

**Sion Mission Team in school**

No. 399 April 2014

# Oaklands News

Update from St. John's

Comenius trip to Germany

Website Challenge Winners

Ski Trip 2014

A publication for  
Oaklands Catholic School  
and Sixth Form College



## Lead Stories



# Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| <i>From the Headteacher</i> | 2   |
| <i>Bishop's Visitation</i>  | 3   |
| <i>School Mission</i>       | 4-5 |
| <i>Guys and Dolls</i>       | 6   |
| <i>Changes to Holidays</i>  | 7   |
| <i>Comenius Project</i>     | 8-9 |
| <i>Yr 7 at St Peter's</i>   | 10  |
| <i>Sixth Form Politics</i>  | 11  |
| <i>Geography Trip</i>       | 12  |
| <i>Ski Trip</i>             | 13  |
| <i>Web Challenge</i>        | 14  |
| <i>Auschwitz</i>            | 15  |
| <i>St. John's Project</i>   | 16  |

*Over the last few weeks I have been watching the Great War interviews, the series replays interviews taken in 1960 with veterans of the Great War. Some of the interviews tell the story on the home front. A munitions factory worker from London, recalls her impulsive decision to work at a factory filling shells with terrible consequences. Others recall horrific experiences on the front line. An officer recollects the suffering at Passchendaele where he lost most of his men to shellfire. We can become too familiar with the horrors of war so there is nothing more powerful than listening to witnesses. Who of us would want to have been part of this torturous war 100 years ago?*

*Like the narratives of Christ's birth, the accounts of Palm Sunday, His crucifixion and resurrection are also so familiar that we can miss the full intensity of the unexpected event. Can we begin to imagine the roller coaster ride of emotions that the followers of Jesus must have felt that week so long ago?*

*Though Jesus warned His disciples, they were not at all prepared for the trauma of His death or the shock of His resurrection. Because we know the outcome, it's hard for us to identify with what they must have felt. Although we may wish we could have been present at Jesus' birth, who wishes to have seen His cruel, torturous death? We've sanitized Easter with aromatic lilies and colourful eggs. If we do nothing else during the Easter home straight, let us focus on why the Father let His Son hang on the cross and why Jesus chose not to escape it.*

This term has been particularly difficult for the school with a number of staff affected by serious illness. Sadly, Matthew Turner who had battled Hodgkins Lymphoma for the last ten months, much of this during Year 13 in the Sixth Form, died on Sunday 9th February. He was 18 years and 5 months. He will be remembered fondly by all who knew him as a mellow and thoughtful soul who had a relentlessly positive and upbeat attitude, telling us after his diagnosis "you've just got to crack on Miss".

It was with great sadness that the Oaklands community learnt of the death on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2014, of Camilla Dickens. Camilla was a student at Oaklands from 2000-2007. In 2010, after gaining her degree from Cardiff University, she joined Oaklands as a Learning Support Assistant quickly moving onto the Graduate Teacher Programme to become an RE teacher. In June 2013 Camilla was awarded a certificate from the University of Chichester. This recognised excellent progress in her teaching, professional and academic practice during her time on the programme. As both a student and member of staff Camilla embraced the life of the school embodying the Oaklands spirit wholeheartedly. She saw herself rooted in the Oaklands community. Camilla touched the lives of many of us and this will be the greatest lesson that she will have taught us all, she will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

The premature ending of life is tragic and distressing; it always has been, and it always will be. It's something that affects not only the immediate family and friends of the person who has died, but the

whole community within which they lived. There is something about a young death that affects everyone who hears of it. It grieves the soul, it challenges our perceptions of our own mortality, and it requires of us a choice as to how we will live in the light of our own continuing existence. Our faith, which is captured by the reason Jesus died on the cross, tells us that Matt and Camilla have been given back to God, 'in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life'. Please continue to remember Matt, Camilla and their families all those who need our prayers at this time. I am always delighted when colleagues come to me to inform me that they will soon be starting a family or the existing family will soon be increasing in size. With pregnancy comes maternity leave and paternity leave. Over the last three years we been averaging over five staff on maternity leave. This coupled with a natural turbulence of staff moving on and the national shortage in certain subjects presents particular challenges. If your child does have a change of teacher during the year, please bear with us as everything that is reasonable is being done to maintain continuity. This term we welcome back Mrs Bonnington, next term we welcome back Mrs Broadway, Mrs Bridger, Mrs Morgan and Mrs Baldwin. Good luck to Miss Hellyer who is expecting soon and to a number of other staff 'in the family way'. We wish them all the best of luck and pray for their health and that of their children-to-be.

Please take time to read this edition of the Okalands News. There are two articles I would like to highlight, first, the school's response to the changes in attendance regulations. Second, the article from St. John's provides an update on how your money has been invested in the gift of education for 115 children in Kenya. More information on this project in our summer magazine which will be a joint publication by the Catholic schools in Havant.

