

## Headteacher's Letter

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of term and look forward to the joy of Easter, we are reminded of the profound importance of this season in our Catholic faith. Easter is a time of hope, renewal and new life. It also provides a moment to reflect on God's love and the promise of transformation. Throughout Lent, our pupils have embraced the call to selfless service, showing kindness, generosity and compassion in abundance. Their charity work and willingness to support others has been a true witness to our shared values.

Alongside this, pupils have worked exceptionally hard in class and continue to be a credit to you and to our school community. This term, we have celebrated their achievements in many ways. Since January, an impressive 23,429 A1 points and 1,364 A4 points have been awarded. Over 300 pupils received certificates and a treat to recognise their effort, success and commitment across a range of areas including 100% attendance, subject excellence, outstanding contributions to school life and exemplary behaviour. Many pupils also received a Headteacher's postcard for exceptional work or effort. After Easter, 50 Year 11 pupils will enjoy a rewards trip to Frederick's Ice Cream Parlour in recognition of their excellent service as prefects this year.

As part of National Careers Week, we held our annual Careers Fair, welcoming 56 guests from a wide range of sectors including engineering, medical, legal and local colleges. Over 400 pupils attended, and our visitors were full of praise for their engagement, curiosity and excellent behaviour. More than 100 parents also joined us later that afternoon to learn about the different options and pathways available to their children. Thank you for your continued support at this important stage of your child's education. Our Year 10 pupils are now preparing applications for the roles of Prefect, Senior Prefect, Head Boy and Head Girl. This process reflects their hard work and the excellent example they set within our school. We look forward to reading their applications after Easter and beginning the prefect training programme.

Our Aspirational Programme continues to go from strength to strength. Year 10 pupils recently enjoyed a trip to Windsor and Harrow School, and attendance at the Year 10 Scholars Programme remains high, with pupils taking part in A' Level taster sessions in maths, chemistry, classics and politics at Bolton School. We have also welcomed visitors from the University of Oxford and Harrow School, who worked with pupils on higher education pathways and bursary opportunities for Sixth Form. In addition, pupils took part in an interdisciplinary visit to Astley View Care Home, where they collaborated on a mural inspired by famous literary quotations through art and reading activities.

Our oracy achievements have also been impressive. Year 8 and 9 pupils participated in The English Speaking Union's Performing Shakespeare competition, with Eliza and Bethany in Year 8 progressing to the semi final, while Year 11 pupils represented the school in the quarter final of the ESU MACE Debate competition.

As this is the National Year of Reading, we have enjoyed celebrating reading across school. World Book Day was a great success, with competitions in the library and a sponsored Read-a-thon raising money for year group charities. A recommended reading list for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 is included in our newsletter for families wishing to explore new books together.



Our sporting achievements have also been excellent. We are proud to be District Champions in football for Years 8, 9 and 11, and our Year 10 team won the Chorley Hospital Cup Final. Our Year 8 girls are the Sports Hall Athletics Champions for Lancashire. Individually, Winnie and Kitty represented Lancashire in the English Schools' Cross Country Championships, Leah competed in the Chorley District Dance Finals, and Chloe has participated in a number of National Tennis Tournaments.

Three weeks after our return, our Year 11 pupils will begin their GCSE examinations. Our Saturday intervention classes have been extremely well attended, with over 100 pupils joining us each week. I have been genuinely impressed by their dedication and maturity. Over the Easter break, I encourage you to support your child in balancing revision with rest, family time and activities they enjoy, so they return refreshed and fully prepared.

Last month I received the wonderful news that Marion Eccles, our long serving school governor, has been awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award from Lancashire County Council. Marion has dedicated over 50 years of exceptional service to our school community as a teacher, senior leader, and governor. In those roles she has shaped the lives of thousands of children through her selfless service and pastoral care. Her unwavering commitment to Holy Cross has made her a true pillar of our community, and this honour is a fitting recognition of her remarkable legacy. I am sure you will all join me in congratulating her on this richly deserved achievement.

Our school has once again demonstrated its strong standing within the community, receiving over 600 applications for Year 7 places next September. This level of interest is a testament to our strong academic performance, outstanding pastoral care, and unwavering commitment to excellence. We look forward to welcoming our new pupils and their families at our upcoming induction evening on Tuesday 30 June.

After Easter, we will begin moving towards using School Synergy more effectively as our main method of communication between home and school. We strongly encourage parents to begin using the Synergy app where possible. From September, School Synergy will become our primary communication platform.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. On behalf of the staff and governors of Holy Cross, I wish you and your family a peaceful, and joyful Easter.

Mr Lindley

## Holocaust Memorial

To mark the Holocaust Memorial, Head Boy Joseph and Head Girl Maebh joined The Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle and represented Holy Cross at the Chorley Cenotaph for the Holocaust Memorial service. This is an annual event to come together as a community to learn more about the past and take action to create a safer future. They joined representatives from Chorley in a special service that focused on the theme for 2026, 'Bridging Generations'.

