



Dear Parents & Carers,

We have just a few school days left until the end of term. Please ensure that your child is here on time every day until we finish. **School closes at 12.30pm on Tuesday 22nd July 2025.** School re-opens on Wed 3rd September 2025 at 8am. On the final day of term, it will be an **'own clothes'** day, donations will be to further work in the 'Garden of Hope'.

Catholic Life & Mission

The highlight of last week was Wednesday, 9th July 2025, when we celebrated the Feast Day of Our Lady Queen of Peace with a whole school Mass. It was a beautiful occasion, with all students from Years 7 to 10 coming together to take part. The behaviour of students was impeccable. The readings and prayers of intercession were led by our Year 10 Student Leadership Team, and our choir inspired us with some of our favourite hymns: 'Shine, Jesus, Shine', 'As I Kneel Before You' and 'My Lighthouse'.

This week's Gospel (Luke 10: 25-37)

'Who is my neighbour?'

In the Gospel this week, the Parable of the Good Samaritan, we are called to show compassion and mercy to anyone in need, even if they are strangers or perceived as enemies.

Y6 Transition Events

Over the past couple of weeks, we were delighted to host a range of events to welcome our new Year 6 students. These included a dedicated day for students with special educational needs, a Friendship Day for those joining us on their own from individual primary schools, and our main Transition Day, where students spent a full day experiencing taster lessons. It was a real pleasure to meet our new students—they engaged with enthusiasm and curiosity throughout their sessions. We were also pleased to welcome students from Woodlands for their own Transition event, as they had been away on a residential trip during the main day. We look forward to seeing all of our new students again at **Summer School**, taking place from **18th to 20th August 2025**.

STEM Festival

54 keen scientists from Years 9 and 10 took part in West Lancashire College's annual STEM festival on 1st July. Alongside their peers from various other high schools, students experienced a range of interactive workshops and presentations led by employers in fields linked to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Feedback from the college was that our students were exemplary, with one Y10 student, Archie Ford, winning a prize for his contribution. Students enjoyed the event and learning about how their STEM curriculum can lead to exciting career opportunities:

"The extracting DNA from strawberries was very fun and engaging, especially learning the science behind it" – Ava-Lily

"I enjoyed the Co-op bank as the activities were inclusive for everyone" – Jess

"The AA workshop was fun and engaging working with the Bluetooth device and linking to physics" – Natalie, India & Amara

"Johnathan Campbell is the best public speaker ever. He was really entertaining and made the lecture style activities really fun" – Archie, Mieszko & Daniel

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“Speakers and workshops on Cyber security, Peel force & Thermofisher were inspiring and informative as it has now introduced me to potential job options in the future” – Lucas, Elena & Lil

Year 10 Work Experience – w/c 14th July

Year 10 were well prepared for their work experience week with a ‘Work Readiness’ workshop delivered in school on 2nd July by our friends Andy and Katie from Future U. Students were asked to consider what skills were necessary to become a successful and valuable member of the workforce and how to best utilise their work experience time to enhance their CV and develop those skills.

Feedback from work experience employers so far has been positive about our students who are demonstrating good manners, flexibility, a positive attitude and a willingness to learn new things.

Thank you to all of our wider community, friends and family who have offered to host our young people a work experience placement and provided them with this valuable experience.

Year 10 Visit to West Lancashire College

Year 10 students visited West Lancashire College for a taster day experience on 3rd July. Students gained a valuable insight into life and education post-16 and were impressed with the resources and friendly staff at WLC. Students behaved impeccably, representing our school and their families well and feedback from college staff was exemplary:

‘The behaviour of your pupils was just fabulous, Social Science tutor has the “best” day with both of her groups, great pupils, Health, Art, Early Years all said what wonderful well-mannered and behaved pupils you have and Motor Vehicle (who had 16 students in his workshop) said they were full of character and all had a go and fully engaged with everything they did.’

Hairdressing feedback

‘Alison and I wanted to take some time to share some very positive feedback following your learners’ recent visit to our Hairdressing department for the taster day. They were a credit to your school, demonstrating outstanding attitudes, professionalism and behaviour throughout the session.

The learners approached the task with enthusiasm and confidence, producing some truly excellent hairstyles that reflected both creativity and technical skill. A particular highlight was seeing them collaborate with our team during the styling activities. They communicated clearly, supported one another, and worked with real maturity and focus.

As hairdressing staff, we were genuinely impressed by their conduct and the quality of their work. They represented your school exceptionally well, and we felt it was important to share just how positively they contributed to the day. Please pass on our thanks and congratulations to everyone involved.’

Personal Development Day

Last Friday, 11th July, the whole school enjoyed a change from the usual curriculum to focus on our ‘Curriculum for Life’ with students taking part in a variety of workshops delivered by school staff, visiting speakers and our own Student Leaders. The ‘Curriculum for Life’ aims to ensure students have the knowledge they need to keep themselves safe and healthy, aspire to a successful career and become a valuable member of society. Drop down days supplement our regular ‘Curriculum for Life’ lessons and are not to be missed!

Year 7 participated in sessions on Self –Esteem; Oracy and Media Literacy as well as learning about preparing for their future career with a visitor from the Department for Work and Pensions. One Year 7 form also had a session delivered by our Year 10 Health and Social Care students.

Year 8 also enjoyed workshops on Oracy, Self-Esteem and Catholic Life with their form tutors. In addition, they participated in a lesson delivered by Future U about a local growth sector – Digital Manufacturing - in which they built their own robots!

Year 8’s Media Literacy lesson was partly delivered by Year 9 students who had received training from the University of Central Lancashire in collaboration with The Guardian to become ‘Media Literacy Ambassadors’. One group was

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even observed by a visiting professor who was most impressed with their mature and capable delivery of advice on how to spot when news stories are 'fake or form real'.

High School Musical

Many congratulations to our cast of High School Music who put on three fantastic performances, a matinee for primary schools and two evening performances. Students played their roles with confidence and were supported well by the technical team and back stage team.

Celebration Assemblies

Well done to the many students who have received awards and certificates this week for progress and achievement in a range of subjects across the curriculum and to those who have achieved awards for high levels of attendance. Students' hard work and efforts have been rightly recognised.

Dates for your diary

18 th July 2025	Y7/8 Sports Day
22 nd July 2025	School closes at 12.30pm
3 rd Sept 2025	School re-opens at 8am

Thank you to our parents and carers for your ongoing support throughout the year. I wish you all the best for a relaxing summer break and an enjoyable summer holiday.

Kind regards

Mrs M. Henshaw
Headteacher

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