

Students return from Ecuador

No 401 Sep 14

Term Dates
2014-15

Oaklands News

**Iceland Trip
Student Awards**

Sports News

Governors' Retire

Sixth Form Taster Day

A publication for
**Oaklands Catholic School
and Sixth Form College**



Lead Stories



Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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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'.

It is very easy to say "it is because God Loves you", as I did the other day to a student. I was brought up short when I got the reply, "Ah yes Mr Quinn, but how do you know?". As ever, the teenage mind can be relied upon to bowl the occasional cheeky bouncer. It is then too easy to say, "because we hear it from the word of God through the Bible". Yet there are many quotes in the Bible that confirm God's love for us without exception, caveat or qualification, and this is one of the truths of our Catholic and Christian Faith.

But there is a problem; a few generations ago the word of great institutions including the church were believed and followed without question. Whether that was a good thing or bad can be debated at length. Time has marched on and our youngsters are now players in a materialistic, consumerist and individualistic society, unrecognisable when compared with the past. This coupled with serious mistakes made by institutions, the detail of which is regularly poured over, has resulted in an erosion of trust, creating a market place for mass delusion which is easy to buy into.

So where does this leave our youngsters and how do we give a relevant and contemporary answer to "how do you know?"

The answer can be found in the work of the Catholic school which endeavours, in its students, to help them develop a personal relationship with Our Lord. Our schools are one of the key places, in addition to our parish communities and families, where students experience the invitation to know Jesus as Lord personally and through the school community.

Adults and young people need and appreciate opportunities to share their faith and their experience of it in their lives. Our Mission with the SION community last year was a good example of this. Encounters with God through prayer and the sacraments, all of which are part of school 'routine' help youngsters recognise the presence of God within their own experiences of life - and especially when the going is tough.

Religious development in young people is furthered when they are offered opportunities for collaborative service, for example, our work in Korogocho, for responsibility, and to be involved in making 'the world a better place'. Recognition of the implicit sense of the spiritual in the lives of young people is encouraged by invitations to talk about and to contribute their insights into spirituality towards the growth of the school community, our retreats at Kintbury provide one environment for this. I have described here some of the layers that help us develop and nourish faith in young people. It is this which helps counter the attractiveness of delusion and help our youngsters understand not only the love of God but what Jesus meant when he said, "do this in memory of me". No more cheeky questions Year 11!

Last week I wrote home to all parents recording the examination successes of which there were many. I also laid out the school's expectations for uniform, mobile phones and use of social networking. Please take time to revisit this letter with your child. A further copy will be available on our website.

Since writing the letter I have been asked again about the changes to our assessment schemes. It is clear that national changes in curriculum and levels imposed on schools and the phasing of this through the system over the next five years has the potential to confuse. One parent asked me what would happen if there was a change of government next May? Unfortunately, this could result in further change. All parties have a view of what they want taught in school and how it should be assessed. More detail will be published to parents during the term.

I have been very encouraged by the way all students have settled back into school, particularly Year 11. The examination system for them will be tougher than for previous cohorts.

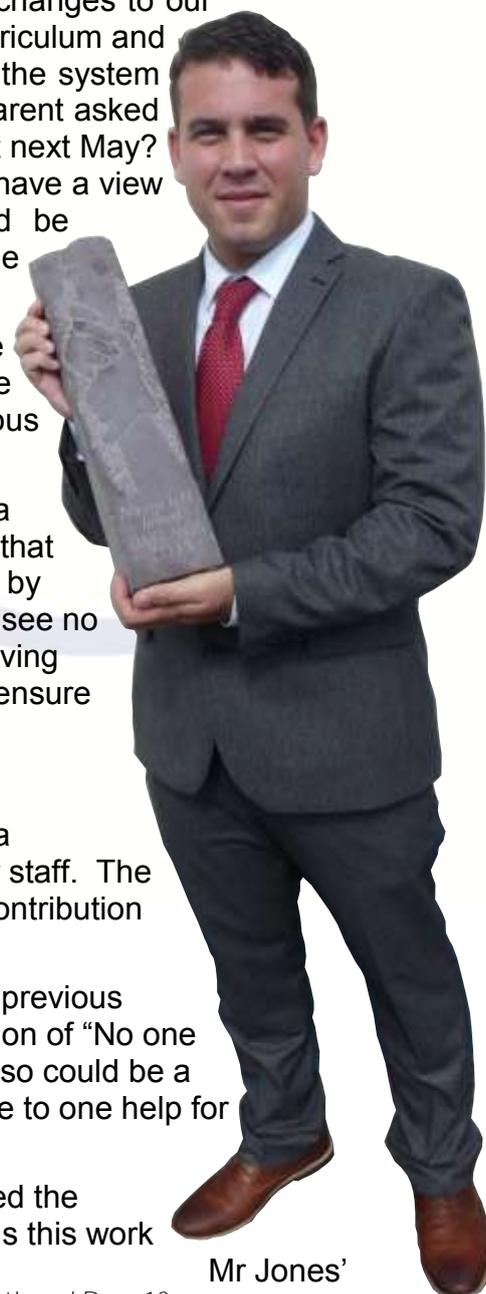
The support that I know parents and carers give students is a contributory factor in student success. Whilst it might appear that the odds are stacked against students, I have been inspired by what I have seen so far and am optimistic about the future. I see no reason why our new Year 11 should not come close to achieving 80% higher grade passes at GCSE. For Year 13 we aim to ensure 100% of students pass at 'A' level;

Congratulations to Mr Jones

At the end of last academic year Paul Quinn stood down as a governor (see page 15). He gifted to the school an award for staff. The concept of the award is for staff members to recognise the contribution of their peers to the mission of the school.

The award is for the individual staff member who, during the previous academic year, has best lived or demonstrated the key mission of "No one left behind". This may be interpreted as broadly as possible, so could be a pastoral, classroom or extra curricular activity, it might be one to one help for a struggling student, done quietly.

Mr Jones was the first recipient of this award. Staff recognised the fantastic contribution he has made to Young Carers. He leads this work in his own time. Many youngsters have benefited from commitment and dedication.



Mr Jones'

Continued Page 12

School finished a few days later for 34 students and 4 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 sixth time the Geography department has taken students to the country and this trip was just as successful. As in previous years, the students were captivated by the sheer scale and variety of landscapes experienced. 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. We were very fortunate to be able to do this as earthquake activity in the area in the previous two weeks had enabled noxious gases to escape from the glacier, along with a jokulhlaup (Icelandic for Glacier burst/flood). The Icelandic authorities had imposed a precautionary exclusion zone in this area as a result, which was lifted just before we went. The reasons for the activity is due to the huge volcano – Katla - that resides beneath the glacier. Its nearest neighbour, Eyjafjallajokull, caused huge disruption in 2010; Katla has the potential to be a far larger eruption.