Mr Murray and Mrs Phillips also delivered moving reflections to all year groups during Prayer and Liturgy, to remind our pupils that 'the responsibility of remembrance doesn't end with the survivors - it lives on through their children, their grandchildren and through all of us'.



## Public Speaking

This term, pupils have engaged and competed in a number of public speaking events, organised by our Leader of Whole School Oracy, Miss Cowgill.

Zico, in Year 9 won the Best Individual Speaker at the Lancashire Big Debate and was presented his shield by Cty Cllr Alf Clempson, who made a special visit to Holy Cross to present the award in the Year 9 celebration of the word.

Year 11 pupils, Salvador, Holly and Annie competed in Round 2 of the English Speaking Union's public speaking competition. They demonstrated key skills, excellent composure and delivered strong speeches and questioning skills.

We also hosted The English Speaking Union's Performing Shakespeare Competition. Imogen and Alice (Year 9), along with Eliza and Bethany (Year 8), delivered outstanding performances of their chosen Shakespearean duologues — all four pupils were an absolute credit to the school, with Bethany and Eliza progressing to the regional final of the competition. Zico again demonstrated his public speaking skills as the MC for the evening.



## Saturday School Success

Throughout March, our Year 11 pupils have been working hard and focusing on the upcoming GCSEs. Pupils have been attending three consecutive Saturdays in school as well as after school revision. Over 100 pupils attending our Saturday revision sessions in English, Maths, Science and RE. We are so impressed by their commitment, focus and determination to achieve their very best.





## Faith in Action/ Chaplaincy Update

In February, pupils working towards a Faith in Action Bronze or Silver Award, together with our Faith in Action ambassadors, Amber and Annie, travelled to Cardinal Neman College for a day of reflection, with the themes of love, service and the Kingdom of God. We enjoyed some lively discussions in response to 'Would you rather ...' questions, such as 'Would you rather be one of the shepherds at the birth of Jesus, or one of his disciples?' We had games and we worked with scripture and the teachings of the Church, and Annie and Amber worked with Liz, the College Chaplain, to plan a beautiful prayer service. We rounded off the day by thinking about how we can build the Kingdom of God by making the most of our God-given talents, letting our lights shine brightly and living our lives to the full.

All of our Year 7 pupils took part in a Faith in Action reflection activity, based on the four Faith in Action themes of We Are Loved, Love Your Neighbour, the Kingdom of God and Servant Leadership. We used scripture, Church teaching, stories from local and global communities and our own personal experiences to think about how our whole lives are shaped by our faith. This work, together with the work Year 7 pupils are doing to support their chosen charity, Mary's Meals, will enable them to achieve a Faith in Action Pin Award by the end of the year.

Big Lent Walk - We came together to celebrate our Spring Youth Mass at St Gregory's. Before the Mass, some of our pupils and their families together with parishioners from St Gregory's met at school, from where they walked down to church in a show of support for CAFOD's Big Lent Walk campaign. Pupils from all year groups participated in the Mass as readers, musicians, and Eucharistic Ministers and in the offertory procession.

On the last day of term, we will gather in the Hall to hear the Gospel of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, narrated by Eliza and Bethany, who are both working towards a Faith in Action Silver Award. Additional voices will be provided by a number of Key Stage 3 pupils.

Year 10 continue to work hard in support of their chosen charity, Storehouse Food Bank. 10X organised a tug of war competition and collected various items which were delivered to the food bank. The pupils learned about who uses the food bank and how the referral system works and they came away with a much clearer understanding of the role of food banks in our community.

The focus for prayer towards the end of term was Reconciliation, with assemblies including an Examination of Conscience. There was an opportunity for pupils and staff to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the school Chapel.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Fr Peter Crowther from St Joseph's in Withnell. Pupils from St Joseph's were able to attend his funeral, at which Annie read the scripture.



## Windsor and Harrow School Trip



In early March, fourteen Year 10 boys embarked on a three-day visit designed to cover a range of interdisciplinary learning opportunities and further their future aspirations. Pupils were led on the trip by Mrs Henderson and Mr Kilgallon to visit: Bletchley Park (home of the WWII codebreakers); Windsor Castle; a theatre performance of John Godber's *Teachers* and Harrow School. Chris felt that the trip was a 'brilliant experience that brought multiple curriculum parts into collaboration'.



The three-day itinerary began with an inspiring visit to Bletchley Park. Here, pupils engaged with a session entitled 'D Day: Interception to Intelligence' where they learned about how codebreakers finally managed to decrypt messages from the German Enigma machines. Pupils were thrilled when they had an opportunity to use an authentic German WWII Enigma machine that had starred in *The Imitation Game*. Joseph commented that he was amazed to learn that 'Alan Turing and the codebreakers likely shortened the length of the war by two years'. After a busy day of exploring, including an opportunity to visit the Age of AI Exhibition, pupils enjoyed a well-earned meal at Pizza Express followed by a quiz ably led by Mr Kilgallon and a very competitive Games Night.



