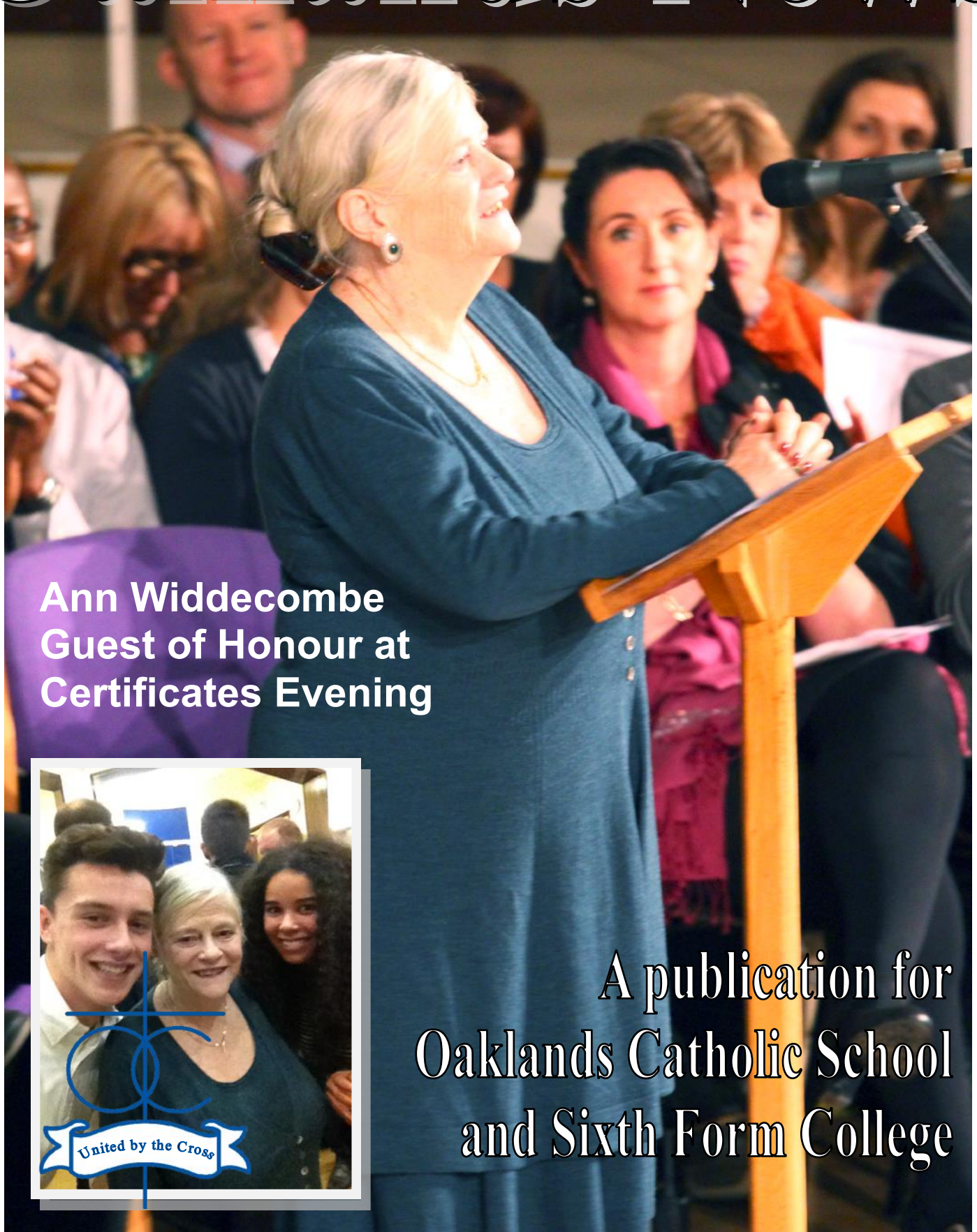


Carol Service raises hundreds for St John's

No 404 Jan 15

Oaklands News



**Ann Widdecombe
Guest of Honour at
Certificates Evening**



A publication for
Oaklands Catholic School
and Sixth Form College

Lead Stories



Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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

Over the last few months we have had a number of staff who have had or are expecting babies, sometimes twins. It is always a joyous occasion when a colleague tells me of a pending arrival. One of the first tasks for new parents is to name their children. For teachers this is often difficult because certain names conjure up images we may wish to forget! In addition to our name, in our working lives we get given names, titles, or tags that define our responsibilities or describe our work. When I worked as a surveyor on building sites many electricians were called 'sparks'. Our job descriptions say something about us: if you get named a 'team leader' then that shows that the organisation trusts you to look after the work of a few people.

In the Gospel reading last Sunday we heard Jesus saying to Simon, "Simon son of John you are to be called Cephas". Cephas is also translated 'Peter'. Peter means Rock. You could be forgiven for being a little confused in interpreting these translations until we realise that Jesus spoke Aramaic, the gospels were written in Greek and we speak English. From what we know about Peter he seems an unlikely choice to be called 'The Rock'. Jesus knew better and trusted Peter. When Jesus asked his disciples "Who do you say I am?", Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" and it is this statement that prompts Jesus' famous words, "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church." Jesus has defined Peter's future role.

