

Term Dates
2013-14

No 395 Sep 13

Oaklands News

GCSE & A Level exam success

Faith and Football

Iceland trip

End of year celebrations



A publication for
Oaklands Catholic School
and Sixth Form College

Lead Stories

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Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

From the Headteacher's desk

Welcome back, I hope you all had a good and restful summer. A warm welcome to all our new readers of Oaklands News.

At the beginning of the summer my parents, who now live in Portsmouth, went to the funeral in Hertfordshire of an elderly family friend; he had suffered a stroke so had been ill for some time. After the funeral my parents started to pass the time of day with one of the other guests, who they had never met before and were unlikely ever to meet again. The guest was not related to the deceased friend but she knew him in her youth and when he was a much younger man. As the conversation developed it transpired that she knew the Portsmouth area very well; although coincidental this was not necessarily remarkable. What happened next was so: the woman then described in detail where she had lived as a child, then she gave the address. It was the very same house that I bought when I moved to Oaklands from Torquay seven years ago.

The chances of this happening are infinitesimally small. Some say that there had to be some synchronicity between so many events and people to make this occur, others that these occurrences are 'minor miracles'. Is this coincidence, fate, destiny, or part of God's master plan?

As Christians we believe that God has a purpose and plan for us, at the lowest points in our lives that is often difficult to see, when our hearts are filled with joy we think we feel we have

walked in God's light and indeed we have. All of us have a definite purpose to fulfil in a predetermined time and place. We have been given a unique combination of gifts and talents to fulfil this definite purpose. Pope Benedict shone a light on what this meant during his visit in 2010, "What God wants most of all for each one of you is that you should become holy. He loves you much more than you could ever begin to imagine, and he wants the very best for you. And by far the best thing for you is to grow in holiness." At the beginning of an academic year let our mantra be that we all grow in holiness using the talents and gifts we have been given to fulfil God's master plan whatever this might be.

Examination Success (see page 4)

Yet again, students have excelled at 'A' level, and GCSE. The detail at each level can be found further within this newsletter. At GCSE 72% of students achieved the gold standard of 5 or more grades A*-C including English and Maths. 'A' level results were 99%. In addition to outstanding levels of attainment, many students exceeded expectation at all levels. It is a time to celebrate! No doubt you will have caught some of the media 'hype' around the GCSE results; I have written about this further in.

Outstanding Pastoral Care

These achievements are the result of the hard work of students and our very talented and committed teachers. My thanks to the staff who came in over the holiday to administer the examination results. It is always a delight to speak to parents who are full of praise for the school and the teachers when the results are published. Whilst the comments about results are gratifying it has been the flood of comments about the outstanding quality of pastoral care and the superb support for the most vulnerable students from parents that creates the great resonance with our ethos. Thank you parents for this endorsement.

Busy Year Ahead

A busy year lies ahead of us; following last year's successful Ofsted we now have our Section 48 Diocesan Validation. This will occur on 24th and 25th October. Obviously it is important for the school and your child that the Validation goes well. In March 2014 we will hold our school Mission, this will provide the whole community with an opportunity to walk further in their faith journey. Over the holiday a number of parents have asked for a response about the Government 'deregulation' of term times, allowing schools to set holiday dates independently. We currently have no plans to change from the current arrangements. However, we will watch carefully any changes that happen locally and with our feeder primary schools.

Start of term

The start of term has gone very well, this year the Sixth Form induction included a presentation and activities with the Ten Ten theatre company. Year 7 also enjoyed two packed induction days.

Refurbishment Works

Over this summer a significant amount of refurbishment has gone on, some of which is in the final stages of completion. The remaining science labs are currently being finished, this completes the science lab refurbishment project. One set of changing rooms has been refurbished, including the installation of disabled facilities. Modifications have also been made in Art and English. The White House vestibules and staircase have been painted. This work has in part been paid for by parental contributions to the Governors Fund.



Communication

Please ensure that you have continued communication with the school via the normal means. Teachers for subject specific academic issues, Form Tutors and Heads of Year for pastoral issues. Other 'housekeeping' information relevant to the year will be issued through the normal channels.

Finally, this edition of the Oaklands News contains much information required for the start of term and the necessary reminders to ensure your child has the best start. Towards the back I have included the school calendar and a snapshot of all the assessment dates.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Matthew Quinn — Headteacher

Examination Success



On August 14th the waiting for 'A' level students was over. Students achieved a phenomenal **99% pass rate which was an improvement on the previous year. The number of grades at A* to C rose to 82.6% compared with 75.9% in 2012. The number of grades at A* to B increased to 60.4% compared with 50.7% in 2012.** Nine students achieved straight 'As' in 3 or 4 subjects.

The subjects in which a 100% pass rate had been achieved include History, English, Sciences, Geography, Business, Economics, Spanish and RE reflecting the academic profile of subjects on offer. Many other subjects were equally successful.

The school continues to justify its strong reputation at Advanced Level. The high grade profile achieved by our students will mean that the majority should gain entry to the university of their choice or employment and training. Once again, students at Oaklands will be going to some of the best universities to study demanding courses including Oxford, UCL, LSE, Durham, Warwick and Southampton.

Belinda Ludlam, Director of Sixth Form Learning, said that, "the results are tremendous and reflect the high standards that we set for our students in the Sixth Form. Our students can be justifiably proud of all the hard work that has underpinned their success, I am immensely proud of them all".

For GCSE students the waiting was over on 22nd August. The school is delighted to report a **very successful year's GCSE results. 72% of students at the school achieved 5 or more A*-C grades including English and Maths. This was a fantastic result from a comprehensive intake of students. In all other subjects students achieved 79%. The school will be one of the top performers in the county under the EBAC measure.**

100% of all students gained GCSE passes. A large number of students from the year group will now be going on to study A levels within the school Sixth Form.

For the second year in a row there were a number of students who achieved A* in every subject. A significant number of students achieved 9 or 10 Grade As or A*.

