

Students return from Kenya

Term Dates
2013-14

No 394 July 2013

Oaklands News

Challenge Week
stories

Feature on
St Thomas More's
Primary School



A publication for
Oaklands Catholic School
and Sixth Form College

Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College



Thursday 26th September 2013
6:00 - 8:00pm

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Community Opportunity Unity

Lead Stories



Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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From the Headteacher's desk

Earlier this week one of my colleagues asked me, "what is the most memorable thing that has occurred this year in school?" I am spoilt for choice, from success on the sports field, through to school productions and then there was our successful Ofsted. Many of these events have been captured in previous editions of Oaklands News. What all of these events have in common is the ability to command attention. Turning to our Catholic setting, the election of Pope Francis was one of those attention grabbing moments last year. Our Popes have the unique gift of attracting attention and being heard, despite having to compete against the ambient noise, some of which is quite corrosive, created by thousands of television channels, millions of webpages and billions of messages on social networking sites. The impact of the Papal visit in 2010 also supports this. Shortly after the visit I remember writing about the visit's legacy; the fact that I draw reference to it now suggests that this endures.

I believe that Catholic schools have a responsibility to ensure that the 'message' of Jesus Christ can be heard above the ambient noise that fills the lives of our young people; this presents a significant challenge. The clue to this lies in the words of Pope Paul VI when he said "Contemporary man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, or if he listens to teachers, he does so because they are witnesses." I asked a small group of discerning Year 10 students to reflect on these words, they said of witnesses:

- use a narrative and method that relates to current culture;
- tell stories not with authoritative language but with authority;
- never use religious 'mumbo jumbo';
- have a single line of sight and are not easily distracted;
- know what they stand for and as a consequence are easily identified;
- are creative in the way they get the message across.

This was a profound lesson as the students had described the central tenets of the method and style Jesus used to communicate during his ministry.

Continued Page 4

Over the last three years we have experienced the prophetic effect of living witness through our work with CAFOD. Two years ago two of our students returned from the slums of Korogocho in Kenya and the school community fundraised to build a gym to support the community living there. This project was our response to the cry of the poor. This term three students returned to Kenya; their witness can be read about in this edition.

Busy Year

Throughout the year a large number of students have been involved in the extra curricular life of the school. I would like to express my thanks to the staff who work tirelessly to provide the extras that enrich the experience of students at the school. Over the summer we have students and staff visiting Iceland, please keep them in your prayers. If you have followed Oaklands News over the year you will have read about the numerous and varied range of activities and events that have taken place including our successful Ofsted inspection. Unfortunately, just before Easter, First Bus notified us of their decision to remove dedicated school transport from Fareham, this has proved to be one of the more difficult matters to resolve this year. This blow comes on top of the phasing out of the Local Authority subsidy for transport to faith based schools. After much negotiation a solution has been found. I am immensely grateful for parents' forbearance on this matter and sympathetic over the increased financial burden that the solution carries. In the final analysis the responsibility to transport students to and from school is a parental one. In many areas where local bus services have been withdrawn or curtailed, local communities have banded together to find a solution, this may be worth consideration in the future.

Student Success

It has been a pleasure this year to receive students who have made exceptional progress in the classroom, overcome adversity or represented the school. For the third year in a row I have written to almost 200 families offering congratulations and recognising their child's endeavours at school. So as this year draws to a close, it is always good to see prospective Year 12 students in school for



their taster day and barbeque. A sobering reminder that the next academic year is just around the corner!

Finally

Please take time to read this packed edition of Oaklands News, the term dates for 2013-14 and other dates for the start of the year for Years 10,11 and the Sixth Form, including induction sessions for parents are contained within. I was very pleased within this edition to be able to provide space for a feature on one of our key feeder primary schools, St Thomas More's; I hope to be able to do this again for our other feeder primaries in the future.

Thank you for your prayers, support and encouragement over the last year.

Matthew Quinn, Headteacher

Heythrop College Competition Success

Our congratulations and best wishes to George West, Year 12, who has been awarded a Merit for his entry into the prestigious Heythrop Essay Competition on the theme "Could a machine think?" Well done George!

Students return from Korogocho

We [Londwa, Harry and Jess] have recently returned from our life changing trip with CAFOD to Korogocho, Kenya, where we saw how the money we as a school had raised towards the gym and community centre has been used.

Although the Community Centre is not quite finished, it is already changing lives. We spoke to many people, including Doreen, aged 17. She told us that the Community Centre gave her somewhere to go so that she could stay away from gangs and crime. She also said without the Centre, she may not have the life and future that she has today. This story is very emotional although not unique; so many young people expressed their immense gratitude to us so that we could share



their stories and feelings with you back home.

Going out to Korogocho was a truly unforgettable experience and one that will forever change how we view our own set of values and responsibilities. We were struck by their strength, the conviction of their faith and their trust in God that helps them to deal with experiences that most of us in the UK could not imagine. The one thing we have really learnt during this time is that faith is not something that you can just talk about; you need to live out Gospel values and make the world a fairer and more just place for every individual.

This is why we are eager and determined to continue the work already started to improve lives. We plan to do this, with your help, by holding fundraising events throughout the year and offering tutor groups and individuals the chance to sponsor a child through a year of school at St John's Primary School. It costs approximately £30 a year. We want to share our story with as many people as possible so that more people can learn about the situation of the people of Korogocho. As a school, we also hope that we will have regular joint projects between our schools in the different subjects that we learn.

IF Campaign

The IF Campaign Rally took place in Hyde Park - London on 8th June, 45,000 people gathered there to support the IF campaign. The message of the campaign was to make world leaders at the G8 Summit understand four main issues that prevent so many people from getting enough food. I went with my Father. On the way into London on the train, the tube and even walking through the London parks, many people could be seen wearing the IF campaign t-shirts or were carrying spinning flowers which would make up the 2 million petals which represented the children who have died from hunger each year.



Upon reaching Hyde Park, we were guided towards the campaign zone. This was an area which had been set aside for different charities such as CAFOD, Action Aid, OXFAM, Tearfund, Christian Aid, Islamic Relief and Muslim Aid. Each charity handed out banners, T-shirts and wristbands to those campaigning on their behalf. Once I had collected my t-shirt from Action Aid, I made my way over to the spinning flowers display [some students from Oaklands helped make nearly 70 of these when they attended a pre-IF Campaign event at Portsmouth Anglican Cathedral in May]. This was a large area of ground in Hyde Park marked out in a design with nails. Everyone removed a nail in order to plant a flower. Together, by planting the different colour flowers; we helped to create the giant picture of a cooking pot of bubbling food held by two African hands. This was shown on news reports that evening. It was incredible.

At 3:30, the show began, presented by Gethin Jones and Myleene Klass and contained some inspirational speakers such as Danny Boyle and Bill Gates, as well as video messages from Eddie Izzard, David Beckham and Miranda Hart. They all explained the importance of the IF campaign. There were representatives from Christian, Muslim and Jewish communities who spoke of the importance of this issue within their religious beliefs. It was inspiring to be amongst so many like minded people.

It was truly an amazing experience and a day that I will remember for a very long time.

