

# Oaklands News

No 391 Jan 2013

Dr Peter Wothers provides words of  
inspiration at Certificate Evening

Oaklands Christmas Ball  
Christmas Carol Service

A publication for  
Oaklands Catholic School  
and Sixth Form College



## Lead Stories

*From the Headteacher* 2/3

---

*Carol Service* 4

---

*Iceland and Ski Trips* 5

---

*Importance of Reading* 6-7

---

*Israeli Visit* 8

---

*Lights, Camera,  
Parliament* 9

---

*Praise and Rewards* 10

---

*The Royal Institution  
Christmas Lectures* 11

---

*Flash Mob* 12

---

*Christmas Ball* 13

---

*Mobile Phones* 14

---

*Certificates Evening* 15

---

*Term Dates and Events* 16

---



# Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

A Specialist Humanities and Science College

**Welcome to this edition of the Oaklands News. A happy, if not belated, New Year to you all. I hope everyone had a restful holiday after a busy term.**

*If you are in your forties, you come from the Star Wars generation. I lived through Star Wars mania and, at the beginning, I remember seeing the first film in 1977 when I was 10 years of age. As a child I dreamed of becoming a Jedi Knight, alas it was not to be! The obsession continued into later life, in fact, in 1999 a number of my friends flew to New York for the weekend to see the first episode of the prequel. For a while my son has been intrigued by the Star Wars characters and finally over Christmas he (and I) watched episodes 4,5 and 6. I do not know whether it was the childhood returning to the man or the man returning to the childhood.*

*The Star Wars story is almost modern mythology. I would hazard a guess that more people know about Luke Skywalker's struggle with the Force than that of Icarus' doomed escape from Minos, using wax covered wings, great legend though it is.*

*Star Wars has something for almost everyone. It is a combination of cowboys and indians, a love story and, of course, science fiction at its best. If you are to distil the story down to its essential ingredients it is about unambiguous moral dualism; as the central characters destiny is played out a choice has to be made between good and evil, a plot not unique to this genre, culture or time. While much of the plot of Star Wars is fluff and fantasy, there are parallels here with our Catholic and Christian faith.*

*God gave us the power to choose our own destiny, to make choices for good and evil. To help us on our way God left his presence in the form of the Holy Spirit. In Star Wars the characters talk of a mystical force, in some respects this is not a bad way to understand the Holy Spirit. Unlike the Force in Star Wars, the Holy Spirit is a creative force for good and only good.*

*At the beginning of a new year we often talk of new year's resolutions. Most people generally look at the New Year as a fresh beginning, as an opportunity to overcome a habit, or do a better job of something they see as important and that needs improvement. (I am told that gym membership rises in January following the Christmas binge.) Sadly new year's resolutions are often tainted with pessimism because so many good intentions are followed by a history of past failures.*

*So this year why not think differently? We need to ask questions like, "Who am I, what am I doing with my life? What should I be doing as a Christian with my life and the stewardship God has given me?" The answer to these questions will provide the resolutions for the year ahead and it is with the power of the Holy Spirit, that creative force for good, that we will be able to make the right choices and find the strength to persist around to next new year, roll on January 2014.*

## Ofsted

At the time of writing we are still waiting. I thought that by now our inspection would have taken place. As you are aware the notice period is very short, only a few hours.

## Conduct on the way to and from school

You may remember that I wrote in the November edition of Oaklands News about student conduct to and from school, particularly on the buses. This generated a mixed post bag, particularly the specific issue related to sanctioning students for their behaviour outside of school.

The behaviour of the vast majority of students is exemplary and this is a significant factor that helps the school maintain the reputation it enjoys, this is something that neither I or the governors want to see eroded. Current legislation makes it quite clear that the school can sanction students who behave inappropriately outside school. As I am sure you can appreciate 'drilling down' into what occurs on the way to and from school is a difficult process. Your support in reinforcing the good behaviour that is demonstrated by the vast majority of students is appreciated.



## Charity Fundraising

Yet again students and staff have gone to extraordinary lengths to raise money for charity. In addition to the £600 raised at the Carol Concert a further £600 was raised by students and staff in Portsmouth (see article on page 13). This money, combined with other fundraising, amounts to over £3000 for charity this term. Well done to all involved.

