

Term Dates
2015-16

Summer Iceland Trip

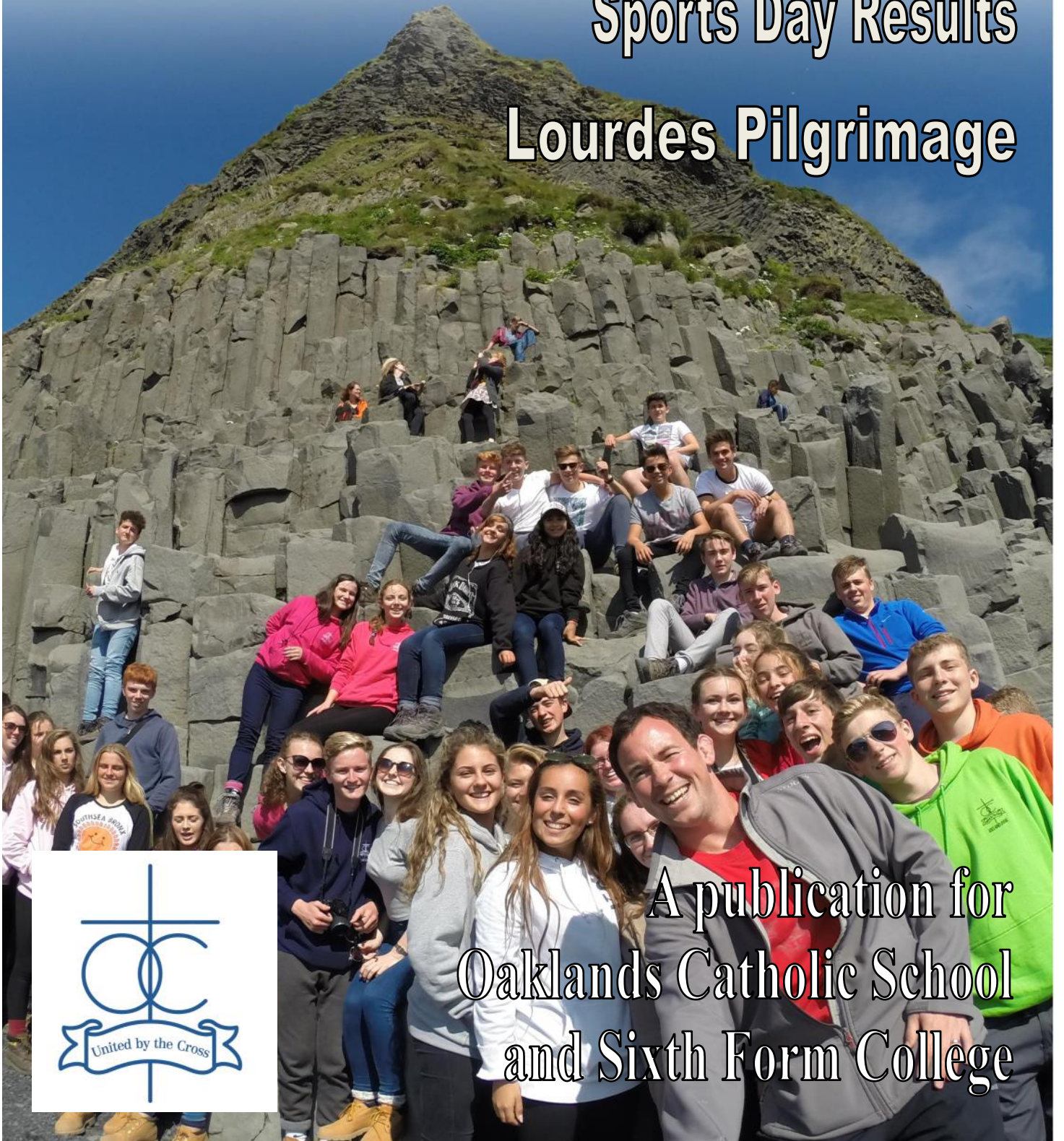
No 408 Sep 15

Oaklands News

New Year 7 Students Arrive

Sports Day Results

Lourdes Pilgrimage



A publication for
Oaklands Catholic School
and Sixth Form College

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Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

From the Headteacher's desk

Welcome back, I hope you all had a good and restful summer. A warm welcome to all our new readers of 'Oaklands News'.

I love live theatre, and how it has the potential to fire the imagination, and arouse curiosity. The performances are often so powerful that we become characters in the story. I would recommend to parents that they take their children to live theatre as frequently as possible. Performances by local amateur groups are as valuable as a trip to the West End. This summer I took the family to see an adaptation of Edith Nesbit's The Railway Children, it is one of those classics that we all read as children.

There are a number of familiar themes from our Christian narrative that are threaded through the story. A loving father is falsely accused and punished. A family then live in isolation and poverty. Then during this time a saving mission begins with abundant confidence, courage and love

The children are responsible for saving their mother when she becomes ill; they save the train from catastrophe as a result of the land slide; they save strangers, the runner in the red jersey after he collapses in the tunnel and the refugee fleeing from Russian persecution. For Perks, the station master, the children save him from his own pride.

Layered over this is the faith that the eldest child Roberta has in her imprisoned father. Through the work of a 'good Samaritan', the truth about her father is established. The story culminates with Roberta standing alone on a station platform. Appearing through the belching smoke is a lonely figure. She can hardly believe her eyes. After all this time without him, there he is. She hurls herself along the platform shouting, "Daddy my Daddy!" It is one of those moments where you have to swallow hard, a resurrection moment. All her dreams have come true, her faith in her father has been rewarded, Now all her worries can be put on one side and the family are reunited.

I do not know if Nesbit realised the theological significance of what she was writing. The story prompts us to consider how we would respond if disaster struck. Would we show courage, confidence, love and faith?

Similar to many of you I have watched the humanitarian crisis as people flee war-torn areas of the Mediterranean and Middle East. Within this exodus a new generation of railway children will emerge getting into scrapes, weeping over absent fathers and mothers and befriending strangers. As in live theatre we can become part of their story being bearers of a new light. Our response to their plight should be characterised by the truth of the resurrection.

Last week I wrote home to all parents recording the examination successes, of which there were many. **Students achieved over 70% higher passes at GCSE, with almost 30% of grades at A or A*.** Almost all students who wanted to go to University this year were successful. We remain one of the top schools in this area of Hampshire and Portsmouth. These results could not have been achieved without the hard work of pupils, staff and parents. I enjoyed talking to many parents and students during the results days.

I also laid out the school's expectations for attendance uniform, mobile phones and use of social networking. I was pleased when I read in the news that certain inappropriate behaviours some young people engage in using social media, will now be recorded as a criminal offence. This does underline the importance of responsible use of social media technologies. Further information is available in this newsletter on some of these issues.

