

Headteacher's Letter

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of another successful academic year at Holy Cross, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to reflect upon what has been another wonderful year in the life of our school.

This year, our pupils have worked tremendously hard in their lessons, flourished both academically and personally, and embraced the many opportunities available to them beyond the classroom. It has been a pleasure to witness the enthusiasm, resilience and commitment they bring to school each day.

This term, pupils have enjoyed a rich programme of educational visits and experiences. Year 10 and Year 11 pupils had the privilege of visiting Auschwitz in Poland. This was a deeply moving and thought-provoking experience, providing a powerful connection to their learning in class and encouraging reflection upon the importance of remembrance, tolerance and human dignity.

Our younger pupils also enjoyed memorable visits. Year 8 pupils experienced the magic of Harry Potter World, while Year 7 pupils travelled back in time at Warwick Castle. Year 8 pupils took part in their annual retreat to Castlerigg in the beautiful Lake District. This spiritual journey offered opportunities for self-reflection, prayer and personal growth in the peace and tranquillity of its stunning surroundings. The Castlerigg retreat remains a treasured Holy Cross tradition that has been enjoyed by generations of pupils over many years. We were also fortunate to visit some magnificent libraries this year, including Manchester Central Library and the library at Stonyhurst College. Both visits provided pupils with an inspiring glimpse into the world of literature, scholarship and learning.

This term has also been a particularly special one in the faith journey of our pupils, as approximately 100 of our Year 8 pupils received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation is one of the most significant milestones in the life of a Catholic, strengthening the gifts of the Holy Spirit and deepening each pupil's commitment to their faith and relationship with Christ. We are immensely proud of all those who chose to take this important step. The number of pupils receiving the sacrament this year is the highest in the Archdiocese and stands as a powerful testament to the strength of the Catholic ethos that lies at the heart of Holy Cross. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the clergy, catechists and parish communities across our local parishes who generously gave their time, encouragement and support in preparing our young people for Confirmation. Their dedication and witness to the faith played a vital role in helping our pupils reach this important moment, and we are deeply grateful for their partnership and commitment.

Our Catholic identity continues to be reflected not only in the faith we profess but in the way our pupils put that faith into action each day. Inspired by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and our commitment to living out the call to serve others, all Year 7 pupils have successfully achieved the Faith in Action Pin Award this year. In addition, two pupils attained the Bronze Award and five pupils achieved the Silver Award in recognition of their outstanding commitment to service within the school, parish and wider community. We are also immensely proud of Eliza in Year 8, who was presented with the prestigious St Joseph's Award for her outstanding service and dedication to supporting others. We continue to cherish our strong and well-established links with our local parishes, which remain a vital part of the Holy Cross community. I am always delighted to hear the many compliments and expressions of gratitude from parishioners at St Gregory's, who speak so positively about our pupils. Their faithful attendance and active participation in the Wednesday morning Mass, particularly as readers and Eucharistic Ministers, provide a wonderful witness to their faith, generosity and commitment to serving others.

In June, I spent an enjoyable afternoon supporting our pupils at District Sports. Whilst there were many outstanding individual performances, what gave me the greatest sense of pride was the team spirit, enthusiasm and camaraderie displayed throughout the event. Our pupils supported one another wholeheartedly and represented Holy Cross with distinction. They did themselves, their families and the school proud.

I was also delighted by the success of our PAN Sports Team, who competed brilliantly in curling and emerged as competition winners. Equally impressive was the performance of our boys' cricket team, who enjoyed an outstanding run in the Lancashire region of the Barclays Knight-Stokes Cup, reaching the last eight and narrowly losing to the eventual winners.

Headteacher's Letter

June also saw us say goodbye and good luck to our Year 11 pupils as they completed their GCSE examinations. Throughout the examination period their behaviour, maturity and determination were exemplary. They thoroughly deserved the opportunity to celebrate together at their Prom at Rivington Barn, which was a fitting end to their time at Holy Cross. We look forward to welcoming them back in August when they collect their results and we celebrate their many achievements.

As our Year 11 cohort prepares to move on to the next stage of their journey, we were delighted to welcome our new intake of pupils. Over 200 children from 28 different primary schools joined us for their transition day. They met their form tutors and teachers, made new friends and enjoyed experiencing life at Holy Cross. We very much look forward to officially welcoming them and their families in September.

