

Oaklands News

No 410 Jan 16

Chris Lubbe and
James Ward Prowse
Guests at Certificates
Evening

Reports from Young
Carers Ice Skating trip

Opportunity for
Young Engineers
and Designers



A publication for
Oaklands Catholic School
and Sixth Form College



Lead Stories



Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

<i>From the Headteacher</i>	2/3
<i>Certificates Evening Achievement and Recognition</i>	4/5
<i>Carol Service A Joyous Occasion</i>	6
<i>Christmas Baking Festive Cakes</i>	7
<i>Community Tea Age Concern visit Oaklands</i>	8
<i>Uniform Maintaining Standards</i>	9
<i>E-Praise Rewarding Students</i>	10
<i>Reading Club Trip Visit to CFT</i>	11
<i>D&T Showcase Change of Date</i>	11
<i>GSCE Options Design Department Calling</i>	12
<i>Science Department Visit Explosive Exxon !</i>	13
<i>Ice Skating Young Carers go to Winchester</i>	14
<i>Ski Trip Preparation Fifty First-Time Skiers</i>	15
<i>Reading at Oaklands The Importance of Reading</i>	16-19
<i>HCC Penalty Notices</i>	20
<i>Important Reminders</i>	21
<i>Term Dates</i>	22
<i>School Production and Dates for the Diary</i>	23

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

I have always been a Star Wars fan, so when the tickets were available earlier in the Autumn for Episode 8, I was first in the queue ... I wanted to see it before I heard any spoilers ... don't worry, I won't spoil anything here if you have not seen it!

*S*o on 18th December I saw the spectacular, John Williams iconic theme start up and I was transported back to 1977. I was a 10 year old again, similar to at least three quarters of the cinema, who were couples in their 40-somethings. The music transported me into the intergalactic world of Star Wars. The Star Wars Logo burned through the screen as words began to inch up vertically - "Luke Skywalker has vanished...". Words that tell a story. A story of good battling evil, a story of heroes and villains, individuals and personal relationships but not great armies, light versus darkness, and of beloved characters.

*T*he Force Awakens re-awoke my love of the first movie and turned my inner fan into my outer fan. Such that the following day I went out and purchased a BB-8 Droid (my wife would not allow it to go on my Christmas list!).

*T*here are very few films which leave me grinning for two hours, but this is one with its homages to the previous films. It was the classic Star Wars story with a very familiar tale with similarities to the plot of previous episodes; but that's a good part of what makes it so awesome – the retelling of the classic tale and the stirring of nostalgia in the audience.

*I*t is a Quinn family tradition, and one we enjoy, for us to attend midnight Mass on 24th December. So there we were again on Christmas Eve, listening to the retelling of the start of another familiar story, full of nostalgia. A story of good versus evil, of a hero and of villains and not of great armies. We encounter beloved characters in the story once again (sounds familiar?); Mary and Joseph, the angels, the shepherds, and of course the Baby. Our hearts are stirred because the Christmas story begins the greatest story ever told (it leaves Star Wars in the shade!); not just in that it is true. This story begins in Bethlehem with the birth of the Christ Child, ends with – SPOILER ALERT – the defeat of evil, once and for all. Jesus showed the world the extent God would go to show his love for us and on the cross.

One character in the new film has a restlessness about her past. As she wrestles with this, one of the best lines is delivered - "Dear child, the belonging that you seek is not behind you. It is ahead." There is something in this for us as we look forward to a new year. We will find true happiness if we look ahead of us and have the courage to place our deepest hopes in an unlikely hero who was prepared to die on the cross for us.

Finally, "May the Force be with you" must be a crib from "The Lord be with you". Sorry George Lucas, we got there first!

Ofsted

According to the new Ofsted regime, 'Good' schools should be inspected approximately once every three years; our 3rd anniversary occurs this term. It is my and the Governors' view that the school is in good shape. Since the last inspection a number of improvements have been made. Our GCSE and A level results remain impressive compared to national performance and we continue to add value. Similar to previous regimes, we will only get half a day's notice of the inspection.

Part of the new Ofsted process will look in detail at the views of parents. Every year we survey about 500 families either through postal surveys, on line or by handing you a questionnaire to complete at Parents' Evenings. Thank you for the comments that you have made - these go into our improvement process.

Homework

You may remember in the last Oaklands News that I talked about the importance of the school planner. At the beginning of last term we piloted removing the weekly parental signature. This move was made as homework is regularly set via the on-line system, ShowMy Homework. This received a mixed response from parents; some continued to sign, other parents clearly had not seen the planner for a number of weeks. In addition, the weekly check of the planner helps keep this important document in order. Therefore, responding to all the issues, we have decided to reinstate the parental signature. No homework planner should go for more than two weeks without parent or staff signature. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you feel your child is getting too much or too little homework.

Conduct on the way to and from school

The behaviour of the vast majority of students is exemplary and this is a significant factor that helps the school maintain the reputation it enjoys. This is something that neither I nor the governors want to see eroded. Current legislation makes it quite clear that the school can sanction students who behave inappropriately outside school. As I am sure you can appreciate 'drilling down' into what occurs on the way to and from school is a difficult process. Your support in reinforcing the good behaviour that is demonstrated by the vast majority of students is appreciated.

Charity Fundraising

Yet again students and staff have gone to extraordinary lengths to raise money for charity. In addition to the £690 raised at the Carol Concert a further £7,481.33 was raised by students and staff last term across a number of different activities. Well done to all involved!

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

Thank you for your continued prayers.