Please take time to revisit this letter with your child. A further copy will be available on our website.

I have been very encouraged by the way all students have settled back into school, particularly Year 11 and the Sixth Form. For these students exams that will determine future choices will be here quicker than they realise.

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

There are a number of events to look forward to this term including the OPA Christmas Fayre, concerts and our 10:10 event for Year 7 which concludes with Mass on the 23rd October. Parents are warmly invited.

Refurbishment Works

Over this summer a significant amount of refurbishment has occurred to the outside of the buildings so that the place stays watertight. It is almost 8 years since we undertook such signifi-



cant external maintenance. The White House now returns to being white and all the external windows have been painted. However, the external windows to the Library and canteen are now beyond economic and practical repair and these will be replaced before Christmas.

Practical Help

Every year, in school, we hold a number of events from small group staff seminars to student conferences where we like to use external venues. Typically this involves hiring a conference room in a hotel. Going off-site brings enormous benefits for both students and staff, but it comes at a cost.

In the current climate the cost of this is becoming prohibitive. I suspect that many of our medium and larger businesses have local conference and boardroom facilities that on occasions could be used by schools. Whilst the logistics of this would need working through, the cost to the company/organisation would be negligible if anything. Staff and students would benefit from the environment and the company would be contributing back to the community through use of facilities. If you could help with this please do not hesitate to get in contact with me.

Continued Page 4



“Sometimes it falls on a generation to be great. You can be that great generation.” – Nelson Mandela

Being the genesis of a great generation empowered by CAFOD, my team and I ventured into a period of endless opportunities through the Young Leadership Training Programme last year.

Oaklands' Young Leaders (aka The CAFOD Crew) joined another 130 young people from across six dioceses engaged in developing leadership skills and working towards social justice.

With Mr Sumba as our supervisor and Sarah Barber's youth team at CAFOD, our journey as Young Leaders has been a memorable one; not only did we nurture our presentations, project



management and team-building but we also had many occasions to execute our newly enhanced skills into supporting CAFOD's campaigns benefiting thousands of people across the globe.

Collectively as a team, we have been involved in a lot of activities including 'For The Love Of' campaign and getting sixth-formers writing letters to local MPs urging them to take action against climate change; basketball competition to raise money; joining thousands of Catholic young people at Flame 2; blogging for CAFOD; Cutting It Out for Lent; saying a prayer in the SF common room; lobbying at Parliament with our MPs; attending training sessions and engaging in personally promoting our work and aims by talking to people and posting updates on social media.

Looking back at everything we have done, I realize just how much we truly took CAFOD's mottoes to heart: we work by compassion, hope, dignity, solidarity, partnership, sustainability and stewardship. Although, as a group, we have been

involved in a lot, it did not seem enough in the long-term – but on Friday 10th July we learnt we had thought wrong.

All the little bits carried out by so many people across the world adds so much value – and before we know it, we've made a massive difference. Joining fellow Young Leaders at Romero House, CAFOD's London head office, was a wonderful celebratory day for everything we've been involved with and all that we have achieved.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the team sincerely at CAFOD for giving young people a fantastic opportunity to work for social justice while developing our leadership skills. Mr Sumba has been a great support throughout the past year – and we are lucky to have a supervisor like him – without him none of this would have been possible. It is also through this initiative that I met amazing people from across the diocese and everything I've learnt from them will forever be invaluable.

One of the best things I loved about this programme is that there's something for everyone – and that is why you should get involved if you haven't already! Head over to CAFOD's website to see how you can get involved. After all, we aspire not to have more but to BE more.

Khudayja Dattoo, Yr 12 TEB

Continued from page 3

Communication

Please ensure that you have continued communication with the school via the normal means. Teachers for subject specific academic issues, Form Tutors and Heads of Year for pastoral issues. Other 'housekeeping' information relevant to the year will be issued through the normal channels.

Finally, this edition of 'Oaklands News' contains much information required for the start of term and the necessary reminders to ensure your child has the best start. Towards the back I have included the school calendar and a snapshot of all the assessment dates.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Matthew Quinn — Headteacher

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2015

Last October we listened to a presentation in the 6th form about going to Lourdes on the Portsmouth Diocese annual pilgrimage. Six of us decided we would like to go and so on Thursday 20th August, myself, Chloe, Maia, Holly, Beth and Charlotte boarded a coach in London, bound for the town of Lourdes in Southern France. We had volunteered to act as young helpers.

Lourdes is a special place because of what happened in 1858 to a young 14 year old girl called Bernadette. Over a period of 3 months she saw 18 apparitions of Our Lady. Our Lady told Bernadette to dig a hole and from that hole, a spring formed. She then bathed the arm of a crippled woman in the water and she was healed. This is why people flock to Lourdes in their thousands every year.

We had two main roles to fulfil whilst we were in Lourdes. The first was hotel rolling. This involved taking the assisted pilgrims from their hotels, shopping to get coffee or ice cream or so they could join a procession.

The second role we undertook was Accueil care. The Accueil is essentially the hospital in Lourdes. Our work involved washing pilgrims, helping them dress and getting breakfast. We also performed a similar role in the evening. In addition to this we were also put on Accueil roll taking the assisted Pilgrims out into the town or on to a procession.

Processing is a significant part of the daily routine in Lourdes, Our Lady asked Bernadette to tell the people to come in procession. To see the processions is extremely moving.

The evening torchlight procession was one of the high points of the week for me. It was during this that I realised how significant the events in Lourdes were and that and I was one of thousands of people all praising God; I suddenly realised I was part of something much bigger than I had first thought and made me realise how lucky I was to be a part of it.

Going to Lourdes was an amazing experience and it has changed me a lot, I now feel much closer to God, more confident in myself and more self worth.

I feel truly lucky to have been a part of the pilgrimage this year and I hopefully look forward to going next year.

Zoe Manley, Year 13.



Iceland Trip 2015 Mr Bamford

Whilst other students were enjoying their first week of the summer holidays, 55 students from Year 10 and one from Year 12 jetted off to Iceland on a Geography field trip. We were accompanied by Mr. Bamford who led the trip and he was assisted by Mr. Tyler, Mr. R. Smith, Mr. Whelan, Mrs. Mitchell, Ms. Adams and Mrs. Cunningham.

Day One: Wednesday

We flew from Gatwick to Keflavik airport and some of us were fortunate enough to have a window seat which allowed us to see the ice caps and volcanoes as we flew parallel to Iceland's south coast. It wasn't long before we were able to see the volcanoes as we drove from the airport around the Reykjanes peninsula to our first stop where we were able to stand between the North American and Eurasian plates. Just further along the road was the Gunnhiver Geothermal area which was a strange place. Steam and water just bubbled out of the ground – and with the associated smell of rotten eggs – gave us the first indication that we were in a landscape far removed from the rolling hills of southeast Hampshire.



