

## Headteacher's Letter

As the winter term comes to an end, our school community has been united in the spirit of Advent. For us as a Catholic school, Advent is not only a season of waiting and preparation for the birth of Christ, but also a time to reflect on hope, peace, joy, and love — the values at the heart of our faith. These weeks have reminded us that Advent is about more than looking ahead to Christmas; it is about preparing our hearts, deepening our faith, and living out the Gospel through kindness and service.

Within our school, this has been expressed in many ways: through prayer and liturgy, through charitable acts that support those in need, and through the daily encouragement pupils give one another. Advent calls us to be a community of light, and I am proud of how our children and staff have embraced this calling together.

Once again, this has been a very busy term full of wonderful events and brilliant achievements. Our children have worked exceptionally hard in class, earning over 52,000 achievement points, alongside 26 Headteacher's Awards and four special Headteacher's Reward Breakfasts. These milestones reflect not only academic effort but also the values of perseverance and excellence that we hold dear.

Academically, we continue to set the standard. Last summer, our Year 11 pupils achieved an outstanding 152 Grade 9s, surpassing even our record-breaking results of 2024. We are proud to share that our school now ranks 14th nationally among all state 11–16 secondary schools for excellence grades. A remarkable testament to the dedication of both staff and pupils.

Our children displayed impeccable behaviour during this year's Remembrance commemorations. It was a privilege to represent the school at the Chorley Memorial in November, where I was joined by our Head Girl, Maebh, and Head Boy, Joseph. Their presence reflected the dignity and respect shown by all our pupils.

Within school, our Remembrance services were deeply moving, with pupils demonstrating a profound sense of reverence and gratitude for those who gave their lives in service. This respectful conduct is a hallmark of our community and something of which we can all be proud.

Oracy continues to be a key focus for us this year, helping pupils to develop confidence, clarity, and the ability to express themselves effectively. Our Year 7 pupils particularly enjoyed Sky Hawk Cross Curricular Day, when we had the privilege of welcoming author Gill Lewis to our school. This inspiring visit encouraged pupils to think deeply about storytelling, communication, and the power of words.

We have also celebrated some wonderful achievements in public speaking competitions, where our pupils demonstrated not only skill and eloquence but also courage and creativity. These successes highlight the importance we place on giving every child a voice and nurturing their ability to share ideas with conviction.

This term, our pupils have also embraced opportunities to support younger children in our local feeder primary schools. Through reading sessions, they have acted as role models, sharing their love of books and helping to inspire confidence and enjoyment in literacy among the younger pupils. These moments of mentorship strengthen the bonds between our schools and highlight the generosity of spirit within our community.

The sense of community has never felt stronger than during our highly successful Open Evening in October, when over 1,300 visitors joined us as they made the important decision of choosing a secondary school for their child. The warmth, enthusiasm and deep commitment shown by our pupils and staff left a lasting impression on all who attended.

Outside of the classroom, pupils have enjoyed exciting and informative experiences. These included trips to the Battlefields of France and Belgium, where history was brought vividly to life, and a festive visit to the Christmas markets in Arras, France, which combined cultural enrichment with seasonal joy. We were immensely proud to receive messages from members of the general public who were in France and Belgium at the same time as our pupils, commending their behaviour and respectful manner. Such recognition reflects the values we strive to instil and is a credit to the children, their families, and our staff.

Alongside this, we have celebrated numerous sporting achievements. From success in local fixtures to outstanding performances in regional competitions, our pupils have demonstrated teamwork, determination, and skill. Their commitment both on and off the field reflects the values of discipline and perseverance that we encourage in every aspect of school life.

Our Aspirations Programme continues to provide pupils with valuable opportunities to visit other schools and broaden their horizons. Through these experiences, pupils gain insight into different learning environments and are inspired to aim ever higher in their own studies and ambitions. We are delighted to have established strong, positive relationships with Eton College, Cheltenham Ladies' College, Bolton School, and Stonyhurst College. These partnerships enrich our pupils' educational journey and encourage them to see what is possible when they set their sights on excellence.

Our Year 11 pupils have recently completed their GCSE mock examinations, and I am very pleased with the mature and responsible approach they have taken towards these assessments. Class teachers are now carefully marking their papers, and upon our return after Christmas, the focus will shift to identifying areas that require further attention and improvement. If your child is in Year 11, I would like to remind you of our extensive programme of after-school revision sessions. These sessions provide invaluable support, and I strongly recommend that all pupils in the year group attend as many as possible to maximise their preparation for the summer examinations.