This year's results demonstrate the effectiveness of high quality teaching coupled with strong management systems and team work. The results also speak volumes of the school's positive relationship with parents, who have nurtured and encouraged students throughout their time at Oaklands. The school has achieved a consistently high standard of examination results despite the turbulence in the examination system.



Faith and Football Enterprise

In January there was a chance to enter a competition, run by Faith and Football, to raise money for people in India, the Philippines and Uganda. It lasted four months and thirty seven teams from different schools created their own business and went to sell their own products. By the end of the competition every group made a presentation for the judges so they could decide the winning team that would go to India.

“Girls in Hats” was set to join this competition and we made and sold jewellery. We made a range of jewellery including bracelets, rings, earrings and necklaces. Some of these products were made using recycled materials and all four of us in this business had our own style of jewellery to make. We were inspired to do this because we had found that you could get bracelet and jewellery making packs that had everything you needed to easily make lovely jewellery. We worked out other styles of jewellery and knew this was our best option and made a great product. Our unique selling point was making handmade jewellery and we all wore hats to stand out in the crowd. Our team came together because we all decided we wanted to help those who need it in poorer countries and we created a team so that we could be sure that we were helping others.

We had two trading days that were organised by Faith and Football. Every group that

took part went to the first day at Cascades and at The Meridian Centre. Cascades was a good experience in which to start selling but with so many teams there it was packed and harder to encourage customers to come to our stall. We sold a lot of products but because of the layout of our stalls it was not as much as we expected. At the Meridian Centre there were fewer teams so there was a lot more space and we were able to pick where we wanted to be. We found it was better there with more customers and we gained from the experience of selling at Cascades.

On 11th June, the results were announced. Everybody who took part received a certificate and some teams got awards for being highly recommended. But the winning team that will be going to India is Girls In Hats!

We were all very excited and shocked to hear the news that we get to go to India and at first it seemed too good to be true. It will be an amazing experience to go to India and see the orphanage that we helped raise money for. It will be a once in a life time experience that we will not forget.

By Girls In Hats – Georgina Page, Emma Latham, Felicity Barrows and Bini Sibi.



Iceland Trip 2013 Mr Bamford

Oaklands News

School finished a week later for thirty two students and four members of staff in July, but there were very few complaints as the group spent a memorable week in Iceland – the land of ‘Fire and Ice’. This was the fifth time the Geography department has taken students to the country



and an extra day was added to the itinerary this year. A trip to Iceland will always concentrate on the physical

landscape, but we were fortunate to visit Reykjavik on the final day and visit the meeting place where Reagan and Gorbachev held talks in 1986. The talks collapsed at the last minute, but the progress that had been achieved eventually resulted in the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty between the US and the Soviet Union. Perhaps of equal – if not greater – political importance was the site of the ‘Althing’ meeting place at Þingvellir. This is one of the oldest extant parliamentary institutions in the world, with the first meeting having taken place in 930 A.D. In fact, this particular location is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

As in previous years, the students were captivated by the sheer scale and variety of landscapes ex-

perienced. On arrival, we visited the Blue Lagoon spa, which is actually the industrial discharge from a geothermal power station! The power of the inner heat of the earth was a constant theme as the students climbed volcanoes, bathed in outdoor pools, watched geysers erupt and stood in almost disbelief as the pools of water in front of them bubbled and boiled as they watched. The volcanism on the island has produced mountainous regions too and this, combined with the northern latitude, has enabled glaciers to form. In fact, we walked on the Solheimajokull glacier kitted out with crampons and ice axes and the meltwater from such glaciers also enabled us to view truly magnificent waterfalls.

There was no real consensus in terms of favourite locations visited, but a highlight for me was the visit inland to Landmannalaugar. The walk through the Obsidian lava field, surrounded by the incredible beauty of the Rhyolite mountains in bright sunshine was something I will never forget. The journey there was just as impressive, with the imposing summit of the Hekla volcano never far from view.

I could not have run this trip without support from my colleagues and I was very fortunate to be accompanied by Miss Helyer, Mr Tyler and Mr Cunningham and I would like to thank them for all that they did, but also on behalf of the students who attended the trip too. The students themselves were a pleasure to spend time with and didn't whinge too much when told they had yet another location to walk to!



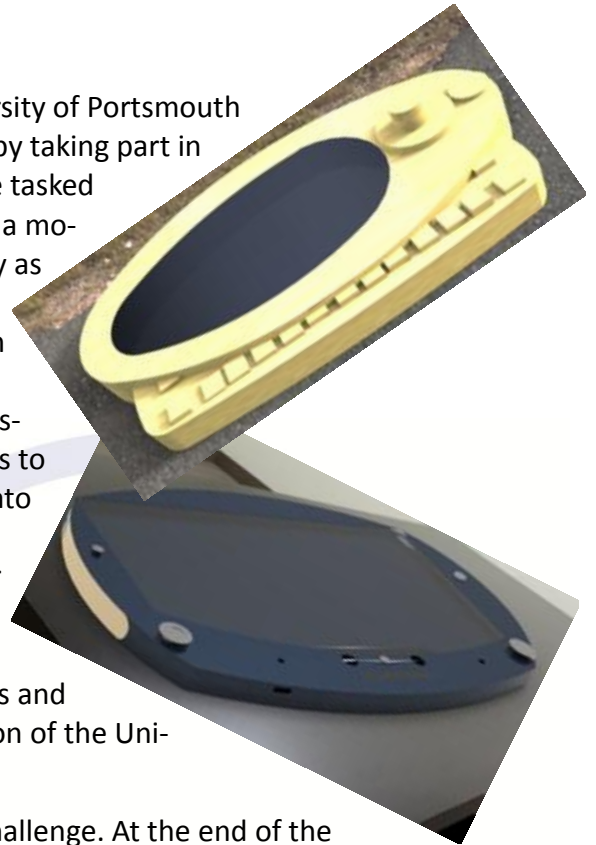
Year 9 Product Design Workshop

“Is it possible to re-design the mobile phone?”



