Challenge Week 2015
No. 407 July 2015



Lead Stories



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From the Headteacher's desk

Part of Catholic social teaching is the emboldening of our responsibility to care for the earth, to be good stewards of God's creation. In school most subjects can teach the importance of recycling, reducing waste and pollution, conserving energy and distributing resources in a way that benefits the common good, just to name a few. Stewardship also hints at something else: we have been invited to be guardians of something that is not actually ours; we have been handed something to look after, nurture, shape and cherish. Part of the responsibility of stewardship is to accept that, at some point our commitment ends, we pass the 'baton' on to someone else, ideally in a better state than we received it; this is our obligation. As Head of Oaklands, I have always believed that I am only the custodian of something very precious and that, at some point, I too will hand it on. Stewardship also translates into the work we do with our community. It is my view that Catholic education is the best gift a parent can pass on to their child and for staff, working in a Catholic school, it is truly described as a vocation or a calling to stewardship. Staff become part of something of great significance more than the job itself. In their own way, staff at Oaklands share in the work of Jesus to reach out to others, look after, nurture, shape and cherish and spread the good news about life and God's purpose.

With the business of the job, it is easy to forget this calling to stewardship, every now and again the example of others reminds me of the importance and impact of this. At the end of this academic year we say goodbye to Kay Hopkins, my PA and Julie Kendrick our Examinations Officer. Collectively they have served for almost 50 years. Last week, in the chapel, we held a beautiful service of thanksgiving for their contribution to the school, almost 100 current and former colleagues attended. Similar to other staff, both Kay and Julie have been ambassadorial in their commitment to Catholic stewardship. In their respective roles they have nurtured, shaped and cherished and as a result the school is a richer place; for this we are all grateful but the time has come for the baton to be passed on.

Throughout the year a large number of students have been involved in the extra curricular life of the school. I would like to express my thanks to the staff who work tirelessly to provide the extras that enrich the experience of students at

Leavers

Fond farewells

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the school. Over the summer we have students and staff visiting Iceland, please keep them in your prayers. If you have followed Oaklands News over the year you will have read about the numerous and varied range of activities and events that have taken place. I was very pleased to see the large numbers of students taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (see page 22). My thanks to Judith Hoar and her team for making this happen.

Student Success

It has been a pleasure this year to receive students who have made exceptional progress in the classroom, overcome adversity or represented the school. It has been a delight to write home to over 350 families offering congratulations and recognising their child's endeavours at school. Our statistical analysis also shows that student behaviour at Oaklands is at a very high level. A large number of Year 11 students retuned last week for the Sixth Form taster day suggeting numbers will be up again next year.

New Assessment Scheme

In all of the Key Stage 3 reports this year I have detailed

changes that are occurring in the national assessment regime at GCSE and how the school has responded to this. The national system of levels is being scrapped in favour of schools developing their own systems. Whilst the old level system had its faults, it did provide national standards against a common curriculum across all schools, this hints at one of the issues all schools now face. We will continue to work with parents as our new system develops. The system of levels reported on reports will gradually be phased out.

Charity Work

The work undertaken for charity has been exceptional. Our commitment to CAFOD continues and we will report on this in September. Fund-Raising-Friday proved to be one of our most successful single events ever, raising over £8300 for the Teenage Cancer Trust (see page 4). I am very grateful to Belinda Ludlam and her team for making this work.

And Finally

Please take time to read this packed edition of Oaklands News containing the term dates for 2015-16.

To all students, have a peaceful, safe and happy summer break and I look forward to seeing you back in September.





Fund-Raising-Friday

Sometimes ideas are so outrageous you just have to run with them. Twelve months ago at the memorial service for Matt Turner, Mr Quinn announced we were going to hold a fund raising day for Cancer charities. The idea was born and the staff and students at Oaklands

relish a challenge.

The Teenage Cancer Trust was chosen as the charity to support. The event involved Years 7-10 and was run by the Sixth Form. All involved were filled with a sense of the impossibility of such an enourmous venture. After a blue sky brainstorming session, the Sixth Form considered the many suggestions: ghost walk, sumo wrestling, giant water slide down the grey slope, even a festival on the top field and then discounted the less likely options. What was left sounded like a school version of 'It's a Knockout' the seventies game show with fancy dress and comedy races that anyone could do well in.

The objectives became clear if the event was to be a success:

- To have fun
- To involve every person at one time
- To expect all students to be in charge of their own sponsorship money and bring it in on the day
- To raise huge amounts of money
- To have fun

We quickly realised that involving everyone would mean having more than one event, so the multiple offer of a selection that should suit everyone was born. On 3rd July at 9.00am 810 students arrived on site armed with over £4500 clutched in their brown paper envelopes. They proceeded to their event zones and prepared for one of eight activities: Baking, Zumba, Football, Painting, Silly Olympics, Gaming, Read/Writing or selling foods in an enterprise activity.

At 9.15am the bell rang and Oaklands came alive. Everywhere you went on site came the sounds of fierce competition, industry or delight. No one was still. Except the readers. The school library was a nest of focused calm with fifty heads bent in silent appreciation of their chosen

books. Equally intent, were Miss Sharma's writers whose collective accomplishments during that morning will become available at a school outlet near you very soon.

Another oasis of creative genius was observed in the Art block where fifteen artists gathered around each giant canvas and delivered brilliant renditions of a complex art project. With her characteristic artistic flair for invention Mrs Peel had sketched the named Saint for each building at Oaklands so we now have a stunning

3rd July 2015

painting depicting the namesakes for perpetuity.

Meanwhile in the 'Great Oaklands Bake Off' Miss Mousdale and Ms Osborne directed and guided over eighty student cooks to create a succession of pizzas, cheese straws, cupcakes and brownies. These were shipped out by budding entrepreneurs to be sold to busy athletes, artists and dancers whilst the next batch of edibles was being whipped up.

On the bottom field and in the sports hall Mr P. Smith presided over a triumph of organisation with over two hundred students taking part in ten Olympic events. They hula hooped, ran with egg and spoon, beanbags or cups of water and with the glorious sunshine and soaring temperatures were more than happy to accidentally pour it over each other. Mrs Wrightson and Mr Sumba must have had an endless giggle in the sports hall with the

human Hungry Hungry Hippos. How much fun can be had with a skateboard and hundreds of plastic balls? Only they have the answers.