Finally, at the beginning of a new term it is important that the school gets back to its normal rhythm as quickly as possible and students continue to deliver the high standards that both you and we expect.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

*Matthew Quinn - Headteacher*

## School Production

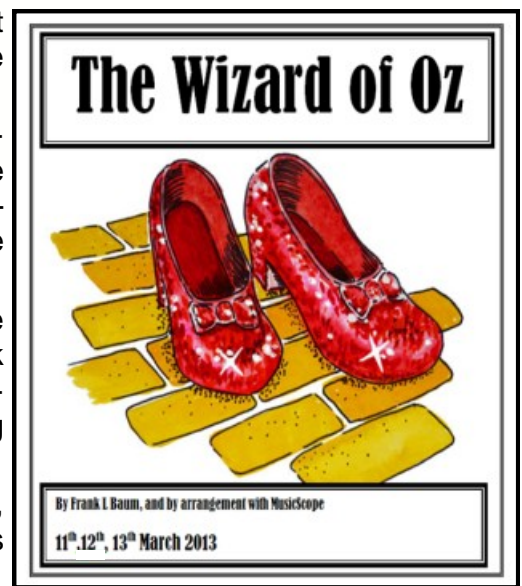
**S**tudent voice is as active as ever here at Oaklands! When our choice of show for the main school production this year was withdrawn from release at the eleventh hour, the cast rose to the challenge of helping us to select a new one...the result: The Wizard of Oz!

This iconic show is a brilliant choice, involving one of our largest ever choruses as Munchkins and Citizens of Oz and a diverse group of our more senior students in the leading roles.

Students will have the opportunity to work on the technical production of the show, as well as singing, dancing and acting. We are currently taking submissions for poster designs from students and we would love to have a range of designs to choose from- so get drawing!

The company and chorus are currently rehearsing alongside the Music and Drama team for a total of five hours every week and performed at the Christmas Concert and the recent Presentation of Certificates Evening. We are delighted to be working alongside such dedicated and talented young people.

Following on from our sell-out production of Grease last year, this well-known show looks set to be popular- so save the dates now!



# Carol Service

This year's Christmas Carol Service took the theme of Christmas Around The World. On 18th December over 700 staff, students, parents and friends of the school gathered to take part in the celebration. As well as traditional readings and congregational carols, music and dance from Germany, Kenya, Poland, and Kerala were used. We were also reminded of the truce that took place between German, Allied and Axis troops during the First World War. It was a truly fantastic evening. In addition to traditional carols, the Year 7 choir and a number of soloists performed during the celebration. Since the service the school has been overwhelmed by the number of positive comments, particularly the focus on the multicultural dimension of the celebration.

None of this could have occurred if it had not been for the hard work of students and staff. My thanks to all colleagues who made the event so joyful. Particular thanks to Estelle Flood who directed the Music, Sadie White for the Drama and Helen Floyd, the school Chaplain, who coordinated the liturgical presentation.

The concert raised over **£600** for CAFOD.



Following successful international trips to Iceland in 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2012 the Geography Department have decided to offer the trip for a fifth time in the summer of 2013.

Twenty places will be on offer on a 'first come, first served' basis for the trip and will be available to students in current Years 10, 11, 12 and 13. The itinerary will be similar to previous trips: -

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July:** Fly to Keflavik. Visit the Blue Lagoon Health Spa. Arrive at the hotel in Hvolsvollur.

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July:** The Golden Circle – Kerid volcanic crater, Faxi waterfall, watch the Strokkur geyser erupt at Geysir and Gullfoss waterfall. We will also visit Thingvellir, which is the site of the first ever parliament in the world and where the North American plate and Eurasian plate are rifting.

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July:** Boat trip to Vestmannaeyjar islands (Heimaey) scene of the 1973 eruption. Climb Eldfell volcano and visit the 'Pompeii of the North'- buried houses under ash and lava. Possibility of whale watching.

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July:** Seljalandsfoss waterfall, Skogafoss waterfall, Solheimajokull glacier glacier walk (crampons, ice axes and tour guides- a real highlight). Basalt columns at Vik and coastal scenery at Dyrholaey.