We must not lose sight of the names we are given that describe our role and calling, something that originates from our baptism; in addition to our Christian names, we are called to be disciples of Christ and this defines the responsibility we have been given. Fortunately we do not have to do this in isolation and we do not have to look too far to see there is quite a job to do.

School Results

The powers that be, have made things so much harder for schools to meet the standards. This summer, our

exams changed to being linear, this means that where previously students have been able to study modules and take exams at intervals during the year, we have reverted back to an exam at the end of GCSE and A Level courses. Many exams have changed with coursework elements disappearing or being significantly reduced. All in all the exam process now is much harder than it was for students over many years and, as a result, schools and the staff within them have had to adapt accordingly. Whilst other schools may have and continue to 'game the system' to improve league table position, this has not been our way and it is mine and the governors view that this does not serve students well. Although it remains controversial, against the Ebac measure which strips out all the equivalences leaving schools with the tougher GCSEs, we remain one of the top Hampshire Secondary schools. Not bad for a truly comprehensive intake. At the beginning of this term we received the GCSE value added measure. Our value added has always been good. I am very proud to report that this year's measure has significantly surpassed expectation.

University Success

Congratulations to all students in Year 13 who have sent their applications to the University and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) well before the January deadline and have been receiving offers from their universities of choice. Again this year we have nearly one hundred university hopefuls some of who are Oxbridge hopefuls. All these students need to secure the highest possible A and A* grades on their A2 courses. Enormous thanks

and congratulations go to the Sixth Form tutors for their preparation of references and support in helping students write their personal statements.

Busy Year Ahead

The Christmas season was particularly busy for the Music department. In addition to the Peripatetic concert, they contributed to the Christmas Fayre, Christmas Music Concert, Carol Service and events in the local community. My thanks to Miss Flood and her dedicated team. The Chaplaincy team also worked overtime. In addition to preparation for the



services, concerts and masses, Mrs Floyd also invited KS3 forms into the Chapel at registration time to reflect on the Advent message. The term ahead promises to be exceptionally busy for both students and staff with Year 11 currently taking their mock examinations, the Year 9 Courses Information Evening, various Parents' Evenings and not forgetting our full school production of 'Oklahoma' in March.

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

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Matthew Quinn
Headteacher

Certificates Evening



Ann Widdecombe former MP, star of BBC Strictly Come Dancing, author and TV panellist was the Guest of Honour at our Presentation of Certificates evening on Thursday 8th January 2015.

The school hall was packed full of staff, former students parents and guests to celebrate the school's examination success at A level and GCSE. The evening started with a short address from Mr Quinn where he made reference to the outstanding performance of students particularly at 'A' level and GCSE. He also talked about the considerable success of students in raising money to support schools in Kenya, and the passion students displayed for extra curricular activities from Latin through to beating private school opposition at rugby.

The highlight of the evening was the address given by Miss Widdecombe who stepped down from being an MP in 2012. During a motivating speech, she talked about what she had learned during her career weaving in a number of amusing anecdotes. She went on to give the students

some advice, using as an analogy the advice her father gave her when she was learning to drive; in addition to watching out for your own mistakes ensure you watch out for other people's!

At the end of the evening Miss Widdecombe stayed and chatted to students and staff as they mingled and enjoyed refreshments before returning to Devon.

During the ceremony students were entertained with an excerpts from the next school production, 'Oklahoma' and a dance display.

Mr Quinn said. "It was a fantastic evening, I was delighted to secure someone with the gravity of Ann Widdecombe. With so many students achieving so well it was fitting to have someone of Ann's calibre. She is a fantastic supporter of Catholic education and has a great story to tell, I am very appreciative"

Miss Widdecombe is a patron of the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) and the school has made a donation to this charity from money raised through non uniform day.

Certificates Evening is one of the great events on the Oaklands calendar where the success of past and present students is recognised.



Youth Alpha

Youth Alpha runs in the Chapel every week. Students get together and use discussion as a contemporary exploration of the Christian faith. Students look at topics from 'Who is Jesus?' and 'Why did Jesus die?' to 'How and why should I read the Bible? Here is what some students say about Youth Alpha.



"In Youth Alpha, we learn about God while speaking to Him through the fellowship of other young Christians. We learn from each other and strengthen our relationships with Jesus through relationships with others. We

watch videos, read the Bible, pray and even eat food! It is an encouragement to live alongside Jesus and exclaim it without being scared or self-conscious of what others think." Year 9

"To be able to go to Youth Alpha is amazing. I have never really thought about my religion and God till now. I go to understand and learn about Jesus and why my faith is so important. Recently, my relationship with God has grown thanks to Youth Alpha. At these sessions, I can talk and discuss freely about being Catholic to all the other members and how Jesus is the key. I strongly encourage all to come along, even to see how our fun, creative sessions work. Put your faith into action." Year 7

"In Youth Alpha I have become a more confident Christian because in the past I didn't understand a lot about God but now I have a greater understanding of God. In Youth Alpha I have learnt a lot about the Christian life and how to live it." - Year 7

"Youth Alpha is really fun and it lets you talk about what you believe without anyone saying anything against you. No matter what you believe you can share it with the rest of the group. Also it encourages you to think about Jesus and focus on our faith. It has strengthened my relationship with God." Year 7

"Youth Alpha helps me learn about Jesus and the Catholic faith. We did lots of social activities which helped me build up my confidence and make friends. I met lots of new people and we talked about our points of view on different religious subjects. Not to forget the food at the end! Overall I love Youth Alpha and I go there every Friday I can!" Year 9

For those students unable to be present at the recent Presentation of Certificates Evening, GCSE and 'A' level Examination Certificates are now available for collection from main Reception at the school for the academic year 2013/2014. **Please note**, these are valuable documents which are expensive to replace and we are only permitted to retain them for one year after which time they must be destroyed.

