

Students visit Royal Institution

No 398 Jan 14

Oaklands News

Chris Bain

Director of CAFOD

talks at
Certificates
Evening



A publication for
Oaklands Catholic School
and Sixth Form College

Lead Stories



Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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

At the end of every year and the beginning of the next much media attention is given to reflecting on the year that has been and the year to come. There were three such pieces that caught my attention. The first was *Time* magazine's 'Person of the Year' 2013. This was awarded to Pope Francis. I have to admit to reading no further than the front cover. However, in coming to the decision I am sure his humility and attention to justice and peace were considerable factors in recognition. Apparently, this is one of the world's most prestigious media awards; previous winners have included Mahatma Ghandi, Winston Churchill, Martin Luther King, and John Paul II.

The second comes from *The Telegraph* which reported on the most popular global topics on Facebook in 2013. Pope Francis was revealed to be the most popular global topic last year, eclipsing baby Prince George, the Harlem Shake and Ms Cyrus.

The third piece was published by the BBC in its online news magazine and was titled '20 of the most over used words of 2013'. Auntie Beeb maintains that "Every year some words get so overused there's a call to banish them the next". The list includes selfie, passion, legacy, look (verb imperative form), robust, absolutely and Yeah-no. My favorite from the list, for Room 101 has to be 'do'. "Shall we do London tomorrow?" is the question. Presumably these people are actually

going or visiting London, rather than "doing" it. I will have to admit to being found 'guilty as charged' with the overuse of one of these.

Whilst all of this might seem slightly trivial and in many respects it is, I am left feeling slightly uneasy that there is little or no correlation between the list of secular overused words and the gospel vocabulary being spoken by Pope Francis as he articulates some of the profound issues that humanity faces. This comparison underscores the importance of the Catholic schools for young people; the gospel values being lived out in words and deeds by Pope Francis, even though they might appear counter cultural, are at the heart of our educational vernacular. If this year we all redouble our efforts then maybe poverty, justice and peace will be the overused words of 2014.

Busy year ahead

The term ahead promises to be exceptionally busy for both students and staff with Year 11

mock examinations, Year 9 Courses Evening, the school production and the Sion Community Mission. In addition, a significant number of extra curricular activities are planned including the annual Ski trip. I am delighted that we are going to be visited by Bishop Philip in his official capacity on 3rd March. This formal visit or 'visitation' is one of the duties he performs by rite of his office. The Christmas season was particularly busy for the Chaplaincy team. In addition to preparation for the services, concerts and masses, Mrs Floyd also invited KS3 forms into the Chapel at registration time to reflect on the Advent message.



University Success

Congratulations to all students in Year 13 who have sent their applications to the University and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) well before the January deadline and have been receiving offers from their universities of choice. Again this year we have nearly one hundred university hopefuls. Nationally, students' UCAS applications in this age group have decreased in number so Oaklands is again reversing that trend. In addition, we have seven students looking at Advanced Apprenticeships and employment options in the local area.

The most hard fought and competitive course offers include Oxford for both James Tizzard to read Medicine as well as Conor Lyster to read Biochemistry, also Imperial for Ashley Zee to read Chemistry and Birmingham for George West to read Physics. Best of luck also to Eleanor Ransford for her Veterinary Sciences interview at Nottingham University. All these students need to secure the highest possible A and A* grades on their A2 courses.

Some A Level students this year have also - unusually - been offered unconditional places based upon the strength of their GCSE results and the persuasive power of their personal statements and tutor references. It goes without saying that worth celebrating also are the numerous Russell Group and 1994 Group university offers to A Level applicants. We wish every single Sixth Form student in Oaklands the best of luck in their remaining interviews and the final stages of A Level courses.

Enormous thanks and congratulations go to the Sixth Form tutors for their preparation of references and support in helping students write their personal statements. In particular, Mrs Hopkins and Mr Shaw whose tireless work with the students applying for very competitive courses has again been rewarded this year.