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July:** NEW THIS YEAR – AS WE HAVE ADDED AN EXTRA DAY TO THE TRIP. Drive inland to Landmannalaugar to explore the lava fields, bathe in the natural hot springs at the foot of the Hekla volcano.

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July:** Travel to Reykjavik and a potential visit to the capital city for a short time (depending on flight times) before flying home.

For further information on this exciting trip please see/contact Mr Bamford for a letter. However, places are likely to fill up quickly, so don't delay!



## Ski Trip February 2013

The trip to France during February half term this year will be made by 129 students and 17 staff. Unfortunately, the hotel we have previously stayed at in Austria closed down two years ago, which resulted in the trip being moved to another resort in Austria last year. However, we have taken the opportunity this year to ski in France, at a resort in the Pyrenees called St. Lary, which is just 45 miles from Lourdes. The added bonus of the change is that the students in Years 9 (and 12) can use the French they have gained in their lessons over the years.

50 Year 9 students went on a skiing course at Calshot Activities Centre on 18th December to give them experience of skiing before they go to France. The students found this experience extremely useful as it has helped them build confidence before they reach the slopes. In fact, the students will be pleasantly surprised to find how much easier it is to ski on snow when they arrive. Many thanks to the staff (Mr Tindal, Mr Whelan, Mr Wade, Mr Tyler and Miss Caspall) who helped me deliver the dry slope sessions.

A reminder to parents that all monies for the trip should have been paid by 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012. If there are any outstanding payments, please send them to the Finance Office as soon as possible.

Mr Bamford.



# Importance of Reading

**M**iss Sharma who has responsibility for the school's literacy strategy writes:

The role of literacy within your child's life has never been more important. With the assessment of spelling, punctuation and grammar in not just ENGLISH LANGUAGE, but in ENGLISH LITERATURE, RELIGIOUS STUDIES, HISTORY and GEOGRAPHY also, it is vital that your child is armed with the skills required to succeed.

*'There is more treasure in books than in all of the pirate's loot on Treasure Island.'*

*Walt Disney*

Below, you will find a range of information that will help you to continue to support your child's literacy at home. I hope

that it will be of use to you.

Reading plays a vital role in the development of your child's literacy skills. Encouraging your child to read as much as possible will help them to succeed in not just English, but other subjects also. Often, avid readers are better writers; they are exposed to a wider variety of vocabulary, punctuation and sentence structures.

There are obviously many other valuable reasons to read...

I asked a range of students from Year 7 to Year 13 what reading means to them. Here is what they had to say:

***Reading is one of my favourite hobbies as it opens my mind to new possibilities in life.***

***I like reading because it is like having a movie where you create your own image in your mind.***

***I enjoy reading because it takes all of your worries away and also when you want to read about celebrities, it is very interesting.***

***Reading is like star gazing; each star tells a different story. It's like chocolate: you've got to find one to your taste. It is stepping into your own world... it guides you.***

***Reading is a fantastic way to explore worlds and different ideas. It expands your knowledge and improves your vocabulary.***

***I enjoy reading because it makes you a more intelligent person. It makes me more creative and improves my English. Some books are very good to read; they take away your worries in life and devour you into a world of wonders, thrills and adventures. I have lots of different books.***

***I love reading because it gives me a chance to focus. I can escape into the book and it can take me to wherever I want to go.***

***Good books open your mind and give you skills for later life.***

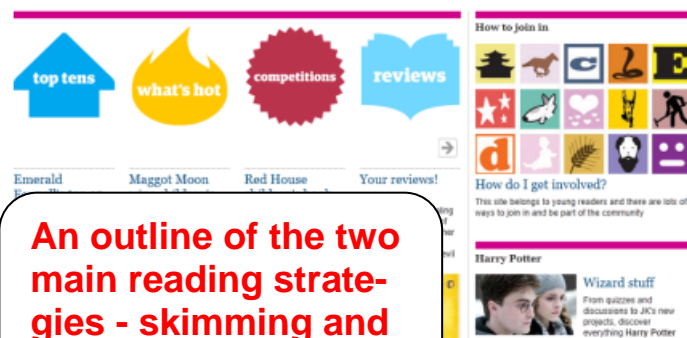


## Use the Library

All of our KS3 students have a lesson in the LIBRARY every two weeks. This provides them with the opportunity to read, discuss and take out a wide range of books, both fiction and non-fiction. Students can also access Eclipse.net which is a programme that allows students to search the library catalogue in order to locate resources to borrow. Every student has a username and password. They can log into their own user area to check loan information; to reserve resources; to write reviews; to read reviews by other students and to locate information to help them choose what to read next.