## Windsor and Harrow School Trip



Our second day focused on developing historical knowledge through the lens of Personal Development and British Values whilst also developing pupils' contextual understanding of both the Elizabethan and Jacobean reigns for pupils' English Literature study of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. Fortunately, we were blessed with glorious sunshine so the day began with a pleasant stroll along the Long Walk for some photo opportunities in front of the castle. We then witnessed the Changing of the Guard both outside and inside the castle – a particular highlight for Josh was hearing them play *Romantic Flight* from *How To Train Your Dragon* as he 'loved the modernisation of a historic tradition'. After marvelling at the opulent splendour on display in the State Apartments, we partook in a very interactive session on 'The Changing Power of Monarchs'. Pupils developed their oracy skills throughout the session and learnt a huge amount about how our modern-day monarchy came into being. To end the day, the group enjoyed a performance of *Teechers* at Windsor Theatre Royal.



The visit concluded with a very special visit to Harrow School; Harrow is a leading independent all boys school where prominent figures such as Sir Winston Churchill, Lord Byron and Benedict Cumberbatch were educated. This unique opportunity allowed the boys to explore the school during a tour which included their impressive Old School Room, where the iconic 'Wingardium Leviosa' scene from *Harry Potter* and the Philosopher's Stone was filmed, the Speech Room and War Memorial Building. Pupils were particularly impressed to learn that Old Harrovians have been awarded twenty Victoria Crosses – all of which are on display in the War Memorial Building. Our visit concluded with a presentation and Q&A session on bursary opportunities at Harrow School.

Isaac's views on the trip summarised the boys' experience well: 'this is a trip where you get to discover aspirations you didn't know existed, whilst deepening connections with friends and having a great time' whilst Joseph said, 'it is a trip you will want to go on over and over again'.



## School Visits



### University Visits

This term, Mrs Davda accompanied Deacon and Dante to the University of Lancashire in Preston for an inspiring introduction to university life. The pupils took part in a full and varied programme, including visits to lecture theatres, a print-making workshop, guided tours of the halls of residence and wider campus, as well as several team-building and project-based activities. They even enjoyed sampling the food available in the universities catering facilities.

This visit follows earlier successful trips to the University of Cumbria and Edge Hill University, with a further visit to Lancaster University planned later in the year. These experiences are designed to broaden pupils' aspirations, raise awareness of future pathways, and give them a valuable insight into the opportunities available in higher education.



### National Reading Champions

Eight pupils from Holy Cross attended Ss John Fisher and Thomas More Catholic High School for the National Reading Champions Quiz 2026.

Our pupils competed against 23 different regional heats and both teams managed to come second place, just losing out on first by three marks. Pupils will receive vouchers to spend on any books they like. The pupils were: Emelia, Layla, Joseph R from Year 7, Eliza, Emily A from Year 8, Benedict, Millie R, Cecelia from Year 9.

This trip has allowed pupils to celebrate their knowledge of books and encourage young people to enjoy reading.



## School Visits



### Work Related Learning

Our Year 9 pupils recently had an exciting opportunity to visit Preston College and get a hands-on experience ahead of starting their construction course when they go into Year 10.

During the visit, pupils explored a range of practical skills, from basic building techniques to understanding how a real construction workshop operates. It was fantastic to see their enthusiasm, teamwork, and willingness to get involved and try something new.

This visit marks the beginning of a great partnership, as our pupils will be attending the college once a week from September to continue developing their skills and gaining valuable insight into the construction industry.

A huge thank you to the team at Preston College for such a warm welcome and an inspiring experience — they can't wait to get started in September.



### 10X visit to Living Waters Storehouse Food Bank

Tutor Group 10X recently organised a tug of war competition and asked for donations of tinned foods for their year group charity - Storehouse Food Bank. Then, on 10 March, Mr Holliday and four representatives from 10X, took the donations to the Living Waters Storehouse and Food Bank. On the visit they learnt more about the work they do. They saw the storage facility where the bags of food are packed and learned about what goes into each parcel.

As well as food items, the donations from Year 10 also contained essential items such as basic toiletries, cleaning products and toilet roll; nappies for families with babies; and pet food. Pupils engaged with community by obtaining donations from local shops, these enabled pupils to donate fresh produce, so that bread, fruit and vegetables can be included in the packs.

Storehouse Food Bank are always in need and welcome donations. There is also a cafe at the site, where anyone can purchase freshly cooked food. It was a real eye-opener for the pupils to see how their teamwork, collections and charity is supporting the wider community.



## National Year of Reading



This term, we have embraced the National Year of Reading in our community. Pupils have grasped new opportunities to engage with books and stories.

