

Oaklands News

No 409 Dec 15

Faith and Football Trip to Goa
Little Canada Trip
St John's Week

A publication for
Oaklands Catholic School
and Sixth Form College



Lead Stories



Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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From the Headteacher's desk

You could be forgiven for never hearing of the condition 'prosopagnosia'. Not something I was familiar with until I recently read an article on the subject. Apparently it is the condition of not being able to recognise someone by their face. People with prosopagnosia often use non-facial clues to recognise others, such as their hairstyle, clothes, voice, or distinctive features. Some may be unaware they have the condition, instead believing they have a "bad memory for faces". But prosopagnosia is entirely unrelated to intelligence or broader memory ability. I do not know whether I have the condition or not, but if a student sees me in Sainsburys, is not in school uniform and their hair is a little less conventional, then the chances are I will walk by without any recognition of them. If I have done this to you I apologise. The article on prosopagnosia moved me to start thinking about how I would recognise Jesus.

I was reminded of this a few weeks ago; as part of a documentary on Adele the singer, a fictitious talent company decides to hold an Adele impersonation contest. The real Adele also took part, she dressed up, including full prosthetic, to take part in the sing-a-long event. She joined the other contestants who, due to the disguise, do not recognise her. They chat to her casually before the event still not recognising her. In turn each of the contestants sings, with the genuine Adele competing last. It is only at the end when she starts to sing do they recognise her and even then some of them doubt until all is revealed.

There's one important feature of these kinds of experiences of not recognising - once you do recognise the person, then the recognition seems simply obvious. You don't continue to have doubts about who you are talking to. Once you get past the block on recognition, then the unfamiliar becomes familiar.

It's a curious feature of several of the stories of Jesus' appearances after his resurrection, that disciples of Jesus failed to recognise him at first. Mary Magdalene, the first person to meet the risen Christ, thought he was the gardener - until he spoke her name, and presumably not just that but the familiar way he said it triggered recognition.

So would you recognise Jesus if he walked beside you? Does Jesus look like the person we expect? What would Jesus have to do for us to realise? What if during those most difficult or joyful times in our lives he has already walked beside us and we have not seen him? Equally as important, how do people recognise Jesus in you? This Christmas will they recognise Jesus in you as you are kneeling in the pew, important though this is, or will they recognise him when you invite your lonely neighbour to your table on Christmas day?

On 8th December the Catholic Church started a Jubilee year of Mercy. A Jubilee year is a special year called by the church to receive blessing and pardon from God. The Catholic Church has called jubilee years every 25 or 50 years since the year 1300 and has also called special jubilee years from time to time, known as extraordinary jubilee years. The last Jubilee year was held in 2000 during the papacy of Pope John Paul II and was known as "the Great Jubilee." The last Extraordinary Jubilee Year was held in 1983 to celebrate 1,950 years since the death and resurrection of Jesus. The Jubilee year of Mercy will close on Nov. 20, 2016, the day celebrated that year as the feast of Christ the King. Encountering mercy means encountering God. It can transform your life, your relationships, your work, and your ability to embrace and experience all of life. There are various ways you can engage in the year of Mercy; there will be a number of initiatives and activities in school and through parishes.



I hope that during this year the church turns towards those that, for what ever reason, no longer feel able to participate welcoming them back in a mutual atmosphere of mercy and forgiveness. Christmas is often a time where people return to church, with that in mind I have published the times of all the Christmas Masses in the Havant Pastoral area.

Busy Term

For students sitting GCSEs or A levels next May, almost half of the academic year has now gone, so for these youngsters the term has been particularly busy. For GCSE we have set ourselves the ambitious target of 80% and for A level 100%. A significant number of students



will be sitting internal examinations shortly after the Christmas break. It is important that these go well. The secret to this is thorough and comprehensive revision over the holiday. Many students have participated in the extra curricular life of the school. There have been many sporting fixtures, trips and visits.

As ever the Music department have been working

Continued Over

overtime. Not only have they supported events in school, for example, the Christmas Craft Fayre, but they have also performed at Sacred Heart and Berewood.

Student planners

Up until the beginning of this year it was custom and practice for parents to sign the student planner. With the introduction of ShowMyHomework and as a result of feedback from parents, we piloted parents not signing the planner. The feedback on this move has been mixed. A considerable number of parents continue to sign the planner but equally I am concerned that students may not be using it correctly without the regular watchful eye of a parent. As a result from the beginning of next term we will reinstate parents signing the planner. Tutors will continue to check the planner on a regular basis.

Prevent strategy

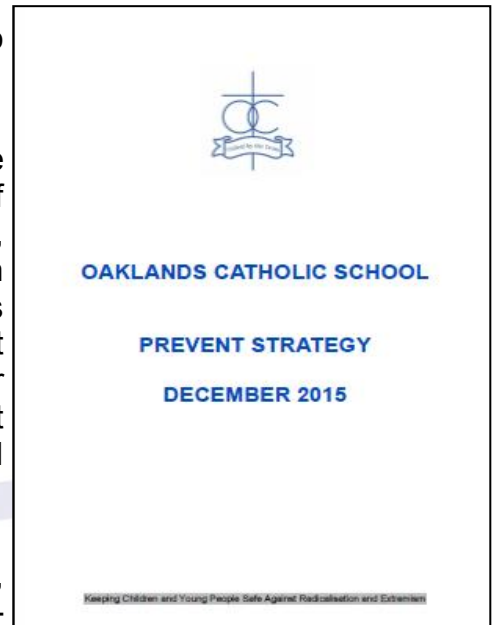
The Government has published guidance for authorities, including schools, on their responsibilities under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act. Under the Act, schools have a duty to “have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. The Prevent strategy covers all types of terrorism and extremism, including the extreme right wing, violent groups and other causes. We have already posted information to you on this important topic. In addition to this edition of Oaklands News I have attached a copy of our Prevent guidance. More information can be found on our website.

Social Networking

If I was asked, “*what do you think is the greatest risk to a youngster’s safety and wellbeing?*”, I would have to answer social networking. The school spends a disproportionate amount of time picking apart issues that, more often than not, have their genesis in an issue that started on a social networking site. I can understand why many schools now take the view that harassment on social networking that occurs outside of school, for example, in the evening or the weekends, between individuals at the same school, or across different schools, is not a school matter. When these offences occur, youngsters are under the jurisdiction of their parents not the school. We are often asked by the authorities to remind parents how to keep their children safe; most social networks have an age restriction of 13 years, users can be blocked and in the final analysis social networking is not compulsory. Further, we would point out that harassment and misuse of social networking is an offence under various laws. Such is the concern across secondary schools in the Havant Federation, we are all sending out a mailing detailing some of the issues and how we hope parents will respond.

Finally, may I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and I look forward to welcoming students back at the normal time on **Monday 4th January**.

Matthew Quinn



Internet Safety

Every two weeks, we are adding articles onto our website which give information for parents and carers about internet safety, social media, making age-appropriate choices for your children etc. These can be found on the Parents’ section of the website under Internet Safety. Our latest links contain up to date advice, our advice for parents from ParentZone and the Child Exploitation and On-Line Protection (CEOP) Centre.

