

Headteacher's Letter

As the spring term comes to an end and we approach the Easter holiday, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the significance of this special time in the Catholic faith.

Easter represents a time of renewal, with nature waking up after a cold, dark winter, offering warmer days, longer daylight and the signs of new life around us. It is also a time of hope and joy as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and are reminded of God's love for us. The many examples of charity and service that the community of Holy Cross has undertaken this Lenten season has certainly made others feel loved, and I thank our pupils and staff who are living the Easter spirit by following Jesus' call to serve and to love everyone, as He loves us.

Once again it has been a very busy term full of wonderful events and brilliant achievements. In class, the children continue to work hard, and I have been impressed with the level of engagement and enthusiasm they have shown towards their learning. There have been over 36,000 achievement points, 32 Headteacher Awards and three rewards breakfasts awarded this term in recognition of their effort and kindness to one another.

It is with immense pride that I reflect on our incredible school production of *We Will Rock You*. The children worked exceptionally hard, practising during lunch hours, afterschool and at weekends. The level of dedication and commitment should not be underestimated. They were also kind and incredibly supportive of one another. There was a real sense of camaraderie amongst the cast. Most importantly, the children had fun and have made memories that will last a lifetime.

Outside of the classroom, there have been many extra-curricular opportunities for our pupils this term. Pupils have visited the spectacular natural wonders of Iceland, the Palace of Westminster, Derwent Hill in the Lake District, as well as numerous visits to museums, colleges and theatres. As part of our Pupil Aspirations Programme, a small group of our Year 10 boys visited Eton College in Windsor and plans are in place for some of our Year 10 girls to visit Cheltenham Ladies' College later in the year.

In recognition of the church's Jubilee Year which is centred on the theme, "Pilgrims of Hope", staff and pupils from Holy Cross, and all our feeder primary schools, took a short pilgrimage to St Mary's church in Chorley to celebrate mass together. It was a wonderful occasion and, to my knowledge, the first time that all the Catholic schools in Chorley have come together, as one, to celebrate mass.

I continue to receive messages of thanks and appreciation from the parishioners of St Mary's. It really was a wonderful example of our family of schools working together to achieve great things.

Furthermore, our engagement with local parishes goes from strength to strength. This past week we held our SVP party, where senior members from all our parishes were treated to afternoon tea, games of bingo and musical entertainment. Pupils from our Leadership Academy did an excellent job organising and hosting this event and I know how much it meant to the parishioners who had a lovely time. I would also like to thank our parish priests who continue to support our school community. They are regular visitors to our school and continue to play a pivotal role in the education of our children.

Three weeks after our return from the Easter break, our Year 11 pupils will embark on their GCSE examinations. Our Saturday intervention classes have been very well received with over 100 Year 11 pupils attending each week. I have been impressed with the commitment and application the year group as a whole has so far shown towards their studies. I would encourage you to support your child to find time over the Easter break to study and revise for these exams to allow them to be fully prepared. It is also important to balance this with rest and activities that they enjoy doing.

At the end of term, we also say goodbye to Mrs Harrison (Music) and Mr Morris (Mathematics). We wish them all the very best in their new endeavours and thank them for their commitment and selfless service towards the community of Holy Cross.

May I express my gratitude for your continued support of our school and for entrusting us with the education and wellbeing of your children. On behalf of the staff and governors of our school, I wish you and your family a happy and restful Easter.

Mr Lindley

Lent - Pilgrim Mass

Pope Francis declared that 2025 will be a Jubilee Year, a holy year that happens every 25 years in the Catholic Church. During a Jubilee Year, people will go on a pilgrimage. As a school, all Year 7 and Year 8 pupils joined together with a class from each of our feeder primary schools to be pilgrims of hope, walking from Holy Cross Catholic High School to St Mary's Catholic Church, Chorley on the morning of Tuesday 18 March.



The pupils, staff, Father Marsden and our priests from the feeder parishes who concelebrated the mass were very excited about sharing this special occasion.

Lent - Walking Talking Mass

On Tuesday 25 March and Thursday 27 March, we welcomed Fr Peter into school who delivered a Walking, Talking Mass to six of our Year 7 RE classes.



He also met with Linda (our school chaplain) and the Faith in Action group for lunch. The group opened with a lovely prayer written by Bethany in Year 7 "We pray for hope, peace and happiness on your creation. We pray that we look after your world and that you bring us light. Thank you for wildlife and nature which brings a smile to our faces".