World Book Day brought a wonderful burst of excitement to school, creating a real buzz around reading. Pupils took part in our biggest Book Swap yet, exchanging books and recommending new favourites to friends. Alongside this, our photo booth, reading quizzes, our annual bookmark competition and creating amazing book jars and book boxes, have continued to keep the library full of energy. Pupils in Years 7 and 8 had a lesson dedicated to creating their own mythical creature or inventive spell inspired from Harry Potter.



Our reading engagement has also continued to extend beyond the school walls. This week, some of our Year 9 and 10 Art pupils have visited Astley View care home to work with residents on a collaborative coastal mural, using famous quotes from poetry and literature as inspiration for the artwork. These intergenerational visits always offer something truly special: a space where pupils listen, reflect, and learn from the lived experiences of others.

Meanwhile, our whole school Read-a-thon is well underway and will continue until 13 April. It has been heartening to see pupils challenge themselves to read more widely and enthusiastically, taking pride in logging their progress. The event also carries an important fundraising element, with pupils working together to raise money for their year group's chosen charity.

To support pupils in choosing their next great read, this term's recommendations focus on books that have been adapted for film or television - a theme that we have noticed has been incredibly popular across the school. Dystopian fiction has also seen a resurgence in interest, especially as Year 8 have been exploring dystopias in their English lessons.



## Recommended Reads

### KS3 Recommended Reads:

**Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief**  
by Rick Riordan



A fast, funny adventure full of Greek gods, monsters and quests. Perfect for fans of the new TV adaptation.

**Five Nights at Freddy's - Scott Cawthon & Kira Breed Wrisley**



A creepy, mysterious thriller ideal for gamers. A gripping story with a graphic novel option, set in the unsettling world of Freddy Fazbear's Pizza.

**The Hunger Games - Suzanne Collins**



A tense, action packed dystopian novel following Katniss as she fights for survival. A modern classic that continues to resonate with readers.

### KS4 Recommended Reads:



**The Summer I Turned Pretty – Jenny Han**

A heartfelt coming of age story about first love, family and finding your place. Popular with fans of the TV series for its drama and emotional topics.



**A Good Girl's Guide to Murder – Holly Jackson**

A sharp, twist filled modern mystery where Pippa investigates a closed case. Perfect for pupils who enjoy true crime style storytelling.



## Author Visits and Guest Speakers



This term we have welcomed a number of authors into school to work with our pupils.

In English, to 'kick off' The National Year of Reading, we welcomed the author Matt Oldfield who spoke to our Year 8 pupils and delivered creative writing workshops.

Pupils were really engaged with how Matt brought his writing to life and explained how he became an established author.

Pupils enjoyed meeting Matt, having their books signed as well as participating in his workshops which allowed them to express their creativity.

In Geography, author Julian Sedgwick visited our Year 9 pupils to deliver a talk on the Japanese tsunami, which devastated the country in 2011. He explored the run up to the disaster (for example the increase in earthquake activity), how it affected the local people, and the responses to the event. Pupils listened to survivor stories and how people showed resilience in the face of severe adversity. Julian's book 'Tsunami Girl' is available in the library for pupils to read.

In MFL, we welcomed Fútbol Lingo into the department to highlight to our Year 9 pupils how languages can support them in pursuing careers in the sport's industry and the advantages of being multilingual in the working world. The day was led by Pierce Kiemi, a UEFA A Licence coach, who speaks five languages. Pierce led a whole year group talk, detailing his own personal experiences working with various premier league clubs and coaches. Additionally, pupils engaged in classroom workshops where they represented various Spanish and French-speaking countries. Pupils also had the opportunity to participate in a football coaching session, where Pierce directed them in the target language and encouraged use of football-specific vocabulary to get pupils effectively communicating in a team in Spanish or French.



## Enrichment



**Youth Parliament** - Our pupils took part in the Youth Parliament elections for the Chorley constituency. It was fantastic to see so many of them getting involved and learning about the democratic process.



**Duke of Edinburgh** - Our 2026 Duke of Edinburgh cohort took part in an exciting training day to prepare for their upcoming expeditions.

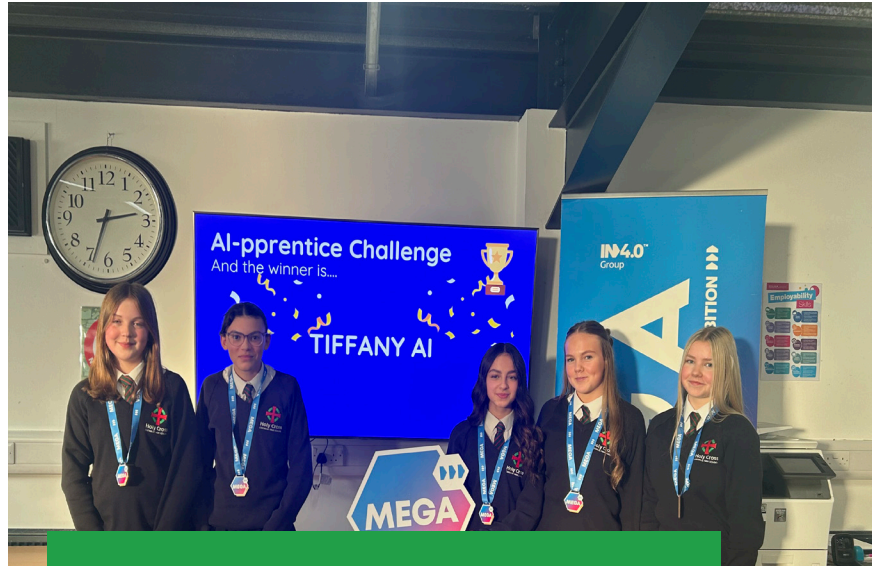
Working in their expedition groups, pupils developed key teamwork and communication skills while gaining valuable experience in route planning, basic first aid, and meal preparation. They also got hands-on with essential expedition skills, including cooking on camp stoves, pitching tents, and packing rucksacks effectively.