Mr. Sumba led a reflection on the penultimate evening and there was no real consensus in terms of favourite locations visited. However, seeing Killer Whales in the wild off the island of Heimaey was cited as a particular highlight. What was really pleasing to hear were students saying, “That was the first time I have ever walked on a glacier” or “I have never walked behind a waterfall before” and “I have never





seen a volcano before". The trip was packed with 'firsts' and it was clear that the students enjoyed the experience immensely.

On the final full day we made the journey inland to Landmannalaugar. The walk through the Obsidian lava field, surrounded by the incredible beauty of the Rhyolite mountains in bright sunshine was my personal highlight and many of the students were in agreement too. I think Mr Sumba and Miss Caine even stated that it was the most beautiful location they had seen in Europe; I was in total agreement with this. 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 Mr Tyler, Miss Caine and Mr Sumba 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. However, we did learn that Niamh could not stand the smell of Hydrogen Sulphide at the geothermal areas and that Ryan, crampons and glaciers simply do not mix!

Plans for the 2015 trip have already been started; the trip will be open to Geography students in Years 10-13.

Iceland was very, very different to anywhere I have been before. Everything about it was very strange yet enchanting. Here is a small insight into what we got up to on this amazing trip.

If you asked any person taking part what was your favourite thing about the trip? I think everybody would reply with 'the Orcas'. We were on a boat tour around an island off Iceland where the scenery was beautiful when, out of the blue, came a stunning sight. It was an Orca! As everyone rushed over to the side of the boat to get a look, up it popped again, almost showing off. It was a very memorable experience and one I shall never forget.

In Iceland, waterfalls are everywhere. During the five days we spent there we visited many waterfalls and every single one had something special about it. Whether it be amazing power, height, structure, they were all just beautiful.

One of my personal favourite events was swimming in the Blue Lagoon. It is a natural spring that is a lovely place to swim and relax. The water temperature felt like a bath and the atmosphere was amazing. They also had a selection of weird and wonderful smoothies on offer. If you ever visit Iceland you must swim at the Blue Lagoon. It is another brilliant experience that I will never forget and it is all natural which is amazing.

Visiting Iceland was an incredible experience and I think I speak on behalf of everyone who went on the trip when I say we are very grateful to the school and the staff for offering us this once in a life time opportunity; one we will always remember. The sights we saw were out of this world and the whole trip was fantastic.

Charlie Bartolo, 11 St. Margaret

For the second year in a row we were blessed with perfect weather for Sports Day. Hundreds of students took part in a number of disciplines both track and field. This year the overall winners were the St Teresa House. Well done to all the competitors this year. A number of long standing school records were broken by some very talented students.

The day finished with a staff versus student relay. After a resounding win from the staff in 2013 the students struck back this year.

Records Broken

Yr7 Boys Josh Wise in Javelin 38.32m

Yr8 Boys Jack Lindsay in 300m 47.94s

Yr9 Girl Isla Crockford in 150m 31.40s

Yr9 Boys Jonah North in 300m 43.16s

	Year 7 Totals	Year 8 Totals	Year 9 Totals	Year 10 Totals	Overall
Ca	127	107	84	122	440
Cl	120	95	126	116	457
Do	95	117	104	128	444
Mg	104	90	114	65	373
Mt	105	90	152	91	438
St	91	113	77	132	413
Te	143	110	119	114	486
Vp	103	109	80	91	383

Year 7 Six a Side Cricket Tournament Mr Bamford

On Thursday 26th June, the Year 7 Cricket team travelled to Reigate Grammar School to participate in the annual Reigate 6-a-side competition.

The cricketers, accompanied by Mr Wade and Mr Bamford, played four games and managed to win one. However, this doesn't really tell the full story as the opposition consisted almost exclusively of private schools. The players from these schools would have played cricket for quite some time, whereas our students are far less experienced.

Despite being beaten convincingly in two of the games, one of the other games was very close and went to the last over. We weren't quite able to defend our total on that occasion, but the team did manage to defend a good total of 65 in the game that we won against Langley School. Josh Wise ensured that we scored a challenging total, but it was then down to the bowlers and fielders to win the game. Perhaps the turning point in the game was when Ed Lee took two wickets in his over. Having said that, this only meant that the two opening batsmen – who had retired because they had reached 13 already – were able to return to the crease. From there, victory for the experienced cricketers from Langley should have been a formality, but superb fielding put paid to their seemingly inexorable march towards victory. Two run outs in the final over ensured that the opposition were bowled out and Oaklands were able to secure the win.

The team responded very well to the advice and coaching provided by Mr Bamford and Mr Wade during the day and should be proud of their efforts.



Devon Selected for England



Our very own Devon Brimecome was selected to represent England in the Schools' International Track and Field competition in Cardiff on 19th July. She won the place after finishing second in 300m intermediate girls' hurdles in the England school Track and Field competition in a time of 43.31. The competition in Cardiff was always going to be stiff with the best athletes from her age range and disciplines from England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. Eight athletes competed and Devon came a very creditable 3rd in a time of 43.49s. Devon returns to continue her studies at Oaklands Sixth Form. We wish her every success in the future.

Picture courtesy of Portsmouth Evening News

Goodbye Year 11 Mr Quinn

Having steered their way through five years at Oaklands and with GCSE examinations fading into the distance, it was high time to complete the year with the Year 11 Leavers Prom. This year we returned to the Marriot Hotel.

Students arrived in a host of incredible chariots

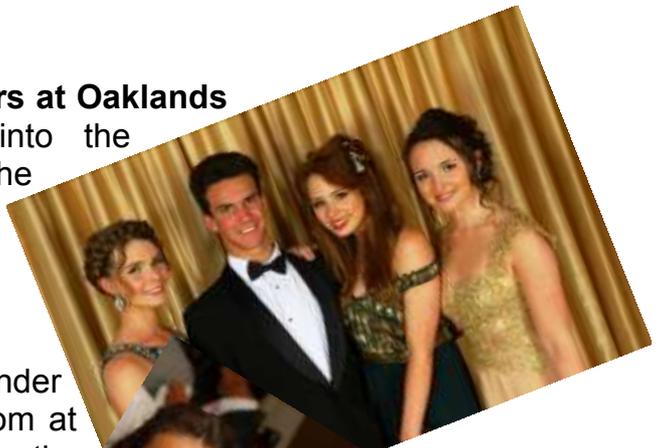
A dedicated team had been working hard all year under the supervision of Miss Dymott to arrange the Prom at the Marriot Hotel. The evening started at 6:30 when the students made some show stopping entrances to a gasping crowd of well-wishers, family and friends. Students arrived in a host of incredible chariots, limousines, even a cardboard box!