Lent - SVP Party

On Friday 28 March over 50 parishioners attended the school SVP Party. They enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea, bingo, raffle and games as well as the opportunity to socialise with staff and pupils.

Thank you to Miss Duxbury for organising the event, Mrs Croft for her help and support, the pupil leadership for serving the afternoon tea, The Lane at Newton Sports for the beautiful catering, Anna Barnett at Lancashire Catering Hire for the wonderful vintage crockery and cake stands, Mrs Johnson for making the centre pieces and everyone who helped to make this a special afternoon enjoyed by all.



We would like to thank you all for your kindness and generosity for the donations we received for our SVP Party. We would especially like to thank:

Riley's Tap Room, FBC (Fox's Burton's Companies), Morrisons, Katherine Hancock Baby & Child Photography, Diamond Boutique, BB's Massage, Pure Beauty with Denise and Pole Green Nurseries.

Events like these truly show what a special community we are at Holy Cross.

Lent - Lenten Social and Reflection

On Wednesday 2 April 40 pupils took part in the Lenten Social and Reflection.

Thank you to Ms Devlin and the RE department for putting on the event, the afternoon is always enjoyed by the pupils and a great occasion for the pupils to join together for crafts, biscuit decorating, Easter Bingo and a Lenten reflection.



Enrichment - Derwent Hall



Over the weekend of 22 and 23 March the PE department took the Year 11 GCSE PE and CNAT pupils to Derwent Hill Outdoor Education and Training Centre in Keswick in order to fulfil the Outdoor Adventurous Activities (OAA) part of the curriculum.

Pupils conquered their fear of heights by taking part in the human swing and a high ropes challenge. Pupils also took part in water-based activities, which included Ghyll Scrambling and Canoeing.

The pupils worked extremely hard completing the tasks and developed their skills in team building, problem solving and critical and creative thinking.

The PE department would like to thank all staff at Derwent Hill for a fantastic weekend, which was enjoyed by both staff and pupils. We are already looking forward to our next visit.

Enrichment - British Science Week



During British Science Week, the Science department put on a number of activities for KS3 pupils. These involved pupils building towers using spaghetti and marshmallows, creating their own boat made of tin foil to withstand a certain mass, solving a crime which took place in the Science prep room and designing and building their own marble run. Pupils enjoyed the activities and engaged well with the theme *Adapt and Change*!

To further celebrate the British Science Week 2025 theme of *Adapt and Change*, the science department welcomed four new ducklings.

Pupils were able to observe the hatching of the ducklings and watch how they developed and grew each day - they were very popular members of the department and had lots of cuddles.

Enrichment - Iceland



On 13 February, 50 Years 10 and 11 Geography pupils embarked on an adventure of a lifetime to Iceland. We flew to Keflavik airport and spent our first few hours in the country exploring the city of Reykjavik. The next day, we had an early start to travel to the Golden Circle for the day. The day began with a visit to the geothermal centre, which highlighted how geothermal energy was made. Following this, we visited the Secret Lagoon, a geothermally heated pool, and some amazing waterfalls.

On day three, we took part in a South Shore Adventure day, this involved exploring the small town of Vik and its black sand beach, Gullfloss Waterfall, the Geysir Center, and Kerio Crater. The best part was seeing the Thingvellir National Park, here you could see the constructive plate boundary, where the Eurasian plate is moving away from the North American plate. In the evening, we used the hotel pool and then headed out on the Northern lights tour. We were lucky enough to see shades of green and pink take over the skies of rural Iceland.

On our last day on the island, we visited the Earthquake exhibition centre, where pupils experienced a magnitude 6 earthquake, then headed to the Frioheimar greenhouse and cultivation centre to look at how Iceland tries to reduce its need for imports to meet food security. Our final meal in Iceland was here, a delicious tomato soup and homemade bread, with tomatoes grown right in that very greenhouse.

The pupils who attended the trip had a brilliant time and were an absolute credit to the school. Our tour guide and the flight staff commented on their exceptional behaviour and attitude.