Date for your diary ... on Thursday 17 March at 7.00pm we will be holding an E-Safety parents’ information evening. More details will follow in the new year.



Havant Pastoral Area Christmas Masses

Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Peter the Apostle, Waterlooville

Christmas Eve:

4.15pm Children's Mass with Blessing of Crib
6.45pm Mass with carols
8.30pm Mass with carols
Midnight Mass (preceded by carols at 11.20pm)

Christmas Day:

10.30am Mass with carols
12.15pm Said Mass.

St. Patrick's, Hayling Island

Christmas Eve:

5.30pm Children's Mass
8.00pm Christmas Mass

Christmas Day:

Mass at 10am.

St. Joseph's, Havant

Christmas Eve:

11.30pm Midnight Mass (preceded by carols)

Christmas Day:

11.00am Mass with carols

St. Thomas', Emsworth

Christmas Eve:

6.00pm Mass

Christmas Day:

9.00am Mass with carols

St. Edmund's, Horndean

Christmas Eve:

11.30pm Midnight Mass (preceded by carols)

Christmas Day:

8.30am Mass
10.30am Mass with Carols

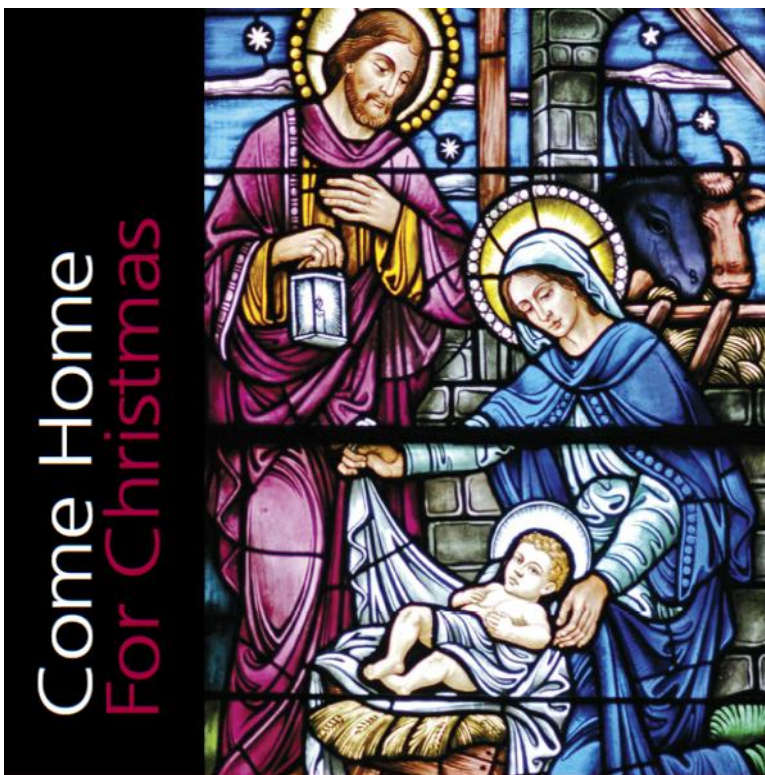
St. Michael and All Angels, Leigh Park

Christmas Eve:

6.00pm Children's Mass
11.20pm Midnight Mass (preceded by carols)

Christmas Day:

10.00am Mass



Come Home For Christmas is an initiative of the Catholic Church which aims to offer a seasonal welcome to Catholics who for different reasons no longer or rarely attend Mass. Whatever your story or journey, the door is open for you.



St John's end of Year Report

St John's Sponsorship Programme End of Year Report By Mr Claudio A Pudo, Headteacher

Objectives

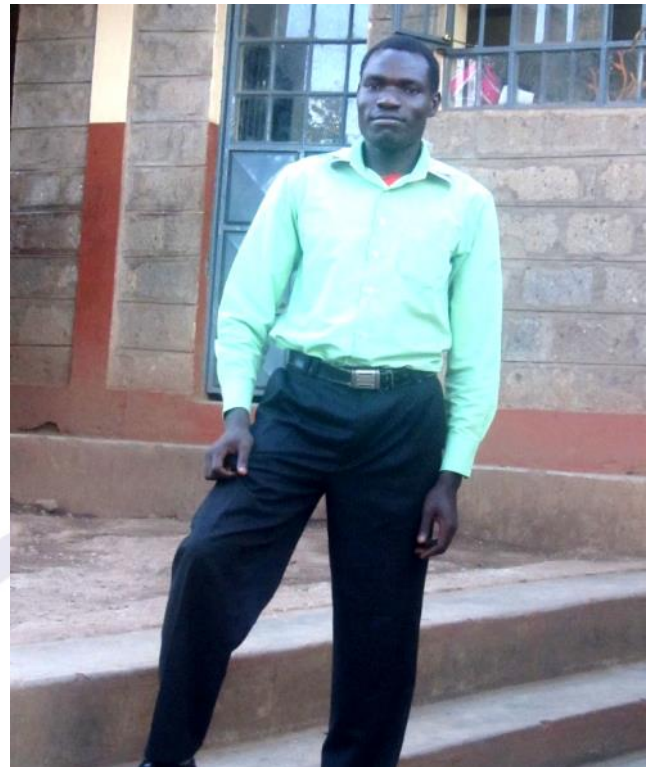
To support 115 less fortunate pupils every term by paying school and exam fees and other needs.

Outputs

- School fees and exam fees were paid during the year for 115 pupils benefited every term. A total of Kshs 569 250/= spread for three terms at Kshs 189 750/= each.
- School uniform and shoes for 15 children totaling to Kshs.37 500. This has in turn motivated the young boys and girls who were not at all motivated to come to school due to embarrassment of putting on torn uniform.
- Received 100 computer tablets plus accessories

Achievements

- Our capacity has been increased since we have been able to bring more children to school and continue with their education especially the ones who had dropped out because of school fees.
- We were able to support the needy and vulnerable children and not only maintained but increased the number of pupils on roll by eight. Without this support the number of pupils on roll would have gone down.
- The academic performance of the majority of the 115 children has improved gradually and consistently each time we do exams though some are still on their way to improvement. Some were in Class Eight and have done their national exams.
- We have also managed to keep children in school without sending them home for money. This has made the work of the teachers in class easier since very little time is wasted on catch up lessons.
- The children have been less worried and more comfortable in school because they know that their education needs are catered for.
- Buying uniform and school shoes for a number of our pupils whose school attire was not in good condition or those who did not have uniform made these children not feel left out or stand out.
- We managed to do research and conduct lessons using the tablets. We downloaded and enjoyed using the Bible and Dictionary among others.
- We have managed to improve the confidence and attendance of our girls by providing sanitary towels. Before we received this support, these girls would ask for permission to stay out of school for 3 – 4 days every month during their period. Thanks to this support, these girls enjoy the lessons without any disruptions.
- The pressure on parents whose children are being supported has been eased. They can now take care of some other needs of their family like paying rent. One of these parents whose children are benefitting from this program is a single parent mother who has three children. One child has done her national exam this year, one has passed class 6 exams and has been promoted to class 7 next year while the third one is in class four. The mother and her family depend entirely on her small scale business - roasting maize for sale by the roadside. It was difficult for her to provide for all the needs of her children had a huge fees balance totaling to Kshs 10,650 before this programme started. This made her children stay at home for at least two and a half weeks every month. It was already clear from their performances that these bright children were falling behind academically. Including them in the programme has enabled them to stay in school.