This past week, we enjoyed Sports Day, one of the highlights of the school calendar. It was wonderful to see pupils embracing the competitive spirit of the occasion whilst encouraging and supporting one another throughout the day.

Our partnership with local feeder primary schools continues to go from strength to strength. Last week, we were delighted to welcome Mr and Mrs Martland back to Holy Cross as we hosted the Thomas Martland Maths Competition. For thirty years, we have proudly organised this special event in memory of our former pupil, and it remains a valued tradition within our school community.

The recent spell of exceptionally warm weather has presented challenges for everyone. I would like to commend both pupils and staff for the resilience they have shown and for their continued commitment to learning and working hard despite the conditions. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to all families who have kindly donated pre-owned school uniform throughout the year. Your generosity has enabled us to maintain an excellent stock of uniform and continue supporting families who may need assistance.

At the end of this term, we also say goodbye and good luck to a number of valued colleagues who are leaving Holy Cross. We thank Mrs Eyre, Mr Egan, Mr Leang, Miss Hodgson, Miss McHugh and Mr Wilkinson for their dedicated service and the contribution they have made to the lives of our pupils and the wider school community. We wish each of them every success and happiness in the future. I would also like to wish Mrs Tierney and Mrs Nelson the very best as they begin their maternity leave. We hope this is a special and enjoyable time for them and their families.

Looking ahead to September, we are delighted to welcome several new members of staff to Holy Cross: Mrs Ferguson (Science), Mr Jones (History), Mr Ojakovoh (RE), Miss Taylor (English), Mrs Watson (Music) and Mr Worrall (Art). We look forward to them joining our community and wish them every success as they begin their careers at Holy Cross.

As we bring this academic year to a close, we do so mindful of our Catholic faith and the countless hours of selfless service demonstrated by members of the Holy Cross community. Our pupils, staff, governors, families and parish partners continually embody the values that make our school such a special place.

We will conclude the year on Monday with our Summer Serenade. We look forward to welcoming more than sixty parents who will join us to celebrate and enjoy the many talents of our pupils. It promises to be a wonderful occasion and a fitting way to end another successful year.

Looking ahead to September, Year 7 and Year 11 pupils will return to school on Thursday 3 September, with all remaining pupils returning on Friday 4 September.

On behalf of the staff and governors, I would like to wish all our pupils and families a restful, safe and enjoyable summer. Thank you once again for your continued support of Holy Cross. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year of learning, growth and achievement.

Mr Lindley

Librarians' Rewards Visit

Our KS3 librarians were treated to a rewards day at Stonyhurst College, one of the most historic and prestigious Catholic educational settings. This was to celebrate the wonderful contribution our librarians make to Holy Cross Library. They learnt about the history of bookmaking, saw firsthand Shakespeare's First Folio, and delved into Stonyhurst's links with Arthur Conan Doyle and J.R.R. Tolkien. They also enjoyed a guided tour of the college and grounds. Here is some pupil feedback about their experience:

"The visit to Stonyhurst was an incredible experience. I loved seeing how old books were made and really loved exploring the museums. The connections to Arthur Conan Doyle and J.R.R. Tolkien were fascinating"

"I loved the architecture and learning about the history of the building and the books. 10/10 would go again!"



Public Speaking

The summer term has continued with some great success in oracy and public speaking. Eliza and Bethany in Year 8 progressed to the regional final of the English Speaking Union's Performing Shakespeare Competition. This took place at the incredible Shakespeare North Playhouse. Though the pupils did not progress to the final in London, they still were able to perform in a real, professional theatre which was an invaluable experience. This is the second time these pupils have progressed to this stage and both agreed that the experience has taught them an abundant amount about theatre, public speaking and confidence.

As well as this, Emelia in Year 7 and Imogen in Year 9 took part in the annual Archdiocese Public Speaking Competition. Both pupils spoke about the benefits and pitfalls of space exploration using their eloquence and poise to adeptly argue their points. There has been a plethora of opportunities in oracy this year at Holy Cross and we look forward to more of our wonderful pupils representing the school in such a wide variety of competitions.



Top Service for Librarian Annie

We said a fond farewell to Year 11 Annie this month, after five years of dedicated service to our library. Annie was an excellent role model; helping to train other librarians, and has a particular skill for understanding the Dewey Decimal System (this is very rare!), so she will be missed by everyone on the Library Team! Thank you Annie.