Students from Year 9 went to the University of Portsmouth to find out the answer to this question by taking part in a design challenge set by Orange. They were tasked with creating a new and different design for a mobile phone, one that was a fashion accessory as well as a phone.

The students all set to work to come up with innovative solutions to this difficult design problem, with help from lecturers from Portsmouth University. They then used computers to draw up their ideas and then render them into photo quality computer generated images. The university staff also took them on a tour of the department as a taster of the facilities that are used at university level. This included the latest rapid prototyping machines and 3D printers, as well as seeing the construction of the Universities' race car.



The students were fantastic and worked really well on their challenge. At the end of the day they were able to produce some really high quality images of creative mobile phones.

Year 9 BAE Maritime Engineering Challenge

At the end of last term, five Year 9 students who had been working during their lunchtimes on a design task set by BAE systems, needed to produce a working model of a new concept boat for the Navy. One that could travel fast, carry cargo and survive being damaged at sea.

Working with engineers from BAE systems our students learned about structures, naval architecture and ship design. They worked hard to produce a number of different and interesting designs, finally settling on a multihull cargo vessel concept.

Working to a tight deadline the students did well to produce a working model to present at a trip to the historic dockyard.

Their model stood up very well to the tests provided by the BAE engineers proving that it was quick, stable and practically unsinkable. After the testing the students were able to enjoy a behind the scenes tour of the historic dockyard as well as a visit to the fast boats production facility within the naval base.

A very good and well deserved day was enjoyed by the students after all of their hard work during their lunchtimes. We would also like to say a big thank you to BAE systems for this experience.



National figures recently published by the exam boards confirm that the proportion of students achieving A*-C at GCSE has dropped for the second year in a row, furthermore the number of A* and A grades has also declined. Educational pundits have cited early entry at the end of Year 10 and multiple entry in the same subject across a number of examination boards as part of the reason for the decline. In some schools the exam process has become a war of attrition – if students take exams often enough at some point a pass will be achieved.

Balanced curriculum

The school's view is that students should take a broad and balanced curriculum with GCSE exams at the core of this. At Oaklands the vast majority of students complete their GCSEs in Year 11, rather than gnawing away at GCSE totals by multiple entry or early entry in Year 10.

More challenge

Over the next few years all schools will see a recalibration of examination performance, with a potential national reduction in pass rates. The government have made it clear that they want a 'toughening up' of the system; more challenging courses are being introduced in Science, the reduction in the currency of equivalent qualifications, the introduction of the assessment of spelling, punctuation and grammar in many subjects, the reduction in course work and controlled assessment and the removal of modular exams will all lead to a more demanding examination system. Some of this was borne out in the evidence we have seen this year. In 2012 to achieve a C at GCSE Maths foundation level candidates were required to achieve 130/200 marks, in 2013 they required 143/200 marks. In English in January 2012 to achieve a C at foundation level candidates were required 43/60 marks, in June 2013

they required 55/60 marks. Similar changes are evident in other subjects. If that was not enough, on 29th August, Ofqual confirmed that "speaking and listening" controlled assessments would be excluded from GCSE assessment for students taking English Language in Summer 2014.

Disadvantageous for students

There is a danger that, during this transition, schools just focus on GCSE exams, this would be a mistake and disadvantageous to students. These changes have far reaching consequences before the exams at the end of Year 11. All schools use historic statistical models to predict student performance at GCSE, based on primary Key Stage 2 data. As GCSEs become more demanding the tried and tested predictions no longer 'fit'. Unless there is a corresponding hike in levels at Key Stage 2 results at the end of the primary phase could provide a false impression of potential success at the end of GCSE. In addition, it is now becoming increasingly obvious that certain attainment targets at Key stage 2 are more significant than others for success at GCSE. (This does not detract from the enormous

amount of hard work that I have witnessed first hand, that goes on in our feeder primary schools). At Oaklands our core subject leaders are aware of this dilemma and have started a process of recalibrating and, in some areas, 'toughening' up on our own internal assessments to reflect what is occurring at GCSE. In support of this all parents in Years 7 and 8 received a letter at the end of the last academic year explaining this situation.

Students take more responsibility

All parents are aware of how important it is to achieve good examination results, particularly in English and Maths. I stand by the comments I made on Meridian News on 22nd August; a C grade now is not the same as a C grade achieved two years ago. The current trend suggests it will become more difficult for some youngsters, for some they will have to work harder, for some smarter and for others they will have to take more responsibility for their own learning. The close relationship between home and school is key to this endeavour.

Communication with school

Many parents comment that the text and email service is the most effective alternative to ensure messages get home. When we send an SMS message it automatically copies that SMS into an identical email. Each SMS message we send is limited to a number of characters per message, and we are charged per message. So you can imagine with over

600



mobile phone numbers on the system the cost quickly escalates, if the message is split into two texts the cost doubles. It is for this reason that when you receive an SMS message it will be written in modern text language so that we can fit the communication into a single text message.

Sports Day Returns

Sports day returned this year after being rained off last year. The day was a great success with many students performing at a high level. The morning started with some students having competed already in the 1500m, Discus and Triple Jump which left the rest of the tutor groups to build on the start they had made. The overall Tutor Group winners were St. Clare who achieved 483 points.