Our engagement with our local parishes continues to go from strength to strength. This term, senior parishioners — including some of our pupils' grandparents — enjoyed a wonderful Christmas party organised and led by our Leadership Academy. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all who generously donated gifts for the bingo and raffle, which added so much joy to the occasion. Parishioners thoroughly enjoyed their time in school, and the spirit of service and love was evident throughout. I would also like to express my gratitude to our parish priests, who remain so supportive and highly visible within our school community. Their presence and guidance enriches our shared mission and strengthen the bond between school and parish life.

We will bring this term to a close with our Christmas service at St Gregory's Church, a joyful occasion that unites us in prayer and celebration. As a community, we look forward to another exciting and successful term ahead.

Thank you for your continued support. On behalf of the staff and governors of our school, I wish you and your family a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Mr Lindley



## Holy Cross Feast Day



We started the autumn term with our Year 7 Welcome Mass. We welcomed parents to join the Mass to celebrate the Year 7 pupils on their first day at Holy Cross. Thank you to Canon Peter Stanley for celebrating this Mass.

We then gathered as a school community on Monday 15 September to celebrate the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross with mass for all the school. Thank you to the pupils who read, our school choir for their beautiful singing and to Fr Simon Henry for celebrating our Feast Day Mass. Pupils then had a day working on activities for their chosen year group charities and enjoyed some homemade cakes during tutor activities.

We will gather again as a school community for our end of term Christmas service at St Gregory's church.



## SVP Christmas Gathering

On Thursday 4 December we welcomed over 100 parishioners and grandparents to join in our festive activities for bingo, Christmas treats, raffle and songs from our school choir. It was a very joyous event. Pupils from our Leadership Academy and feeder primaries served Christmas delights as well as engaging with our guests for the afternoon. We look forward to our next event in the spring term.



## Advent Social

Pupils enjoyed a festive Advent social hosted by the Religious Education department. It was a wonderful chance to pause before the Christmas rush and reflect on the true meaning of the season. Pupils created beautiful Christmas cards, decorated delicious biscuits, and ended the event with a thoughtful reflection on the nature and purpose of Jesus' birth.



## Care Home Visits and Carol Singing

Our school choir helped make Marley Court sparkle with their beautiful singing. The choir, who have been busy rehearsing showcased their performance.

Led by Mrs Strickland the choir sang some Christmas carols to the residents. Marley Court said "At the end of the performance, our spirits were raised and our hearts were filled with Christmas cheer!" A lovely way to start the festive activities.

During the last week of term Mrs Chapman-Dean and the school choir sang at Morrison's in Chorley, their Christmas carols brought cheer and festivities to the residents of Chorley as well as raising money for school charities.





## Christmas Lunches Christmas Jumper Day



Over two days, Mellors, our catering team put on a fantastic Christmas lunch for our pupils. Over 540 pupils were served their Christmas lunches by members of the Senior Leadership Team, Governors and Fr Ball and Fr Mark. Pupils could wear a Christmas jumper and accessories with a £1 donation going to their chosen charity. Pupils and staff enjoyed crackers and festive music. The hall was an array of colour and Christmas cheer.





## School Charities



### Year 7 - Mary's Meals

In Year 7, we have been raising money for our year group charity, Mary's Meals. Pupils have spent time exploring and understanding the purpose of the charity and how it was formed.

They are aware that the charity reaches out to our global neighbours, helping those in need. The money raised through fundraising will be used to educate and feed children in less economically developed countries.

Year 7 have kindly contributed through loose change donations and sponsorship money for the Wake Up, Shake Up. In the last week of term pupils also enjoyed our Wake Up, Shake Up dance-a-thon, which featured plenty of singing, dancing, glow sticks, and fancy dress to make the occasion extra special.

Mrs Tierney would like to take this opportunity to thank all pupils, parents and family members who have donated and helped in raising money.

### Year 8 - Derian House

Year 8 have embraced raising their money for Derian House, a charity here in our local community. Pupils visited Derian House and delivered a moving assembly to the rest of the year group so that everyone understood who the money was being raised for. Year 8 have donated toys, they have baked gingerbread, raffled off a HUGE teddy bear, and made and sold Christmas cards. All of Year 8 took place in a fantastic Elf Run, with a guest appearance from their mascot, Danny, in attendance.