E-Praise is back

Rewarding students at Oaklands

We all know that by positively reinforcing good behaviour or work we can inspire young people to aim higher. Here at Oaklands we have a school rewards system which awards individual Reward Points, House Points, stickers and praise postcards. Students are often rewarded for outstanding work, excellent effort, attendance or contribution to school life. We also have an online reward system called **epraise** which gives each student their own Reward Account, where they can see which tutor group or House is in the lead, where they can redeem their points in the online shop or donate them to charity. Staff award points electronically so that students can see why they were awarded a point and by whom. They also earn epraise points for uniform, literacy, numeracy and lots more!

But the system is not just about points – it also has the functionality to award Accolades (private praise messages), or to reach Achievement Milestones for such things as Sports Day, extra-curricular activities, department challenges, House competitions etc. Staff also find it very convenient and flexible as they find it supports more consistency in their awarding of points; Heads of Year and Tutors also enjoy being able to give pastoral reward points. It gives us an immediate and “real time” snapshot of House and Student Points.

The online “shop” offers great purchases such as phone cases, notebooks, pens, key rings, rugby and football merchandise, earphones, stress balls, vouchers and much much more.

We have had some recent administration changes which have slowed down our normal stock replenishment, but I am delighted to inform you and the students that it is now open for business again! Students order on line and then collect their purchases on Thursdays from our Business Support office in the White House.

We hope that this system highlights the motivation and commitment of our students, and continues to build positive relationships between staff and students. Why not have a look at your child’s account and see how well they are doing?

School Council

Oaklands School Council continues to be a stronghold of original opinion and sharp, insightful debate on the school's direction. This month eight of our finest students from year groups 7-13 represented the student body by taking part in a student panel for the interviews of candidates for the role of Director of Business and Finance. From Year 8 Adam Sawyer and Jonathan Dopson; from Year 9 Benita Thomas and Jacob O'Hara; from Year 10 Tayah Fradley-Robinson and Kira Mulcahy and from Sixth Form Year 13's Vinh Lengoc and Year 12's Dan Aspey.

Students probed the applicants’ understanding of the needs of the students at Oaklands and investigated their reaction to stress in a question about their response to disasters. Finally, all candidates had to explain the most exciting thing they had ever done!

Every student on the panel enjoyed the chance to quiz the interviewees and share their opinions afterwards. They were

Continued Opposite



Anti Bullying Week



Anti-bullying week (November 17th-21st) this year focused on highlighting the ways in which disabled people can be marginalised in our society and in our school. All year groups had an assembly on that theme with follow up work in PDC lessons which looked at '**Let's stop bullying for all**'. Bullying is never acceptable and we need to work together to make sure our school is a safe and happy one for all. Bullying is defined as something which goes on for a while or happens regularly; is deliberate and aimed at hurting, humiliating or harming the target and

involves someone who has some kind of 'power' over the person being bullied (e.g. older, stronger or knows a 'secret' about them). Bullying is not a one off fight or argument, a friend being nasty or an argument with a friend.

Through our student bulletin, students were reminded of our **5 A Day** ; if we make these things a reality within our school then we will all be behaving in a way which is keeping with our school code of conduct and we will be showing respect for others. In particular, students were invited to reflect on how we behave towards others, how we speak to others and how we interact with them on social media and to make sure that we do not act in any way which would cause hurt or upset to them. Most importantly the week reminded us to make sure that if we witness bullying, we must report it and if anyone is being bullied, they must seek help from an adult in school.

Parent information

There is an App known as YiK YAK that is a location based social media App that has been used for extensive cyberbullying in some local schools. It can be run on iOS and Android devices. Please be aware that this exists as, unfortunately, it provides the opportunity for anonymous comments to be posted.

cognisant of the importance placed upon the role of the student panel during the day's events. The high calibre of professionals who arrived for interview shows how attractive the job will be for the lucky successor to Ms McCall who left at the end of the Christmas term.

We wish all candidates well, they performed very well under the duress of their interrogators. May the best man/woman win!





Picture Courtesy of The News

On Friday 9th January 2015 60 Year 2 pupils from St Peter's Catholic Primary School in Waterlooville ventured over to Oaklands to start their new topic on Kings and Queens. They started the morning with a presentation by Mrs Masson, Assistant Head of History, by beginning to think about why anyone would want to be a King or a Queen. The general consensus was to boss other people around! The pupils then had to think what a King or a Queen might look like. What followed was some frantic and detailed drawing to show crowns, capes and thrones.

The bulk of the session was run by the History Club at Oaklands. This 30 strong group of Year 7 and 8 students meet regularly to complete projects and research time periods of their choosing. After going over to St Peter's to deliver lessons to small groups last year, they felt ready to invite the Year 2 students up to Oaklands.