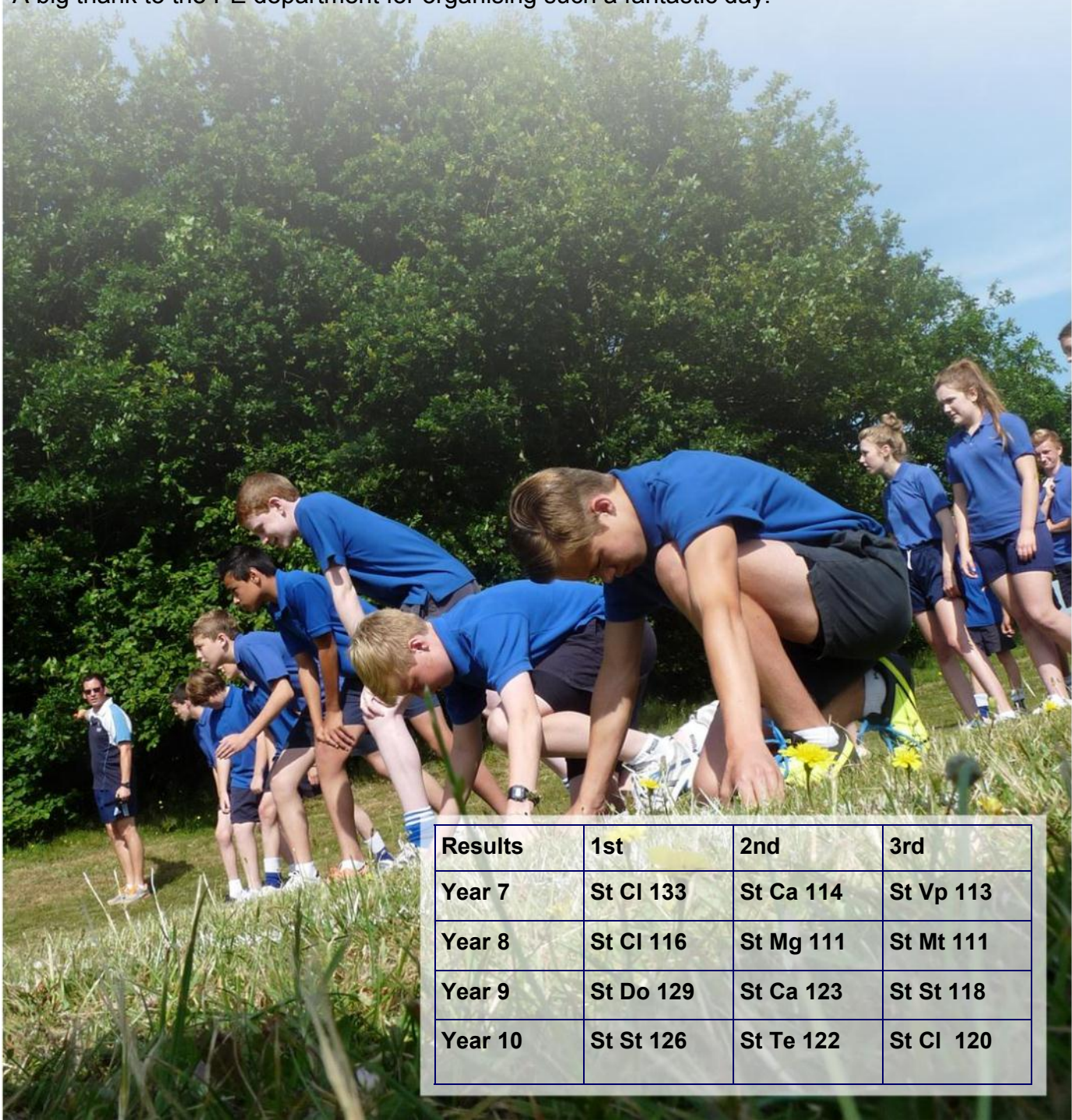
A number of school records were broken including:

Year 8 Boys 300m Jonah North 46.5sec

Year 9 Boys 300m Alex Latta 45.1sec

Year 10 Girls 300m Devon Brimecombe 47.0sec

A big thank to the PE department for organising such a fantastic day.



Results	1st	2nd	3rd
Year 7	St Cl 133	St Ca 114	St Vp 113
Year 8	St Cl 116	St Mg 111	St Mt 111
Year 9	St Do 129	St Ca 123	St St 118
Year 10	St St 126	St Te 122	St Cl 120

Welcome to Short-term Staff Mr Quinn

We extend a warm welcome to the following members of staff who join us this year on training programmes or temporary contracts for a variety of reasons e.g. to cover staff on maternity leave etc:

Miss K Alford (Chemistry), Miss A by de Ley (Psychology), Miss K Dyer (English), Mrs H Healy (Lunch Supervisor), Mr B Hassall (LSA), Miss A Ho (Chaplain's Assistant), Miss S Hopkins (History), Miss L Hudson (LSA), Miss N Kettle (LSA), Mr D Ludlam (Intervention), Mrs M McIntyre-Loveridge (Maths), Mr M Rowland (LSA), Mr M Snelling (Art) and Miss L Wrightson (LSA).

Term Dates 2013/2014 Mr Quinn

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.

Inset Days for 2013/2014 are as follows:

Friday 27th September 2013, Friday 20th December 2013, Friday 4th July and Monday 21st July 2014.

Contact Details

Parents are asked to ensure that any change of contact details are communicated to the school as soon as possible to enable us to keep our records up to date. Thank you.

Educational Trips and Visits

Oaklands continues to offer a wide range of extra-curricular and off-site activities. This year we intend to further reduce administration by retaining the ONE medical form which was completed by all parents /carers with children in Years 8-11 last academic year.

Parents / carers of new Year 7 students will be asked to complete and return a medical form within the first weeks of the term.

This medical form will be used to cover Category 1, 2 and 3 school trips for each academic year.

We will continue to review this process and welcome any feedback from parents and carers.

Category 1

Routine visits to other local schools and facilities

Category 2

Non-hazardous day visits such as museums, theatres, workshop events, geography field trips or college visits.

Category 3

Non-hazardous residential trip in the UK

These forms are held centrally and used throughout the year to cover the above trips.

However, should there be a change to any of the medical details held by the school, we ask that parents/carers update us by completing a new form and copies will be available from Student Services or from the school website to facilitate this.

We will of course continue to ask parents and carers for a separate medical form for Category 4 and 5 trips.