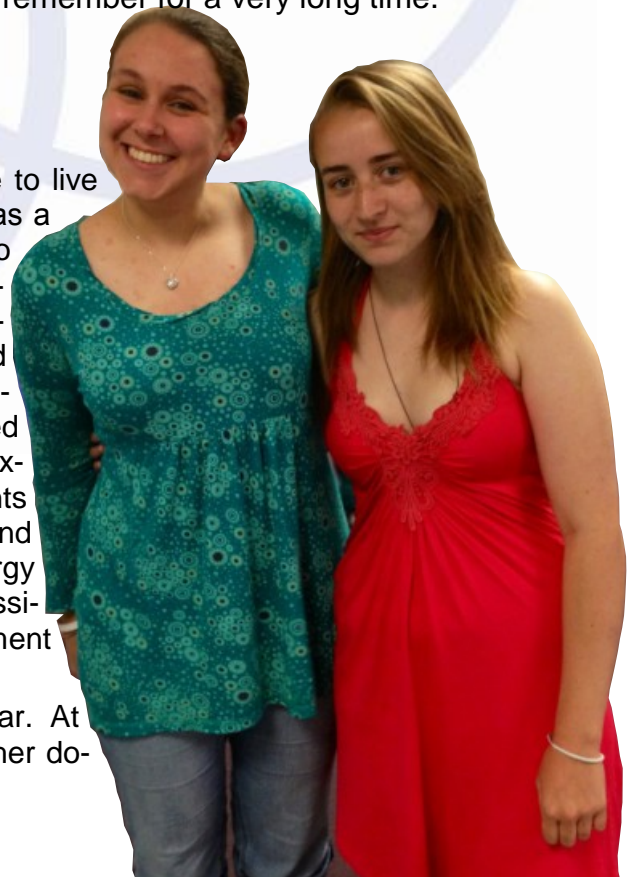
Sophie Negus 12 SH

CAFOD Eat for £1 a day for 5 days

From the 24th-29th June we embarked on a challenge to live on a £1's worth of food each day for 5 days. This was a fundraising challenge to raise money for CAFOD and also to raise awareness of how much less people eat in developing countries. The challenge was hard at times, especially as both Felicity and I are such avid tea drinkers and all we could drink was water! The challenge also highlighted the importance and expense of maintaining a balanced diet as, to eat lots of fruit, vegetables and meat is very expensive. For our money, we could buy basic ingredients such as bread, pasta, potatoes and baked beans. We found the diet very boring and it noticeably affected our energy levels. We learnt that to survive on a very basic diet is possible but rather tedious. We received great encouragement from staff and fellow students who also sponsored us.

Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed so far. At present, we have managed to raise just over £140. Further donations are still welcome.

Sophie Negus and Felicity Clapp



Year 7 Creative Challenge Students

Challenge Week 2013... Year 7

Challenge Week was really fun and we did many things. On the first day we started to learn about the Shakespearian play Henry V which we would be performing at the end of the week. I also did contact dancing (lifts), Zumba, and then calligraphy.

On the second day, Tuesday, we went up to London to visit the Globe Theatre. After the Globe, we visited an art museum and went across the Millennium Bridge. Whilst we were outside the Art Museum we were entertained by a Jamaican band and some street entertainers making huge bubbles. We arrived home at about 6:00pm.

On the third day of Challenge Week, we looked again at our play and, in particular, the effects we would use during the performance. We also looked at Elizabethan shoes with amazingly high heels. We all then made a shoe out of clay; This was amazing. On Thursday, we practised our play for the entire day, ready for the big performance.

Finally, on Friday, we watched all the plays and performed ours. I wore a black suit with a vintage top hat. It looked awesome. By Ben Strutt 7 St. Dominic



Year 7 enjoyed an exciting first Challenge Week at Oaklands. I am sure all of Year 7 want thank the teachers for a wonderful week. A highlight for many was going to London to see the fascinating Globe theatre. Of course, we are very proud of our wonderful plays acted and performed in front of parents. It was hard work to get our plays perfected and still have fun, but we all had a good time. The carousel of activities was very interesting, this was mainly because of the new skills we were learning and how the teachers made it fun. We cannot wait for next year's Challenge Week.

Samuel James 7 St. Martin



I have really enjoyed Challenge Week. I loved the way we were able to do lots of drama and have the chance to express ourselves in what we did. I enjoyed the creative side to it, how we got to be free and be ourselves. I was also able to mix with other people who I would not usually spend time with. I liked having time with other teachers too. Miss Hames and Mrs Branch were excellent at choreographing our performance. Drama and music are something I really like doing. I love to jump around and be someone else for the moments you are on stage.

I loved the way we learnt too; it was not a time where the teachers just tell you what to do and where to go and what to be but you have to decide and find out by yourself. There was an excitement that got to me and now it is over it has gone again.

The trip to the Globe was good too. However, I think we should have seen a play or got to prance around on the Globe stage before we went to our workshop.

I loved this week and I really think that it was organised really well even though one or two of the final performances were a bit long. At least we all got to understand the plots from ten of Shakespeare's plays.

Thank you to all those who organised the wonderful week. Judy Quinn 7 St. Dominic

Year 8 Innovation & Enquiry

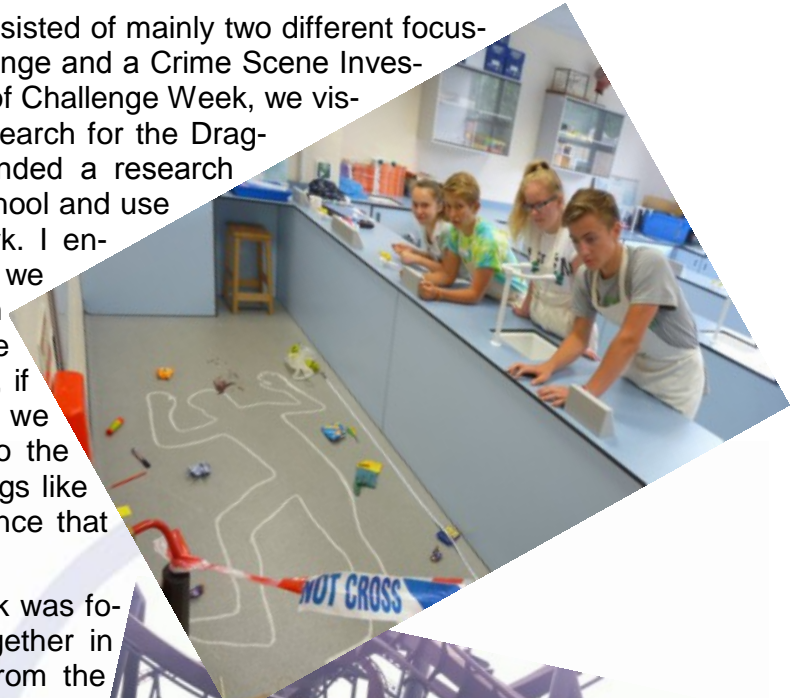
Challenge Week 2013...Year 8 Challenge Week 2013...Year 8

The Year 8 Challenge Week consisted of mainly two different focuses: a Dragon's Den style challenge and a Crime Scene Investigation challenge. On the first day of Challenge Week, we visit Thorpe Park as a part of our research for the Dragon's Den challenge. We were handed a research sheet to fill out and take back to school and use it to make our product for the park. I enjoyed the day at Thorpe Park as we had the chance to walk around with our friends as we worked and have fun at the same time. For example, if we got tired throughout the day we could stop and take a rest and do the work that had been set. It was things like this that made the day an experience that the whole year would never forget.

The second day of Challenge Week was focused on Technology. We got together in groups and put our ideas down from the previous day's work for our product which would then be put through for selection to go onto the Dragons. The aim of the challenge was to make a product to sell at Thorpe Park. We were also required to give a presentation to our class to prepare us if we were selected to go before the Dragons. At the end of the day we were told to vote for the team/group we thought not only had the best product but also the best presentation which was capable of persuading the Dragons to buy their product.

