



Holy Cross

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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HEADTEACHER **Mr I Gaughan BA**

September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS

Thank you for considering Holy Cross for your child's education. We have had another successful year and our school continues to go from strength to strength.

Our examination results are once again and continue to be well above national average overall. Our pupils have enjoyed huge success in a variety of areas including academic, sporting, creative and business. The vast majority of our pupils move successfully onto higher education.

At Holy Cross we believe that we are part of God's creative process, fulfilling the potential of each individual and enabling them to flourish.

We have extremely high standards regarding behaviour, uniform and attendance. We are a strict but happy community. Our parents appreciate the robust approach that we take to the small but important details of school life.

At Holy Cross we provide a wealth of extra-curricular experiences to inspire our pupils. We have an outstanding record for sport at local, county and national level. We have a large successful cohort participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Our pupils have amazing opportunities to participate in the arts, undertaking regular performances in school and in the community. All these opportunities when combined with the highest quality of teaching prepare our pupils to take their place in the adult world and make a positive contribution.

I am delighted to welcome you to Holy Cross and do hope that you want to be part of our optimistic and flourishing community, as we continue to be an outstanding Catholic school.

Yours faithfully

Mr I Gaughan
Headteacher

RELIGIOUS LIFE

Religious Education is central to the life of our Catholic school. Our Catholic faith influences all our work as we strive to follow the Gospel values of love, justice, concern for others and opportunity for all.

Each day begins with a prayer. Important events throughout the year are celebrated in Masses, assemblies or other forms of liturgy. The curriculum for Religious Education is designed to extend the pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity and to develop an understanding and awareness of major world faiths. Retreat Days are organised and led by the School Chaplain, RE teachers, and other invited guests. In Years 10 and 11 all pupils follow a GCSE course in Religious Education. This is supplemented by a flourishing extra-curricular life. A programme of sex education is delivered by several subject areas but primarily Religious Education, Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Education (SMSC) and Science.

We are very grateful for the support provided by our local priests for their contribution to the life of our school including regular Masses.

CURRICULUM

Our school aims to provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum in order to promote academic excellence and develop the potential of the individual. We currently operate a two week timetable of 50 periods (25 per week).

Years 7 - 9

In addition to the core subjects of English, Maths, RE and Science (including Land Based Science) pupils study Art and Design, Drama, Geography, History, Computing, Modern Languages (French, Spanish and German), Music, PE, Food and Nutrition, Product Design. Citizenship/SMSC is taught through all subjects and collapsed timetable days.

Years 10 and 11

All pupils study the core subjects of English Language, English Literature, Maths, Core PE, Science and RE. They also choose from a number of options suited to their academic ability and interest. Most currently choose three option subjects and are given advice and guidance throughout the process. Option subjects include:

Art & Design	Geography	PE GCSE	Creative iMedia
Computer Science	German/Spanish	Product Design	
Drama	History	Separate Sciences	
Food and Nutrition	Music		
French			

We also offer a vocational pathway for some pupils. This pathway offers a combination of work experience, college-based courses and school classes in Mathematics, English, Science and RE. Depending on pupil need and availability, the school regularly reviews its option subjects.

LEARNING SUPPORT

The school welcomes pupils of a wide range of abilities and aims to ensure that all are able to realise their aspirations. Following the Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice, procedures are in place to identify pupils' special education needs. To make sure our SEND pupils receive appropriate help and support, they are assessed and monitored. Parents are encouraged to take part in this procedure. Holy Cross works with external agencies to provide appropriate interventions, for example, the Disability Support Service (IDSS).

The department has a very experienced team of Learning Support specialists who support pupils in curriculum learning, mentoring, social and emotional issues. Teachers review pupil progress on a termly basis. Pupils, parents and Learning Support staff are encouraged to take an active part in this process and to work with teachers to remove barriers to learning and to enable all students to reach their full potential.

PROGRESS

Pupil progress is measured regularly through both formal and informal means. This includes regular checking and marking of work and regular feedback to the pupil through subject lessons, tutorials and where necessary, the Year Leader and Pastoral Team. Pupil progress is monitored formally each term and parents receive termly updates on this. Parents' Evenings, where parents are encouraged to come into school to discuss their child's progress, are held once a year. Parents are welcome to contact school to make an appointment to discuss their child's progress if there is a cause for concern.