The idea was that, together, all of Year 8 and the Year 8 staff would walk the amount of miles we would need to walk to the North Pole - a whole 2511 miles - and THEY DID IT. Costumes ranged from elves, to fairies, to blow up Christmas dinosaurs (even a Christmas shark). Cars were beeping and people cheering as they walked along the route (some even ran in their costumes). An immense amount of money was raised - all going to a fantastic cause, watch this space for more to come.

### Year 9 - Dementia UK

Our Year 9 chosen charity is Dementia UK. Over the course of the next three years, various fundraising activities will take place to raise funds for this very important cause. Most recently Year 9 have raised sponsorship for the Wake Up Shake Up appeal. On 11 December, the whole of Year 9 took part in the Wake Up Shake Up, coming together to throw their best dance moves in aid of their chosen charity.

As a result of their tireless efforts, the year group raised a staggering amount which will be donated to Dementia UK. The year team and Mr Bolton are exceptionally proud of their love, kindness and generosity in supporting those affected by this very prevalent disease. A huge thank you to all parents, friends and relatives that donated to support this cause.



## School Charities



### Year 10 - LW Storehouse Foodbank

The charity collection this year was started by 10L who looked at the great work the foodbank do and decided that they would hold a "Toiletries Drive" to collect essential hygiene items for families in need. Pupils from 10L delivered the bags of toiletries and had a tour of the foodbank to learn more about the work they do. The second half term it was the turn of 10H and 10R to lead the fundraising. They held a brilliant Bake Sale with lots of yummy donations of delicious homemade cakes. They also collected Advent Calendars and delivered them to the foodbank at the end of November. All the donations have been warmly welcomed by the team at the foodbank. 10H and 10R have continued to collect Christmas treats and goodies to deliver this week so those in need can have some extra treats in their foodbank parcel over the festive period. Pupils from all year groups at Holy Cross have kindly contributed to the collections which is lovely to see. The whole year group contributed to a tins collection during our assembly in November. Year 10 are looking forward to being involved with the work of the foodbank in 2026 by volunteering time and continuing with ongoing donations. 10X are in charge of the collection during the first half of the spring term, we look forward to seeing what they have planned.



### Year 11- St Catherine's Hospice

Year 11 have been working hard to raise both awareness of and funds for St Catherine's Hospice, their efforts have been fantastic!

To kick things off, pupils collected unwanted items to donate to the charity shop. These were delivered to the Preston hospice, where staff were extremely appreciative of the support.

Next, pupils embraced the festive spirit by taking part in Christmas Jumper Day, each contributing £1 to wear their favourite seasonal jumper. The atmosphere was brilliant, and it was wonderful to see so many pupils getting involved.

Keeping the momentum going, 11R organised a sweet stall which proved very popular. Pupils donated sweets, created sweet bags and sold them during break. A huge thank you to Mrs Blakeman and 11R for organising this. Mrs Blakeman was delighted with how the pupils led this event so confidently. Well done to all involved for showing such creativity and commitment to supporting a great cause!



December 2025



## Open Evening



We welcomed over 1,300 prospective families to our Open Evening. Guests experienced a West End performance of *Les Misérables*, used the bunsen burners and had a go at a dissection in Science, made cookies in Food Technology, took part in the giant art doodle, solved murder mysteries in English and Drama, tried Spanish and French delicacies, took part in a varied selection of sports, made necklaces and rosary bracelets in RE, observed musical performances and got to experience life in the trenches from WW1. The school was vibrant and we received such positive feedback about the confidence and interactions from our pupils. All pupils were real ambassadors for the school.





## Sky Hawk Day



Year 7 took part in the annual Sky Hawk day where we invited the author, Gill Lewis, to spend the day in school working with pupils. Pupils had read Sky Hawk as a literacy project over the summer. On the day pupils listened to Gill talk about her life story and how she found writing. They also took part in workshops including art, making biscuits, creative writing, drama, science and languages.

Gill was very impressed with the pupils' creativity in the workshop and pupils really engaged with the different lessons. We also presented the winners of our design a new book cover and postcard competitions. Well done to Emma, Freya, Heidi and Emily who were presented with signed copies of Gill's books for their amazing entries into the transition competition.