When they were told that they had to choose just six monarchs the History Club debated at length as to which six to choose but finally settled on Elizabeth II, Victoria, Charles I, Elizabeth I, Henry VIII and King John. The Year 2 students had to circulate, spending ten minutes at each station. While there they had to collect information about how long the monarch had ruled and a positive and negative aspect of their rule. They were helped along the way by activities and clips that had been sourced and created by the History Club.

When the session concluded the Year 2 students had to choose the monarch that they felt was the most important and give a reason why, a task that most of them could do!

All the students left with a smile on their face, the History Club were very impressed with the ability and focus of the Year 2s who were enthusiastic and keen to learn. We hope that more cross-phase activities like this will allow students to learn from each other in a situation that is more relaxed than a classroom environment.

Playground Rivers

The Oaklands Geography department delivered 'Playground Rivers' sessions to Year 5 pupils at Mill Rythe Primary School on Hayling Island in late November and early-December.

Students in Year 5 at Mill Rythe had been studying rivers last term and were delighted to have a visit from the Geography department to provide them with a learning activity outside of the classroom.



Fortunately, Mr. Bamford did manage to find a slope on their school site and was able to provide a session that enabled the students to understand the following:

- Predict the path of the river
- Determine how rivers transport sediment
- Have an appreciation of landforms created by rivers
- Develop team work

The students engaged really well and were able to utilise advanced terminology by the end of the sessions.

The department intend to run these sessions at other feeder primary schools in the area. Other departments at the school also have activities planned to forge closer links with our potential feeder primary schools over the course of this academic year.

Mr. Bamford.

Calling former Year 11 Design & Technology Students

Final practical work produced by last year's Design and Technology students (Resistant Materials, Product Design and Electronics) is now available to take home. Whilst we would like to store all work produced, unfortunately, we do not have the space to do this.

Students can pop in after school, or phone to arrange a time that is more convenient. Please do think about taking home your final products as some excellent work was produced.

Carol Service

As is traditional at Oaklands, the end of term Carol Service rounded off a very hectic term. The service started with candle lit hymns. A large number of students and staff participated in the celebration. This year the service focused on 'following the star'.

In addition to traditional Christmas congregational carols, the Year 7 choir and the staff ensemble also took part in the celebration. Towards the end of the service Mr Sumba spoke about our work with the school in

Over 450 parents, relatives, former students and staff attended. Since the celebration the school has been overwhelmed by the number of positive comments. Particular thanks to Estelle Flood who directed the music, Sadie Whyte for the Nativity and Helen Floyd, the school Chaplain, who co-ordinated the liturgical presentation. A retiring collection raised over £600 to support our work in Kenya.



Uniform

The vast majority of students wear uniform correctly and in accordance with the governors' policy. However, there are a small number of students who continue to arrive in school having left home, when they are parents responsibility, incorrectly dressed. The long dark nights and cold weather mean it's time to turn our thoughts to what our students are wearing. We ask you to help us maintain high uniform standards by supporting the uniform rules:

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

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

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

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

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

Where can I buy uniform? All items of our uniform are available at Skoolkit in Havant or Fareham – embroidered or logoed items must be purchased from this supplier. Alternatively, you can purchase any uniform item online with Skoolkit and have it delivered to your doorstep. However, in order to offer more choice to parents you may buy any of the plain items at high street stores providing that they meet the uniform guidelines (eg: the skirt should be plain navy with sewn down pleats etc). The choice is yours!



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 it at Reception where we will arrange for the OPA to collect it. If you are interested in purchasing nearly new items please contact Mrs Andrea Hills or Mrs Liz Holford either through our Reception or by email:

opa@oaklandscatholicschool.org

SkoolKit Havant

31 Meridian Centre, Elm Lane, Havant, Hampshire, PO9 1UN

Telephone: 02392 455795

Skoolkit Fareham

149, West Street, Fareham, PO16 0YA
Telephone: 01329 822509

Opening hours:

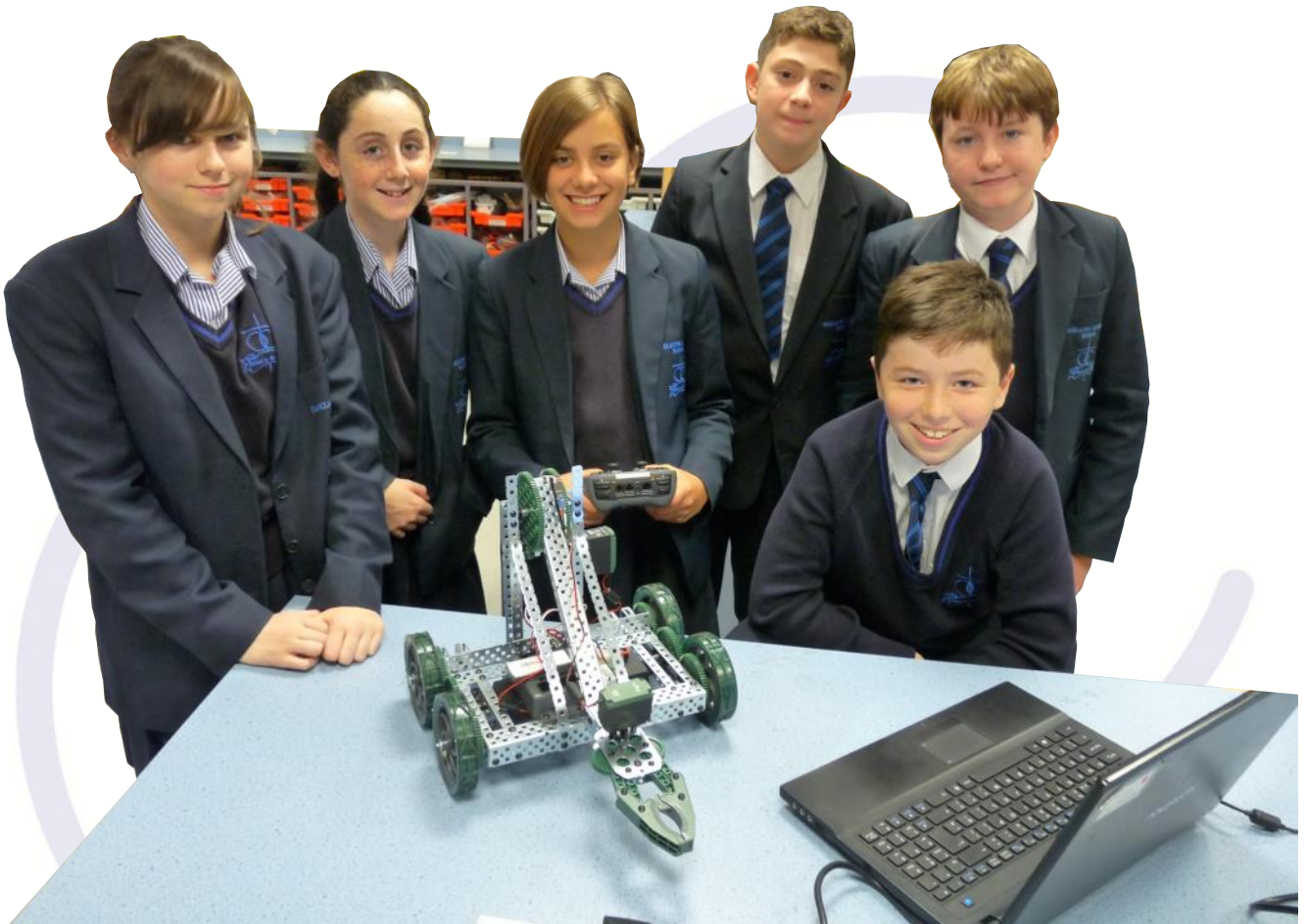
9.00am - 5.30pm Monday - Fridays

9.00am - 5.00pm Saturdays

Robot

This year, six members of Year 8 teamed up to build a VEX robot. When we were faced with the task in September, most of us thought it would be impossible. However, despite encountering many problems we were proved wrong. We have a working, wireless VEX robot that we built and programmed from scratch (on loan from Northrop Grumman). Gabriella Mula, Calliope Wellbelove and Susie Barrows built Oakbot. Ben Sadler, Jude Ramsbottom and Ivan Germanoff are the software team. We will now compete against other schools in Coventry this month. The Skyrise competition has 30 seconds where the robot is autonomous and 2 minutes where we control it via the controller.

Ben Sadler 8 St. Clare and Jude Ramsbottom 8 St. Martin



Photography Club

Year 9 Photography Club has been going from strength to strength this term with lots of regular attenders and now a buzzing atmosphere. So far this term we have used the dark room to develop photograms in chemicals (the traditional way), learnt a few tips and tricks on Photoshop and played around with long exposure settings on cameras to develop 'light trails'. Last week we were working on portrait photography in the studio, using studio lighting and reflecting certain areas to create highlights. We got some really great results!



Attendance

Attendance is the single most important factor in success at school – both academic and social. If you're not there, you can't learn! Reading someone else's notes is never the same as your own work. Our overall school attendance for Term 1 this year is: 95.7% - which is really excellent.

All absences contribute to our overall percentage but there are various ways you can help us: **Illness** accounts for 3.1% of all absence – it is important to only keep your son/daughter off school if they are genuinely too ill to come in. **Holidays** account for 0.3% of our absence figures (unauthorised Family Holiday accounts for 0.18%) – we strongly recommend that you do NOT take your child on a holiday during term time. The governors' policy clearly states that holidays will not be authorised unless there are extraordinary extenuating circumstances which are outlined in the policy. It affects students learning and chances of success in later life. 17 absent sessions = one grade less at GCSE. Do you want to disadvantage their future? Medical appointments make up 0.31% of our absence – please try to make appointments after school hours. Don't be too quick to agree to your child having a day off – are they really that ill?

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

Some parents have received letters alerting them that their son/daughter may be a Persistent Absentee (ie: either in or close to 85%). Please attend the meetings with the Head of Year and Senior Leader to agree a Personal Attendance Plan. Parents in England and Wales have a legal responsibility to ensure their children attend school. If they fail to do so, they are committing an offence under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996.

Holidays:

Please note that the school will not authorise a leave of absence for the purpose of a holiday. Since September 2013 the Department for Education has stated that Headteachers may no longer authorise this type of absence unless there are extraordinary circumstances, for example: a parent who is in the Forces and recently returned from deployment. Parents who remove their children from school are very likely to be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice, in line with Hampshire County Council's new Code of Conduct regarding holiday absence.