Finally, I will be wrritting to all parents by separate letter shortly to talk about uniform.

Have a happy, peaceful and restful Easter.

*Matthew Quinn - Headteacher*

**Bishop's Visitation** On 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014 the students and staff here at Oaklands Catholic Secondary School were privileged with a visitation from the Bishop of Portsmouth. Over the course of the day the Bishop led a liturgy with the school, took a tour around the site and participated in a liturgy. He seemed to enjoy his visitation and spoke very highly of Oaklands as a school and as a Catholic community. Sister Catherine, former Headteacher and Sister Ita, former Head of Maths from the Sisters of Christ also came to visit. It was a privilege to have both the Bishop and two former staff with us for the day.

The Bishop made his grand appearance to the majority of the school in a liturgy at the beginning of the day. It wasn't long before everyone realised the significance of his visit. After the liturgy, four Year 7 students took the Bishop on a tour around the school and revealed to him what a brilliant place Oaklands truly is. Along the way the Bishop got to see lessons in progress and answer questions. While on the tour the Bishop showed his curiosity about the school and asked his guides about life at Oaklands; how they were settling in, what the lessons (and teachers!) were like and if they felt like the school displayed Christ's message well. Of course, the answers were all positive!

Before he went, the Bishop attended a short liturgy in the chapel during the Year 7 lunchtime. A few students were selected to read prayers and poems in front of the Bishop and to conclude the liturgy he said some words of thanks and prayer for his day at Oaklands.

I personally saw that the Bishop was especially enthralled with the religious and traditional side of Oaklands; he recognised the White House as the previous home for the nuns and noticed the numerous images of the cross and of Jesus himself that are dotted around the site. It was obvious when he was exploring the school that he was enjoying himself, was interested in school life and had a newly-sprung respect for Oaklands Catholic School.

**Charlie Graham 7 St. Clare**



# Mission Week

## Sion Community

The Sion Youth Mission Team visited Oaklands from 10th to the 15th March. With the team the school revisited its mission as a Catholic school and had the Gospel proclaimed in a radical and accessible way to both staff and students within the school context.

Monday 10th March

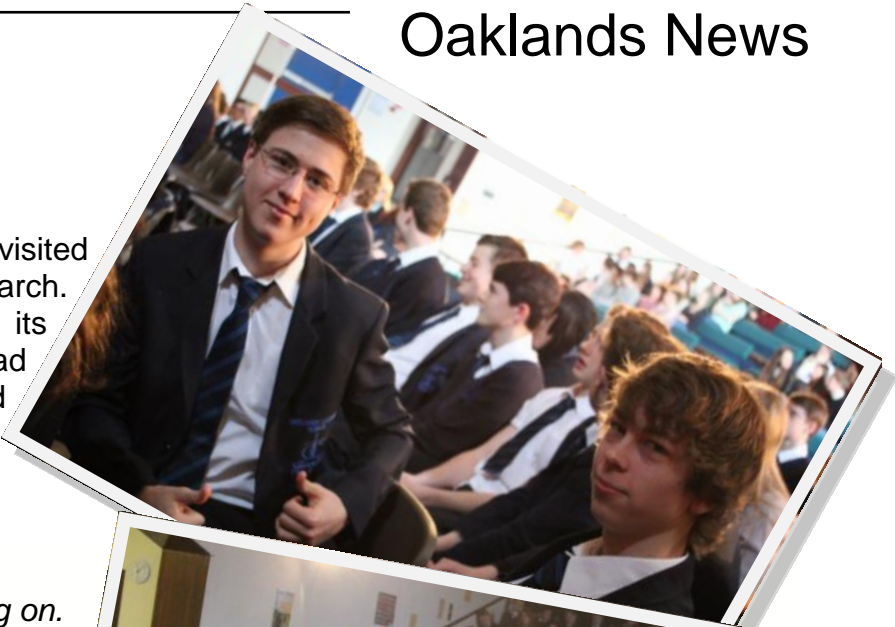
*Today I was unsure on what was going on. The day was taken over by the Sion Mission Team. They last came to the school when I was in Year 7, I recalled their name but couldn't entirely remember ...*

*The moment when I remembered came during the assembly when they repeatedly said my name, Samuel. I remember I did not make the most of the team's visit last time. Now a little older and wiser, I was sure I was going to make the most of their time with us this year.*

Tuesday 11th March

*Each day started with an assembly with the team. Sitting in the hall, I had forgotten the commitment I had made to myself the previous day. During assembly my conscience reminded me when they said they were hosting a 'Prayer for You' session Period 5. So at lunch I went down to the Chapel for a quiet prayer session at 'Light Fever'. Not only was this experience peaceful and fascinating but also made my knees ache after a good fifteen minutes kneeling.*

*At the 'Prayer for You' session I sat with a lovely young lady called Liana, where we invited people to let us pray for them. Not only was this difficult for me but difficult for everyone as occasionally a subject that touched the heart would arise.*





Wednesday 12th March

Today was similar to the previous day. By now

**Reconciliation**

During the Mission Week students were given the opportunity to take part in the sacrament of Reconciliation. Over 600 students used this opportunity to encounter God in a very special way.