Probably the highlight of the first day was our visit to the Blue Lagoon, where the waste water from the Geothermal power station collects into a pool that has been turned into a tourist attraction. We bathed there for a couple of hours and it was a truly memorable experience. From there we travelled to our accommodation, which was a couple of hours away.

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Day two: Thursday

After an early start we drove along the south coast to the Solheimajokull glacier, which cascades over the mountains from the huge Myrdalsjokull ice cap. Fortunately, an actual walk on the glacier was part of our itinerary and we were kitted out with crampons and ice axes in preparation for our excursion.



The glacier was a majestic sight and the scale of it was something that impressed me the most. Our party was split up and the groups walked on the glacier for about two hours led by local mountaineers. We had to take care as crevasses and moulines were numerous, but the experience was certainly a highlight of the trip. It was always going to be hard to top the glacier walk, but we had more to see! We drove to see basalt columns (like the Giant's Causeway) near the coastal town of Vik and we visited Vik itself. On our return journey we stopped to see the Skogafoss waterfall and then the Seljalandsfoss waterfall. Both were incredible to see; it was difficult to determine which was more impressive. The former had more power, but the latter had developed in a way that we were actually able to walk behind the curtain of water that cascaded over the former sea cliff.

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Day three: Friday

We travelled around the 'Golden Circle' and visited the main tourist destinations that those on a short trip to the country normally go to; it became apparent why this route was so popular given the beautiful landscapes that we experienced. The first stop was to Thingvellir where the plates mentioned earlier in this report are rifting apart. This was also the location of Iceland's first parliament and has been designated as a World Heritage site.

Other highlights included watching the geyser erupt at Geyser, visiting the Gullfoss and Faxifoss waterfalls and also the volcanic crater at Kerid.



Day four: Saturday

We took the short ferry journey to the Westmann Islands, which are just off the south coast of Iceland. The main reason for going was to explore the Eldfell volcano that erupted in 1973. This eruption had huge potential ramifications for the island as the lava flow moved inexorably towards the harbour. With the real prospect of the harbour being closed off – and therefore their source of income from fishing lost – the locals fought back and sprayed the lava flow with water to solidify it and divert the lava flow. It worked! Now the island is a tourist destination due to that eruption, but also due to the sheer beauty of the island. We were fortunate to walk to the top of the volcano – Jess Stray and Mr. Bamford even toasted their sandwiches in foil in the ground – and also we were able to see the island from the sea thanks to a boat trip that we had chartered. We even saw a Humpback whale, which was a real bonus! If all this wasn't enough we even saw another waterfall – Gluggafoss – on a return journey once back on the mainland.



Day five: Sunday

Mr. Bamford was clearly excited about the trip to Landmannalaugar and we could see why once we got there. Although the roads were not good as we drove into the island interior, the journey itself was all part of the experience as we drove past the feared Hekla volcano and through the lava fields created from successive eruptions. The landscape at Landmannalaugar itself appeared different though. We were told that Rhyolite lava had produced the fantastic variety of colours that we were surrounded by. An added bonus was the presence of Obsidian in the lava flow, which is very rare indeed. The walk across the lava field was hard but was ultimately rewarding as the views from the top of the hill will be remembered by all.



Day six: Monday

We drove to Iceland's highest waterfall, Glymur, on our final full day in Iceland. The walk to get there was tough, but very enjoyable. From there we visited Reykjavik and walked around the capital city.

We returned to school on Tuesday after a great week and I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the other students to thank Mr. Bamford and his team for providing us with the opportunity experience the 'Land of Fire and Ice'. It was a great trip and I would urge students lower down the school to go on the trip when it is run again.

Phoebe Hill – 10MT

First Day at School



Starting secondary school can be a daunting prospect, particularly if students have come from a small primary school. The process starts in July before the September start with an induction day.

The first day in September is spent with the class tutor. Students take part in a number of team building activities. The level of care and support students receive in the first few days can make all the difference. Here is what some of our new Year 7 students have to say about joining Oaklands.



The first day was similar to our induction day but only Year 7 and the Sixth form were in school. We started on Wednesday 2nd September. The first two days were lesson free. We started to learn each other's names, then we did a scavenger hunt around the school. On Friday Year 7 took a test. After the test we had lunch and after lunch we had our first full lesson. I was ready for lessons. They were my first three days at Oaklands.

George Jones-Thompson (7MG)



I started at Oaklands Catholic School on Wednesday, with the rest of Year 7. I was a bit nervous at first but very quickly it got a lot better after I got to know my teachers and after I made some new friends. On the first few days I got my planner, timetables, locker and fob. We took part in a scavenger hunt to find out more about the school and we did icebreakers to learn more about each other. There are more subjects than there were at my primary school, including: Design and PDC. I can't wait to do food technology in my design class! My first week has been really good fun and I am looking forward to the years to come – now I just have to find the library!

Lily Sanders (7MT)



My first school day at Oaklands was fab! The induction day in July had given me confidence so I wasn't too nervous. I was so excited!

First of all we had an assembly introducing us to some of Oaklands rules. Afterwards we went into our tutor classrooms and my tutor, Mrs Gingras, answered our questions. We then sat next to someone who we haven't talked to before and we were to exchange two facts about ourselves. We then told the class a fact about our partner. Afterwards we got a visit from the librarian who asked us to fill in a questionnaire about our favourite authors, books and why. We were given our fobs and locker keys. I got to share my

locker with my best friend! Then we did a few tests before going out to break. It was so lovely to see all of my friends! When we came in we had a PE lessons with Portsmouth football club. I normally really don't enjoy sports but the instructors made it so much fun, they were really kind.

The rest of the day flew by and I couldn't wait for my next day at Oaklands! **Cerys Davies (7MT)**

UKLO Summer Training Course

From 1st to the 4th September, along with three other Oaklands students Alex Wellbelove, Georgia McCarthy and Joe Hurd, I travelled to Corpus Christi College in Cambridge to attend a linguistics course run by the UK Linguistics Olympiad. We were 4 out of 20 students chosen from state schools across the country. Other students came from places ranging from Yorkshire, London and Somerset. We were selected based on our performances in the fiendishly difficult national Linguistics Olympiad last February. The test involved decoding a series of language-based puzzles. The course was aimed at improving our skills in the paper to hopefully allow us to progress further in the competition next time.

