

# All Hallows

## Catholic High School

# Newsletter

7th March 2025



**Dear Parents/Guardians,**

This week marks the beginning of Lent and having received ashes in school our pupils and teachers have been encouraged to consider fasting, praying and almsgiving as we enter this important time of preparation for Easter. There will be opportunities for pupils in school to attend mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and be involved in thinking about others and I hope they choose to try to become closer to God during this reflective season.

As you may already have seen, we can now publish that All Hallows has received the highest grade in all areas in our recent Catholic School Inspection. To be judged again be an outstanding provider of Catholic education is fantastic and our pupils and staff are rightly proud of our OUTSTANDING grade. As Kate our chaplain is leaving us this week, I would like to give a special mention to the part she has played in the spiritual development of our pupils and I would like to wish her well in her new role. On Wednesday this week we held a Parent Forum in school and it was great to have the chance to discuss important school issues directly with parents. This group is very important and open to any parent who wishes to join. The next meeting will be held in June.

We are beginning to plan for our 50th Anniversary which will begin in September 2025. After an initial meeting last week, look out for our social media pages which will be launched before Easter. Please share any information so that we can reach as many alumni, past staff and anyone who has connections to our school as we have lots of exciting events in the planning stages.

Yours faithfully,

Alison Cooper

**Headteacher**



### **Staff Vacancies**

**We are seeking dedicated and passionate individuals to join our team. Please click on the link below to view our current vacancies.**

**<https://www.allhallows.lancs.sch.uk/school/information/vacancies/>**



### **Time to say Goodbye**

After 7 years at All Hallows it is time for me to move on to new things. It has been an absolute privilege to serve this community and to come to know the staff, young people and their families so well. This is an incredibly special community who welcomed me and all my crazy ideas with open arms.

We have had a number of huge successes here at All Hallows, especially our recent Catholic Inspection, which graded us as OUTSTANDING. I had no doubt that we were an outstanding Catholic school, and I am very glad that the inspectors were able to experience this for themselves.

One quote from the report that will stay in my heart for a long time to come is this: "...students have a deep sense of knowing they are loved." For me, my vocation in Youth Ministry is about helping young people to know how incredibly loved they are by God and the huge potential inside of each of them. Pupils are no doubt sick of hearing me say that God has a purpose for their lives or inviting them to think about ways in which they can be the people God created them to be. And to hear that this has sunk in and been recognised in the report, seen and experienced by others is mission accomplished for me.

My plea as I leave this role for my new position is to give God a chance. No matter who we are or what we have done God loves us, and we can never escape that. Never be afraid to turn to God at any time, be it times of joy or sorrow. Give Him a chance and you will see miracles.

I now move on to a new position as the CEO of a National Catholic charity called Million Minutes (<https://millionminutes.org>) a charity which listens to the voices of young people, raises awareness of the needs of young people, empowers young people and celebrates them. I am excited to begin this new work and enable more young people to live out their God given potential and have their voices heard.

I wish all the staff, pupils and families at All Hallows all the best in the future and please know that you will always be in my prayers and hold a special place in my heart.

*"Growing together in the spirit of Christ's love"*



## Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday the season of Lent began with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. Lent is a special season for Christians, lasting 40 days leading up to Easter. It's a time for prayer, fasting, and helping others, focusing on spiritual growth and preparing for the joy of Easter. It's an opportunity to connect more deeply with our faith, grow in self-discipline, and practice kindness.

We held Ash Wednesday services throughout the morning during which each pupil was marked with a cross of ash on their forehead. During the service we reflected on the words of the prophet Joel:

"But even now," says the Lord,  
"repent sincerely and return to me with fasting and weeping and mourning.  
Let your broken heart show your sorrow; tearing your clothes is not enough."  
Come back to the Lord your God.

He is kind and full of mercy; he is patient and keeps his promise; he is always ready to forgive and not punish.

The prophet Joel talks about how God wants people to return to Him with their whole hearts, not just by showing outward actions, but by truly changing inside. It's about being sorry for the wrong things we've done and wanting to do better knowing that we have a God that loves and forgives us, no matter what.

A huge thank you to our Faith in Action Team who spent time after school for the last few Mondays to pray about and prepare our services for Ash Wednesday. The services were beautifully reflective and were led with reverence. Thank you for leading our school in such a beautiful time of prayer. Thank you also to our singers for leading our worship and our ministers who distributed ashes.

We wish everyone a happy Lent as we journey through this season in hope towards Easter.



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**Headteacher's Commendation for Art**

Congratulations to the outstanding pupils who have been awarded the Headteacher's Commendation for Art! This prestigious recognition celebrates their exceptional creativity, talent, and dedication to the arts.

Yesterday, these remarkable students were treated to a delightful complimentary breakfast with the Headteacher as a way to honour their achievements and hard work. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to share their artistic journeys and inspire one another in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere.

