



# Our Lady Queen of Peace

Catholic Engineering College

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Dear Parents/Carers,

We are now just a few days away from the half term break. Students and staff are looking forward to a rest at the end of the week. The last couple of weeks have been busy as students have been approaching their half-term assessment points in different areas of the curriculum after six weeks of learning.

## Catholic Life and Mission

Our theme this week in assemblies is praying the Rosary. October is traditionally known as 'the month of the Rosary'. The Rosary is a combination of prayers and meditations on important events in the life of Jesus and Mary and a strong Catholic tradition in many families.

A message from our School Chaplain, Mr Baron:

'I hope you have all settled into the rhythm of the term and the dark mornings are not too challenging. We have had a very busy time in Chaplaincy over the past few weeks. We have started laying the groundwork for our charity committee and are currently ploughing through lots of applications from students who are keen to join us. It is a really privileged problem to have such a wealth of choice, but it makes those decisions a little bit harder.

As part of our Prayer and Liturgy we have written a form prayer. There has been such a positive and diverse response to this task that it has been decided to compile them into a little booklet to share with everyone.

Faith in Action has also been the other key task on the agenda. This is a programme run by CYMFed, which is the Catholic Youth Ministry Federation. This will help our pupils to explore the faith and values that underpin our school and grow their understanding of the Faith we profess. This is going to be voluntary for years 8-11 but is being rolled out to all Year 7 students. This was launched on Personal Development Day in the Chapel on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October. Students behaved impeccably and gained a lot from the experience. Plus, we had a good sing! At the end of this programme the pupils will produce a reflective final piece to summarise their journey and then they will receive a national award! I'm sure they will do a fantastic job representing our school.

We are organising a School Carol service at St Mary's on 12<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm, to which you are all invited. I hope that you have a lovely half term break'.



## **In Christ We Grow**

*'As a learning community, we live out our Mission Statement striving for excellence through caring, sharing and achieving'.*

## **Attendance**

We are delighted to have a large number of students achieving 100% attendance. These students are maximising their chances of making strong academic progress.

Unfortunately the attendance team are seeing a strong pattern where student attendance is significantly lower on Fridays. Please would you make every effort to ensure that your child is in school on Fridays. This day is as equally important as the other four days of the week. If a child is absent, they are missing 5 full hours of learning and will then struggle in the lessons the following week as they will have to do catch up.

At GCSE level, there will be no time to re-teach lost learning. This will put your child at a disadvantage when they sit the examination and a question comes up where they missed the content due to absence. Students who have a pattern of absence on Fridays will not have their absence authorised unless there is a valid reason.

## **Teaching & Learning**

As we progress through the weeks, senior staff have been looking at the quality of student work in exercise books. We are pleased that many students are making a good effort to present their work to a good standard. The key area focus is how students respond to teacher feedback and make improvements to their work. Some students do this really well, whilst some students still need to be pro-active in taking the next steps in learning. Homework remains a focus. Some students are still not meeting homework deadlines. Study club runs after school Mondays to Thursday until 5pm. Students are able to get the free bus home at 4pm or 5pm.

## **Personal Development Drop-Down Day**

Students participated in their first Personal Development Day last Friday. The whole school worked in form classes and year groups on aspects of our Personal Development curriculum: 'Curriculum for Life', with a wide variety of activities covering important topics from careers to health education. Sessions were well received by staff and students, particularly the practical lessons where students were taught about growth employment sectors in Lancashire and the skills required to gain employment in those industries. Pictures of students participating in the various activities can be found on our social media sites.

## **Safeguarding**

Safeguarding formed an important part of the Personal Development Day, with students in Year 8 working with professionals from 'We Are With You' to learn about the dangers of vaping; students across the school learning about how to determine fact from fiction when reading or watching 'news' online; Year 7 working with their form teachers on anti-bullying and our older students learning about the dangers of criminal exploitation. Our preventative curriculum also sees Year 7 watching a performance of 'Streetwise'. 'Streetwise' is an engaging **1-hour** theatre presentation focussing on the potential consequences of lapses in concentration and risk-taking behaviour around roads. Issues covered include distractions such as using phones and listening to music, as well as 'messaging about' with friends.

## Half Term Holiday

School closes at 3pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024 for the half term break. The second half term starts on **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024**. We wish all our families an enjoyable and relaxing break and look forward to welcoming our students back after the holidays.

## Sports Updates

**Y7 Football Team** – Congratulations to our Y7 football team who won their first ever cup competition first time. We are delighted to have so many talented players. Well done!

**Y8 & Y9 Sports Leaders** – Our Sports Leaders refereed a match at a primary school and did a fantastic job. We were told that our students were 'a credit to the school'

**Y8 & Y9 Netball** – Well done to our Teams that took part in the West Lancs Netball tournaments. Students were great team players and played with determination.

**Y8 & Y10 Football** – Well done to our Y8 & Y10 football teams who played two challenging matches this week. Our Y8s put in a valiant performance in some extreme weather conditions. Lots of rain and lots of mud!

**Y11 Lancs Cup Fixture** – Well done to our Y11 students who won 4-0 against Brownedge St. Mary's. A tremendous achievement!

**Boxing** – We have a number of students who are taking part in boxing. They have made a great start and have impressed their instructor. I look forward to hearing more about their successes as they progress with their coaching.

Thank you for the ongoing support of all our families.

Yours sincerely



Mrs M. Henshaw  
Headteacher