Another smooth running event was Mr R.Smith's Football tournament for twenty teams on the rugby fields by the drive. Students battled each other on one of the six pitches and rested in the shade of the hedges between matches.

In the main hall local dance company ReD's owner, Rebecca Edwards, led the dancers in an exhausting but satisfying bounce for nearly three hours. This contrasted with the furious concentration and entranced looks on the faces of the computer gamers. X Boxes, Play Stations, Nintendo, phone games, the common room pool table and Fussball as well as good old fashioned board games allowed Mrs Arthurs to facilitate the success of the intense gaming zone in the Sixth Form

We danced, kicked, baked and painted, raced, skated and sold for a great cause. With the help of huge staff and parent support for both a Just Giving page and a raffle, by the end of last week our grand total has doubled from the day itself. We are delighted to say that Teenage Cancer Trust are now in receipt of £8571.65 as a result of the key teachers who stepped up to the organisation of this event. Well done also to the magnificent Oaklands Sixth Formers for their hard work and heartfelt congratulations to every one of the Oaklands community who added their sponsorship money to the ever-increasing total. This was a very

Mrs Ludlam

special day that will not be forgotten quickly. Although who knows what we could have achieved with a giant



water slide?

building.

Winchester Conference

As part of expanding our knowledge in R.E., four Year 8 students, Max Twinam, Jessica Keeping, Charlie Graham and Abbie Sumpter were taken on an unforgettable experience to Winchester. We went to discover and answer the question 'Is religion important even if you're not religious?' We started the day by getting into groups and we discussed 'what do you think about religion?'. In tables, we made a big mind map about what we thought religion is and how others see it.

After lunch, we headed into our final workshop of the day which was about Sikhism and everything Sikhs believe in



and stand for. I found out that Sikhs have Gurus similar to how the Catholics have Popes and we learnt about their places of worship.

For me, I found it interesting how they set out to breakdown barriers and unite everyone primarily through offering food to everyone and anyone who takes it. This means that no matter what walk of life you are from, you can be together and share the same food that various families have made and brought to be shared.

We then congregated in the hall to discuss the question that had been the theme of the day; Is religion important – even if you are not religious?

Reflecting on the workshops we attended, the resounding answer was YES as it turns out religion sculpts and influences everything that we take for granted such as culture, cuisine, fashion and literature. The day was a great success and was very thought provoking.

Max Twinam 8 St. Dominic and Jessica Keeping 8 St. Teresa

Fair Trade Tea Party

It all started when my form tutor told me to attend a Fairtrade Tea Party Period 5 on Wednesday 8th July. I started walking to the hall with some of my friends and then saw a list of activities to do around the hall. Mrs Quinn was in the hall to welcome us and explain why we were there. After the welcome I got given a Fairtrade sticker and directed to go to the Fairtrade map/spot the difference activity. I was surprised to see the range of products Fairtrade sponsors, T-shirts, bananas, cocoa, footballs etc.

After the activity, Year 9 members of the Fairtrade group asked us 'What is Fairtrade'? I said "Fairtrade is a group that helps farmers get a fair price and sell their produce instead of the businesses getting it all". Then we took a break, tasting Fairtrade products. Next, we had the task of designing a sock! Mine wasn't a winner, but I enjoyed the chance to design it! I really enjoyed the Tea Party and I am thinking of joining the Fairtrade Club. Ah Vong Ho Knit Chong 7 St. Margaret



War Horse

Oaklands News

Challenge Week was fab! Being our first one, we didn't know what to expect. To start off with, we did not have to stick to the usual timetable. Instead we were doing great activities based on Michael Morpurgo's book 'War Horse'. As a taster, on day one, we visited Bovington Tank Museum and had an amazing day out. We explored the museum, went inside a real tank, had workshops about cavalry in war and got to buy a souvenir from the shop to remind us of what a great day out we had. On days 2, 3 & 4 we had cool activities to



learn more about the book. We did some drama and dance to learn how to fall over professionally. Also, there were a few sessions of creative writing when we got to write a short diary entry as if we were a horse or a soldier. This was good because we were able to understand more of how terrifying WW1 really was.

Later in the week, we touched on music and pretended to be a marching band. We even got to go around the school in a mini parade. On day two our group did photography with Mr Whyte, a professional photographer. We learnt about taking perspective photos and making it look like you were tiny and being squished by a giant shoe. This was fun and we did a photo where it looked like there were two tiny people sitting in a hat.

In craft, we made some Hama Bead poppies, some colourful bunting and made calligraphy art work from lines in 'War Horse'. To show off our work our families could come in to watch our mini exhibition and see what a great week it was.

Our year group had a fantastic week and would much rather have Challenge Week every week! On behalf of Year 7, we say THANK YOU to all the teachers who worked so hard to organise the week. It has been so much fun and great to learn something different.

Daisy Hazell and Lottie Piper - Year 7





Author Visit

Oaklands News

n 1st July, the top ten children's author and 'Hampshire Book Award' winner, Chris Bradford visited Oaklands. He performed two riveting displays to advertise and promote his books: one on the 'Bodyguard' series, and his second on his well known 'Young Samurai' series. Both were filled with adventure, information and fun which

was happily received by all. His 'bodyguard' display closed with a question and answer session, part of which I present to you all today:

Q: How long does it take for somebody to become an author?

A: As soon as you begin to write something, you can be classed as an author. To be a published author it can take months and years. I class an author as an author as soon as people start buying your books.

Q: If you weren't an author, what would you be?

A: Before I was an author I was a musician, so I imagine I would be that. If not, if I followed my childhood dream, I would be a survival expert like Steve Backshall.

n Wednesday 1st July 2015, we had a visit from Chris Bradford and he came to talk about his amazing, adventurous, exciting books. We were very engaged in what he was saying. Being a bodyguard sounds very complicated yet fun and I wouldn't mind giving it a try! Our morning consisted of him acting out parts of his books, getting involved in the work, and also watching different 'superpowers' to inspire us so that we CAN be super. Imogen Laybourne even had to sit under a table and pretend that Chris Bradford was her bodyguard!

During Period 5, we had another interesting assembly with Chris and he showed us another series of books by him called 'Young Samurai'. He also showed us the amazing skills which he has learnt over the years which then inspired him to write a book series about it. His Samurai sword looked really dangerous, and it looked like a lot of effort had to be put into being able to use it without cutting off someone's head, ha ha! Being a Samurai does NOT look easy.

His visit to us was very interesting and engaging

and next year we would appreciate and hope for another visit! Tamsin Murrell and Adelaide Sissons Year 7

Q: We heard that 'Young Samurai' was being considered as a T.V. show and that they even made a T.V. show trailer. Why didn't it get made?

A: There are so many productions and ideas put forward at once, and so places like the B.B.C. have to have all of their projects in front of them and choose which is the best and has the potential for greatness. Unfortunately, 'Young Samurai' didn't get chosen. But who knows? Anything may happen in the future!

Q: How long did it take for you to become a bodyguard and where was it?

A: The training started in Manchester and soon, I flew to Switzerland for the rest of my training. It was one of the most frightening yet eye opening experiences I've ever had and it took three weeks. You also have to be 18 or over to train as a bodyguard.

Q: When was your first book published?

A: I had a song writing book released in 2005, but my first fiction book was the first in the Young Samurai series in 2008.

Q: What originally inspired you to be an author?

A: Well, originally I wanted to be a Rockstar obviously as I was in a band. Going down that route and writing a song writing book, I found something I enjoyed. Rather than being turned down all the time for my music, people saying 'no' to my work, it lead me down a road into



Visit to St Aignan

Oaklands News

On 26th of June forty Year 8 students travelled to the beautiful town of St Aignan. The journey was long, thirteen hours, but fun and there was lots to do on board the ferry. We arrived in France about 3:30pm and drove for about two hours. When we got to the centre everyone was bursting with energy and was so excited to see where they were staying.

On Saturday we visited the market, we had a look around the stalls and food and answered the questions in our booklet. After lunch we went to the Troglodyte museum where we learnt about the caves and the silk worms that the Troglodyte people keep and make silk from. After we went to the swimming pool and had great fun.

On Sunday we visited a vineyard where we were taught about all the different kinds of grapes. We were shown where the wine was stored and how it was made. After this we went to the chocolatier and learnt how coco beans were grown and harvested and how chocolate is made. We tried the chocolate... obviously. We went to the pool after and enjoyed diving on the board and using the inflatables.

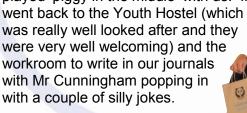
On Monday we went to the Valencay Chậteau which was so beautiful and there was so much to see inside and out. It was one of the highlights of the trip. After we finished our tour, we went back for lunch and got ready to go to Maison de la Magie Blois which was fun. We saw so many cool illusions and a magic show which was very confusing but smart at the same time.

Tuesday we visited the second best Zoo in Europe! There were so many animals like pandas, koalas, white leopards and elephants, nothing you'd see in a zoo back home. We spent the whole day there and also watched two fantastic shows, one by the sea lions and one bird show.

Wednesday we visited the biscuit factory, we looked at how they were made, where they made new recipes and tried the most amazing biscuits. Everyone had a chance to buy biscuits and had a short tour. We went back to the centre for our last lunch, got ready for swimming and then went to the shopping centre. Thursday we had to leave our dorms and travel home, we could not believe how quickly the week went. By Katie Merritt, Isabella Florio and Oakley Cain

I went to St. Aignan during Challenge Week. I thoroughly enjoyed it. I had many experiences that I thought were amazing including going to a vineyard and tasting red and white wine; personally I preferred the white wine. We also went to the best zoo in France. We saw a fantastic sea lion and birds of prey. The sea lions performed lots of tricks, my personal favourite was when the sea lions waved; I thought it was very funny. We also saw panda's as well.

In the afternoons we went swimming and it was great fun when Mr Shaw and Mr Cunningham played 'piggy in the middle' with us. In the evening we



I thought the trip was amazing, it was great to meet new people who I had not met before and enjoying time with my other friends who made this trip such an exciting experience. I would recommend the visit to all of Year 8 next year

recommend the visit to all of Year 8 next year because I am sure they would have as much fun as we did.

Adam Sawyer, 8 St. Martin



CSI Investigation

From June 29th to July 2nd we took part in Year 8 Challenge Week. Our week included an amazing trip to Thorpe Park, and a CSI murder investigation.

On June 29th we arrived at school bright and early at half past seven in the morning ready to board our coaches that would take us to Thorpe Park. After a long coach journey we finally arrived at our destination. By the time we got there, the weather was already about 23 degrees. As we gathered into groups with our friends we were registered and then finally let through the gates to do as we pleased until one o'clock. Most people headed off to the rides like Stealth or Swarm but some people decided to cool off on Tidal Wave. At 5 o'clock we all gathered back outside the ticket gates ready to be registered and board the coaches back to school. We left Thorpe Park and spent the whole journey back discussing our favourite rides. Mine were Colossus and because the weather was so hot. Tidal Wave.

The next day we took part in a task in which we had to create a product that could be sold at Thorpe Park. Some groups used wood or fabrics while others created healthy lunchboxes. Some of these included Eton Mess Pasties and Salads. At the end of the day we gave a presentation and left our products for the teachers to judge.

On our last two days we took part in a CSI murder. We took part in Maths and Science challenges to try and determine who the





murderer was. In Maths we got to learn lots of new skills such as how to use a compass and code breaking, while also revising our old ones such as using a trundle wheel. We then had to fill in a table to show what we had found out about the suspects and the victim. It was so much fun we almost forgot we weren't real CSI officers! In Science, we started our day by having a police officer come in to talk to us about the type of things he does and how to be aware in a crime scene. He then finished by showing us some of his equipment and how to use it. Overall, it was a really interesting talk. We then headed down to the labs where we took part in a variety of experiments including an autopsy on a heart. We also had a chance to visit the scene of the crime to try to see if we could gain any clues, and to see if we could get a good picture. After much contemplating we finally came up with our solutions and created a poster to show them.

Overall, it was one of the best weeks I have ever had and I would love to do it all over again. I even considered becoming a Forensic Scientist but I'm not sure I could handle the pressure! I would definitely rate this week 10/10!

On behalf of all the students who took part in this week I would like to thank all the teachers who helped out and made this week possible. Thank You!!! Anastasia Lonergan - Year 8

aklands Challenge Week is the perfect time to push yourself whilst having fun in places outside of the classroom. The best way of doing this is Year 9 Camp. On Monday, as the coaches arrived at Tile Barn in the New Forest we got straight into activities. Our first task was to put up a tent - more challenging for some, than others. Throughout the week, however, our groups faced more than noncompliant tent poles. The days were filled with team building exercises, archery, climbing, mountain biking and jumping from a 30ft platform – appropriately called the "Leap of Faith", which challenged us as we laughed with our friends, having a great time.

It was a common opinion that the hiking was going to be the biggest challenge of the week. Compasses and maps in hand, we set out into 11km and 14km woodland, farmland and fields. Finally, completed (and completely exhausted) we rewarded ourselves with a well-deserved dinner. After five days of outdoor adventure, we arrived home to our own beds (though the roll mats were surprisingly comfortable), having had the best Challenge Week yet









Year 9 Island Survival

During the weeks counting down to Challenge Week, everyone was buzzing, many were talking about who they would be sharing a tent with on camp or what they would be wearing each day. On the Monday as the coaches left for camp the rest of us made our way to the gym to find out what our week would consist of and who would be in our group!

Once we were given our brief, we were taken to JP Block to begin our new 'shipwrecked life'. We began by creating our island and team name my group, Banana Banta, Our island was full of forests and a volcano! In the afternoon, we made a flag and an anthem, ours was to the tune of Mamma Mia! On Tuesday we all went on the first of two The first trip was to a trips. Sikh Gurdwara in Southampton. We were taught about their beliefs and rituals. We all had to take our shoes off and cover our heads out of respect. Afterwards they gave us some amazing curry!

On Wednesday we went to the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum to learn about hut building and stability and we learnt how to make clay bricks! On Thursday, the last day of the week, we had to put all our prep to good use, we had to build our shelter using only the stuff we could find in the forest. It had be waterproof and windproof and although we didn't win, we had a big BBQ

after to celebrate the week, together.

Caitlin Reid 9 St. Stephen







Year 10 Professional Days

ast week Year 10 students took part in a series of Days. The days organised by the Careers team, led by Mrs Payne. The days highlighted the many different choices and paths that are available to us after we leave Year 11. One example of the many different routes that we could take was explained to us by a number of people who had taken A levels at college, and people who work at colleges. This provided us with a greater understanding of how interesting A level courses could be. During the professional days we also gained a huge amount of information from people about Apprenticeships. This showed us how many Apprenticeships there are on offer to us and we discovered that we could 'learn whilst we earn'.

Over these professional days we also learnt about adult life and what will come next for us. We found out about basic things such as taxation and how to look after our money when we are older. Some things that were said about these professional days by students that took part were that they were "informative" and also that 'they provided us with a

of Mr R Wilding Mr Wilding Mr R Wilding Mr R Wilding Mr R Wilding Mr R Wilding Mr R

Oaklands News

unique understanding with what will come next in our lives, something that other students in other schools don't get the opportunity to do'.

Over the two days we also had the opportunity to look at some CVs and determine whether they were up to the job or not. This gave us an insight into what things we need to put in our CVs when searching for a job, and what will make our CVs stand out from the others.

Overall, I believe that the professional days were a huge success and they gave us, the students, a lot of information about the variety of career choices that we can make after finishing school; plus it was a fun and interesting experience for all those who took part. Sam Sparkes 10 St. Stephen

St John's Update

A swe come to the end of this academic year, we would like to thank everyone who has supported our Oaklands St John's Scholarship Programme. We have maintained the number of children we are supporting at 115 per term. We have also continued to enable girls to attend school regularly by helping St John's provide them with sanitary pads. Finally, this term we sent 100 computer tablets to St John's to support their education. As reported in the previous edition of this publication, these were donated by the McMahon family. We are happy to report that these have now been received and the children at St John's are already learning how to use them.

Without your financial support, we could not do any of these things. Next year we will continue to raise funds through individual sponsorship, form fundraising in school and through the sale of Christmas cards and a 2016 calendar. Look out for the cards and calendars which will be on sale in the Autumn Term.

Thank you very much for your support of the scholarship programme and we pray that we can continue to count on your help in making this world a little better for children at St John's.

The Oaklands St John's Team

BAE Systems and the RAF



On 19th June 2015 three engineers from BAE Systems and a member of the RAF visited our school to share an exciting presentation with Year 7 and Year 8 students. One boy described it as "amazing". He said he had never experienced science in such a fascinating way.

They arrived during Period 1 to deliver the presentation to Year 7. They exchanged some of their knowledge with the students as well as telling them what they did in their job. They followed this with many scientific demonstrations. For example, they demonstrated how a dynamo is used to collect kinetic energy from a bicycle wheel and convert it into electricity which illuminated a lab coat littered with colourful lightbulbs. The

student's reactions were great, not a jaw in the audience didn't drop open.

After this they explained to the audience how a laser pen works using gases and mirrors to project a light, they used smoke to display the "laser line".

They did many more experiments and demonstrations with everyone and left after filling our brains with exciting and valuable knowledge. It was a great day. "I was sad to see them leave but pleased with what I had learnt". "This was the first time I didn't want period two to end".

On Friday 19th June 2015 at 9.15am all of Year 7 gathered in the hall to watch a presentation put together by BAE Systems and the RAF to teach us about science now and science into the future.

In this report I am going to state three of my favourite parts of what took place in this mind blowing event. During the presentations both students and teachers were involved and most of all, everyone clearly enjoyed it!

Firstly, one of my favourite things that took place was when they brought out a long tube that was attached to a gas tank and when it was turned on and lit by a lighter, loads of flames appeared. Also, when music was turned on the flames moved up and down to the beat of the

music: it was AMAZING!!!

Secondly, another one of my favourite things was when they used a laser pen to make beams of light and when the light was focused in a smoke machine to show the light. I liked this one because it actually was like how it is in an actual action movie. This was one of my favourites by far.

Thirdly and finally, I enjoyed learning about how in the future skin cells will be used on planes. This will stop planes from breaking down; if they are hit they will just grow back and the plane will be fine

Claudia Hobbs - 7 St. Margaret



Year 8 Art Trip

On Wednesday 24th June, our Gifted and Talented Year 8 students were invited to participate in a one day Art workshop at Clay Station, part of the Omega Centre in Portsmouth.