**Year 7**

- Maya T
- Martha F

**Year 8**

- Keira Mc
- Poppy S
- Scarlet H

**Year 9**

- Faith H
- Coby V
- Phoebe K

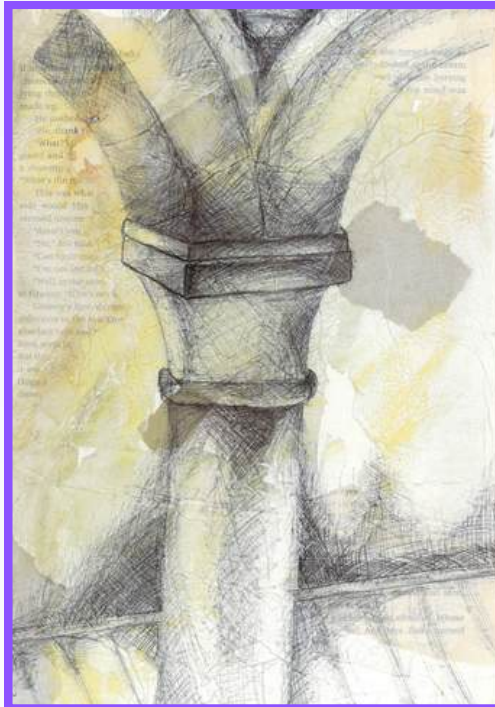
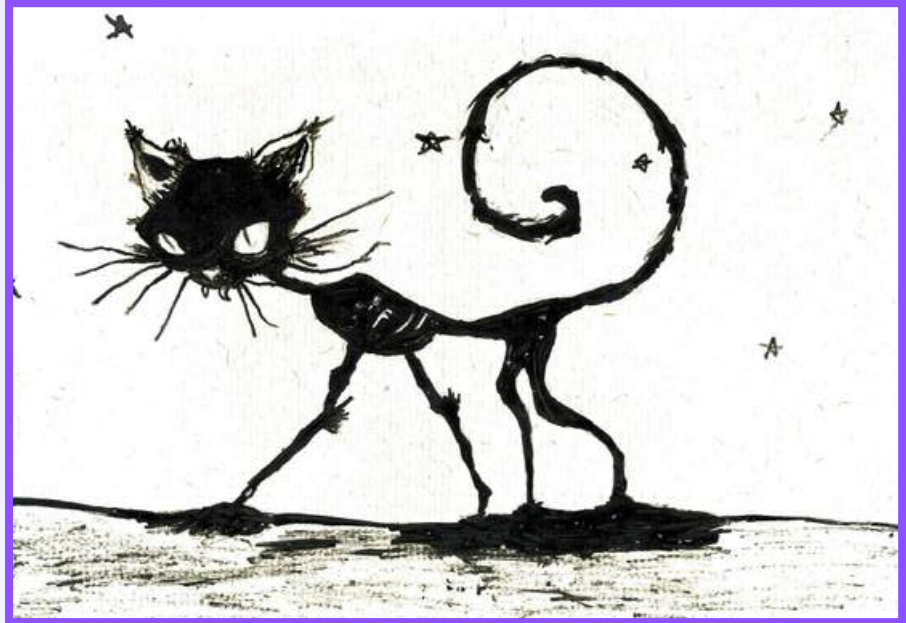
**Year 10**

- Martha C
- Poppy F

**Year 11**

- Klaudia M
- Grace R
- Ella M

Your hard work and passion for art do not go unnoticed, and this recognition reflects the immense talent within our school. Keep pushing boundaries and expressing yourselves creatively! We look forward to seeing where your artistic journeys take you next. Once again, congratulations on this well-deserved honor!



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## World Book Day

Yesterday, we came together to celebrate the joy of reading on World Book Day, and what a truly successful event it was! It was fantastic to see both staff and pupils embracing the spirit of the occasion by dressing up in an array of creative and imaginative fancy dress outfits. The vibrant costumes added an extra layer of excitement to our celebration and highlighted the passion for literature that thrives within our school community.

This year, we also kicked off our annual Readathon, a sponsored reading initiative with our Key Stage 3 classes. This engaging program encourages students to dive into their favourite books while raising funds for a great cause, fostering a love of reading among our younger students.

In addition to the Readathon, we hosted the All Hallows Book Bake Sale, where pupils showcased their culinary skills by baking delightful book-themed cakes. These treats were a hit during break time, with many eager to support the cause by indulging in some delicious baked goods.

We are immensely grateful to everyone who donated their unwanted books for our book sale. The generosity of our community allowed us to successfully sell and exchange a variety of titles, making it easier for everyone to discover new stories and adventures.

A special thank you goes to Miss Poston and the English department for their hard work and dedication in organizing this wonderful event. Your efforts made World Book Day a memorable celebration, igniting a passion for reading across our school. Here's to many more events that celebrate the magic of books and encourage our students to continue exploring literature!



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## VEX IQ National Championships – International Centre, Telford

The VEX IQ National Championships at the International Centre in Telford was a fantastic experience for All Hallows Catholic High School, with two teams entering and both performing exceptionally well against the top 60 robotics schools in the UK. Our students showed their skills and dedication in a brilliant two-day competition.

