

Oaklands News

No 412 May 16

Design and Technology Showcase Oaklands Alumni

Top of the Bench Competition News from Sorrento Trip



A publication for
Oaklands Catholic School
and Sixth Form College

Lead Stories



Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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On a number of occasions I have cycled passed St Thomas á Becket Church in Warblington. For those of you who do not know, the building is tucked away on the south side of the A27, close to the boundary of Chichester harbour. Near to the Church stands a tower, which I am reliably informed is the remains of Warblington's Tudor Castle. I am not a Tudor historian and I am sure others could tell the story of the Castle and its inhabitants with far more detail than I. However, the Castle was the seat of Margaret Pole, executed on May 28th, 1541 for her Catholic faith. Following a little research, (thank you Mr Berners-Lee) I found out a little more about this lesser known and local English Martyr.

The Tudor Tower close to St Thomas á Becket Church, Warblington



Margaret Pole was born in Somerset and was one of the last of the Plantagenet dynasty. Her story is wound into the lives of various earls, countesses and royalty; Richard III was married to Margaret's Cousin. Margaret married, however her husband died in 1504; she had five children. After her husband's death she committed her son, Reginald Pole, to the Church; it is this that eventually sealed her fate. Reginald Pole was the last Roman Catholic Archbishop of Canterbury. She was his mother and for that reason she met her death.

After her arrest, for some time, she was a prisoner at Cowdray Park, Sussex. Finally, she was sent to the Tower of London which was to be her final destination. On May 28th 1541 she was executed. She was beatified in 1886 as a martyr for the faith, the Church honours Margaret Pole on May 28th each year.

When Christianity is facing new challenges and increasing opposition, the courage of the martyrs and their deep faith remains a profound example. Today our lives may not be on the line for our beliefs, but how often do we speak the truth when the opportunity arrives? How often do we talk confidently about the message of Jesus Christ because we don't want to lose friends or because we fear possible derision? Saint Margaret Pole might be the example we are looking for.

Since the last Newsletter, it has been necessary to write home to parents twice. In these letters I have covered the topics of Social Media and uniform; copies of these can be found on the school website. These letters were well received; thank you for your positive comments.

This half term, probably more than any other, has disappeared at alarming speed, where efforts have focused on examination classes. I would like to acknowledge the time put in by staff, particularly during their lunch times, after school and during the holidays. It is a pleasure to work with colleagues who show such dedication to their students.

I am aware that a number of parents expressed concern about the complexity of the Biology GCSE paper taken by Year 11 a few days ago. Students that I have spoken to talked about questions that would not have looked out of place on a business studies exam and another on underage drinking. Nationally students took to social media to make their feelings felt. The exam board, AQA, have responded, maintaining that there was no issue and that exams are supposed to be difficult. We have written to parents stating that whilst the questions were quite hard, they were not unfair and contained an expected range of question types. There is something to learn from this situation.

First, the UK faces particular challenges because our public institutions seem to be inflicted with a vicious cycle of distrust; the public exam system is not immune from this. Every year we appear to lurch from one fiasco to another. This year it was the turn of the KS1 SATS; the government withdrew the controversial spelling test after it was accidentally published on line. So it is no wonder that when students believe an exam is unfair, they turn to social media for a little teenage spleen venting, blaming the examination board for what they perceive to be yet another error. The second point can be found in AQA's response – 'exams are supposed to be hard'. This, I would suggest, is a sign of things to come. If only the top 3% are going to achieve a Grade 9 and the next 10% a Grade 8 then the questions in the exam are going to have to be suitably challenging. We should expect to see an increase in questions where knowledge has to be applied to unfamiliar situations, a testing of some of elements of the specification that are in the margins with language and formatting that makes it difficult to predict question types. This does underline the importance of thorough comprehensive revision.

Staffing the school this year has proved particularly challenging. I am always delighted when colleagues approach me because they are expecting a baby. This year fourteen staff have either announced they are expecting or are already out on maternity leave. Filling these temporary vacancies is always problematic, particularly in areas where national shortages exist. If this situation has resulted in your child having a number of staff in certain subjects, we are doing our best to ensure continuity is maintained.

This term is the point where we begin to say goodbye to students and some staff. Year 11 have steered their way through five years at Oaklands. Father Kevin led the final day celebrations with Mass, where students took the lead in the readings and reflections. They then moved on to the sunken lawn for the traditional t-shirt signing. Once the examinations are finished, their final swansong will be the Prom at the Marriott Hotel.

The subject of school toilets appears in almost every School Council meeting; students want and deserve up-to-date facilities. In all the sets there are significant issues related to the quality of the fittings, drainage and lack of ventilation. In these straitened times, a dilemma presents itself - toilets or staff? However, I am very pleased to report that we have managed to secure funding to refurbish the student toilets in Thomas More Block and work will start at the beginning of the summer holiday. The other positive news relates to Newman Block - for at least the last twenty years, despite remedial work, we have been unable to solve the problems related to water penetration. The structure of the building is sound but the roof, windows, seals, fittings and associated external panels require significant work. Fortunately, we have finally managed to secure funding from the DfE to carry out the necessary repairs. This work will commence towards the end of the summer holiday. More information can be found on page 11.

Finally, there are a number of families, staff and former staff who are experiencing personal difficulties at the moment. Your prayers are a source of great strength for the whole community and this is very much appreciated.

Have an enjoyable half term break.

Matthew Quinn

7St Margaret hold a Baptism

In their RE lessons, 7MG have studied the signs and symbols used in the seven Catholic Sacraments over the last half term.

In order to learn about the symbols used in the Sacrament of Baptism better, 7MG decided to hold a Baptism in the chapel one lesson. So on Monday 16th May we gathered in the chapel to baptise 'Margaret'.