Upon arrival, we settled into our on-site student accommodation and were shown around the stunning 13/14th century architecture at the college. (Including a centuries-old library containing medieval manuscripts.) The following days included a mix of both sessions run by linguistics professors and Cambridge PhD students on subjects such as the world's languages, the structure of the paper itself and communicating with aliens. They also generously organised various recreational activities including a tour of the city and its colleges, a film night and, my personal favourite, taking part in punting on the river.

It was a fascinating and enlightening experience, giving us a flavour of both the university and the subject of linguistics, and was a great opportunity to meet students from all over the country. Many thanks to Dick Hudson and Mrs Corker for organising the trip, and to all of our tutors.

David Rennie, 12MS



Admissions 2016

CATHOLIC CHILDREN –

The process of applications for next year's Year 7, September 2016 is already underway. If you are a Catholic family expecting to apply for a place for your son/daughter for September 2016 and you have not filled in an application form, please contact the Admissions Secretary, Mrs Linda White, immediately.

CHILDREN FROM OTHER CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS –

If you already have a child at Oaklands and you are expecting to apply for a place for a younger child for September 2016 and you have not already done so, you should also contact the Admissions Secretary, Mrs Linda White immediately.

OTHER CHRISTIAN DENOMINATION FAMILIES

Families applying to Oaklands for their first child to come to Oaklands in September 2016 should also write to the Admissions Secretary, Mrs Linda White immediately.

It is essential, therefore, that all parents applying for a place for September 2016 should contact the Admissions Secretary immediately if they have not already done so. Any delay will prejudice the chances of a successful application.

In all cases, the closing date for applications is Friday 31st October 2015.

The rain stayed away for sports day on the 14th July, conditions were very pleasant for spectators and athletes. It can be quite daunting to stand up and represent your form and house with the whole School watching, especially if the event is entirely new to you. Nevertheless the atmosphere of cheerful enthusiasm and a general ethos of 'pitching in' for the team made for an extremely enjoyable event. Our thanks to the PE department and the band of willing helpers for making the event go as smoothly as possible.



Results 2015	
Year 7	
Girls	St Clare
Boys	St Catherine
Overall	St Dominic
Year 8	
Girls	St Teresa
Boys	St Martin
Overall	St Martin
Year 9	
Girls	St Dominic
Boys	St Clare
Overall	St Dominic
Year 10	
Girls	St Stephen
Boys	St Clare
Overall	St Clare
Overall Winners	
St Martin	

Praise and affirmation are the best motivators – this is equally true for adults as well as young people. At the end of the last academic year we had the great pleasure of celebrating many students' talents and gifts. The first successes were applauded in July with a week of assemblies focused on the presentation of the Tutor Awards and rewarding outstanding sporting achievements (Mr Tindal on behalf of the PE Dept). These Tutor Awards, nominated by tutors, celebrate the accomplishments (be it academic, personal or pastoral) of their tutees who contribute to the life of the school.

On the final day of term we presented the final sporting honours and also the Governors End of Year Awards. These prestigious awards are nominated by the academic departments and only one student per subject per year group will receive the coveted engraved glass plaque. The recipients of these awards are nominated by a variety of criteria – outstanding performance; outstanding commitment or clear passion for the subject. The presentation was also punctuated by videos of great photos and events: A Year in the Life of Oaklands, Sports Day and of course Challenge Week.

We also awarded the following shields to some outstanding students:

Terry Stevens Award (Music) – Hayley Butler:

The Damien Whitfield Award (Sixth Form) – Jack Oldroyd;

The Damien Whitfield (Main School) – Megan Hick;

The Helen Shipman Award (Sport) – Ameerah Valencia and Reuben Knight.

These awards are all subject to Governors' approval. We are grateful to Mr Andy Hastilow for taking time out of his busy schedule to present the prizes. Indeed we are fortunate to have a Governing Body who sponsor this recognition of contribution to curricular life.

We hope that these various awards will motivate our young people to "aspire not to have more but to be more".



Behaviour and Standards

Over the last academic year, we reviewed our behaviour procedures. One of the key results of this process was the updating of the poster which is displayed around the school and in student planners. This acts as a visual reminder that at Oaklands, there are two main ways we encourage our students to move towards self-regulating their behaviour to a high standard; one is through the use of praise and reward, the other is through the use of appropriate sanctions.

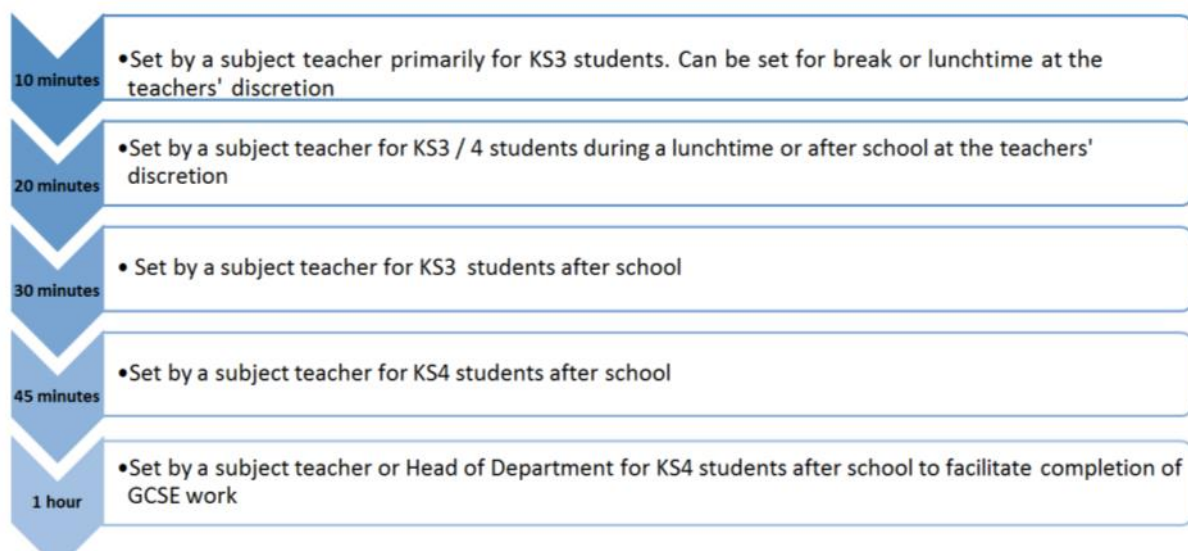
EPraise continues to be the main vehicle through which staff can reward students and this year we will be focusing in particular on recognising the effort students put into their work or activities in school, especially where they have showed determination and perseverance. Students are very quick to shrug off what they regard as 'meaningless praise' so we will continue to focus on recognising the worthwhile and significant personal achievements of students to help them really value the praise when it is given.