Reconciliation in school on this scale is a significant undertaking. Our thanks to the priests of the Diocese and beyond for helping the school with this.

any scepticism of the experience had drained away. I was getting involved with the sessions on offer.

Thursday 13th March

During today's 'Prayer for You' session I was invited by Liana to allow the Holy Spirit into my mind and show me something about the person. So questioning my sanity, I became one of the most blessed people she said she had met. That night I attended the Main Event, like they were at school, the Mission Team were friendly, fun and full of love.

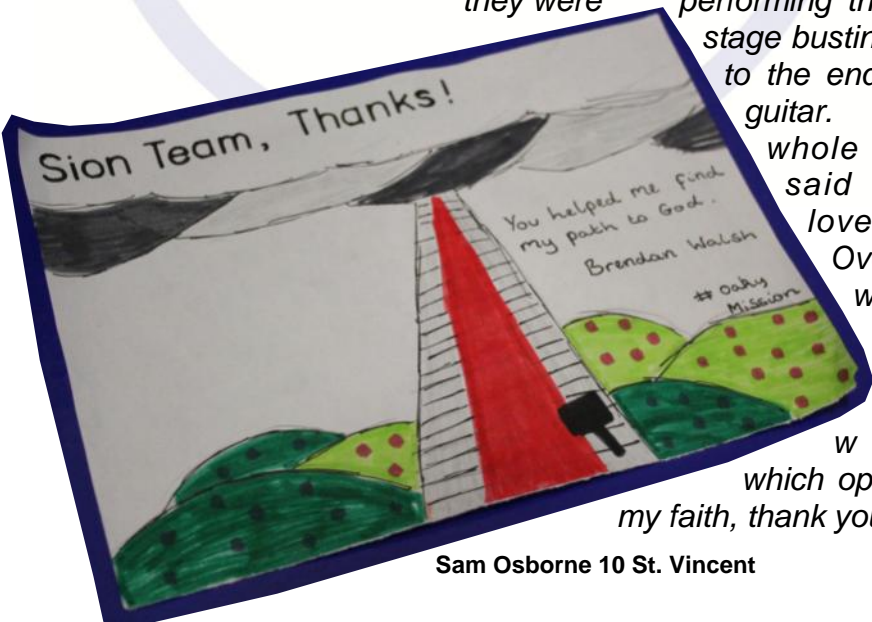
Friday 15th March

Today was my favourite day. As a result of my involvement on the previous day I was invited to go up on stage with a piece of cardboard. One side of the cardboard stated a fear I had and, on the other, the resolution from God. This was very enjoyable, however, I couldn't let the Mission Team come here and not leave my mark on them. So while they were performing the final song of their visit, I ran on stage busting out some funky moves. I danced to the end of the song with my amazing air guitar.

The whole team said they loved it! Overall, it was a very fun and exciting week which opened up my faith, thank you.

**Thank you**

A big thank you to everyone who made the Mission possible. A special mention to the staff who provided bed and breakfast for the team for the week. To Mrs Floyd our School Chaplain for coordinating the events, Mr Cunningham for logistics, the site and technical staff.



Sam Osborne 10 St. Vincent

## Guys and Dolls Mr Quinn

After months of rehearsals, the school interpretation of Guys and Dolls was a whirlwind of catchy songs and dance numbers.

Confidently led by the four principals, we were accompanied through the world of 1940s New York, requiring American accents that clearly didn't faze the cast. The story followed Nathan Detroit's (Kieran Lyster) attempts to set up a card game and the growing frustration of his fiancée, Miss Adelaide (Ruby Groucott). We also watched as Sky Masterson (Barney Walsh) attempted to win the heart of the no-nonsense mission girl, Sarah Brown (Catlin Shaw). The superb leads were accompanied by students from all years who admirably stepped up to the supporting roles.

The characters delivered the lines with slick humour. The classic songs such as 'Sit Down, You're Rocking The Boat' were executed with assurance. Many of the numbers were amazingly choreographed. The students' performances were supported by a fantastically tuned and well rehearsed band. An enthusiastic group of talented musicians – students, staff professionals, set the pace for the show.