The next two days were focused on the Crime Scene Investigation as we worked our way through the crime and discovered new clues to help us find the killer of 'Mr Burnley' - the victim. During the Maths day we were required to put our Maths skills to the test as we had to decipher multiple codes and use our compass skills to navigate around the school to make up a series of clues which were placed around the school site. On the second day we focused on the Science half of the challenge where we used our forensic skills to do things like, study fingerprints, analyse writing, view the crime scene and analyse the wounds on the victim by making a cast of the wound. This required using our deductive and logic skills.

We were also given the chance to dissect the victim's heart which revealed the man was very unhealthy due to the presence of blood clots and fat in the heart. I enjoyed the Investigation Challenge the most as I liked being faced with the challenge of putting all the bits



and pieces of evidence together to discover who the murderer was. We also needed to complete the second half of the science poster during this time.

The last day consisted of many different things. First of all we went to the Technology department so we could learn about African culture and use a mixture of newspapers, plastic bags and string to make a football. I enjoyed this as it also included working while having fun. We went onto Maths to focus on code breaking and make our own enigma machine using a bottle and some paper and pencils. We then went onto Science to make a marble run where we were required to make a marble reach the ground in the slowest time using a limited amount of resources. We then went back to Technology to fill out a quiz about Challenge Week and then headed to the hall where the awards were presented and the people nominated for the Dragon's Den Challenge were put before the Dragons.

On behalf of Year 8, I would like to thank all the teachers who were involved in the delivery of Year 8 Challenge Week.

On Monday I was very excited as we were going to Thorpe Park. We had to be on the school drive by 7.15am and ready to leave school at 7.30am. It took around an hour and a half to get there and we arrived just after 9am. As soon as we arrived we went straight onto Tidal Wave.

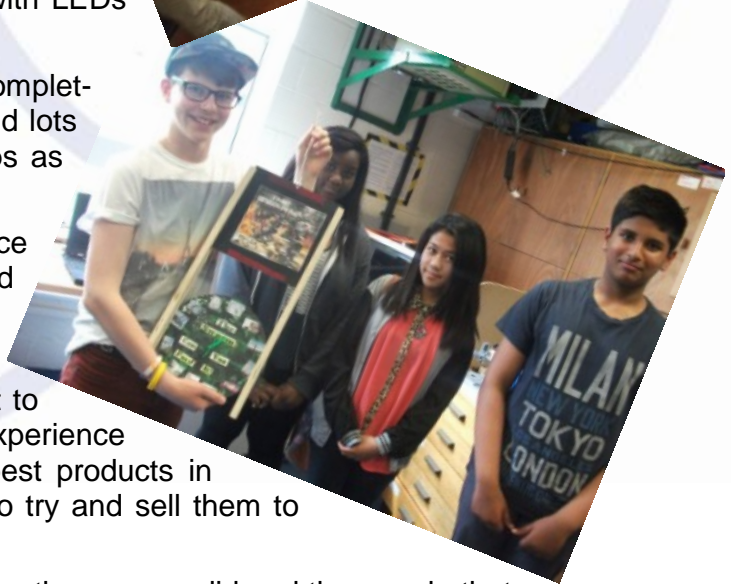
On Tuesday I arrived at the normal time and we went to the Technology Block. All the classes in Tech worked in the same rooms. We had to create a product that we could sell at Thorpe Park, so I and my group decided on making a photo frame with LEDs in.

On Wednesday we were in Maths completing an orienteering task. We also did lots of code breaking in the same groups as the day before.

On Thursday we were in the Science Block carrying out experiments and trying to find who killed the fictitious Mr Burnley.

After lunch on the final day we went to the hall to have a Dragons Den experience where groups that had made the best products in Technology went through and had to try and sell them to the Dragons.

My group did not get through, but five other groups did and the people that won were in my form. Their product was a small toy cart from Colossus and you could buy track to play with it on. Some of the products were very good and could have sold at Thorpe Park. Overall, my best day was Thorpe Park and in school, my favourite day was Science as we had to carry out lots of different experiments like footprints and a blood splatter test. My favourite part of Science was when we had to hit clay with a hammer; it was very funny.



Visit to St Aignan

Our visit to St. Aignan was really amazing. On the Saturday (after we had arrived at the town via ferry and coach), we went to the market and learnt that it came to St. Aignan every Saturday between 8am and 12.30pm. Some people bought umbrella hats! In the afternoon, we visited the Troglodyte Museum and we went swimming in Montrichard pool. The next two days involved us going to a vineyard, a sparkling wine cellar and even a trip to Paris where Mr Cunningham explained its history.

We also got to go to Zoo Parc Beauval and this was my favourite because of the variety of exotic animals which was interesting and intriguing. The history of the Loire Valley was another factor we learnt about when we visited Valencay, a French Renaissance chateau. The food and service at Le Centre de Sejour (our accommodation) was excellent and the dorms, despite limited space, were well kept and homely. I really enjoyed the tidiest dorm inspections.

Thanks to all the staff who came with us on this trip: Mr Cunningham, Mrs Eyre, Mrs Baxter and especially Mr Shaw. Thanks to Mark and James our dedicated chauffeurs and special thanks to the centre staff who were excellent.

Rebecca Galbraith 8 St. Teresa

During Challenge Week some students went to the Tile Barn campsite which is situated in Brockenhurst in the New Forest.

Whilst there we took part in a variety of activities. These included, mountain biking, canoeing, low ropes and two hikes, there was also climbing and archery. Out of the activities I took part in I found mountain biking the best, this was because it was an exhilarating task and a great opportunity to explore the New Forest.

Being at Tile Barn was a good way to make new friends. I found myself often speaking to students I would not have spoken to at school.

The camp was a memorable experience for everyone who went. The long hike proved to be the most memorable, with numerous students wading knee high in bogs.

The camp was an experience I will never forget and I would like to thank all the staff who were involved and attended the camp for a most entertaining time

Ted Wells 9 St. Margaret



Year 9 The Island Students

There was much excitement at the start of the week, we were eager to know what we were doing to be doing throughout the week; we knew that the week was based around being trapped on an island as the ship we were on had sunk. In the morning we split into our groups we designed our map, a constitution and a flag; we had to work as a team.

Day two was particularly exciting as we went to the Weald and Downland Museum. The trip was particularly hands on as we saw how homes were made using old techniques. We then worked as a team with the carpenters to create a section of a house. We made a small section of wall using sticks and mud (Wattle and Daub). The trip helped us with ideas for our own shelters later in the week.

The next day we went to a Sikh temple and a mosque in Southampton, the trip was very enjoyable and informative. We were able to see how religion affects communities. We also learnt how communities have created different religions and customs.

The next day was all about grouping our ideas together and creating a shelter, we started our initial foraging; this was very enjoyable as we looked around the school for useful materials. Also it was very exciting as we had an hour session with the robotics team from Southampton University. During the session we learnt lots about programming and how robots can help us with tasks.

The final day was the day of judgement, all we had learnt throughout the week had to be applied today. First we set up our maps and other products to be judged. Then we made our way down onto the field. We were given 10 canes, a waterproof ground sheet and twine. The rest of our materials we had to forage out of the forest. Once we had foraged our materials we started building our shelter, some were better than others but every group tried their best. Once we were finished we had barbecues in our groups where we were able to cook our food and have something to drink. Then we went into the Sports Hall where we awaited the overall places. First, second and third prizes were awarded and we got the chance to sing the national anthems we had created. It was a truly exciting day with lots of fun and laughter.