Students took on the roles of god-parents, parents, servers, readers, choir and clergy. A huge thank you must go to Harry Howford who acted as our main celebrant - baptising the baby with water; anointing the baby's head with oil; lighting the baby's Baptismal candle from the Paschal candle; and robing the baby in the white garment. Harry was ably supported by two servers: Pia San Pedro and Deacon Killelay.

Sam Sweetman, as our deacon, gave the homily, which he wrote himself, focusing on the themes of welcome, inclusivity, and the role the community has in supporting parents and god-parents. The homily ended as follows 'So when you go out today after this service, fulfil what God wants us to do, love one another, don't pre-judge - don't bully, but treat others equally'.

In time honoured tradition we then moved to the sunken lawn for juice and cakes - provided and made by the students themselves. 7MG would like to thank Mrs Nicholls for her time and support in preparing and serving the cake. Luckily the sun was shining. This made it feel like a real celebration!



Mrs Quinn



Sorrento Food Trip

Tuesday 29th March 2016

I was really excited; as today was the day I was off on the school food trip to Sorrento Italy. We all met on the school drive ready to depart at 8:30am. It was the first time I had flown, so I was a little nervous but no need as I really enjoyed my first flight. When we arrived at our hotel we had something to eat then bed, it had been a long day!

Wednesday 30th March 2016

Today started with an early continental breakfast. We were off to an olive oil farm, where we learnt how olive oil was made and even got to sample some. A short coach journey later we arrived at the mozzarella farm, where a lady called Maria showed us how it was made. Maria did not speak a word of English so had a translator. At the end of the demonstration Maria had something to say to us all, it was the only English word she knew "CHEESE". The weather was so warm so we ate our packed lunches in the park followed by ice cream. We ended a lovely day shopping in Sorrento town.

Thursday 31st March

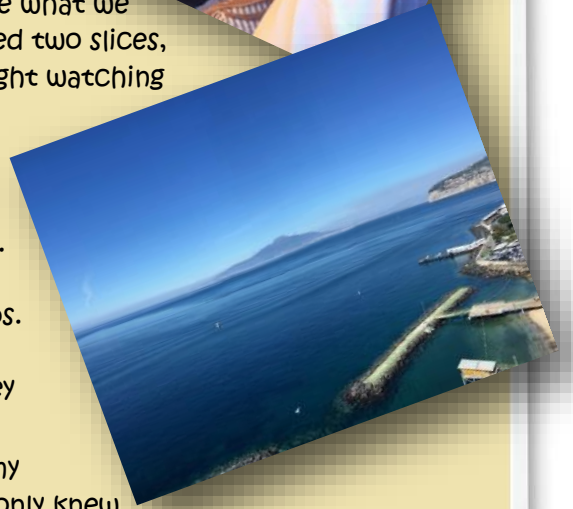
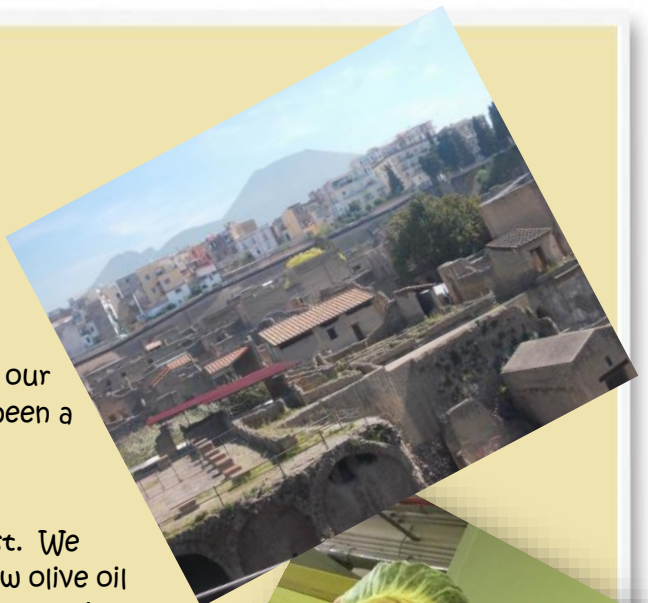
Another early start and a long coach journey to the Herculaneum Museum, a town that had been covered and destroyed by volcanic lava. You could see Mount Vesuvius in the distance. We had lunch at a pasta restaurant; I am glad we had to walk down to the pasta factory, as I was full. At the pasta factory we learnt the history of pasta and saw how it was made. Back on the coach and a quick drive to the ice cream parlour, where we learnt how to make gelato and tasted some. We went back to the hotel to quickly change then set off for even more food at the pizza restaurant. We made pizza dough, then we got to choose what we wanted for our toppings, they were huge - I only managed two slices, as I was full from a whole day of eating. It was a great night watching Italian dancing.

Friday 1st April

It was our last day today, so after our usual early breakfast we went to pack our cases ready to check out. We had a chance to do some more shopping in Sorrento town and then had lunch in a Café not far from the shops. The weather was getting hotter each day, so I was glad I packed my shorts. Back on the coach for the long journey home.

I really enjoyed my time in Italy. I had a good laugh with my friends. I learnt one thing about Italy and that was they only knew one size when it came to food and that was 'LARGE'.

I would like to thank Miss Mousdale, Ms Osborne, Mrs Wise, Mrs McConn-Finch, and Mr Horrod for a fantastic trip. **By Ellouise Toy 8CA**



Challenge Week

Challenge Week is a well-established Oaklands tradition dating back to 1987. Over that time successive dedicated teams of staff have formed a Challenge Week Group who work to put together a fantastic week of enrichment activities for Key Stage 3 students. Challenge Week is intended to allow students to have fun whilst learning; spending time with teachers and other students outside of the classroom environment, free from the constraints of a timetable. It is a genuine opportunity to work in a cross-curricular way and to learn new information and skills that we could not deliver through our normal curriculum and timetable structure.