Here is how some of the students performed this year



**Myjoy
Muthoni**

NAME	CLASS	TERM I Points	TERM II Points	TERM III Points
Myjoy Muthoni	4	210	278	356
Rose Njeri	6	150	238	280
Gakenia Mungai	8	268	356	395

- It is important to note that Gakenia Mungai has since been our third best in the class for this year and we are hopeful she is going to pass her national exams well.
- Fatuma Muktar, a girl who was in class 8 last year 2014, and was supported by this programme was the second best in the National exam by scoring 345 marks. She was lucky to have got some sponsorship to Secondary school and is currently doing well in secondary school. By the end of this term she had a mean grade of A-.



**Rose
Njeri**

Challenges Faced

- The high population in our school (752 pupils) and most of them are undergoing the same difficulties hence it becomes so difficult to accommodate each and every pupil in the school.
- Communication was made difficult due to problems with the internet which still is going to be a problem, we were disconnected and only the library has been connected but has low speed.



**Gakenia
Mungai**

Recommendations

- We request for support of co-curriculum equipments e.g. balls (football, Netball, Handball and Volleyball), playing uniform & chess board (a new game we want to introduce).
- The school fee has been increased to Kshs 1,600 per child per term while exam fee has remained Kshs 250. The increment in school fees has taken place due to the following:
- The cost of living has gone high and since our school depends entirely on fees for its day to day running, the fees we have been charging would not fully meet these needs.
- Due to annual increment of the teachers' wages, the current school fees paid by parents cannot support the wages. Only 60% of the parents pay school fees annually out of which 25% are sponsored.



**Fatuma
Muktar**

St John's Week 2015

We held our annual St John's Week from Monday 5th to Friday 10th October. It was another opportunity for the whole of Oaklands to come together to think about our brothers and sisters in our partner school at St John's in Korogocho Slum in Nairobi. Throughout the week, the theme of the assemblies and most of our lessons was St John's or justice. In addition it provided students with an opportunity to think about other places and cultures. We also used this opportunity to raise money to help the 115 children we have committed ourselves to supporting every term.

For the first time, we had a theme for each day of the week.

Monday was 'Silly Socks' day; students and staff come in wearing their most silly pair of socks.

Tuesday was 'Penny lines' day; we brought in as many pennies as we could find and had a competition on which House would have the longest line. We also measured the length of the line by its worth. St Clare were the clear winners. Their line was 5 lengths of our sports hall and was worth £118.45. Sixth Form students won the amount raised competition by a very narrow margin – their line was worth £119.55.

Wednesday was 'Games and Sports' day;

students organised challenges with their peers at break time and lunchtime.

Thursday, one of the favourite days of that week, was the 'Cakes' day. Staff and students from across the school brought in cakes and sold them to raise money.

Friday was non-school uniform day for students in Y7 – 11. A number of Sixth Form students decided to come in wearing smart clothes – like teachers. Some members of staff decided to come in wearing school uniform or school colours! As you can imagine, this was a wonderful sight for many students. The highlight of this day was one member of staff telling off a 'student' for entering the staff room unaccompanied by a member of staff!

This was a wonderful week - dedicated to learning about causes of poverty and issues of injustice. Our community become more aware of our calling as a Christian community to put our faith into action and look after our brothers and sisters in need. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this week a success.

Please also read the report from Mr C. A. Pudo, the Headteacher of St John's to hear about the difference our Sponsorship programme is making at their school.





Going to the St Cassian's centre in Kintbury was a huge opportunity for me. I got the chance to amend broken friendships, bring old friendships back and got to be care free for four days. I'm the type of person who will worry and stress about the unknown. I got to experience moments with people in my year group that I wouldn't usually talk to. I learnt many things about myself and others. Kintbury taught me to 'Live in the now'. For anybody who went on that trip, this single phrase could be the most annoying thing, and the answer to every question was the unpredictable reply of "Live in the now". But looking back now, as annoying as

the phrase may be, it means a lot. Instead of worrying about the future and stressing over everything, we all just needed a break to live in the moment and be care free.

St Cassian's offered us group activities, free time, a hike and chances to explore the grounds. The fact that the house was surrounded by empty open fields made the experience much more relaxing because we weren't surrounded by busy motorways or loud towns. Instead we were in the middle of nowhere and just taking everything as it came to us. My favourite was the hike, we were allocated a pair and we went on an hour walk around the grounds and got to know our partner. Some people were paired with people they'd never spoken to before, others were paired with people they knew but haven't spoken to fully. I was paired with one of the volunteer leaders and I was amazed by how much we had in common, we laughed and talked about so many random things I began to forget that she was a few years older than me. It's amazing how well you can get to know somebody who you've never met before in just an hour walk. This trip was a life changing experience and I'll never forget it. It was a chance to forget all the stress I was under and just breathe.

Amy Sammars 11VP

Year 7 Bag Packing at Waitrose!

On 10 and 11 October a few members of Year 7 gave up their weekend to raise money for Teenage Cancer Trust and St John's by helping shoppers pack their bags at Waitrose. I was one of them and to be honest I thought it was going to be really boring and it wasn't ... it was actually really fun! Some people were very generous and gave £10 notes.

I am so amazed on how much we raised and so very proud. For St John's we raised £477.53 and for Teenage Cancer Trust we raised £542.82. I am so glad that the other students and I did this.



There should be a link between the curriculum in a Catholic school and the mission of salvation that we find in the Gospels. Sometimes this is obvious to see in the subjects we teach, on other occasions less so. Last year we developed a scheme of work for Year 7 students that emphasised this. We called it John 10:10 'I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full'. For two days the timetable was abandoned. It was so successful, so before half term we ran it again

Everything the students undertook related back to John 10:10. In addition to this students worked in different groups that helped develop self esteem and self confidence. This year in Music, students were challenged to listen to a range of music and write down an emotional response, students recorded this on cards. The lesson then moved onto discussing that, in addition to the words in the music, the tune touches you in a special way. As Catholics when we sing hymns we always maintain we are praying twice, once through the music and once through



We heard different pieces of music and then we had to think about what music it was. After that we sang parts of some of the songs we heard. The music that I most liked was 'Oh When The Saints' because it reminds me of my dad and I wish we could do this again. Sometimes in their traditions, people have a lot of music and singing is a way of talking to God.
Pia San Pedro 7MG

the words, the lesson made this connection. The lesson finished by singing 'Oh When The Saints Come Marching In'. Another one of the lessons of the project involved looking at the significance of bread in the Catholic tradition students then made unleavened bread which was consecrated during Mass at the end of the two day experience.