It was a very enjoyable week, on behalf of Year 9 I would like to thank all the teachers involved in Challenge Week, especially Mrs Shepherd for running the week, Mrs Masson for organising the history trip and Mrs Platt for organising the R.E trip. **Ellio Da Costa 9 St Catherine**

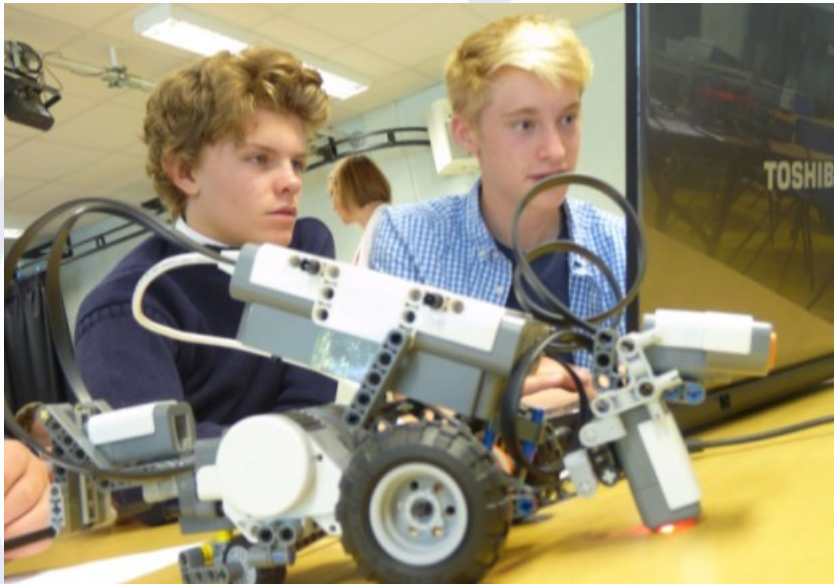


I thought Year 9 Challenge Week was going to be like last year's but it turned out to be better because it had trips. My favourite was the Weald and Downland museum - I liked it because there was so much to explore and see.

I also enjoyed making the tent and barbeque and, just in case I didn't like anything, I bought my lunch but I didn't eat it in the end. We went into a wood behind the school where I sometimes walk my dog so I knew where I was going. In the end we built our tent and ours was the only one that didn't use the metal fence as support.

I would encourage Year 9s to do this Challenge Week activity as it is the best one and overall was really fun to do, you even get to enjoy a barbeque!

Ryan Stewart - 9 St. Margaret



During Challenge we invited some students from Southampton University who want to encourage girls into engineering and they came for a whole day and worked with 30 Year 9 students at a time; the students learnt how to create a simple programme for a robot to stop when it detected the colour blue. The task involved computational thinking, planning and problem solving, everything that Mr Gove is saying that students need to do to ensure rigour and the skills needed for the 'real world' are taught. The students were engaged and enjoyed the experience; at times the concentration was so great you hear a pin drop. The students were competitive in trying to make their robot the most efficient and students said they enjoyed the challenge and the creativity.

The Year 9 Challenge Week experience involved visits to see the places of worship of other faith traditions; key to building community cohesion. To get some insight and inspiration we went to Southampton to meet some people and find out about their traditions. On Tuesday we experienced puja at the Hindu Vedic Temple with bells, incense, chanting and murtis and a talk from the friendly priest. Then it was on to Nanaksar Gurdwara when four young Sikhs welcomed us, showed us the prayer hall and the Guru Granth Sahib. We all had to put on our headscarves which was a new experience for many! We had the opportunity to experience Sikh hospitality for all with a meal of dahl, chapattis, rice pudding and chutney in the langar kitchen. On Wednesday we visited Medina mosque and Naheed Brora gave a lively talk and question and answer session, followed by the chance to explore the mosque prayer halls, bathrooms and mortuary. At Singh Sabha gurdwara, a former church converted into a gurdwara, Saranjit Singh Karir received us. Saranjit showed us how to tie our headscarves and wash before we went to the prayer hall and sat in front of the Guru Granth Sahib.

He gave an informative talk about the history of Sikhism and a young member of the congregation answered questions about her baptism and what it is like to be a young Sikh person in Southampton today.

A big well done to all the students for their respect and involvement in a day where they experienced lots of new things from the RE Department and Year 9 Challenge Week team. Many thanks too, to all the places of worship we visited and the communities who welcomed us so warmly and shared their faith and lives with us, their doors are always open to visitors.

Year 10 Work Experience Students

Nick Robertson spent his Work Experience at David Lloyd in Port Solent. This is what he said about his experience.

I have spent my Work Experience at David Lloyd Gym in Port Solent. **I booked my Work Experience as soon as I could.** I had to work from 9:00 am through to 5:00 pm. During the whole experience I was looked after very well by the David Lloyd team. One of the Managers, Andy, took direct responsibility for me.

On Monday I worked on reception, that taught me many people skills. David Lloyd prides itself on customer service, everything from being polite through to smiling at the customers.

On Tuesday I worked along side one of the life guards. I had to test the PH of the water. The PH levels are tested every few hours to ensure the pool is safe and clean, I also had to do some cleaning on pool side.

On Wednesday I worked up in the gym. I joined a few classes so that I could see how the instructors worked. I then went for a work out on the machines. I also worked alongside one of the personal trainers who reviewed the programme of one of the customers. On Thursday I moved into catering, serving customers and clearing away. Again, people skills were very important. On Friday I went back to the gym.

It has been very interesting to see all the work that goes on behind the scenes to ensure that the customer has the best experience. I have learnt how to be independent and have grown in confidence over the week. I would recommend David Lloyd as a place for Work Experience; the staff have been supportive, kind and helpful

Nick Robertson 10 St. Clare



Ben Ashberry, Olivia Ponsford and Peter Williams spent their Work Experience at Waitrose in Waterlooville

For all of us Monday was a training day, during which we had to complete a number of tasks related to health and safety. We used a computer and watched a number of training videos. We then had to answer questions, some of the questions we had to think about, particularly about food hygiene. We also had a tour around the store, warehouse and other facilities. As the week progressed we have each undertaken a number of different duties.

Peter has spent time in Customer Services collecting deliveries as part of the Click and Collect service. We have all been involved in checking stock on the shelves, sometimes this has also involved tidying up the shelves, on other occasions removing produce and items that are perishable and going out of date. We have also worked in the warehouse tidying and compacting cardboard.

Communicating with customers has been interesting. All the staff at Waitrose are very professional in the manner in which they deal and serve their customers. It was a great insight into how a store operates. We would recommend Waitrose for work experience.

Ben Ashberry, Olivia Ponsford and Peter Williams





St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School

'This is a good school' OFSTED 2012

ABILITY, SUCCESS and GIFTEDNESS

At the beginning of last academic year, St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School in Havant, set out a vision for their school set around 3 strands: SUCCESS, OPPORTUNITY and STEWARDSHIP. Each strand is closely linked and sets out to inspire every child to fulfil their unique giftedness.

Our vision is one where every child leaves our school feeling they have achieved more than they ever expected. They experience opportunities that form who they are and what they become in the future. And finally, we want our children to see the role they can play in society and



God's place in calling us to make a difference to others.

In the top 4 in the Havant area

Pupil attainment and progress at St. Thomas More's has greatly improved in recent years and the school is now placed in the top 4 out of 25 schools in the Havant area for progress made from Year 2 to Year 6. The opportunities offered to pupils in sport, music, drama and the arts are growing all the time.

Wide and varied activities

At present there are at least 12 clubs offered every week, the cheerleading, cricket, and tag rugby teams came first in their respective tournaments and the netball, hockey and ... finished in the top three.

Our choir has performed at various community events, and a group of artists from Year 5 and 6 have had their own stained glass artwork incorporated into a window in the chapel at Staunton Country Park. Children are encouraged to take up roles in an increasing profile of responsibility such as School Councillors, Fairtrade Committee Members, Eco Warriors, Road Safety Officers, Playground Buddies and Pre-

Is your child due to start school in September 2014?