When it comes to sanctions, there are many reasons why a student may receive one. However, in the past year there has been an increase in the number of detentions that are set for failure to complete homework and then the situation can rapidly escalate to a more serious sanction if the student fails to attend the first detention. Homework is here to stay and so in response we will pilot a new system which we believe will result in greater support for our students before we reach the sanctions stage.

Students in Year 7 will have a phased introduction to homework to ease the transition between primary and secondary school. This will ensure students are given the support they need to develop good habits around the completion of homework.

We have introduced 'Additional Learning Opportunities' (ALO's). These are entirely **supportive** and they will be set by subject teachers, to be used incrementally to ensure that a student really understands the work and what they have been asked to do. They can be set when a child has not completed homework or not finished work which they could reasonably have been expected to in the lesson. They can also help remove some of the barriers which prevent a student from not completing work to a level commensurate with their ability. ALOs will be recorded in the student planner. This **must** be countersigned by parents / carers to acknowledge that their child is being given additional support with their learning and **a signature is required for those which need a student to stay after school**. There is an expectation at Oaklands that parents / carers will ensure their child attends an ALO as they would want to support their child in overcoming any barriers to learning. There is a clear distinction between ALO's which are supportive and NOT recorded on the school system and detentions, which are a sanction.



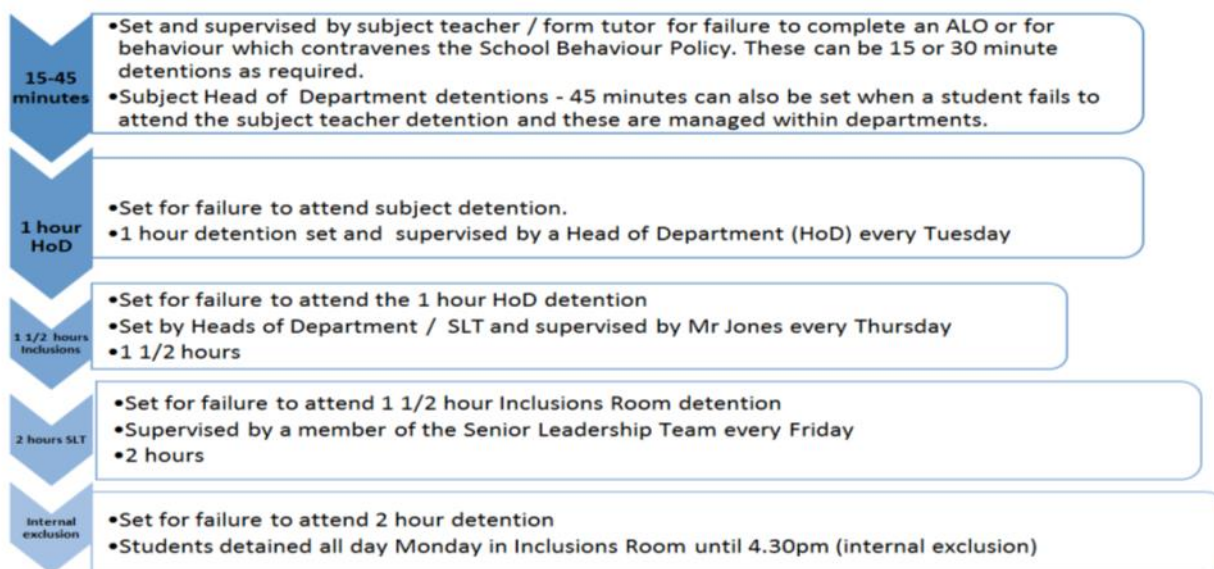


If a student fails to take up an ALO or their behaviour necessitates a sanction, again our system ensures an incremental progression.

In all cases, detentions are recorded and detention letters are used to inform parents / carers. Signed slips must be returned to acknowledge the detention and to give consent. Whilst consent to detain a child after school is not legally required, at Oaklands we work hard to maintain good home / school communication and so will continue to ask for the reply slip to be handed in. However, if a child turns up for detention without a slip, all efforts will be made to contact the parent / carer for verbal consent as failure to attend a detention will result in an escalation in sanctions. Again, the expectation is that as parents /carers have signed the home-school agreement, they will support the school's behaviour policy in this regard.

Detentions move swiftly up the scale if there is non-compliance on the part of a student to ensure the matter is resolved within a 2 week timeframe at the most.

Pastoral 30 minute and 1 hour detentions are set by Mrs Oldroyd and Mrs McConn-Finch for attendance and punctuality issues and these sit outside of the flowchart below



Behaviour is very good at Oaklands and standards remain high. This means that overall, we spend more time praising and affirming students than we do sanctioning them. However, this does not happen by chance and we continue to be proactive in maintaining those high standards and seeking ways to work in conjunction with parents and carers to ensure that is the case. Our new system will be reviewed as we go through the year and we will monitor the use of ALO's in lieu of detentions as a supportive mechanism to help students develop their independent learning skills.

Pimp Ya Bike

P*imp ya bike* was a four day bicycle recycling scheme held over the summer holidays that involved five students from Oaklands School.

Over the course of the week, the five students worked with Police and Police Community Support Officers from the Waterlooville Neighbourhood Policing Team all of which are fully trained in cycle maintenance.

Day 1 consisted of the students dismantling their own chosen cycle of all parts back to the bare frame then on day 2 they spray painted their cycles to a colour of their choosing

During the third day, the students had the arduous task of rebuilding their bicycles using recycled parts with day 4 ensuring the bicycles were safe to ride, fine tuning the brakes and gears.

The students were then given a cycle helmet, lights and lock. They then participated in a cycling proficiency course around the school grounds whilst being assessed throughout.

Lunch was then kindly donated by Domino's Pizza. The students were given their own recycled bicycle and a certificate of participation in the Pimp Ya Bike Scheme by Inspector David Humphries.

Our thanks go to PCSO Carl Boxall and his team for providing this opportunity.



Oaklands Catholic School
Stakes Hill Rd, Waterloooville, P07 7BW



OAKLANDS PARENTS ASSOCIATION
**CHRISTMAS
CRAFT FAYRE**

SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2015
12:00PM - 3:00PM

Beautiful Hand Crafted Gifts
Grand Draw
Fun & Games
School Band & Choir
Winter BBQ
Refreshments & Cakes

For more information, contact OPA Member at Oaklands Catholic School 023 92259214
Craft Tables for Traders - (x1) £12, (x2) £20, (x3) £25

Attendance and Fixed Penalty Notices

When parents are choosing a school, one of the key indicators to consider is the attendance rate – this is because it is a good indicator of pupil success and pupil wellbeing. Students who achieve well and progress well, attend well! It is the single most influential factor in a student's success and here at Oaklands we are delighted to inform you that our figure for 2014 - 15 was **96%** (for the second year in a row) which is **OUTSTANDING**. This would not be possible if we did not have your parental support.