## What should my child be reading?

Reading non-fiction such as newspapers, magazines and online articles in addition to fiction, is essential. The following website is worth visiting: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/childrens-books-site> it will provide details of suggested books for readers aged 3-16 and other interactive information. Any opportunity for students to read to their little



**An outline of the two main reading strategies - skimming and scanning- can be found on page 31 of your child's planner.**

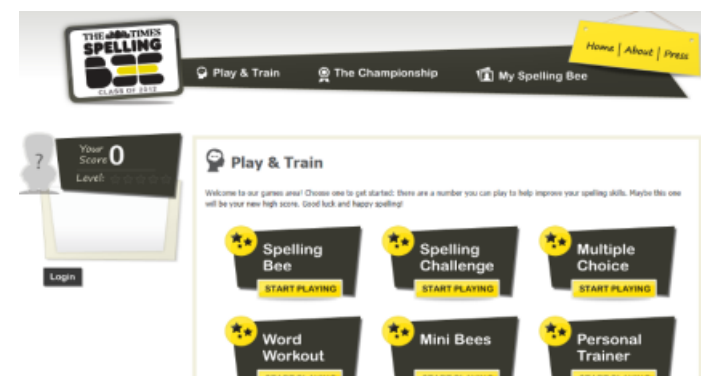
brothers and sisters will also be highly beneficial! You will find a list

of 'family favourite' children's books on the website.

## Improving Spelling

'The Times Spelling Bee' website is a website that offers free interactive spelling games for children of all ability ranges.

<http://www.timesspellingbee.co.uk/Training/Default.aspx>



**Students can visit the library before and after school (until 4.30pm), as well as during break and lunchtime.**

Students can select from: Spelling Bee, Spelling Challenge, Word Workout and Multiple Choice/ A guide to these games and the website can be found on the school website

<http://www.oaklands.hants.sch.uk/curriculum/english/>

## Vocabulary

Using a dictionary and a thesaurus when writing will help your child to build their vocabulary and allow them to explore the definitions of new words. VisuWords, a web-based visual dictionary and thesaurus tool, is ideal for visual learners. Encourage your child to visit:

[www.visuwords.com](http://www.visuwords.com).

It's a dictionary! It's a thesaurus! It's free! Simply input a word of your choice.

## Writing Skills

Try to ensure that your child proof-reads every piece of their homework; this will help them to correct spelling and punctuation errors and to learn from their mistakes. They can also re-read with a view to improving the quality of their work; re-writing a sentence or using a thesaurus will help them to raise standards.

BBC Bitesize (Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4) provides activities

as well as a plethora of information and activities in relation to the various types of writing purposes.

The web addresses are below:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks3bitesize/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/>

**A list of commonly misspelled words can be found on page 28 of your child's planner. You will also find a list of homophones on page 29.**

Would you like to refresh your knowledge in relation to various literacy skills? If so, visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/skills/english/>.

You will find a range of information and video clips.

## Israeli visit



This November two Israeli students, Joey and Yedida, visited us to give a talk about growing up and living in Israel. They began their talk by telling us about their colleges and what they like to do in their spare time.

The talk also focused on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the impact that this has had on their lives. This was all the more poignant because of the recent outbreak of violence in the region and that they returned home to Jerusalem that evening. Last year we had a similar talk, but from a Palestinian perspective, and it was interesting to hear from the other side of this highly challenging and

emotive debate. Joey and Yedida spoke about their proposed military service and its cultural impact on Israeli society. It is hard to imagine being forced into a similar situation and many of us quickly realised that it has unfortunately entrenched many anti-Palestinian views and opinions amongst young people in Israel. However, the talk ended on a positive note when they spoke of how they will mix and socialise with Arabs and Muslims at university – this dialogue and communication seems like a good basis on which to help build peace and justice in the region. Thank you to Mr Smith for organising this talk.