Matthew Quinn

Certificates Evening

The school hall was packed full of staff, former students and their guests on Thursday 7th January 2016 to celebrate the school's examination success at A level and GCSE. The evening started with an address from Mr Quinn. He noted in his welcome the outstanding achievement of students of all abilities and the contribution parents make supporting students at Oaklands. Every year at exam certificate time, students are given a small wooden cross. Mr Quinn encouraged students to keep the cross safe with their examination certificates. Each time they needed to use the certificates they would find the cross and this would take them back to their time at Oaklands.

This year the school invited two speakers in Chris Lubbe, international speaker and former body guard to Nelson Mandela and James Ward Prowse, former student, Southampton and England under 21 star.

Chris Lubbe talked about his life in South Africa around the time of apartheid and his experience growing up in this regime. Chris outlined the horrors of apartheid and how personal experiences had influenced and motivated him to make a difference. He then went on to explain how his relationship with Nelson Mandela as a bodyguard had a significant influence on his life, particularly with respect to forgiveness and reconciliation. He concluded by saying that he hoped the pupils would take with them the powerful message of forgiveness and how lucky there were to be part of a school community where everyone was valued, irrespective of their background.

James Ward Prowse left Oaklands about three years ago at the end of Year 11. He was part of the Southampton Academy programme. James talked about his journey from playing football locally as a youngster through to making a decision to join Southampton. James gave a very strong message that to be successful you need to demonstrate commitment. He talked about the sacrifices that have to be made along the journey. James also recognised the importance of having a team around you to help you along the way, this could be your parents, teachers or coaches.

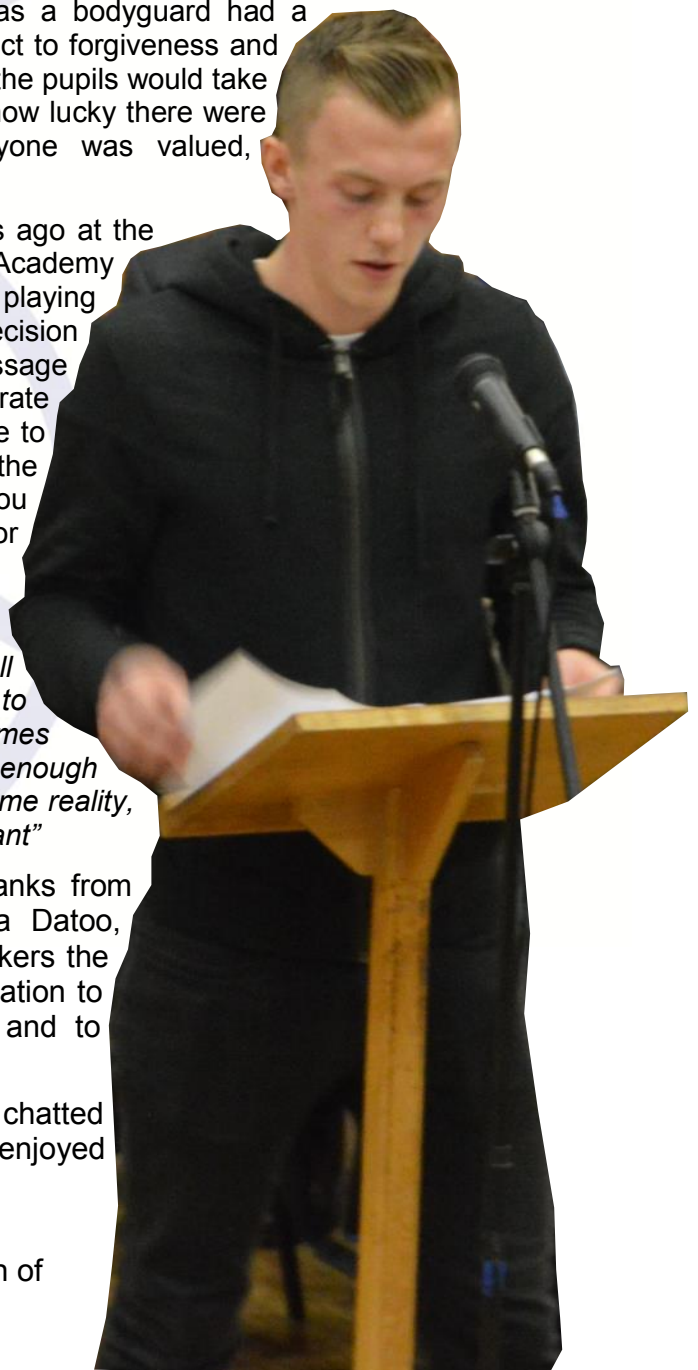
Both speakers were inspirational and one parent said;

"I loved both of them. I could have listened to them all night. Chris' story was mesmerising, the ability to forgive is a lesson to us all. What a fine role model James is for our kids; it just shows if you want something enough and you are prepared to work hard, dreams can become reality, it's a pity more students did not hear this, he was brilliant"

The celebration was concluded with a vote of thanks from Sixth Form students, John Clarke and Khudayja Dato, Headboy and Girl. As a note of thanks to our speakers the school, from its charity collections, will make a donation to the Teenage Cancer Trust on behalf of James and to Unicef on behalf of Chris.

At the end of the evening, both guests stayed and chatted to students and staff as they mingled and enjoyed refreshments.

During the ceremony students were entertained by members of the cast from the next school production of Kiss Me Kate and a Debussy piano recital.





For those students unable to be present at the recent Presentation of Certificates Evening, GCSE and 'A' level Examination Certificates are now available for collection from main Reception at the school for the academic year 2014/2015. **Please note**, these are valuable documents which are expensive to replace and we are only permitted to retain them for one year after which time they must be destroyed.