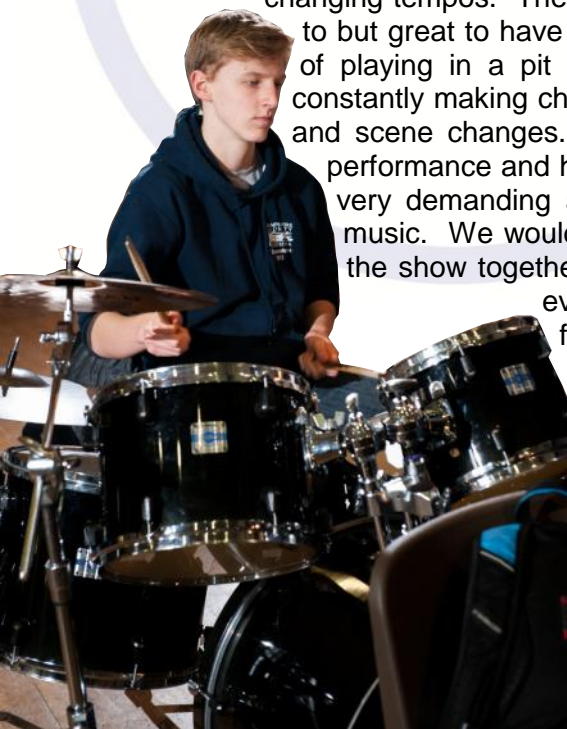
Thanks to the superb direction of Sadie Whyte and Estelle Flood (Musical Director), and not forgetting the tireless efforts of all the staff and students who worked many hours, the latest school show was an absolute masterpiece.



## What is it like being in the pit?

I really enjoyed my time playing in the pit for 'Guys and Dolls'; it was a great experience to be playing that kind of music. I found that it was quite challenging to follow the singers/actors and to have to keep changing tempos. The size of the band was a lot smaller than what I am normally used to but great to have experience playing in a different sized ensemble. The demands of playing in a pit are very different to those of a concert ensemble as we are constantly making changes like cuts and adding repeats to the music to fit the singers and scene changes. On one occasion we had to make a cut on the night of the performance and hope for the best; all went well. Rehearsals for the show became very demanding and, at first, it was sometimes difficult to get to grips with the music. We would have to attend Sunday rehearsals with the cast in order to pull the show together but by the end it was worth it. After the show and rehearsals everyone in the band, cast and crew were extremely tired but the final outcome was just reward for all our hard work. The score for this show was different to others that I have done and the variety of music was vast, as there was a range of different music types with jazz dances, ballads, marches ... the list goes on. It was a great experience for us as students to sit in with teachers and professional musicians within the band and was a great show to be a part of. The members of the band all got along very well having jokes and banter as well as concentrating on the music, which added to the enjoyment of the production. I would love to do this again and hope I will get the opportunity to do so in the near future.

Connor Lyster 10 St. Dominic



# Changes to Holiday Regulations

In educational circles the issue of children taking holidays during term-time has always been controversial. When a child is absent from school he or she misses not only those lessons on that day but is also less prepared for lessons on his or her return.

In September 2013 The Department for Education introduced tough new measures regarding parents taking children out of school during term time for holidays. The Headteacher no longer has the discretion to grant leave of absence for the purpose of a holiday unless the circumstances are extremely exceptional. Authorisation cannot be awarded in retrospect either.

The Governing Body, in line with Government recommendations, would like to reiterate to all parents that Oaklands will NOT authorise holidays which are taken during term time. Withdrawing your child from school for holidays will have a negative impact on continuity of learning for your son/daughter and is disruptive both for your child and for the school.

## **What are “exceptional circumstances”?**

Each request for term-time leave is always considered on an individual and confidential basis. The Headteacher 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, unique situation eg a seriously ill immediate family member (not aunt, uncle, grandparent) and the leave proposed is likely to be the last such opportunity; Forces (not Emergency Services or Police) personnel whose duties and leave are inflexible; sudden loss of housing.

The Headteacher will also look very carefully at the child’s previous attendance record and should he have any concerns, for example should the child’s average attendance be below 95%, it is unlikely that the leave of absence will be authorised.

## **Legal issues parents need to be aware of:**

Should school not agree to grant leave and the parents take their child on holiday regardless, then this will be counted as unauthorised absence. The absence will be recorded as G on the register (Family Holiday Not Agreed).

### **Term Dates 2014/2015**

A reminder that the Summer Term commences on **Tuesday 22nd April 2014** at the normal time.

#### **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.

Schools are now legally required to record as a specific category all absences which accrue as a consequence of family holidays which have been taken without authorisation. *Parents should also be aware that they are likely to receive a Fixed Penalty Notice should they decide to continue with holiday.* Absence from the beginning of a term will also be subject to the same regulations. Should leave be granted but the child remain absent for longer than agreed then this extra time will be recorded as unauthorised absence. Should a child fail to return to school within 10 school days of the agreed return date and there is no contact from the parents the school may remove the child's name from the school roll.