Claudia Tyler Year 13

## Horticulture trip to Wisley

In November the Year 10 Horticulture students and Alan Monk (Year 12) went to RHS Wisley for a day's work experience. Alan was given the opportunity of working on one of the model gardens with the Wisley team. This was part of his prize for winning his age category in the RHS Young Gardener of the Year competition.



Year 10 students were given a guided tour of the seed collection laboratories where seeds from all RHS sites are collected, cleaned and packaged for distribution to members. We then went to the greenhouses and followed the production of a plant from cutting to small plant and then to the growing on greenhouses where they become large plants. We then went to the plant sales area and chose pots and plants that we would like to plant together. After that we went to the tropical greenhouse where there was a waterfall and a range of plants which grow in humid conditions.

We very much enjoyed our day and thank Andrea Fowler at RHS Wisley and Ms Osborne for taking us.



## Lights, Camera, Parliament

**E**arlier this term Year 12 took part in the Oaklands' 'Lights, Camera, Parliament' Competition. Each tutor group had to produce a campaign film for a proposed government policy or bill and with their video had to convince people of the merits of their campaign.

We were very fortunate to have George Hollingbery MP join us, alongside Mr Quinn and Mrs Ludlam, as part of the judging panel. The judges based their verdicts on the originality and viability of the ideas, the visual quality of the films and the balance struck between informative detail and humour.

The films were an eclectic mix and covered issues ranging from compulsory donor cards to the increased use of taser guns by the police. Notable projects included Mrs Hopkins' form's campaign for improved public transport for young people and Mr Shaw's tutor group's proposal for compulsory cuts to food waste by households and restaurants.

However, the winning entry was from Mrs Hoskin's form who made a film campaigning for lower rail fares for young people. The judges felt it struck a healthy cord between humour and compelling argument – and the 'Hoffman-seque' method acting of Bernie Walsh made it highly memorable!

The winning tutor group will visit Westminster next year and meet with local MPs in Central Lobby before taking a tour of the Houses of Parliament.

Mr Smith

## Fundraising for Equador

**I**n the summer of 2014 a group of students from Oaklands are heading out to Ecuador for four weeks to help in local communities. In order to do this students need to raise a huge amount of money; the total sum being £3890 each! One fantastic way in which you can help them raise this money is by donating to their Rag Bag collection. If you have any unwanted fabrics, anything from curtains to clothes, then please put them in a bin bag and place them in the large box located in the Sixth Form. It would be a great help to their fundraising efforts!



# Praise and Reward drives students

**E**Praise is the new online school rewards system which has recently been launched at Oaklands. It is an easy and efficient interactive alternative to the traditional rewards system, where:

Teachers can award students points online for good behaviour and hard work. Students can then log into the e-Praise website ([www.epraise.co.uk](http://www.epraise.co.uk)) and, if they have enough points, they can order an item from the online shop.

The list of the orders are then collected and sorted by Prefects. On Thursdays students may come and collect their items.

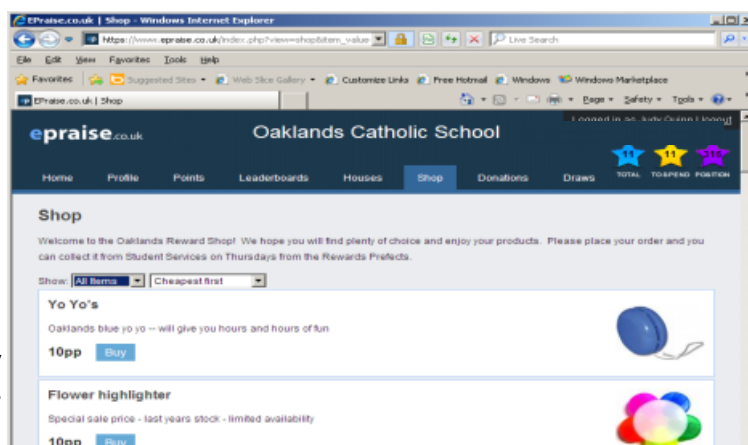
We feel that this new rewards system is exceedingly convenient for both students and staff; no longer is there a mad rush of students in their hundreds, brandishing homework diaries and highlighters, in an effort to hoard as many items as possible from their stamp-covered reward point charts, each one of which is laboriously counted and marked off by weary Prefects.