Stratford-Upon-Avon and Cheltenham Ladies' College

Earlier this term, ten Year 10 girls accompanied Mrs Henderson, Miss Cowgill and Mrs Walmsley to Stratford-Upon-Avon and Cheltenham Ladies' College for an inspirational 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. Pupils were also lucky to participate in a Speech Exploder workshop led by an RSC actor who guided them through Macbeth's transformation from "brave" to a "dead butcher"; in addition to engaging with the text, pupils also had the opportunity to discuss careers related to the theatre with the actor leading the session. We then enjoyed a boat tour along the River Avon before taking part in a guided tour of the RSC's costume workshop and storage facility – the girls were intrigued to see how costume designs go from the page to the stage and particularly enjoyed seeing some costumes which had been featured in the most recent series of Bridgerton.

Following our day in Stratford-Upon-Avon, we admired the beautiful Cotswold countryside as we drove to Cheltenham. Upon arrival in Cheltenham, we visited the Everyman Theatre to watch Carlos Acosta's Ballet Celebration. The girls marvelled at the ballerina's physical stamina and dexterity on stage. The production was a highlight of the trip with Freya explaining that she enjoyed seeing ballet for the first time as the "dance had a beautiful deeper meaning" and Grace simply, but accurately, reviewing it as "pristine".



Stratford-Upon-Avon and Cheltenham Ladies' College



The following morning we enjoyed breakfast at our hotel 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. Miss Cowgill read a newspaper report from The Times that described the Battle of Balaclava as it was reported at the time 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 in an exemplary fashion throughout the day. The group took part in a university and future aspirations session, a provocative debate about the power of spoken versus written language, a research session and tours of the college's campus. The girls were also able to meet with two current Sixth Form pupils (one of whom is a Beale Award holder) to ask questions about life at CLC. Sienna expressed that the trip had helped her build confidence by "asking questions – I am usually apprehensive about asking but I wanted to know more" and Macy's confidence also grew through the "interactive Macbeth learning experience which helped me to solidify my knowledge and develop new perspectives".



Whilst reflecting on the trip during our journey home, Charlotte stated that the trip is a "unique opportunity that everyone should 100% experience". Jessica H enthused that the trip had inspired her to "always take advantage of the opportunities I am given" and many of the girls expressed that the visit had inspired them to pursue different avenues post-16 and to further their education beyond college. The trip was a unique and unforgettable experience for the girls which has sparked further aspiration, interest and enthusiasm for learning.

Mrs S Henderson
Assistant Headteacher



Aspirations

Raising aspirations at Holy Cross: This term, pupils have taken part in a range of enriching experiences designed to broaden horizons and raise aspirations for the future.

Year 8 pupils enjoyed an educational visit to Stonyhurst College, where they took part in sessions on the Reformation and the history of medicine, as well as viewing one of Shakespeare's original First Folios. Pupils also explored the historic grounds and completed part of Tolkien Trail. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all and further strengthened our partnership with Stonyhurst College, which we look forward to continuing in the future. When asked for feedback on the day, one Year 8 pupil responded with "It has been a brilliant day! I would love to go here again!"

Year 9 pupils attended the "Murder on Campus" event at the University of Greater Manchester, following a criminal case from the collection of evidence through to sentencing. The event provided valuable insight into careers within the police service, forensic science, probation, law and the prison service, while also highlighting the opportunities available through higher education. One pupil quoted "It was very good. It was inclusive and I felt like I was a real detective/ forensic scientist. We analysed evidence and even did a court case. I was part of the jury and we came to a verdict that Billy was guilty!"

We also continued our successful partnership with Bolton School, with pupils attending the final A-Level Taster Sessions in English and Geography. These sessions provided an excellent introduction to post-16 study and encouraged pupils to consider future academic pathways. We look forward to attending future sessions with our next Year 10 cohort.

Finally, pupils participating in The Scholars Programme have been working hard to complete their research projects. The programme concluded with a series of impressive presentations, showcasing pupils' commitment, confidence and academic abilities. Titles of the presentations included "How does different media represent crime and influence public perceptions?", "Is hospitality a long term career?" and "What is the future of energy production?" It was wonderful to celebrate their achievements as they were presented with certificates in recognition of their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

These opportunities continue to play an important role in helping our pupils develop confidence, ambition and an awareness of the many pathways available to them in the future.