Our lessons were based on the verse. In Science; we made kaleidoscopes because of the light of Jesus. In Geography we learnt about our link school in Korogocho. In P.E. we did things to do with it. Mrs Bradley was ill so we had Mr Tindal. In Maths we did pie charts that said 'Jesus Jesus' on it. On our second day we had Mass for our final lesson. I did 2 readings and it went very smoothly. I also did the candlelight procession. Father Kevin led the Mass. It was a great 2 days.
Joe Harper 7VP



On Thursday 19th November four Oaklands students from Years 9, 10 and 11 travelled down to Portsmouth Grammar School to take part in the regional heat of the Royal Society of Chemistry 'Top of the Bench' competition. The students were sent off to the laboratories in their teams to be briefed on the morning challenge that they had to face. The students were required to complete a scientific investigation using equipment that they had to make themselves from a material called polymorph. They also had to complete two exam style papers between them which included many questions relating to important discoveries in science as well as factual knowledge, so they really had to know their stuff!

As part of the afternoon's challenges they had to carry out a titration – but instead of using a coloured indicator – they had to smell when the reaction had finished! There were a variety of trophies to be won, such as for teamwork and innovation, but the star prize was overall winner and a chance to compete in the national finals at Loughborough University in the Spring term. The team were tense as the trophies were going down and Oaklands did not yet have a mention. The head of science looked down at his notes, 'this team produced excellent experimental results, they worked well as a team.....the overall winners are Oaklands School'.



"The 'Top of the Bench' chemistry competition was a great experience where we learned new things and discovered new skills. In the competition we had to do two different investigations. The first investigation involved finding out the temperature change in different chemical reactions and the second involved using our sense of smell for a titration (method of neutralisation). These investigations were great fun because we got to use new equipment and we also got to do things that you wouldn't normally do in an everyday school science lesson. All in all, it was a really fun day full of enjoyment and to top it off with a win was great and well worth the effort." Angus Hutchins 9St

"The Science competition was really fun! We had to make our own equipment and complete a range of different experiments. We did a titration of pH with an onion and smell. It was really hard but we managed to complete the tasks and I can't believe we won! I can't wait to go to Loughborough and face the next challenges, and hopefully win." Lloyd Hastilow 9Te

"The competition was between different schools in the area to see who could be 'Top of the Bench'. The first part of the day was an experiment we had to design ourselves to find the temperature changes in different chemical reactions. One was exothermic and the other endothermic. In the afternoon the experiment to carry out was a titration. This is finding the ratio of acid to alkali needed to neutralise it. Usually titration is done with a visual indicator like universal indicator or litmus paper. However this titration was to be done using a smell indicator made from onion. . Despite the smell it was interesting to discover other indicators of neutralisation. We were the overall winners so we will be going to Loughborough University to compete in the national finals!" Judy Quinn 10Do

As part of a 3 part project involving schools across the South East, 2 sixth form students Helena Cox Smith (Year 12) and Joe Walsh (Year 13) visited Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in Poland. The students had to be up at 2am and as part of a non-stop 24 hours flew to Krakow, to then visit the Polish town of Oswiecim. Once the centre of a bustling Jewish population the town of Oswiecim, better known by its German name of Auschwitz no longer has any Jews living there. The purpose of the visit to the cemetery was to start the students thinking about normal Jewish life before the Holocaust. The most striking thing about the cemetery was that so many of the grave stones had been smashed and damaged. In an attempt to preserve it the cemetery is now locked except for school groups and monuments have been made of the stones too damaged to re-site.

After this we travelled the short distance to Auschwitz 1. The camp's proximity to the town was shocking as we had all imagined it to be located in an isolated spot. Through heavy security to protect against theft and vandalism we were met by our tour guide who talked us through a harrowing hour and a half. The museum was challenging for all of us in different ways. Potentially the most shocking elements were not the crematoriums or the punishment cells but more so the efficiency of processing the victims. Rooms displaying artefacts such as shoes and pots and pans were distressing as they were proof that the victims had not been expecting their journey to end at Auschwitz.

This was followed by a short bus ride to Birkenau the death camp on the outskirts of the town. Here the Educators from the holocaust Education trust asked us to reflect on the enormity of what we had seen and introduced us to the writings and poems of Holocaust survivors. We completed the day with an outdoor service which concluded with the lighting of candles which we lay along the railway tracks that had brought the victims to their deaths.

The students now move onto the third part of the Lessons from Auschwitz course which is to become ambassadors for the Holocaust Education Trust. They will plan a project within school that helps to educate their fellow students about the dangers of hatred and persecution. Perhaps more vital than ever in the current political climate.



Home Front Morning Mrs Masson

On 25 November, 60 year 5 students visited Oaklands and spent the morning with us. They listened to a talk by Miss Wendy Field, an evacuee from the second World War and coincidentally our piano teacher here at Oaklands.

Miss Field has an unusual story in that she travelled all over the world and was finally reunited with her mother and siblings in Australia before being shipped back to England.

The students then took part in a carousel of activities manned by the History club members in Years 7&8 and sixth form students. This helped them to complete research on the Home Front in World War 2. They sampled rationing recipes, looked at the design of bomb shelters and even experimented with methods to get around clothes rationing laws...no silk stockings, gravy browning and an eyebrow pencil look just the same from a distance!

The students were all enthusiastic and were excited about coming up to Oaklands in the next few years!



Once again the Oakland's lower field has been alive with the sounds of battle!

Battle of Hastings

The Norman Challengers against the Saxon Home Crowd battled it out to demonstrate why leadership was a major factor in William winning the Battle of Hastings.

7CI went out on a freezing cold day but were in high spirits and they demonstrated how the trick of retreat worked to great effect.

Chris Rose said *'I learnt that William didn't win by brute force, he used tactics like the trick of retreat. This tricked all of the inexperienced farmers that Harold picked up on the way to Hastings.'*

Jemima Batty said *'Today we re-enacted the great, life-changing battle of Hastings. We learnt the true way to fight in battle and what it was like for the soldiers. We had the two sides, the losing, unprepared Saxons and the victorious Normans. As the Saxons stood on the hill the Normans came to fight and then shouted 'trick of retreat' and the inexperienced men came down from the hill and were then killed. We all enjoyed it and found out what it was like to be a medieval soldier!'*



Successful Year 7 Transition Mr Cunningham

Surveys reveal that our Year 7 Transition and Induction 2015 were a great success. The process of changing schools, like moving home or getting a new job, can be fraught with worry. Add to this the fact of doing it with tens and then hundreds of other people your own age, all sharing the same anxieties and excitements, and one can understand why our new Year 7 students in September may have had a couple of things on their minds over the summer break.