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

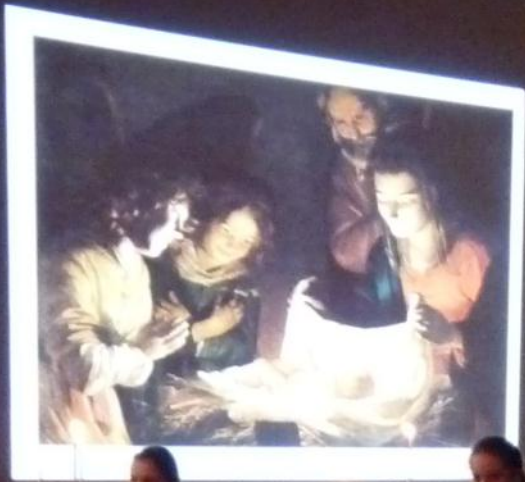
Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Matthew Quinn

Carol Service

As is traditional at Oaklands, the end of term Carol Service rounded off a very hectic term. A large number of students and staff participated in the celebration. This year the service focused on the gift of Christmas, with Jesus being the greatest of these. Singers, musicians, dancers and readers also added to the joyous occasion. It was a truly fantastic evening. In addition to traditional Christmas congregational carols, the Year 7 choir and the staff ensemble also took part in the celebration. Towards the end of the service Mr Sumba spoke about our work with the school in Korogocho.

Over 550 parents, relatives, former students and staff attended. Since the celebration the school has been overwhelmed by the number of positive comments. Particular thanks to Estelle Flood who directed the music, Sadie Whyte for the Nativity and Helen Floyd, the School Chaplain, who co-ordinated the liturgical presentation. The concert raised over £900 to support our work in Kenya.



Work for this year's production began way back in the summer term, as it always does, with the Performing Arts team making their selection of show. This process seems to become more complex year on year as we consider how best to challenge our cast, entertain an audience and get approval for performing rights. **The show this year will be performed on the 25th, 26th and 27th February**

This time, our decision was unanimous and we're delighted to be able to bring you **Guys and Dolls** - a long running Broadway and West End hit, packed with iconic songs. This



show was also a hit on the silver screen with Marlon Brando and Frank Sinatra in the lead roles; you may have seen it on TV over the Christmas break!

This show follows Miss Sarah Brown (Caitlin Shaw) as she tries to convert Broadway's sinners with her Mission Band. Unfortunately, in spite of herself, she falls in love with the biggest gambler of them all, Sky Masterson

(Barney Walsh). Meanwhile, Sky and his pal Nathan Detroit (Kieran Lyster) are trying to find a location for their latest illegal dice game without Nathan's long-term fiancée, Miss Adelaide (Ruby Groucott), discovering them.

We are sure that the hardworking Oaklands cast and band will live up to the stellar reputation of previous productions. Any involvement in a school production represents an outstanding commitment to the life of the school and, as ever, we are delighted to be working with such talented and dedicated young people to bring this show to you.

So far our cast have mastered challenging singing in parts, New York accents

and even tap dancing, so it's sure to be a real spectacle. Our cast, band and crew has representatives from every year group, including our Sixth Form College.

As ever, an Oaklands show is as close to a professional production experience as we can make it for our participants and audiences alike, so come along, and blow away those winter blues!

Exam Certificates

For those students unable to be present at the recent Presentation of Certificates Evening, GCSE and 'A' level Examination Certificates are now available for collection from main Reception at the school for the academic year 2012/2013. **Please note**, these are valuable documents which are expensive to replace and we are only permitted to retain them for one year after which time they must be destroyed.