**Term time holidays may be cheaper but your child’s education is priceless.**



## Comenius Trip

**T**he first meeting of the Rights, Respect and Responsibilities Comenius project was recently held in the beautiful town of Lemgo. The eleven chosen students won a competition or were part of the International Club. The five international schools were Germany, the Turin the Gemert and Colegio San Antonio Maria Claret. Together, during our visit, all five schools participated in a collection of work to show the importance of the 3R's and the project was subsidised by the European Union. These two reports are from **Toby Hollingsworth** and **Rebecca Galbraith**

*On the first day, Monday 17th March, we had to be at school for 4:45am, to catch an early flight to Germany. We flew from Heathrow to Hanover. This was the first time I had flown since I was a very small child. So it was an exciting experience. We then transferred from Hanover to Lemgo, which was where we were staying.*

*Lemgo is a cultural town in the region of Lippe. We were staying with host families which we met for the first time. My partner was called Julian, who I had e-mailed. In the evening we met up with other Oakland students.*

*On Tuesday we took a long train journey to Munster (we took the wrong train to start with!) Munster is a great place to visit, it was rebuilt after the war in its original medieval style, it is very historic. After a guided cultural tour we're allowed some time to go shopping. In the evening we arrived back in Lemgo, some of the other students then joined us to do Singstar (karaoke).*

*On the Wednesday our cultural experience continued with a tour of an art museum. The*

*museum building was carefully constructed so that you felt trapped, this was intentional because it represented the feelings and emotions of the artist to which the museum was dedicated. After the tour we explored the city with a group of friends. The tour was factual and I enjoyed the art work.*

*We took the train home, the journeys were a great way to talk to other people from the other Comenius countries and socialise. That evening we had pizza and went bowling. The bowling was not similar to the experience you might have at AMF, the balls were smaller and no finger holes.*

*On the Thursday, our last full day, we stayed at the school with our partners. We were divided into small groups, each responsible for part of the presentation evening. The theme was rights respect and responsibilities. Our group was responsible for setting up and hospitality. The evening went very well, the parents of the German students came to listen. They organised a buffet for us. It was the last evening to spend time with other students on the project. We were with students from Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy and France. We*

*said our fond farewells as we had all shared some very good experiences.*

*On Friday we travelled back to England. I will not forget the experience especially meeting up and exchanging experiences with other students from across Europe.*

*I would like to thank Mrs McConn-Finch and Mrs Juncklaus for taking us all the way to Germany.*

**Toby Hollingsworth 10 St Teresa**





On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March, we students from Oaklands and two teachers – Mrs Juncklaus and Mrs McConn-Finch - set off for Heathrow Airport very early in the morning. When we arrived in Lemgo we got to meet some of the pen pals we had been writing to for months! But



it was through the treasure hunt around the town in mixed groups that really helped us to get to know other people. We had to find twelve different landmarks using a map with points on so respect for each other was crucial because we had to navigate all on our own. It was fun as well as awkward because nobody knew what to say at first, particularly since not everyone spoke fluent English. However, once we had walked the first half-mile, we began to interact and it was well worth it because our team was rewarded with Toblerones later in the week for winning the treasure hunt!

On the Tuesday, we went to Münster by train. This was where the Peace Treaty of Westphalia was signed in 1648. The Treaty was a series of treaties signed between May and October in 1648 that saw the end of the Thirty Years War of the Holy Roman Empire and the end of the Eighty Years War between Spain and the Dutch Republic. It was important for us to realise the cost of these wars and the lack of respect there was in them. We also saw the council building representing how people gained their own rights by overthrowing the Bishop, who was demanding more taxes from them.

We learned of the violation of Human Rights by visiting the Felix Nussbaum Museum in Osnabrück. He was a Jewish painter around the time of the Second World War, always trying to flee the Nazis, he still ended up dead in Auschwitz. The architecture told us of the dull, rigid and uncertain life a Jew faced at this time, as a reminder of how we should treat each other as humans.

The results from the vote of the most important right of the child were revealed in the evening on Thursday. During the day though, we worked in school on different aspects of the project so as to present to parents later on. Our group was working on updating the project blog at <http://comeniusproject3rs.blogspot.co.uk/>, which shows a collection of work for the project. Others, for example, made a scrapbook of their stay in Lemgo.

Throughout the week, we had a lot of social time. In the evenings we went out with friends and the host families we stayed with, who were very friendly and welcoming. One night we went bowling, another to Pizza Hut and another to the shops... the list goes on. By staying at a German person's house we got a feel for German culture and I found that I loved pretzels and Kiba juice!

Overall, the trip was exhausting, rewarding, exciting and informative. I loved experiencing new things and trying food I'd never had before as well as visiting different places with my new friends!