Term Dates 2014/2015

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 Day as follows: Monday 20th July 2015.

Provisional Term Dates 2015/2016

AutumnTerm 2015

Tues 1 September to Fri 18 December 2015.

Half Term: Mon 26 October to Fri 30 October 2015.

Spring Term 2016

Mon 4 January to Thurs 24 March 2016

Half Term: Mon 15 February to Fri 19 February 2016.

Summer Term 2016

Mon 11 April to Wed 20 July 2016

Half Term: Mon 30 May to Fri 3 June 2016.

Gymnastics

This year Oaklands have joined the British Schools Gymnastics Association (BSGA) and we have entered three trio teams to compete in the Trio Championships which are being held on 25th January 2015. We will be taking the students to Beaconsfield High School in Buckinghamshire where they will perform their group performance, a solo floor routine and an individual vault. The competition is of a very high standard and will be very challenging for the team. The students have been working three times a week on their routines and are extremely excited about taking part in the championships. Good luck to you all. Miss Marden



Under 16 Netball

On 23rd of October the U16A netball team (which is made up of Year 10 students) represented our school in the National Under 16 Netball Tournament. On the morning of the tournament all eight students and Miss Marden, who was taking us, had to arrive at school for eight o'clock in the morning so we could travel to Southampton Sports Centre ready to play. After an excited mini bus journey we finally arrived at the tournament. Once all of the team had put their bags down we warmed up together by practicing drills for our shooters (Isla and Eleanor) while being marked by our defenders (Rebecca, Kasia and Lauren) and centre pass practice for our wings (Niamh and Ameera) and our centre (Lily). We were then ready to start our matches. Every match that we played was very close but the other team just managed to get a few more goals than us. Even though we were disappointed that we did not win we all agreed on the way home that it was a good experience and that we all would like to come back next year and play again. The level of competition was much higher than our local league and we thought about what we had learnt about netball and how we could incorporate it into our own team. We would like to thank Miss Marden for taking and supporting us on the day, Mrs Mitchell for entering us in the competition and to Mr Tindal for giving Miss Marden a tube of sweets on the day to say good luck!

Niamh Joyce 10 St. Teresa



Preparation for Ski Trip



50 students attempted skiing for the first time at Calshot Activities Centre on the evening of 16th December. The sense of excitement was palpable as the students viewed the slopes on arrival and their levels of enthusiasm did not diminish as the inevitable falls occurred when they started skiing.

The trip to Calshot provided the students with the opportunity to wear the equipment for the first time and learn the basics; this means that more rapid progress can be made when the students arrive at the resort in February. This trip would not have been possible without the help of a number of staff including: Mr Tindal, Mr Whelan, Mr Tyler, Mrs Riddle, Mr P. Smith and Mr Wade. The trip during February half term is fast approaching. 97 students from Year 9 and the Sixth Form will travel to the Italian ski resort of Andalo. As in previous years, we will drive there leaving on Friday with arrival expected on the Saturday afternoon. The students will ski for five days and then leave on Friday from Italy and will return back to school on the Saturday afternoon. The snow is already falling in the Alps and hopefully we can look forward to good conditions when we arrive there in February.

Year 7 go into Battle

During the course of the last half term, all Year 7 classes have done a re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings in the playground. It was fun because it linked into the topic we were doing in history:1066. It was part of our homework to create the weapons to fight with, or throw. We based ourselves on the lower playground, where the football pitches are, and used the slope as the hill.

Some people brought in spears, swords, bows and arrows, axes, shields, costumes and more.



The teachers warned us about accidents so we had to be careful. Despite the caution it was fun all the same.

The re-enactments were great fun as you got to see different sides of people and personality traits that you didn't know that they had. Also, you saw some stunning weapons and armour that people had made, which were just A – MAZ – ING!!! . Some of the students were very creative with the way they used their weapons; if you made a spear, you could also use it as a javelin.

The standard of battle re-enactment was quite high and very good to watch.

I have to say that this is a very interesting topic for both homework and classwork. All Year 7 will enjoy this.

Andrew Palmer - 7 St. Clare

A Few Important Reminders

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

The school recognises that a total ban on mobile phones in school is both unrealistic and unreasonable. Equally, there are advantages in using smart phones and tablets as an educational resource. They are part of everyday technology and students need to be aware of how to use technology appropriately. They give some students a greater sense of safety and security particularly on a long journey to and from school. However, since our school site is generally a very safe place, we consider that in most circumstances, the whole school day should be considered as phone and electronic device free. We continue to **recommend** that students do not bring their mobile phones or other electronic devices to school. They are very expensive items and, if they go missing, the school will not take responsibility for them.

Mobile phones or other electronic devices are not to be used or seen during the school day (8:50-3:40) and must be switched off at all times including break and lunchtimes. The school's normal disciplinary sanctions will apply in cases where mobile phones or electronic devices are used inappropriately whilst on the

school site. In most circumstances, this will include the temporary confiscation of devices by staff and appropriate arrangements being made for their return to parents.