Category 4

Non-hazardous trip abroad, residential and non-residential.

Category 5

Hazardous activity such as:

Adventure activities using licensed providers

Adventure activities using non-licensable providers

School-led adventure activities

Remote supervision during adventurous activities

Visits to coastal or mountain areas

Swimming in the sea or other natural waters.

A few gentle reminders Mr Quinn

Student Planners were distributed to all students last week. Parents are asked to familiarise themselves with this important aid to academic progress. In particular, parents are reminded to sign the homework section each week.

Parents are asked to remind their children that they should not be carrying around large numbers of books. One of the problems is that students seem to carry all their books for the day which is not necessary. The way to overcome the problem is for students to make sure they are well organised. All students should have been allocated a locker or a share of a locker to which they have access first thing in the morning, break and lunch times and the end of the day. During the day, no student needs to carry books for more than two lessons at any one time. At the end of the day, students should only take home the books that they need for homework on that particular night. Parents are asked to encourage their child to follow this important guidance.

Perimeter Fence/Flat Roof — Parents are asked to remind their children that it is **strictly forbidden** for any student to attempt to climb over the perimeter fence or, onto a flat roof anywhere on the school site for whatever reason. If, for example, a ball is kicked over the perimeter fence, then the Caretaker should be informed and students will have to wait until the Caretaker has time to retrieve it.

Use of E-mail

Parents can of course e-mail the school. It is not school policy to issue staff e-mail addresses to parents, although in certain circumstances specific staff will provide their contact details.

When e-mailing the school through the Oakland's e-mail address please ensure you include the name of your child, and the member of staff to whom the e-mail is to be forwarded. Last year we had too many e-mails that were difficult to redirect, particularly where parent and child have a different surname and the child's name has not been included.

Please do not expect an instant reply to electronic communication. However, you should expect to receive acknowledgement within 3 working days.

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 expensive 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.

Praise and affirmation are the best motivators – this is equally true for adults as well as young people. At the end of the last academic year we had the great pleasure of celebrating many students' talents and gifts. The first successes were applauded in July with a week of assemblies focused on the presentation of the Tutor Awards and rewarding outstanding sporting achievements (Mr Tindal on behalf of the PE Dept). These Tutor Awards, nominated by tutors, celebrate the accomplishments (be it academic, personal or pastoral) of their tutees who contribute to the life of the school.

On the final day of term we presented the final sporting honours and also the Governors' End of Year Awards. These prestigious awards are nominated by the academic departments and only one student per subject per year group will receive the coveted engraved glass plaque. The recipients of these awards are nominated by a variety of criteria – outstanding performance; outstanding commitment or clear passion for the subject.

We also awarded the following shields to some outstanding students:

Terry Stevens Award (Music) – Kieran Lyster:

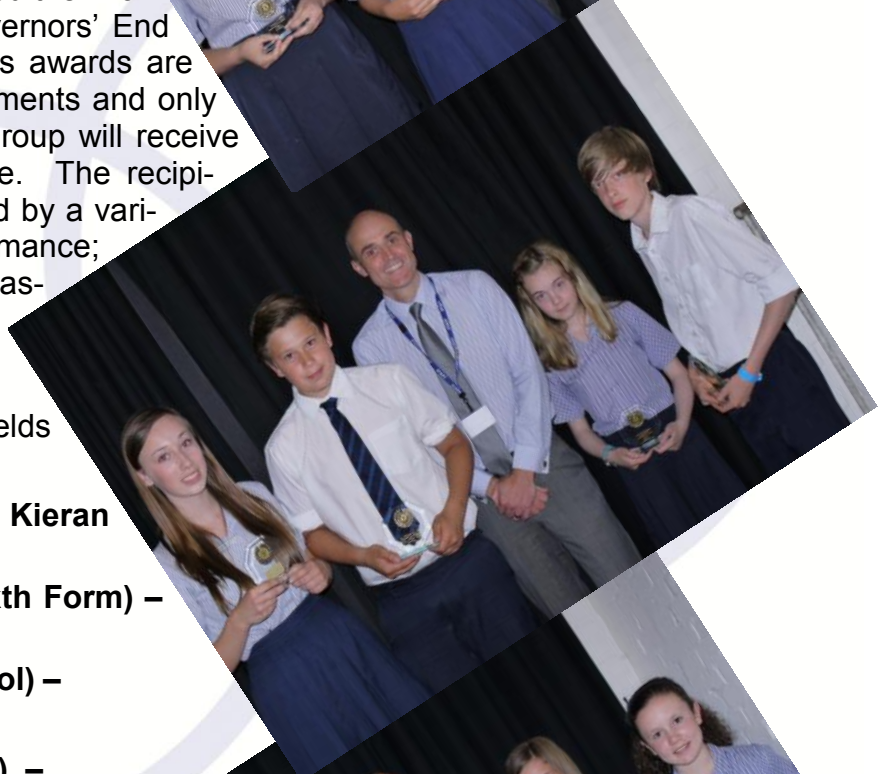
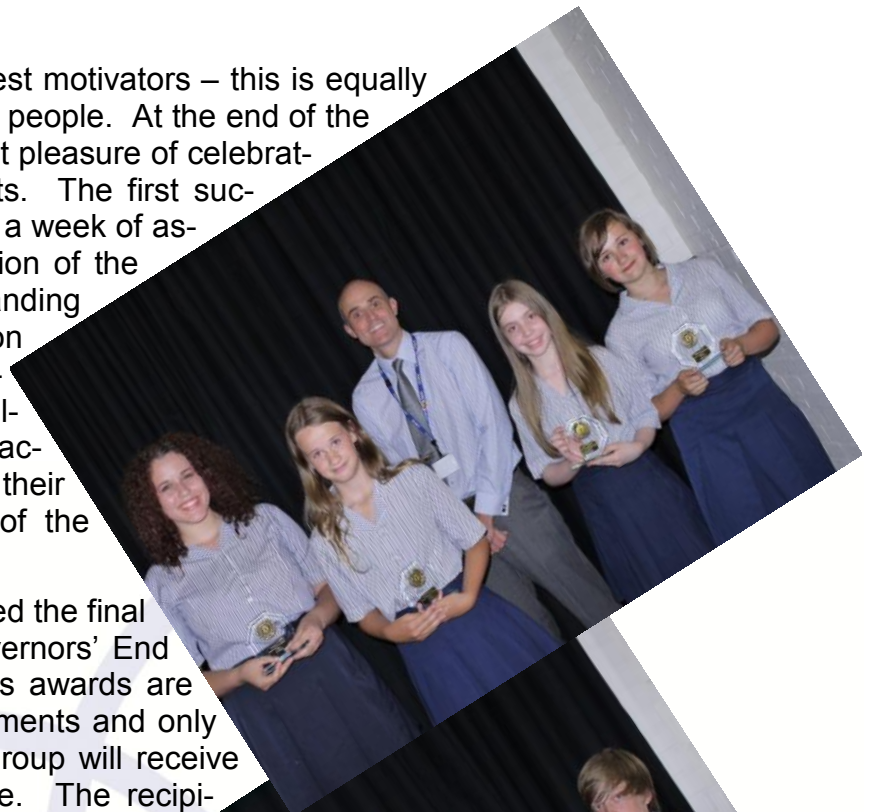
The Damian Whitfield Award (Sixth Form) – Emily Day;