**Rebecca Galbraith 9 ST Teresa**



## History at St Peter's

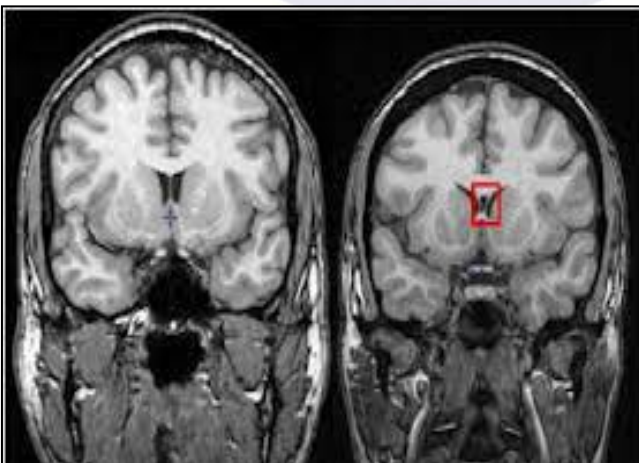
On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2014 twenty seven Year 7 students went to St Peter's to teach different groups from Years 1 and 2. Year 1 were taught about the Aztecs and the Pirates and Year 2 were taught about World Wars 1 and 2 and the Tudors. The main activities involved colouring and creating items based on the mini lessons we had taught the children. The children also took part in treasure hunts and a practical demonstration of a tank! When we got back everyone was talking about the St Peter's trip. The children we were teaching really loved it and they were all laughing and smiling (probably because half of us were wearing ridiculous costumes and face paint!) We all enjoyed it too and we all keep asking Mrs Masson (we can't take all the credit!) when we are going to teach over at St Peters again. **Aodhan Healy 7 St. Catherine**



## Neuro-psychiatry

At Portsmouth Grammar School, Dr Guy Sutton held a lecture about Neuro-psychiatry and the criminal mind; he talked about the neurological pathways in the brain and went into detail about the differences between the routes of synapses. He included many different studies such as how medical abnormalities can cause extreme behaviours, giving us an insight into how much is still not fully understood about the organ situated between our ears. It also demonstrated some innovative techniques which can study the areas activated in the brain when thinking of specific words; although this procedure is unlikely to be used as evidence when interviewing suspects of a crime, it does have the possibility of uses with coma patients in the future. The use of detecting the P300 wave in the brain could be used to detect whether a stimulus (a crime scene for example) is new to the interviewee, or the stimulus has already been seen (suggesting a guilty verdict). The lecture was very well organised and Dr Sutton, from the University of Nottingham, was an incredibly enthusiastic and informative speaker; it confirmed our passion and excitement to study Psychology at university.

Holly Martins and Becky Lympany – Year 13



**OPA** The OPA AGM will be held at the June OPA meeting (Monday 2nd June 2014 at 7:30pm in the Sixth Form Conference Room) all parents are warmly invited to attend.

### Nearly New Uniform

The Oaklands Parents Association carries a good range of nearly new uniform in a variety of sizes. The OPA is very keen to continue to build up a stock of nearly new 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. All proceeds go to school funds.

If you are interested in purchasing nearly new items please contact Mrs Lorraine Sutton (Chair of OPA) either through our Reception or by email: [opa@oaklands.hants.sch.uk](mailto:opa@oaklands.hants.sch.uk)



A Level Government and Politics students recently attended a politics conference in Westminster. The day was given over to several key note speeches from prominent politicians, which were each followed by question and answer sessions.

We started the day with a talk from John Bercow MP, the Speaker of the House of Commons, who spoke about the reform of parliament and the role of backbench MPs. He was followed by the utterly bonkers Neil Hamilton, Deputy Leader of UKIP, he talked about the issues of Europe and immigration. A very lively and heated Q&A session followed, with questions ranging from sexism in politics to UKIP's potential success in the May elections. Other speeches were from Andrew Mitchell MP,

Tristram Hunt MP, Nadine Dorries MP and Alan Duncan MP.

The most interesting speech of the day came from the late Tony Benn. Even in ill-health he spoke with great vigour and passion about the importance of democracy and the future of socialism. We all feel very privileged to have listened to him – surely one of the finest parliamentarians of our time.

Later this year we will be visiting the House of Commons and the Supreme Court. Many thanks to Mr R Smith and Mrs Masson for taking us on this trip.

## Erin Stott and Nicola Fieldson



This March A Level Politics students were given a talk by Baroness O'Cathain. The Conservative Peer started her talk by speaking about the history of the House of the Lords and her own personal journey into the Upper Chamber. She was formerly a Director of British Airways and also of the Barbican Centre.

She then opened the floor to questions from the students. We quizzed her on a wide range of issues, including her own personal views on House of Lords reform, her role as

Chairperson of the House of Lord's EU Committee and her thoughts on coalition politics. The Baroness also spoke about her recent report into youth unemployment and its proposals.

The talk proved really interesting and gave us a detailed insight into the workings of the Upper House.

In February the Mayor of Havant, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress and Cllr Hilton, visited Oaklands. Their morning started with a tour of the school with Mr Quinn and a meeting with the School Council.

Later he hosted lunch for A Level Politics students. He gave a speech on his role as Mayor and the nature of local politics. He then fielded questions from the students, this sparked a discussion on the impact of coalition cuts and the development of localism.

The Mayor was very impressed with the school and the Lady Mayoress was particularly taken by the courtesy and maturity of our students.