However, we are delighted to report that once again our primary to secondary transition process has been rated as a great success by students and families alike. Newcomers to Oaklands found the July visit day and Induction evening very useful to put names to faces and begin to get bearings around the Oaklands school site. Appreciating the challenge of hosting nearly 240 families on one night, parents in a recent survey expressed pleasure at how well the evenings were organised and how effectively information about the school and the students was shared and gathered.

Likewise, when Year 7 students were surveyed electronically in October, they gave an overwhelming thumbs up to the induction process and to life at Oaklands; reading some of the comments one is left wondering if these young students have ever been at any school other than Oaklands. The new arrivals appreciated having the school to themselves on their first day in September, and then having another induction day with all the school's students present before the lesson schedule began in earnest on their third day. Of particular note this year is the approval from students and parents about how homework has been phased in for Year 7 students. To them learn good habits about working independently away from school, subjects are being gradually added to the homework timetable over the first term and a half. Already, students are showing better organisational skills to stay on top of their home learning, and are much better placed to build upon these skills as more subjects come on stream.

Student and parent voice has given us a great seal of approval to our Year 6 to Year 7 transition and induction process, and it won't be long until these students are worldly wise Year 8 ready to welcome in the next cohort of Oaklands students from the primary phase.

Portsmouth University Astrodome

The school had the pleasure of two visits from the Cosmology department of Portsmouth University in the autumn term. This department is part of the Physics Department of the university and conducts outreach lectures in secondary schools to encourage pupils to think of a career in Physics.

The team of three Professors arrived early with the Astrodome and assembled it in the hall. Five classes were selected to enjoy an hour of interesting and stimulating talk about the stars and universe. The dome provided the visual stimulation as we all sat on the floor gazing up at the stars. The narrator took us on a journey of discovery, explaining the role of scientists in the discovery of our vast universe.

The second visit involved the same classes for continuity and was class based. The lecturers from the University brought some props to explain the detailed science behind our current knowledge of the universe. They linked this to the

Physics GCSE curriculum the students were learning and the students could see how this could lead onto very interesting career prospects. We thank the University for visiting and inspiring us. They have promised to visit again.





Thirty one students from Year 9 attended PGL Little Canada on Friday 11th- Sunday 13th September on a joint PE/ Geography trip. The students were accompanied by Miss Dugan, Mr Wade, Mr Tindal and Mr Bamford.

During their visit, the students spent Saturday focussing on the Geography aspect of the trip. Our first stop was Ventnor on the south coast. Being situated there, the town is at the mercy of the storms coming from the Atlantic to the southwest. In fact, it was a force 6 wind when we visited and this allowed the students to see 'destructive' waves

in operation. The geology at Ventnor, combined with the frequent large waves, has resulted in the provision of a variety of coastal defences. The students considered why 'hard' coastal defences such as rock revetments and sea walls had been used, rather than 'soft' management such as beach replenishment.

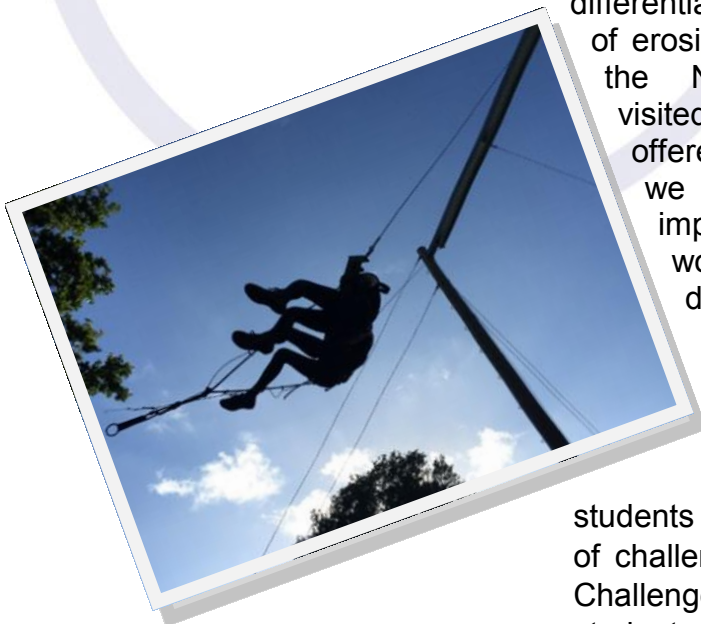
From Ventnor, we travelled along the coast road towards the Needles. Before arrival there we stopped just southeast of Freshwater Bay where it was clear that the geology was changing from sands and clays to chalk. The cliffs there were changing fast and the students were able to see where there had been recent rotational slumping.

At the Needles, we discussed how the coast was 'discordant', as the rock bands were at 90 degrees to the coast and due to the

differential rates of erosion had resulted in the Needles promontory. We visited the Needles Old Battery, which offered the closest view of the Needles. In addition, we explored the exhibit that explained the importance of the site for the rocket testing that would have powered missiles for potential use during the Cold war.

Our last stop was Osborne House where the students viewed the house, Queen Victoria's private beach and the Swiss Cottage.

Sunday was spent at the PGL centre. The students were given the opportunity to attempt a number of challenging activities, including: Zip Wire, Cat Walk, Challenge Course, Abseiling and the Giant Swing. The students really enjoyed these and were disappointed when it was time to return to the mainland.



You may remember the article in the July edition of the Oaklands News recoding the winners from the Faith and Football Enterprise Competition.

Faith and Football and Oaklands Catholic School are building an effective and impressive relationship through their collaborative works. The inspiration and competitive challenge laid down by this Portsmouth charity has encouraged nearly one hundred students in our Year 9 to take part in the Social Enterprise Challenge in recent years. The task is simple, create a business, launch and run it for four months and formulate a detailed report on its successes and failures including detailed accounts, stock lists, manufacturing and design details as well as minutes of meetings and final winding down reports. A very grown up challenge for some very grown up young people. Think 'Young Apprentice' without the video editing and unbearable personalities and you have an idea of the seriousness of this business competition.

In 2012 when we joined the fray, an Oaklands team won the Innovation Award in one of the runner-up positions. In 2013 we won the overall first prize and in 2015 we claimed second and third places. In June of this year Oaklands yet again swooped two top five places, winning the overall competition.