The Christmas term concluded on Wednesday 16th December 2015 with the school carol service. Our theme centred on the plight of refugees and a large number of students and staff participated in the celebration. This year we were delighted to have a number of pupils from St Thomas More's contributing to the drama; our thanks to Mr Jeff Sendall, their Assistant Headteacher, for co-ordinating this. Singers, musicians, dancers and readers also added to the joyous occasion and it was a truly fantastic evening. Over 500 parents, relatives, former students and staff attended.

Since the celebration the school has been overwhelmed by the number of positive comments, particularly for the use of dance to illustrate the issues related to the refugee crisis. None of this could have occurred if it had not been for the hard work of students and staff. My thanks to all colleagues who made the event so joyful. Particular thanks to Helen Floyd, the School Chaplain, who co-ordinated the event, ably supported by the music and drama departments. The service raised £690 for Save the Children and the International Refugee Trust. Both of these charities work with refugees, particularly supporting children in various parts of the world.



Students from the Years 7-9 After School club and Year 10 GCSE group made their cakes in October allowing them to mature over the few weeks to December.

At the beginning of December, they then spent 30 minutes placing the marzipan on and allowed the marzipan to dry out prior to icing them. In the second week of December the students covered their cakes in a soft ready to roll fondant icing. Once this was on and covering all the cake they added their own handmade decorations using a variety of colours and tools as well as some previously learnt modelling techniques.



Community Tea

On Tuesday 8th December, some of the elderly people that attend the Age Concern community group in Cowplain came to Oaklands for a Christmas party.

We sang some traditional Christmas carols and hymns, heard some great jokes, ate some mince pies and chocolates with tea or coffee and played a (very) long game of bingo!

There were 4 of us year 11 girls and two year 7 boys that helped Mrs Palfreyman (the organiser of the event) make the afternoon successful. We were all very happy to help and enjoyed the afternoon as much as the guests did.



I have always been someone that thought community involvement was important, and doing this for the Age Concern members is a great way to bring happiness to other people's lives – and our own – without spending a lot of money, which is always an issue at this time of year.



The other girls that go to the Age Concern centre have been going every Tuesday far longer than I have; but even though I have only been attending for a short time I think it is a lovely thing to do and I really enjoy it. As my grandparents used to go there too, I know that the activities provide a lot of fun and enjoyment for people that may otherwise be by themselves.

Christmas is the perfect time to have an event such as this, as it is a time when no one should be on their own; the Age Concern association really take care of their members, especially around Christmas and I felt honoured that I could be a part of something that brought enjoyment to their lives.

Abbie Robinson 11Mt

Uniform

The long dark nights and cold weather mean it is time to turn our thoughts to what our students are wearing. We ask you to help us to maintain high uniform standards by supporting the uniform rules.



Scarves: *the striped school scarf available from the OPA or a scarf in co-ordinating school uniform colours. Team sport scarves (eg football etc) are NOT suitable.*

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

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

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

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs McConn-Finch (Assistant Headteacher) or your child's Head of Year/Tutor:

Where can I buy uniform?

All items of our uniform are available at Skoolkit in Havant or Fareham. Embroidered or logoed items must be purchased from this supplier, however, in order to offer more choice to parents you may buy any of the plain items at high street stores providing that they meet the uniform guidelines (eg: the skirt should be plain navy with sewn down pleats etc). Skoolkit also offer an online ordering service via www.skoolkit.co.uk:



SkoolKit Havant

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

Telephone: 02392 45795

Skoolkit Fareham

149, West Street, Fareham, PO16 0YA

Telephone: 01329 822509

Nearly-new uniform

The OPA is very keen to build up a stock of second hand uniform (particularly blazers and jumpers) which can be sold to parents at Parents' Evenings and other evening events. If your child has outgrown ANY item of uniform and it is in good condition please launder and leave it at Reception where we will arrange for the OPA to collect it. If you are interested in purchasing nearly new items please make contact either via Reception or by email: opa@oaklandscatholicschool.org.

Rewarding students at Oaklands

We all know that by positively reinforcing good behaviour or work we can inspire young people to aim higher.

Here at Oaklands we have a school rewards system which awards individual Reward Points, House Points, stickers and praise postcards. Students are often rewarded for outstanding work, excellent effort, attendance or contribution to school life.

We also have an online reward system called **epraise** which gives each student their own Reward Account, where they can see which tutor group or House is in the lead, where they can redeem their points in the online shop or donate them to charity. Staff award points electronically so that students can see why they were awarded a point and by whom. They also earn epraise points for uniform, literacy, numeracy and lots more!

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

The online “shop” offers great purchases such as phone cases, notebooks, pens, key rings, footballs, earphones, stress animals, food and activity vouchers and much, much more.

Recent administration changes have now allowed us to introduce an even wider range of reward vouchers.

Students order on line and then collect their purchases during Tuesday breaktimes from our Business Support office in the White House.



We hope that this system highlights the motivation and commitment of our students, and continues to build positive relationships between staff and students.

Why not have a look at your child’s account and see how well they are doing?

What is on the front of your Child’s Exercise books?

On or near the front of all exercise books you should find a sticker or note indicating a target level.

In addition, inside Keystage 3 books you should find band descriptors.

If you cannot find these in exercise books please get in contact with the school.

On Tuesday 22nd December, the Oaklands Reading Club went to see **A Christmas Carol** at the Chichester Festival Theatre .

All of the ghosts were made by the same person who created the puppets for War Horse, creating an astounding quality of performance from an amateur youth group theatre. The setting was ghostly and dark, with ghosts telling the story and trying to give Scrooge a change of heart.