National Year of Reading

As we celebrate another successful year of reading intervention, we are delighted to congratulate the 23 pupils who graduated from the programme this year. Their hard work and commitment have led to significant improvements in reading confidence and attainment, and we are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved.

A particular highlight this year was a visit to Manchester with a group of Year 9 pupils, where they explored two of the city's most fascinating libraries. At Chetham's Library, the oldest public library in England, pupils took part in a guided tour and came face-to-face with history. They visited the room where Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels met to discuss ideas that would later contribute to *The Communist Manifesto* and saw the famous "Devil's Hoof" linked to the scientist and mathematician Dr John Dee. They also viewed remarkable texts including a Third Folio of Shakespeare's works and an original King James Bible, both dating back hundreds of years. Finally, pupils took part in an engaging workshop exploring the history of the English language and the development of regional dialects, before creating their own poems inspired by local dialect and slang.

The day concluded with a visit to Manchester Central Library, where pupils were given exclusive access to the archives. Among the treasures on display was a book written on animal skin and one of the smallest books ever published. The visit provided a unique opportunity to bring literature, language and history to life, and our pupils represented the school brilliantly throughout.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue building on this success through our partnerships with local primary schools, care homes and families. Whether sharing stories with younger pupils, connecting with residents through reading and art, or encouraging reading at home, our pupils continue to demonstrate that reading is about much more than improving skills - it is about building confidence, curiosity and community.





Whether you're going abroad, enjoying days out with family or simply relaxing at home, summer is the perfect time to discover a new book. This term's recommendations celebrate adventure, friendship and unforgettable journeys - the ideal companions for the long summer break.

Recommended Reads

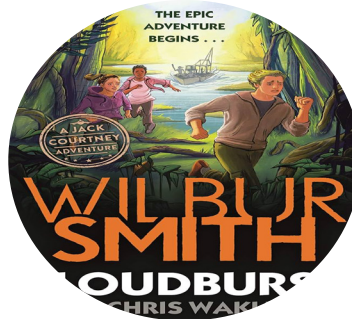
KS3 Recommended Reads:

The 1,000 Year Old Boy - Ross Welford



Alfie Monk has been 11 years old for over 1,000 years, thanks to a mysterious secret that has kept him from ageing. A funny and heartfelt adventure about friendship, family and discovering where you truly belong.

Cloudburst: A Jack Courtney Adventures - Wilbur Smith



When Jack Courtney's parents go missing at a gorilla conference, Jack and his friends brave the jungle to save them. Full of action, suspense and daring escapes, this is a thrilling adventure from start to finish.

The Girl Who Drank The Moon - Kelly Barnhill



Every year, a baby is left as an offering to a feared witch, but one child is accidentally given extraordinary magical powers. A beautifully written modern fairy tale about friendship, identity and a girl learning what she is truly capable of.

KS4 Recommended Reads:

Looking For Alaska - John Green



Teenage Myles' life is turned on its head when he meets Alaska and her world of risk and demanding friendship. This book explores friendship, loss and the search for meaning.

Sunrise On The Reaping - Suzanne Collins



As the 50th Hunger Games begins, a young Haymitch Abernathy is thrust into a brutal battle for survival that will change his life forever. A gripping return to the world of Panem, perfect for Hunger Games fans ahead of the film adaptation coming later this year.



Community

It has been a busy term as we reflect on what it is to be a part of the Holy Cross community.

Euxton Gala Day - Mr Lindley, Miss Duxbury and Pippa, Amelia and Arathana from our Leadership Academy attended the Euxton Gala day. The girls did a fantastic job representing our school at the event selling sunflowers. The stall had many visitors who made purchases and thanks to their generosity, the girls raised money that was donated to the Leadership Academy Charity, SVP, helping to support its vital work within our local community.

Year 7 Faith in Action Pin Award - All of our Year 7 pupils were proudly presented with their Faith in Action Pin Badges and Certificates, recognising their successful completion of the Faith in Action Pin Award.

The award celebrates young people who put their faith into practice through service, reflection and active participation in school and parish life. To achieve the Pin Award, pupils demonstrated how they live out Gospel values by helping others, contributing to their community, deepening their understanding of their faith, and reflecting on the positive difference their actions make.