The new Reward Prefects have a really important role as we download the orders, check the stock and prepare the items for students to collect. The team of four Reward Prefects voluntarily give up two lunchtimes per week to work with Mrs Noble in Student Services to ensure that the students get their rewards.

*Students started ordering once they had saved up their points and "purchasing" the actual items, but now we are starting to see more orders and we have already had more than 150!*

From a student's point of view there are many advantages to the new system: It is much easier to collect points and monitor them as you don't have to remind staff to complete the laborious process of putting the stamp in the planner manually and then physically taking the planner to Student Services before you could claim your item.

The new process is much more streamlined and



efficient as you just have to log on to your personal account, check your "balance" and then shop online. It is exciting to log on and see which staff have given you the points (and why).

We have also noticed that more staff are giving rewards and the records show that more Year 10 and 11 students are getting points than ever before.

It is also a great way for the younger students to be educated about the importance of saving, planning your budget and making purchases – just like with a real bank account!

Siobhan Strange, 11 St Teresa, Rewards Prefect

## Gifted and Talented Language Trip

**W**hen we set off on a language trip on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> of December, we knew it would be fun. We left with a group of other Year 8s to go to the Portsmouth University Language Building. Unfortunately, when we arrived, we were at the wrong place!

When we did get there, we were split up into groups and mixed with other schools. We were worried at first but we ended up having lots of fun.

Around the hall there were eight stalls, each representing a different language. There were French, Spanish, German, various African languages and Polish amongst others. We learnt the basics of each language and even learnt a type of dancing from Ghana!

Everyone had a great time, learnt about other cultures and met new people. Someone from Oaklands even won a prize in the poster design competition! We had loads of fun and would do it again if we could.

Ella-Rose Gover Year 8

# The Royal Institution

## Christmas Lectures

**E**ight people (six students and two teachers) went to the Royal Institution for the last of this year's annual Christmas Lectures; this event was televised and presented by Dr Peter Wothers, a Chemist from the University of Cambridge. In order to go we had to win the ticket by writing an essay over Half Term, it was called 'If only walls could talk' and it had to be 1-1.5 pages long. You had to imagine you were a wall in the Royal Institution and talk about what you saw, which people had been in your presence and other things like that. Three students from Year 8 and three students from Year 9 were chosen by the Science department; Dr Smith and Dr Howson accompanied us.

We had to meet at Havant Railway Station to catch the London Waterloo train at 14:35. After two tube rides we ended up in the desired location and it was an eager sprint to get to the Royal Institution. When we got into the historic building we were ushered away from the main hall and put our coats and bags down. After that, we started to queue for the Lecture in what seemed to be a glass, purple light room with a weird lift. We waited until they let us into the auditorium one and a half hours after we started queuing up!!



Pictures BBC

We were introduced to a rather funny person while sat in the auditorium and he told us all the safety precautions and then the man himself arrived, Dr Peter Wothers. He was very welcoming and told us what we were going to be investigating today. 'The Philosophers Stone'; and most importantly argon oil, which turns rocks into gold. He did many different experiments in the lecture; they used atoms, helium, and liquid nitrogen, Lithium, A LOT of Gold, Carbon Dioxide and even Magnesium! They proved some well-known sayings too, such as the saying 'You're worth your own weight in gold'. For this he got a child in the audience who was Gold in the massive audience periodic table and put her on a scale with gold on the other side. It's weird to think I was in the same room as 1.5 million pounds worth of Gold!! He also did an experiment with a Mobius strip that included liquid nitrogen and magnets. After all the retakes, the lecture finally finished at 20:30 and we got the 21:00 train at Waterloo Station to get back to Havant by 22:15.



I think this once in a lifetime trip, has inspired me to open my eyes to how much science goes on around me and how much science inspires me.

The lecture was brilliant; Peter Wothers was a very good teacher and I learnt a lot from him. I would love to go again. HINT HINT?!?

## Flash Mob for Korogocho

When people ask us why we are dancing, we will say: “We’re dancing for our friends at St John’s Sports Society, in Korogocho, Kenya.” We’ve spent the last year helping to build a sports centre for the community in Korogocho slum and we are just £3500 away from finishing.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> of December, at 11.00am, in Commercial Road, Portsmouth, outside Debenhams, we danced the dance we’ve been working on for the last month or so. There were about 20 students, and our very own Mr Sumba dancing.