Pupils worked with Tom and his experienced team at Excel Outdoors who delivered an informative, fun, and interactive training day. All of our pupils are now looking forward to their first expedition in May.

**Maths Challenge** - Teams from Mrs Walmsley's Year 10 and Mrs McLean's Year 11 participated in the annual Runshaw Maths Competition, with the Year 11 Team successfully achieving bronze position. A great time was had by all.

Congratulations to both teams, Year 10 will be ready to return next year.

**Stem Roadshow** - Year 7 pupils enjoyed Material World: Engineering the Future, an interactive STEM theatre production linked to both Science and D&T curriculum. The show explored how materials such as titanium and smart alloys drive innovation in engineering and aerospace. Brought to school by BAE Systems, the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy, the Roadshow inspires young people through fast-paced demonstrations and real-world STEM applications, helping them connect classroom learning with future careers. Through interactive demonstrations, real-life engineering challenges and memorable performance elements, pupils gained insight into how materials shape the modern world - supporting both curriculum learning and meaningful careers education.



## Runshaw MEGA Hub



Pupils from Years 7, 9 and 10 have recently taken part in a series of exciting full-day MEGA Hub events at Runshaw College.

The MEGA Hub days delivered by Runshaw Collage, are designed to immerse pupils in future technologies, including artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and advanced technical skills. These high-tech, interactive sessions allow learners to gain crucial employability skills in a safe, simulated environment, often featuring 360-degree immersive environments.

Our pupils worked in teams to develop their computing, programming and problem-solving skills. Across the visits, pupils explored everything from Python-controlled robotic challenges to designing future-focused AI products and creating webpages to support their ideas. Each group presented their work in a Dragon's Den-style pitch to a panel of judges, showcasing impressive creativity, teamwork and innovation. We are delighted to announce that teams from all three year groups won their overall competitions: Year 7 for their excellent robot-navigation and problem-solving solutions; Year 10 for their automated shop-assistant AI offering personalised discounts and price comparisons; and Year 9 for their thoughtful self-help chatbot designed to support people through difficult situations—so strong that judges described it as one of the best presentations they had seen. Our pupils represented the school brilliantly, demonstrating confidence, imagination and outstanding digital skills.

The winning Year 9 team "TiffAI", researched, designed, and built their own AI-powered apps to tackle real world challenges. Their winning app focused on supporting teen mental health, and judges said their design and presentation rivalled some of the Year 11 teams they had seen. Huge congratulations to all the pupils who have been involved in the MEGA Hub sessions.



## National Careers Week



To celebrate National Careers Week on 2-7 March, pupils took part in tutor-group activities, learned about a wide range of careers linked to their curriculum subjects, and had the opportunity to attend our Careers Fair.

During the A-Z Careers Quiz, Key Stage 3 tutor groups had eight minutes to think of as many careers as possible and record them on their sheets. The winning groups were rewarded with sweet treats!

Year 7 pupils also spent time reflecting on their own skills and sharing their dream jobs.

All year groups learnt about their tutor's personal careers journey during tutor time. Pupils were fascinated to discover the places their tutors had travelled to and what their very first jobs were. It was a great opportunity for questions, discussions, and exploring the different pathways that can lead to a final career.

We also hosted a highly successful Careers Fair, welcoming 56 guests across 36 stands, and meeting with over 450 pupils and parents throughout the event. We were especially delighted to see so many alumni representing their companies.

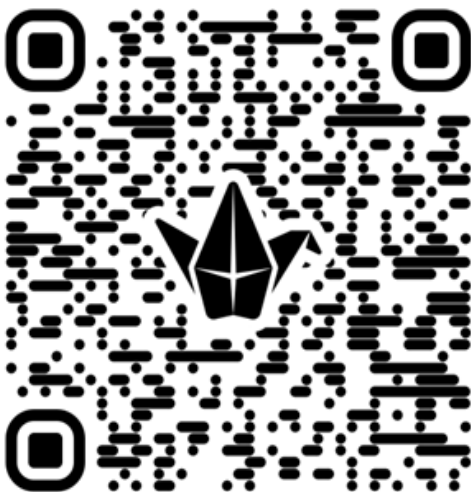
Our guests gave wonderful feedback about our pupils, praising how engaged, polite, and curious they were.