REWARDS

The school operates a rewards system to positively recognise, reward and celebrate the success of our pupils. Points are awarded for good behaviour; an outstanding piece of work; an act of good citizenship; being fully prepared for lessons; contribution to extra-curricular activities. Hard work and positive behaviour is recognised and celebrated through, assemblies, awards trips, awards day and a range of rewards.

HOMEWORK

Learning at home is an essential part of good education. Regular homework is important. It gives pupils the opportunity to practise the tasks done in class and contributes towards improving a range of important skills. It builds confidence and assists young people to personalise their learning. It allows children to work at a pace which suits them and their ability. The school uses the *Show my Homework* system where pupils can see what homework they have received on line and parents can see it too by logging onto the *Show my Homework* website. The amount of homework set will increase over the five years.

ATTENDANCE

At Holy Cross, regular attendance is seen as essential for all students to make the most of their educational opportunities. We monitor attendance at school and in lessons very closely, making great efforts to establish good communications and a close partnership with parents on attendance matters. Year Leaders, our Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral) and the Attendance Improvement Officer have this as a specific responsibility. They are there to help you and your child.

As a parent you have the legal responsibility for making sure your child attends school regularly. There may be times when your child has to miss school, for example, due to sickness/family bereavement/hospital appointment. On such occasions please inform the school immediately by telephone on 01257 262093. Absences of more than three days due to illness require an appointment card/note from your GP. If your child is late to school due to a dental appointment or similar, he or she will need to show an appointment card.

Since 1 September 2013 Headteachers are unable to authorise any leave of absence during term time unless they are satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances to warrant the granting of leave. This relates to all requests for leave, not just requests for family holidays. Please be mindful of the above legislation when planning holidays.

All absences come at a price. Children missing school may not be able to keep up with academic work. In a busy school day it is difficult for your child's teacher to find the extra time helping them to catch up. Missing two weeks in each year of a child's school life is the same as missing almost one term's education.

SCHOOL DAY

Registration	8.55	-	9.15
1	9.15	-	10.15
2	10.15	-	11.15
Break	11.15	-	11.35
3	11.35	-	12.35
4	12.35	-	13.35
Lunch	13.35	-	14.20
5	14.20	-	15.20

TRANSPORT TO SCHOOL

Details of bus routes to the school are available from Reception. At present the following buses serve Holy Cross

- 707 Abbey Village Hare and Hounds, Higher Wheelton, Brinscall, Withnell, Blackburn Brow, Harpers Lane, Park Road, Union Street, Lyons Lane South, Bolton Road, Holy Cross
- 780 Clayton Brook Brook Rd, Preston Road (A6), Harpers Lane, Eaves Lane, Brooke Street, Lyons Lane, Bolton Road, Holy Cross
- 785 Coppull Oak Tree, Coppull Mill St, Charnock Richard Hinds Head, Southlands High School, Albany High School, Holy Cross
- 790 Lower Adlington Old School Lane, Ridgeway Arms Adlington, Holy Cross

For information about transport parents should contact: 0300 123 6738

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Wearing uniform will be very much a part of what it means to be a pupil at Holy Cross. The uniform for boys and girls is simple and smart and gives pupils a sense of belonging to the school

<p><u>GIRLS</u> White shirt School tie Black plain knit V neck long sleeved sweater with school badge Black skirt, plain or pleated but no straight and knee length (no lycra) Black, tailored trousers Black socks or thick black tights Black, flat heeled leather shoes (no trainers or boots)</p> <p><u>PE Kit</u> Red badged polo shirt Black shorts Black/red badged fleece jacket Black football socks Football boots Trainers Shin pads and gum shields</p>	<p><u>BOYS</u> White shirt School tie Black plain knit V neck long sleeved sweater with school badge Black, tailored trousers Black or grey socks (no stripes or logos) Black leather shoes (no trainers or boots)</p> <p><u>PE Kit</u> Red reversible rugby shirt Red badged polo shirt Black shorts Black football socks Trainers Football boots Shin pads and gum shields</p>
<p>Pupils can also have their initials printed onto their PE kit at an extra cost</p>	

There is no set uniform outdoor coat but we would ask for a sensible waterproof jacket. Track suit tops, hoodies, sweatshirts, military or denim coats are not allowed. Baseball style caps are not to be worn on the school premises.

Uniform can be purchased from JADA, 213 Eaves Lane, Chorley, PR6 0AG

The school sets high expectations regarding uniform and appearance. These are detailed in the booklet *School Rules and Expectations* which is available on request from reception and on the school website.