Marley's ghosts were puppeteered by six people, one each for the head, torso, arms, legs and hands. My personal favourite was the ghost of the Christmas Future. It was a 15ft figure with a skull's face, red eyes and a visible ribcage shrouded by strips of purple and black cloth, and you could see two skeletal hands. It had an air of menace and disturbance around it.

We would recommend the youth theatre productions to anyone looking for a controversial look at the world.

Thank you to Mrs Harris for organising it all and to Mrs Cook, Mrs Sullivan and Mrs Berogna for coming with us in the school holidays!

Hannah Ugboma, Year 8



Design and Technology Showcase 2016 - Change of Date

The Design and Technology Showcase will take on the **14th April** rather than the previously published 8th 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. The idea behind this is that it is both a celebration of their work and 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.

Britain Needs Designers and Engineers

Industrialists and politicians have said that a growing shortage of engineering skills threatens to hold back industry's emerging recovery and wreck efforts to rebalance the UK economy.

Estimates are that the UK will need:

1.82 million new engineers in the decade up to 2022 (Engineering UK, 2015)

1 million new creative jobs by 2030 (Nesta, 2015)

At Oaklands our Design Department offer a range of courses that provide students with the opportunity to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills that could give them a head start in Engineering and Designing.

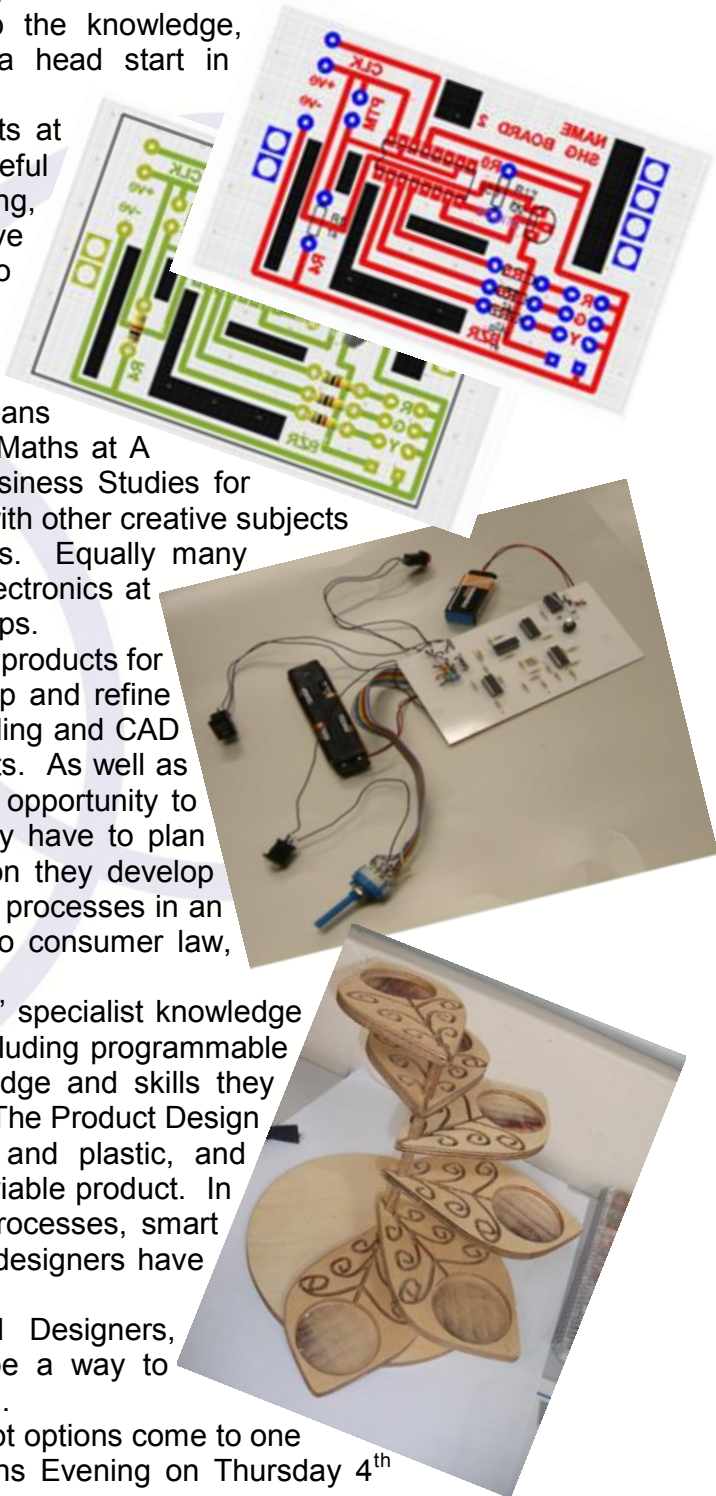
The study of Product Design or Electronic Products at GCSE has in the past provided students with a useful spring board to a wide variety of university engineering, architecture and industrial design courses, which have in turn allowed our ex-students successfully to secure employment as Automotive Design Engineers, System and Control Engineers, Manufacturing Engineers and Architects. The practical, project based nature of these courses 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. Equally many students have, after studying Product Design or Electronics at GCSE, successfully completed related apprenticeships.

These courses require students to design and make products for a client. They have to generate ideas and develop and refine these 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. In addition they develop their knowledge and understanding of materials and processes in an industrial context and learn about issues relating to consumer law, health and safety and marketing and promotion.

The Electronics Products course develops students' specialist knowledge of electronic components, circuits, and systems, including programmable systems and requires students to use the knowledge and skills they develop to design and make an electronic product. The Product Design course focuses on designing products in wood and plastic, and students have to design and make a commercially viable product. In addition they learn about modern manufacturing processes, smart materials, marketing and packaging and how past designers have influenced 21st Century design.