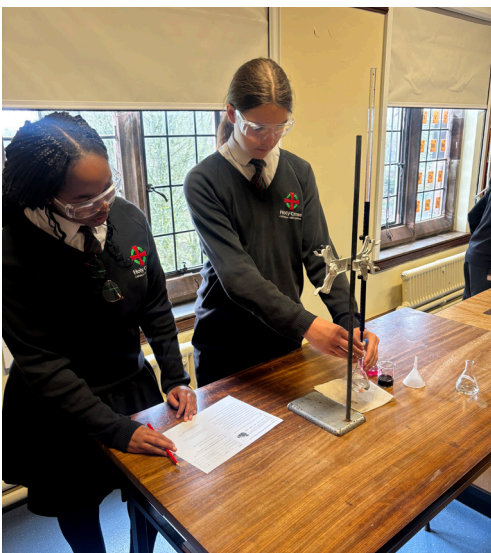
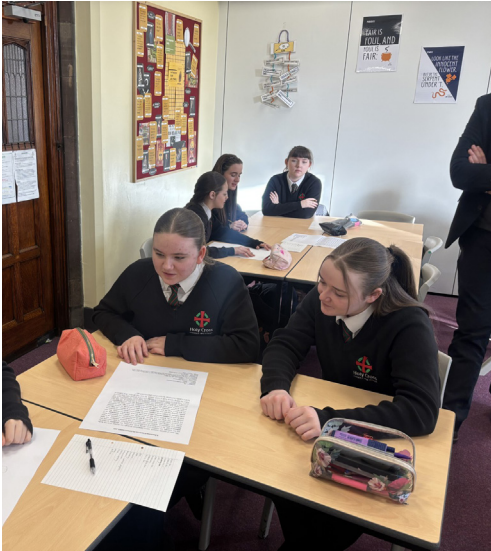
Staff reported that pupils returned to lessons with a real buzz—eager to talk about what they had learned and excited about their own future career plans.

Our Careers Fair simply wouldn't happen without the fantastic support of local businesses and education providers who volunteer their time to speak with our pupils. We are grateful for their enthusiasm, expertise, and commitment to inspiring future careers.

Did you know we have an Online Careers Noticeboard?

Here we share details of open events, out-of-school opportunities, apprenticeships, articles, videos, podcasts, quizzes and more. It is updated weekly. You can access our Noticeboard via the Holy Cross website or by scanning the QR code opposite.





## Scholars Programme

The Year 10 Scholars Programme has continued this term, stretching pupils academically and teaching vital skills for life at university, apprenticeships or employment. During the spring term, pupils have engaged in CV writing and will be developing critical thinking skills ahead of their summer term research task.

We were fortunate to host the North West Regional Access Officer for Harrow School earlier this term, Nicola Dunne. Nicola discussed bursary and scholarship opportunities that are available within the independent school sector. Pupils gained a thorough understanding of life at a boarding or day school and had the opportunity to ask questions about the application process. The session served to inspire Year 10 pupils to think beyond their GCSE study.

Molly, a school liaison officer from the University of Oxford, visited Holy Cross to deliver a presentation aimed at Year 10 and Year 11 pupils. The presentation outlined why pupils should consider going to university; what degrees can be offered by universities; the career pathways which specific degrees can lead to and why pupils should consider applying to Oxford University. Pupils found the talk very engaging and informative, answering many questions they had about university options.

Our partnership with Bolton School has continued this term with a range of pupils attending A' Level taster sessions for the Business/Economics, History, Chemistry and Maths courses. All of these sessions have had a positive influence in pupils' consideration of post-16 options.



## Individual Sporting Successes



### English Schools' Cross Country Championships

Well done to both Winnie in Year 8 and Kitty in Year 9 who were recently selected to represent Lancashire at the English Schools' Cross Country competition after they won the district schools cross country.

Winnie and Kitty, who both compete in the same age category travelled to Sefton Park in Liverpool to compete in the national event.

Winnie knocked 20 seconds off her previous course time to secure a PB and picked off a number of other runners to move up the field.

Kitty, who also ran in the same age category last year said "I had a much better run than last year and placed better overall".



### Chloe continues to excel in Tennis

Chloe in Year 8 is currently attending the U13 Clay Court National Camp in Girona, Spain.

This has been organised by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) National Pathway Team and led by the National coaches.

The residential national camps are a unique experience in a tennis player's journey and many of the current elite Great Britain players have experienced LTA run camps. The National Camps provide an opportunity where the best 8-12 players in the age group will spend time coached by the national coaches before they make selections for players to represent Team GB ahead of the winter and summer cup events.