After much preparation and vaccinations on 27th November five of last year's Y9s

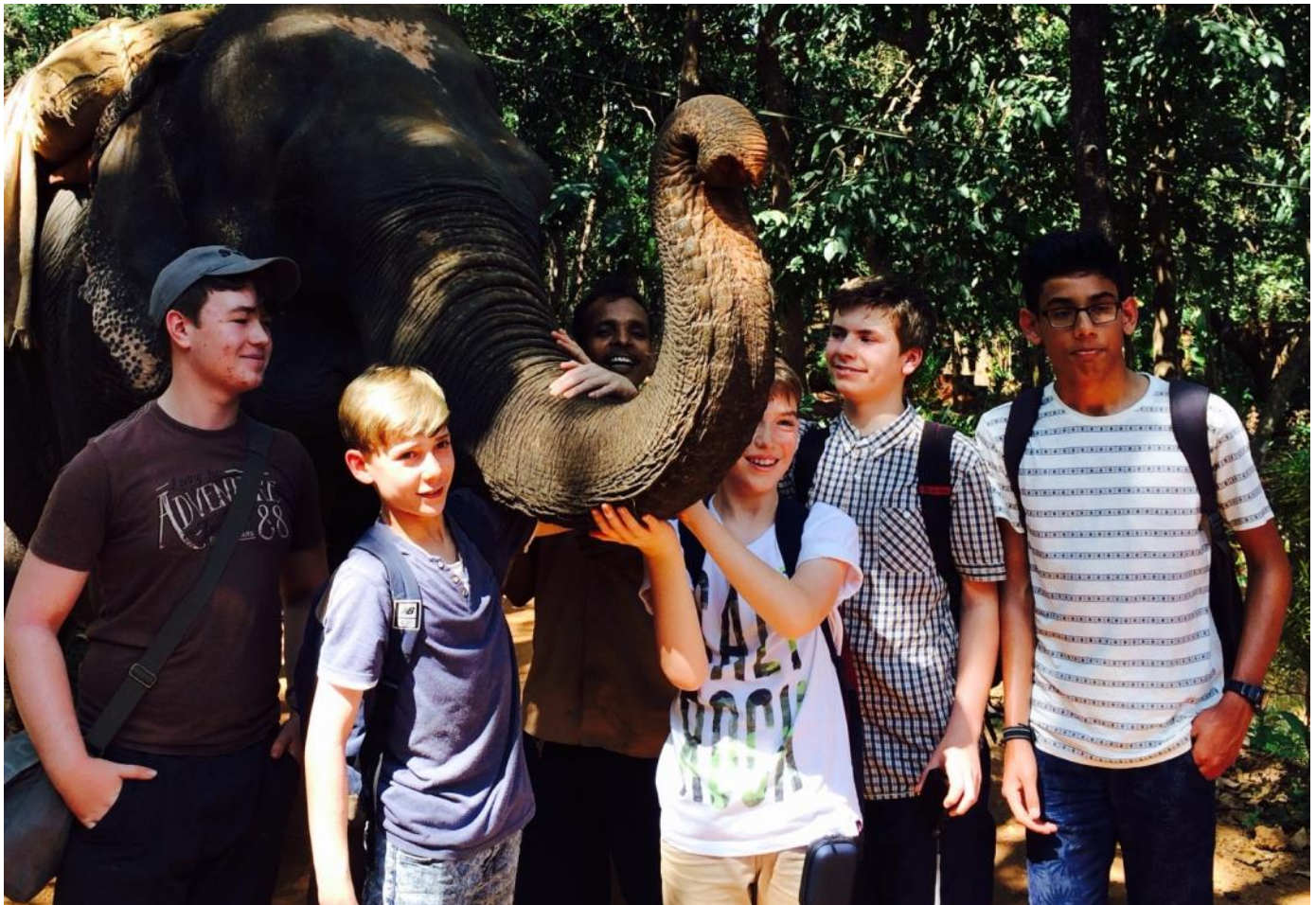
departed for the trip of a lifetime, to spend a week visiting the destination of the monies raised during the competition, in Goa on the West coast of India.

Abhinav Shaju, James Saunders, Alex Pepperell, Lewis Whale and Thomas Laidlaw were treated to a stay at one of the most luxurious hotels in Northern Goa. They needed the luxury of arrival at the air-conditioned venue after an eight hour flight and long bus journey that had begun on the school drive at 2.30am on Friday 27th November and ended at 3.30am in Goa at the Double Tree Hilton, Arpoa.

"The Faith and Football Enterprises challenge has been a doorway opening up to a lifetime's worth of opportunities and experiences. I've learnt about business, I've learnt about life in the outside world and I've learnt about myself. No school grade can prepare me for my future as much as this has."

James Saunders (Y10)





Though still exhausted the boys followed a packed itinerary everyday with visits to a special school, the local secondary school, an old ladies home, an elderly gentlemen's home, a travellers' village and a second village of the poorest yet most hospitable people imaginable. The boys talked and shook hands with everyone they met bringing gifts and games and above all wide grins and a curiosity to share all they could. On all of these visits and tours as they crammed into small rooms and dark houses with little or no facilities and modernity they offered a genuine warmth and proved themselves apt winners of the title and brilliant ambassadors for Oaklands in particular.

The focal point of those they met was a Children's Home called Little Angels. This is based in Chorao an island bird sanctuary

reached by a rickety ferry across a crocodile infested river. Here in this rural village twenty two boys of teenage years live with a few live-in staff. Their Brazilian 'parents' Pedro and Juanilda live as much as they can from the land they all help to work. The land though fertile is brutal in the rainy season and searingly hot during the rest of the year so though seemingly lush there is always a great deal to do to produce enough food for so many growing lads.

"It is not called the trip of a lifetime for nothing. It does not matter whether you win or lose, the journey is worth it"
Abhinav Shaju (Y10)

"It's been a bumpy ride but at the end the road was smooth."
Alex Pepperell (Y10)

Before ten minutes were up our Oaklands stalwarts were sharing Facebook details and What's App contacts. On their first afternoon together they played football and with some Indian forwards supplementing our five strong

defence. England pulled back a hard fought draw in the 28* degree heat.

In India the social care system is not as

evolved as the UK version in some ways but Little Angels makes a wonderful promise that our Children's Services do not emulate. The boys at Little Angels have a home for life. The teenagers and young men are not going to be moved on. They have a variety of learning and mental disorders and need lifelong stability and support to help them live a fruitful and successful life. There is no provision or support beyond the basics from the state or their families (if they have families), so Faith and Football's yearly efforts through Goa hosts Rick and Gilly from Mustard Seed Ministries (<http://www.msm.org.uk/index.php>) are the life blood for these boys.

Our competition winners were instant hits and their new friends in the home were also keen fans of our own boys. It is likely there will be a rematch for these youngsters, perhaps a gap year project and a new school venture for the winning team Tray Bake Traders to save enough to return to Goa?

Between the social encounters, there was time to dip in the hotel pool, visit a spice plantation, indulge in some outrageous financial haggling at the huge markets and body surf on some huge empty beaches—but the aim of the trip was a celebration of what the team had achieved in winning the competition.

What had set them apart from the hundreds of Y9s who took part? The answer lies in the manner in which they dived into their Indian encounters. They are brave and fearless in the face of new challenge, they were kind and compassionate to all they met; young, old, comfortable or in poverty. They tried everything (especially cheesy pakoras) and balked at nothing.

They were winners in all ways.
Congratulations to Tray Bake Traders!

This has been a challenge, but it was worth it at the end. All the late nights and cake making totally paid off, even without the prize. All the things we learnt will stay with me for the rest of my life, both in business and in India.”
Tom Laidlaw (Y10)



Year 12 Theatre Trip

On 30 September in brilliant late, summer sunshine, twenty three year 12 students attended a sparkling performance of Richard II at the iconic Globe Theatre on the South Bank in London.