Given the forecast demand for Engineers and Designers, studying one of these courses at GCSE could be a way to ensure a secure future in Engineering and Designing.

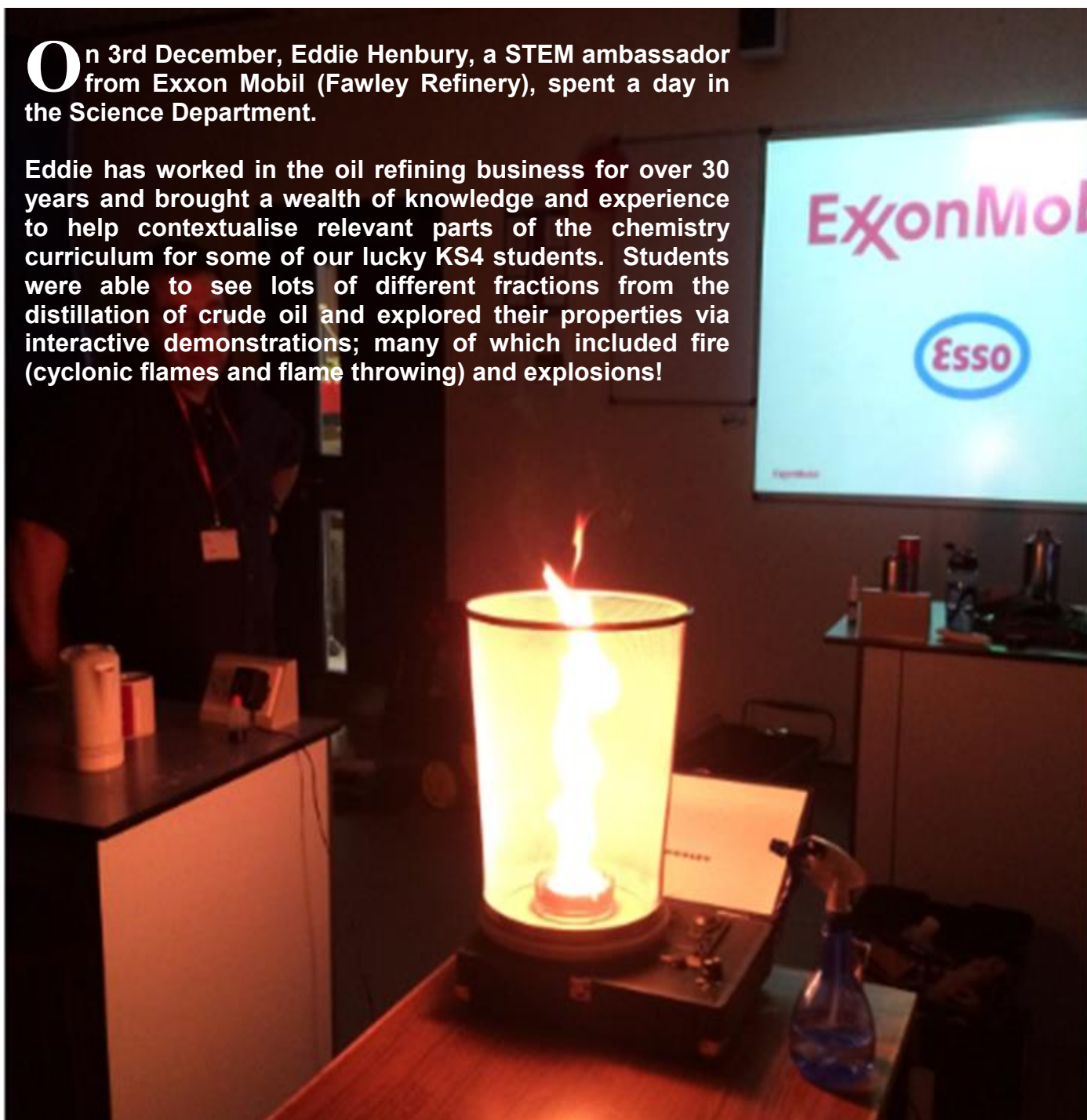
For more information on these and other Design Dept options come to one of the talks or visit the exhibition at Year 9 Options Evening on Thursday 4th February.



Explosive Visit

On 3rd December, Eddie Henbury, a STEM ambassador from Exxon Mobil (Fawley Refinery), spent a day in the Science Department.

Eddie has worked in the oil refining business for over 30 years and brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to help contextualise relevant parts of the chemistry curriculum for some of our lucky KS4 students. Students were able to see lots of different fractions from the distillation of crude oil and explored their properties via interactive demonstrations; many of which included fire (cyclonic flames and flame throwing) and explosions!



The talk was thought provoking; inviting students to imagine life without some of the products from the oil refining industry that they use on a daily basis. Students also considered the impact of some of the industry's by-products on the environment as well as the impact of waste that we generate that could be easily be recycled or re-used.

Happily, one of our favourite demonstrations made use of an old bread board, waste paper basket and a record turntable!!

Eddie also spoke to A-level students about STEM careers and visited Oaklands Chemistry Club during his visit, giving advice on some of their ongoing projects.

Eddie will visit the science department again in 2016 so that more students can benefit from his talk and understand how relevant the chemistry curriculum is in everyday life.