Staff have worked incredibly hard to put together imaginative, creative and student-friendly activities which have educational value as well as allowing students to have fun and work with each other to produce something which is both tangible and meaningful.

All students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have already had an assembly outlining the 'theme' of their respective weeks. This year, Year 7 are focusing on a Creative Challenge around the theme of 'Africa' using English, Drama and Dance; Year 8 have a Design and Innovation Challenge covering Design, Maths and Science activities and Year 9 are looking at a 'Community Challenge', building teams for survival based on RE, Geography and History activities. All students will be mixing off site and onsite activities across the four days. As well as these activities, there is the Year 8 trip to St Aignan and Year 9 Camp in the New Forest.

The booklet, which has already been distributed to students, will give you all the information you need as parents / carers about what your child will be doing each day of the week and so I would encourage you to read it carefully and keep it somewhere safe. Copies can also be found on the school website. Individual timetables will be published in early June.

Parental support for the week is vital if it is to be a success. We hope that by reading through what your child will be engaged in, you will recognise the wonderful learning opportunities that your son or daughter will be involved in, and that you will encourage them to take a full and active part in the week.

This year, all students in Years 7,8 and 9 will be involved in Challenge Week activities Monday to Thursday June 27th – June 30th. Friday July 1st is an INSET day when the school is closed to students.

Finally, we have been able to subsidise Challenge Week again this year to try and offer a full and fun week at a reasonable price to yourselves. We have been able to hold 2015 prices despite coach travel costs having been increased. The cost of your child's activity is, we hope you will agree, excellent value. I would encourage all parents to use the online payment system and further details about this can be obtained from the website or from the school Finance Office.

Please can all parents / carers pay by June 10th and ensure all medical information is current. If you need to update us, a copy of the medical form is on the website in the Challenge Week section.

My thanks go to this year's Challenge Week Group and to all our dedicated staff who have worked hard to plan and prepare this week for our students.

We look forward to spending the week with the students and hearing about their activities in the next edition of Oaklands News.



2016 Top of the Bench

On Saturday 16th April 2016 Mr & Mrs Hardaker accompanied four students to Loughborough University to compete in the Royal Society of Chemistry's Top of The Bench Final. One of the team members, Judy Quinn reports:

We left school very early (6am) and journeyed north to participate in the Top of the Bench Final. When we arrived we were given a t-shirt, a pair of goggles and a periodic table. The day started with a chemistry knowledge test with questions based on the theme of energy; this was quite tricky as it involved molar calculations. We had a nice lunch and then went to the labs for a two hour practical assessment.

We were given a range of equipment from glass pipettes to electrodes and voltmeters. The experiment was based on the Nernst Equation which none of us had seen before (and Mrs Hardaker later revealed was beyond the A-level Chemistry curriculum) and involved creating half-cells to find the relationship between the solution concentration and the voltage generated. We had to be resourceful to set up the equipment and carry out calculations as we had never set up a salt bridge or carried out inverse log functions calculations before. We really enjoyed the challenge as well as the opportunity to experience university topics, laboratories and equipment.

To finish the day we listened to some PhD students from Loughborough University who described their postgraduate projects. We had to vote for the student who we felt deserved funding in order to further their research. All of the projects were very interesting and had potential to benefit our lives through improvements to our environment, heritage sites and treatment of diseases.

The day was a fantastic experience and despite not winning any awards, we all felt that we had deepened our knowledge of Chemistry and had a great day out!

The Top of the Bench Finalists (L-> R).

Judy Quinn (Yr10), Lloyd Hastilow (Yr9), Angus Hutchins (Yr9), Jonathan Hutchins (Yr11)



Oaklands News

Design and Technology Showcase



On 14th of April the inaugural Design and Technology Showcase took place. All of this year's GCSE and A level practical work was displayed in the hall and students had the chance to talk to those in attendance about their work.

The main aim of this event was to celebrate the students' achievements. It is not easy to design and make a product from start to finish and, although along the way the students have had ups and downs, they all produced completed products that they should be proud of. The other reason for holding this event was to allow students to gather feedback about their products from other people which is the final part of the folder work they have to submit for assessment towards their GCSE and A Level qualifications.

As well as students and invited guests, a number of judges from a variety of backgrounds, including a chef and naval architect, viewed the students' work and spoke to them about it. 'Best in Show' awards were presented for each subject area at each level. Though many students were nervous about presenting their work to the public, the Food Technology students were put under the most pressure as they were in the food room with four of the judges being observed and graded 'Master Chef' style while re-making their final dish. Guests in the hall were also able to view this as it was streamed back to the hall.

All of the invited guests and judges were very impressed, not only with the work that was on show, but the positive, honest and reflective way that students spoke about their products. Some of the comments from the judges

Alison Evans (OPA) – 'It was really lovely to be able to see all the designs and products that the students have made and spend time talking to them. I was impressed by the standard on display!'

Simon Martin (Business Development Chef, Nature's Way) – 'The quality of the outcomes that the students produced under pressure was exceptional.'