Enrichment - Leadership Visit to the Houses of Parliament

At the beginning of this term, pupils from the Leadership Academy took part in an educational visit to London. This was following an invitation from Parliament for 30 of our pupils to travel to London to represent their peers in an interactive Q&A session with The Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle, the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Our pupils demonstrated impressive enthusiasm and effort in creating thoughtful questions for Mr Speaker, focusing on his duties, inspirations, and advice for those considering a political career. They also discussed important issues affecting young people today, highlighting their maturity and insight.



During the visit, pupils represented Holy Cross with pride as ambassadors and role models. They enjoyed a detailed and informative tour of the Houses of Parliament, which enriched their understanding of British Values and their importance today. One key example that pupils took away was the explanation behind Sir Lindsay Hoyle's Coat of Arms, highlighting his Chorley upbringing and his motto of, "we are seen in action".

The day continued with a visit to the Natural History Museum, where pupils were fascinated by the extensive exhibits and numerous historical artefacts, such as the findings of Mary Anning, an inspirational palaeontologist.

Finally, they visited the Victoria and Albert Museum, where they had the chance to sketch various pieces of art on display. Our pupils represented the school to an impeccable standard.

Enrichment - Careers Fair

On Friday 28 February we hosted our annual Careers Fair in school. Pupils from Years 9 and 10 had the opportunity to speak to colleges, training providers, universities, local and national businesses about their post-16 options.

Thank you to the 45 wonderful businesses and education providers who came along to speak to our young people. We are very grateful for your time and support. It is especially special to welcome back ex-pupils. If you would like to be a part of future career fairs please contact Mrs Love admin@holycross.lancs.sch.uk



Enrichment - Holocaust Memorial Day



On Saturday 25 January, the Head Boy and Girl accompanied Mr Murray to the Chorley Holocaust Memorial Day service at the Cenotaph in Astley Park.

A poignant service was led by Father Marsden and wreaths were laid by the young people of Chorley to remember the 6 million Jews murdered in the Holocaust.

Mr Murray also delivered moving assemblies to all year groups. Holy Cross is committed to Holocaust Education, we have sent hundreds of our young people to visit Auschwitz and the concentration camps in Germany over the last decade.

The Head Girl visited Auschwitz in 2024 and the visit had a profound effect on her. Holly said "We are determined that the warnings of the Holocaust, on the dangers of anti-Semitism, racism, intolerance and prejudice - will not be forgotten".

Enrichment - Reading Intervention Visits



Over the past few weeks, we have had the great pleasure of visiting Astley View and Coniston House care homes with our Reading Intervention and Leadership teams. Pupils were eager to share their favourite books and the care home residents were equally enthusiastic listeners.

The visit not only brightened the day of the residents but also left a lasting impression on the pupils, teaching them the value of empathy and the power of storytelling.

Pupils have also enjoyed visiting St Mary's Catholic Primary School to read with Year 5 pupils, sharing their favourite stories and even signing the primary pupils' reading logs. The trip was a great success, fostering a love for reading in both groups.

Enrichment - We Will Rock You



Our pupils put on an amazing performance of *We Will Rock You*. A sell out on all three nights. The talent that was displayed by the pupils was phenomenal.

Emma who played Scaramouche said "I have never done anything like this before. It has been really good. My dream would be to perform in the West End".

Salvador, who played Galileo wowed the audiences with his incredible voice. This is Salvador's second Holy Cross performance as he also performed in *Grease*. Salvador said "I have enjoyed playing a bigger part this year and having the control and freedom to perform how I want to perform. I would love to pursue a career in acting".

This was Joseph's first performance on stage. Joseph, who played Buddy said "I have enjoyed making new friends within the other year groups whilst taking part. It has helped me to improve my acting skills. I have never done anything like this before. I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to play a bigger role".

Charlotte who played Oz, is a natural talent, with an amazing singing voice. Having only ever had two singing lessons she has stepped up into a main role following her involvement in the chorus in *Grease*. Charlotte said "I have enjoyed singing and performing and making friends".

Frankie who played Khash has never had a main part before but has enjoyed making friends and seeing what it feels like to have a main part in the school production.



Grace who played Oggi was also in the chorus in *Grease*. Grace is a part of Will Power acting school. Grace would love to travel the world and become a flight attendant.

Maebh, who wore the most amazing costume and really looked the part as Killer Queen, has never properly sang in front of an audience; this is her first school performance. She was encouraged to take part from friends and family and has really enjoyed the experience. She said "I have made some great friends and it has been good to have the chance to grow in confidence. I enjoy singing and would want to do something like this again. I am excited for the performances".

