

## Headteacher's Letter

As we approach the end of this academic year, it is with a great sense of pride that I reflect on all that the community of Holy Cross has accomplished together. This year has been full of growth, learning, and unforgettable moments. From the children's achievements in the classroom to their creativity, resilience, and kindness, we are incredibly proud of each and every pupil. They've worked hard, supported one another, and made our school community a joyful place to be.

At the heart of our school is the Gospel message – one of love and service. These are not simply words we display in our classrooms, but values we strive to live out each day. Whether it's through prayer and liturgy, acts of charity, or the daily kindness shown between pupils and staff, our Catholic identity is a living and guiding presence in all that we do.

We continue to work in partnership with our priests and local parishes to help our children grow into compassionate, thoughtful individuals who are grounded in faith. It was with great joy that we celebrated the recent Confirmation of almost 100 Year 8 pupils at the parishes of St Gregory's, St Mary's and St Joseph's, Chorley. His Grace, Archbishop John Sherrington, was most impressed with how our pupils embraced this special sacrament with maturity and sincerity. This sacred moment marks a significant step in their journey of faith, as they received the gifts of the Holy Spirit and affirmed their commitment to follow Christ. We are deeply thankful to the parish priests, catechists, families, and staff who guided and supported the children throughout their preparation.

Pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 have also taken part in recent retreats to Lowe House, Castlerigg and Savio House respectively. Retreats offer our pupils time away from their daily routine to encounter God, strengthen friendships, and reflect on who they are becoming. We are grateful to our staff and retreat leaders who made these experiences possible.

One of the great pleasures of school life is watching our pupils discover and develop their talents beyond the classroom, and I am delighted to share just how many opportunities they have to do so. From sports clubs and drama productions to robotics, engineering, eco-groups and more, our extra-curricular enrichment programme has never been more vibrant. Just this past term: pupils have completed expeditions in the Ribble Valley as part of their bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award; the history department has led visits to Berlin and Warwick castle; Year 10 pupils have attended local sixth form colleges and, as part of our Pupil Aspirations Programme, a small group of our Year 10 Girls visited Cheltenham Ladies' College in Gloucestershire.



These activities not only enrich our pupils' school experience, but also help nurture qualities that last a lifetime. We are deeply proud of the enthusiasm our pupils bring to each opportunity and the dedication of the staff who make these activities possible.

I would also like to commend our Year 11 pupils for the determination, resilience, and maturity they have shown throughout the examination period. Examinations can be challenging, not only for our young people but also for the families who support them. Regardless of the outcomes, each pupil's effort is a cause for celebration. We are proud not only of what they have achieved but also what they are becoming; young people who take responsibility, rise to challenges, and strive to give their very best. It was wonderful to see them celebrating with so much happiness at their Prom and we look forward to congratulating them on their achievements when they receive their examination results later this summer.

As we bid farewell and good luck to our Year 11 pupils we welcome with excitement our new intake who, in September, will join the community of Holy Cross. It was wonderful to meet their families at our Year 6 Induction Evening. The pupils' behaviour and level of engagement during the subsequent Induction Day was a credit to both their parents and respective schools.

## Headteacher's Letter Continued

One of our many strengths is the strong, purposeful relationships we have with our local primary schools. This summer term we have enjoyed hosting our Year 5 taster days, our Patricia Evans' Spelling Bee and The Thomas Martland Maths Competition. These connections are more than just transitional pathways – they are partnerships that enrich our pupils' learning. We are very proud of the mutual trust and shared vision we have built with our feeder schools. It allows us to tailor our induction experience with real insight into pupils' prior learning and needs. Most importantly, it helps every child feel known, welcomed, and ready to thrive.

This term also saw the election of our new Head Boy and Head Girl. After a thoughtful process of applications, interviews, and speeches, alongside votes cast by staff and fellow pupils, we are proud to announce that Joseph Scott and Maebh Harling have been elected to represent our pupil body for the coming year. Joseph and Maebh will be supported by an excellent leadership team. All candidates impressed us with their integrity, vision, and commitment to our school values. They are all exceptional role models.

Last week we enjoyed our annual Sports day. We were blessed with glorious weather and it was a joy to witness the energy, enthusiasm and sportsmanship that filled the day. From the determined sprint finishes to the team relays and the laughter echoing across the field. Whether participating or cheering from the sidelines, every child played their part in creating a fantastic atmosphere of encouragement and camaraderie.

Further fun and laughter were had during our pupils' well-deserved Rewards Day. It was a delight to see our pupils enjoying a day filled with fun, friendship, and celebration, all in recognition of the hard work, perseverance, and kindness they have shown throughout the year.