Chloe has also played all LTA national events in 2025 and some Tennis Europe UK International Events, including: being a finalist in the U12 Lexus Indoor National Championships, a grade 1 event held at Bolton Arena; she played in the main draw U14 girls Lexus Junior International Bolton and got a main draw wild card in U14 Lexus Junior International Liverpool where she recently gained valuable experience playing the No 1 seed.



### District Dance Competition

Leah in Year 10 recently wowed the judges in her Under 16 solo dance routine at the Chorley District competition. Leah finished an impressive second place for her routine, where she danced elegantly and gracefully in a well rehearsed routine.

Leah dances four times a week and trains for over 15 hours in ballet, tap and contemporary.

In her recent dance exams she has received distinction in all areas.



## Hospital Cup



### Year 10 Boys' Football Team Win the Hospital Cup

Year 10 Triumph in Hospital Cup Final at Victory Park:

Victory Park, the home of Chorley FC, set the stage for a thrilling Hospital Cup final as the Year 10 squad faced long-standing rivals St Michael's. The final echoed the memorable Year 7 final of 2023, once again with Mr Burrow leading the team from the touchline.

Supporters from pupils, parents and staff filled the stands, creating an electric atmosphere for what proved to be a tightly contested and eagerly anticipated game. Hungry for victory, the boys delivered a determined and disciplined performance from start to finish. The first half was an even contest, but Holy Cross showed clear improvement from previous encounters with St Michael's, particularly in defence. Matty, Kingston, Will and Jacob were outstanding at the back, working tirelessly to prevent St Michael's from creating any clear-cut chances.

After the break, Holy Cross raised their intensity and began to take control of the game. George and Stan were effective in midfield, breaking up play and regaining possession, while Oliver provided a strong focal point up front with excellent hold-up play. The breakthrough finally came midway through the second half when Will G-B drove forward and finished calmly into the bottom right corner.

St Michael's responded by increasing the pressure late on, but Holy Cross stood firm. Brave tackles, crucial blocks and important saves from Lewis ensured their lead remained intact. In the end, one goal proved enough to seal the victory.

Man of the match went to Riley for his outstanding work rate and contribution both on and off the ball throughout the game. The full squad — Adam, Lewis, Kingston, Jacob, Will, Jack, Matty, Riley, George, Stan, Rio, Adam, Jackson, Oliver, Layton and Archie celebrated together as they lifted the prestigious Hospital Cup.

The trophy presentation was made by Kenneth Strang, a longstanding supporter and key figure in the history of the competition. A huge congratulations to the entire team on an outstanding achievement.



## District Champions



### Year 8s are Crowned District Champions

The Year 8 football team produced a sensational performance to defeat Bishop Rawstorne in the Chorley Schools Final at Westway Sports Hub. Having failed to overcome Bishops in their previous three encounters, the boys knew they were in for a tough battle — but they rose to the occasion magnificently.

They flew out of the blocks, taking the lead inside the opening ten minutes. A trademark long throw from Freddie was expertly flicked on by Jacob F, and Charlie arrived at just the right moment to smash home a superb volley from eight yards. A dream start.

Bishops, however, showed why they are such strong opponents. They began to dominate possession, moving the ball confidently and eventually capitalising on a turnover deep in our half to level the score. Moments before the break, they edged ahead with a perfectly weighted ball over our back line and a composed lob over the keeper. A tough blow just before half-time.

Despite trailing, the boys refused to let their heads drop. They came out for the second half with belief, discipline, and a clear determination to fight their way back into the game. We defended resolutely through the early stages, absorbing pressure and staying organised. As the half wore on, our energy levels remained high while Bishops began to tire — and our front three of Lewis, Lucas, and Jake started to cause real problems.

The breakthrough came when Lucas was bundled over in the box after latching onto a clever through ball. Penalty. Lucas stepped up and coolly slotted it home to bring us level and ignite the belief that we could go on and win it.

With momentum firmly on our side, the boys pushed for a winner rather than settling for penalties. With just three minutes left, Lucas picked up the ball on the left, cut inside onto his right foot, and drove into the area. A desperate challenge from the Bishop's right-back brought him down — another penalty. This time Charlie took responsibility, and with ice in his veins, drilled the ball into the bottom left corner. The celebrations from players and supporters were electric.

The final minutes were managed with maturity and composure, and when the full-time whistle blew, the pitch erupted in well-deserved joy. Every single player contributed to a memorable, hard-fought victory — a true team performance worthy of the title Chorley Champions.



## District Champions



Year 9

Our Year 9 football team produced a superb performance to beat Bishop Rawstone and claim the district title!

Despite being 2–1 down at half-time, their teamwork, determination, and resilience shone through as they battled back to secure a brilliant 4–2 victory.

Goal scorers: Leo D, Charlie M, Harvey B and Harry J

A huge well done to the whole squad.



Year 11

Huge congratulations to our Year 11 team, who were crowned Chorley district champions after a hard-fought 2–1 victory over Bishop Rawstone in a tense and competitive final.

Both sides showed real determination as they battled through challenging wind and rain.

Despite chances at both ends, the first half ended goalless.

Holy Cross broke the deadlock early in the second half when Jake H powered in a superb opener. The lead was doubled shortly after, with Adam F threading a clinical pass through for Jacob R, who finished confidently to make it 2–0. Bishop Rawstone struck back late on, setting up a nervy finish, but Year 11 held firm to secure the win and lift the trophy.

A massive well done to all pupils involved — a fantastic achievement and a brilliant team performance!



## Team Sporting Success - Sports Hall Athletics Finals



### Lancashire Sports Hall Athletics Finals

Holy Cross enjoyed a proud day of sporting success as both the Year 7 boys and Year 8 girls represented the district at the Lancashire Sports Hall Athletics Finals in Blackpool. The teams earned their place at the event after winning their respective district competitions last term.

#### Year 7 Boys Show Determination Against Strong Competition:

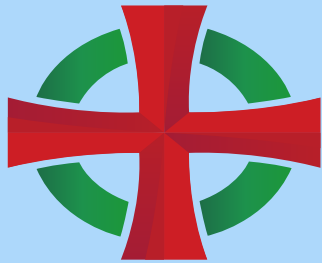
The Year 7 boys team — Harrison, Jasper, Oscar, Jonathan, Jake, Kai, Ochieng and Toby — faced a challenging afternoon as they competed against the fourteen strongest schools from across Lancashire. Despite tough competition, the boys battled with determination and represented Chorley with great pride throughout every event.

#### Year 8 Girls Crowned Lancashire Champions for the Second Year Running:

The Year 8 girls team continued their remarkable run of success, putting in an outstanding team performance to be crowned Lancashire champions for the second consecutive year. Winnie, Ella, Alice, Charlotte, Jess W, Gabby and Jess H all delivered exceptional results, topping the points table to secure the overall victory.

Individually and collectively, the girls excelled: Winnie achieved victory in all of her events; the 4x2 lap relay team (Winnie, Ella, Gabby and Jess) secured first place; Winnie and Jess won the 8-lap relay; Ella and Jess triumphed in the long jump; Winnie and Ella took top spots in the vertical jump and Ella claimed victory in her 4-lap race.

Reflecting on the win, Jess commented, “We did not let Mr Stokes down”, and she was absolutely right — being back-to-back Lancashire sports hall athletics champions is an outstanding achievement and a testament to their hard work, teamwork and dedication.



**Holy Cross**  
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

# Spring SVP Gathering

**Wednesday 29 April - 1.30pm**

**at Holy Cross Catholic High School**

Myles Standish Way, Chorley, PR7 3LS

Join us for an afternoon of bingo, crafts, prizes, musical performances by our school choir, oracy performances and afternoon tea served by the Leadership Academy.

To sign up email: [admin@holycross.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@holycross.lancs.sch.uk) or complete the sign up sheet at Church by Monday 20 April



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## Diary Dates - Summer Term 2026

- Start of Term - Monday 13 April
- Year 11 Art GCSE - Monday 13 April and Thursday 16 April
- Year 8 Runshaw College Computer Science - Monday 20 April
- Year 8 HPV vaccines - Tuesday 21 April
- Year 7 Parents' Evening - Thursday 23 April
- Spring SVP Gathering - Wednesday 29 April
- Year 5 Spelling Bee - Thursday 30 April
- INSET Day (School Closed) - Friday 1 May
- School closed (Bank Holiday) - Monday 4 May
- Year 10 Scholars Programme visit to Bolton School - Tuesday 5 May
- Year 10 CNAT Anderton Centre - Wednesday 6 May
- GCSE Exams - Friday 8 May - Wednesday 24 June
- Product Design visit to Leyland Trucks - Friday 8 May
- Duke of Edinburgh Practice - Saturday 9 May
- Stratford-Upon-Avon and Cheltenham Ladies' College Visit - Thursday 14 and Friday 15 May
- Prefect Training - Tuesday 19 May
- May Half Term - Monday 25 May - Friday 29 May
- Year 9 Visit to University of Manchester - Wednesday 3 June
- PE visit to Runshaw College - Wednesday 10 June
- PE visit to Runshaw College - Friday 12 June
- Year 10 Runshaw College Sample Day- Tuesday 23 June
- LUSOM Maths KS3 Competition - Friday 26 June
- Year 10 Work Experience Week - Monday 29 June - Friday 3 July
- New Intake Evening - Tuesday 30 June
- New Intake Day - Thursday 2 July
- St John Rigby Maths competition - Monday 6 July
- Public Speaking Showcase - Monday 6 July
- Celebration Assemblies - Week commencing 13 July
- Sports Day - Wednesday 15 July
- Years 7-10 Rewards Day - Friday 17 July
- End of Term - Monday 20 July (12.30 pm finish)