The Damian Whitfield (Main School) – Joe Brady;

The Helen Shipman Award (Sport) – Sebastian Tyler and Olivia Ponsford.

These awards are all subject to Governors' approval. We are grateful to Mr Andy Hastilow for taking time out of his busy schedule to present the prizes. Indeed we are fortunate to have a Governing Body who sponsor this recognition of contribution to curricular life.

We hope that these various awards will motivate our young people to "aspire not to have more but to be more".



A Journey to Priesthood Mr Quinn

Almost five years ago I appointed Helen Floyd as our Chaplain, the work she undertakes in school provides enormous spiritual energy to staff and students. Appointing a Chaplain is one of the most important decisions a school can make, it is a unique role, challenging but rewarding. A few years ago we developed the role of the Chaplain's Assistant in response to the shortage of Chaplains. The position which comes with a bursary provides a young person with the opportunity to discern whether they would like to follow a vocation or a career in Chaplaincy now or at some point in the future. Niall Farrell joined us two years ago at which point he was considering his vocation.

This is Niall's story.

Back in November 2011 I joined Oaklands in the role of Chaplain's Assistant, as I took the first major step in discovering my vocation to the priesthood. At the time I was working full-time for a bank, and, similar to St Matthew who was a tax collector, Jesus gave the invitation of "Come follow me", and so I did.

Up to this point I had spent about two years telling myself (and God) that I was not called to be one of His priests. At every chance I had I made sure I chose a different path, "anything but priesthood" I kept telling myself. But it was whilst at World Youth Day in Madrid earlier in the summer that the Lord gave up being subtle, and so it was then that I came to realise that maybe this was the path which He had prepared for me.

During my two years here at Oaklands I have felt privileged to be part of a community where I have been able to help and support students in some of their darkest and most challenging times, but also to share in their times of celebration and joy. I have learnt in so many ways how God is able to use each of us to share His love with others, and of course, there have been challenges as well but I have loved every moment of it.

I now head off to Valladolid, Spain, to begin the first stage of my formation at St Alban's College, but before I go, there are some words I would like to share of St Therese of Lisieux which always seem apt when thinking of communities, but even more so with the field of flowers that is Oaklands.

"I understood that every flower created by Him is beautiful, that the brilliance of the rose and the whiteness of the lily do not lessen the perfume of the violet or the sweet simplicity of the daisy. I understood that if all the lowly flowers wished to be roses, nature would no longer be enamelled with lovely hues. And so it is in the world of souls, Our lord's living garden."

As a community we will continue to pray for Niall during his journey. It is my prayer that the Lord will continue to call him to priesthood and that one day he will come back to Oaklands to celebrate mass with us. I am sure he will take great strength in knowing that you are praying for him too.



Attendance Matters Mr Quinn

Attendance is one of the high profile key performance indicators of any school (and the single most influential factor in a student's success) and here at Oaklands we are delighted to inform you that our figure for 2012-13 was 95.7% which is excellent. This would not be possible if we did not have your parental support.

Holidays in term time will not be permitted:

Leave of Absence All parents/carers should please note that **we do not authorise holidays taken during term-time** (this may differ to policies or practice you have experienced in other feeder primary schools) unless there are extenuating circumstances (as outlined in the Governors Registration and Attendance Policy, Page 4, which is available on the school website). The Headteacher will decide as to what might constitute exceptional circumstances and each request will be considered on an individual basis. The school will not accept as an exceptional circumstance the fact that a holiday is cheaper during term-time. An exceptional circumstance is much more likely to be a one-off, for example, a significant trauma in the family or for **Forces** personnel whose duties and leave is inflexible. More detail can be found in the policy. The school will also look very carefully at the child's previous attendance record.

Reporting absence: Don't forget that you can report an absence for the school to authorise by sending an email to Mrs Vacher on absence@oaklands.hants.sch.uk instead of sending in a note. We do random checks to ensure validity and authenticity of the email. You may also use the school's texting service is that is more convenient.

Persistent Absence: If your child is **persistently absent** (ie: falls below the **85%** minimum Government attendance level) you will receive a letter or telephone call from Mrs McConn-Finch or the Head of Year. We categorise our attendance in a "traffic light" system – green, yellow and red. There are varying degrees of support available and this will be discussed in a parental meeting with SLT/Head of Year.