Come along to our parents' workshop about **'Preparing your child for School'**

Thursday 3rd October 2013
4:00 – 5:00pm

The session will be led by Assistant Headteacher, Mr Barber, who has been recognised by Hampshire County Council as a **Leading Foundation Stage Practitioner.**

Mr Barber will offer practical tips and guidance on how parents can prepare children for school. There will also be an opportunity to talk to previous Reception parents who will share their thoughts and experiences.

Crèche facilities available. No booking necessary.

facts; all roles that require initiative, confidence, leadership, sound social and communication skills and teamwork.

With Nurture and support all children will achieve

So if so many children have been so successful in the space of one year, the question that has been raised for us is: Is this all down to natural ability or giftedness? Does a school have to have a team of naturally talented rugby players in order to win tournaments or can anyone be a talented rugby player with the right nurturing and support? The same question has arisen in relation to intelligence and academic ability. Should we be labelling children as low ability children or are they simply low achievers who have the ability to be so much better with the right nurturing and support? For us it's a question of mindset and working to foster a growth mindset among staff, pupils and parents is crucial to fulfilling our vision.

Very successful year

The last year has been a particularly successful one and as many of our children begin their secondary education at Oaklands, we hope that we have fostered in them a growth mindset and a self belief that motivates them to be highly successful.

Maybe every student or their parents should ask themselves, do I have to be naturally talented to achieve great success or is there God given talent to be successful at what ever we put our mind to, hidden in every human being, just waiting to be nurtured and developed?



Open Morning

Wednesday 25th September 2013

9:30 – 11:30am

**Interested in applying for a
place for your child to start school?**

**Just a friendly neighbour wanting to have a
look around?**

**Not Catholic yourself but want to know more about education in a
Faith school?**

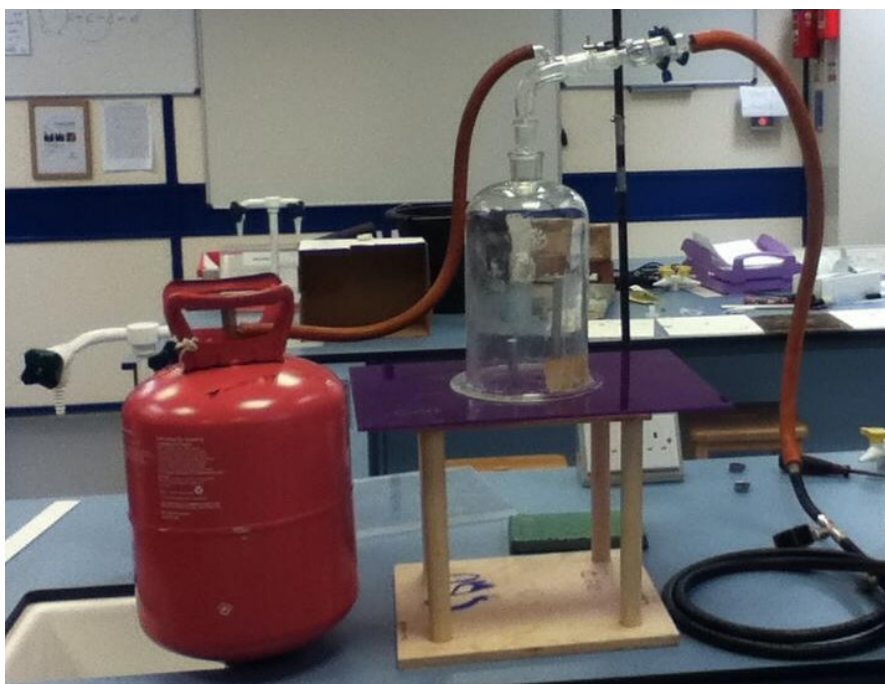
Refreshments available. No booking necessary.

A Level Chemistry pushing the boundaries

Throughout the academic year there have been a number of extra-curricular ventures undertaken by the A-level chemists. Dr Smith has run a weekly 'MChem' group after school where activities have ranged from synthesising the dye used to make denim blue, through to creating and explaining the properties of an invisible ink. Other highlights were the synthesis of a sulphur-based polymer (rubber), and investigating the chemistry involved in Christmas. In addition to this group some of us chose to enter into two prestigious exams: the Royal Society of Chemistry's Olympiad, and the C3L6 exam courtesy of the University of Cambridge. Both of these exams aim to 'push the boundaries' of our current A-level knowledge and apply it to high level and unknown situations within chemistry, such as the recent horse meat scandal.

Dr Smith has also led a small group of students throughout the last few months in a project to synthesise buckminsterfullerene (C_{60}). This revolutionary material was first discovered in 1985 by Professor Harry Kroto, and led to him being awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry. We are following in Kroto's prize winning footsteps, and have so far managed to design and build the apparatus that will be used. The work has involved a great deal of time and commitment and the group is close to beginning the process of synthesising C_{60} : Our apparatus is ready to be switched on, and so we hope to be able to report significant developments in the next issue of Oaklands News. This has been a great opportunity to help us all to 'stand out from the crowd' in the midst of university applications and to broaden our knowledge within the subject of chemistry.

The C_{60} project is highly ambitious, and requires significant funding. To this end, we are grateful to the school's Business Manager, Ms McCall for releasing the initial funds to 'get us going', but also to the Royal Society of Chemistry for offering £650, and to the Armourers



and Brasiers Gauntlet Trust for providing a further £1000. We have also had vital support from the automotive engineering firm Ricardo (Shoreham), and from the marine services company Serco (Portsmouth) who kindly made available one of their skilled welders, Tony Morrissey, to train our team. Mick Bates and the technology department also provided valuable assistance and resources. And last but not least, we are hugely grateful to Senior Technician Simon Davies who has not only helped to guide our extracurricular pursuits with his expert wisdom, knowledge and enthusiasm for high level education, but who has also devoted significant amounts of his own time and energy to supporting these ambitious activities.

Matt Kingswell - Year 12

Results Days

A2 Level results will be available from 8:00 am on Thursday 15th August 2013 in the Sixth Form Block.

AS Level results will be available from 10:00 am on Thursday 15th August 2013 in the Sixth Form Block.

GCSE results will be available from 10:00—11.00 am on Thursday 22nd August 2013 in the Sixth Form Block.

Onwards and upwards Genocide Memorial

The Genocide Memorial Team has been working hard this term to complete the Memorial. Last Tuesday on 2 July, after finishing my exams, I came in especially to work with Adrian Parker, a building engineer with Parker Tarrington Ltd, who has been supporting us on this project.

As those in the construction industry will know, one of the first things that needs to be done before any construction can take place is to create a scale drawing of the site and the structure. We began by measuring the height of the land where we intend to build the Memorial. We did this using an optical level on a tripod and a surveyor's staff. I looked through the optical level at the staff and then recorded the level of the land where the staff was in different locations

around the site. After recording the height of the land, we set about mapping the key features of the site such as the foliage covering a large portion of the site. Using the existing plans of the Science block and Sixth Form block, we measured the distance from the foliage boarder to one point on the Science block and another point from the Sixth Form block. This has enabled us to triangulate the position of the foliage in relation to the two blocks.

Having obtained all the necessary information from the site, the Memorial Team will be working with Adrian to draw up the plans. We will then be able to decide on the size and scale of the memorial structure and to calculate an approximate cost and timescale for the completion of the project. If you are able to help move us towards our goal of creating a memorial against hatred and intolerance, you are welcome to contact our project team by emailing mail@buttonsforgenocide.co.uk. We are looking for students and people with experience in relevant fields to work with us, so please do get in touch.