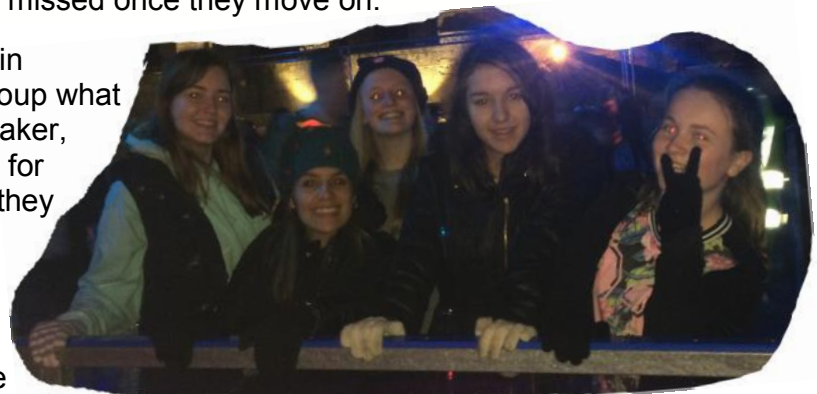
The Oaklands Young Carers group's yearly visit to Winchester Cathedral Ice Rink has become one of my favourite events of the year, although it has no right to be. The logistics of organising such a trip make it a stressful experience at times; traffic is always bad when travelling between Portsmouth and Winchester around 4pm, and finding parking for two minibuses in Winchester can be a drawn out, soul-searing exercise. Additionally, keeping track of students when moving through a city centre is difficult, let alone when they are joined by 100 other people on the ice. Yes, on a regular year the Christmas trip is a bit of a nightmare to organise. And this year? This year the Coca Cola truck was in town! The

traffic was worse; the parking spaces were fewer. The high street was turned from a thoroughfare into a standstill, everywhere the pop and hiss of cans being opened, fake snow drifting through the unseasonably warm winter air and 24 students who are irresistibly pulled towards this behemoth of festive cheer.

But, for the added stress both before and during the event, this will go down as one of my favourite Christmas trips yet. There was a wonderful atmosphere amongst the students, fuelled no doubt by the end of term fast approaching. The warm temperature may have meant there was a bit of surface water on the ice, but it made for really pleasant skating, without the biting chill you can experience...as long as you're brave enough to pick up some speed! We forwent our usual trip to Pizza Express this year for the opportunity to peruse the cathedral's Christmas market. Although a few voices bemoaned the lack of a sit-down meal I think it was ultimately a good choice as it offered the students the chance to mix in with the crowds, glimpse at the traders hawking their Christmas wares from log cabin stalls and sample some of the food on offer. Visiting the cathedral Christmas market has become a staple of my advent season and this visit certainly put me in the festive mood.

Each young carers trip is inevitably tinged with sadness as it is always a final *something* for somebody. This year it was the final Christmas trip for our Year 11 young carers (Unless they choose to come back when in Sixth Form, which they are more than welcome to do!), and I want to take this opportunity to give them special mention and thanks. We have a large number of carers from Year 11, with roughly double the amount from other individual year groups, and they have had a huge impact on the collective dynamic, particularly during trips. Considering they make up such a large part of the group, and clearly have strong friendship outside of it, they have never retreated into the safety of their number, instead welcoming and befriending the younger students and acting as the social glue which holds the group together. They will certainly be missed once they move on.

Once again I need to pay thanks to a few certain individuals who help make the young carers group what it is. Special thanks go to Miss Tilley, Mrs Hardaker, Mrs Gomez Lopez, Mrs Whelan and Mr Turner for the support they offer each week and the time they give outside of school to allow events like the ice-skating trip happen. Thanks also to other members of staff who have helped out with mini-bus driving, equipment lending, face-painting and the like, every second of time and thought is appreciated.



Remarkable thanks also go to the Dugan family, Jeff who ran the Rome Marathon to raise money for young carers and Donna who corralled a team of happy and willing volunteers from the Havant branch of Lloyds Bank to help out at the family day back in July. Hopefully I have not missed anyone out, but if I have I hope it will only demonstrate the staggering amount of support and kindness we receive each and every year.

And finally, every now and then our young carers themselves dig a little deeper than we expect and do something remarkable, as one year 11 young carer did when he completed a sponsored cycle around Portsmouth and raised over £100 for the group. A fantastic effort. Thank you.

Thank you all, here's to a happy 2016!

Ski Trip Preparation



Fifty students attempted skiing for the first time at Calshot Activities Centre on the evening of 15th December. The sense of excitement was palpable as the students viewed the slopes on arrival and their levels of enthusiasm didn't diminish as the inevitable falls occurred when they started skiing. This was after a terrible journey to get there with the M27 shut – a 50 mile journey taking 3 hours!

The visit to Calshot provided the students with the opportunity to wear the equipment for the first time and learn the basics; this means that more rapid progress can be made when the students arrive at the resort in February.

This trip wouldn't have been possible without the help of a number of staff including: Mr Tindal, Mr Whelan, Mr Tyler, Mr P Smith, Mr Wade, Mr Turner and Miss Dugan.

The trip during February half term is fast approaching. 96 students from Year 9 and the 6th form will travel to the Italian ski resort of Andalo.

As in previous years, we will drive there, leaving on Friday with arrival expected on the Saturday afternoon. The students will ski for 5 days and then leave on Friday from Italy and will return back to school on the Saturday afternoon.

The snow is falling in the Alps, but Andalo has yet to receive a large amount as of mid-December. However, their snow machines have been working and the resort is open already. Hopefully we can look forward to good conditions when we arrive there in February.

Mr Bamford



Miss Sharma who has responsibility for the school's literacy strategy writes:

The role of literacy within your child's life has never been more important. With the assessment of spelling, punctuation and grammar in not just English Language, but in English Literature, Religious Studies, History and Geography also, it is vital that your child is armed with the skills required to succeed.

Below, you will find a range of information that will help you to continue to support your child's literacy at home.