As part of their Faith in Action journey, our pupils worked with Mary's Meals, gaining a deeper understanding of Catholic Social Teaching and seeing first-hand how faith calls us to uphold the dignity of every person and support those most in need around the world.

This fantastic achievement is a testament to the commitment, compassion and enthusiasm shown by our Year 7 pupils throughout the year. We are incredibly proud of the way they have embraced opportunities to serve others, grow in their faith, and make a positive impact on the lives of others.

Congratulations to all of our Year 7 pupils on this wonderful achievement!

Spring SVP - We were delighted to host another lovely SVP afternoon, this time with a Spring theme. Parishioners, grandparents and friends of Holy Cross enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea, beautiful recitals and a heart-warming performance from our school choir.

The afternoon was perfectly rounded off with Bingo and a raffle – and our guests were extremely complimentary about the wonderful behaviour and kindness of our pupils.





Prom

Pupils and staff enjoyed a truly fabulous evening—huge thanks to Rivington Barn for hosting such a beautiful event. It was the perfect celebration for an amazing cohort and a well-deserved evening of fun after all their hard work in recent weeks sitting their GCSEs. They had all worked so hard and truly deserved the celebrations.

Everyone looked so glam, it was a special evening enjoyed together.

We are so proud of you all—good luck, Class of 2026!

Mrs Mitchell shared how much she is going to miss each and every one of you – and we know you'll all be missed by the whole school community.

GCSE exam results can be collected from school on Thursday 20 August from 9 am - 11 am.





Enrichment



Castlerigg - Our Year 8 pupils had a wonderful and enriching retreat at Castlerigg in the Lake District, centred on the theme of growth—both in their personal lives and within their communities.

The pupils were outstanding throughout and embraced every opportunity, from a scenic walk into Keswick town centre, to moments of reflection, including praying the Rosary, alongside a range of team-building activities.

It was a truly special weekend, full of reflection, friendship, and personal development. Always a popular and memorable weekend for our pupils.

D of E - We are incredibly proud of our 2026 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award cohort, who recently completed their qualifying expedition in the beautiful village of Barley, Lancashire, at the foot of Pendle Hill.

Over the expedition weekend, 13 groups independently navigated challenging routes through the countryside, putting their map-reading, teamwork, leadership and problem-solving skills to the test. Our pupils showed fantastic resilience and determination throughout, supporting one another to complete the expedition successfully. Thankfully, the weather was kind, allowing everyone to fully enjoy the experience and the stunning surroundings.

A huge thank you to Excel Outdoors for delivering and supporting the expedition element of the Bronze Award programme. Their organisation, expertise and encouragement made the weekend a great success—we look forward to working with them again next year!

With the expedition section now complete, pupils will continue working towards their Bronze Award by completing their volunteering, physical and skills sections over the coming months.

Well done to all involved—we are incredibly proud of your achievements.

Confirmations - There was a strong sense of community and faith for the 100 Year 8 pupils who this term received the special Sacrament of Confirmation. We were honoured to welcome Archbishop John Sherrington, who confirmed the candidates in beautiful and reverent services at Euxton St Mary's, St Mary's Chorley and St Joseph's Chorley. Families, pupils and staff all came together to enjoy the joyful and special occasion.





History Tour of Krakow and Auschwitz

On 9 July 2026, 51 excited GCSE History pupils flew to the beautiful city of Krakow, Poland, to enrich their studies of 20th Century history. The centrepiece of the tour was a full day special study guided tour of the death camps at Auschwitz and Birkenau. In our own private service of reflection by the ruins of the gas chambers, pupils read poems by Holocaust survivors and Imogen recited the Eternal Rest in memory of the 1.1 million human beings senselessly murdered at the most terrible site of genocide in the World.

Our first excursion was to the 800 year old UNESCO Heritage Site – the Wieliczka Salt Mines. The pupils had a guided tour by Polish miners 500 feet underground and explored a range of increasingly spectacular caverns and chambers, full of ornate carvings, sculptures and light and sound exhibitions.

Guided tours of the Jewish Ghetto, Medieval Old Town, Cathedral and Kazimierz followed. We took in spectacular views of one of Europe's most beautiful cities by a boat cruise and had some wonderful meals in traditional Polish restaurants.