Detentions

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

With both in and after school detention the 2011 Education Act, in addition to giving schools the power to search students and sanction students for behaviour outside of school, **states that parental consent is not required for detentions** and detentions outside school hours can be issued on the same day. Whilst the law is quite unambiguous, at Oaklands we are aware that for some students transport to and from school creates issues for same day detentions. In most circumstances parents will be given advanced notice of pending detention. However, in the final analysis if a parent does not agree to a detention then the sanction can escalate to the point where a youngster

is excluded. I am sure all parents would want to avoid this. Finally, if you do receive a detention letter for your child, please remind them of their responsibility to attend the detention as directed.

Conduct on the way to and from school

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

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

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

I thought that I would let you know some governor news. Firstly, at the end of last term we held the LAGM of the Academy Trust Company. Whilst the Annual Report is a legal requirement for companies and charities it is also a wonderful briefing on the activities of the school and how they are paid for. You can see it for yourself, the link is:

<http://www.oaklands.hants.sch.uk/site/data/files/users/8/20751E16AE29E70A9042E195F428C32A.pdf>

As you will see, the Catholic Academy in Havant remains in good shape. The benefits of converting to an Academy in 2011 are still being felt. However, we do live in uncertain times. With an election looming and all parties committed to deficit reduction it is unclear how the levels of educational funding can be sustained in the medium term. The school has fantastic governors and staff so I am sure we will be able to chart our way through the next period and the challenges ahead.

Thank you to all families who contributed to the Governors' Fund last year. I would encourage all families to contribute to this, the school can also benefit from the gift aid element which costs you nothing. We suggest a donation of 38p a school day which equates to £75 a year. There are various ways this can be paid. Please follow the link:

<http://www.oaklands.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Financial&pid=16>

If you are unable to contribute £75 per family we would be pleased to receive any contribution you can afford. Without your contributions we would not have JP2 block, the Sixth Form Block, the new Science Labs in Kolbe Block and numerous other projects that improve the learning space for your child.

In an effort to help you understand who our governors are, what they do, and why they do it, we have all completed a profile which is now on the school website – just click our names in the list of governors and up it will come. I find them very powerful witness to the role and vocation of being a governor in a Catholic school. The link is:

<http://www.oaklands.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Governing+Body&pid=15>

Apart from the continual drive to improve educational outcomes our priorities include refurbishment of our infrastructure particularly toilet facilities and improvement in facilities for our growing Sixth Form. We are also looking into projects that in addition to providing outstanding facilities for the school will make a positive contribution to the local community.

Best wishes for 2015

Andy Hastilow, Chair of Governors.

Parent Governor Required

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor which we would like to fill as soon as possible. The role of a Parent Governor has developed since Oaklands became an Academy two years ago. At present all governors are also Directors of the Academy and whilst this may sound daunting, the responsibilities are almost exactly the same as before. A letter will be issued shortly to all families asking for volunteers for this important role.

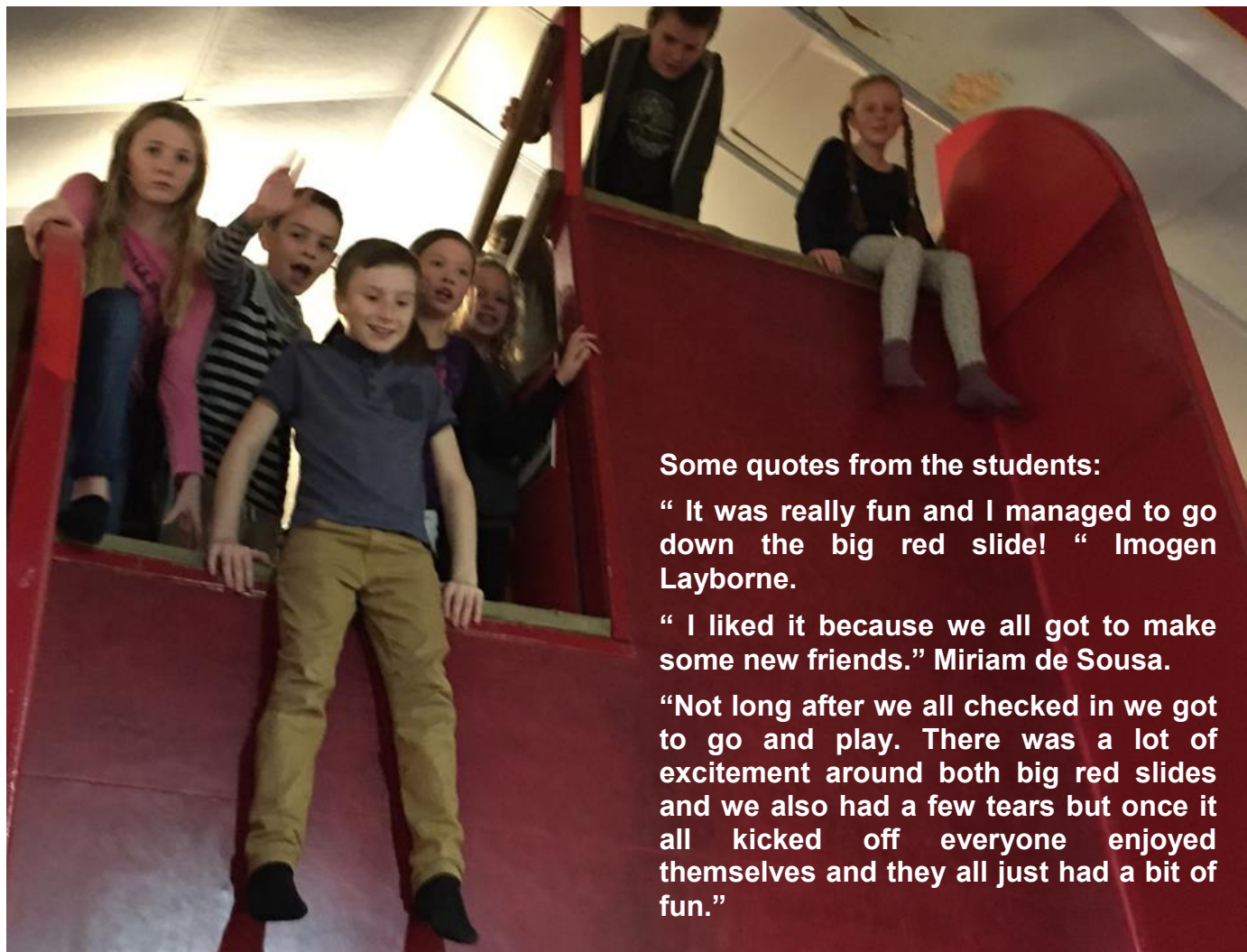
At Oaklands governors work collectively, as such a parent governor is a representative and not a delegate of parents. Parent governors are not there to promote the interests of their own children but all children at the school. Objectivity is essential in the role. All governors bring the skills and experience they develop in their lives either professionally, through family life, or both to the meetings. Although not essential, experience in HR, finance, project management and leading teams can be useful.