Leave of Absence

All parents/carers should please note that **we do not authorise holidays taken during term-time**. The Department of Education has instructed all Headteachers that they cannot authorise absence due to holiday unless there are very exceptional circumstances. The Headteacher will decide as to what might constitute exceptional circumstances and each request will be considered on an individual basis. The school will not accept as an exceptional circumstance the fact that a holiday is cheaper during term-time, or that grandparents have booked a holiday, or it is a family celebration, or that it is an opportunity to spend time with cousins who you have not visited in years. An exceptional circumstance is much more likely to be a one-off, for example, a significant trauma in the family or for **Forces** personnel whose duties and leave is inflexible due to deployment. More detail can be found in the policy. The school will also look very carefully at the child's previous attendance record.

Fixed Penalty Notices – new!



From September 2015 Oaklands must be compliant with Hampshire County

Council (HCC) policy of issuing Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) for poor attendance, unauthorised absence or poor punctuality. We advise parents to familiarise themselves with HCC guidelines on Fixed Penalty Notices which is available on our website www.oaklandscatholicschool.org under the Parents tab and the Attendance link.

attendance MATTERS

An FPN will be issued when a pupil has had 10 or more half-day absences in a 10 week period or one or more unauthorised absences during a public exam period. (Unauthorised absence is coded as U, O or G on the Register).

Poor punctuality also falls within the criteria for an FPN:

persistently late (coded *U*) for up to 10 sessions (five days) after the register has been closed

persistently late before the close of the register (coded *L*), Each individual parent will be issued with a FPN for each individual child.

The penalty is £60 if paid within 21 days of date of posting, and £120 if paid after this date but within 28 days from date of posting.

Reporting general absence:

Don't forget that you can report an absence for the school to authorise by sending an email to Mrs Vacher at: absence@oaklandscatholicschool.org instead of sending in a note. We do random checks to ensure validity and authenticity of the email. You may also use the school's texting service if that is more convenient.

Persistent Absence:

If your child is **persistently absent** (ie: falls below new tough Government minimum of **90%**) you will receive a letter or telephone call from Mrs McConn-Finch or the Head of Year. **90% attendance is the equivalent of a half-day absence each week of an academic year, that is 4 whole weeks of lessons missing in one year! Is that what you want for your child??** We categorise our attendance in a "traffic light" system – green, yellow and red. There are varying degrees of support available and this will be discussed in a parental meeting with SLT/Head of Year.

Punctuality:

Punctuality to school and to individual lessons is an area which the school monitors very closely. All students are registered electronically for all lessons and teaching staff also input additional information into

those registers – minutes late on arrival to school, and minutes late on arrival to lessons. We will monitor this data and certain individuals may be highlighted for closer inspection. If this is the case with your son/daughter, you will receive notification either from the Head of Year or by letter from Mrs McConnell-Finch or Mrs Oldroyd of the number of learning minutes missed; as a consequence your son or daughter will be required to “catch up” those minutes after school (this is non-negotiable) and, if the pattern persists, you will be invited in for a meeting to discuss improvement strategies. Your son or daughter may also be placed on Report Card to monitor their punctuality. Lateness to school due to external bus services is not a viable excuse and parents must take responsibility to ensure their children arrive to school on time; this may require organising students to catch an earlier bus.

Looking Good! - Uniform

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

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 – buy sufficiently long skirts 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. Ankle boots are not allowed. Shoes for both boys and girls should be made of leather; suede is not acceptable. 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.

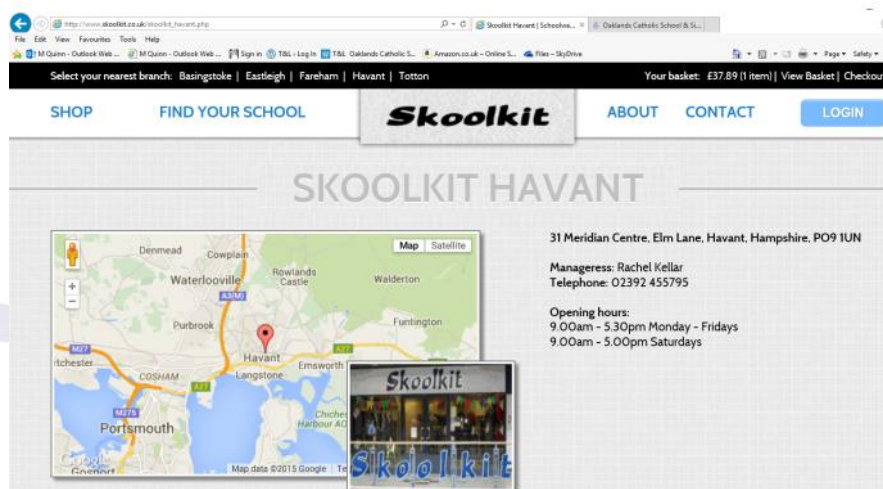
Scarves should be in appropriate school colours and not linked to any football team.

Hoodies are NOT permitted and are not considered a suitable outdoor coat. Students will be asked to remove any non-regulation item of uniform and it may be confiscated.

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.

Hair—Hair should be a natural colour; students with outlandishly dyed hair will be asked to dye it back to a natural shade. Boys should be clean-shaven, and their hair must be no shorter than a number 2 grade.

Nails Any kind of acrylic, gel or false nail is not permitted (nor is nail varnish). Students WILL be asked to remove them. Parents – please do not have your child’s nails done, it will be an expensive waste of money!



A few Reminders

Please do not come onto the campus and park before the end of the school day unless you are collecting your child for an appointment and have made prior arrangements with the school. The **school gates are closed at 3 p.m.** each day.

- Try to time your arrival to collect your child at **4.00 p.m.** when you will avoid queues outside the school gates.
- If arriving early before the school gates are opened at **3.50 p.m.**, do not park on the zig-zag lines or in the bus bay on Stakes Hill Road.
- Under no circumstances should parents park on the opposite side of Stakes Hill Road in the vicinity of the gates, as this can prevent traffic moving along the main road.
- Only collect your child inside the school grounds, do not meet them on the road outside.
- Drive slowly when on the school campus. The speed limit is 5 mph.
- Do NOT attempt to pick up your child before going around the school roundabout and always park in the designated pick-up area.
- Drive to the furthest point on the pick-up area to maximise the use of this section of roadway. Do NOT park near or on the roundabout.
- Take particular care when pulling out from your parking space – there have been a number of minor bumps over the years.
- Never call your child across the main drive – they must always cross at the designated point near the steps adjacent to Kolbe Block.