## Year 12 Geography Trip Mr. Bamford

The advancement of geographical skills as well as brushing up on coastal case studies before the summer examinations was the purpose of the recent trips to the Isle of Purbeck for our Year 12 Geography students.

During their three day visit the students were taken to some of the finest coastal scenery in the UK (if not the world?) and were able to see how coastal management has been conducted along Christchurch Bay from Hengistbury Head to Hurst Castle Spit. In fact, repairs were being made to them in many of the locations visited, such as has been the impact of the winter storms.



The Geology of the Purbeck coast was explored late on the first day as the students were shown Old Harry Rocks at the chalk headland of Handfast Point and many could not believe that this band of chalk was once joined with the Needles on the Isle of Wight forming a land bridge before sea levels rose after the last Ice Age. The importance of the geology along the coast from Exmouth in Devon to Old Harry Rocks in Dorset has resulted in the area being branded a 'UNESCO World Heritage Site' and as such puts the area on a par with places such as the Grand Canyon and the Great Barrier Reef. The importance of the area was not lost on the students as they explored Swanage, Portland Bill, Chesil Beach (greatly depleted due to the storms), Durdle Door, Lulworth Cove and Stair Hole.

The group conducted a beach survey at Ringstead Bay, which will enable them answer a sizeable section of their skills paper in May. We visit this location every year, but the changes to the coast this year were dramatic. The impact of the storms have already been mentioned, but nowhere was this more apparent than at the beach beyond our sample sites at Ringstead. The pictures on the right just show the changes: Mr. Bamford took both pictures from the same location one year apart – the whole beach had disappeared!



## Ski Trip 2014

**O**n Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February, seventy seven students from Years 9, 12 and 13 accompanied by eleven staff started the twenty one hour journey to Andalo in Italy. Although it was a long and tiring journey, it was made worthwhile once we were able to witness the beautiful scenery of the Alps. Our hotel – the Costaverde – was situated just a ten minute walk from the ski slopes, but the view from the hotel of the snow-capped Dolomite di Brenta mountains stretched out before us was stunning.



However, there wasn't much time to settle in as we walked to the ski hire shop to get ourselves kitted out with skis, poles and helmets ready for the first of six days skiing on the Sunday.

Excitement on Sunday morning was the main feeling amongst the students, but there was a degree of anxiety too as many of the students had never skied before. However, any fears were soon dispelled due to the excellent tuition from the ski instructors and also due to the fact that each of the seven ski groups also had an Oaklands member of staff with them. Progress was steady for some and

rapid for others, but after a few changes to the groups, we found ourselves skiing with people with similar ability. After the second and third day the groups were taken higher up the mountain and I believe that most groups got to the top by the Friday. Skiing was only one part of the trip though. We attended mass on Sunday evening, went swimming on the Monday and Tuesday evenings and visited the town of Andalo on the Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Given this schedule - combined with the skiing – we were glad to get some rest on the coach journey back. However, almost all of us left the resort with a degree of reluctance; such was the level of enjoyment that we experienced during our time there.



I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all the Year 9 and Sixth Form students to thank Mr. Bamford for organising the trip and also to the other members of staff who joined us on the trip including Mr Tindal, Mr Tyler, Mr P. Smith, Mrs Legg, Mrs Richardson, Miss. Dymott, Mrs. Payne, Mr Whelan, Miss Caspall and Mr Wade.

We had such a good time skiing and spending the week with our friends. I

thought it was an amazing trip and I would urge those in Years 8, 11 and 12 to go on the trip next year.

**Ella Hawkins 9 St.Teresa**

## IBM Website Challenge

The IBM Website Challenge is an annual competition for Year 9 and Year 10 students. The aim of the challenge is to involve young people from schools across the local community in designing a website for a real customer based on set criteria which will provide students with a real work based programming project. The challenge aims to help students develop key IT and personal skills.

The challenge is run as a partnership between IBM and the Education Business Partnership. This year the students had to design a website for 'Off The Record' who are a charity providing free and confidential counselling, support and information for young people aged 11-25 living in Portsmouth, Havant and surrounding areas.

The seven Year 10 students involved met twice a week for twelve weeks meeting up with IBM project leaders to design the website and prepare a presentation. The website had to meet certain criteria, such as the colours had to stay the same as the original website and the students had to use code and not templates such as can be used in Dreamweaver. With the Government's initiative that students should be taught coding this led to a golden opportunity to develop these skills. 50% of the marks went towards the creation of the website and 50% went towards the presentation. The students felt they had learnt invaluable skills

such as working in a team with people who had very different personalities, time management skills, programming skills and the confidence that they could win.

After submitting the website to IBM to test whether it met the specification, the students turned their attention to the presentation. The students decided to have a theme and gimmick for the presentation and chose to role play Sherlock Holmes and called the episode 'Sherlock Holmes and the Crystal Code'. The opening scene began with Sherlock and Watson having a discussion about what case to take on ..... 'Well, there's a murder in Devon...A kidnapping in Sussex...And a website that needs redesigning in Hampshire'.