The Best in Show Awards were awarded as follows:

GCSE Electronic Products: Brendan Walsh (Runner-up: Stephen Squire)

GCSE Textiles: Megan Moretti (Runner up: Rebecca Galbraith)

GCSE Food Technology: Niamh Joyce (Runner up: Sam Parker)

GCSE Resistant Materials: James Outen (Runner up: Emma Taylor)

GCSE Product Design: Sean Barrie (Runner up: Patrick Carden)

AS Product Design: Ryan Standen (Runner up: Harry Roxburgh)

A2 Product Design: Matthew Neilson (Runner up Max Leonard)

The Student Choice Award: Roberto Castro

Dance Showcase

On the 13th April, our Year 11 dance group took part in the GCSE Dance Showcase.

The evening was filled with many dance styles from street dance to contemporary. It was a very enjoyable evening for all ... "entertaining" and "amazing!" These were just a few of the words used to describe the showcase.

Over the two year course the whole class has worked extremely hard; it was fantastic to see all of our work finally come together. The event was great preparation for our moderation on 20th April when the examiner came in to mark our work. We loved showing everyone our work it was a real celebration for us. It was great to perform for parents, teachers and friends.

We will miss GCSE Dance now the course has finished and the moderation is over, and we want to thank Mrs Willcocks for all her support throughout the last two years.

Orla Murphy 11VP and Keira McQuillan 11VP



Parents and Daughters Evening

Theme: Are STEM careers for me?

Location: Winchester Science Centre, SO21 1HZ

Date: Tuesday 14th June 2016

Time: 4.00pm to 5.30pm

The STEM Team at Winchester Science Centre would like to invite families to attend a Parents* and Daughters Evening: Are STEM careers for me?

Throughout the session the young females will take part in a quiz to explore how their natural tendencies relate to the many STEM careers. Attendees will find out about the importance of STEM careers within the UK and the benefits of their students taking a STEM qualification post-16.

The event will culminate in a big careers speed-networking session to meet real STEM role models from Hampshire and discuss future careers.

To book your ticket please see: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parents-and-daughters-are-stem-careers-for-me-tickets-24621418325>. Tickets are allocated one per person, i.e. 2 tickets for one aunt and one niece.

*Parents, carers, guardians, aunts, uncles, grandparents and teachers are all more than welcome to attend this session.

The event has been kindly supported by Hampshire County Council.

The beginning of this term saw Oaklands hosting the first ever Havant Federation of Schools Debating Day. Year 8 and 9 students from across the Havant area gathered here for a day of debating, leadership and confidence building.

After we'd welcomed the other schools, our training partners from Unloc led the whole cohort in a lively warm up game. We were on our toes all day, mixing in groups across schools to take part in moving debates, group debates and learning how to conduct ourselves in formal meetings.

We'd chosen topics for debate at the beginning of the day by ball polling (placing a tennis ball in the tub for the topic we wanted). The topics chosen were "internet regulation" and "whether going to war can achieve peace" - our teachers were really impressed that we went with the more challenging options!

Most of us agreed that the internet should be regulated to protect vulnerable people, but the point was also raised that people using the internet should be able to moderate themselves. The war debates were more complex, with students from all schools passionately arguing their case.

We enjoyed a lunch together and mixing across schools to learn about what's going on in our different communities. We're hoping to be able to put together a Federation wide debating team to take part in national competitions and maybe even visit Parliament as part of our involvement in the project.

We'd like to say thank you to Unloc and the Federation for making the day possible.