Thank you.

Comenius News

Oaklands School's Comenius application for the new project 'Rights, roles and responsibilities' has been approved - there were 780 applications and our school was one of 385 schools that received approval. Students can take part in this two year project involving class activities and trips from September 2013.



The Class of 2013 Mr Quinn

The Prom is a highlight of Year 11, where students and staff can celebrate our time together, eat good food and dance (not obligatory). The Prom celebrates the year group as a community. It is a fitting end to all the hard work during the examinations.

As in previous years, the Year 11 Prom was held at the Historic Dockyard in Portsmouth. A team of students, led by staff, have been working for a long time to arrange the evening. The only matter the team could not resolve was the weather. Unfortunately, it rained as all the guests were arriving but this did not dampen the spirits.

From around 6:30; students arrived in a variety of different vehicles, from stretch limousines, double decker buses, classic cars to top-of-the-range 4x4s.

Guests were almost unrecognisable in their resplendent attire as they walked down the red carpet blinded by a paparazzi style photo shoot; many proud parents tried to capture the moment. Once inside they were treated to a three course banquet during which they were entertained by a conjurer. The night was rounded off with a disco.

As usual students behaved impeccably, they were a credit to themselves, their families and the school. Miss Dymott, Head of Year, said, "It was a great night, they were a pleasure to be with."



Journey into adulthood

The Prom is an important event in the lives of students and for many of them it is one of the events that marks the start of the journey into adulthood.

Careers Showcase

Year 12 students from Oaklands were invited to attend a Work and Careers Showcase in central London on Wednesday 5 June. This provided an opportunity to visit some of the biggest company head quarters and meet key industry leaders.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, has been working with businesses and organisations to eradicate outdated recruitment practices. Twelve top central London business HQs opened their doors to 150 young people. Our group travelled with the DPM's press officers and visited Fujitsu, Price Waterhouse Cooper and Siemens.

We were welcomed inside to see what it is like to work in these offices and what careers are available. We listened to talks by apprentices and graduate recruits and at Siemens the Chief Executive for the UK and North West Europe took time out of a busy schedule to address our group.

The aim of the day was to raise aspirations and students were shown opportunities that they may not have otherwise considered. Companies were keen to stress that their doors will remain open to talented young people, no matter what their background.



Sports Leaders

On Tuesday 18 June nine Year 12 Sports Leaders ran a sports event for the KS2 pupils at St Peter's Primary School. This was an assessed part of their year long course taught by Mrs Knight. The event was attended by both Asda, who kindly provided drinks and fruit for the participants and leaders and a photographer from The Portsmouth News. The weather was ideal and the event was a huge success for all involved. Certificates, created by Ellie Clegg, were presented to the top three teams at the end of the event. Well done to Jess Muwanga, Ellie Clegg, Libby Nicholls, Anna Robinson, Ella Knight, Emily Clark, Gill Glover, Tom Cuffe and Natasha Coleman who worked hard to make the event a huge success.

Year 9 Belgium Trip 2013

At 09.00 am on Friday 21st of June, thirty-nine young historians from Year 9 set out on what would be an emotional adventure to the trenches and cemeteries of the First World War in Belgium and France.

After the short crossing to Calais, we made our way to Ypres in Belgium, the base for our trip. On route we stopped at Hill 62, Sanctuary Wood, where we experienced what many British soldiers had to live with, the muddy and flooded trenches. We explored the indoor museum in which we discovered many weapons and uniforms associated with the First World War.

The next day after an early breakfast, we boarded our coach for a guided tour of the Ypres Salient. Among one of stops was Essex Farm Cemetery, which was a medical station for British soldiers. Here we learnt of the terrible wounds and medical care that soldiers received whilst we also discussed poetry as it was here that the Canadian Doctor, John McCrae is believed to have written the poem, *In Flanders Fields*. Whilst we were at Essex Farm we

paid our respects at the most popular grave in the whole cemetery, that of V.J. Strudwick, who was 15 at the time of his death. Being of a similar age it made us all pause to consider what it would have been to be so young yet to experience the horrors of the First World War. After Essex Farm we continued our tour by visiting the Langemark, the largest German Cemetery and Tyne Cot, the largest British Cemetery. It was interesting and emotional to hear stories of the soldiers being awarded the Victoria Cross whilst also seeing the geography of the battlefield for ourselves.

After an early evening meal, we made our way to the Menin Gate to take part in the

Last Post Ceremony. Since the completion of the Menin Gate, the town of Ypres has held this ceremony every night and it was an honour for students from Oaklands to lay a wreath on behalf of the school. The ceremony was observed in impeccable silence with many having a tear in their eye. After the ceremony, we explored the Menin Gate and discovered the impact the First World War had had.

After an early breakfast and with the weather looking ominous, we boarded our coach for the





Somme and our eventual return journey to Calais. As the heavens opened we arrived in the town of Amiens where we collected our guide for the morning and began to experience the more conventional weather that the soldiers themselves would have experienced. After a brief stop at the La Boisselle mine crater we made our way to the largest British Cemetery in the region of the Somme, Thiepval. Standing in the rain, we stood in silence attempting to understand the sheer size of the memorial at Thiepval whilst also hearing more about the Battle of the Somme from our guide. Afterwards, we held a short ceremony and laid a wreath on be-

half of all at Oaklands and those who had identified the names of their relatives on the walls at Thiepval before heading off to Beaumont Hamel and discovering how little progress the British made on the first day of the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

As we boarded the coach for our return journey home, I discovered that Mr Tyler had arranged with our driver to make a small diversion so that we could visit Regina Trench Cemetery and have a small memorial to a relative as this is where my Great Granddad's brother is buried and it proved to be a very emotional moment for me and for all of the family when I returned home.

We would like to finish by thanking Mr Tyler for his time and efforts in organising what was a truly memorable trip. We would also like to thank Mr Smith, Mrs Cunningham and Mrs Fitton for giving up their weekend and accompanying us on the trip.

Matthew Dollery and Gwyneth Mitchell 9 St. Vincent



Take Care

The energy companies see the greatest number of incidents involving children with power lines and substations over the summer holidays. This equipment is a necessary part of the community and countryside, essential to transport and bringing energy to homes and businesses. However, if care is not taken when near power lines and substations then children and adults can find themselves in dangerous situations like these:

- A fishing rod carried the wrong way can touch a power line
- Trying to retrieve a football from a substation
- Flying kites near power lines

With the start of the summer holidays we would draw your attention to the Scottish and Southern Energy website www.sse.com selecting Corporate Responsibility then Education and Safety Advice. Please keep yourselves safe this summer.

Celebration at the Cathedral

As a celebration of their successful first year at Oaklands and to reflect on their own life's journey, the whole of Year 7 made the physical pilgrimage to our Cathedral in Portsmouth. The trip also fitted into their year of studies on 'Faith' in RE. There was a treasure hunt and reflective activities at the Cathedral. Back at school in the afternoon we continued our pilgrimage with large seminar sessions on 'Faith in Action' with a focus on CAFOD and the IF campaign. Some even sent 'loaves and fishes' to David Cameron as part of the campaign. Well done to Year 7 for their excellent participation in their pilgrimage from the RE Department and Year 7 team. Please read 7VP's account of the day below:



On Wednesday 26th June we went to St John's Cathedral. Whilst we were there we met Father Philip who gave an introduction about the Cathedral. In our groups we went to do activities which helped us understand the history of the Cathedral and about the Bishop. After the activities we had a break. Towards the end of the trip we had a Mass in the Cathedral. Our parents were welcome to come. During the Mass we sang hymns and took part in the Eucharist. After the Mass we left the Cathedral and returned to school. The trip was relaxing and educational and an overall good experience.