Celebrity style photo shoot

Upon arrival the students entered the hotel via the red carpet only to be greeted by a celebrity style photo shoot. Many of the students looked resplendent and, at times, unrecognisable. As a year group they truly were a sight to behold and I for one felt very proud to see the smart, intelligent, well rounded adults they have clearly become.

Fitting tribute

It was a fitting tribute to the Class of 2014. Most importantly, however, well done to all the students for giving the evening such a special atmosphere.



Celebrate 2014

Hard work deserves recognition and at the end of the last academic year many students' talents and gifts were celebrated. The first successes were applauded in July with a week of assemblies focused on rewarding outstanding sporting achievements and the presentation of the Tutor Awards. These awards were nominated by tutors to celebrate the achievements (be it academic, personal or pastoral) of some of their most outstanding tutees. Mr Tindal (Head of PE) presented cups and medals to our fabulous sportsmen and women who have represented our school or indeed our county at competitive level. It was encouraging to see so many students recognised by their Tutors and the PE Department and it was a proud day for many.

On the final day of term we celebrated the conclusion of 2013-14 with the presentation of the final sporting honours (tennis, cricket, Sports Day and many more) 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 (this year it was blue!). The recipients of these awards are nominated by a variety of criteria – outstanding performance; outstanding commitment or clear passion for the subject. The presentation was also punctuated by three videos of great photos and events: A Year in the Life of Oaklands; Challenge Week; St John's School Pupils Say Thank You.

We also awarded the following shields to some outstanding students:

Terry Stevens Award (Music) – Kieran Lyster – nominated for the second year in a row, a truly exceptional student:

The Damian Whitfield Award (Sixth Form) – Barney Walsh;

The Damian Whitfield (Main School) – Bethany Moore;

The Helen Shipman Award (Sport) – Megan Hick and Tom Ellis.

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.



Penny Fayre

This year's Penny Fayre took place on the sunken lawn in July and raised over £400 as a result of the efforts Sixth Formers to create an inventive stall each in order to raise money. The aim of a Penny Fayre - or increasingly a Silver Fayre - is to offer fun activities for younger students. As a result we had some good old-fashioned ideas such as Name the Teacher as a Baby and Splat the Rat. There was also a Penalty Shoot-Out game and Hook the Duck! Stickier options included the sweet stall and timed attempts to eat a doughnut or drink a pint of water whilst the biggest earner was a 'Sponge a Teacher' option. It would seem that paying to soak your favourite teachers is worth all of a student's spare cash! It's a good job the weather was so warm.

£436 was raised and the chosen charity this year was Fitzroy, a national yet locally based organisation who support adults with learning disabilities to access jobs, care and other much needed support. Our contributions will be used to provide for service users in the Waterlooville area. The organising students in Year 12 were led by Londwa Dlamini and Jessie Francis along with many others who spent time preparing resources and buying ingredients.

It was a happy and productive morning and the Sixth Form as ever rose to the demands of the day - they had a great time into the bargain.



Reward for hard work and determination

I arrived at Oaklands School in September 2008 from another senior school, with 3 GCSE's at Grade C. Despite this the Oaklands community could see my desire to reach my potential. Despite having dyslexia and dyspraxia, I started my journey. It took several attempts to get my grade C's in English and Maths and I also took a GCSE in Business Studies to gain a grade C whilst in the Sixth Form.

Oaklands gave me the firm foundation to progress and inspired me for the first time to consider university after college. I sat AS Levels in Geography and passed, I then went on to study A Levels in Business Studies, Sociology and Health and Social Care. I got 2 grade D's and 1 C at A Level, then I went on to study another year in the Sixth Form to achieve AS in Food Technology.

Oaklands School believed in me so much that it started to inspire me to apply to University. I applied to study BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies with Practitioner Options. I got an offer of a conditional place and, in August 2011, with Oaklands support and guidance, I had achieved enough UCAS points to get into university. I was elated and excited along with family and teachers who were very proud of me.

I started at the University of Chichester in September 2011 and completed the course in May 2014; I obtained a 2:1 in my degree. Without Oaklands support, guidance and the opportunities that they gave me, I would not be where I am today in terms of academic achievement. This meant I was able to obtain a dream job in special needs less than a month after finishing at university and there is no doubt in my mind that I will have a huge smile on my face when I graduate in October. Thanks Oaklands. *Hannah Wiles*

Sixth Form Taster day

Thursday 10th July 2014 allowed those students who had applied to Oaklands Sixth Form to come and sample the standards expected at AS Level. Students received a timetable and chose lessons to attend throughout the day.

After a presentation about the events and expectations in the conference room, students set off for their new subjects. Each applicant also received a booklet containing a representative exercise for each subject. This allowed newcomers to AS courses time during the summer holidays to read and research their new subjects. It was impressed upon the learners that whatever they had studied at GCSE, it would feel very different at this new higher level.

Just before lunch all of the present Sixth Form as well as the new recruits met in the main hall and there followed a 'speed dating' exercise to enable groups of existing Sixth Formers to inform and educate their new young colleagues about the perils and peaks of life in the Sixth Form. This proved a noisy and vibrant affair with new friendships and alliances forming.

At 1.30pm students converged on the sunken lawn for a barbeque together with staff and present Year 12 students. The sunshine was most welcome, although the resident chefs Messrs Smith and Shaw could have done with a cool breeze after all of their endeavours. Many thanks to all involved for what promises to be an excellent and vast new year group of students from Oaklands' Year 11 as well as 16 students joining us from various other schools and colleges in Hampshire and Europe.



Geography Field Trip

Year 10 Geography students visited West Wittering beach and East Head spit in West Sussex over a three day period in July. 150 students took part in this valuable experience. The Geography department feel strongly that fieldwork is a key element of the delivery of Geography. As part of the core curriculum, students in Years 7 to 9 utilise the school grounds to collect data for a series of projects and a number of Year 9 students were also given the opportunity to visit the Isle of Wight for a second time in September (see separate news item).



At GCSE, students have to collect primary data to enable them to complete their con-rolled assessment. This is an important piece of work as it is worth 25% of their total grade. We base our controlled assessment on the Coasts topic and the coast at West Wittering is ideal to study how successful coastal management in the area has been.

The Year 10 students will now work for twenty hours in lessons over the next half term to complete their assessments.

As has already been mentioned, the department provide a number of opportunities to experience fieldwork. We visited Iceland again in July (see separate news item) and plans are being made to go again in the summer of 2015. Students in Years 10-13 interested should see Mr Bamford for further details.



Continued from Page 2

Refurbishment Works

Over this summer a significant amount of refurbishment has occurred. The St. Thomas More block and Blessed Henry Newman block corridors have been painted and the picnic area outside the canteen is now complete. We have started a phased refurbishment of our school toilets. Both male and female facilities in the Hall area have been completed. Fortunately, the work to the services in connection with this project was relatively minor. However, the final bill will still be in the order of £16,000. The work in other areas is more extensive, but we hope to complete the St. Thomas More block

facilities over the next academic year.