The aim of the day was to take them out of their comfort zones and to show them what they could achieve in a day doing solely Art. We were led by experienced Potter, Ginny Topp, who owns Clay Station and delivers workshops to adults and students.

First, the students were given a quick demonstration with some examples of different clay building techniques by Ginny. Then they were given free rein to start creating their own hand built clay pieces inspired by natural forms and some sketches they had done in the community gardens at the Omega centre.

After a quick lunch in the gardens the students were then given a demonstration by Ginny on the Potter's wheel, she made it look so easy! Each of the students had a go on the wheel, some more successfully than others! It is a difficult skill to master and the students did really well to persevere! Some of the finished pieces were exceptional!

At the end of the session we brought all of our finished pieces back to school where they will be put into our Kiln to be fired, before decorating them and taking them home. The students were really impressed with their creations and what they were able to achieve in such a short space of time. Lots of them have developed their skills in pottery and are able to confidently manipulate the clay to their own designs. This will really help them if they choose Art at GCSE as they will already have a head start when it comes to building and working on the potter's wheel, a skill normally reserved for our KS4 students! Well done!



The Class of 2015 Mr Quinn



entrances to a gasping crowd of well-wishers, family and friends. Students arrived in a host of incredible chariots from limousines to vintage cars.

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



evening, the spread of food was incredible.

Fitting tribute

It was a fitting tribute to the Class of 2015. Most importantly, however, well done to all the students for giving the evening such a special atmosphere. You deserved nothing less and I hope you can find space in your Year Book for some of the photographs.

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 Prom.

Students arrived in a host of incredible chariots

A dedicated team, had been working hard all year under the supervision of Mrs Bonnington, to arrange the Prom at the Marriot Hotel, Portsmouth. The evening started at 6:30 when the students made some show stopping



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.

The Function room at the Marriot had been transformed into an outstanding venue. Once inside the tables were decorated to a beautiful standard emphasising the importance of the



Young Enterprise Competition

The Youth Enterprise and Business Challenge, run by the charity Faith and Football, is aimed at producing young entrepreneurs in Year 9 whilst also teaching ethical values within business which is stereotypically about the money.

Last year, before even beginning the enterprise challenge, the end of year presentation introduced us to the incredible work people put themselves through to complete this challenge. Students from the previous Year 9 had clearly done an amazing job. Many students in Year 8 were interested in this competition, and after finding out that the big number one prize was a trip to India, I personally knew it was a no brainer for me. I would be entering the challenge, and my group would be in it to win it.

Many months went by, the summer holidays passed and leading up to Christmas, people within the new Year 9 were beginning to make enterprise groups (even before Mrs Ludlam's introduction during an assembly!) But soon our group was formed which mostly consisted of pupils who catch the 653 bus service daily. We registered our group and began meeting weekly both on our own and with the mentor, Becki.

The next tough task we faced was finding our product and actually producing it. Various ideas came to mind. We discussed mugs, t-shirts, cakes, muffins, pancakes, waffles, milkshakes - everything you can think of. One of our greatest ideas was selling services such as car washing and lawn mowing, as we knew it would be a great profit maker. Yet after discovering the product, tray bakes, the idea was rapidly dismissed as it would not fit in at all with the Tray Bake Traders branding. The internet gave many ideas for young enterprises and food was by far the quickest, easiest and fastest money-maker.

Throughout the four month period of trading, our group developed in every aspect and every sale was something new. The last sale we did, at the Havant Meridian shopping centre, proved to be our best sale and we sold all our products including our new Tray Bake Traders exclusive



changes made. The competition required a final presentation: folders, products, and above all, everything had to be branded. We began to produce systems to pay for ingredients, and systems to show that on a spreadsheet. Easy right? Not a chance. Most of the work was done along the way, but the last few nights, we worked three times as hard - bringing everything together in one box. This was what would decide whether we would win or not.

We were finally finished.

The presentation was in a few weeks and we tried to tell ourselves that we did have a chance, despite our failed attempt at finishing



our appendix in the back of our folder. When the presentation did come, we were definitely excited. Our biggest competitors – Lad's Confectionery – had also worked equally as hard as us and it would have been great for us to see them win. One of the first things said at the presentation, was that the winner was, for the first time, a "unanimous decision," and "head and shoulders above the rest," which originally made us think our group was out of the question. The certificates were given out, the runners up were called, and finally the winners of the 2015 Youth Enterprise challenge were called out.

Tray Bake Traders

It was quite amazing and to say we were thrilled is an understatement. All the applause from: Becki our mentor, our parents, the charity and all of the other groups was simply overwhelming. In the future we will be raising money for the orphanage we will be visiting in India and continuing the business to the best of our abilities into Year 10. I personally am challenging myself to raise money to go onto other mission trips, helping people live life to the full through hard work in



Young Carers

ecent weeks have been significant ones In the Young Carers Group here at Oaklands, with our attendance at the annual Young Carers Festival marking our fifth year. and a fortnight later holding our first 'family fun day' for our carers and their families here at the school. (see insert) We have also been the beneficiaries of tremendous support, for example the Cobert family which allowed us to have a professionally printed banner made for the group. Such support and generosity is always gratefully received and serves as a reminder of the kindness of our local community. Our thanks go out to all individuals. companies and agencies who have shown such wonderful support.

Now that this year draws to a close I have had an opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved and enjoyed over the past five years. So it is that I beg your indulgence now, to share a few thoughts on these most remarkable of young people.

One of the first students I had cause to work closely with at Oaklands was a Year 8 boy who seemed to be involved in endless fights and aggressive confrontations with other students. Once or twice each fortnight he'd be escorted through my door, shirt untucked, his tie hanging loosely across his chest and a 'me against the world' look plastered across his face. Each time he'd sit in silence, apart from the short barbed statements detailing his views on the school, this student or that member of staff. I, being new to the school and

responsible for his supervision during his time in Inclusions, merited not a thought nor comment. Familiarity, however, must have bred an element of trust, as after a while he told me all about his life. In particular we spoke about his younger brother, who, as he had a developmental disorder, he helped care for. He was a young carer, just one of thousands in the UK, and whether he was in lessons, on the playground or on the bus to school, the worry about his brother was always paramount. That it affected his studies and friendships was clear, as was the fact that he, and many other young carers in our community, would benefit from support in school. Thus, the young carers group here at Oaklands was born, with regular meetings being held each week. Three years later, the young lad who'd started everything off, and who for a long time looked as though he may not make it to the end of Year 11 with us, returned to Oaklands a few weeks after finishing his GCSE exams to be presented with an award for Outstanding Contribution to School Life, an award he received to a standing ovation from staff and students alike.

Our weekly young carers meetings have taken many forms. In the early days they took place in Mr Cunningham's History classroom, just a handful of students (sometimes outnumbered by staff who'd come along to help out) playing board games, eating sandwiches, listening to music and chatting about their weekends, studies and caring responsibilities. Now, almost five years later we have taken over the Sports Hall for our



meetings. Basketballs, shuttlecocks and Frisbees cut through the air, already thick with the sounds of chatter and laughter. With over 50 young carers, and the friends who join them, the weekly gatherings have grown into their very own Playzone. The half a dozen or so members of staff who attend can be found inhabiting the small

now able to reflect upon their circumstances and make sense of them with others in a similar situation. This is no small achievement, and will benefit them as they continue their caring responsibilities. As an adult, it is heartening to see such progress which affirms the

value of the young carers group.

n Sunday July 12th, Oaklands Young Carers held a family day to celebrate 5 years of the group. Mrs Oldroyd addressed the assembled young carers and families at the recent Family Fun Day to thank the staff who volunteer their time to work with the young carers here at Oaklands.

Over the past five years I have the benefit of running, alongside our regular meetings, a number of trips for our young carers. These evenings out and weekends away provide young carers with valuable respite and an opportunity to spend time with other young people who share similar responsibilities. The Young Carers Festival particular is a fantastic opportunity for our young carers to meet others, bringing together as it does over 1300 young carers from all over the country for one weekend of music, activity and camping. Each year the young carers make new friends. experience the delights abseiling and silent discos and leave with just enough memories to sustain them for the year until the next festival. This year was our fifth festival, and each year the event gets better and the young carers seen to enjoy it all the more. Staff give up their own time with their families to allow these trips to go ahead, and the value of their contribution cannot be underestimated.



The Young Carers Group has granted me some of the most precious moments professional career, and in the highlight reel of my time here at Oaklands I know that the support we offer for our young carers will

and their families supported by Lloyds Bank staff and the Groundlings Theatre Company. Pictured is Jeff Dugan who ran the Rome Marathon in aid of the Young Carers, Donna Dugan who headed up the Lloyds Bank staff and Mr Rich Jones, founder of the Oaklands Young Carers. A vote of thanks was given to Mr Jones and all the staff who give of their time to support the weekly group, the festival and all the other activities which support this group within our school.

Entertainment and food were laid on for young carers

feature prominently. I feel immensely proud to be able to say that I work with such an inspiring group of young people and hope that I will have the privilege to continue to do so for many years to come.

pockets of calm, near the sandwiches and safely tucked away from the unpredictable flightpaths of sports equipment.

Despite the appearance of chaos, the group has evolved in an interesting way. Among the existing friendships and peer groups, new support groups have emerged, meaning that our young carers are

Richard Jones

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

This has been another busy year for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award with ten Bronze, three Silver and one Gold group. A wide variety of activities have been undertaken complete the Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections while the Bronze groups have completed two expeditions in the South Downs and the Silver groups expeditions took place in the New Forest and on the Isle of Purbeck. The Gold group have been fortunate to 'team up' with D of E participants from Havant College and have undertaken expeditions to the Brecon Beacons,





Dartmoor and Exmoor & Quantocks. All participants have successfully passed this section of their Award.

Congratulations to the 32 Bronze participants who have already completed their Award and hopefully the remainder of the group will finish over the summer so that all can receive their Letter of Recognition and Badge when school returns in September. Many of the Silver group too will have passed their Award by the end of this term. In the addition to four sections undertaken at Bronze and Silver

levels the Gold group have an extra residential section to complete so it is to be expected that their Award will take longer to finish but again we hope to see some participants with the prestigious Gold Award during the next academic year.

In March each year the D of E Certificates are presented to the previous year's participants at a ceremony hosted by the Havant and Waterlooville Award Committee. This year's ceremony took place at Cowplain School in the presence of parents and local dignities Councillor Roy Perry (Hampshire Vice President),



Martin King (Chair of the D of E Forum) and the Mayor of Havant. It is a opportunity for all

successful participants to receive public recognition and congratulations on their achievement. From Oaklands 53 Bronze and 19 Silver Award holders received their Certificates at this ceremony. A fantastic achievement!

Havant & Waterlooville Award Presentation Evening. The students pictured are some of the 72 participants who received their Bronze and Silver certificates. From left to right: Isabelle Sumner (Silver), Georgina Page, Felicity Barrows, Verity Flood, Aoife Dreelan (Bronze), Annabel Page and Holly Reynolds (Silver).

This would not be possible without the time and commitment given by a number of people particularly to support the Expedition training so thanks is due to: Miss K Caine, Mr K Geddes, Miss H Gray, Mrs N Riddle, Mr P Hoar, Miss H Roberts, Mrs J Stirling, Miss Z Terry, Mr L Tindal, Mr J Turner, Mrs J Tyler, Mr C Wade, Mr P Whelan, Mrs C Wise, Mr H Wrightson.





Computing @ Oaklands

The Oaklands Computing department had some visitors from St Peter's and St Thomas Moore's to experience programming using a program called Yenka. The Year 4 students had to program characters to 'rap dance' and then add music to their routine and other special effects. A student commented that she felt it was a 'dream come true' which was very encouraging!



St.Thomas Moore's



St. Peter's

The students were a credit to their school and teachers and have begun the first stages of programming which will help them to 'problem solve' and this in turn will help students to use these skills in other subjects as well as in Computing. Each student received a certificate to show that they had taken part in learning programming. Oaklands is committed to forming links with primary schools to share ideas and support learning.

Liz Crane - Head of Computing

Year 9 Belgium Trip 2015

On Friday 19th June 2015, 47 Year 9 students began their trip to the battlefields of the First World War. After crossing via the Eurotunnel we explored an authentic British trench from the war at Sanctuary Wood Museum before making our way to Vancouver Corner in order to visit the place where gas was first used as a weapon 100 years ago.

After an early breakfast, we began our three hour guided tour of the Ypres Salient. As we consistently got on and off the coach we visited Essex Farm Cemetery, the first aid post where the famous poem *In Flanders Field* was composed by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae. Also at Essex Farm Cemetery we were shocked to discover the grave of Valentine Strudwick, who at the age of just 15, had died around



Ypres in 1916. The grave was even more thought provoking for us all when we realised how close he was to our own age. After visiting Essex Farm we moved onto the largest British cemetery at Tyne Cot just outside the town Passchendaele. Built on the remains of a German bunker, we not only paid our respects to those from Britain and her empire but we also got to witness a wonderful example of the geography of Passchendaele and how the Germans held the high ground.



On Saturday afternoon we were able to visit the modern museum, in Flanders Field Museum. As we made our way through the museum we were able to see some excellent interactive features and artefacts that had been retrieved from the Ypres Salient, especially the artefacts from Yorkshire Trench as we had visited this during our morning tour and had seen how this underground system had become flooded. In the evening, we made our way to the impressive Menin Gate in order to take part in the official Last Post Ceremony that has taken place in Ypres, every night since 1928.

Despite the atrocious weather, hundreds of people surrounded the Menin Gate in order to pay their respects to the missing of Passchendaele whilst Victoria Rose, Daniel Whitty and myself had the privilege of laying a wreath on behalf of Oaklands during the official ceremony. Although nervous, we felt honoured to be have been asked to lay the wreath on behalf of the school with all in agreement that it was a wonderful experience for us to remember being a part of. Once the ceremony was over we were given the opportunity to explore the Menin

Gate and pay our own private respects to the men from Britain and the Commonwealth who sadly had no known grave around Ypres and Passchendaele.

On Sunday we bid farewell to the beautiful town of Ypres and made our way to the region of the Somme, just ninety-nine years after the Battle of the Somme. Arriving in the town of Albert, we collected our guide and began our three hour guided tour of the Somme battlefield. During this tour, we stopped at the impressive German stronghold of Thiepval. Sadly, we were unable to walk around the Thiepval memorial as it is currently being renovated in preparation of the centenary commemoration in 2016 but all students agreed it was a very striking and impressive structure before we made our final stop at Newfoundland Park at Beaumont-Hamel. Here we finally got to learn about the 'Danger tree' that Mr Tyler had shown our parents earlier in the year, while we got to walk the around the whole of the Beaumont-Hamel battlefield, from the British trenches to the German trenches in less than one hour, when in 1916 it had taken the British Army five months.

After a very action packed but fascinating weekend we boarded the coach for our final journey back to Oaklands. On behalf of all the students who visited both Ypres and the Somme, I would like to thank Mr Tyler, Mr Smith, Mrs Masson and Mrs Bonnington for giving up their weekend in order to make the trip possible for us all.

Jack Pinhorne 9 St. Stephen

Geography Fieldwork

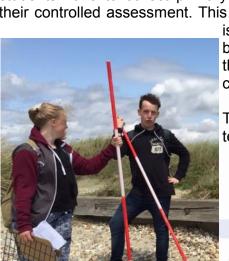
Year 10 Geography students visited West Wittering beach and East Head spit in West Sussex over a three day period in July as part of their GCSE Geography course.

150 students took part in this valuable experience. At GCSE, students have to collect primary data to enable them to complete their controlled 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 costal processes and the impact that management has on the area.

The students will work for twenty hours in lessons over the next half term to complete their assessments when they return in September.



Attendance - Every day matters

Q: What is the most effective way that you can support your child through school?

A: Send them to school every day.

There is an undeniable link between regular attendance and attainment; as a school we have always promoted the importance of good attendance. Recent Governments have focused on Persistent Absenteeism (where a child's attendance falls below 85%, which is

the equivalent of missing approximately 25 days in school year – that is 5 weeks of school, almost a whole half-term!) Even a child with an attendance of 90% is missing the equivalent of half a day per week of the school year! In September 2015 the Department for Education has now stated that 90% is the new Persistent Absenteeism threshold. How does your child's attendance this year compare with that?

We ask that you try, where possible, to follow these guidelines to ensure your child has optimum opportunities and development:

- Do not book holidays in term time the school does NOT authorise holidays (unless there are extreme exceptional circumstances as defined in our Registration and Attendance Policy).
- From September 2015 we have been instructed by Hampshire County Council to begin issuing Fixed Penalty Notices for unauthorised absence and poor punctuality. The unauthorised absence can correlate with unauthorised holiday

Current figures:Overall school attendance: 96%			
Group	Authorised Absence %	Unauthorised Absence %	
Whole School	3.5%	0.5%	
Year 7	2.9	0.3	
Year 8	3.6	0.5	
Year 9	3.8	0.5	
Year 10	3.6	0.5	
Year 11	3.7	0.8	

but also is linked to students with attendance below the 90% threshold of Persistent Absenteeism.

- Make medical/dental appointments out of school hours
- Phone or email school (<u>absence@oaklandscatholicschool.org</u>) by 9am on the first day of an absence
- Respond quickly to text messages requesting confirmation of an absence
- Attend the meetings requested by the Head of Year if your child is identified as a Persistent Absentee

Finally, be aware that research shows that an attendance rate of 90% is linked to one whole grade of underachievement at GCSE

School Uniform

Looking Good and Feeling Smart - Uniform

Our full school uniform is available at Skoolkit in the Meridien Centre, Havant, and at 23 Trinity Street, Fareham. They also offer an online shop and the order is delivered by post to your home.

Pre-loved uniform: The OPA are very keen to promote their Pre-loved Uniform service – but they need stock! If your son/daughter has outgrown their uniform, we would be very pleased if you would donate any items which are in good condition. Freshly laundered uniform donations may be left in Reception or in Student Services. The second-hand uniform is a valuable source of income for the OPA (all monies raised through this are invested into school projects) and in these difficult financial times it is more important than ever. If you would like to make an enquiry about purchasing second hand uniform please send an email to: opa@oaklandscatholicschool.org and a member of the OPA will contact you.

Some pre-shopping reminders: *Blazers* – remember that the navy embroidered blazer is a compulsory school garment and must be worn to and from school. Please ensure your son/daughter is wearing it when they leave the house (and it is not rolled up in their school bag!). This must be purchased from Skoolkit or the OPA.

Skirts – Skirts should be navy blue, with sewn down pleats **all around**. We face an ever-present battle with our female students regarding the length of their skirts. Many girls roll up their waistbands and this results in skirt lengths which are not appropriate for a mixed learning environment. Please help us to help you – <u>buy sufficiently long skirts</u> and check the waistband before the girls leave home.

Trousers – boys trousers should be navy blue formal tailored trousers. CHINOS OR OTHER

CASUAL STYLE TROUSERS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.

Shoes – students are required to wear black flat proper shoes; girls' heels should be no more than two inches. There has been a recent fashion of boys wearing black plimsolls or canvas shoes – this is not acceptable and contravenes the uniform regulations.

Coats – coats for boys and girls should be plain navy blue or black. Please try to keep any logo or trim to a minimum. Scarves should be in appropriate school colours and not linked to any football team. Hoodies are not permitted and are not considered a suitable outdoor coat. Students will be asked to remove any non-regulation item of uniform.

Piercings

Don't forget please that extra piercings in the nose, eyebrow, tongue, bellybutton, upper ear etc are all strictly forbidden. Students may wear one earring only in the lobe. Students with piercings in any other area will be required to remove them. Failure to follow this regulation will result in a sanction.

Key Dates

Summer Term 2015

Mon 20 April—Mon 20 July Inset Day: Monday 20 July 2015

Autumn Term 2015

Tues 1 September to Fri 18 December 2015 Half Term: Mon 26 October to Fri 30 October 2015

Inset Day: Tue 1 September 2015 **Inset Day**: Fri 25 September 2015

Phased Return: Wednesday 2 September Years 7, 12 & 13

Thursday 3 September all years in school

Spring Term 2016

Mon 4 January to Thurs 24 March 2016

Half Term: Mon15 February to Fri 19 February 2016.

Summer Term 2016

Mon 11 April to Mon 18 July 2016

Half Term: Mon 30 May to Fri 3 June 2016

Inset Day: Friday 1 July 2016 Inset Day: Monday 18th July 2016

2015/2016 Inset Days - School Closed:

Tuesday 1 September 2015 Friday 25 September 2015

Friday 1 July 2016 Monday 18th July 2016

Fond Farewells

Oaklands News

With over 180 staff it is inevitable that at the end of term some colleagues will be moving on. In addition to those mentioned in the previous Oaklands News the following colleagues are also leaving us: Thank you and farewell to **Bob Bainbridge** and **David Stretton** who have been excellent mentors to our students during their time with us. **Mrs Danielle Newbiggin** has been our Chaplain's Assistant for the past year and has been a huge support to our Chaplain, Mrs Floyd. During her time with us she has done some splendid work with our Chaplaincy Team, Bible Study group and Youth Alpha group helping to develop the spiritual life of our students. We wish Danielle well as she starts her teacher training.

Mr Christian Janes came to us four years ago.He immediately made his mark here as an energetic Drama teacher. Christian has supported the performing arts team through many productions - notably choreographing the iconic "Greased Lightnin" sequence in Grease, and later as technical director. He has been actively involved in all areas of school life, giving his time over to the Ski trip, residentials and camp alongside the regular round of extra-curricular evening theatre trips for Drama. Committed to pastoral work, Christian has been a cohort leader for Year 9 and moves on to a new role as a Year Head at Henry Beaufort School, Winchester.

Nine years ago **Mr Peter Maloney** came to Oaklands to join our Learning Support Department. During that time he supported students with SEN as well as leading successful maths intervention groups for students of all ages. This was in addition to his role as a key member of our pastoral team, most notably as Year Assistant to our current Year 11 students. Peter is now moving on to teacher training.

Mr Rob Keane joined Oaklands in September 2004 as Head of Mathematics leading the department until 2013 when he reduced his hours in school to part time and took on responsibility for the teaching of Maths in the Sixth Form. Here he helped many students attain their desire to study at a Russell Group University. A Chess enthusiast, Rob ran a Chess Club for students for many years. Full retirement, Stamford Bridge and the golf course now await him.

Nineteen years ago **Mrs Frances Peel** joined Oaklands as Head of Art. Over the years she has made an invaluable contribution to the school both through the currculum and beyond, taking part in Ski trips and Year 9 Camps. During her time here students have come to realise and appreciate her superb subject knowledge and what an amazingly creative person she is. As a longstanding Sixth Form tutor Mrs Peel has spent many hours helping students with their references for University and getting involved in the wider life of the Sixth Form. She leaves a lasting legacy around the school not least the beautiful Icon she produced and which was painted by members of staff and the recent paintings of the school saints which will be admired for many years to come. We wish Mrs Peel every success and happiness in her new venture.

In June 1993 Mrs Julie Kendrick joined the Admin team at Oaklands initially working as a Clerical Assistant before moving into the newly emerging technology of recording student data electronically; how things have moved on since those early days! Likewise, Julie has moved on too, taking on the role of Cover Supervisor and Secretary to the Governing Body and, in more recent years, that of Examinations Officer. Working closely with Richard Cunningham, she oversees and organises some four thousand individual public examinations each year; no mean feat! After 22 years of outstanding service to the school the time has come for her to hang up her clipboard for very well deserved retirement.

Mrs Kay Hopkins joined Oaklands in 1989 as a Clerical Assistant. Over the years Kay has undertaken a number of roles in the school eventually being promoted to Headteacher's PA in 1996. For many parents and staff Kay has been the first contact with the school, she is ambassadorial in this respect. If being a PA was just about managing the diary, the job would be easy. Ask any Headteacher how they achieve their goals while battling a diary full of commitments, a deluge of emails and requests for their time, and most will say they couldn't do it without their PA. Kay is gold dust.

Kay is at the heart of the school, not only working as PA but assisting the rest of the Senior Team. She has played a key role in supporting decisions over the years. Kay is unflappable under pressure and able to think on her feet, She is a paragon of discretion. She has now typed her last letter and after 26 years of unbelievable service she has decided to join her husband in retirement.

We wish all our leaving staff the very best of luck in the next part of their journey wherever that might lead.

Oak ands Open Evening

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Thursday 24th September 2015

5:00-8:00pm

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





Stakes Hill Road, Waterlooville, Hants, PO7 7BW

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