Punctuality Punctuality to school and to individual lessons is an area which the school monitors very closely. All students are registered electronically for all lessons and teaching staff also input additional information into those registers – minutes late on arrival to school, and minutes late on arrival to lessons. We will monitor this data and certain individuals may be highlighted for closer inspection. If this is the case with your son/daughter, you will receive notification either from the Head of Year or by letter from Mrs McConn-Finch of the number of learning minutes missed; as a consequence your son or daughter will be required to "catch up" those minutes after school and, if the pattern persists, you will be invited in for a meeting to discuss improvement strategies.

Oaklands News Anniversary Edition

This Summer we will be producing the 400th edition of the Oaklands News. We intend to produce a limited edition souvenir brochure which will be printed in colour and distributed to 1500 families, homes, businesses and local schools.

Advertising space will be available in this brochure starting from £100.

If you are interested in the opportunity and would like to find out more please contact J.Mccall@oaklandscatholicschool.org.



Welcome to New Staff Mr Quinn

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members of staff and hope that they will have a long and happy association with us here at Oaklands: Mr T Ball (Law), Mrs M Brooks (Family Support Worker), Miss K Caine (Geography), Miss J Dugan (English), Mrs J Evans (Media), Mr B Horrod (Technology), Mrs K Iwara (R.E.), Miss C Mousdale (Technology), Mr R Osborne (Facilities Manager), Mr G Taylor (Science), Miss L Tilley (Maths), Mrs M Wise (Technology).

Governor Elections Mr Quinn

We have two Parent Governor vacancies which we would like to fill as soon as possible. The task of a Parent Governor has developed since Oaklands became an Academy two years ago. At present all Governors are also Directors of the Academy and whilst this may sound daunting, the responsibilities are almost exactly the same as before. There are, however, different financial and reporting frameworks and a different relationship with the Local Authority and the Department for Education. Conversion has given us the chance to be more free-thinking and imaginative in the provision of services.

A letter will be issued to all families asking for volunteers for this important role.

Admissions September 2014 Mrs White

CATHOLIC CHILDREN –

The process of applications for next year's Year 7, September 2014 is already underway. If you are a Catholic family expecting to apply for a place for your son/daughter for September 2014 and you have not filled in an application form, please contact the Admissions Secretary, Mrs Linda White, immediately.

CHILDREN FROM OTHER CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS –

If you already have a child at Oaklands and you are expecting to apply for a place for a younger child for September 2014 and you have not already done so, you should also contact the Admissions Secretary, Mrs Linda White immediately.

OTHER CHRISTIAN DENOMINATION FAMILIES

Families applying to Oaklands for their first child to come to Oaklands in September 2014 should also write to the Admissions Secretary, Mrs Linda White immediately.

It is essential, therefore, that all parents applying for a place for September 2014 should contact the Admissions Secretary immediately if they have not already done so. Any delay will prejudice the chances of a successful application.

In all cases, the closing date for applications is Thursday 31st October 2013.

Guidelines for parents collecting their children from school by car

- Please do not come onto the campus and park before the end of the school day unless you are collecting your child for an appointment and have made prior arrangements with the school. The **school gates are closed at 3 p.m.** each day.
- Try to time your arrival to collect your child at **4.00 p.m.** when you will avoid queues outside the school gates.
- If arriving early before the school gates are opened at **3.50 p.m.**, do not park on the zig-zag lines or in the bus bay on Stakes Hill Road.
- Under no circumstances should parents park on the opposite side of Stakes Hill Road in the vicinity of the gates, as this can prevent traffic moving along the main road.
- Only collect your child inside the school grounds, do not meet them on the road outside.
- Drive slowly when on the school campus. The speed limit is 5 mph.
- Do NOT attempt to pick up your child before going around the school roundabout and always park in the designated pick-up area.
- Drive to the furthest point on the pick-up area to maximise the use of this section of roadway. Do NOT park near or on the roundabout.
- Take particular care when pulling out from your parking space – there have been a number of minor bumps over the years.
- Never call your child across the main drive – they must always cross at the designated point near the steps adjacent to Kolbe Block.

Parents are asked to act with courtesy and consideration at all times in the interests of other road users and for the safety of the students when on the school campus.

Assessment and reporting by activity and Year group

	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13
Working at Grades				21/10/13		16/10/13 18/11/13 10/02/14 14/03/14	04/10/13 25/11/13 10/02/14 14/03/14
Parents Eve	08/05/14	28/11/13	05/12/13	01/05/12	13/02/14	20/03/14	10/10/13 20/03/14
Transition reports	24/10/13						
Assessments	From 19/05/14	From 24/02/14	From 02/06/14	From 4/11/13			
Written Reports	20/06/14	27/06/14	09/07/14	04/04/14	08/11/13		
Progress Review	14/03/14	21/03/14		10/12/13		18/11/13	25/11/13
Consultation afternoon						21/11/13	
Core exams			20-25/11/13 (results 2/12/13)				
Mock exams				From 23/06/14	From 13/01/14 Results 07/02/14	From 26/04/14 Results 30/04/14	From 26/04/14 Results 30/04/14
Option Eve			11/02/14				
Predicted grades				04/04/14 15/07/14	02/05/14		