Reading plays a vital role in the development of your child's literacy skills. Encouraging your child to read as much as possible will help them to succeed in not just English, but other subjects also. Often, avid readers are better writers; they are exposed to a wider variety of vocabulary, punctuation and sentence structures.



We asked a range of students from Year 7 to Year 13 what reading means to them. Here is what they had to say:

To me, reading is a way to dive into fantasy worlds and do things that I wouldn't have thought possible in real life.

I like reading because it is like having a movie where you create your own image in your mind.

Reading is like star gazing; each star tells a different story. It's like chocolate: you've got to find one to your taste. It is stepping into your own world... it guides you.

I enjoy reading because it makes you a more intelligent person. It makes me more creative and improves my English. Some books are very good to read; they take away your worries in life and devour you into a world of wonders, thrills and adventures.

I have lots of different books.

I know that reading is important because it helps you in life overall; you need reading as a skill to succeed in the world.

I like to read when I feel stressed because it relaxes me and makes me feel calm as if nothing else is happening.

My mum used to read to me as a child and it made me feel as if I was close to the characters; they are always there.

'There is more treasure in books than in all of the pirate's loot on Treasure Island.'

Walt Disney

Use the Library

One day we may have a Library to revival Trinity College

All of our KS3 students have a lesson in the library every two weeks. This provides them with the opportunity to read, discuss and take out a wide range of books, both fiction and non-fiction. Our Year 10 students have a twenty five minute visit once per fortnight, during registration.

Students can also access Eclipse.net which is a programme that allows students to search the library catalogue in order to locate resources to borrow. Every student has a username and password. They can log into their own user area to check loan information; to reserve resources; to write reviews; to read reviews by other students and to locate information to

Students can visit the library before school as well as during break and lunchtime. They may take two books



What Reading Means to Me ... by James Buckley, 9DO.

Reading is a very important part of life; it strengthens the mind, body and brain. I started reading by identifying car badges, such as Toyota and Volkswagen and now I compare it to riding a bike - difficult at first but easier and easier as time goes on.

I read as it is a fun and enjoyable way to pass the time. Curling up in your chair with a good book and a cup of tea is a picturesque way of doing it but that is not really the case. You can do it anywhere! What's stopping you?

I generally read fiction, such as novels by Rick Riordan. I also use sites like Quotev or fanfiction.net if my physical library is exhausted.

With so many great books out there, there really is no excuse!

My advice to you is to find a genre that suits you and get reading! Don't forget to try books like 'Little Women', 'Alice in Wonderland' and 'Old Yellar'. Happy reading!

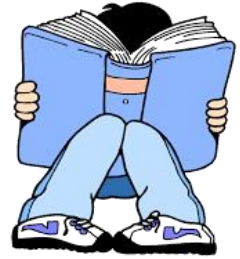
What should my child be reading?

Reading non-fiction such as newspapers, magazines and online articles in addition to fiction, is essential. The following website is worth visiting:

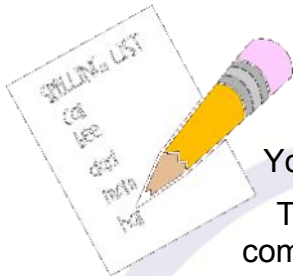
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/childrens-books-site>

It will provide details of suggested books for readers aged 3-16 and other interactive information. Any opportunity for students to read to younger brothers and sisters will also be highly beneficial! You will find a list of 'family favourite' children's books on the school web-site. You could even follow the link below for the top 10 terrifying teachers in children's books:

<http://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/2016/jan/07/top-10-terrifying-teachers-in-childrens-books>



Improving Spelling



The 'Oxford Dictionaries' website is a website that offers free interactive spelling tests for children to engage in at home. Visit

<http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/spelling-challenge/>

You can even take tests in different languages to enhance your MFL skills!

The links below take you to a spelling test containing some of the most commonly misspelled words. Tablet-friendly!

<https://www.howtospell.co.uk/top-ten-misspelled-spelling-quiz>

<https://www.howtospell.co.uk/misspelled-words-ozzr-quiz>

A quiz on abbreviations: <https://www.howtospell.co.uk/quizeleven.php>

Vocabulary

Using a dictionary and a thesaurus when writing will help your child to build their vocabulary and allow them to explore the definitions of new words. VisuWords, a web-based visual dictionary and thesaurus tool, is ideal for visual learners. Encourage your child to visit: www.visuwords.com. It's a dictionary! It's a thesaurus! It's free! Simply input a word of your choice.



Writing Skills

Try to ensure that your child proof-reads every piece of their homework; this will help them to correct spelling and punctuation errors and to learn from their mistakes. They can also re-read with a view to improving the quality of their work; re-writing a sentence or using a thesaurus will help them to raise standards



BBC BITESIZE (Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4) provides activities as well as a plethora of information and activities in relation to the various types of writing purposes. The web addresses are below:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks3bitesize/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/>

International Literacy Day Treasure Hunt

On Monday 8th September, it was International Literacy Day. There were lots of exciting activities for students to do during lunchtime. The new Year 7 students all gathered in the library as they had been told about some hidden treasure...It was there that we received our first clue...Then we went on a treasure hunt!

Clues were all around the school - from Angelico Block to the canteen. They were all over the place! I met up with Victoria Brain we had to split up at first because we didn't know 'where Mr Quinn would roam' ...We encountered lots of other students searching just as we were.



Who would find the treasure first?

After lots of searching, we finally went back to the library and Miss Sharma said "You're the first team back! Congratulations!"

She then gave us the final clue:

"Your time at Oaklands now lies ahead..."

Go to the place where your careers will be led."

We looked at each other and said "Careers Room".