Noah who shared the role as Brit also played Eugene in *Grease* has enjoyed being with friends at rehearsals and said "I would definitely love to be involved in musical theatre in the future".



Enrichment - We Will Rock You



Izaac who is the youngest of the main characters and only in Year 7 has shown true confidence in his character as Brit. After coming along in primary school to watch *Grease* he was inspired by the talent of our pupils to audition for *We Will Rock You*. Izaac isn't new to the stage though and has performed at the Grand Theatre, Blackpool and has auditioned for movies. He would like a career in acting.

Izaac wanted to thank the teachers and said "They have been amazing, they work so hard to make the show what it is. There are so many opportunities at Holy Cross within the Performing Arts department"

Mrs Chapman-Dean said "What can I say to this immensely talented cast? You rocked it! Memories made that will last forever – highs and lows – but it all came together in the end. Thank you to all those colleagues who have helped make this show such a success. To Mrs Mitchell for the fantastic choreography and to Miss Dent for backstage – a show is not just those on the stage. The dedication from all has made this show what it is – now for a rest".

Mrs Harrison said "We are so incredibly proud of the whole *We Will Rock You* cast. You have worked so hard. It takes talent, stamina and determination to pull off a show like this and you have delivered on every level. Enjoy every moment of the performances. I know that you will shine brightly and remember this time for years to come".

A big thank you to all the cast, Mrs Chapman-Dean, Mrs Harrison, Mrs Mitchell for the choreography, the band, the crew backstage and everyone who has helped make the performances happen. Pupils were rewarded for their hard work and dedication to the performance by enjoying a whole cast meal at Papa Luigis.



Enrichment - Eton College Visit

In March 2025, eight Year 10 boys accompanied Mrs Henderson and Mr Moon to Windsor for a unique two-day visit.

We flew to London Heathrow, enjoying spectacular views of the London skyline, before travelling to Windsor by train. Upon arrival, we were fortunate enough to observe the Changing of the Guard outside Windsor Castle before visiting the castle itself. Pupils enjoyed a comprehensive audio tour of the castle and activities linked to their GCSE English Literature and History study focused on Elizabethan England and Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. Specific highlights of the visit to Windsor castle included paying our respects at Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip's resting place in St George's Chapel and seeing the bullet which killed Nelson during the Battle of Waterloo. Salvador said that he had enjoyed learning about a 'rich and royal culture with each room telling a different story'.



The beautiful Windsor sunshine allowed us to enjoy ice cream before a boat tour of the river Thames. Our first day was concluded with an enjoyable meal and a visit to the theatre to see *Showstopper: The Improvised Musical*. Pupils marvelled at the talented cast and musicians who were able to improvise an entire 90-minute show with audience input.

The following day, pupils were fortunate enough to be immersed in life at Eton College. Eton College was founded in 1404 by King Henry VI to educate 70 King's Scholars. As a result of its historic founding, Eton College has many significant artefacts and has educated prominent politicians and royalty.

Throughout this academic year, we have been working closely with Eton College as a partner school on outreach initiatives which resulted in our visit.



Enrichment - Eton College Visit

Our Year 10 boys conducted themselves in an exemplary manner and impressed Eton's staff and pupils alike.

Pupils engaged with a full day of lessons and activities which included: utilising AI to aid revision; public speaking; self leadership and a full tour of the school, including its historic chapel where two Old Etonians had carefully removed an unexploded WWII bomb and received the St George Cross for their bravery.

Pupils also had the opportunity to explore Eton College's museums and observed an Egyptian era plinth marked with Pharaoh Ramesses II's name. This provoked relevant discussion for the pupils' study of Shelley's poem Ozymandias. Our day at Eton College culminated with a question and answer session with two Sixth Form pupils, originally from a state school in Preston, who are the recipients of the Orwell Award which is a full Sixth Form bursary.

Whilst reflecting on the day during our journey home, Francis enthused that his day at Eton College 'filled me with passion and enthusiasm not only for my scholastic future but for life'. The trip was a unique and unforgettable experience for the boys which has sparked further aspiration, interest and enthusiasm for learning.



Pupil Sporting Achievements



Our Year 7 boys football team successfully beat Albany 11-0 to make it into the Chorley Hospital Cup semi-finals. Top goal scorers were Charlie and Jacob F.