## Remembrance



During the week of Remembrance, Mr Murray led Celebration of the Word for each year group where he reflected on remembrance as an act of love. Each morning, Year 10 pupil Isaac played a moving rendition of The Last Post on his cornet.

Honouring Remembrance Day through Art: to mark and honour this important day, Mrs Nelson led a creative project that brought our entire school together. We created over 1000 poppies, each carrying a personal message of remembrance written by every pupil and staff member.

These poppies were carefully attached to a large net that draped across our stage, forming a powerful focal point for our Remembrance Day reflections. This installation is more than art—it's a symbol of unity, respect, and remembrance. The installation created a focal point for the whole school to remember. Thank you also to Year 7 pupil Charlie, Year 8 pupil Thomas, Year 9 pupil Charlie, Year 8 pupil Eliza and Year 10 pupil Melodie who all beautifully read a reflection each day of our Remembrance week.

Head Boy Joseph, Head Girl Maebh and Mr Lindley joined the Mayor of Chorley, Councillor Alistair Morwood in the Remembrance Sunday parade to lay a wreath at the Cenotaph on behalf of Holy Cross.

Send us out to be beacons of peace  
 in a dark world of conflict  
 Make us instruments of peace for whoever we meet  
 and wherever we go,  
 in the name of the Prince of Peace,  
 our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
 Amen.



## Battlefields Visit 2025



Year 9s had another fantastic and memorable visit to France and Belgium for the annual History Department World War 1 Battlefields Tour. Pupils got to explore original trenches of World War 1, took part in the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate, visited the cemeteries, Ypres old town and explored the desolate battlefields of the Somme in France. They also visited a number of museums, including the Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres and the Somme Museum in France.

Father Graeme, who accompanied the visit said "I want to thank all those involved in the trip. They were all a credit to the school; it had so much content, the children behaved impeccably, and they showed such reverence and respect at all the graveyards and memorials we visited. I found the whole experience not only informative but also very moving and this was due largely to the behaviour of the pupils. Whenever they were asked to remember the dead, you could have heard a pin drop, not easy with the numbers. You should be very proud of them and the staff, they were great ambassadors for the school, I am so grateful that I could be part of such a memorable trip."

We also had a lovely email from a member of the public, who said "What a delight it was to meet your Year 9 pupils under the Menin Gate in Belgium. They were courteous and chatty, behaving impeccably towards us and during the ceremony. Your trip leaders must have very high expectations of them and they clearly lived up to them."

Please pass our compliments on to Mr Murray and say how much we enjoyed the company of his tour group. We are teachers ourselves and know how hard it is running such trips."

The Chorley Pals 1 July 1916 7.30am - Not Forgotten.



## Christmas Markets - France

Year 8 had a fabulous time during our visit to France at the end of November. The focus was all about exploring French culture, tasting French food (yes, snails!!), practising their French language, but, mostly having fun with our friends in beautiful French surroundings.

They enjoyed a range of visits including a behind-the-scenes tour and talk at a traditional local bakery, a French explanation of how the handmade chocolates are produced at a traditional chocolate factory and discovering the local faïence (ceramic) industry at a museum where they enjoyed a hands-on clay modelling workshop. The highlight of the trip however was the visit to Arras and its famous Christmas market where they spent the afternoon conversing with the locals in order to purchase traditional items such as gingerbread, hot apple juice, Christmas decorations and souvenirs.

The trip was rounded off by a visit to Boulogne-sur-Mer, France's largest fishing port where pupils gathered for prayer at the impressive cathedral in the old town, followed by some souvenir shopping at the local Saturday market.

Staff were impressed with our pupils, who really engaged in the activities, asking thoughtful questions whilst demonstrating excellent behaviour. Not only were they brave enough to try out their language skills, some pupils discovered a new found fondness for snails!

After four fun packed days, the pupils arrived back to English soil very tired (and full!!), but with memories that will last a lifetime.





## Savio House

This half term a group of Year 9 pupils enjoyed a rich and reflective retreat experience at Savio House. During their time away, pupils took part in a peaceful walk to White Nancy, enjoying time outdoors and the opportunity to pause, reflect, and spend time together away from the busy routines of school life. They did not allow the weather to dampen their spirits.

Throughout the retreat, pupils engaged in a wide range of activities designed to support prayer, reflection, and community. These included guided meditation, music, dance, art and drama workshops, and reflection on the retreat "theme of water"; exploring ideas of renewal, life, and God's presence.