Year 8 and 9 Debaters

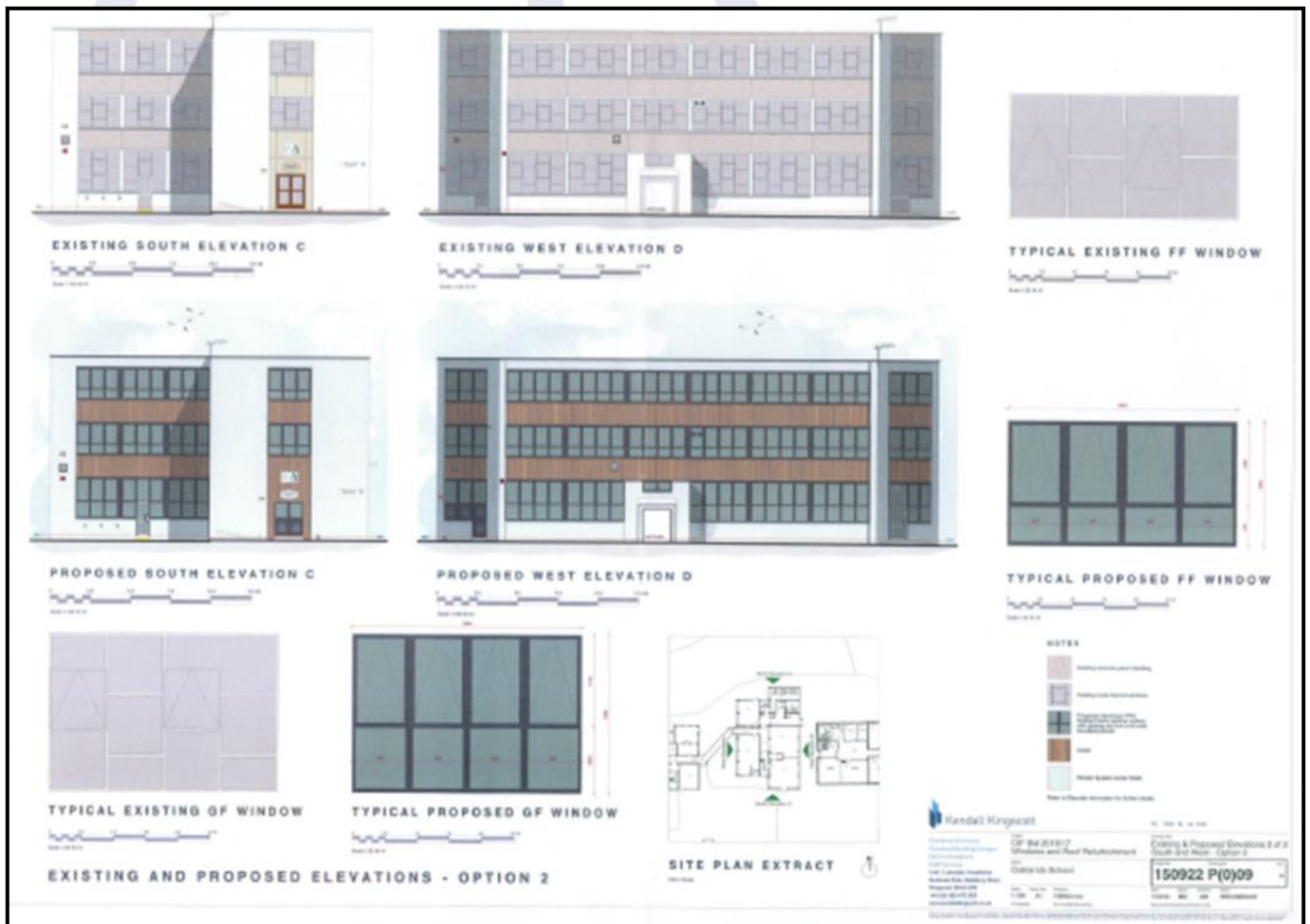




During the summer holidays, the toilets in Thomas More block will undergo a much overdue refurbishment. The total cost of this project will be £75,000. We have received £47,000 towards this amount from the Hampshire County Council Capital Fund. The balance will come from the school's budget.

The plans below show an outline of the work which is to be carried out during the summer holidays and throughout the Autumn term on the Newman Block. This involves new windows, doors, roofing and cladding. Oaklands have received a grant from the Education Funding Agency's (EFA) Condition Improvement Fund (CIF) for £682,000 which will cover the cost of this vital and much-needed work. Initial surveys are already being carried out and will continue over the half term break. Although some of the classrooms will be out of action during the autumn term, this will be conducted in phases so that there will be little disruption to lessons for students when they return.

Finally, £12,500 from the School Development Fund has been allocated to refurbish some of the classrooms in Thomas More Block. Again, it is planned to carry out this work during the summer break.





On Friday 29th April the Peru expedition team with Mr Jones and Miss Tilley took the minibus on a 7 hour journey to beautiful Snowdonia in North Wales.

We arrived at 4:30 and met Bug Wrightson, our leader, at the campsite of Platts Farm. After unloading the bus, we did some team-building games and then set up our tents. Bug asked for 3 volunteers. These volunteers had no idea they were volunteering for being team leaders. Abbie Robinson was Day 1 leader. Bug let us explore the grounds of the campsite before cooking dinner on the Trangias under the guidance of the team leader. We ate pasta with a minestrone soup-based sauce, which was a little strange but filling none-the-less. After dinner we washed up, reviewed the day's successes and we spent time planning the arrangements for the following day. Everyone brushed their teeth and settled into the tents, freezing cold.

The next day we got up at 7:00, although most of us had been awake for ages already as it was bitterly cold and the rain had been very noisy. After getting dressed in multiple layers, we boiled water to make hot chocolate with to help us warm up. For breakfast, we drank the hot chocolate and ate Soreen malt loaf and chocolate breakfast bars that had practically frozen. Bug took us through basic survival training exercises that got us thinking about the potential problems with different climates such as in Peru.

We had a very early lunch (only two hours after breakfast) because it would have been difficult to carry all the equipment needed to cook and then be able to cook on a mountain. So we had pasta (again) but this time with vegetable cuppa soup sauce. It was surprisingly tasty. Full up, we were prepared for our hike. The day's new team leader Becca briefed us on the route, and we set off with our rucksacks packed with the essentials we needed.

The walk took us out the seaside village of Llanfairfechan and up the neighbouring hillside into sheep fields. The relief was quite steep so we had to slow down as we ascended. The weather changed very quickly from quite sunny to a dreadful hailstorm as we neared the peak of Drum at 770m. The hailstones were vicious and the winds were very strong – both making for a chilly climb but the stunning glacial scenery including undulating mountains, a corrie with a tarn and hanging valleys made up for the weather. At the top there was a circular windbreak of piled stones where we sat for a few minutes before heading back along the same path we came up. In total the walk was six hours long.

Arriving back in the village, we were set the task of finding out where and how far the train station was. We were then allowed to explore the town so some of us went and bought food (including a chocolate cake) from the Co-Op. Everyone was back at camp at 5:30 to relax in the warm sun that came out. The team leader helped organise dinner, which was very posh because Mr Jones and Miss Tilley had bought onions and peppers. The meal was sweet and sour tuna with rice. Then, before bed, we again reviewed the day's progress and planned our final day.

We got up at an unreasonable time of 6:30 in order to catch our 9 o'clock train. We rushed putting our tents away and having breakfast so that we were ready to run only to find that it was only a scenario and that we didn't actually have to lug two heavy rucksacks a mile up the road. Rather, Bug went through some more survival techniques, including how to toilet in the wild and how to pass messages with non-verbal communication over an abyss.

We departed the camp at about 10:30, stopping on the way at McDonald's. Amusingly, we passed Mr Shaw on the motorway. The journey took seven and a half hours again so we were glad to return home and relax on bank holiday Monday.





Receive my warm greetings. I am Augustine Amuka, the new Headteacher of St. John's School Korogocho. I am grateful for the support you are giving us so that we can enable all children to come to school here at St John's.