An unplanned extra activity was our Polish guide taking us inside some of Krakow's most spectacular Medieval churches after they learned we were a Catholic school. A ghost tour of some of the gory sites of Krakow's spookier history of ghosts and executions was a final highlight.





History Tour of Krakow and Auschwitz



I would like to thank my wonderful team of staff for giving up their time to run the visit, including Miss Turner (deputy trip leader) and Mr Jones, our brilliant new history teacher, who joins the school in September. The pupils impressed everyone we met on tour with their manners, conduct, kindness and team-spirit. Life-long memories were made and the key aim of the tour was met in full: to make the pupils reflect and think.

"From the ashes, hear our plea.
This atrocity to mankind cannot happen again.
Remember us, for we were the children
Whose dreams and lives were taken away."

Holocaust by Barbara Sonek

M J Murray
Head of History



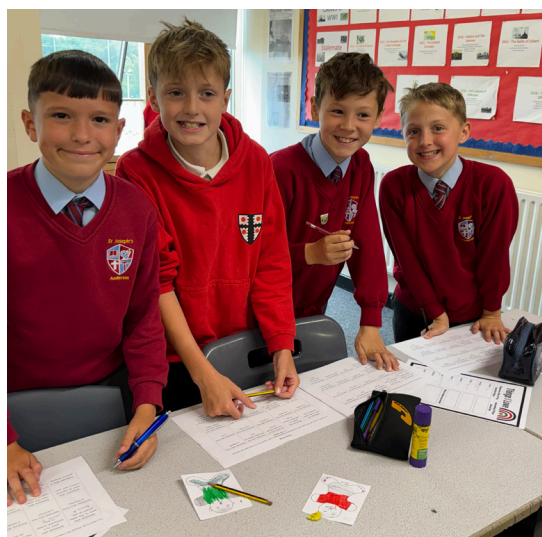


Transition Day

We welcomed our new cohort of pupils and families for their New Intake Evening and Transition Day, ahead of joining our school community in September. Pupils began the day with some beautiful singing before they spent time getting to know one another in their tutor groups. Pupils then enjoyed a busy schedule of lessons, experiencing a wide range of subjects including Science, Maths, PE, History, Spanish, Computer Science, Drama, Food & Nutrition, French, and Product Design.

Of course, no school day would be complete without a delicious lunch and tasty break-time snacks, kindly provided by Mellors Catering; as usual the waffles and chicken wraps were a firm favourite.

It was wonderful to see so many smiles, new friendships forming, and such enthusiasm for learning. We can't wait to welcome you all back in September as part of the Holy Cross family! We also look forward to welcoming parents and families to the Year 7 Welcome Mass on Thursday 3 September 2026.





Sports Day

Pupils and staff came together in glorious sunshine for one of the most anticipated events of the school year – Sports Day. Thank you to the PE department for all your hard work and organisation, the day was a huge success.

The day was filled with excitement, enthusiasm and healthy competition as tutor groups battled it out across a range of track and field events. From the first race to the final event, the atmosphere was electric, with pupils cheering on their teammates and giving their all to earn valuable points for their tutor group.

Team spirit was on full display throughout the day; pupils encouraging one another, celebrating successes and demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship. Whether competing on the track, taking part in field events or supporting from the sidelines, everyone played an important role in making the day such a success.

The competitive nature of the event inspired pupils to push themselves, overcome challenges and contribute to their tutor group's overall score. Every point counted as tutor groups aimed to secure the coveted title of Sports Day champions. Staff also got involved in the competitive fun!

As the sun shone down on the celebrations, Sports Day once again showcased not only athletic talent but also the strong sense of community, teamwork and determination that exists throughout the school.

Congratulations to all pupils who took part and contributed to a memorable day of competition, encouragement and achievement. The winning tutor groups were:

Year 7 - 7L
Year 8 - 8C
Year 9 - 9S
Year 10 - 10H

Well done to our overall tutor group winners C, whose hard work and collective effort earned them a well-deserved victory.



Individual Sporting Successes



Blackrod AFC are Tournament Winners

Year 7 Arthur has shown great team commitment as he was a key player in supporting his team, Blackrod AFC become tournament champions. This took place at the BWFC Toughsheet Stadium. Arthur who plays striker, helped his team by scoring a goal, the team then went onto win 3-2 on penalties.