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 '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.

Developing Lifelong Learning at St Peter's

We have been developing skills at school that will enable children to become lifelong learners. In 2013 we launched our **Learning Behaviour Mascots - the 5 Cs: Curiosity, Creativity, Critical Thinking, Collaboration and Commitment.**

Our **Curiosity** mascot asks lots of questions: Who? When? Where? Why? What? How? He inspires our children to try new things, use their imagination and ask questions.

To be **Creative** learners the children are encouraged to think in different ways, use their imagination and develop their ideas.

Collaborative learners work together, ask for help when it is needed and help others while **Critical Thinkers** notice everything, think before they act, try things another way and take time to reflect.

Our last learning behaviour mascot reminds children of the importance of **Commitment**, of sticking with a task and seeing it through to the end.

We recognise that children who demonstrate the 5 Cs in their learning every day, at home and at school, are going to be in a stronger place to become genuine independent learners, taking responsibility for all they do and valuing their learning. We expect everyone in our school to show the 5 Cs. In classes, the commitment shown to learning and never giving up is incredible. Everyone in school can talk about what it means to show commitment to your learning, to stick at it and never give up. Children concentrate really hard on their learning and push themselves to try new and harder things and so get even better at their skills in all subjects.



One of the most important decisions a parent makes...

Choosing a school for your child

At St Peter's Catholic Primary School we understand that choosing a school for your child can be daunting. Every parent wants the best for their child and wants to make the right decision. We would like to offer you support in making your choice. We invite all parents who have to make this decision in the near future to join us at one of our Open Days this autumn.

Come and see our school in action, talk to our wonderful children and ask the staff any questions you may have - about our school, early years or school life /education in general. Prospective parents for children in other year groups are also welcome to visit us. As a school we want the best for every child that joins us. We would be delighted to welcome you for a visit. Our children and staff would love to show you around.

OPEN DAYS

at St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Stakes Hill Road,
Waterlooville

Thursday 6th November from 9.30-11.30am

Thursday 4th December from 1.15-3.00pm



"To walk hand in hand with God loving him, loving each other and loving ourselves, doing our best with the gifts he gave us to make the world a richer place"



Pottery at Stansted House

Stansted Park began as a hunting lodge 800 years ago. Royal visitors are recorded from Henry II to the present generation. After several owners, and a calamitous fire in 1900, the mansion was rebuilt in 1901 on the exact footprint of the 1688 house, and became the family home of the Ponsonbys, Earls of Bessborough, in 1924.

The house was used by the families of the 9th and 10th Earls of Bessborough as their family home, and still contains family portraits by Kauffman, Lawrence, Hoppner, Reynolds, and Liotard.

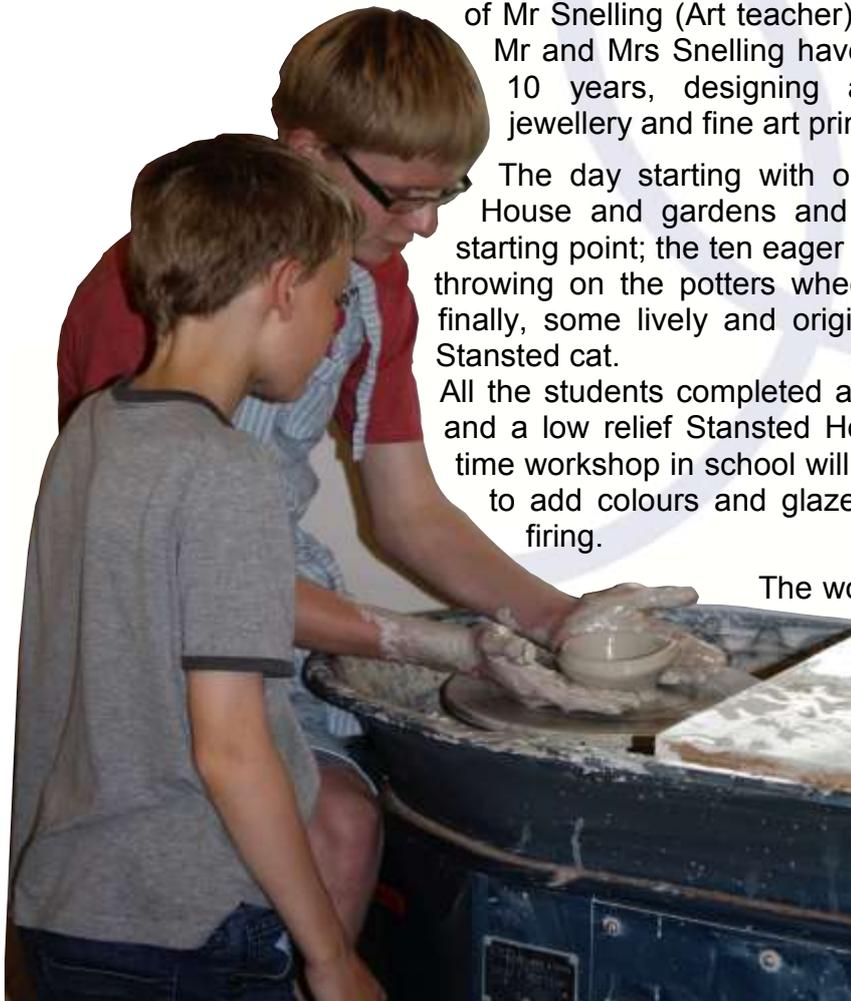
The 9th Earl of Bessborough, Vere Ponsonby, was a popular Governor General of Canada in the 1930s. Since 1983 the house and estate have been owned by Stansted Park Foundation, an independent charitable trust set up by the 10th Earl. He was a diplomat, Minister of State, a founder of Chichester Festival Theatre, and a Vice-President of the European Parliament. So what a fantastic location to inspire ten Year 8 students from Oaklands who were invited to visit Stansted Park and take part in a specialist workshop in the Studio of Mr Snelling (Art teacher) assisted by his wife, Mrs Snelling.



Mr and Mrs Snelling have made use of The Studio for over 10 years, designing and making ceramics, knitwear, jewellery and fine art prints.

The day starting with observational drawings of Stansted House and gardens and then using these drawings as a starting point; the ten eager students commenced workshops in throwing on the potters wheel, hand made tile production and finally, some lively and original clay modelling of the resident Stansted cat.

All the students completed at least two or three thrown shapes and a low relief Stansted House inspired pottery tile. A lunch-time workshop in school will provide an opportunity for students to add colours and glazes to the pieces before a final kiln firing.



The workshops were a great success and we hope that the students will continue to make pots and enjoy the process of making throughout their school career.