Pupils also took part in a Service of Reconciliation and celebrated Mass. We ended the retreat with a lively disco.

Pupils represented the school wonderfully and returned with positive memories, new insights, and a renewed sense of calm and connection.





## Whole School Oracy

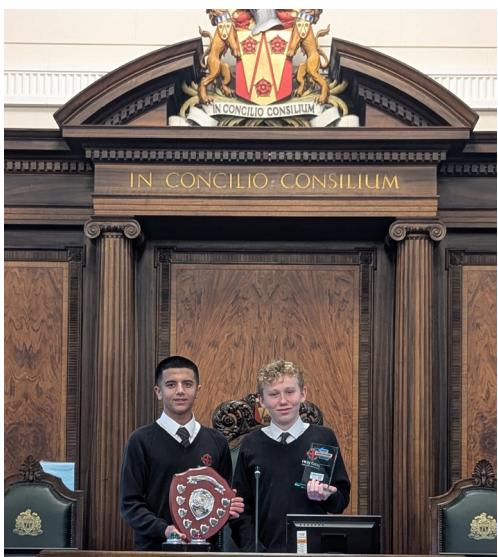
From Debate Club, to public speaking competitions, to delivering poems for Remembrance Day, to supporting key school events, it has been a busy and exciting term for oracy at Holy Cross. Our pupils have shown remarkable engagement, confidence and skill throughout.

Debate Club, open to all pupils in Years 10 and 11, has been a particular highlight. Meeting after school each Wednesday, pupils have explored a wide range of topics, from the role of the monarchy to the impact of tourism on the modern world. We were also delighted to take part in a mock debate against Bolton School and look forward to building stronger links with their debate team in the future. With plenty of games and light-hearted challenges included, it has been wonderful to see pupils growing steadily in confidence.

Alongside this, Year 11 pupils, Salvador, Holly and Annie, successfully qualified for the next round of the English-Speaking Union's prestigious public speaking competition, which will take place early in 2026.

At Key Stage 3, Zico and Will from Year 9 represented Holy Cross at the Great Lancashire Debate at County Hall, Preston. They both delivered their speeches with impressive eloquence and maturity. Zico was awarded Best Overall Speaker out of 20 participants, and together the pair achieved a Highly Commended award for their speech and delivery. Speaking in such a notable setting was an invaluable experience for them both.

This term also saw five pupils take part in delivering poems for Remembrance Day, speaking with sensitivity and respect. In addition, our Head Boy and Head Girl wrote and delivered outstanding speeches on Open Evening, after working exceptionally hard in rehearsals and receiving coaching to help them prepare. Their professionalism and dedication were a credit to the school. We are really excited for the further oracy opportunities that 2026 has in store!





## Reading Intervention

This year has been an incredible one for reading intervention at our school. Thanks to the hard work of our pupils and staff, we've seen outstanding progress in reading performance across all year groups. Many pupils have graduated from the intervention programme with renewed confidence and a love for reading - a testament to their dedication and the collaborative effort between pupils, teachers and families.

Building on this success, our reading community has been reaching out beyond the classroom. This term we have enjoyed wonderful visits to Anderton St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, where our pupils loved sharing stories and inspiring younger readers; we enjoyed festive reading with St Joseph's, Chorley and Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School to share Christmas stories with KS1. This really created magical moments that spark a love of reading.

Community outreach will continue into the new year, with further trips to local care homes, bringing joy and connection through shared stories and art. These visits are always a highlight - not just for the residents, but for our pupils too, who love the warm welcome the residents have to offer.

Earlier this term, our Parents' Information Session added another layer of support; offering families practical strategies and resources to nurture reading at home. By working together - school, families, and the wider community - we are creating an environment where every child can thrive as a confident, enthusiastic reader.





## Pupil Aspirations

Thanks to our partnership with Bolton School, we have taken 15 pupils for A' Level taster sessions enabling pupils to develop a deeper insight into what studying different subjects at A'Level involves. Pupils have attended sessions on Graphics, Classics, Computer Science and Politics, with all sessions positively influencing pupils as they consider their post-16 options. These sessions will continue throughout 2026, with A'Level taster sessions in Economics, History, Chemistry, Maths, Geography, and English already confirmed for the year.