Parents are asked to act with courtesy and consideration at all times in the interests of other road users and for the safety of the students when on the school campus.

Visiting School

Oaklands is an orderly safe place, where relationships between staff and visitors, especially parents/carers, demonstrate mutual respect and recognition of shared responsibility for pupils' welfare and educational progress. Parental involvement is an important factor for a successful education and in dealing with emerging problems at an early stage.

If you need to come into school please ring ahead and book an appointment. It is not appropriate just to 'turn up' and demand to see a member of the teaching or support staff.

On occasion, the behaviour of a few parents/carers has caused severe disruption or worse, resulting in abusive or aggressive behaviour towards staff, pupils, or other members of the school community.

The governors are responsible for protecting the health and safety of their staff and pupils. Behaviour which includes abusive or threatening language, inappropriate demeanour or invasion of personal space against school staff or other members of the school community will not be tolerated. All members of the Oaklands community have a right to expect that the school is a safe place in which to work and learn. There is no place for inappropriate threatening behaviour or abuse in schools.

Where such an incident does occur, the governors will play a proactive role in taking all possible action to deal with it. Day to day access to a school is within the control of the Headteacher.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Preloved 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.

Parents are asked to ensure that any change of contact details are communicated to the school as soon as possible to enable us to keep our records up to date. Thank you.

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

Choosing a school for your child

At St Peter's Catholic Primary School we understand that choosing a school for your child can be daunting. Every parent wants the best for their child and wants to make the right decision. We would like to offer you support in making your choice. We invite all parents who have to make this decision in the near future to join us at one of our Open Days this autumn. Come and see our school in action, talk to our wonderful children and ask the staff any questions you may have – about our school, early years or school life/ education in general. Prospective parents for children in other year groups are also welcome to visit us. As a school we want the best for every child that joins us. We would be delighted to welcome you, and our children and staff would love to show you around.

OPEN DAYS

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

Friday 25th September from 9.30-11.00 am

Tuesday 20th October from 1.15-2.30 pm

Thursday 12th November from 9.30-11.00 am



Parking

A reminder to parents who are collecting and dropping off their children at school mornings and afternoons; please do not to block driveways, park on the white lines or double yellow lines or grass verges in local residential areas such as Durham Gardens, Place Crescent, Shaftesbury Avenue and Lombardy Rise. It is important that consideration is given to residents who live in these areas around the school.

You will also notice a slight change in the road layout on Stakes Hill Road. The road has narrowed by the crossing. In addition to this the cycle route now continues from the Crookhorn Roundabout along Sakes High road. with an additional central refuge. Parking outside the school on the ZIGZAG lines is an endorse able offence. We have been told that this will be enforced. See page 18 about parking on the school site.

Welcome to New Staff

We would like to welcome the following new members of staff who have just joined us or who started during the last academic year. We hope that they will have a long and happy association here at Oaklands:

Miss K Andrews (Art), Miss A Bastian (Languages), Mr R Forster (Art), Miss S Gingras (RE), Miss J Hogan (RE), Mr A Keer (Maths), Miss N Miller (RE)

Mr T Finch (Director of Business and Finance), Mrs D Daws (TA), Mrs S Besley (Admin), Mrs T Libby (Admin), Mrs S Mann (Admin), Mrs T Nevill (Catering), Mrs Y Nicholls (Admin)

We also welcome back to the Oaklands staff Mr S Davis (Science) and Miss A by de Ley (Psychology).

Assessment Dates for the Year Ahead

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Parents Evening	5/5/16	26/11/15	3/12/15	28/4/16	11/2/16	12/11/2015 21/4/16	1/10/2015 21/4/16
Transition Reports	22/10/15					13/7/16	
Assessments	23-27/5/16	22-26/2/16 Maths tests: 7-11/3/16	Core tests: 18-25/11/15 6-10/6/16	3-6/11/15	26-27/11/15 Eng & Maths 7-9/3/16 Eng & Maths		
Written Reports	5/7/16	23/6/16	8/7/16	24/3/16	9/11/15	27/1/16	27/1/16
Progress Review	4/3/16	18/3/16	1/12/15 (Including core test results)	7/12/15 12/7/16 (mock grade report)			
Present Attainment Grades						10/11/15	
Mock Exams				22-30/6/16	11-22/1/16	10-18/3/16	10-18/3/16
Options Evenings			4/2/16				
Predicted Grades				24/3/16	29/4/16	18/4/16	18/4/16

School Calendar Autumn Term

Mon	07/09/2015	Oaklands Parents' Association (OPA) Committee Meeting
Tues	08/09/2015	KS4 Induction Evening (6.30pm)
Wed	09/09/2015	Full Governors Meeting
Thurs	10/09/2015	Y11 Intervention Evening (5.00pm)
Mon	14/09/2015	Governors Teaching & Learning Cttee
Thurs	17/09/2015	KS5 Induction Evening (7.00pm)
Wed	23/09/2015	HPV (1) Vaccinations (Y8 girls)
Thurs	24/09/2015	OPEN EVENING 5-8PM
Fri	25/09/2015	INSET DAY - School Closed
Thurs	01/10/2015	Y13 Parents' Evening
Mon	05/10/2015	OPA Committee Meeting
Fri	09/10/2015	Governors Business & Collaboration Cttee Mtg
Wed	14/10/2015	Non Uniform Day
Thurs	22/10/2015	Full Governors Meeting
		Year 7 Transition Report Home
Mon - Fri	26/10/2015 - 30/10/2015	Half Term
Mon	02/11/2015	OPA Committee Meeting
Wed	04/11/2015	Governors Ethos Cttee Mtg
Mon	09/11/2015	SEN Parents' Evening
Tues	10/11/2015	Y11 Written Reports Home
Thurs	12/11/2015	Governors Business & Collaboration Cttee Mtg
Sat	14/11/2015	Year 12 Present Attainment Grades Home
Mon	16/11/2015	Y12 Tutors Only Parents' Evening
Thurs	19/11/2015	OPA Christmas Craft Fayre (12.00-3.00pm)
Mon	23/11/2015	Year 8 Book Sharing Week
Thurs	26/11/2015	Anti Bullying Week
Tues	01/12/2015	Governors Teaching & Learning Cttee Mtg
Wed	02/12/2015	KS5 Options Evening (5.30-9.00pm)
Thurs	03/12/2015	Year 9 Book Sharing Week
Mon	07/12/2015	Year 8 Parents' Evening
Wed	09/12/2015	Y9 Prog Rev & Core Test Results Home
Wed	16/12/2015	Peripatetic Music Concert 7.00pm
Fri	18/12/2015	Year 9 Parents' Evening
		OPA Committee Meeting
		Y10 Progress Review Home
		Governors Admissions Mtg
		Full Governors Meeting + AGM
		Christmas Music Concert 7.30pm
		Christmas Carol Service 7.00pm
		Last Day of Term