This tragic drama, tracing the demise of a once-powerful monarch (who loses favour through ruinous taxation and an overly-indulgent life-style), received a standing ovation from a rapturous crowd. Our Sixth form students were attending



the performance as groundlings, so they were extremely close to the action, especially as this production used the pit as the entrance and exit points for many key scenes.

Providing welcome illumination to a difficult text, this educational experience is a perfect example of the way the Sixth Form at Oaklands continues to offer a rich and nurturing environment for all its students. Particular congratulations to our EEC students who are studying the play in a foreign language and embraced the trip with such enthusiasm.

Oaklands Production - Kiss Me Kate

Another Openin', Another Show!

Preparations for our spectacular school musical are well underway, with the full company performing numbers from this Cole Porter classic at our wonderful Christmas Concert this week. As ever, students from across the school are at the centre of our show- with years 7 to 13 represented in cast, company, band and crew.

This show presents our multi-talented cast with the challenge of playing two roles each, as it's constructed as a "play within a play"- they're coping fantastically with Shakespearean dialogue, American accents, musical harmonies, solos and dance numbers!

Just in case you do not know the plot. On the opening night of a musical version of The Taming of the Shrew in 1940s Baltimore, the feisty relationship between actor-manager Fred Graham (Morgan Dryhurst) and his leading lady Lilli Vanessi (Jess Fitzjohn) is ready to explode!

Throw in Fred's flirtations with actress Lois Lane (Verity Flood) and her gambler boyfriend Bill (Archie McKeown) – in debt to gangsters (Jacob Clark, Ryan Crellin-Simpson) who somehow get caught up in the show - and the stage is set for a funny and farcical battle of the sexes!

Cole Porter's riotous homage to the sparkling wit of Shakespeare, Kiss Me, Kate is an irresistible celebration of the joy and madness of working in theatre.

Our latest school production is simply 'TOO DARN HOT' to miss out on!

Tickets go on sale in February for show dates on the 1, 2 and 3 March 2016

Design and Technology Showcase 2015

This year we are holding a special Showcase Exhibition on Tuesday the 8th of March. At this event GCSE and A Level Design and Technology students will be displaying their work and giving the Oaklands community the chance to see what they have completed as 60% of their qualification. This will be a celebration of their work and also a chance for them to gather valuable feedback for the evaluations they have to include in their folders.

The event will be held in the Hall from 5-8pm. Further details and invites will follow but we currently would like to invite parents/local business representatives to act as judges on the evening. This is not an onerous task, which does not require any specialist knowledge and you will be fully briefed. We intend to offer 'best in show' prizes in a number of categories and you would be required to look at students work, ask them questions about it and fill in a simple report. The exception to this format is the judging of the dishes produced for Food Technology which will be re-made on the evening and judged in a 'Master Chef' style.

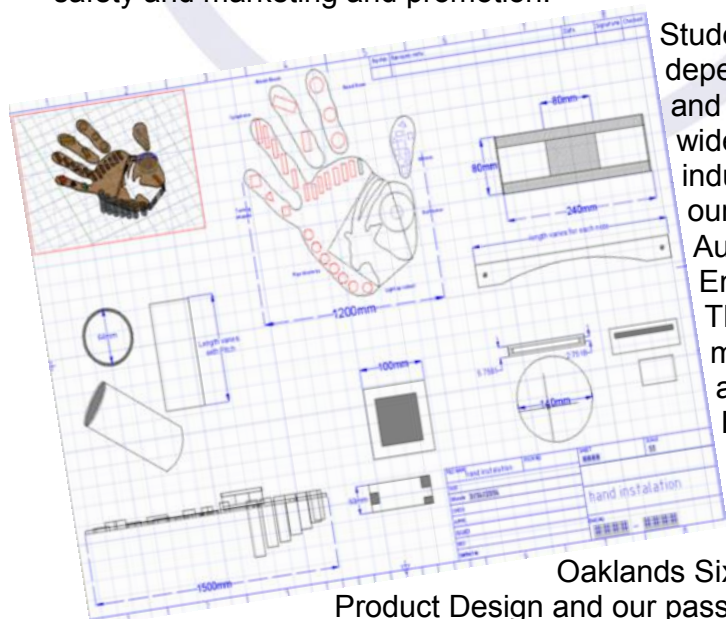
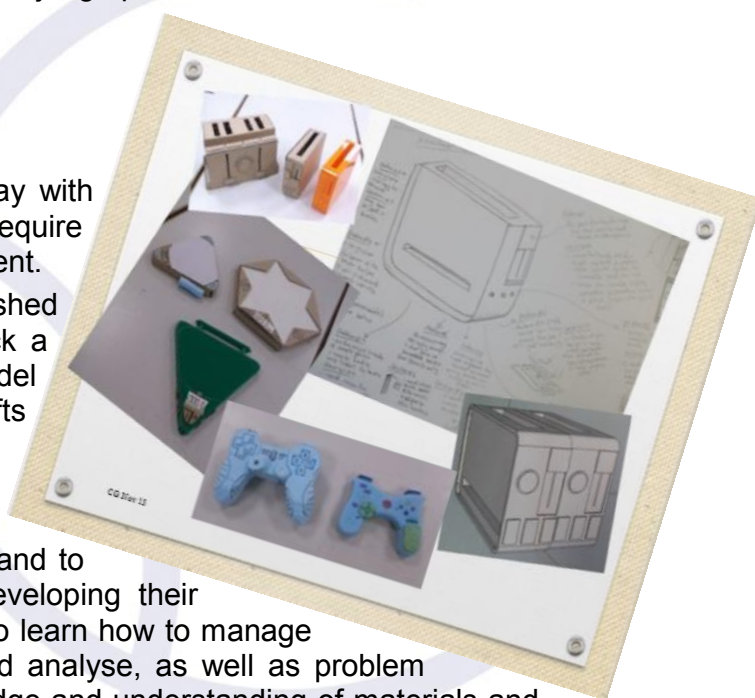
If you are available to volunteer your services as a judge please contact claire.gemmell@oaklandscatholicschool.org.

A Level Product Design

This years A Level students are well underway with their coursework projects. These projects require students to design and make a product for a client.

This year the briefs that students have established to work with range from, a device to hold/dock a mobile device, a transportation system for model steam engines and a children's arts and crafts desk.

They are currently at the stage of developing and modelling proposals. To do this they will use 3D modelling and CAD to test their ideas and to present them to their clients. As well as developing their modelling skills students have the opportunity to learn how to manage a manufacturing project, they have to plan and analyse, as well as problem solve. This along with developing their knowledge and understanding of materials and processes in an industrial context and learning about issues relating to consumer law, health and safety and marketing and promotion.



Students are able to specialise in a range of areas depending on their interests (from electronics to textiles) and the course has been a very useful spring board to a wide variety of university engineering, architecture and industrial design courses, which have in turn allowed our ex-students successfully to secure employment as Automotive Design Engineers, System and Control Engineers, Manufacturing Engineers and Architects. The practical, project based nature of the course means it is a useful subject to combine with Physics and Maths at A level for those considering Engineering or with Business Studies for those considering careers relating to enterprise, or with other creative subjects for those considering art or design based courses.