Federation Science Trip

On Wednesday 10th July 2013, 31 Year 8 students participated in a Havant Federation of Schools Science Event held at The Hayling College, Church Road, Hayling Island. The focus of the event was to allow some of the most able Year 8 students from across the Federation Schools to extend their understanding and passion for Science. The event was run by talented Cambridge University Science undergraduates and consisted of a series of workshops, designed to enthuse students, whilst also extending their thinking of key scientific concepts.

"The science trip was very good because I learnt about illnesses such as Salmonella. I also learnt different parts of the body and how your brain is the size of two fists. Overall it was a great day out and made me like science more."
Adam Opie (8Te)

"The Science trip was really interesting. I learnt a lot, like why light changes colour if you mix milk powder and water together and pour different amounts into a tube with a light underneath. It was really a good day and I enjoyed it."
Rebecca Berry (8Ca)

"We took part in various activities, such as looking at the heart. We enjoyed learning about our insides and how to create explosions with water and electric volts, but the best part about the trip was learning about women's rights. This was useful to us and we would love to do it again and try to get around all of the activities."
Olivia Burden and Aimee Murrell (8VP)

"On the Science trip we did experiments that made us learn new things. We did a few experiments which consisted of using a light, stethoscopes and catapulting Teddy Bears!"
Shannon Bartholomew (8Ca)

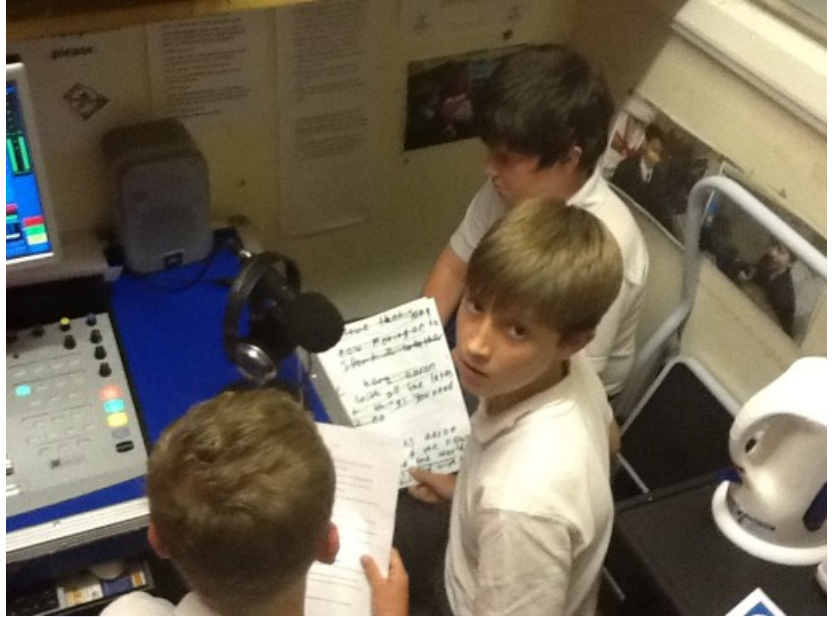
Radio Oaklands

On Thursday 11th July, Oaklands Catholic School were joined by 32 Year 6 students from St Peter's to produce a radio show. The task set by Mr Olford was to find news, sports and weather stories, write up a radio script, create a music playlist and then produce a 5 minute show.

The Year 6 students did brilliantly and had so much fun that some of them even put their names down to join Radio Oaklands when they start school here at Oaklands in September! Mr Olford and Ms Crane hosted a competition in which the best designed radio poster won a prize. Well done to the two lucky winners who went off with the bag of sweets. Here are some quotes from the day:

"Today has been so much fun"

"I want to be a radio presenter now when I'm older"



Fundraising for Macmillan Cancer Support

5am on 21st June 2013 began not only the longest day of the year but a round of golf for Sixth Form student Daniel Sheldon and friend Aaron Flippence.

In aid of Macmillan Cancer Support the boys played a total of 15 and half hours of Golf, finally finishing at 8:30 that evening.

Daniel and Aaron were inspired to take on this challenge when their friend and fellow Sixth Former Matt Turner was diagnosed with cancer.

While no one is ever prepared for such a diagnosis, it is important to have support from those around you. It is easy to feel helpless in these situations but many become inspired to take on practical challenges in an effort to provide motivation and inspiration for cancer patients and to help them deal with diagnosis and treatment. Both Aaron and Dan did just that and as the Sixth Form's answer to Rory McIlroy and Justin Rose they played a total of 72 holes (4 rounds).

The boys raised a whopping £1,282.80 for Macmillan. They have showed both support and stamina in this challenge and have provided a practical step towards helping a friend.



Duke of Edinburgh's Award

All the assessed expeditions both for the Silver and Bronze groups have now been completed and congratulations to all the participants who have passed this section of their Award. This year we enjoyed much more favourable weather on each of the four weekends, in fact the Silver assessed expedition took place over one of the hottest weekends of the year! I would now urge all participants to load up their reports (assessor and personal) into eDofE to ensure that the record of their achievement is not lost.

It is encouraging to note that a further three students from the group of 2011 have persevered to achieve their Bronze Award. Congratulations to:

Bethany Chamberlain

Thomas Hopkins

Libby Nicholls

At least five of our current participants have completed and are awaiting final approval – very well done. I would encourage all of you to upload your evidence so that you too complete your Award. If you wish to 'sign up' to join the Silver Award group at Oaklands then you must have completed your Bronze Award and had it sent for final approval before 31st July. Completion can take place up to your 25th birthday however I will archive your account at the end of the Autumn Term unless I can see that you are completing your Award.

Many in the Silver group are also close to completion so I urge you to upload your evidence and aim to finish this prestigious Award. Again I intend to archive your account at the end of the Autumn Term unless I can see you are making progress towards completion.

An encouraging number of Year 9 students recently attended a D of E workshop to understand more about the Award and how it works and their application forms are expected before the end of this term.

The situation at Oaklands continues to look very healthy in terms of those taking part in the Award scheme however none of this could happen without the support of a number of dedicated leaders. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to our success in whatever capacity this year: Mrs H Clarke, Mr K Geddes, Mr P Hoar, Mr J Kennett, Mrs G Martyn, Mrs H Matthews, Mr D Peake, Mrs N Riddle, Miss H Roberts, Mrs J Stirling, Mrs J Tyler, Mr C Wade, Mrs C Wise, Mr P Whelan and Mr H Wrightson. In particular we wish Mr Peake well in his new position and thank him for his support over the last two years – we will miss you.

Mrs J Hoar

D of E Co-Ordinator



pleted their Bronze Award

Others are close to completion so I

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Mrs J Hoar

D of E Co-Ordinator

Attendance

Question: What is the most effective way that you can support your child through school?

Answer: Send them to school every day.