Finally, Year 9 pupils were invited to attend a Healthcare event at Bolton School which showcased Further Education programmes related to Medicine, Nursing, Midwifery, Social Care, Public Health, Biomedical Science, Paramedical Science, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy. This engaging event was hosted by the University of Greater Manchester. Pupils were also able to discuss the different medical courses with course leaders and current academics, clearly illustrating the career opportunities that each course can open.

As our partnerships with the independent school sector, employers and apprenticeship providers strengthens, we look forward to future planned events at Stonyhurst College, Eton College, Cheltenham Ladies College and British Aerospace Engineering.

Quotes from Aspirations events:

"I really enjoyed the opportunities that the medical event opened up and how interactive the day was."

"The A'Level sessions were very interesting and informative. I'm not normally into Computer Science; however, it got me engaged. I am now considering going into Politics following the session."

"The lecture on Synthetic Antibodies was very exciting and motivated me to push harder as the scientists were stuck with a problem but pushed through to achieve their goals. The science fair was very inspirational as I was able to meet individuals within each science field."

## Year 10 Scholars Programme

All Year 10 pupils were given an exciting opportunity to join our newly launched Scholars Programme. The Programme aims to stretch pupils academically, learn valuable skills, including independent learning and time management, and develop their resilience, enabling them to unlock their full potential and prepare them for life at university, apprenticeships or employment. Thus far, pupils have engaged in sessions on setting SMART targets, improving oracy by presenting an elevator pitch and looking at post-16 options with both our Careers Lead and a speaker from EE delivering insightful presentations.

At the start of the academic year, 17 Year 10 pupils attended the British Science Festival which was hosted by Liverpool John Moores University. Throughout the day, pupils attended numerous lectures by industry leaders on topics with significant importance in the modern world such as Water Pollution and Synthetic Antibodies. Pupils also got the chance to talk to University Lecturers about studying Astrophysics as well as discussing career opportunities with the pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca.



## Individual Sporting Successes



Year 8 Ella is selected for Lancashire Netball Team



Year 11 Abby impresses in her debut for Blackpool Women



Will signs for Oldham FC

Well done to Year 8 Ella on being selected for the Lancashire Netball team. Ella first started playing competitive netball at primary school and attributes her love of sports to her PE teacher at St Joseph's Withnell. She joined Chorley Infernos in Year 6 and was playing competitive matches and tournaments for the club. She trains once a week and has at least two matches per week for Chorley Infernos and she is also part of the County team with her club. She helps out her club playing for the U14s and U15s when they are short of players. She has recently been accepted onto Lancashire County Netball Academy U13s following a trial in September. She played her first County tournament in October in Macclesfield winning two out of four matches. A fantastic out of school achievement.

Year 11 Abby, who has recently joined the first team squad at Blackpool FC having been part of the Blackpool Community Trust girls Emerging Talent Centre has had a confident start to the season. Blackpool FC Girls & Ladies have said she has already had "an immediate impact". Well done Abby.

Congratulations to Will in Year 10, who has been signed by Oldham Athletic. Will, who is a Bolton Wanderers supporter, has been playing since being an U6. He played for both Astley and Buckshaw and Euxton Villa before being scouted. Will is now training three times a week at Oldham. The centre back has also had a call up for the U15 England school boys' team. Fantastic achievements Will, well done.



## Individual Sporting Successes



**Year 7 Faith has qualified for the World Championships**

Faith in Year 7 has recently qualified for the World Irish Dancing Championships 2026, which is to be held at Easter in Chicago.

Just the top 1% of Irish dancers from across the globe are set to battle it out at the week-long championships.

Faith dances for the Duffy Travis King Academy and has practice classes four times a week and competes nationally most weekends.

We look forward to hearing how she gets on in Chicago. An absolutely amazing achievement.



**George signs for PNE**

George originally signed for PNE in May 2022 and was given an initial two year contract. George has shown resilience this year after he had to have eight months away from training. It has paid off, as in May 2025 PNE re-signed him for another two years. This will take him up to the age they consider scholarship options.

This year PNE has been pushing him hard. He has recently played for the U16's, 17s and even 18's. Each manager plays him in different positions; from left centre back, right back, central defending midfield or central attacking midfield.

At his own age group they have won every game of the Floodlit Cup beating Salford, Carlisle and Blackpool to secure their move to the next round.



