he turned down a chance to go to an NFL Academy as he wants it to remain fun.

The Year 11 got into American Football through his dad who used to play for GB and Team Europe.

“I went to Chorley Buccaneers when I was 15, earlier this year, and I enjoy it. The Head Coach of the Offensive Line is on Team GB so I travelled to Spain as part of the Under 17s squad. It’s a lot of fun. I was asked to join the NFL Academy which would mean moving away from home to Loughborough but it’s only a hobby for me so I turned it down. I also enjoy rugby and basketball.”



Year 11 Joseph aims to make a career in sport - whether it's playing or commentating.

Joseph is goalkeeper for Leyland and Chorley Hockey Club second team and also plays for Lancashire Under 18s.

“I got into hockey through a friend of a friend,” said Joseph. “I found it’s fun while also quite scary being goalkeeper! My dream is to make a living from it. The place to go is probably the Netherlands for that so I will just see what happens”.

If he can't make a living playing sport, Joseph fancies a job commentating on sport.

Pupil Sporting Achievements

Jackson hopes he is right on cue for a snooker career.

Year 9 Jackson has been playing snooker since he was six at the Elite Snooker Club in Lostock Hall.

“My biggest break is 140 in practice and I train six days a week. I am ranked 23rd in the country for Under 21 snooker players which I am proud of as I am obviously a lot younger. I have had a cue especially made by John Parris in London who makes cues for a lot of the top players. My favourite player is Ronnie O’Sullivan as I like the way he plays and I would love to make it big in snooker.”





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Pupil Sporting Achievements

Six Holy Cross footballers have been selected for the Chorley and District Football team.

They all came through trials at Holy Cross to be selected. Year 7 Gabby, who is a winger, plays at Manchester City Emerging Talent Centre as well as Euxton Girls.

Year 8 Georgia plays in defence for Euxton Girls.

Year 9 Ellise is a forward and plays for Preston North End Emerging Talent Centre as well as locally.

Year 9 Ella plays in defence and is at Burnley Women.

Year 10 Jasmine is a right winger and plays for Astley and Buckshaw while Year 10 Abby is a central-midfielder or plays on the right wing and is at Blackpool Women.



Pupil Sporting Achievements



Our Year 10 football team won the Chorley and District Cup.

They beat St Michael's in a dramatic final, with a stunning goal from top scorer Jake in the 90th minute to secure a 2-1 win.



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Pupil Sporting Achievements

Laiton is hoping to make it big at St Helens Rugby League club.

The Year 11 pupil is in his second year with the Saints on a scholarship.

“My brother got me into rugby league,” said the centre. “I train twice a week with St Helens and I also play in the Sunday League in Wigan. After my scholarship, I hope to go into the Academy which is for 16-18 year-olds, reserves and then first team hopefully”.



Ciara has certainly got into the swing of golf!

The Year 11 pupil plays for Chorley Golf Club and Lancashire Girls.

“I got into golfing when I was eight or nine through my dad. I had a go at Chorley Golf Club and found I liked it and was quite good at it. I have been junior captain and take part in competitions and also play for Lancashire Girls. My handicap is 22”.

Pupil Sporting Achievements



Holy Cross Under 16s finished a superb third in the Lancashire Netball Competition.

The event was held at Stonyhurst College and Holy Cross won all of their six games to reach the semi-finals but lost out at that stage.

Mrs Mitchell said: “It means we are the third best in Lancashire which is a superb achievement as the standard is really high.” Mrs Mitchell and Miss Dent coach the netball team.

Jashaani is hoping to be a big hit in the badminton world.

The Year 11 has been playing badminton for five years and played for her province in Sri Lanka before she came over to England last year. She carried on playing badminton in Chorley and trains at St Michael’s.

“We had trials and I was selected for Lancashire Under 18s. We train at Bolton Arena and it’s very exciting. I just enjoy playing, it’s fun.”





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School Newsletter

December 2024




P R E S E N T S

WE WILL ROCK YOU

SCHOOL EDITION

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY QUEEN
STORY AND SCRIPT BY BEN ELTON

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
FEB	FEB	FEB
04	05	06
2025	2025	2025
AT HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL MYLES STANDISH WAY, CHORLEY, PR7 3LS		ADULTS £10
		CHILDREN £7
		 SCAN HERE
TICKETS AT: WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/HOLY-CROSS-CATHOLIC-HIGH-SCHOOL-WWRV		



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CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Diary Dates Spring Term 2025

- INSET Day - Monday 6 January
- Year 11 Parents' Evening - Thursday 16 January
- Year 11 An Inspector Calls Theatre Trip - Thursday 16 January
- Year 11 Wigan and Leigh Interviews - Wednesday 22 January
- Year 11 GCSE Poetry Live Bridgewater Hall in Manchester - Wednesday 29 January
- We Will Rock You Performances - Tuesday 4, Wednesday 5 and Thursday 6 February
- Year 9 Mingalaba MFL Careers Workshop in School - Thursday 13 February
- KS4 Iceland trip (Geography) - departs Thursday 13 February
- Year 11 Preston College Interviews - Thursday 13 February
- Year 11 Photographs - Tuesday 25 February
- Year 8 Matt Oldfield Author Visit - Thursday 27 February
- Houses of Parliament visit with the Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle - Thursday 27 February
- Year 9 Parents' Evening - Thursday 27 February
- Year 9 Careers Fair - Friday 28 February
- Carousel Parents' Evening (Year 9) - Thursday 6 March
- Year 10 Drama Performance of I Love You, Mum - Wednesday 12 March
- Year 9 Geography Author Visit - Thursday 20 March
- Year 11 Derwent Hall (PE) - Friday 21 March
- Year 10 MFL Speaking Mocks - commence Monday 24 March
- Year 10 Parents' Evening - Thursday 27 March
- Year 9 Animal Farm trip - Wednesday 2 April



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TELEPHONE 01257 262093

ONLINE www.holycross.lancs.sch.uk

E-MAIL admin@holycross.lancs.sch.uk

TWITTER [@holycrosschrl](https://twitter.com/holycrosschrl)