Research has confirmed that there is an undeniable link between regular attendance and attainment; as a school we have always promoted the importance of good attendance. Recent Government focus also on Persistent Absenteeism (where a child's attendance falls below 85%, which is the equivalent of missing approximately 25 days in school year – that is 5 weeks of school, almost a whole half-term!) **Even a child with an attendance of 90% is missing the equivalent of half a day per week of the school year!**

This year our attendance has dropped by 0.3% in comparison to last year - we are concerned that this will not continue to drop – WE NEED YOUR HELP TO ENSURE THAT IT IMPROVES. We ask that you try, where possible, to follow these guidelines to ensure your child has optimum opportunities and development:

- Do not book holidays in term time – the school does NOT authorise holidays (unless there are exceptional circumstances as defined by the Department of Education). If you have extenuating circumstances please complete the Leave Of Absence form with details.
- Make medical/dental appointments out of school hours
- Phone or email school (absence@oaklands.hants.sch.uk) on the first day of an absence

Group	Authorised Absence %	Unauthorised Absence %
Whole School	3.9%	0.7%
Year 7	3.3	0.6
Year 8	3.9	0.4
Year 9	4.6	0.7
Year 10	4.2	0.8
Year 11	3.4	0.8

- Respond quickly to text messages requesting confirmation of an absence
- Send a note in with your child on their first day back after an absence, outlining the reason
- Attend the meetings requested by the Head of Year if your child is identified as a Persistent Absentee

Finally, be aware that research shows that an attendance rate of 90% is linked to one whole grade of underachievement at GCSE

SIMS Learning Gateway

This academic year (2012-13) we have changed our SIMS provider from Hampshire County Council to Capita. As a result of this change, regular users of the Oaklands SLG will have noticed that their account is no longer active.

In September, all Parents/Carers in Years 8 - 13 will be issued with a new account and password. This will mean that Parents and Carers will again be able to access attendance, timetable and assessment reports for their children. They will also be able to check and amend any errors in personal details that are held for their children (e.g. address, contact telephone numbers).



Instructions on how to access the new SLG will be sent home with students in September. Parents will be asked to validate or provide a current email address where the login details can be emailed.

School Uniform

Looking Good and Feeling Smart - Uniform

Our full school uniform is available in Skoolkit in Market Parade, Havant. They also offer an online shop and the order is delivered by post to your home. We have a significant number of students from the Portchester/Fareham areas and parents will be pleased to know that Skoolkit now stock our uniform in their Fareham branch also (23 Trinity Street). We hope parents will find this new arrangement much easier.

Second-hand uniform

The OPA are very keen to promote their Second-hand Uniform service – but they need stock! If your son/daughter has outgrown their uniform, we would be very pleased if you would donate any items which are in good condition. Freshly laundered uniform donations may be left in Reception or in Student Services. The second-hand uniform is a valuable source of income for the OPA (all monies raised through this are invested into school projects) and in these difficult financial times it is more important than ever. If you would like to make an enquiry about purchasing second hand uniform please send an email to: [uni-form@oaklands.hants.sch.uk](mailto:uniform@oaklands.hants.sch.uk) and a member of the OPA will contact you.



Some pre-shopping reminders:

Blazers – remember that the navy embroidered blazer is a compulsory school garment and must be worn to and from school. Please ensure your son/daughter is wearing it when they leave the house (and it is not rolled up in their school bag!). This must be purchased from Skoolkit or the OPA.

Skirts – Skirts should be navy blue, with sewn down pleats **all around**. We face an ever-present battle with our female students regarding the length of their skirts. Many girls roll up their waistbands and this results in skirt lengths which are not appropriate for a mixed learning environment. Please help us to help you – buy sufficiently long skirts and check the waistband before the girls leave home.

Trousers – boys trousers should be **navy blue formal tailored** trousers. **CHINOS OR OTHER CASUAL STYLE TROUSERS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.**

Shoes – students are required to wear black flat proper shoes; girls' heels should be no more than two inches. There has been a recent fashion of boys wearing black plimsolls or canvas shoes – this is not acceptable and contravenes the uniform regulations.

Key Dates

Term Dates 2013/2014

Autumn Term 2013

*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 2014

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 2014

Tue 22 April 2014 to Wed 23 July 2014.

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

***Tuesday 3rd September - there will be a phased start for Years 7, 12 and 13.**

Wednesday 4th September - all students in Years 7 - 11 will be in school.

Thursday 5th Sept. - KS4 Induction Evening - 7pm

Thursday 12th Sept. - Yr. 11 Intervention Evening - 6pm and KS5 Induction Evening - 7pm

Inset Days for 2013/2014 are as follows:

Friday 27th September 2013, Friday 20th December 2013,

Friday 4th July and Monday 21st July 2014.

Fond farewells

With over 160 staff it is inevitable that at the end of term some colleagues will be moving on.

Firstly, we say farewell to three Learning Support Assistants who have been with us for this academic year, **Kimberley Joyce**, **Hannah Matthews** and **Daryl Savage**. We also say farewell to **Mr Simon Candy** who has been teaching on a temporary basis in the Science department.

Niall Farrell has been with us for two years as Chaplain's Assistant, supporting work in the Oaklands community. We were delighted to learn recently that Niall has been accepted for formation to the priesthood and leaves for Spain later in the year.

Mr Duncan Peake joined the Technology Department four years ago and during his time at Oaklands has made an impact both in the Department and the extra-curricular life of the school through his commitment to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. He leaves us to take up an exciting new teaching post in Malawi.

Teaching KS3 English and a flourishing course in Law in the Sixth Form **Miss Marie Hames** joined Oaklands six years ago and has been a very popular and innovative teacher in both areas of the school. She leaves Oaklands to take up a post in Further Education at Peter Symonds College.

Through the School Sports Partnership scheme **Mrs Tracy Knight** has been working with the students at Oaklands and those of our link schools for the past eight years. Unfortunately, funding for this scheme comes to an end this year. Under Mrs Knight's guidance and leadership students have blossomed and developed in ways that would otherwise have been unobtainable to them.

The Geography Department will not be the same without **Mrs Sarah Shepherd** who retires from Oaklands after ten year's service to the school. Mrs Shepherd's first association with Oaklands was as a parent and through singing with the Oaklands Choral Society before joining the teaching staff in 2003. In 2005 Mrs Shepherd stepped up to the position of Head of Geography and has been an exceptional Head of Department; only relinquishing the role at the beginning of this year. Her contribution to the Geography Department and the Oaklands community has been outstanding over many years in her role as parent, teacher and governor.

Mrs Kay Eyre has long associations with Oaklands having been a former student and sending her boys to the school. She finally returned to Oaklands as a member of staff in the Technology Department from St. Peter's Primary School in 2001 to teach both Food and Textiles Technology and to undertake the demanding role of Head of Year. Through 'Oaklands News' many parents will have seen some of the wonderful creations that students have made under her watchful eye ranging from beautiful gowns to colourful wall hangings and, no doubt, sampled the culinary delights cooked by their children under her guidance. In her role as Head of Year many hundreds of students have benefited from her care and compassion over the years. Well deserved retirement now beckons.

Do you remember the song 'Don't leave me this way' by the Communards? Well, that was number one in the charts twenty seven years ago when **Mrs Christine Caine** joined Oaklands as Head of Home Economics in September 1986. Over the years much has changed in the charts and at Oaklands but Mrs Caine's dedication to the teaching of Food Technology and to the Oaklands community has gone from strength to strength. All our students will remember her work with them as they nervously settled into their new life in Year 7 at Oaklands and many will have learnt countless culinary skills at her hands. She has been a valued and much respected colleague. But, Mrs Caine retires from Oaklands leaving a rare legacy.... her daughter, who is a former Oaklands student, joins the teaching staff here in September and so the Caine dynasty continues!

We thank all these colleagues for their contribution to Oaklands, we will continue to remember them in our prayers and wish them success and fulfilment in all they do in the future.

St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School



Success

Opportunities

Stewardship



OFSTED conclusion: GOOD

'Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage make a good start to their education'

'Pupils make good progress and achieve well due to good teaching'

'Teachers have high expectations of their pupils and make lessons interesting so that pupils learn well'

'Pupils feel safe in school'

'The school enjoys a good partnership with parents'

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