I would like to let you know that we have received 204,000 Kenya Shillings which you sent us for school fees and examination fees for the second term. We shall use the money as indicated in the fees request. This term, through this programme, 80 students benefited by getting all their fees paid for them. Another 70 received partial funding, as their parents were able to raise some of the money required. Thank you for your love and generosity.

Mr Sumba has told me how the students at Oaklands do so many different things to raise money that you send us. It is good to know that you are thinking about us and going out of your way to help us.

We are now in the second term of our academic year. I will send you a report later on how the school is progressing. I might also ask a few of the sponsored children to write a letter to you about their life here at St John's.

Finally, I would like to say that I am looking forward to working with you as we continue to develop this partnership between our school communities. Without your help, many children would not be able to come to school. So I would like all of you to know that to us, you are our 'education enablers.'

Thank you and God bless you all.

EUGENE OMONDI

My name is Eugene Omondi and I am 13 years old. I am a pupil at St. John's Primary School in Class Seven.

My favorite subjects are Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. My favourite teacher is Madam Elizabeth. I like her because she has taught me how to be a responsible person, she is kind and always helpful. She makes me think about the kind of person I want to be. I want to follow her example.

If there was no Oaklands, many pupils from our school would not be going to school. Here in Korogocho, most families are poor and sometimes cannot even afford to buy food. The money you are raising and sending to us for our school fees is helping me and many other children to go to school. I am working hard. I do not want to let you down because I know that you have given something up so that you can give me a chance to go to school. Thank you very much. My aim is to get three hundred and eighty marks in KCPE, our national examinations at the end of primary school, so that I can join a good government secondary boarding school.

I am the second born child in our family. I have an elder sister who is in the second year at Ruaraka Secondary School. I was very sad when my dad passed away last year. My mother has been looking for work for a period of time but she has not been able to get a job; therefore she decided to start a small business which we depend on for all our needs as a family. I also have two younger siblings. One is in Class Three while the other is in Baby Class. The income my mum gets from her business cannot cater for all our family needs.



NAJMA ADAN

My name is Najma Adan. I am a Muslim by faith and I am 13 years old. I am from St. John's Primary School and in Class Eight, the final year in primary school here in Kenya. I am looking forward to sitting for my final examinations in November this year. I am going to work hard so that I can pass my exams.

My favourite subjects are English and Kiswahili. They are my best subjects among the others. We have teachers from different parts of the country but my best is Madam Grace, our RE teacher. She is best because she advises us in how to achieve our goals, avoid bad people and be good people.

I would like to thank you for paying my school fees. I know that you have sacrificed or given up something so that you could donate your money to help children like me. I remember seeing Mr Sumba and the students that came here in 2013. We hope that you will come and visit us again. Please believe me when I say that I will pass my final examination to prove to you that all your efforts for paying my school fees are not in vain. Thank you Oaklands.

I belong to Peace Club. We help to spread peace among pupils, teachers and the rest of our community. When I grow up, I would like to be a journalist. I would like to be a peace promoter too.



Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College - Alumni



Were you a student here ... ?Stay in touch with us and help ...

It doesn't matter when you left school, whether you're in further education or employment or where you live - Oaklands still needs your help! If you would like to see our exceptional school continue to thrive, please let us have your details by signing up to the Future First database.

Go to www.futurefirst.org.uk

Go to the 'Sign Up' tab

Click 'Former Student'

Type in **Oaklands Catholic School**



Since leaving Oaklands Sixth Form in 2012 I have been living in America, on a soccer scholarship at university! I started my first year in Oklahoma, where I played for a year. I then got offered a full scholarship to transfer to Texas; which then gave me a bigger opportunity to get a higher offer at a bigger school in Mississippi. Delta State University is where I am now, and I will graduate in December with a Bachelors Degree in Health, Physical Education and Recreation. I then plan to stay in America and coach at a university.

Daisy Simms



I left Oaklands in 2014 and began studying a BTEC in popular music at Fareham College. We have 6-8 hours a week of rehearsals and the facilities that are available to us are brilliant. We have a state of the art recording studio and four very spacious rehearsal rooms with the finest equipment. We have recently played the Wedgewood Rooms in Portsmouth and some of us also have the pleasure of performing at Fernham Hall for the College's Award Ceremonies. This course has further encouraged my passion for music and performing, it is ideal for anyone wishing for a career in performance or anything music related! I will be continuing to study after college at the Academy of Contemporary Music in Guildford and will hopefully gain a career in music.

Alyshia Ayles

I attended Oaklands in the Sixth Form between September 2008 and June 2011. My favourite memory is how teachers never gave up on pupils. I came to Oaklands with 2 GCSEs aged 16. I completed numerous resits of my GCSEs whilst in the Sixth Form; Oaklands inspired me for the first time to consider university after college, and I sat my A Levels over three years. I achieved enough UCAS points to meet my conditional offer. I attended the University of Chichester between September 2011 and May 2014 and I completed my degree in BA(Hons) Early Childhood Studies with Practitioner options, gaining a 2:1. I have subsequently gained an unconditional place at Bath Spa University this September, to start my teacher training with masters credits. Oaklands taught me to never give up on my dreams. Thanks Oaklands!