School Calendar Autumn Term

Tue	03/09/2013	Phased start Years 7,12,13
Wed	04/09/2013	All Year 7-11 students in school
Thu	05/09/2013	KS4 Induction Evening 7pm
Fri	06/09/2013	School Photos Years 7,9,11 and 12
Mon	09/09/2013	Oaklands Parents' Association (OPA) Committee Meeting
Wed	11/09/2013	Full Governors Meeting
Thu	12/09/2013	Year 11 Intervention Evening 6pm KS5 Induction Evening 7pm
Tue	17/09/2013	Governor Chairs of Sub Committees Meeting
Mon	23/09/2013	Governors' Curriculum Staffing Committee Meeting
Wed	25/09/2013	HPV (1)Vaccinations
Thu	26/09/2013	OPEN EVENING 6-8pm
Fri	27/09/2013	INSET Day School Closed
Mon	30/09/2013	Governors' Finance Maintenance Committee Meeting
Mon	07/10/2013	OPA Committee Meeting
Thu	10/10/2013	Year 13 Parents' Evening 5—7pm
Wed	16/10/2013	Full Governors Meeting
Fri	18/10/2013	Non Uniform Day
Thu	24/10/2013	Section 48 Diocesan Validation Inspection
Fri	25/10/2013	Section 48 Diocesan Validation Inspection
Mon 28/10/2013— Fri 01/11/2013 Half Term		
Mon	04/11/2013	Governors' Curriculum Staffing Committee Meeting. OPA Committee Meeting
Fri	08/11/2013	Year 11 Reports Home
Mon	11/11/2013	Anti-Bullying Week. Year 7 Academic Mentoring Week
Wed	13/11/2013	SEN Parents' Evening 4pm
Thu	14/11/2013	Sixth Form Open Evening
Sat	16/11/2013	OPA Christmas Craft Fayre
Mon	18/11/2013	Year 8 Book Sharing Week. Governors' Finance Maintenance Committee Meeting AS Progress Review Home
Thu	21/11/2013	Year 12 Consultation Afternoon
Mon	25/11/2013	Year 9 Book Sharing Week. A2 Progress Review Home
Wed	27/11/2013	HPV Vaccinations (2)
Thu	28/11/2013	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Mon	02/12/2013	OPA Committee Meeting
Tue	03/12/2013	Peripatetic Concert
Wed	04/12/2013	Full Governors Meeting
Thu	05/12/2013	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Tue	10/12/2013	Year 10 Progress Review Home
Wed	11/12/2013	Christmas Music Concert
Fri	13/12/2013	Oaklands Christmas Ball
Tue	17/12/2013	Christmas Carol Service
Thu	19/12/2013	Last Day of Term
Fri	20/12/2013	INSET Day—School Closed

Dates and times accurate at time of going to press. The school reserves the right to make alterations.

School Calendar Spring Term

Mon	06/01/2014	First Day of Term
Tue	07/01/2014	Governor Chairs of Sub Committees and OPA Committee Meetings
Thu	09/01/2014	Presentation of Certificates Evening
Mon	13/01/2014	Year 11 Practice Exams commence Governors' Curriculum Staffing Committee Meeting
Mon	20/01/2014	Governors' Finance Maintenance Committee Meeting
Mon	27/01/2014	Faith Unity Week
Mon	03/02/2014	Year 11 Book Sharing Week. OPA Committee Meeting
Wed	05/02/2014	Full Governors Meeting
Fri	07/02/2014	Year 11 Practice Exam Grades Home
Tue	11/02/2014	Year 9 Courses Information Evening
Thu	13/02/2014	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Fri	14/02/2014	Ski Trip Departs
Mon -	17/02/2014	Half Term
Fri	21/02/2014	
Tue	25/02/2014	School Production
Wed	26/02/2014	School Production
Thu	27/02/2014	School Production
Mon	03/03/2014	OPA Committee Meeting
Wed	05/03/2014	Ash Wednesday
Mon	10/03/2013	School Mission Week Governors' Curriculum Staffing Committee Meeting
Mon	17/03/2014	Governors' Finance Maintenance Committee Meeting
Wed	19/03/2014	HPV Vaccinations (3)
Thu	20/03/2014	Years 12/13 Parents' Evening
Fri	21/03/2014	Year 8 Progress Review Home
Wed	26/03/2014	Full Governors Meeting
Fri	28/03/2014	Sixth Form Practice Exams commence
Mon	31/03/2014	OPA Committee Meeting Year 10 Reports Home
Fri	04/04/2014	Last day of term

Tue	22/04/2014	First Day of Term Year 10 Book Sharing Week
Thu	24/04/2014	Governor Chairs of Sub Committees Meeting
Mon	28/04/2014	Year 7 Parent Book Share Week
Thu	01/05/2014	Year 10 Parents' Evening 5—8pm
Fri	02/05/2014	Year 11 Final Predictions Home
Tue	06/05/2014	Governors' Curriculum Staffing Committee Meeting OPA Committee Meeting
Thu	08/05/2014	Year 7 Parents' Evening 5—8pm
Mon	12/05/2014	Public Exam season commences Governors' Finance Maintenance Committee Meeting
Wed	21/05/2014	Final Day Year 11
Thu	22/05/2014	Final Day Year 13
Mon -	26/05/2014	Half Term
Fri	30/05/2014	
Mon	02/06/2014	OPA Committee Meeting
Wed	04/06/2014	Full Governors Meeting
Mon	16/06/2014	Governors' Curriculum Staffing Committee Meeting
Thu	19/06/2014	Peripatetic Music Concert
Fri	20/06/2014	Year 7 Reports Home
Mon	23/06/2014	Year 10 Exams Governors' Finance Maintenance Committee Meeting
Fri	27/06/2014	Year 8 Reports Home
Mon	30/06/2014	Challenge Week
Tue	01/07/2014	OPA Committee Meeting
Wed	02/07/2014	Year 10 Professional Day
Thu	03/07/2014	Year 10 Professional Day
Fri	04/07/2014	Inset Day — school closed
Tue	08/07/2014	Year 10 Post 16 Evening
Wed	09/07/2014	Year 9 Reports Home Full Governors Meeting
Fri	11/07/2014	Induction Day for New Year 7 students
Mon	14/07/2014	Induction Evening for New Year 7 Parents and Students
Tues	15/07/2014	Year 10 Exam Grades Home
Wed	16/07/2014	Sports Day
Fri	18/07/2014	End of Term

Dates and times accurate at time of going to press. The school reserves the right to make alterations.



Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College



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

✉ **Stakes Hill Road Waterlooville P07 7BW**

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

🌐 **www.oaklands.hants.sch.uk**

☎ **023 9225 9214**

Community Opportunity Unity