At the end of term, we say goodbye to Miss Hopwood (History), Miss Lowe (Science) and Miss Rigby (Learning Support). We wish them all the very best in their new endeavours.

In September we welcome Mrs Booth (Science), Mrs Eyre (History) and Miss Turner (History).



Behind every lesson taught, every event organised, and every child supported, there is a member of staff who gives their time, energy, and care with unwavering commitment. From our teachers and teaching assistants to office staff, site team, catering team and support services - each plays a vital role in creating the nurturing environment we are proud to call our school community. I know you join me in thanking them for their dedication, not only in helping every child flourish academically but also in fostering the sense of belonging and kindness that makes our school feel like home.

We look forward to welcoming your children back in the new term. Pupils in Year 7 and Year 11 will return to school on Wednesday 3 September with all pupils in school on Thursday 4 September.

Finally, I would like to thank you, parents and carers, for the support you continue to show our school. I wish you and your families a well-earned summer break. I hope it brings rest, fun, and precious time with loved ones.

Mr Lindley



## Confirmations

On Tuesday 17 June, Friday 20 June and Wednesday 25 June 91 Year 8 pupils from 11 parishes were confirmed at St Mary's, St Gregory's and St Joseph's, by Archbishop John Sherrington.



All pupils in Year 8 and above, who were baptised in a Catholic church, are invited to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. We follow the Archdiocesan programme of preparation, which begins with the teaching of the theology of the Sacraments in Year 7. In Year 8, pupils register online and then continue their preparation with priests and catechists in the parishes, ensuring that they feel welcomed and that they understand the important role they have to play in their church community.

## Maths Mastery Day



This term we were delighted to host the final CPD day for the NCETM (National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics), Teaching for Mastery Embedding and Sustaining Work Group. The event welcomed 30 mathematics teachers from across Lancashire, including numerous Heads of Department, who spent the day at Holy Cross and observed a live lesson with our 9A1 and 9A2 classes. The lesson focused on developing pupils' mathematical thinking and was met with enthusiastic feedback from all pupils and attendees.



## The Good Shepherd Mass

On Wednesday 11 June, a group of pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9, accompanied by Mrs Chapman and Mr Preston were invited to attend the Good Shepherd Mass at the Cathedral in Liverpool, celebrated by the Most Reverend Archbishop John Sherrington. It was a joyful celebration of faith and community, with a focus on the role of the Good Shepherd. The Mass was organised by Nugent, in thanksgiving for the amazing fundraising that took place in schools across the Archdiocese during Lent. At Holy Cross, pupils organised cake sales, raffles and games in support of the Good Shepherd fund.

On the day - we got to meet the Most Reverend Archbishop John Sherrington which was extremely special. We stopped and had lunch in the sunshine and even snuck in a cheeky trip to see the Liverpool stadium on the way home. A fantastic day.

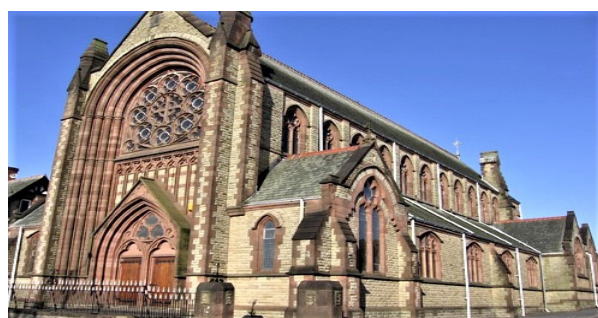


## Sacred Heart Anniversary Mass

On Friday 27 June, a group of Year 7 and Year 8 pupils from Holy Cross celebrated the 150th anniversary of Sacred Heart Church attending the anniversary Mass. John K, Lilly K, Elijah F, Gabriel H and Nayana C also completed a research project and display.

The group was chaired by John and the pupils spent several weeks after school researching key events and people from the history of the church. They produced an excellent display, which featured a visual timeline and historical photographs from the past, including priests and notable events from over the years at Sacred Heart.

The display board is now being shown at Sacred Heart and the church expressed their gratitude to the Year 8 pupils for their efforts. The pupils all worship at Sacred Heart and felt that completing the project deepened the spiritual links between the church and Holy Cross. Congratulations to these pupils - their work on this project perfectly embodied the key values of our school.





## Spelling Bee Competition

On the 1 May, we held our annual Patricia Evans Spelling Bee. The Spelling Bee is named after Mrs Evans who served over 35 years at Holy Cross both as a dedicated English teacher and Head of Year.

This year saw five of our local feeder primary schools (Sacred Heart, St Bede's, St Gregory's, St Chad's and St Joseph's Anderton) enter the competition to put their skills to the test against some of Chorley's finest young spelling geniuses.

The competition consisted of five rounds. In the first four rounds, one pupil from each team took part. In each round, each team member was asked to spell three words. The three words got progressively more difficult and pupils earned points for each word spelled correctly. At the end of round four, the two top scoring teams went through to round five, our knock out round. In round five, all four team members from the two teams took part and, in turn, each pupil was asked to spell a word until a word was spelt incorrectly.

This year our finalists were Sacred Heart and Anderton St Joseph's. Both teams greatly impressed our judges. However, the team who were our reigning champions this year were Anderton St Joseph's who managed to spell the highest number of consecutive words without any mistakes. A huge congratulations to the pupils in their team!

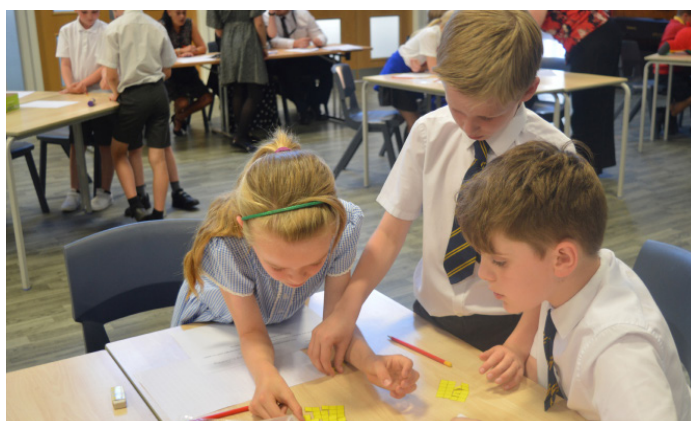
All pupils involved from all our feeder primary schools showed tremendous courage to stand before our audience, placing themselves in the spotlight on what was one of the hottest evenings of the years. We look forward to seeing some familiar faces of our literacy geniuses over the next few years.



## Thomas Martland Trophy

Our annual Thomas Martland Trophy competition took place in June where we welcomed nine feeder primary schools. The theme this year was 'Wicked'. Year 5 pupils attended and completed a number of problem solving tasks based on the box office film. Huge congratulations to all pupils that took part, especially Sacred Heart who were our winners this year. We look forward to hosting this event again next year, where there will be a new theme and potentially new winners.

Mr Broderick, Headteacher at Sacred Heart said "It was a true delight for the children to take part and an even greater joy to return having won this prestigious competition".



## Year 5 Transition Lessons

This Summer term, we have been delighted to welcome pupils from a range of our feeder primary schools to Holy Cross Catholic High School for an exciting day of transition activities. The young scientists took part in hands-on experimental work, investigating chemical reactions with a focus on careful observation and measuring temperature changes. They then applied their findings in a Maths session, plotting graphs to visualise their results. The day was rounded off with thrilling science demonstrations, including the explosive Elephant's Toothpaste, a giant squeaky pop testing for hydrogen and even solids freezing onto wooden blocks - leaving everyone inspired and eager for more!



## Transition Day

On Wednesday 2 July we welcomed our New Intake pupils into school. Pupils took part in a wide range of lessons including Art, Drama, Food and Nutrition, Geography, Product Design, PE, History, Computer Science, English, RE, French and Spanish. Feedback from our primaries said the pupils had fun, it was exciting and they are looking forward to starting in September. It was great to see new friendships being made just after one day.





## Work Experience

### *Advance Notice - Work Experience 2026*

We are thrilled to bring back work experience for our pupils. Our current Year 9 pupils will go on work experience from Monday 29 June – Friday 3 July 2026. Pupils will be asked to find their own placements so we want to provide plenty of notice for pupils to start thinking about what kind of sector they would like to experience.

### *Careers in the Summer Term*

Over the past few weeks, we have visited Wigan and Leigh, Cardinal Newman and Runshaw College with our Year 10 pupils. These sample days are a really valuable way for our pupils to experience college campuses and to trial courses they may be interested in for the future. We are thrilled that our pupils found these days to be beneficial. Feedback from college staff was that our pupils were hard-working and polite which is always fantastic to hear. Our current Year 10 pupils will start to apply for college places in the Autumn term. We strongly encourage pupils to visit the college open evenings with parents and carers. Details of these dates can be found on our online college noticeboard, on the school website.

### *Unifrog*

From September 2025, we will be investing in an online careers platform called Unifrog. This is a very popular interface which provides comprehensive, user-friendly information about careers, colleges and universities for pupils and parents. All pupils and parents will be provided with usernames and log in details in the new academic year.



## Rewards Day

Our annual school Rewards Day was celebrated on Monday 21 July. Following an extensive pupil and parent voice and evaluation on how we run our Rewards Day, including the selection process, over 600 pupils from Year 7-10 were recognised for their hard work and effort this year. Pupils involved in the day could choose four activities out of various activities including a silent disco, garden games, football, bingo, traditional sports day, pottery making and baking. Pupils across all year groups also had awards assemblies celebrating their hard work, 100 percent attendance and excellent contribution to our mission statement.





## Awards Assemblies

Pupils were awarded prizes and certificates from all departments for their hard work and excellent contribution to their lessons. Charlotte E in Year 9 was awarded the special award 'The Chorley Pals Award - Excellence in History' and Madison V in Year 10 was awarded the 'The Luke Bennett Award - Excellence in Sport'. The Harold Riley academic excellence award was awarded to Eliza in Year 7, Gabriel in Year 8, Ruby in Year 9 and Oliver in Year 10. The Colin Walsh Award (Head of Year award contributions to school life) was awarded to Oliver in Year 7, Millie in Year 8, Anya in Year 9 and Aleksandra in Year 10.

Well done to all our pupils who have lived out our mission statement (John 10:10) this year and have gone above and beyond to 'Love God, Work Hard and Be Kind'.



## Key Stage 3 Library Rewards Awards Assemblies

On Friday 18 July 70 pupils across Years 7-10 were treated to a reading reward movie afternoon. Invites were given to pupils who have put lots of effort into reading and Accelerated Reader all year round. They enjoyed doughnuts, popcorn and cookies whilst watching Mufasa: Lion King! Here are some of the pupils pictured with Mr Lindley. A well deserved treat for our reading superstars.

Well done also to Oliver in Year 7, who is our top performing pupil in the school and has even achieved 1,000 points this week. Well done!





## Year 11 Prom

Year 11 pupils celebrated the end of the examination period and their time at Holy Cross with a fantastic prom night held at Rivington Barn, Horwich. It was wonderful to see so many people who came to celebrate this occasion with the pupils. The outfits were on point and the pupils danced and sang the night away. Our Head Boy Austin and Head Girl Holly-Belle were presented with a Holy Cross shield as a gift to thank them for their leadership and additional duties that they carried out on behalf of the school. Furthermore, the biggest cheer of the night went to Mrs Tierney when thanked for her support and guidance both academically, emotionally and spiritually to the year group as Head of Year 11. The behaviour was impeccable, and this was reiterated when the DJ said the only prom he will add to his diary is the Holy Cross prom.





## Year 11 Destinations

Year 11 Ethan is hoping to keep it in the family by following a career in medicine. Ethan aims to go to Newman College to study A-Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Maths while also taking an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

Ethan said: "I am interested in medicine, especially carrying out surgery. I want to do something practical. My dad is a consultant, my mum is a nurse and my brother is in Manchester Medical School – everyone in my family is in health care! I did think about taking a different path but I like science and I like helping people. I have enjoyed Holy Cross. In Year 8 I did the UniLever 'All About STEM' project and had the chance to visit Port Sunlight which was enjoyable. I have also had guitar lessons in school which was a nice break from the academic work".

Holly Belle is hoping to use her personal experience to help others in the future. Holly Belle aims to go to Newman College to study A-Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Maths.

"I want to go into medicine – either dermatology or dentistry. I had problems with my skin in the past so I think I can use my personal experience to help others, I find it interesting".

Holly Belle has also excelled at netball at Holy Cross.

"I have played for the school's Emerald netball team as goal attack and outside of school I play for Chorley Infernos and have also represented Lancashire. I have also done coaching courses and been an umpire. I want to carry on netball at Newman and will go for trials there".

About Holy Cross, Holly Belle said: "The teachers are really invested in the pupils here. If you like science, there are science clubs to do extra work; in History, the teachers help you and trips support what you learn. For our GCSE's, there have been plenty of revision sessions for every subject which means you can be organised".

Mariana is thinking about cardiology in the future and is going to go to Newman College to study A-Levels in Chemistry, Biology and Maths.

"There have been heart problems in my family so cardiology is something which interests me. I may also look at dermatology. Medicine does run in my family as my step-dad is a GP and I admire what he does".

Mariana has enjoyed her time at Holy Cross. She said: "The teachers here give pupils a lot of support, whether it's extra sessions or helping pupils catch-up. They are always there. I have attended a lot of revision sessions and it's been very helpful".



Henry's next step is LUSoM (Lancaster University School of Mathematics). "I want to study A-Levels in Maths, Further Maths, Economics and Physics. I also want to add a language so I want to do Spanish as a fifth A-Level. I am going to do a Spanish online course in the summer as it's something I enjoy and hope to get a top grade in it in my GCSE. I have enjoyed Holy Cross. There is a lot of support from everyone. I have also got my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award which was good and I played football here. I have enjoyed the school facilities, it's a great school".

Shabeena wants to go into medicine – but stay away from blood! Shabeena will go to Newman College to study Biology, Chemistry and Maths A-Levels and wants to be a doctor.

"I am a bit squeamish so I know that doesn't make for a good combination but I hope to do something like dentistry in the future".

About her time at Holy Cross Shabeena said: "A highlight was making the plastic bottle boat in Year 9 Engineering Club. It was a lot of hard work and a long project but I learnt a lot from it and it was worth it. I have also enjoyed the trips offered here. I went to Poland which was a really good experience".

Bethany has some big decisions to make over the summer.

"I want to go to Runshaw College and study Maths and Chemistry A' Levels and then I have a decision to make whether to do Physics or Biology and/or Further Maths. I just don't know! I would like to go into neurosurgery and that would mean I need biology. My grandma passed away with brain cancer and I would like to help other people who have the same disease. But then I love astrophysics. I want to be involved in engineering and I love learning about space. I need to sit down and properly think about it over the summer although it may depend what grades I get for each".

About her time at Holy Cross, Bethany said: "The extra-curricular clubs are good here. I enjoyed the Engineering Club, the science clubs and also took part in a number of rounders tournaments. For anyone coming to Holy Cross, I would tell them to get involved in as many extra-curricular clubs as they can as it adds to the whole school experience."



## Head Boy and Head Girl



For the academic year 2025-2026 our Head Boy and Head Girl will be Maebh and Joseph. It was a very rigorous process where all eight senior prefects spoke to the Year 7s in assembly and were interviewed by Mr Lindley, Mrs Cooper, Mrs Mitchell and Miss Wallace.

Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl are Harvey and Emma and Assistant Head Boy and Girls are Salvador, Esme, Tilly and Diana.



## Minibuses

This term we took delivery of two new minibuses. Our old minibuses were starting to look tired. To support all of the enrichment activities and trips, the new minibuses have been a welcomed upgrade. These have already started to get lots of use!





## Enrichment - 405th Anniversary Picnic



At the beginning of July Year 7 Leaders were invited to attend a picnic at Duxbury Golf Course to commemorate the 405th Anniversary of the Mayflower sailing to America, they were joined by Head Boy Joseph and Head Girl Maebh along with pupils from other Chorley Primary and Secondary schools.

They enjoyed a lovely walk through the woods and were met by The Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle and The Mayor and Mayoress of Chorley, Councillor Alistair Morwood and Jane Morwood.



## Enrichment - Warwick Castle

On Thursday 26 June Year 7s had an early departure from school to travel down to Warwick Castle. They all enjoyed a fantastic day for their History visit, where they were immersed in the sights, sounds, and stories of medieval England. The day was packed with excitement as they watched a thrilling birds of prey show. They were captivated by the dramatic War of the Roses jousting tournament, cheering on their favourite knights as they clashed in a display of skill and bravery. The storytelling and action, helping pupils understand the conflict in an engaging way. Exploring the castle's grand halls, towers, and ramparts helped pupils imagine what life was like for those who lived and fought there centuries ago. It was a memorable and enriching experience for all.





## Enrichment - Castlerigg

At the end of June, 60 of our Year 8 pupils participated in a memorable retreat at Castlerigg Manor in the Lake District. The retreat was centred around the theme of Growth. Pupils were encouraged to reflect on how they can grow as unique individuals, created in the image and likeness of God. Pupils had an opportunity to engage in a variety of enriching activities such as reflective journaling, creating salt jars and friendship bracelets, Lectio Divina, candle making and designing their own gardens. The pupils enjoyed a walk into Keswick and the highlight was the games and disco on Saturday evening. Pupils had a great time and were a credit to both Holy Cross and their families. Pupils returned from the experience with a deeper sense of self-awareness and spiritual growth.



## Enrichment - Savio House

Our Year 9 pupils have just returned from Savio House which is situated in Bollington, a lovely rural setting just south of Manchester. 50 pupils engaged in a number of reflective activities such as guided meditation, journalling, artwork and singing. The theme of the retreat was Water. Pupils were encouraged to think about our own 'well of water' and how it is influenced by family, school, past experiences and our relationship with God. Pupils reflected on the positive and negative of all these things and how they can allow the negative to taint the water. There was a lovely celebration of mass where pupils were able to show their own God given talents including creative writing, drama, dance and music. Pupils also received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Of course, there were lots of opportunities for games and some excellent singing on karaoke! Year 9 were excellent ambassadors of Holy Cross and we are very proud of their behaviour and attitudes throughout.





## Enrichment - GCSE Tour of Berlin

On 13 July, 44 intrepid and excited GCSE History pupils took off on a plane bound for one of the key cities of modern history – Berlin. The aim of the tour was to explore the establishment of Germany of a modern superpower in the 1800s under the Kaisers and then understand the dramatic and World-changing events during the Weimar, Nazi and Cold War periods during the 20th Century. The pupils had guided tours of the Brandenburg Gate, Reichstag, Hitler's bunker, Holocaust Memorial, National War Memorial, the Berlin Wall and Checkpoint Charlie amongst other important historical sites.

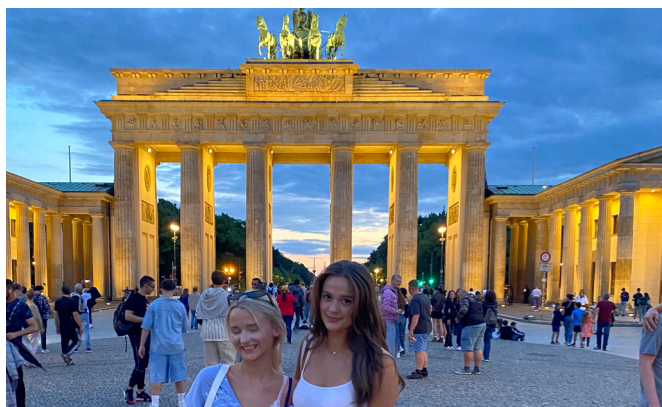
Pupil understanding of the dramatic events that make Berlin the centre of modern World History in the 20th Century was further enhanced by visits to museums on Life under Communism in East Germany and the moving and powerful Holocaust Museum. Spectacular views across the giant city were gained by ascending the 1000ft Communist tv tower (Europe's tallest building) and the Berlin and Gendarmenmarkt Cathedrals.

We also ventured 40 miles outside Berlin in a coach excursion to have guided tours by German historians of Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp and Hitler's 1936 Olympic Stadium. At the concentration camp, several pupils and staff delivered moving and emotional readings and prayers at the execution wall, gas chamber and crematoria. We also remembered the brave Church leaders who were imprisoned and tortured at the camp for standing up for their Christian beliefs, including Pastor Niemoller (we visited his punishment block cell).

Free time and relaxation were enjoyed back at our hotel (a Victorian building with large comfy rooms, high ceilings and socialising room) and at four different Berlin restaurants for our evening meals, the most popular being delicious BBQ chicken at a Berlin smokehouse. Pupils enjoyed some last-minute souvenir hunting and an amazing choice of cuisine for lunch at Germany's most lavish food court on the way back to the airport.

The pupils had a fantastic time over the five days exploring all the key historical sites of Berlin and deepened their knowledge and understanding in preparation for their GCSE Paper 2 exam on German history. Thank you to Mr Murray and the accompanying staff and pupils who made up Holy Cross' most successful and enjoyable tour of the great city of Berlin.

We will return to Berlin for our 2027 tour – this will open to Year 9 and 10 pupils in September.





## Enrichment - Cheltenham Ladies' College Visit

In May 2025, nine Year 10 girls accompanied Mrs Henderson, Mrs Gaughan and Mrs Walmsley to Stratford-Upon-Avon and Cheltenham Ladies' College for an extraordinary two-day visit.

We departed Holy Cross by minibus early on Thursday morning and made the journey to Stratford-Upon-Avon. Upon arrival, we walked through the picturesque town to Shakespeare's Birthplace. Here, pupils had the opportunity to see where Shakespeare lived during his formative years, observe the Tudor era architecture and learn about his life and works. Year 10 pupils completed their study of Macbeth earlier this year so bringing the context of this to life was especially relevant. We then enjoyed a boat tour along the River Avon in the sunshine with ice cream before watching a production of "Much Ado About Nothing" at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. This production of Much Ado About Nothing retained Shakespeare's original language but transported the audience into the modern world of top flight football and celebrity scandal to tell the story.



The girls and staff left the theatre having thoroughly enjoyed the production and a number of pupils bought copies of Shakespeare's other works to read at home. Holly particularly enjoyed seeing a Shakespeare play performed and said "my favourite part was the theatre as it was a modern take on "Much Ado About Nothing" which related to many present issues and problems which the world faces such as social media".

Following our day in Stratford-Upon-Avon, we admired the beautiful Cotswold countryside as we drove to Cheltenham. At Cheltenham Ladies' College we were warmly welcome by Mr Houchin, Director of Admissions, to our home for the evening – a boarding house nestled in the centre of the college. We were able to settle into our dorm rooms before enjoying the hospitality of nearby St Helen's boarding house for supper which consisted of Greek cuisine and an ice cream bar. Later that evening, the girls enjoyed the swimming facilities and engaged in a reflection led by Mrs Walmsley where they were able to make prayer beads to take home.





## Enrichment - Cheltenham Ladies' College Visit

The following morning we enjoyed breakfast alongside Cheltenham Ladies' College students and then ventured into the town centre for a walking tour which included Neptune's Fountain and a memorial to the Crimean War where Mrs Henderson outlined the historical background of Lord Alfred Tennyson's famous poem Charge of the Light Brigade which is part of our GCSE English Literature syllabus. Mrs Walmsley read the poem aloud to the girls alongside the memorial which prompted a moving moment of reflection as we acknowledged the lives which were lost during the Crimean war.

After our walking tour, All Hallows Catholic High School from Penwortham joined us for a day of sessions at the college. Our Year 10 girls conducted themselves excellently throughout the day and a number of staff members at the college commented on their ability to articulate ideas, the exemplary way they presented themselves and how well presented their uniform was. The group took part in a university and future aspirations session, a provocative debate about the power of story telling and tours of the college's campus. Emma stated that she "thoroughly enjoyed participating in a debate with All Hallows as it enabled me to grow in confidence and improve my public speaking". The girls were also able to meet with two Beale Award holders who are in Lower Sixth in receipt of a scholarship and are alumni of All Hallows Catholic High School to ask questions and find out more about the college.

Whilst reflecting on the day during our journey home, Tilly stated that the trip had "opened her eyes to just how many opportunities there are outside of the North West". Holly also enthused that she was "inspired by my day at Cheltenham Ladies' College...it is the overall journey that makes you who you are...I like how the school was based around empowering young girls and encouraging them that they can do anything they put their minds to". The trip was a unique and unforgettable experience for the girls which has sparked further aspiration, interest and enthusiasm for learning.





## Sports Day

On Friday 11 July, in the glorious sunshine our pupils headed onto the field to watch their tutor groups compete in the 100m, 800m, 300m and relays.

In Periods 1, 2 and 3 pupils took part in field events (high jump, long jump, triple jump, javelin, discuss and shot put) and a number of running events including the 1200m and 200m.

A number of school records were broken on the day, setting the bar for next year. Naomi in Year 10 broke the 100m record, running 14.17 seconds, Maddison in Year 10 broke both the 200m and 300m records in 29.75 seconds and 47.2 seconds, Alice in Year 10 broke the 1200m in a time of 5.08.75 and Abby in Year 10 broke the discuss record throwing 18.50m. Jake P in Year 10 broke both the 100 and 200m records in times of 12.02 seconds and 24.22 seconds, Jake H in Year 10 broke the 300m record running a time of 38.5 seconds, Freddie in Year 10 broke the 800m record running a time of 2.23 seconds and Barnaby in Year 10 broke the 1200m record running the time of 4.12.01.

In the field events Tommy in Year 10 broke the discuss record throwing a distance of 28.30m. 10R (which included Jake H, Zac M, Charlie B and Freddie B) also broke the overall 100m relay in a time of 52.20 seconds.



The Year 7 winning form was 7Y, the Year 8 winning form was 8L, the Year 9 winning form was 9C and the Year 10 winning form was 10R. The overall winning form across the school was C.





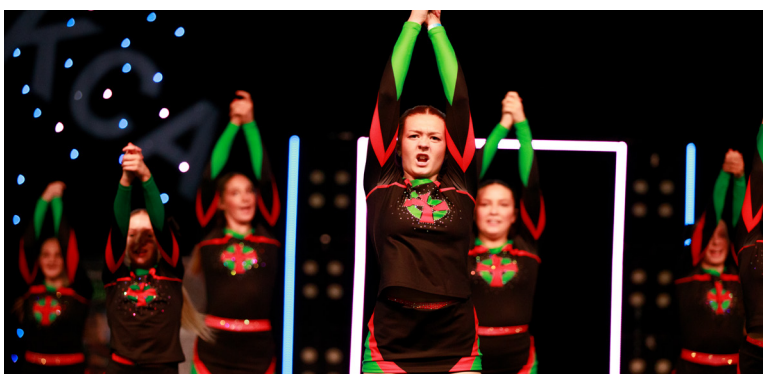
## District Sports



On Wednesday 18 June a number of our pupils headed to Robin Park to compete in the Chorley District Athletics competition. Holy Cross came second place overall with Year 8 winning for their age.

There were also many individual successes including Jake H in Year 10 who won the 300m and broke the district record, brothers Jake (Year 10) and Will (Year 8) both won the 100m and 200m. Benedict in Year 9 won the 1500m, Winnie in Year 7 won both the 1200m and 200m and Isla also in Year 7 won the 800m. The Year 7 girls and the Year 9 boys won the 100m relay. In the field events, India in Year 8 won the javelin, Lottie also in Year 8 won the high jump. Bobby in Year 9 won both the discus and shot put.

## Cheerleading - National Champions



Our Cheerleaders were crowned national champions at the National Cheerleading Competition that took place in Manchester. Emma, Deputy Head Girl said "going into my last ever school competition was a great experience filled with both nerves and excitement. The level 2 team were one of the first to perform in the day and they went out and smashed it. We showed passion and resilience on the floor, which ultimately led us to victory. The level 1 team (for many of the girls, this was their first competition) showed determination when showcasing, their hard work and effort put into training, they placed second in an extremely tough category. Overall, it was a successful day filled with fun, laughter and a strong sense of achievement - allowing all the girls to grow in confidence and ready to take on the challenge again next year".



## Pupil Sporting Achievements



Year 7 Chloe recently competed at the Scottish Junior Tennis Open in Edinburgh.

This is an LTA (Lawn Tennis Association) grade 2 National Event (grade 1 being the highest).

Last year Chloe played in the same event as an under 11 and reached the semi-finals.

Chloe has now moved up an age group and competed in the under 12 girls making it through to the quarter finals.

Chloe is currently ranked 19th in the LTA under 12 girls ranking which has over 1000 players in this age group in the UK.

Her parents said "Thank you to all the staff at school who have kindly supported Chloe in her tennis journey during year 7 and this includes a very big thank you to Miss Dent".

Chloe's favourite player is Sabalenka. Chloe has a grade 1 National Event in Bournemouth over the summer holidays, we wish her all the best.

## Pupil Sporting Achievements



Year 10 Maddy has received an England Rugby League North West Under 15 Talent Hub call-up.

Maddy has been playing rugby since she was four and is a big fan of Wigan Warriors.

She played for Chorley Panthers, alongside the boys, up until she was 11 and has since played for Leigh Miners Rangers.

"I love rugby, it's just something I have done all my life and it makes me happy," said Maddy, who plays a variety of positions. "I also train with Wigan Warriors every Wednesday and I hope to secure an Academy place there. I got an email to say I had been selected for an England Under 15 North West training camp, it's called a Talent Hub. They have been watching me and then my coaches have a say in it too. It's a six week course in Warrington. I have been working really hard for this so I am happy."

Good luck for your upcoming England games.

## Diary Dates - Autumn Term 2025

- Start of Term (Year 7 and 11 only) - Wednesday 3 September
- Start of Term (all years) - Thursday 4 September
- Feast Day - Monday 15 September
- Year 7 and 10 Photographs - Thursday 25 September
- Battlefields Visit - Departs Saturday 11 October
- Open Evening - Thursday 16 October 4.30 pm - 7 pm (last entry 6.30 pm)
- Late start (pupils to arrive for 11.15 am, buses have been arranged) - Friday 17 October
- October Half Term - Monday 27 October - Monday 3 November (inclusive)
- INSET Day - Monday 3 November
- Tuesday 4 November - Friday 7 November - Year 11 Speaking Mocks
- Monday 10 November - Friday 21 November - Year 11 Mocks
- Year 8 Christmas Markets Visit - Departs Wednesday 26 November
- Flu Vaccinations - Tuesday 2 December
- End of Term - Friday 19 December (12.30 pm finish)



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## Open Evening

**Thursday 16 October 2025**

**4.30pm - 7pm**

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ARCHDIOCESAN REPORT



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