The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures

Being offered tickets once for the Royal Institution Christmas lectures is a privilege, being offered twice is an honour. Students from Oaklands attended the Royal Institution lectures again this year. The problem was then to decide which students should attend. Students were asked to produce a creative piece of writing titled, 'If only walls could talk', in which they wrote about the history of the Royal Institution from the perspective of its walls. Students with the best entries would then be awarded the tickets. One of the winners was Imogen Glover



On 17th of December myself and five other students from Years 7-9 went to the iconic Royal Institution for one of the three Christmas lectures. The lecture we went to watch was called 'Are we mutants?' which I can safely announce, we are! During the hour and a half lecture we encountered talking heads and live animals including dogs, cats, a chicken and a goose! In addition, myself and a girl in Year 7 named Penelope both featured in one of the demonstrations which was called 'Chinese Whispers'. It was exciting to have the knowledge that we would be featuring in the final editing of the 2013 lectures. Thankfully me and my family recorded the televised version for the future. I believe I will never forget that moment. Answering the question above, I can tell you that 41% of our DNA is identical to the cave fish! In the lecture we also looked at our genes. Dr Alison Woolard who was the scientist running this explained the information by using plastic balls and paint which got very messy at

times. One of my favourite demonstrations was when a group of gymnasts came on and created our DNA by giving each other piggy backs. This put me at the edge of my seat.

I would finally like to thank Dr Smith and Dr Howson for taking us up to the Royal Institution. It was really amazing to be a part of this exciting event. All of us thoroughly enjoyed this amazing trip to London. Imogen Glover 8 St. Teresa

If only walls could talk

I have lived for many years
And seen many things
I have listened to many people
But my life soon changed
These men made me something different
A thing I never knew
I was known as the Royal Institution
And what a name too.

Many scientists walked through my doors
With things that explode
In smart white coats
All walking down the road
Magnesium and Boron
Which sound sublime
Were found by Davy in 1809
These are found on the periodic table
All shown clearly on a simple label.

Next of all in my amazing adventure
Children began to come to some lectures
This all started in 1825
And entertained me all the time
They laughed and gasped
At amazing things
With Michael Faraday leading the way
Lighting up the world even today.

Every Christmas it carried on
Until the Christmas of 1939
When everything stopped at the stroke of nine
There were bangs and clashes
And no more chimes
It was lonely and sad
But there was nowhere to hide.

Three years past
And the children returned
Full of wonder and awe that no one heard
Time past by and machines came in
Uncovering new things that no one had seen
All shown clearly on a TV screen.

Now in 2013 what is in store
What new inventions lie behind that door
With Biologists and Physicists
And Chemists galore
Light and speed and much, much more
Will there ever be a day where I can up and say
Thank you for this amazing day.

Contours in Geography



We were asked to make a Contour Model in Geography as an independent learning project. A Contour Model shows how high parts of land are from sea level. Lots of people made theirs out of cardboard, cake and bread, but we made ours out of wood.

We cut out the wood, painted the layers in different colours and screwed it together. We then put a key onto the model to explain the different heights.

Emma Howell and Sophie Rodriguez-Winter 7 St. Margaret

Tudor Banquet

On Wednesday 18th December Year 7 History club students took part in their own Tudor banquet during lunchtime and lesson 4. They had spent their History Club sessions in the lead up to the event researching the type of food and style of cooking. Students then had to create their own recipes and bring in their own ingredients.

Students were able to use the Food Technology cookery rooms and were helped in the planning process by Ms Osborne. We had a variety of dishes including soups, using traditional pottage style ingredients and meat stews, alongside more modern versions of desserts including fruit pies and fruit cakes. One group even brought in a whole rabbit that Miss Mousdale skilfully helped them to turn into a rabbit pie.

The students did a great job and most even managed to sit down and enjoy a bite to eat together at the end of all that hard work!