Oaklands Sixth Form is the only local College to offer A Level Product Design and our pass rate has been 100% for the past 3 years.

HCC Penalty Notices

The following notice has been received from Hampshire County Council:

Hampshire's Current Legal Position Regarding Penalty Notices for Unauthorised Absence from School (November 2015)

Information for Parents/Carers:

There is much research that shows a strong correlation between high attendance and high attainment for all children. A recent publication from the Department for Education publication indicated that even missing a short amount of time from school can reduce every pupil's chance of securing the grades they are capable of achieving. (DfE (February 2015) The link between absence and attainment at KS2 and KS4 2012/13)

Following the recent decision by Isle of Wight magistrates to not hear a case against a father who removed his child from school for a holiday during term time, we wish to clarify for all our parents and carers both the current implications of this case; and the current position on absence from school particularly regarding holidays during term time.

The first is that:

The Isle of Wight decision did not set a legal precedent, because magistrates' decisions are not binding on other courts.

Headteachers must continue to comply with the 2013 amendment to the **Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (2006) Regulations 2013** which means that they cannot authorise a leave of absence from school unless it is exceptional.

Parents/carers must comply with Section 444 of the Education Act 1996 that states that:

"(1) If a child of compulsory school age who is a registered pupil at a school fails to attend regularly at the school, his parent is guilty of an offence."

"(1A) If in the circumstances mentioned in subsection (1) the parent knows that his child is failing to attend regularly at the school and fails without reasonable justification to cause him to do so, he is guilty of an offence."

Despite the recent decision of the magistrates on the Isle of Wight (which is subject to appeal) parents and carers can be failing to comply with section 444 of the Education Act if their child has unauthorised absences even if those unauthorised absences are for a family holiday.

As such all Local Authorities and their Headteachers must continue to follow the law on attendance and implement the government's guidance around attendance. This remains the legal expectation for all education authorities, and supports children in attending their statutory entitlement of 190 days per year. As a result the Isle of Wight and Hampshire County Council has reviewed the legal position in relation to the code of conduct for issuing penalty notices for unauthorised absence from school, and **our code of conduct currently remains unchanged.**

It is of vital importance that all of us – the local authority, families, schools and children – do all we can to ensure children achieve the highest levels of attendance.

I have recently received a penalty notice, does the case on the Isle of Wight affect whether I should pay?

If you have received a penalty notice regarding school attendance, you are expected to pay this within the statutory period as detailed within the paperwork issued, or you may be subject to legal action.

Parents are reminded that if their children have or develop medical conditions, they should complete a Medical Information Sheet. In addition if students need medication, ie epipens or inhalers, parents should complete an Administration of Medication Form. Both forms are available to download via our website and should be returned to Student Services. Thank you.

Please remember to let us know if any of your contact details change - mobile numbers, new place of work, different emergency contacts. This is important if Student Services need to get in touch should your child be unwell or hurt. Thank you.

If any students have not yet collected their GCSE or A Level Art/D&T work from last year, please do so by the end of term, otherwise it may be disposed of or recycled.

Please remember when buying your children new smartwatches, tablets, portable gaming devices etc for Christmas that these items are not permitted to be brought onto the school site. A reminder also that mobile phones should not be seen or used on the school premises.

OPA Christmas Craft Fayre

A huge 'thank you' from the Parents' Association Committee to all parents, friends of the school, not to mention the stallholders themselves, for making this year's Christmas Craft Fayre on 14th November such a tremendous success.

We think you will agree that once again this year there was a huge variety of stalls all selling quality merchandise.

At the end of the day when all monies were accounted for a fantastic **£3,622** had been raised for the school.

The Craft Fayre takes a lot of organisation and it was gratifying to see so many people supporting the event.

Thank you once again.

Consultation on Admissions Arrangements September 2017

As required by regulations the Catholic Academy Trust Company in Havant operating as the Local Governing Body of Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College, Waterlooville will be conducting a consultation on its proposed admissions arrangements for the school year 2017 – 2018. The consultation period runs for a minimum period of 8 weeks from 1 December 2015 until 31 January 2016.

Copies of the proposed arrangements can be obtained from the school office or downloaded from the school website www.oaklandscatholicsschool.org.

Comments on the arrangements should be sent to the clerk to the Governing Body by 31 January 2016.

Email C.Colley@oaklandscatholicsschool.org
The Governing Body will consider all comments received before determining its admission arrangements by 28 February 2016.

Farewells

At the end of this term we say thank you, good bye and good luck to three members of staff.

Julie Stirling who has worked at Oaklands for seventeen years; initially as a Learning Support Assistant and then our Extended Services Co-ordinator. More recently Julie became the Year Assistant in the Sixth Form, dealing with the administration and smooth running of the department, which she did with an efficient and calm approach, an excellent sense of humour and an effortless air! Julie goes off to take up a post as the Executive Assistant to the Director of Education for the Anglican Diocese of Portsmouth.

Sue Thomas who leaves us after more than twenty years' service at Oaklands. Sue has worked in the Learning Support Department offering students the help, support and guidance they need to reach their academic potential. Spending this long in any one role requires commitment and dedication and we are very grateful for Sue's hard work and contribution to the Oaklands community.

Zoe Terry who has been a subject leader for Sociology and Psychology at Oaklands since January 2014. Although Zoe has only been with us for a short time, she has been a key member of our sixth form teaching staff. Zoe will be taking up a new role at Richard Taunton Sixth Form College after Christmas.

As these colleagues all move on to pastures new, we thank them all for the huge contribution they have made to Oaklands and wish them well for the future.

Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members of staff and hope that they will have a long and happy association with us here at Oaklands:

Rebecca Moss who joined us at the end of November as our new Sixth Form Support Officer.

Hannah Bolland who has just joined our team of Cover Assistants.

Frankie Goodall who will be joining us as in January a Learning Support Assistant

Term Dates 2015/2016

Autumn Term 2015

Mon 1st September to Fri 18th December

Spring Term 2016

Mon 4th January to Thurs 24th March

Half Term:

Mon 15th - Fri 19th February

Summer Term 2016

Mon 11th April to Mon 18th July

Half Term:

Mon 30th May - Fri 3rd June

INSET Days are as follows: Friday 1st July, Monday 18 July 2016.

Oaklands Alumni

Calling all ex Oaklands students. We would like you to join our Alumni; your experience could help and support our current students.

Don't delay, sign up today:

<http://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student/oaklandscatholic>

Oaklands Catholic School Presents Cole Porter's

KISS ME KATE

*Tickets go on sale in February for show dates on
the 1st, 2nd and 3rd March 2016*

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

✉ **Oaklandscatholic@oaklands.hants.sch.uk**

🌐 **www.oaklands.hants.sch.uk**

☎ **023 9225 9214**



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