So who’s responsible for the Flash Mob? Oakland’s Sixth Form CAFOD group are responsible for the whole endeavour. We have been thinking of fundraising ideas,

A video of the event can be viewed at

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Cafod-Making-A-Difference/191733050869117>



and staging events in our community, chipping away at the total for eighteen months now and decided that the most fun way to earn a few more pennies for the sports centre was a flash mob. Our dancing appealed to the public and their Christmas inspired generosity will reach all the way to our friends in Korogocho. We raised over £600. Our thanks to Portsmouth Council for allowing us to run the event.

## Contours and Mapping Skills

Students in Year 7 have been learning about map skills in Geography this term. One of the things that they have studied is how height is shown on maps. Having learnt about spot heights/triangulation pillars, layer colouring and contours, the students were given the task of producing a model to reflect how a map would look if it were to be made into a 3D shape.

There have been some excellent examples of work across the year group so far, but in 7 St. Clare Laura Bailey was judged to be the best and in 7 St. Teresa Thomas Sullivan gained the award. Both were made from cake – did they think that Mr Bamford was going to be a guest

judge?! However, it was Miss Lewis who made the final decision. She complimented the students on their hard work and felt the winning duo were worthy victors.



# Christmas Ball

**W**e had all waited long enough for the end of term; eventually it was in sight. Everyone in high spirits and excited, not to mention the freezing cold weather accompanied by lashings of grit all over the place, could only mean one thing; it was Christmas time again!

Now that it is over, we all realise that good preparation is the key to a successful time. For some, preparation for Christmas 2013 has already started with the rush of January sales and the 'that will do for next year' mood. For others it comes a few weeks before Christmas, trekking around late night shopping looking for inspiration and the 'shall we have a break soon?' mood.

But in Sixth Form, a finely tuned plan was being put into action for the Ball on 14th December 2012. The infamous Oaklands Christmas Ball is part of the school end of term tradition. For those responsible for the Ball, preparations started a few weeks before the night.

The final touches being put into place by everyone over the last few days of term.

If masses of cut out snowflakes, elves and two six foot reindeers were not a giveaway, the theme of this year's Ball was, a 'Winter Wonderland'. A big thank you to Mrs Peel and the Art Department for the backdrop.

For all, regardless of whether they helped create the decorations or not, the Ball marks the end of the first term and the hard work everyone has put in. For some, it was their first Ball and for others their last, making it all the more special for everyone.

Katherine Whitehead 12MH



## Mobile Phones

**A**gain this year many students were fortunate enough to be given a new mobile phone for Christmas. We live in a technological age; over half the people in Britain use mobile phones in a wide variety of settings and for a variety of reasons: at work, at home, for convenience and security; they have become part of our way of life. The day will come where it is fully integrated into the methods of communication for all people.

The school recognises that a total ban on mobile phones in

school is both unrealistic and unreasonable. They are part of everyday technology and students need to be aware of how to use technology appropriately. They give some students a greater sense of safety and security particularly on a long journey to and from school. However, since our school site is generally a very safe place, we consider that in normal circumstances, the whole school day should be considered as phone and electronic device free. We continue to **strongly recommend** that students do not bring their mobile phones or other electronic devices to school. They are very ex-

pensive items and, if they go missing, the school will not take responsibility for them.

**Mobile phones or other electronic devices are not to be used or seen during the school day (8:50-3:40) and must be switched off at all times including break and lunchtimes.** The school's normal disciplinary sanctions will apply in cases where mobile phones or electronic devices are used inappropriately whilst on the school site. In most circumstances, this will include the temporary confiscation of devices by staff and appropriate arrangements being made for their return to parents.

**Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.**

## Practice Interviews

**T**he students in Year 11 were fortunate to receive a first-hand interview experience last month with an assortment of qualified professionals.

We were all interviewed formally in the Hall by a visiting professional who asked us interesting questions and observed our communication skills as well as viewing our Curriculum Vitae and a record of our past achievements. Students came in wearing smart attire with practised answers to common interview questions. Our folders were assembled as thoroughly as possible. We were ready for this helpful opportunity to practise the interview skills we would need in future years.