Cooking Club

I attend a cooking club every Wednesday, run by Miss Mousdale, where I can learn new techniques and skills in cooking. Leading up to Christmas Miss Mousdale asked us to bring ingredients in for a fruit cake, which was quite exciting, as I had never made one before! This took many weeks to complete, as there were lots of steps. The first week we made the cake and baked it the following morning. Another week we spread jam over it, so the surface of the cake would be sticky, and covered it with marzipan. The next week we spread jam over it again and covered the cake with fondant icing. Then it was decorating time, which was important as Mr Quinn was coming to judge them; I sketched out my design on paper! The following week we only had 45 minutes to decorate, as they needed to be judged. When Mr Quinn announced the winner I was surprised that it was me as everyone's cakes were amazing! I really enjoyed making the cake as I learnt so much from it (and got a box of chocolates for winning!)

Mia Cotton 8 St. Teresa



Certificates Evening

Certificates evening is one of the great events on the Oaklands calendar where the success of past and present students is recognised. The school hall was packed full of staff, former students and their guests on Thursday 9th January 2013 to celebrate the school's examination success at A level and GCSE. The evening started with a short address from Mr Quinn. He made reference to the outstanding performance of students particularly at A level. He also talked about the success of students in raising money for CAFOD and how this resonated with the recent message from Pope Francis on the importance of putting Catholic social teaching into action. For the CAFOD project in Korogocho over **£2000 was raised to build a gym and community facility.**

The highlight of the evening was the address given by Chris Bain. Mr Bain is currently Director of CAFOD, a position he took up in July 2003. His work in international development began as a VSO volunteer and Field Officer in Fiji. Prior to joining CAFOD he worked for Christian Aid and Oxfam in various capacities. He runs a team of about 400 staff based in England and Wales and throughout Africa, Asia and Latin America.

During a motivating speech, Mr Bain spoke about the work of CAFOD and, in particular, how his own experience in a Catholic school as a child had motivated him to pursue a career working in the field of Catholic social teaching. The celebration concluded with a vote of thanks from two Sixth Form students and the presentation of a cheque for £2200 for the ongoing appeal for the Philippines.

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

During the ceremony students were entertained with an excerpt from the next school production, 'Guys and Dolls' from Barney Walsh and Caitlin Shaw, and a French Horn recital from Kieran Lyster.

Earlier in the day Mr Bain took part in a question and answer session with 100 students. They quizzed him on his work and the work of CAFOD.



Busy time in Music

One of the busiest departments in the school during the Autumn term has to be the Music department. Fortunately, in addition to Miss Flood and Mrs Richardson the school has a gifted group of peripatetic staff who tutor students and support some of the events. At Oaklands over one hundred students take instrumental lessons. Many students play to a very high standard. The school has a reputation of producing musicians that go on to perform on stage and screen.



Music department schedule

Fri 15th November	Jazz band playing at Cathedral
Sat 16 th November	OPA Christmas Craft Fayre – 12-3pm – Oaklands Band
Sat 30 th November	Havant Orchestra performing at Oaklands, String Group pre-concert event
Tue 3 rd December	Choir singing at pensioners party, Sacred Heart 12.30-1pm
Tue 3 rd December	Peripatetic Concert 7pm – Soloists and Oaklands Band
Thu 5 th December	BSO Workshop 3:30 – 5pm, AS/A2/GCSE Music Students
Sat 7 th December	Choir singing at Church Christmas Fayre
Mon 9 th December	Carols, Wind Ensemble, Waterlooville, Rev. Thompson, 5:30pm
Wed 11 th December	Music Concert 7:30pm, Concert Band, Big Band, AS/A2 solos, Guys and Dolls, GCSE Music Group
Tue 17 th December	Carol Service – Year 7 Choir, Small instrumental group

Music at Oaklands is a big part of my education at school. I am in the Oaklands Concert Band and Big Band and have performed at many school events throughout my time here. These have been both in school and outside. Recently the Big Band played at an event for the Bishop in Portsmouth. The Music department have organised trips to Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra concerts and workshops throughout this year which have been really enjoyable and a great experience to see a professional orchestra. I have really enjoyed my involvement with Music at Oaklands and the concerts and open evening are always a pleasure to be a part of.



I have also had the opportunity to be a part of the Pit Band in school productions over the past few years which have been a great experience for me; to play a variety of music styles has also been very beneficial. The most recent ones have been Grease, Wizard of Oz and this year we are preparing for Guys and Dolls.

I am currently studying GCSE Music and so far have really enjoyed the course. It has expanded my knowledge of music styles and helped me to develop my musical knowledge. The GCSE group performed at the main school concert last term and I am now a member of the Chamber Choir. I also played the xylophone solo 'The Typewriter' at this concert.

I hope that my music will continue to be influenced at Oaklands for the rest of my time here.

Connor Lyster 10 St. Dominic



I have been involved in music since I started Oaklands in Year 7. I have carried on in Year 8 and have been given many more opportunities. I am a member of the Choir, Oaklands Band, Concert Band, have clarinet lessons and I am taking part in the school's show Guys and Dolls. Within this I sing, act and dance. This academic year, there have been lots of different musical opportunities and I am involved in every aspect of Music.

The Christmas Concert and Peripatetic Concert have just taken place and were both huge successes. In both concerts I was fully involved and thoroughly enjoyed them both.

My clarinet lessons are very enjoyable and I have already taken my Grade 3 exam and I'm now working towards my Grade 4. My teacher, Miss Crisp, is a really supportive teacher and is very nice!

With the Choir and both bands, I have sung at the Sacred Heart church, played carols at the new housing estate and played in both concerts. The show this year, 'Guys and Dolls', is also another of my big commitments and is going really well. I think the show will be another huge success in February.

Overall, Music at Oaklands has been and I'm sure will continue to be very enjoyable and a big part of my time here!

Emma Farrugia 8 St. Margaret



Oaklands News Anniversary Edition

This year we will reach the 400th edition of Oakland News, rather than keep this milestone to ourselves we have decided to produce a celebratory magazine that will recognise Catholic education across Havant. Both St Peter's and St Thomas More's schools have agreed to provide content. The magazine will have a circulation in excess of 2000 copies.

Advertising space will be available in this magazine starting from as little as £100.

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



Calling former Year 11 Design & Technology Students

Mr A McGannan

Final practical work produced by last year's Design and Technology students (Resistant Materials, Product Design and Electronics) is now available to take home. Whilst we would like to store all work produced, unfortunately we do not have the space to do this. Students can pop in after school, or telephone to arrange a time that is more convenient. Please do think about taking home your final products as some excellent work was produced.

Thank you.

Second-hand Uniform

The Oaklands Parents Association carries a good range of second hand uniform in a variety of sizes. The OPA is very keen to continue to build up a stock of second-hand uniform (particularly blazers and jumpers) which can be sold to parents at Parents Evenings and other evening events. If your child has outgrown ANY item of uniform and it is in good condition please launder and leave at Reception where we will arrange for the OPA to collect it. If you are interested in purchasing second hand items please contact Mrs Lorraine Sutton (Chair of OPA) either through our Reception or by email:

opa@oaklands.hants.sch.uk

Term Dates 2013/2014

Spring Term 2014

Mon 6 January to Fri 4 April 2014.

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

Summer Term 2014

Tue 22 April to Fri 18 July 2014.

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

Inset Days for 2013/2014 are as follows: Friday 4th July and Monday 21st July 2014.

Term Dates 2014/2015

Autumn Term 2014

Mon 1 September to Fri 19th December

Half Term: Mon 27th—Fri 31st October

Spring Term 2015

Mon 5 January to Thurs 2nd April

Half Term: Mon 16th—Friday 20th February

Summer Term 2015

Mon 20 April—Monday 20th July

Half Term: Monday 25th—Friday 29th May

Inset Days are as follows: Monday 1st September, Friday 26th September, Friday 19th December 2014 and Monday 20th July 2015.

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

Ski Trip Update

50 students attempted skiing for the first time at Calshot Activities Centre on the evening of 17th December. The sense of excitement was palpable as the students viewed the slopes on arrival and their levels of enthusiasm didn't diminish as the inevitable falls occurred when they started skiing. The trip to Calshot provided the students with the opportunity to wear the equipment for the first time and learn the basics; this means that more rapid progress can be made when the students arrive at the resort in February. This trip wouldn't have been possible without the help of a number of staff including, Miss Dymott, Mr Tindal, Mr Whelan, Miss Caspall, Mr Tyler, Mr P. Smith and Mr Wade. The trip during February half term is fast approaching. 72 Year 9s and 6 from the Sixth Form will travel to the Italian ski resort of Andalo. As in previous years, we will drive there leaving on Friday with arrival expected on the Saturday afternoon. The students will ski for six days and then leave on Friday night from Italy and will return back to school on the Saturday afternoon. The snow is already falling in the Alps and hopefully we can look forward to good conditions when we arrive there in February.



Festive Socks

Year 10 GCSE textile students created these amazing stockings ready for Christmas.

The class used many decorative skills learnt last term to design and make their own stockings. With these new skills the class demonstrated good levels of progress which resulted in very professional looking stockings!

Mrs Wise



A Few Important Reminders

Again this year many students were fortunate enough to be given a new mobile phone or tablet device for Christmas. We live in a technological age; over half the people in Britain use mobile phones in a wide variety of settings and for a variety of reasons:

The school recognises that a total ban on mobile phones in school is both unrealistic and unreasonable. Equally, there are advantages in using smart phones and tablets as an educational resource. 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 most circumstances, the whole school day should be considered as phone and electronic device free. We continue to **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.

Detentions

All parents know that from time to time youngsters step the wrong side of the line. With good parenting comes the reasonability for setting clear boundaries and where necessary taking action when boundaries are pushed. In school one of the sanctions we have at our disposal is a detention. This can occur during school, after school, inset days or on Saturday mornings. If your child is detained during school time then they will normally be asked to write in their planner so that you are aware.

With both in and after school detention the 2011 Education Act, in addition to giving schools the power to search students and sanction students for behaviour outside of school, **states that parental consent is not required for detentions** and detentions outside schools hours can be issued on the same day. Whilst the law is quite unambiguous, at Oaklands we are aware that for some students transport to and from school creates issues for same day detentions. In most circumstances parents will be given advanced notice of pending detention. However, in the final analysis if a parent does not agree to a detention then the sanction can escalate to the point where a youngster is excluded. I am sure all parents would want to avoid this. Finally, if you do receive a detention letter for your child, please remind them of their responsi-

bility to attend the detention as directed.

Conduct on the way to and from school

You may remember on a number of occasions over the last year I have written in the Oaklands News about student conduct to and from school, particularly on the buses. This generated a mixed post bag, particularly the specific issue related to sanctioning students for their behaviour outside of school and the reliability of the services, particularly from Portsmouth.

The behaviour of the vast majority of students is exemplary and this is a significant factor that helps the school maintain the reputation it enjoys, this is something that neither I nor the governors want to see eroded. The school will take action against students who compromise the school's reputation due to behaviour outside of school. As I am sure you can appreciate 'drilling down' into what occurs on the way to and from school is a difficult process. Your support in reinforcing the good behaviour that is demonstrated by the vast majority of students is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your co-operation on these three important issues.

Changes in Reception.

The school reception will be staffed until 5:00pm until further notice. This will provide parents and students with a point of contact up until the end of the day.

Uniform Matters

The long dark nights and cold weather mean it's time to turn our thoughts to what our students are wearing. We ask you to help us maintain high uniform standards by supporting the uniform rules:



Scarves: a **plain navy or black scarf**. Patterned or coloured scarves will be confiscated.

Coats: no more arguments in shops about what is allowed! These should be either plain navy blue or black without a logo (grey or other colours are **not** permitted). Coats should be worn over the blazer. **Hoodies, in any form, are not an acceptable item of uniform and will be confiscated.**

Boys' trousers: please be aware that boys' trousers must be formal tailored trousers and that chinos are not permitted.

Shoes: formal black shoes (girls – heels should be lower than 2"). Plimsolls and trainer-type shoes are not permitted.

Girls skirt length: we are continually concerned that girls are wearing their skirts at an inappropriately short length and we would appreciate your help. Please ensure they are bought at the correct length – ie: knee length – and that you check the length before they leave home. Skirts rolled up at the waist are not acceptable.

Where can I buy uniform? All items of our uniform are available at Skoolkit in Market Parade in Havant or Fareham – embroidered or logoed items must be purchased from this supplier. Alternatively, you can purchase any uniform item online with Skoolkit and have it delivered to your doorstep. The choice is yours!

However, in order to offer more choice to parents you may buy any of the plain items at high street stores providing that they meet the uniform guidelines (eg: the skirt should be plain navy with sewn down pleats etc). The school has a stock of second-hand uniform. (See page 12)

If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact Mrs McConn-Finch (Assistant Headteacher) or your child's Head of Year/Tutor.

Everyday Matters

Year Group	Authorised Absence	Unauthorised Absence	Total %
Yr7	2.6%	0.2%	2.8%
Yr8	3.1%	0.6%	3.7%
Yr9	3.4%	0.6%	4.0%
Yr10	4.2%	0.7%	4.9%
Yr11	3.9%	1.1%	5.0%

Attendance is the single most important factor in success at school – both academic and social. If you're not there, you can't learn! Reading someone else's notes is never the same as your own work. Our overall school attendance for Term 1 this year is: 96% - which is really excellent.

All absences contribute to our overall percentage but there are various ways you can help us:

Illness accounts for 2.79% of all absence – it is important to only keep your son/daughter off school if they are genuinely too ill to come in. **Holidays** account for 0.4% of our

absence figures (unauthorised Family Holiday accounts for 0.29%) – we strongly recommend that you do NOT take your child on a holiday during term time. The Governors' policy clearly states that holidays will not be authorised unless there are extraordinary extenuating circumstances which are outlined in the policy. It affects their learning and chances of success in later life. 17 absent sessions = one grade less at GCSE. Do you want to disadvantage their future? Medical appointments make up 0.32% of our absence – please try to make appointments after school hours. Don't be too quick to agree to your child having a day off – are they really that ill?

Use email to confirm the absence: absence@oaklandscatholicschool.org

Some parents have received letters informing them that their son/daughter is in a Red or Amber Attendance Category (ie: either in or close to 85%). Please attend the meetings with the Head of Year and Senior Leader to agree a Personal Attendance Plan. Parents in England and Wales have a legal responsibility to ensure their children attend school. If they fail to do so, they are committing an offence under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996. You may have read in the papers this week that a couple who took their children on an unauthorised holiday during school term time have been ordered by magistrates to pay £993 in costs and fines.



Internet Safety Presentation for Parents

This presentation aims to:

- Raise awareness about inappropriate sexual content & contacts children might come across online.
- Help parents identify things they need to think about so that their children can use the internet safely.
- Provide practical & relevant advice about internet safety and details of where to go for further information.
- Raise awareness about cyberbullying and how to combat it.

Be informed and keep your children safe on line

DATE: Tuesday 18th March 2014

TIME: 6.30pm

LOCATION: Oaklands Sixth Form Conference Room

Stop it Now! UK & Ireland is a public education campaign aimed at preventing child sexual abuse by increasing public awareness and empowering all adults to act responsibly to protect children. Stop it Now! is managed by The Lucy Faithfull Foundation, a child protection charity, and supported by a National Freephone Helpline – 0808 1000 900.

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☎ **023 9225 9214**



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