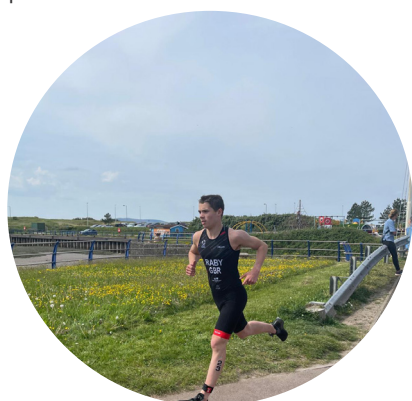
Stoke City Signing

Year 7 Darcey has enjoyed the recent success by being signed by Stoke City. Darcey was invited to trials where she was successful in being signed. Darcey also plays for player progression coaching (PPC) and the Chorley District Team. The winger is looking forward to her official signing and the 2026 season for Stoke City.



District Athletics Record

Year 9 Sarah had a superb performance at the District Athletics Competition, not only winning the 300m finals but also getting a district record, running a rapid time of 42.85 seconds. Sarah, who runs and trains with Horwich Harriers, came 4th at the Greater Manchester finals and has set herself the target of qualifying for English Schools.



Congratulations to our Head Boy, Benedict, who has been enjoying fantastic success outside of school during this year's triathlon season. Representing the North West Triathlon Academy, Benedict has competed in three British Triathlon Series events, with a standout performance of 20th place at Llanelli, a European qualifier. With one race still to go, he is currently ranked 35th in the country—an incredible achievement! As if that wasn't enough, Benedict also set a new track personal best of 4:23. We are incredibly proud of Benedict's dedication, determination and sporting excellence, and we wish him the very best for his final race of the season.



Team Successes - District Athletics



Our athletes delivered an outstanding performance at this year's District Sports competition at UCLan, combining athletic excellence with remarkable team spirit to secure an impressive second-place finish overall.

Representing the school in their new athletics vests, pupils competed with determination and pride throughout the day, producing a series of outstanding performances on both the track and in the field. Their collective efforts saw Holy Cross finish as overall runners-up, with the Year 10 boys being crowned district champions.

Several athletes produced memorable individual performances. Stan M impressed in the high jump, clearing an exceptional height of 1.67m, while Winnie L dominated the 1200m race, crossing the finish line a remarkable 20 seconds ahead of the nearest competitor. Sarah L also enjoyed a day to remember, winning the 300m final and setting a new district record in the process.

What stood out most was the incredible atmosphere created by the Holy Cross team. Throughout the competition, pupils encouraged, supported and celebrated one another's achievements, creating a vibrant and positive environment that reflected the school's values. One parent who attended the event praised the pupils' support for one another, saying "I attended this event and what I loved was how much Holy Cross pupils supported and cheered for each other. Definitely the loudest."

The enthusiasm from the sidelines matched the effort shown on the track, with pupils demonstrating not only their sporting ability but also exceptional sportsmanship and teamwork. Staff were immensely proud of the way the athletes represented the school, both in competition and in their encouragement of fellow teammates. The day was a fantastic celebration of talent, determination and community spirit.

A special thank you goes to Chorley School Sport Partnership (SSP) for organising another excellent event and providing young athletes with the opportunity to compete, achieve and enjoy a memorable day of sport.

Diary Dates - Autumn Term 2026

- Start of Term - Thursday 3 September (Year 7 and Year 11)
- Year 7 Welcome Mass - Thursday 3 September
- Start of Term - Friday 4 September (All Years)
- FEAST DAY - Monday 14 September
- Year 7 and Year 10 Photos - Thursday 24 September
- Year 7 Sky Hawk Day - Wednesday 20 September
- Year 10/11 Madrid Trip - Departs Thursday 1 October
- Open Evening - Thursday 8 October 4.30pm - 7pm (pupils early finish)
- Later start for pupils 11.15 pm - Friday 9 October
- Year 9 Battlefields Trip - Departs Saturday 10 October
- MFL Speaking - Monday 2 November - Friday 6 November
- Year 11 Mocks - Monday 9 November - Friday 20 November
- Year 8 Christmas Markets Trip - Departs Wednesday 25 November
- End of Term - Friday 18 December (12.30 pm finish)

OPEN EVENING
Thursday 8 October 2026
4.30 pm - 7 pm
Last entry 6.30 pm



"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full"
John 10:10