Individual and group sessions can be booked at The Studio through

Mr Snelling. Please contact him via the Art department at Oaklands Catholic School.

Unsung Hero's retire from office

Being a school governor requires commitment and dedication. Sadly this year we said goodbye to two governors who between them have given almost 50 years service to the school.

Paul Quinn OBE has been fully involved with the Oaklands community since his children became students at the school in the mid-nineties. Paul was appointed as a parent Governor in 1997 and subsequently by Bishop Crispian as a Foundation Governor two years later. He was elected as Chair of Governors in the academic year 2000/01, a position he held until 2013.



As part of his duties as Chair of Governors, Paul chaired the main governing body meetings, which occur twice a term and, since Oaklands became an Academy, has acted as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Academy Trust Company. Paul was the driving force behind many initiatives including the completion of the JP block.

As Paul now

steps down from the role of Foundation Governor, he leaves Oaklands an outstanding place where our young people are developed to be well balanced and spiritually literate adults.

Chris Jones was elected by Oaklands parents as a Parent Governor shortly after his first child started at Oaklands in 1986/87. Around six years later he was appointed as a Foundation Governor by Bishop Crispian.

All three of his children were educated at Oaklands and enjoyed seven years at the school; two later became members of staff. In addition, Chris' wife taught R.E. at the school for eighteen years. Without question Chris has shown exemplary commitment and dedication to all things 'Oaklands'.

Chris was instrumental in promoting a Catholic Sixth Form College for the local community; seeing it with an identity of its own yet remaining an integral part of the Oaklands community. To this end, he was part of the inaugural team who secured a temporary building which was set aside for Sixth Form teaching and, later, as Chair of a newly formed Sixth Form Committee, the development of a purpose built Sixth Form College block with excellent facilities to house our Sixth Form students.

We now have a flourishing Sixth Form with over 270 students studying a wide range of subjects; due in no small measure to Chris' unstinting support and devotion.

We were delighted to award Both Chris and Paul with the Sisters of Christ Award. This was presented to them by Sister Catherine Morton, former Headteacher of Oaklands.

Trip to Ecuador

Twenty six Oaklands students were given the once in a lifetime opportunity to travel to Ecuador for a month. Our journey began with the challenge of fundraising. Concerts were held, donating web pages put up and other fundraising events scheduled. We attended many 'meet-up' sessions in preparation and then on 15th July we arrived at college bleary eyed at 4am to leave for Heathrow. After nearly a day of travelling, we arrived at our hostel which was almost on the equator. After a day of rest and adapting to the local climate and altitude, we made our way to our first camp: Macqui, in the cloud rainforest. We played a game of football with the locals while in awe at the views surrounding us before settling in for our first night.



Volunteering work began immediately with two days work on hauling rocks up a hill in order to build a water storage device and on the third day painting a mural on a school wall. The weather was typical of a rainforest and this combined with the altitude we were at made any labour hard work. On our fourth day we went on a hike through the rainforest to a smaller, less developed camp where we had the luxury of a barbeque. We did some new project work in the morning before hiking back to Macqui. First camp finished, we stopped off at a museum on the equator for one of our rest days and each tried the various challenges on the equator line; balancing an egg, walking in a straight line and handstands.

Camp Costa was next and this was a seaside camp located on a sunny beach. This was the scuba diving camp and the divers spent the majority of their time in the water. The divers saw turtles, guitar sharks, octopuses and many various forms of exotic fish. Everyone who took their PADI course test passed and many say it was the highlight of the trip. We had project work here as well; we built eight octopus houses which are now resting at the bottom of the pacific, visited the local primary school to give language and P.E lessons, numerous beach cleans and also work around the camp to help improve the facilities. One evening we went out on the beach to eat and were joined by a couple





of whales swimming just out at sea, a truly amazing sight. We had a celebration on the last day with the instructors and then left the next morning.

We did a tour of Quito on a rest day and saw all the local sights before departing for Kuri Koocho. This camp was high up in the Andes, at an altitude of around two times the height of Ben Nevis, and by far the coldest of the camps. This camp was the most basic of the three, experiencing a water shortage for three days. However, the project work was very closely involved with the local community and so in my opinion the most rewarding. We took on the job of building a hut for the locals made out of mud, straw, manure and water which involved 'poo stomping' in bare feet to make the mixture. We also did some gardening work planting and collecting various crops. It was the harvest festival at the time and we helped the locals prepare for it and then enjoyed the festival itself with music, bull fighting and various food on offer.

To round off the trip we spent two days exploring the Ottovalo market; buying souvenirs and various items, visiting the

local food market and trying our hand at haggling in Spanish. After this, we spent 27 hours travelling before arriving home.

Every single one of us had a life changing time away and committed to voluntary project work, tried a new skill like scuba diving, delved into a foreign culture, developed leadership and team work skills and has so many memories and stories to tell from it. On behalf of everyone who went, I'd like to say thank you to the four members of staff who gave up their summer to come with us and without who the trip would not only not have happened, but wouldn't have been as amazing and rewarding as it was.





We arrived at school at around 6am, bleary eyed. However, excitement contagious among us with the faint hint of anxiety. Parents hover, looking bored, desperate for the luxury of bed and a week of quiet.

On the bus, jeers of relished freedom. Ipods blaring out bass-filled tunes, waking up the whole of Portsmouth from their well-deserved slumber. Teachers feel the need to fall asleep. Alas we have cameras to get evidence of drooling teachers. Four hours in and on the ferry we sensibly explored the ship, like travellers scavenging for information. Some of us retreating to our very own VIK (very important kids) lounge to enjoy the comfort of reclining chairs.

We arrive in France on the wrong side of the road, keen and hungry to start our adventure in St. Aignan!

We sat down and enjoyed the typical French cuisine, our taste buds exploding with unknown delights.

At night we drowsily walk through and collapse on to our beds like zombies. Mr Shaw did not need to raise his voice to get us to sleep. We were like angels (but only for one night)

On Saturday we saw the lovely weather of England, in France, however, it did not dampen our spirit (excuse the pun) as we learnt about the village and began our tormenting interrogation of the local market stall holders. We returned in high spirits and after lunch we set out for the pool. Unfortunately, it was closed but it did not stop us from playing SPLAT for an hour. After that we visited the Troglodyte Museum which was a cave where a man lived, creating silk from silk worms. What we call now, a modern caveman!

Sunday, we visited the local vineyard, where we tasted the wine. Some people's faces cringing at the bitterness whilst the teachers looked like pros, sniffing, swirling and sipping the wine, fully experiencing the fruity flavours. After the tasting we were invited to buy some bottles of wine (for the parents of course) to put back in the safety

of our suitcases.

That night we did a quiz on chocolates and sweeties, as well as revealing the results concluding horrors of lack of cleanliness in our dormitories.