Our Year 9 team, consisting of Oliver B, Matthew C, Tom D, Henry B, and Edward W, achieved an incredible 3rd place overall. Their journey through the competition was filled with outstanding performances, and they were agonisingly close to qualifying for the World Championships, missing out only in the very last game. Their success did not go unrecognised, as they proudly took home two trophies: Division Runners-Up and the Judges' Award.

Our Year 10 team, made up of Kiitan A, Mia W, Amy B, Ciaran L, Joseph F, and John D, also excelled, battling through to the final knockout phases and securing an impressive 11th place. This is a phenomenal achievement, reflecting the immense effort and technical expertise they poured into their robot.

To have the 3rd and 11th best secondary school robotics teams in the entire UK is an significant accomplishment for any secondary school. Our students demonstrated not only their skill in competitive robotics but also their outstanding understanding of robot design, coding, and mechanics, including gears, pulleys, belts, chains, pneumatics, linkages, motors, sensors, drivetrains, and much more. Their ability to construct such highly competitive robots is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and problem-solving abilities.

This result was the best of any school in the North of the UK and places All Hallows as the one of the leading secondary schools in the UK for robotics. However, we would like to continue expanding our programme and offering more students both at All Hallows and within our local communities the chance to compete in this incredible competition. In order to achieve this, we are seeking sponsorship. If you or your business would like to support our robotics teams, please contact [djo@allhallows.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:djo@allhallows.lancs.sch.uk).

For anyone interested in seeing the action from the VEX IQ National Championships, the event can be watched on YouTube.

We are immensely proud of all the students who represented All Hallows at the National Championships. Their dedication, teamwork, and resilience were truly commendable, and they were an absolute credit to the school. Their achievements in Telford have set a new standard for robotics excellence at All Hallows, and we cannot wait to see what the future holds for our STEM club.

Congratulations to all involved – we couldn't be prouder!



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ALL HALLOWS PRESENTS  
ROALD DAHL  
**Matilda**  
THE MUSICAL JR.



**Tuesday 25th March  
to Friday 28th March**

*"SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO BE A LITTLE BIT NAUGHTY"*

As you can see from the photos, the rehearsals for \*Matilda\* are progressing exceptionally well! Our talented pupils, alongside the dedicated Performing Arts department, are putting in an extraordinary amount of effort, including late nights and Sundays to ensure that every detail is perfected. Their commitment to bringing this beloved musical to life is truly inspiring, and it promises to be a spectacular show.

With excitement building and positive energy filling the rehearsal space, it's clear that this production will be a memorable experience for both performers and audience members alike. The creativity and passion displayed by our students is a testament to their hard work and determination.

Tickets are selling quickly, and we encourage everyone to secure their seats without delay! Don't miss out on the chance to experience this wonderful production. You can purchase your tickets through the following link: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/EKRL>  
Make sure to grab them before it's too late—we can't wait to see you there!



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## Year 11 South Ribble Netball League Winners



Congratulations to the Year 11 Netball Team on their remarkable achievement of being crowned champions in the South Ribble District Netball Tournament! This outstanding squad demonstrated exceptional skill and teamwork, going unbeaten throughout the entire tournament and triumphing over six other schools in the district.

From the very first match, the girls displayed determination and a unified spirit that set them apart. Each player brought their unique strengths to the court, but it was their collective effort and unwavering support for one another that truly led to success. Their hard work and dedication have culminated in an outstanding result that they have deservedly earned in what turned out to be their final netball tournament at All Hallows.

A special acknowledgment goes to all the girls in the team, including Sally, who, despite being unable to play in this tournament.

Additionally, this victory marks a double celebration, as the team also secured the title of South Ribble League Winners! This remarkable feat is a testament to their talent, perseverance, and commitment to the sport.

We would also like to congratulate Lilly W, who was awarded the coveted Captain's Player of the Match (CPOM) for her outstanding performance. Lilly's leadership and skill were pivotal in guiding the team through the tournament and inspiring her teammates to elevate their game.

Well done, Year 11 Netball Team! Your hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship have left a lasting legacy, and we couldn't be prouder. Here's to more success and cherished memories in the future!

## Year 7 Netball

Congratulations to the Year 7 A Netball Team for their outstanding performance against Balshaws in the South Ribble League last week! The girls truly showcased their talent and teamwork, securing an impressive victory with a final score of 38-0.

From the very first whistle, it was clear that our team was on fire. They displayed incredible skill, determination, and sportsmanship throughout the entire match, leaving no doubt about their capabilities on the court. Every player contributed to this remarkable achievement, demonstrating exceptional passing, strategic positioning, and relentless defence.

A special shout-out goes to our well-deserved Players of the Match, Liesel and Alicia. Their dedication and hard work were evident and they set a fantastic example for the entire team.

Once again, a big congratulations to the Year 7 A Netball Team! We are immensely proud of your achievements and look forward to seeing more of your incredible performances in the future. Keep up the fantastic work!