Hannah Wiles

**SACRED HEART CHURCH
PARISH CENTRE**

WATERLOOVILLE

GRAND SUMMER FAIR
356 London Road, PO7 7SR

GRAND DRAW WITH FANTASTIC STAR PRIZES

**VARIETY OF STALLS,
REFRESHMENTS, PIMMS BAR, BBQ**

**BOUNCY CASTLE, SKITTLE ALLEY, COCONUT SHY,
PLANT STALL, TRY YOUR STRENGTH, BRIC A BRAC, TOMBOLA
AND MANY MORE EVENTS AND ATTRACTIONS**

BAKE A BIRTHDAY CAKE FOR THE QUEEN COMPETITION

A fun family day out for the whole community

SEE YOU THERE

SATURDAY 11TH JUNE - 1PM TO 4PM

ADULTS 50P - KIDS GO FREE

Sponsored by Various Local Businesses
All proceeds support the work of the church within the local community

St Michael and All Angels Catholic Church
Leigh Park, Havant, Hampshire

Year of Mercy

Havant Pastoral Area Pilgrimage to St John's Cathedral and the Holy Door
5th November 2016, 11 am – 4pm

We are planning a visit to St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth for:

Times of reflection on God's Mercy

Mass

Adoration and the Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

The times of reflection will be led by speakers and facilitators who will focus on God's infinite mercy and compassion. This will enable ideal preparation for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation which will be available in the afternoon from a number of priests.

For more information, please email leighpark@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

As we cross our fingers and hope for summer, please be aware of the school regulations. Getting the basics right with uniform is a good indicator of a student's level of commitment, co-operation and a sense of pride about being the school community.

Our staff work hard to uphold the rules regarding uniform and we would be very grateful if you could reiterate those rules at home and check that they leave the house looking smart.



RULES:

- **Blazers** are compulsory and must be worn to and from school. Please ensure your son/daughter is wearing it when they leave the house (and it is not rolled up in their bag!).
- **Jumpers** are optional in the summer term due to (hopefully!) warmer weather. A recent trend in the female jumper has developed – girls have taken to tucking their jumpers into their skirts. This is not acceptable and they will be asked to untuck it. Please ensure they leave the home without their jumper tucked in.
- **Boys Trousers** should be formal tailored trousers. Parents are warned NOT to buy cotton mix chino style trousers as you will be asked to replace them.
- **Skirts** – we face an ever-present battle with our female students regarding the length of their skirts. Many girls roll up their waistbands and this results in skirt lengths which are not appropriate for a mixed learning environment. Please help us to help you – check the waistband before the girls leave home. We will insist that they roll them down. Please be aware that detentions will be issued if girls continually flout the rules.
- **Shoes** – students are required to wear black flat proper shoes; girls' heels should be no more than two inches. There has been a recent fashion of students wearing Converse type casual shoes – this is not acceptable and contravenes the uniform regulations.
- **Cosmetics** – makeup, false tan, nail varnish/Shellac/ artificial nails are all prohibited. Staff have been equipped with cleansers/removers and students will be ordered to remove these forms of cosmetics.
- **Jewellery** – students are permitted to wear a simple cross and chain, a watch and ONE pair of plain stud earrings in the LOBE. Other body piercings are not permitted and students will be ordered to remove them.

SANCTIONS:

- Students will receive a verbal warning from their Tutor or subject teacher.
- If they do not follow that warning, they will be referred to the Head of Year.
- If the persistent refusal continues, the student will be referred to SLT (Senior Leadership Team) for an After School Detention (Thursdays). This may be increased to a 2 hour Inclusions Detention if disregarded.
- **For serious contraventions, a student may be placed indefinitely in the Inclusions Room until the issue has been resolved.**

SECOND HAND UNIFORM

Please don't forget that all unwanted clean donations of uniform will be gratefully received by the Oaklands Parents' Association for resale in their Second Hand Uniform Shop – all profits go to school projects. Year 11 parents/carers – if you have any good condition items please donate them. Please leave freshly laundered items at Reception or email the team at OPA@oaklandscatholicschool.org

Attendance is the single most important factor in success at school – both academic and social. If you're not there, you can't learn! Reading someone else's notes is never the same as your own work. Our overall school attendance for Terms 1 and 2 this year is: 96.1% - which is really excellent.

All absences contribute to our overall percentage, but there are various ways you can help us:

- Illness accounts for almost 3% of all absence – it is important to only keep your son/daughter off school if they are genuinely too ill to come in.
- Holidays account for 0.02% of our absence figures (unauthorised Family Holiday accounts for 0.29%) – we strongly recommend that you do NOT take your child on a holiday during term time. The Governors' policy clearly states that holidays will not be authorised unless there are extraordinary extenuating circumstances which are outlined in the policy. It affects their learning and chances of success in later life. 17 absent sessions = one grade less at GCSE. Do you want to disadvantage their future?
- Medical appointments make up 0.27% of our absence – please try to these after school hours.
- Use email to confirm the absence: absence@oaklandscatholicschool.org
- Some parents have received letters informing them that their son/daughter is a Persistent Absentee pupil (ie: either in or close to 90%). Please attend the meetings with the Head of Year and Senior Leader to agree a Personal Attendance Plan.
- Don't be too quick to agree to your child having a day off – are they really that ill?

Please see below our figures for the first two terms of this academic year 2015 - 16:

Year Group	Authorised Absence	Unauthorised Absence	Total %
Yr7	2.6%	0.3%	97.1%
Yr8	3.5%	0.4%	96.1%
Yr9	3.6%	0.1%	96.3%
Yr10	4.6%	0.1%	95.3%
Yr11	3.6%	0.5%	95.9%

Remember – Each and Every Day Matters!

Farewells

With the end of the school year approaching, there are a number of people who are moving on to pastures new. Here are some of the staff who are leaving; we thank them for all they have done for the Oaklands Community and wish them well in the future. More 'farewells' will feature in the July News.

Mrs Katie Speller, previously a student at Oaklands, joined our Geography Department in September 2013. Katie will leave at the end of this half term to become Head of Department at the Hayling College.