Tuesday we visited L'Atelier St. Michel Biscuit Factory where we were shown around by our lovely tour guide, Antony, who invited us to the top secret for our eyes only section of the factory. We were all surprised by the amount of work done by hand, each sweet concoction, unique in its own special way. We returned to the lounge where we watched the heritage and history of the factory's genesis. Our group was alone ... apart from a basket full of tempting goodies. We looked at the teachers, with pleading puppy eyes until they said "go on then", letting us sneak a bit.

The other group returned looking suspiciously at our crumb 'tasches'. In the afternoon we visited Max Vauché Chocolaterie. We saw an amazing chocolate lady reflecting the culture of "the chocolate island" the source of the cocoa.

The next day we visited the Beauval Zoo which contained the Snow Tiger and many more exotic animals, including the Red Panda and the Giant Pandas. Whilst we were there I saw the Sea Lion show which I would highly recommend.

On our final day we visited Valencay Château where we explored the luxury of royalty before deciphering the coded maze. It was a-maze-ing ha ha! No. After that we retreated to relax in the lukewarm St. Aignan pool. Most of us dived off the 1m diving board including the teachers. Pssst! I think Mr C and Mr S are going in for the next Olympics because of the quality of their dives.

The next morning we departed from St. Aignan, the mood a little more subdued. At 10pm we returned to the party of parents gathered on the school drive. However, we were in fits of laughter after comparing mugshots of our passports, lightening our mood. The teachers sighing with relief as they handed over their responsibility to the mums and dads.

Trip over. Memories stored. Good ones. Thanks guys.

George Ragg-Griffith 9 St. Martin

Oaklands continues to offer a wide range of extra-curricular and off-site activities. This year we intend to continue to reduce administration by retaining the ONE medical form which was completed by all parents /carers with children in Years 7-11 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 if they have not already done so.

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. 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.

We will be holding a parent /carer consultation on trips and visits this year so please look out for details of that as your feedback will contribute to the renewal of the school policy.

A few gentle reminders Mr Quinn

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.

When parents are choosing a school, one of the key indicators to consider is the attendance rate – this is because it is a good indicator of student success and student wellbeing. Students who achieve well and progress well, attend well! It is the single most influential factor in a student's success and here at Oaklands we are delighted to inform you that our figure for 2013 - 14 was **96%** which is **OUTSTANDING**. This would not be possible if we did not have your parental support. **REMEMBER!**

Holidays in term time will not be permitted

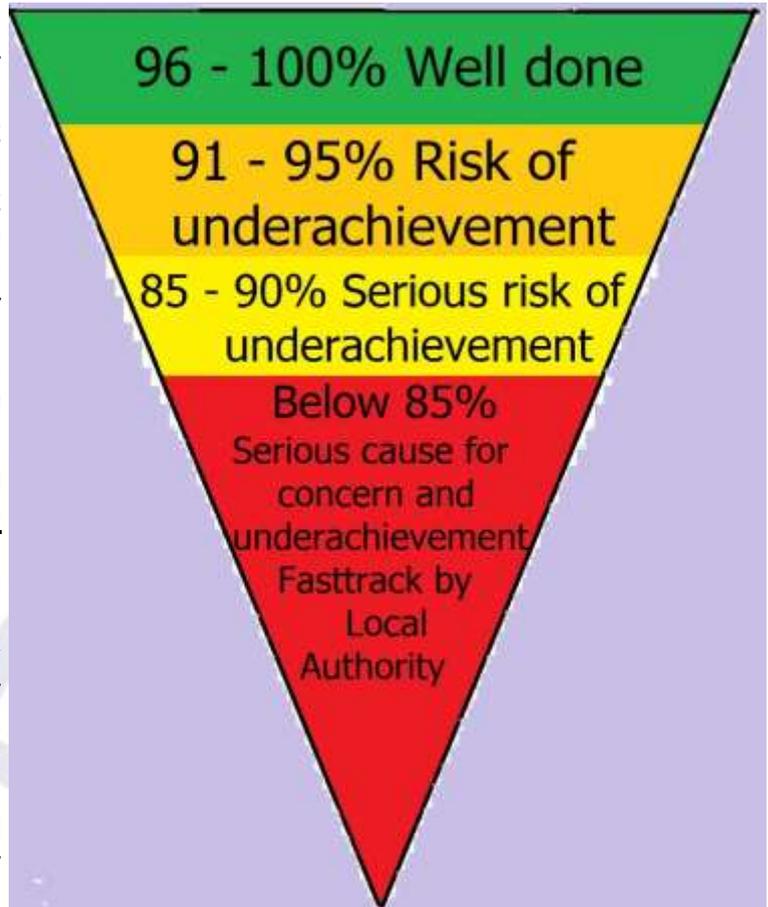
Leave of Absence: All parents/carers should please note that **we do not authorise holidays taken during term-time**. The Department of Education has instructed all Headteachers that cannot authorise absence due to holiday unless there are very exceptional circumstances. The Headteacher will decide as 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, or that grandparents have booked a holiday, or it is a family celebration, or that it is an opportunity to spend time with cousins who you have not visited in years. 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 due to deployment. More detail can be found in the policy. The school will also look very carefully at the child's previous attendance record.