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## Year 7 Football

Well done to our Year 7 football team on their outstanding victory against Lostock Hall, winning 3-2 in the thrilling 1st Round of the South Ribble Cup on Monday, March 3rd! After trailing 2-1 at halftime, the team showcased remarkable determination and skill in the second half, turning the game around to secure their place in Round 2.

A special mention goes to our goalscorers, George P and Joe D, whose contributions were pivotal to our success. Additionally, we want to highlight the incredible impact of Tymon N, Matthew D, and Corin D, whose performances were instrumental in this hard-fought victory.

Well done, team! Your resilience and teamwork were truly inspiring!



## National Cross Country Championships

Congratulations to Jack, our Year 8 student, and his outstanding team for their exceptional achievements at the National Cross Country Championships held at Parliament Hill in London. Jack and his teammates triumphed in securing the coveted 1st Team Award, showcasing their hard work, dedication, and unyielding team spirit. Individually, Jack also stood out, finishing an impressive 15th out of a competitive field of over 300 elite athletes, a testament to his skill and determination on the racecourse.

This remarkable performance adds to an already stellar season for Jack and his team. They have dominated the competitive cross-country circuit, clinching victory in the National Cross Country Relays, where they demonstrated their ability to work seamlessly together as a cohesive unit. Additionally, they claimed the title at the Northern Championships and the Lancashire County Cross Country Championships, underscoring their continued excellence at both regional and national levels. Their success didn't stop there, as they also emerged victorious in the County Road Relays, further solidifying their position as one of the top teams in the country.

Jack's relentless pursuit of excellence, combined with his team's unwavering support and exceptional teamwork, has made this season one to remember. Their achievements are a true reflection of their commitment, passion, and determination to succeed. Well done, Jack, and congratulations to the entire team on such an extraordinary season of triumphs!

## Under 16's Basketball Team

The Under 16's Basketball Team were in action against their close rivals, Hutton, last week, and it was an intense match from start to finish. The team managed to secure a hard-fought victory, winning 35 - 31 points in a thrilling contest. The boys played exceptionally well, displaying both skill and teamwork throughout the game.

The boys showed great resilience, especially in the final moments, where the game was still up for grabs. Their ability to maintain composure and execute their game plan under pressure was impressive. The team's strong defence and well-timed offensive plays were critical in securing the win.

Overall, it was a fantastic display of basketball, and the team can be proud of their performance. It was a true team effort, with every player making valuable contributions to the success. This victory not only boosts the team's confidence but also sets them up nicely for future matches as they continue to build on this momentum.



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### **Year 9 Basketball Team**

The Year 9 Basketball Team played an exciting and fast-paced match against Hutton this week, and it was a thrilling display of skill and determination from both sides. From the very beginning, both teams came out strong, showing impressive ball movement, solid defense, and quick reactions. The game was full of back-and-forth action, with each team giving it their all. Despite the tough competition, our boys managed to secure a well-deserved 24-15 victory, demonstrating excellent teamwork and resilience.

The work rate and intensity from both teams were outstanding, and it was clear that everyone was fully committed to the game. Our boys kept their focus, made key plays, and showed great composure in critical moments. The effort they put in was truly impressive, and it was a fantastic team performance all around. A big congratulations to everyone involved – from the players to the coaches, and all the supporters – for making this such an exciting and memorable game. Well done to all for their hard work and dedication!

### **Year 8 Basketball Team**

Congratulations to the Year 8 Basketball Team, who played their very first game as a team this week! Although they were unlucky not to come away with the win, their performance was nothing short of impressive. The team showed great spirit and determination, especially considering it was their first time playing together.

Throughout the game, everyone contributed, with excellent teamwork, communication, and hustle on both ends of the court. Each player gave their all, showcasing strong individual skills while working seamlessly as a unit. Even though the result didn't go in their favour, the effort, commitment, and positive attitude displayed by the entire team were outstanding.

This first game provided a solid foundation for what is sure to be an exciting season ahead. Well done to all the players, coaches, and supporters for their hard work and dedication! Keep it up – there's plenty of potential in this team, and with continued effort, the wins will definitely come!



### **Central Lancashire Under-12 Premier League Champions**

We are thrilled to extend our heartfelt congratulations to six outstanding Year 7 pupils—Noah B, Corin D, Harry P, Luke M, Haris R and Harry Challoner—who have achieved an incredible milestone as members of the Penwortham St. Teresa's Football Team.

These talented athletes have demonstrated remarkable skill, teamwork, and perseverance throughout the season, and their hard work has culminated in the prestigious title of Central Lancashire Under-12 Premier League Champions! This achievement not only reflects their dedication to the sport but also exemplifies the spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie that we value in our school community.





# The British Association of Teachers of Dancing

## Medalist Competition

The British Association of Teachers of Dancing organises an annual medalist competition that draws dance schools from across the county. This year, it was exciting to see three schools competing: Blackpool, Scarborough, and Preston (Penwortham). The competition showcases a variety of talents and is open to dancers of all ages, with categories for under 9s, under 11s, 12-15s, and adults, making it a vibrant celebration of dance.

We are proud of our All Hallows pupils, photographed below, who competed in the 12-15 age category. This talented group of dancers, filled with enthusiasm and dedication, took centre stage in a variety of performances that truly highlighted their skills and artistry.

In the 12-15 age category, the competition featured different levels, including silver, gold, and blue riband awards. Our dancers were part of a remarkable cohort of approximately 26 participants per dance, showcasing a stunning mix of styles. They impressed the judges and the audience with their interpretations of ballroom, Latin, and off-beat dance, participating in both solo and couple performances.

Some of our exceptional dancers also ventured into the senior category for the off-beat section, particularly excelling in street dance styles. This willingness to challenge themselves and compete against older participants speaks volumes about their confidence and growth as performers.

The dedication, hard work, and teamwork demonstrated by our students were truly commendable, and their performances captivated both the judges and the audience. It's a tremendous opportunity for them to shine and gain recognition for their efforts in such a prestigious competition. We are incredibly proud of our All Hallows dancers, and we look forward to seeing their continued progress in future competitions!



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## Year 10 Rewards Lunch

At the half way point in the academic year, Miss Cooper and the Year 10 team were delighted to host a rewards lunch for Year 10 pupils who have taken part in one or more of the following roles: Year 7 buddies, Paired Reading; Year 11 mock interview helpers; Literacy and Numeracy Breakfast Club helpers. To reward this excellent contribution to school life and to thank them for giving up their free time, pupils enjoyed pizza, fizzy drinks and music in the Year 11 Centre. We are very proud of this year group and we can't wait to host a similar event for pupils who continue / begin to make such a valued contribution to the wider life of the school.



## Year 7 Cliff's Farm

We would like to remind you about the upcoming geography field trip to Cliff's Farm in May. Important information has been sent out regarding this trip, and we kindly ask that you check ParentMail for the consent forms and associated paperwork that need to be completed for your child to participate.

Your timely attention to this matter is greatly appreciated, as it ensures that all necessary arrangements can be made for a successful and enjoyable trip. Thank you for your cooperation! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs McDonnell.



## PNE Giant Scarf Project

We are thrilled to announce that we are continuing our call for knitted scarf panels for the PNE Giant Scarf Project, along with adult-sized scarves for the Foxton Centre. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase your knitting talents while supporting our community!

For those interested in contributing to the Giant Scarf, please cast on **42 stitches** using **bulky yarn** in **blue and white** colours. The target size for each panel is around **A4 size** (21 cm x 29.7 cm / 8.3 inches x 11.7 inches), making it perfect for creating an eye-catching and vibrant scarf.

In addition to the Giant Scarf, we are also collecting adult-sized scarves for the Foxton Centre. These scarves can be made in a variety of colours and patterns, so feel free to explore your creativity! Every donation helps make a difference in the lives of those served by this wonderful organisation.

If you have any questions, need help with patterns, or would like to request yarn, please don't hesitate to reach out to Mrs. Shilton at [bsh@allhallows.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bsh@allhallows.lancs.sch.uk). She is eager to assist you and provide any resources you may need.

Let's come together as a community to craft warm and heartfelt gifts for those in need. Your contributions go a long way in spreading warmth and kindness. Happy knitting, and thank you for your generosity and support!

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## Attendance

In January 2025, All Hallows transitioned to a new platform called 'Attend' to improve our monitoring of school attendance. This change comes in response to national concerns about attendance, which is closely linked to students' academic success, social skills, and overall well-being.

We have seen firsthand how poor attendance impacts not just individual students but the entire classroom. When a child is absent, it disrupts their learning and can create challenges for teachers trying to keep the class on track. Additionally, frequent absences may lead to anxiety for students, who can feel overwhelmed by missed content.

The 'Attend' system, integrated with our existing Synergy System, will help us communicate more effectively with you about your child's attendance. You will receive regular updates regarding any attendance concerns or achievements, keeping you informed and engaged in your child's school journey.

We encourage your support in fostering resilience and commitment in your child. Consistent attendance is crucial for their academic and personal growth. By working together, we can ensure that our students succeed and enjoy their educational experience.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Mrs. Rainford or Mrs. Washington. Your involvement is vital to creating a supportive environment for all our students. Thank you for your continued partnership!

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

**Should I keep my child off school?**

**Yes**

Illness	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Croup and Whooping Cough	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

**No**  
but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Shingles (herpes)
Head lice	Tuberculosis
Throat infections	Strep throat

**Advice and guidance**  
To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrcs.de/minfnc>.

SCAN ME

## EXCESSIVE LEAVE IN TERM TIME - S444 EDUCATION ACT 1996

Lancashire County Council are currently reviewing the arrangements for pupils who are absent from school due to unauthorised leave/holidays.

Attendance at school is vital to help children thrive and achieve their best. Children who are absent from school can fail to meet their academic potential and those who fall below 90% attendance are at significant risk of underachieving.

Absence during term time must be avoided. If you are considering taking your child out of school for any reason, it is essential that you request permission for the absence.