We ran into the room just next door -and there it was...Our well-deserved treasure. Our prizes were a set of David Walliams books and some sweets. We feel so pleased to have won. Everyone else was so disappointed...except us!

I'll definitely help out in Y11, just like the older students were doing today. I can't wait for the next activities on World Book Day!



Why not support your child to read in order to raise money for children in hospital? Oaklands has been taking part in Readathon for many years; it simply invites your child to read as much as possible and get sponsored for doing so per book, chapter, page or even by sentence!

Readathon, writes: "One of the reasons kids don't read is lack of motivation. One of the things that motivates kids is helping other kids. Readathon's simple (but brilliant) idea is to link those two thoughts."

We launch Readathon 2016 in March. Look out for your child's sponsorship card as they get reading!

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.

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

The school recognises that a total ban on mobile phones in school is both unrealistic and unreasonable. Equally, there are advantages in using smart phones and tablets as an educational resource. They are part of everyday technology and students need to be aware of how to use technology appropriately. They give some students a greater sense of safety and security particularly on a long journey to and from school.

However, since our school site is generally a very safe place, we consider that in most circumstances, the whole school day should be considered as phone and electronic device free. We continue to **recommend** that students do not bring their mobile phones or other electronic devices to school.



They are very expensive items and, if they go missing, the school will not take responsibility for them.

Keeping pace with technology and its impact can be both positive and negative; it always presents a challenge. It is likely that the range of Bluetooth enabled devices including Smart watches and wearable technology will increase.

A number of students have been given Smartwatches for Christmas. Many of these devices interface remotely with a user's mobile phone. Many of these watches can receive and sent texts and connect to social networks and some have intergrated cameras. I am sure all parents can see the issue this presents in the classroom and in addition they are costly items to bring into school.

The school's current policy bans Smartwatches. Similar to mobile phones, they are not to be seen **during the school day (8:50-3:40) and must be switched off at all times including break and lunchtimes.** As watches are smaller devices, this increases the possibility of loss.

The school's normal disciplinary sanctions will apply in cases where mobile phones, Smartwatches or electronic devices are used inappropriately whilst on the school site. In most circumstances, this will include the temporary confiscation of devices by staff and appropriate arrangements being made for their return to parents.

Detentions

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

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

Finally, if you do receive a detention letter for your child, please remind them of their responsibility to attend the detention as directed.

Dates for the Spring Term

Mon	11/01/2016	Year 11 Mocks start
Mon	18/01/2016	Governors Teaching & Learning Cttee Mtg
Mon	25/01/2016	Faith Unity Week
Wed	27/01/2016	Governors Business & Collaboration Cttee Mtg SEN Parents' Evening Y12 and Y13 Reports Home
Mon	01/02/2016	Year 11 Book Sharing Week OPA Committee Meeting—CANCELLED
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 Week
Tues	23/02/2016	Year 12 Post-18 Information Evening
Tues- Thurs	01/03/2016- 03/03/2016	Whole School Production
Fri	04/03/2016	Non Uniform Day Year 7 Prog Rev Home
Mon	07/03/2016	OPA Committee Meeting Governors Ethos Cttee Mtg
Thurs	10/03/2016	Sixth Form Practice Exams Commence
Mon	14/03/2016	Year 9 Info Evening (Future Maths GSCE)
Thurs	17/03/2016	E-Safety Evening
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
Mon	11/04/2016	Last Day of Term First day of Summer Term, students return to school

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

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 18th July 2016.

Provisional Term Dates 2016/2017

Autumn Term 2016

Fri 2nd September to Fri 16th December

Half Term;

Mon 24th - Fri 28th October

Spring Term 2017

Tues 3rd January to Fri 7th April

Half Term:

Mon 20th - Fri 24th February

Summer Term 2017

Mon 24th April to Fri 21st July

Half Term:

Mon 29th May - Fri 2nd June

INSET Days are as follows:

Friday 2nd September, Friday 23rd September, Friday 30th June, Friday 21st July.

School Production 2016

**KISS
ME
KATE**

Preparations are well under way for this year’s production of Cole Porter’s “Kiss Me Kate”, with students from across the school at the centre of our show.

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" ... 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!

Expect amazing live music from our excellent band of students, staff and friends, directed by Estelle Flood with support from Fionnuala Quinn.

Show director, Sadie Whyte is assisted by talented choreographer Laura Blackburn and her student team.

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

Tickets will be on sale later this month.

Dates for the Diary

We will be holding three information evenings for parents of students in Year 9 to help them prepare for the GCSE years and aid their children’s studying skills. These will be for the following subjects on the following dates:

Maths: 14 March 2016

English: 25 April 2016

Science: 16 May 2016

Each evening will start at 7.00pm and will last no more than 90 minutes.

More detailed information will be sent to Year 9 parents later this term.

Internet Safety



Another date for your diary...on Thursday 17 March at 7.00pm we will be holding an E-Safety parents’information evening. This evening will be led by Sue Savory, a County Inspector and Adviser. The Oaklands Parents Association are funding this event and they will also provide refreshments on the evening. We hope that parents and carers will come along to this evening to find out more about how we can support our children as they navigate their way through an increasingly digital world!

Oaklands Alumni

Oaklands Catholic School is working with the educational charity, Future First, to keep connected with its former students. Alumni can sign up to Future First’s alumni scheme by clicking the “Former Students” link on the website www.futurefirst.org.uk.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who supported the Poppy Appeal at Oaklands this year; £126.84 was raised for the work of Royal British Legion.

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, Hants, PO7 7BW

(023) 92 259214

oaklands@oaklandscatholicschool.org

www.oaklandscatholicschool.org



HAVANT FEDERATION
OF SCHOOLS