Miss Anneke by de Ley was a Psychology Teacher at Oaklands from September 2013 to August 2014 and then came back again in September 2015. She is off to pursue new ventures in New Zealand, but who knows if she'll return again in the future?

Mr Matthew Smith has been a Teacher in our English Department since September 2014. He leaves us to take up an appointment at Mayville High School in Southsea.

Mrs Sandra Baldwin is a teacher in our Languages Department and is taking a year's sabbatical to care for her family. We look forward to her return in September 2017.

Miss Chris Gray has been our peripatetic classical guitar teacher since September 2002 and is taking retirement at the end of this academic year.

Mrs Rebecca Smith and Dr Martin Smith (who left two years' ago) celebrated the birth of their son earlier this year. Rebecca has chosen to become a full-time mum and will enjoy spending her time looking after Leo.

Miss Natalie Kettle joined Oaklands as an LSA in September 2013. Natalie is going to university in September to study Primary Education.

Dates for the Summer Term

Thurs	26/05/2016	Year 13 Leavers' Mass and Meal
Fri	27/05/2016	Final Day Year 13
Mon –Fri	30/05/2016-03/06/2016	Half Term Week
Mon	06/06/2016	OPA Committee Meeting and AGM
Mon	13/06/2016	Year 12 Return for Lessons Governors Business & Collaboration Cttee Mtg
Tues	14/06/2016	Open Morning
Wed	15/06/2016	SEN Parents' Evening
Thurs	16/06/2016	Art Exhibition (5.00pm) Peripatetic Music Concert (7.00pm)
Mon	20/06/2016	Year 10 Professional Day
Tues	21/06/2016	Year 10 Professional Day
Wed	22/06/2016	Year 10 Exams Open Morning
Thurs	23/06/2016	Year 8 Reports Home Year 11 Prom
Mon	27/06/2016	Challenge Week Governors Ethos Cttee Mtg
Fri	01/07/2016	INSET DAY - School closed
Mon	04/07/2016	OPA Committee Meeting
Tues	05/07/2016	Year 10 Post 16 Information Evening
Wed	06/07/2016	Sixth Form Taster Day
Thurs	07/07/2016	Sixth Form Taster Day Year 7 Reports Home New Year 7 Induction Day
Fri	08/07/2016	Year 9 Reports Home
Mon	11/07/2016	Penny Fayre New Year 7 Parents' Induction Evening
Tues	12/07/2016	Sports Day Year 10 Exam Grades Home
Wed	13/07/2016	A Level Transition Grades Home Full Governors Meeting
Fri	15/07/2016	Last Day of Term
Mon	18/07/2016	INSET DAY - School Closed

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

Notice Board

Bus Pass Applications for the Academic Year 206/2017

Parents/Carers of students who currently receive or may be entitled to a bus pass funded by Portsmouth City Council, postcode areas PO1 to PO6, will need to make a new application before 30th June 2016. A copy of the Home to School Transport Policy – April 2016 and the application form can be found at the following link <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/learning-and-schools/schools/transport-to-schools-and-colleges.aspx> . Alternatively you can call the Civic Offices on 023 9283 4962.

Parents/Carers of students who currently receive or may be entitled to a bus pass funded by Hampshire County Council can find details at the following link <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/traveltoschool/school-transport.htm> . Alternatively you can call the Passenger Transport Group on 01962 846924 or 01962 845332

For details of the School Contracted 653 Bus serving the Fareham/Porchester postcodes PO12 to PO17 please use the following link <http://www.oaklands.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Parents&pid=8> . Alternatively you can contact the school direct on 023 9225 9214.

For details regarding assistance with travel for Post 16 Students please use the following link <http://www.oaklands.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Sixth+Form&pid=18> . Alternatively you can contact the Sixth Form Administration Office on 023 9225 9214 option 2.

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.

Start of Term Arrangements for September 2016

Friday 2nd September	Staff Inset Day
Monday 5th September	New Year 7 and Sixth Form students to attend
Tuesday 6th September	All students to attend

**ARE YOU LOOKING TO HIRE
A GREAT VENUE**

Oaklands has a number of facilities available to hire.

Theatre Style Hall Sports Hall & Gym ICT Suites
Classrooms Kitchen & Catering Facilities

We can also facilitate

Meetings Conferences Training Days

Our extensive grounds and sunken lawn provide the perfect setting for Social Gatherings & Weddings



If you are interested in hiring any of our facilities or would like more information please contact Claire Pasterfield

Telephone 02392 259214 EXT 294

Email

lettings@oaklandscatholicschool.org

Scan our lettings QR Code

★★ **OAKLANDS** ★★
PARENTS ASSOCIATION

A G M

Monday 6 June 2016

7.30pm

Sixth Form Block



All Welcome!



**OAKLANDS YOUNG CARERS ...
CAN YOU HELP?**

This summer Richard Jones, our Inclusions Manager, is taking part in the South Coast Challenge to raise money for the Oaklands Young Carers Group.

The event is 102km (64 miles) long and takes place from Eastbourne to Arundel, across the South Downs Way – through any weather and through the night! More information on this ultra-challenge can be found at

<http://www.southcoastchallenge.com/>

We have around 60 young carers here at Oaklands and the support we offer makes a big difference to them all. The extraordinary care the youngsters offer within their families is so important, so if you can support Mr Jones by sponsoring him, please visit:

www.virginmoneygiving.com/RichJones.

Thank you.



You are invited to the Oaklands Catholic School
GCSE and **A-Level** Art and Photography Show
16/06/16 - 5-7pm - In the Gym



Stakes Hill Road, Waterlooville, Hants, PO7 7BW



(023) 92 259214



oaklands@oaklandscatholicschool.org



www.oaklandscatholicschool.org



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OF SCHOOLS