When penalty notices are issued, parents have the opportunity to discharge liability for an offence under S444 of the Education Act instead of being prosecuted by the Local Authority. The penalty notice regulations determine the amount of the penalty notice fine. Unfortunately, some parents are choosing to remove their children from school for longer periods, as the fine amount is the same regardless of the number of school days missed.

From 01/01/2025, the following rules will apply:

- 1. Unauthorised leave less than 15 school days:** penalty notice issued
- 2. Unauthorised leave of 15 school days or more:** the Local Authority will review any requests for penalty notices and may **prosecute** parents and not offer the opportunity to pay a penalty notice fine instead.

Where enough notice is given for a warning to be issued, and a request made is for 3 weeks (15 school days) or more out of school, the Local Authority may issue you with a warning explaining that you will not have the opportunity to pay a fine and that you will be prosecuted if the leave is still taken. Even if the authority doesn't send you a warning letter, you can still be prosecuted for the offence as there is no legal entitlement to a warning or a penalty notice.

Failure to ensure your child's regular attendance at school is a criminal offence, and this means that if you are convicted, this could result in **a fine of up to £2,500 and you will have a criminal record.**

We have been asked by Lancashire County Council to issue this warning to parents to inform you that this procedure will now be applied to all excessive leave requests made to this school.

## Bus Money

We would like to kindly remind parents to ensure that students using the bus service to get home have the necessary fare with them. Unfortunately, we can no longer offer loans for bus fares, as we are due a substantial amount. We appreciate your understanding and co-operation in this matter, as it helps us maintain a smooth and efficient service for all students.

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**SEND - Lancashire County Council**

Welcome to the Spring issue of the SEND Newsletter, 2025. It's finally time to start enjoying longer days and hopefully a bit of sunshine. We're really keen to gather feedback from our families in Lancashire and in this issue <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/>



**SEND**  
Welcome to the Spring issue of the SEND Newsletter, 2025.

It's finally time to start enjoying longer days and hopefully a bit of sunshine. We're really keen to gather feedback from our families in Lancashire and in this issue there are THREE opportunities to offer your suggestions and ideas.

Finally, the NEW SEND survey is now live on the Local Offer website. There is a version for parent carers and a version for children and young people. If you are unable to complete the survey online, you can ask your school or local Family Hub to print out a copy for you.

We are also reviewing the SEND newsletter and we would love to hear your views about what works well and what can be improved. You can also complete this survey online via email or via staff at your Family Hub or local library to complete it on your behalf.

Finally, we are working towards our SEND strategy 2025-2028 and encourage you to have your say to shape the strategy, plan how we deliver quality service and work together to achieve positive impact for our families. Scan the QR code inside to find out more.

We're excited to introduce our new Head of SEND and Inclusion in Lancashire, Cerys Townsend. You can read an introduction to her and her role here.

March sees two very important events - **World Down Syndrome Day** (21st March 2025) and **Neurodiversity Celebration week** (17th - 23rd March 2025). In this issue you can find out more about what's happening and where to find support in Lancashire.

We are always keen to include more stories from parents and carers in the newsletter. If you or a member of your family would like to write an article for a future issue of SEND, please contact us at: [SEND@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:SEND@lancashire.gov.uk)

**Anna Burkinshaw**  
Policy, Commissioning and Children's Health

[www.facebook.com/LancashireLocalOffer](https://www.facebook.com/LancashireLocalOffer)



Keep your face always toward the sunshine - and shadows will fall behind you.  
- Walt Whitman

[lancashire.gov.uk/SEND](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/SEND)

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**Lancashire County Council**

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/960820/send-newsletter-spring-2025.pdf>



**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**  
The SEND Partnership in Lancashire would like to include your artwork, words or similar in their new SEND Strategy which will be published later this year

**YOUR ENTRY NEEDS TO ANSWER THE QUESTION:**  
**WHAT MAKES ME FEEL INCLUDED?**

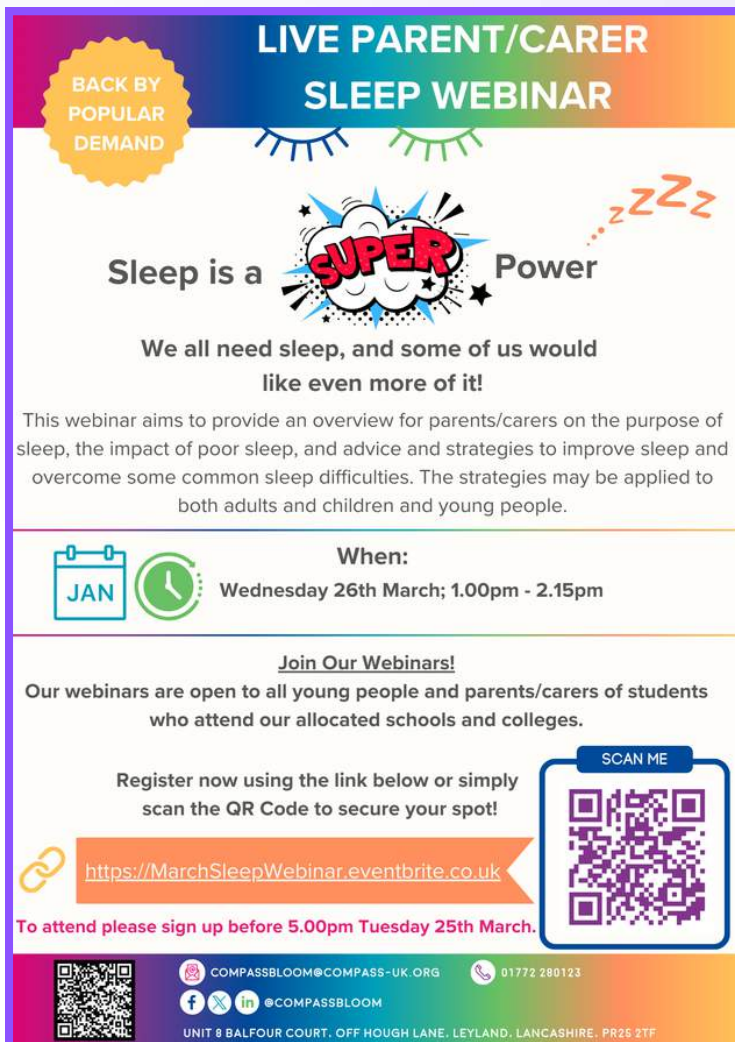
You can create a picture, a quote, a voice recording, a short poem - however you wish to express yourself!

**EMAIL YOUR ENTRIES WITH YOUR FIRST NAME AND AGE TO:**  
[SENDPartnership@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:SENDPartnership@lancashire.gov.uk)

THERE WILL BE A £20 HIGH STREET VOUCHER FOR WINNING ENTRIES IN THE FOLLOWING AGE RANGES: EARLY YEARS, PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND 16+ THOUGH ALL ENTRIES MAY BE USED

**DEADLINE: 31ST MARCH 2025**

**Lancashire SEND Partnership**



**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND**

**LIVE PARENT/CARER SLEEP WEBINAR**

Sleep is a **SUPER** Power

We all need sleep, and some of us would like even more of it!

This webinar aims to provide an overview for parents/carers on the purpose of sleep, the impact of poor sleep, and advice and strategies to improve sleep and overcome some common sleep difficulties. The strategies may be applied to both adults and children and young people.

**When:**  
JAN Wednesday 26th March; 1.00pm - 2.15pm

**Join Our Webinars!**  
Our webinars are open to all young people and parents/carers of students who attend our allocated schools and colleges.

Register now using the link below or simply scan the QR Code to secure your spot!

<https://MarchSleepWebinar.eventbrite.co.uk>

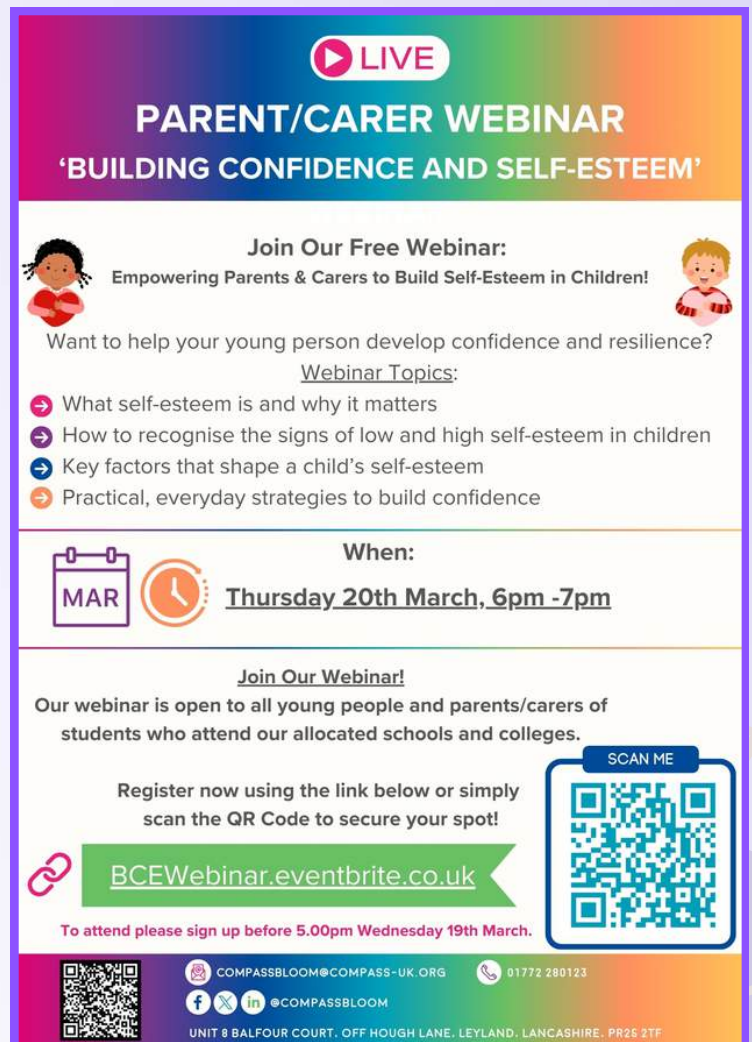
To attend please sign up before 5.00pm Tuesday 25th March.