The team consisted of Lucas, Lewis, Jacob, Cole, Oliver, Ted, Freddie, James, Archie, George, Charlie and Jacob.



Our Year 7 netball team (Gabriella as WA, Winnie as C, Charlotte as GA, Emily as WA, Matilda as GS, Jessica as GK, Ella as GD and Myla in defence) have topped the Chorley schools by winning all their games.

Pupil Sporting Achievements



The Year 9 Handball team have won all their games against the other chorley High Schools this term, including a 2-1 win against St Michael's. The team consisted of Oliver, Jack, George, Stan, Adam, Jacques, Benedict, Kingston and Will.



The Year 9 boys' football team have successfully made it into the final of the Chorley Cup and will play either St Michael's or Bishop Rawstorne. Good luck. The team consists of George, Will, Jacob, Kingdton, Matty, Lewis, Adam, Jack, Riley, Rio, Adam, Stan, Jackson and Oli.

Will and George have also been selected to represent Lancashire in the U14's football team, they beat Merseyside in their first game. George also plays for Preston North End outside of school and Will plays for Euxton Villa.

Pupil Sporting Achievements



On Wednesday 26 March 2025, three teams from Holy Cross represented Chorley at the Lancashire Sports Hall Athletics finals in Blackpool having won their events against the other Chorley schools. All three of our Holy Cross teams won by achieving the highest amount of points and are therefore Lancashire Champions.

Year 7 Girls - Gabriella, Winnie, Ella, Jessica W, Jessica H, Isla, Charlotte and Alice

Year 8 Boys - Charlie S, Luke, Sam, Leo, Harry, Charlie M, Will and Vaughan

Year 8 Girls - Kitty, Grace F, Grace H, Bella, Sarah, India and Elise

Pupil Sporting Achievements



Kitty in Year 8 recently represented Lancashire at the English Schools' Athletic Association Cross Country Championships. Kitty is currently competing a year under age for the Year 8 and 9 team. Kitty said "I have learnt a lot from competing at this level and it was good experience. I hope to do better next year when I am in Year 9". Kitty currently runs for Horwich Harriers and has also competed for Manchester.

Leo in Year 8, who has been playing football since he was three has recently been signed by Blackpool Football Club. As left wing Leo has already scored for the club in only his third game. Well done Leo.



Diary Dates - Summer Term 2025

- Start of Term - Tuesday 22 April
- Year 10 Leyland Trucks Visit (Product Design) - Tuesday 22 April
- Year 7 Parents' Evening - Thursday 24 April
- Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition - Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 April
- Year 7 Retreat - Monday 28, Tuesday 29 and Wednesday 30 April
- UKMT Maths competition - Thursday 1 May
- Primary Spelling Bee Competition - Thursday 1 May
- Year 10 Prefect Training Day - Friday 2 May
- School Holiday - Monday 5 May
- Year 8 Parents' Evening - Thursday 8 May
- Year 10 Girls' visit to Cheltenham Ladies' College and Stratford - Thursday 15 and Friday 16 May
- Half Term - Monday 26 May - Friday 30 May (inclusive)
- Year 10 Product Design trip to Leyland Trucks - Wednesday 14 June
- Year 7 Girls and Boys UCLan Sports Area Football Tournament - Thursday 15 June
- GCSE Exam Period - Thursday 8 May - Thursday 19 June
- Year 10 Wigan and Leigh Sample Day - Tuesday 17 June
- Year 5 Thomas Martland Trophy Competition - Thursday 19 June
- Year 8 Castlerigg - Friday 20 June - Sunday 22 June
- Year 11 Prom - Wednesday 25 June
- Year 7 Warwick Castle - Thursday 26 June
- KS3 LUSOM Maths Competition - Thursday 26 June
- Year 10 Cardinal Newman College Sample Day - Tuesday 1 July
- New Intake Parents' Evening - Tuesday 1 July
- New Intake Day - Wednesday 2 July
- Year 10 Runshaw College Sample Day - Wednesday 2 July
- St John Rigby Maths Challenge - Wednesday 2 July
- Year 8 Geography Crosby Beach Field Trip - Friday 4 July
- Year 9 Savio House - Monday 7 July - Wednesday 9 July
- Year 10/11 Berlin Trip - Monday 14 July - Thursday 17 July
- End of Term - Tuesday 22 July