I can speak for the whole year when I say we were all very warmly welcomed and treated as if we were mature and aspiring young adults. My own interviewer was a former Social Worker who had gone on to become a Human Resources Worker and was very happy with her own progress in professional fields. In my interview I was enthusiastic to show my own skills and I made sure a good impression was created whilst answering the questions in detail. The interviews were extremely helpful and I speak on behalf of the year in saying that the opportunity will assist us for years to come and we will read our feedback and remember how to conduct ourselves in the future. - Alicia Carpenter  
11 St. Dominic



## Certificates Evening

**T**he school hall was packed full of staff, former students and their guests on Thursday 10th January 2013 to celebrate the school's examination success at **A level and GCSE**. The evening started with an address from Mr Quinn. He noted in his welcome the outstanding achievement of students of all abilities and the contribution parents make supporting students at Oaklands. He went on to say that although qualifications were very important, without a 'moral GPS' there was a danger that knowledge and skill would not be used for the common good.

The highlight of the evening was the address given by Dr Peter Wothers. **Dr Wothers** is a Chemist and a teaching Fellow in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Cambridge and is a Fellow of St Catharine's College, Cambridge. He is also very active promoting Chemistry to the wider public, and has won prizes such as the Royal Society of Chemistry President's Award in 2011 for his outstanding contribution to public outreach.

You may have seen him on the television in December when he presented the series of three televised Royal Institution Christmas Lectures, entitled 'The Modern Alchemist', which a number of our students and staff attended. (see page 11)

He delivered a motivating speech; Dr Wothers spoke about how important it was to have a passion for a subject, in his case Chemistry, and follow that passion. He reminisced about his early school experiences and how he had followed his passion from an early age. The celebration concluded with a vote of thanks from Judith Moore and Tom Smith (Head Girl and Head Boy).

At the end of the evening Dr Wothers stayed and chatted to students and staff as they mingled and enjoyed refreshments.

During the ceremony students were entertained with an excerpt from the next school production, *The Wizard of Oz*, by Emily Day, a dance routine from the Oaklands GCSE Dance group and a French Horn recital from Kieran Lyster.

Earlier in the day Dr Wothers delivered a lecture to over 200 students on Chemical Nomenclature.



# The Wizard of Oz



By Frank L Baum, and by arrangement with MusicScope

11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013

## Term Dates 2013/2014

**Inset Days for the next academic year will be advised in due course.**

### Autumn Term

Tue 3 September 2013 to Fri 20 December 2013.

**Half Term:** Mon 28 October 2013 to Fri 1 November 2013.

Christmas Holiday from Mon 23 December 2013 to Fri 3 January 2014.

### Spring Term

Mon 6 January 2014 to Fri 4 April 2014.

**Half Term:** Mon 17 February 2014 to Fri 21 February 2014.

Easter Holiday from Mon 7 April 2014 to Mon 21 April 2014.

### Summer Term

Tue 22 April 2014 to Wed 23 July 2014.

**Half Term:** Mon 26 May 2014 to Fri 30 May 2014.

## Term Dates 2013

### Spring Term 2013

Monday 7th January to Thursday 28th March

### Half Term:

Monday 18th—Friday 22nd February

### Summer Term 2013

Monday 15th April—Tuesday 23rd July

### Half Term:

Monday 27th—Friday 31st May

### Inset Days

**The school will be closed on the following days:**

Monday 22nd July and Tuesday 23rd July 2013.

## Events for the rest of this term

31/01/13 **Year 11 Parents' Evening**

**18.02.13- 22.02.13 Half Term**

28/02/13 **Year 9 Courses Information Evening**

11/03/13 School Production 'The Wizard of Oz'

12/03/13 School Production 'The Wizard of Oz'

13/03/13 **SEN Parents' Evening**

School Production 'The Wizard of Oz'

21/03/13 **Years 12/13 Parents' Evening**

28/03/13 **Last day of Term**



**Stakes Hill Road Waterlooville P07 7BW**



**Oaklandscatholic@oaklands.hants.sch.uk**



**www.oaklands.hants.sch.uk**



**023 9225 9214**



**HAVANT FEDERATION  
OF SCHOOLS**