**SCAN ME**



**COMPASSBLOOM@COMPASS-UK.ORG** 01772 280123  
@COMPASSBLOOM

UNIT 8 BALFOUR COURT, OFF HOUGH LANE, LEYLAND, LANCASHIRE, PR25 2TF



**LIVE PARENT/CARER WEBINAR 'BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND SELF-ESTEEM'**

**Join Our Free Webinar:**  
Empowering Parents & Carers to Build Self-Esteem in Children!

Want to help your young person develop confidence and resilience?  
**Webinar Topics:**

- ➔ What self-esteem is and why it matters
- ➔ How to recognise the signs of low and high self-esteem in children
- ➔ Key factors that shape a child's self-esteem
- ➔ Practical, everyday strategies to build confidence

**When:**  
MAR Thursday 20th March, 6pm - 7pm


**Join Our Webinar!**  
Our webinar is open to all young people and parents/carers of students who attend our allocated schools and colleges.

Register now using the link below or simply scan the QR Code to secure your spot!

[BCEWebinar.eventbrite.co.uk](https://BCEWebinar.eventbrite.co.uk)

To attend please sign up before 5.00pm Wednesday 19th March.

**SCAN ME**



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"Growing together in the spirit of Christ's love"



This week's theme of the week invites us to think and pray about our Lent Appeal for 2025. Every year during Lent we support CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. CAFOD do incredible work around the world supporting countries affected by climate change, war, natural disasters and extreme poverty. Take time this week to look at and pray for the work of CAFOD and start to think about how you can be involved in helping them with their vital work around the world.

To find out more about CAFOD's work and pray for a more fair and just world: [CLICK HERE.](#)



## GIVING DURING LENT

Almsgiving is a Lenten practice that involves acts of charity and love for others. It's a way to show solidarity with the poor and marginalized, and to acknowledge that we are all part of the human community.

Why is almsgiving important?

- It strengthens our love for others
- It increases our detachment
- It contributes to greater social justice
- It helps us understand that we are not possessed by our possessions
- It helps us say, "Here is what I can offer, and I offer it out of love for you"

Take a moment to pray with this song and ask God to reveal to you what he is asking you to lay down this Lent. [LISTEN HERE!](#)  
(Matt Maher- Lay it down)

## THE WIDOW'S OFFERING

What does the widow's sacrifice teach me about generosity?

How can I give not just what is easy, but also what might cost me something?

Why do you think Jesus valued the widow's small offering so much?

What do you think Jesus sees in my heart when I give, even if it's a little?

Have I ever felt like what I have to offer isn't enough?

What does this story say to me about feeling like my contributions don't matter?

When I give, am I doing it out of love or out of obligation?

How can I develop a heart of cheerful giving, like the widow, even when it's difficult?



"Almsgiving helps free us from obsession of possessions, from the fear of losing what we have and from the sadness of not sharing their well being with others." Pope Francis



## YEAR GROUP FUNDRAISING

Throughout Lent each year group will be challenged to fundraise as much as they can for CAFOD. I know some plans are already in place for fundraising events but if you have any ideas or would like to run a fundraising event during Lent speak to your form tutor or head of year.

Could you think of something you could do as a form to raise money for CAFOD this Lent?



# CAFOD

Catholic Agency for  
Overseas Development

## Lent Appeal 2025

### WORD OF THE WEEK

MARK 12: 41-44

As Jesus sat near the Temple treasure, he watched the people as they dropped in their money. Many rich men dropped in a lot of money; then a poor widow came along and dropped in two little copper coins, worth about a penny. He called his disciples together and said to them, "I tell you that this poor widow put more in the offering box than all others. For the others put in what they had to spare of their riches; but she, poor as she is, put in all she had- she gave all she had to live on."

### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Lord, bless us during Lent.  
In our prayer, deepen our awareness of God's love within us.  
In our fasting, make us more aware of other people's needs.  
In our giving, help us to build a better world.  
May our Lenten prayer, fasting and giving renew us to celebrate Easter with joy.  
Amen.



**TO WATCH THIS WEEK'S  
WORD OF THE WEEK  
[CLICK HERE.](#)**

This week's Word of the Week encourages us to think about what, how and why we can give to others. We see in our Gospel reading the story of a poor widow who had absolutely nothing but still wanted to give what she could. Now we aren't asking you to give up everything you own but maybe think this week about giving more than just what is easy. Could you challenge yourself to give more of your time to others, could go without something regularly so that you could donate to charity? Either way think about why you give; do you give to look good, to tick a box, or because you truly care and want to help others?

Take a moment now in silence to think about how you are being called to give this Lent.