With governance comes responsibility. Governors are expected to attend evening meetings and play a part within school life, training is provided. Parent governors have an additional responsibility to visibly support the policies of the school.

In the event of more than one parent expressing an interest an election will be held.

Year 7 Trip

On Monday 24th November about 150 Year 7 students had the most phenomenal time at Playzone. Most of the children turned up at 7 o'clock and signed up at the front desk to get their names ticked off the list. We then had an opportunity to buy some things at the shop. By 7:15 everyone was there and ready to go and play.



Some quotes from the students:

“ It was really fun and I managed to go down the big red slide! “ Imogen Layborne.

“ I liked it because we all got to make some new friends.” Miriam de Sousa.

“Not long after we all checked in we got to go and play. There was a lot of excitement around both big red slides and we also had a few tears but once it all kicked off everyone enjoyed themselves and they all just had a bit of fun.”

We were also lucky enough to have some of the Year 11 Buddies to come with us. I think some of them enjoyed it more than us!

Some of our favourite things about Playzone were that we got to make new friends and we faced some fears we thought we would never get to face in a million years; i.e. going down the big red slides.

I really enjoyed going to Playzone because I got to face some fears of mine, I made some new friends and most of all I got to have fun with all of my friends.

Dates for your Diary!

Oaklands Parents' Association will be holding their Spring social event featuring **'Kojak's Revenge'** on **Friday 20th March** in the school hall. Please make a note of the date and come along and support your Parents' Association. Further details to follow.

P.E. SHOWCASE

You are warmly invited to attend a demonstration of GCSE Dance, Gymnastics and Trampolining given by our talented students. This event will take place in the main hall on **Thursday 23rd April** at **6.30pm**. All welcome!

School Production 2015



Preparations are well under way for this year's production of "the great American musical": Oklahoma!

Actors, musicians and dancers from every year group in our school community will come together for three fabulous performances of this Rogers and Hammerstein classic on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of March.

A love story with dark and comic moments; Oklahoma! is set in "the

territory" before the state was officially named and tells the story of the rural communities who live there.

Jessica Fitzjohn plays Laurey, Barney Walsh takes the role of Curley, Verity Flood plays Ado Annie with Jack Worsfold as Will. They are supported by Christian Nunez as Ali Hakim, Archie McKeown as Andrew Carnes, Bethany Moore as Aunt Ella and Ryan Crellin Simpson as Judd Fry and an enormously talented supporting company and chorus. They are directed by Sadie Whyte and Christian Janes, with support from the entire Performing Arts team.

Expect amazing live music from our excellent band of students, staff and friends, directed by Estelle Flood, assisted by Stephanie Richardson. Dance will be choreographed by Laura Blackburn, assisted by Alison Wrightson.

Lighting, sound and backstage support are ably and professionally managed by Liam Olford and a staff and student crew.

Performances will take place on Tuesday the 3rd, Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th of March, 2015 at 7.30pm.

Oaklands Alumni

Oaklands Catholic School is working with the educational charity, Future First, to keep connected with its former students. Dawn Brettell, Business Support Team Leader, is waiting to hear from alumni on d.brettell@oaklandscatholicschool.org. Alumni can also sign up to Future First's alumni scheme by clicking the "Former Students" link on the website www.futurefirst.org.uk.

Staff Vacancy

Cover Administrator

The governors are seeking to appoint a Cover Administrator to join our hardworking, committed and enthusiastic team of support staff. For further details and an Information Pack please follow the link: <http://www.oaklands.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Vacancies&pid=39>

or call the school on 023 9225 9214 ext. 227 Closing date: **Friday 23rd January 2015.**

John 1:5
flame 2
National Youth Congress 2015



For more information see Mrs Floyd



Wembley Arena 7th March 2015

Year 10 to Young Adult



cymfed.org.uk/flame2



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