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

School Calendar Spring Term

Mon	04/01/2016	OPA Committee Meeting
Thurs	07/01/2016	Presentation of Certificates Evening (7.00pm)
Mon	11/01/2016	Year 11 Practice Exams commence
Mon	18/01/2016	Governors Teaching & Learning Cttee Mtg
Mon	25/01/2016	Faith Unity Week Governors Business & Collaboration Cttee Mtg
Wed	27/01/2016	SEN Parents' Evening Y12 and Y13 Reports Home Year 11 Book Sharing Week OPA Committee Meeting
Mon	01/02/2016	
Wed	03/02/2016	Full Governors Meeting
Thurs	04/02/2016	Year 9 Options Evening
Fri	05/02/2016	Year 11 Mock Grades Home
Thurs	11/02/2016	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Fri	12/02/2016	Ski Trip Departs
Mon-	15/02/2016	Half Term
Fri	19/02/2016	
Tues	23/02/2016	Year 12 Post-18 Information Evening
Tues	01/03/2016	Whole School Production
	02/03/2016	Whole School Production
	03/03/2016	Whole School Production
Fri	04/03/2016	Non Uniform Day Year 7 Prog Rev Home OPA Committee Meeting Governors Ethos Cttee Mtg
Mon	07/03/2016	
Thurs	10/03/2016	Sixth Form Practice Exams Commence
Fri	18/03/2016	Year 8 Prog Rev Home
Wed	23/03/2016	HPV (2) Vaccinations (Y8 Girls) Full Governors Meeting
Thurs	24/03/2016	Year 10 Reports home Last Day of Term

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

School Calendar Summer Term

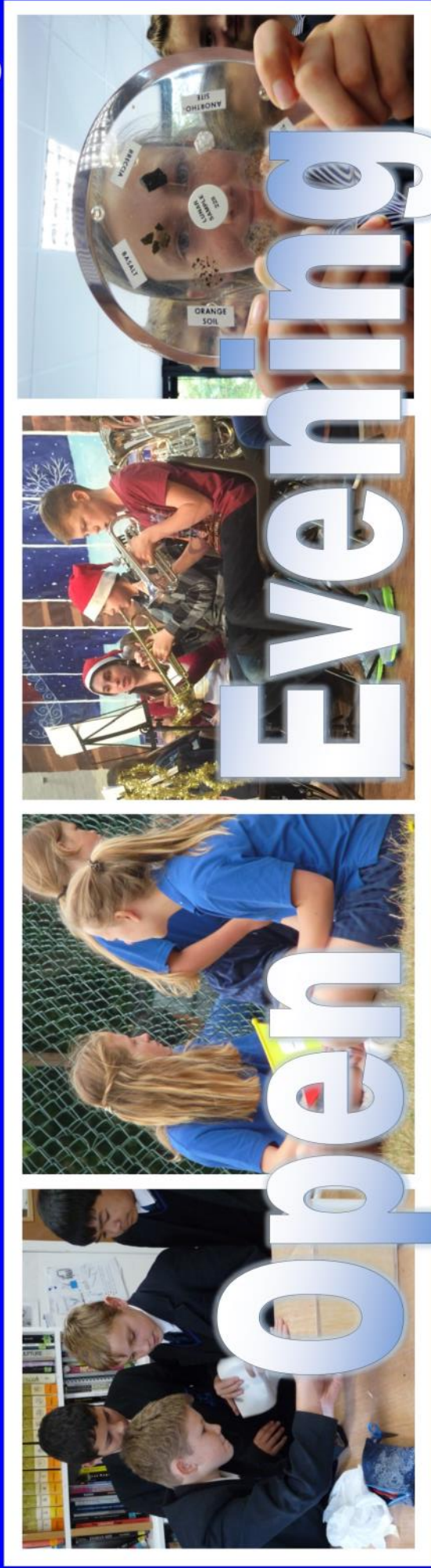
Mon	11/04/2016	First Day of Term OPA Committee Meeting
Mon	18/04/2016	Year 10 Book Sharing Week Sixth Form Practice Grades Home
Thurs	21/04/2016	Year 12 & 13 Parents' Evening
Mon	25/04/2016	Year 7 Book Sharing Week
Thurs	28/04/2016	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Fri	29/04/2016	Year 11 Final Predictions Home
Mon	02/05/2016	School Closed - May Day
Thurs	05/05/2016	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Mon	09/05/2016	OPA Committee Meeting Governors Teaching & Learning Cttee Mtg
Fri	13/05/2016	Final Day Year 12
Wed	18/05/2016	Full Governors Meeting
Thurs	19/05/2016	Final Day Year 11
Thurs	26/05/2016	Year 13 Leavers' Mass and Meal
Fri	27/05/2016	Final Day Year 13
Mon -	30/05/2016	Half Term
Fri	03/06/2016	
Mon	06/06/2016	OPA Committee Meeting and AGM
Mon	13/06/2016	Year 12 Return for Lessons Governors Business & Collaboration Cttee Mtg
Wed	15/06/2016	SEN Parents' Evening
Thurs	16/06/2016	Peripatetic Music Conert (7.00pm)
Mon	20/06/2016	Year 10 Professional Day
Tues	21/06/2016	Year 10 Professional Day
Wed	22/06/2016	Year 10 Exams
Thurs	23/06/2016	Year 8 Reports Home Year 11 Prom
Mon	27/06/2016	Challenge Week Governors Ethos Cttee Mtg
Fri	01/07/2016	INSET DAY - School closed
Mon	04/07/2016	OPA Committee Meeting
Tues	05/07/2016	Year 10 Post 16 Information Evening
Thurs	07/07/2016	Sixth Form Taster Day Year 7 Reports Home
Fri	08/07/2016	New Year 7 Induction Day Year 9 Reports Home Penny Fayre
Mon	11/07/2016	New Year 7 Parents' Induction Evening
Tues	12/07/2016	Sports Day Year 10 Exam Grades Home
Wed	13/07/2016	A Level Transition Grades Home Full Governors Meeting
Fri	15/07/2016	Last Day of Term
Mon	18/07/2016	INSET DAY - School Closed

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







Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College



Thursday 24th September 2015 from 5:00-8:00pm

 Stakes Hill Road, Waterlooville, Hants, PO7 7BW
 (023) 92 259214 Fax: (023) 92 230317
 oaklands@oaklandscatholicsschool.org
 Oaklandscatholicsschool.org



Community Unity Opportunity