**Year 10 Jack signs for Sale Sharks**

Congratulations to Jack in Year 10 who has been signed for Sale Sharks, rugby union. Jack, who plays as a fly half, has been playing rugby for eight years and had previously played for Chorley. He will continue to play for Eccles as well as Sale Sharks. A fantastic achievement, well done and good luck for this season.



## Team Sporting Successes



Year 7 Girls Football Team



Our pupils win the Chorley School Sports Partnership, Panathlon Multi skills event



Our teams make it through to the district finals

The Year 7 girls football team have got through to the quarter finals of the Lancashire Cup. After successfully getting through to the knock out rounds they will play Darwen Vale on 21 January 2026.

Mrs Moss said "The U12 girls delivered a fantastic performance, showcasing both attacking flair and defensive resilience throughout the game. The team demonstrated excellent teamwork, linking play seamlessly across the pitch. Their ability to transition from defence to attack was impressive, creating numerous scoring opportunities. The team's determination and skill paid off as they converted their chances and secured a well-deserved victory. Every player contributed to this outstanding result, reflecting the hard work and commitment shown in training".

Good luck for the next game girls.

Well done to our pupils from Year 8 and Year 9 who represented Holy Cross in the Chorley School Sports Partnership, Panathlon Multi Skills event. There were some superb personal performances on the day but most impressive was the way the team worked together and supported each other throughout the event. They fought off some fierce competition from other schools but thanks to their remarkable teamwork they secured gold medals and earned a well-deserved place in the Lancashire County Finals in April 2026.

Both the Year 8 and Year 9 boys football teams have made it through to the district finals. The finals will take place in February and will be played at West Way.

The Year 10 cricket team were also winners of the indoor district competition.



## Team Sporting Successes



The PE department started off the term with some very successful results in the District Cross Country for both individuals and the overall team events.

It was a full sweep in first, second and third for our Year 8 girls. All three girls have been selected to represent Chorley at the Lancashire Cross Country competition which will take place at Witton Park on 31 January 2026. Winnie, Kitty, Isla and Grace took first place for the Year 8 team. The Year 8 boys team also took the winning spot for Holy Cross, this included Seb, Lucas, William and Freddie.

Year 10 Benedict demonstrated his running talent by winning for his year group and will now, along with a number of our pupils, represent Chorley at the Lancashire Cross Country championships in January.

Well done to everyone who took part and represented Holy Cross.

## Diary Dates - Spring Term 2026

- Start of Term - Tuesday 6 January
- Loys Microbiologists (Year 10) - Thursday 8 and Friday 9 January
- Year 11 Parents' Evening - Thursday 15 January (in school 3.30 pm - 6.30 pm)
- Year 8A band Product Design 3D Printing Workshop - Friday 16 January
- Leadership Academy Parliament Visit - Wednesday 21 January
- Year 9 Runshaw College - Wednesday 21 January
- Year 10 Scholars Programme at Bolton School - Wednesday 28 January
- Year 9 DTP/ACWY Vaccinations - Wednesday 28 January
- Visit to BAE - Friday 30 January
- Year 10 MANACTO - Monday 2 February
- Year 10 Medical Careers event at St John Rigby - Tuesday 2 February
- Year 11 Wigan and Leigh Mock Interviews - Wednesday 4 February
- Year 7 STEM Roadshow - Wednesday 4 February
- Year 8 Cyber Security - Thursday 5 February
- Year 10 Parents' Evening - Thursday 5 February (in school 3.30 pm - 6.30 pm)
- GCSE Dance Workshop - Tuesday 10 February
- Year 9 Wasted Lives Roadshow - Thursday 12 February
- Half Term - Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February
- Year 11 Photographs - Tuesday 3 March
- Careers Fair - Wednesday 4 March (periods 4 and 5 and after school for parents)
- Year 9 Carousel Evening - Thursday 5 March (via school cloud)
- Year 10 Runshaw College Trip (Computer Science) - Wednesday 11 March
- Year 9 Parents' Evening - Thursday 12 March (via school cloud)
- D of E Training Day - Saturday 14 March
- Year 10 Scholars Programme at Bolton School - Monday 16 March
- Year 9 Author Visit (Geography) - Tuesday 17 March
- Year 10 Product Design Trip - Thursday 19 March
- Year 8 MANACTO - Monday 23 March
- Lent Social - Tuesday 24 March
- End of Term - Friday 27 March (12.30 pm finish)