SUPPORT FOR PUPILS

Our school is structured in a way that offers maximum support to all pupils. Form Tutors and Year Leaders are immediately responsible for their pastoral care. Bespoke programmes can be organised to ensure our pupils are supported either pastorally or academically to enable them to succeed.

BULLYING

We have a clear policy on bullying, which states that bullying is not tolerated at Holy Cross. We believe that bullying can affect us all and that we share a responsibility to do all that we can to prevent and combat it. Any child worried about bullying is encouraged to talk to a teacher, another pupil or parents/carers. All reports of bullying will be recorded and acted upon swiftly and appropriately. Please see the school website for the school's policy and procedures on bullying. The full Anti-Bullying Policy is available on request.

SAFEGUARDING

Holy Cross is committed to safeguarding and promoting the health and welfare of all pupils. All staff will be vigilant to protect the children in our care. Any cause for concern will be immediately reported to the Designated Senior Lead (DSL). The school policy and Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board procedures will be followed. A full version of the School's Safeguarding Policy is available on request.

PUPIL VOICE

The school has a very active School Council which comprises representatives from each year group. This forum allows pupils to articulate their views and revise policies for the good of the whole school community.

EXTRA CURRICULAR LIFE

We strongly believe that a greater sense of belonging and respect for others can be achieved through extra-curricular activities. These can have a great impact on a young person's life, often unlocking less evident talents and raising self-esteem. The range of activities is detailed in the booklet entitled *Extra Curricular Activities* and is available on the school website.

PARENTPAY

In an attempt to remove all cash and cheques from school we ask all parents to use our e-payment method of payment for dinner money, visits, music lessons, etc. Parents are issued with a user name and password. These are used to activate a new account or to transfer an existing primary school account to Holy Cross.

FRIENDS OF HOLY CROSS

We are a fundraising group of Parents and Friends of Holy Cross who are working to raise funds and to help the pupils and teachers with fundraising ideas and projects. These are organised through FHC to help our pupils benefit from the opportunities that this extra funding enables. We welcome everyone who wishes to help and volunteer and look forward to welcoming you to our group and the school.

Contact email: fhcchorley@gmail.com

GCSE EXAMINATION RESULTS 2018

Measure	Holy Cross	National
Grades 9 – 4 English & Maths	74%	66%
Grades 9 – 5 English & Maths	52%	45%
9 – 5 English Best	64%	45%
9 – 4 English Best	83%	62%
9 – 5 Mathematics	59%	40%
9 – 4 Mathematics	79%	60%
9 – 4 Two Sciences	76%	--
EBacc	23%	--

SUBJECT RESULTS

Qualification Name	Entries	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	%9 – 4
English Language	145	3	12	18	19	33	26	25	6	2	77
English Literature (Y10)	145	0	4	7	34	30	34	20	7	9	75
Mathematics	145	5	8	21	25	27	28	10	12	8	79
Art & Design*	33	1	0	2	2	5	2	11	8	2	36
Biology	19	3	4	4	4	3	1	0	0	0	100
Chemistry	19	3	4	4	4	3	1	0	0	0	100
Computing	20	0	0	3	2	2	4	5	1	3	55
Drama	11	0	1	0	3	2	0	2	3	0	55
Food & Nutrition	26	0	0	1	3	6	4	12	0	0	58
French	11	0	1	0	1	2	0	5	2	0	36
Geography	67	0	1	3	9	13	11	15	9	6	55
History	70	8	12	9	11	10	6	5	9	0	80
Music	11	0	1	4	3	0	2	1	0	0	91
PE GCSE	43	0	2	9	12	4	5	7	4	0	74
Physics	19	1	5	5	1	6	1	0	0	0	100
Religious Education	142	2	5	9	17	17	28	28	21	13	55
Science Combined	248	7	14	24	34	58	48	40	18	5	75
Spanish	45	4	11	10	3	16	1	0	0	0	100

A* – C SUBJECTS (Legacy)

Qualification Name	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	U	%A*– C
ICT GCSE	13	1	2	2	5	1	1	0	0	77
Product Design	27	2	4	11	6	4	0	0	0	85

NON-GCSE SUBJECTS (A* – C Equivalent)

Qualification Name	Entries	L2D*	L2D	L2M	L2P	L1D	L1M	L1P	F	%A*– C
ICT Camb Nationals	4	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0
Catering Studies BTEC	8	0	0	0	5	0	0	3	0	63

* Art & Design currently being re-moderated