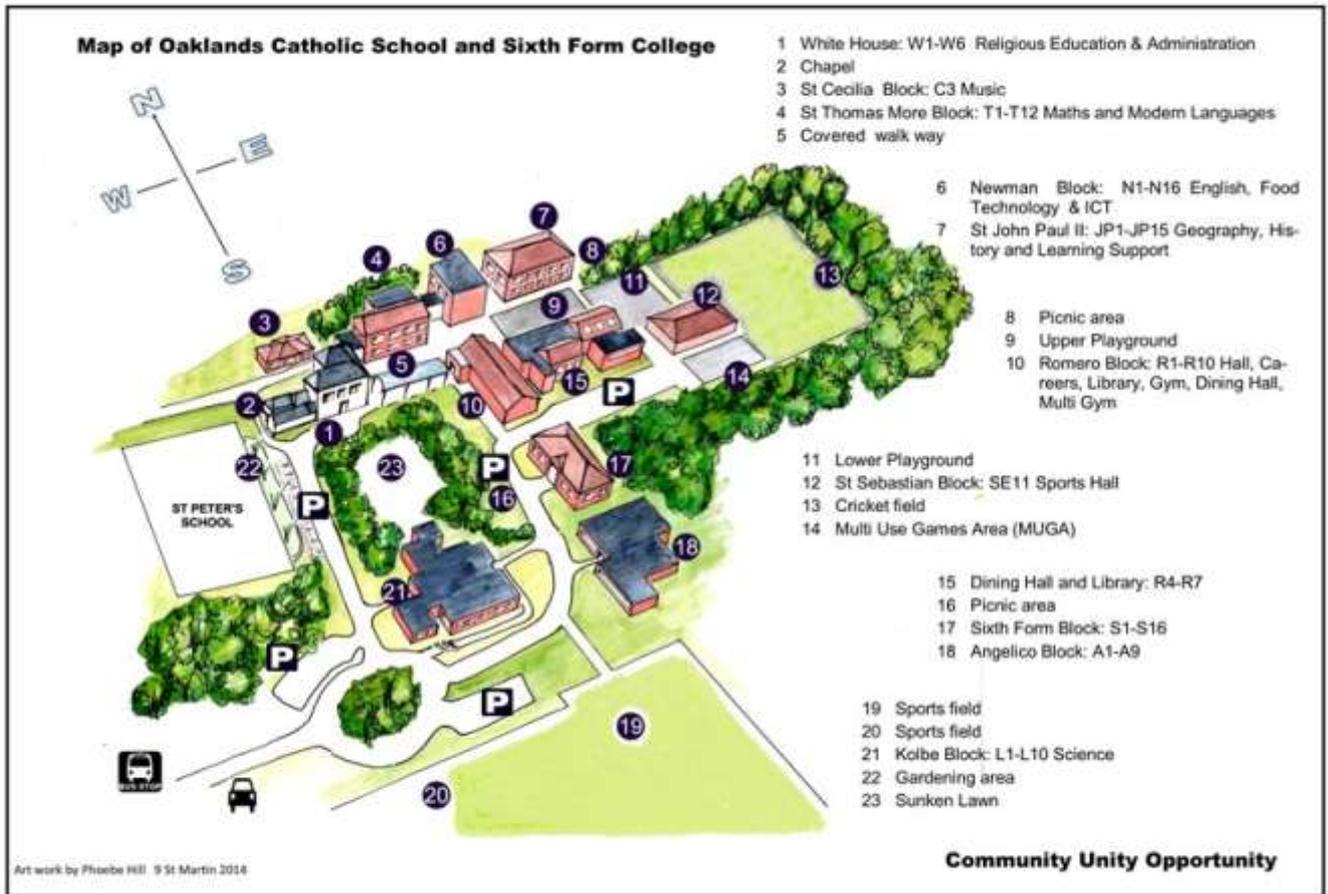
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Reporting general absence: Don't forget that you can report an absence for the school to authorise by sending an email to Mrs Vacher at: absence@oaklandscatholicschool.org instead of sending in a note. We do random checks to ensure validity and authenticity of the email. You may also use the school's texting service if 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 or Mrs Oldroyd of the number of learning minutes missed; as a consequence your son or daughter will be required to "catch up" those minutes after school (this is non-negotiable) and, if the pattern persists, you will be invited in for a meeting to discuss improvement strategies. Your son or daughter may also be placed on Report Card to monitor their punctuality. Lateness to school due to external bus services is not a viable excuse and parents must take responsibility to ensure their children arrive to school on time; this may require organising students to catch an earlier bus.





For longer than we can remember the school map has been a black and white one dimensional line drawing. This year we commissioned a student, Phoebe-Hill, to produce a drawing that more accurately represents the school site. So when you visit the school you will be provided with Phoebe's artwork to help you navigate the site.

Welcome to New Staff

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: Miss H Gray (Science), Mrs H Lenton (Science), Mrs L Lynas (English), Mr C McDonald (Science), Mr C Osbourne (English), Miss H Sadler (English), Mr M Smith (English). In addition in a temporary capacity Mrs J Adams, a former member of staff, (Geography) and Mrs S Roberts (RE).

We also welcome a number of new support staff: Mrs C Aksoy (Admin), Mr M Goddard (Site), Mr S Hardaker (Science), Mrs D Newbiggin (Chaplain's Asst.), Mrs C Pasterfield (Admin), Miss S Woods (Catering) and Learning Support Assistants – Mrs J Colmer, Mr R Gainey, Miss A Ho and Mrs T Toy.

Trainee Teachers

This term we welcome to Oaklands trainee teachers Mr M Collins, Miss R Elliott and Mr S Rowe training through the Solent SCITT programme.

Year 10 Professional Days

From 29th June to 2nd July 2015 Year 10 will be taking part in Practice Interviews and Professional Days. We are seeking parents who may be able to help support this important week. This could involve talks to small groups of students about careers or conducting interviews. If you are able to help please contact either Mrs Payne at the school. Thank you.

CATHOLIC CHILDREN –

The process of applications for next year's Year 7, September 2015 is already underway. If you are a Catholic family expecting to apply for a place for your son/daughter for September 2015 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 2015 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 2015 should also write to the Admissions Secretary, Mrs Linda White immediately.

It is essential, therefore, that all parents applying for a place for September 2015 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 Friday 31st October 2014.

Parking

A reminder to parents who are collecting & dropping off their children at school mornings and afternoons; please do not block driveways, park on the white lines or double yellow lines or grass verges in local residential areas such as Durham Gardens, Place Crescent, Shaftesbury Avenue and Lombardy Rise. It is important that consideration is given to residents who live in these areas around the school. Last year the Local Authority changed the parking regulations outside the school you will also notice a slight change in the road layout on Stakes Hill Road with an additional central refuge. Parking outside the school on the ZIGZAG lines is an endorsable offence. We have been told that this will be enforced. See page 20 about parking on the school site.

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

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.

Disabled Parking Mrs McCall



A few years ago the school increased the number of disabled parking spaces around the school. On occasions other drivers have used these spaces which can create a problem. We are fortunate to have ample parking space around our site. Thank you for parking with consideration.

Assessment Dates for the year ahead

	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	Yr 12	Yr 13
Working at Grades						17/11/14	6/10/14
Parents Eve	7/5/15	27/11/14	4/12/14	30/4/15	12/2/15	18/11/2014 31/3/15	7/10/2014 31/3/15
Transition reports	23/10/14						
Assessments	18-22/5/15	23-27/2/15 Maths – 9- 13/3/15	1-5/6/15	3/11-7/11/14			
Written Reports	8/7/15	25/6/15	10/7/15	31/3/15	7/11/14	4/2/15	4/2/15
Progress Review	6/3/15	20/3/15	Core test results 2/12/14 27/2/15	8/12/14			
Core exams			20-26/11/14				
Mock exams				23-30/6/15	12-23/1/15	12-20/3/15	12-20/3/15
Option Eve			5/2/15				
Predicted grades				31/3/15 14/7/15	6/5/15	1/5/15	1/5/15

School Calendar Autumn Term

Mon	01/09/2014	Inset Day - School Closed
Tue	02/09/2014	Phased start Years 7,12,13
Wed	03/09/2014	Years 7-11 students in school
Thu	04/09/2014	School Photos Years 7, 9, 11 and 12 KS4 Induction Evening 6.15pm
Mon	08/09/2014	Oaklands Parents' Association (OPA) Committee Meeting
Wed	10/09/2014	Full Governors Meeting
Thu	11/09/2014	Year 11 Intervention Evening 6pm KS5 Induction Evening 7pm
Mon	15/09/2014	Governors' Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting
Thu	18/09/2014	HPV (1)Vaccinations
Mon	22/09/2014	Intervention Evening
Thu	25/09/2014	OPEN EVENING 6-8pm
Fri	26/09/2014	INSET Day - School Closed
Mon	06/10/2014	Year 13 Working at Grade Home Governors' Business and Collaboration Committee Meeting OPA Committee Meeting
Tue	07/10/2014	Year 13 Parents' Evening
Fri	10/10/2014	Non Uniform Day
Wed	15/10/2014	Full Governors Meeting
Thu	23/10/2014	Year 7 Transition Report Home
Mon -	27/10/2014	Half Term
Fri	31/10/2014	
Mon	03/11/2014	Governors' Ethos Committee Meeting. OPA Committee Meeting
Fri	07/11/2014	Year 11 Reports Home
Mon	10/11/2014	Year 7 Academic Mentoring Week Governors' Business and Collaboration Committee Meeting
Wed	12/11/2014	Intervention Evening
Thu	13/11/2014	KS5 Options Evening
Sat	15/11/2014	OPA Christmas Craft Fayre
Mon	17/11/2014	Year 8 Book Sharing Week Anti Bullying Week Governors' Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting
Tue	18/11/2014	Year 12 Parents' Evening
Mon	24/11/2014	Year 9 Book Sharing Week
Wed	26/11/2014	HPV Vaccinations (Catch-up)
Thu	27/11/2014	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Mon	01/12/2014	OPA Committee Meeting
Tue	02/12/2014	Year 9 Core Test Results Home
Wed	03/12/2014	Peripatetic Music Concert 7.00pm
Thu	04/12/2014	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Mon	08/12/2014	Year 10 Progress Review Home
Tue	09/12/2013	Christmas Music Concert 7.30pm
Wed	10/12/2014	Full Governors Meeting
Fri	12/12/2014	Oaklands Christmas Ball 8.00pm
Tue	16/12/2014	Christmas Carol Service 7.00pm
Thu	18/12/2014	Last Day of Term
Fri	19/12/2014	INSET Day - School Closed

<p>Dates and times accurate at time of going to press. The school reserves the right to make alterations.</p>
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Mon	05/01/2015	Inset Day School Closed OPA Committee Meeting
Thu	08/01/2015	Presentation of Certificates Evening 7pm
Mon	12/01/2015	Year 11 Practice Exams commence
Mon	19/01/2015	Governors' Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting
Thu	22/01/2015	Year 7 Intervention Groups Parents' Evening
Mon	26/01/2015	Faith Unity Week Governors' Business and Collaboration Committee Meeting
Thu	29/01/2015	Year 8 Intervention Groups Parents' Evening
Mon	02/02/2015	Year 11 Book Sharing Week OPA Committee Meeting
Wed	04/02/2015	Year 12/13 Reports Home
Thu	05/02/2015	Year 9 Options Evening
Fri	06/02/2015	Year 11 Practice Exam Grades Home
Wed	11/02/2015	Full Governors Meeting
Thu	12/02/2015	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Fri	13/02/2015	Ski Trip Departs
Mon - Fri	16/02/2015 20/02/2015	Half Term
Wed	25/02/2015	Year 12 Post 18 Information Evening
Fri	27/02/2015	Year 9 Progress Review Home
Mon	02/03/2015	OPA Committee Meeting
Tue	03/03/2015	Whole School Production
Wed	04/03/2015	Whole School Production
Thu	05/03/2015	Whole School Production
Fri	06/03/2015	Year 7 Progress Review Home
Mon	09/03/2015	Governors' Ethos Committee Meeting
Wed	11/03/2015	Intervention Evening
Thu	12/03/2015	Sixth Form Practice Exams Commence
Fri	13/03/2015	Non Uniform Day
Wed	18/03/2015	HPV Vaccinations (2)
Fri	20/03/2015	Year 8 Progress Review Home OPA Social Event 8.00pm
Wed	25/03/2015	Full Governors Meeting
Mon	30/03/2015	Sixth Form Practice Exam Grades Home OPA Committee Meeting
Tue	31/03/2015	Year 10 Reports Home Year 12 and Year 13 Parents' Evening
Thu	02/04/2015	Last Day of Term

Mon	20/04/2015	First Day of Term Year 10 Book Sharing Week OPA Committee Meeting
Mon	27/04/2015	Year 7 Book Sharing Week
Thu	30/04/2015	Year 10 Parents' Evening 5—8pm
Fri	01/05/2015	Year 12 and Year 13 Final Predictions Home
Mon	04/05/2015	School Closed—May Day Bank Holiday
Wed	06/05/2015	Year 11 Final Predictions Home
Thu	07/05/2015	Year 7 Parents' Evening 5—8pm
Fri	08/05/2015	Year 12 Final Day (return Wed 10th June)
Mon	11/05/2015	Public Exam season commences Governors' Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting
Wed	20/05/2015	Full Governors Meeting
Thu	21/05/2015	Final Day Year 11
Fri	22/05/2015	Final Day Year 13
Mon -	25/05/2015	Half Term
Fri	29/05/2015	
Mon	01/06/2015	OPA Committee Meeting
Wed	03/06/2015	Intervention Evening
Mon	15/06/2015	Governors' Business and Collaboration Committee Meeting
Thu	25/06/2015	Year 11 Prom
Tue	23/06/2015	Year 10 Exams
Thu	25/06/2014	Year 8 Reports Home Year 11 Prom
Mon	29/06/2015	Challenge Week Governors' Ethos Committee Meeting
Wed	01/07/2014	Year 10 Professional Day
Thu	02/07/2014	Year 10 Professional Day
Mon	06/07/2015	OPA Committee Meeting
Wed	08/07/2015	Year 7 Reports Home Year 10 Post 16 Information Evening
Fri	10/07/2015	New Year 7 Induction Day Year 9 Reports Home
Mon	13/07/2015	Induction Evening for New Year 7 Parents and Students
Tue	14/07/2015	Sports Day Year 10 Exam Grades Home
Wed	15/07/2015	A Level Transition Grades Home Full Governors Meeting
Fri	17/07/2015	Last Day of Term
Mon	20/07/2015	Inset Day - School Closed

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Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Oaklands has a strong reputation for the highest academic standards within a strong caring Christian community.



Open Evening

**Thursday 25th September 2014
6.00 - 8.00pm**

at Stakes Hill Road Waterlooville PO7 7BW
e: oaklands@oaklandscatholicschool.org
w: www.oaklandscatholicschool.org
t: 023 9225 9214

Community Opportunity Unity