The team were up against seven schools, including Portsmouth Grammar School and Cams Hill, but still managed to fight off the stiff competition. The team said that they were petrified performing in front of IBM managers and 'Off the Record' directors, but once they were up and got into the roles they felt more confident.

The judges commented on both the excellent coding and interesting and creative way in presenting their findings.

Ms Crane was delighted with the professional manner in which team Oaklands were able to present themselves and answer questions presented by the panel of judges.



## Lessons from Auschwitz



This year, our school worked with the Holocaust Memorial Trust to provide two students with the opportunity to learn more about the holocaust and visit the concentration camp of Auschwitz Birkenau in Poland. Before the trip we took part in an orientation seminar in London. During this we were incredibly fortunate to have a talk from Holocaust survivor, Kitty Hart-Moxon. Kitty shared with us some of her memories of living as a persecuted person, her time at the camp in Auschwitz and adjusting to life after the horrors of the Holocaust. Her talk was incredibly powerful, revealing to us the extent of the destruction and dehumanisation of the Nazi regime and showing the unlimited power of human will and belief.

In the very early hours of the morning on 12<sup>th</sup> of November, along with Mr Tyler, we made our way to Gatwick for our flight to Poland. Our first stop of the day was a visit to the Polish town of Oświęcim, a town which before the war had a Jewish population of 58% yet today does not have a single Jewish person living there. We visited the site of the old synagogue and the remaining synagogue in an attempt to understand why the Nazis targeted this typical Polish town and to gain some basic knowledge of an area that was to become infamous. After this, a short journey took us to the concentration camp of Auschwitz I, the labour camp that housed many, mainly Jewish, prisoners. We had the opportunity of a guided tour, learning in depth of many of the atrocities that took place at this work camp, as well as visiting some of the barracks which are now part of a museum. We were able to see some of the punishments and tactics the Nazis used on prisoners and were shocked at the lengths they went to in developing these ideas upon visiting one of the first gas chambers within the site. As the sun went down and the temperature dropped to a chilling 3 degrees, we

travelled to the site of Birkenau and were instantly made aware of the unbearable environment that these prisoners were forced to endure, as well as those inflicted upon them by their captors. The barren landscape of the area added to the disturbing nature of the camp, and hearing about the awful conditions in which prisoners were forced to live until their executions in the gas chambers left us shaken. A tour of the camp demonstrated to us the extent to which this was a sickeningly effective and organised method of mass extermination of millions of individuals, made worse by the ruins of buildings as the Nazis attempted to cover up their crimes through the destruction of many of the chambers at the camp. An evening vigil upon the train tracks of the camp, with an inspiring speech from a Rabbi who accompanied us, allowed us to reflect upon everything we had learnt that day, not just the facts, but what it meant to us as individuals.

After a few days of reflection, we returned to London on 17<sup>th</sup> of November to meet with the other young people we had travelled with, and discussed how the visit had impacted upon us, what had truly shocked and resonated with us and how we wanted to move forward from here. The seminars and visit were invaluable to us both as we began to realise the true cruelty of this period of history and encouraged us to fully understand the significance of politics, media as well as the



importance, above anything else, of speaking out against injustice.

In preparation for Holocaust Memorial Day, we presented assemblies to the rest of the school in an attempt to pass on what we had taken away from the trip. We retold our experiences, with focus on areas of the trip that resonated with us. We used the opportunity to draw upon discussions from the seminars we had attended and show the importance of the lessons of acceptance and tolerance of others that seemed most important to us. Erin Cregan & Katherine Whitehead

# St. John's Project



**M**y name is Claudio Atieno Pudo. I was appointed to be the Head teacher of St. John's in January this year. I have worked in this school for six years and have good knowledge of the needs of the school and the children. My main vision is to ensure that all the children in the school and those in the streets who we can reach out

to, get quality education. I aim to encourage them to develop and perfect their talents through various creative activities such as art, music, writing, sports and many others.

Enabling our pupils to develop their talents and excel academically is my and my staff's main priority. We are committed to ensuring that the children under our care receive the best education we can give them and that they grow to become the best they can be. We also endeavour to build a good relationship between our school and the local community through communal voluntary activities that we hold at least once a term

I am also the coach of St. John's Sports Society Handball ladies team. Some of our girls from the school are part of this team. The measure of our talent and success is in the fact that our team has reached this year's National Primary Schools Ball Games Championship which will be held in the month of April.

On behalf of St John's, I would like to thank you very much for the support you have given us. You have enabled 115 children (48 pictured) attend school without any problems or worries this term. Once again asanteni sana (thank you very much) and God bless you.

✉ **Stakes Hill Road Waterlooville P07 7BW**  
✉ **Oaklandscatholic@oaklands.hants.sch.uk**  
★ **www.oaklands.hants.sch.uk**  
☎ **023 9225 9214**



**HAVANT FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS**