

# Oaklands News

Challenge Week  
Year 11 Prom  
Young Carers



A publication for  
Oaklands Catholic School  
and Sixth Form College

# Lead Stories



# Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Every now and again we get a day full of sport; Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July was one such day with the tennis at Wimbledon, the Euro cup final in Paris and the Grand Prix at Silverstone. The media give days like this the title 'super Sunday' and close to ¼ million fans will watch these events live at the venues. Sport is one of the largest pastimes in the world; international events attract many billions on television and on-line, many of who, for the moment, become a fan of one side or the other. The appetite and enthusiasm that some sports fans show for their team or sport is by definition fanatical. These are the true followers. Typically, they have, shirts, socks, or even underwear with the logos of their favorite teams on them; they drink out of the team mug; they follow through thick and thin; holidays are booked around team fixtures; they are evangelical about their team. They don't mind being different. They enjoy being the only one in a crowd with the logo of their team on it!

The concept of fan or follower can be applied to our faith

- A fan is enthusiastic, jumping on the bandwagon and cheering when things are great. A follower doesn't waver. They stick close, even when the outcome doesn't look favourable.
- A fan knows about someone. A follower knows someone.
- A fan loves the fun, but a follower is willing to work.

It's easy to jump on the "Jesus bandwagon" to go to church and participate in events, to say the right things around the right people and act the part when others are looking, but when the rubber meets the road and life gets hard or popular opinion turns against us are we a fan or a follower?

Over two thousand years ago, Jesus walked up to twelve men individually and said, "Follow Me." These were ordinary working folk. But when Jesus approached them and called them to follow him and be his disciples, they dropped everything, their lives were transformed.

We are called to be transformed by Jesus Christ and be followers not fans.

This has been an exceptionally busy term. Efforts have focussed on examination classes and I would like to acknowledge the hard work of all staff who have run holiday, weekend, lunch time, after school and breakfast sessions.

## Staff entertaining students at the carnival see Page 21



Many colleagues have gone over and beyond in preparing students for the examinations in Years 11,12 and 13.

Year 11 started their study leave just before half term, but not before they celebrated their final Mass together as a year group and had the traditional signing of 'T' shirts on the sunken lawn. My thanks to Mr Whelan and the Year 11 tutor team for all their hard work over the years. Year 13 also said their goodbyes with Mass followed by a celebration at the Brookfield Hotel. My thanks to Mrs Belinda Ludlam and the Sixth Form tutor team. A big thank you to Father Gerard and Father Kevin who led the celebrations.

We have all recently enjoyed Challenge Week and numerous other extra curricular activities throughout the term.

It is often the experience that we provide youngsters with outside the classroom that educates the whole child. These experiences help develop social and emotional skills in a way that solving quadratic equations never could, important though elementary algebra is.

Last week I caught up with a piece of research conducted by University College London. The research found out that adults who developed emotional skills, self-control and self-regulation in childhood have a better chance of being happy and healthy adults than those who are just intelligent. The study shows that developing social and emotional, as well as cognitive skills, is vital in helping children break inter-generational cycles of disadvantage, improving social mobility and life chances and unlocking access to high-status and well-paid jobs. So our extra curricular programme develops more than the educational gains that might appear to be the first objective.

There are been many positives this year where we compare favourably with the best schools nationally; our behaviour statistics indicate that we are considerably better than national averages as do our NEET figures, the predictions for outcome at GCSE and A level also look particularly promising. All of this reflects the hard work and commitment of all staff.

As the term comes to an end we will all keep the colleagues and students who are travelling to Iceland and Peru in our prayers over the coming weeks.

Our charitable work continues at a pace. Our Romero Award will become a national standard over the next year and I am very grateful to all the staff who have supported these endeavours.

At the end of this term we say goodbye to more staff than we have in previous years. We have a few more retirements, staff ending one year contracts, promotions and babies than usual. We wish all colleagues moving on the best of luck for the future.

Finally, a number of staff are experiencing personal difficulties at the moment, Your prayerful support is very much appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you again in September and hope you have a restful and peaceful summer.

*Mr Matthew Quinn*  
Headteacher

## Year 7 Pilgrimage



A couple of weeks ago, the whole of Year 7 and some staff went on a Pilgrimage to St John's Cathedral in Portsmouth. In my opinion, it was amazing. As it was the mother church, there were many things to see there. For example, the very large and impressively detailed crucifix. Just as I looked at it, so many emotions ran through me. The altar was also impressive. It was bright, colourful and filled with so many special things.

We also saw some statues, which were twice the size of me! They were also very precise and I loved them. I was so excited, because I had to know the stories behind them. We got to see some very important monuments of the church, like the font. It is one of the most important things in the church and we were lucky enough to see it and learn about it.

After everything, we had a wonderful Mass with a meaningful Homily which focussed on the Holy Year of Mercy. It was a very nice and touching service.

Overall, in my opinion, the Pilgrimage was a wonderful idea and a successful trip. This has really helped me encourage my faith to grow.

**Angel Raju, 7CA**



It has been another successful year for the Oaklands St John's partnership. We have continued to support St John's by sending them school fees as well as money to help children buy uniform, books and sanitary towels. This year, we have at one point or another helped over 300 children to go to school because we provided these things. This is wonderful!

All this would not have been possible without the generous support of the students, staff, parents and friends of Oaklands. We raised money by selling Christmas cards, 2016 Calendars, fundraising and individual donations.

As we come to the end of the academic year, we are already starting to think about how we are going to continue to grow in this partnership. We definitely want to focus on interaction between our two communities through linking classrooms.

I am very grateful to the whole of Oaklands community for whole heartedly supporting this initiative. On behalf of St John's teachers and children, ASANTENI SANA NA MUNGU AWABARIKI! (In Swahili – Thank you very much and may God bless you.)

**Mr Sumba**

## **REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF TABLETS ON ST JOHN'S SCHOOL TEACHING AND LEARNING**

My name is John Odhiambo, a teacher at St. John's School. I am the class teacher of Year 6 but also teach other classes within the school. (Remember here in Kenya in primary school we have Year 1 to Year 8)

### **USE OF TABLETS**

We have had the tablets for over a year now and I thought I would tell you how we are using them. The teachers embarked on designing ways of using the tablets to deliver the syllabus. The following content was downloaded from the app store:

Bible	Dictionary	Talking Alphabets
Talking numbers	Phrasal verbs	Composition from Bangladesh
Idioms	Sounds and pictures.	Short stories
Bible stories in pictures	Animal representation of alphabets	

These are all accessible and can be used just as long as the gadgets are charged. The tablets have been adequately used to complement the delivery of the syllabus.

### **IMPACT**

The continuous use of the tablets has made a tremendous improvement on learning outcomes since there is diversity in teaching methods being employed. They have also had an impact on the students as the average of their attainment of their targets has gone up.

### **CHALLENGES**

The gadgets have not been given to learners due to security reasons. Also due to the fact that the learners come from poor backgrounds and therefore lack power in their homes.

The fact that the gadgets are highly dependent on the availability of adequate internet connectivity (Wi-Fi) limits their use, since the internet we have cannot sustain the connectivity. However, as teachers we have made sure that we use them for the benefit of the pupils.

We also thought we could use them to teach the children how to type, edit, format and save but we realized that they cannot display text data unless downloaded.

### **CONCLUSION**

Despite all the challenges, the tablets have been both a blessing and beneficial to the pupils and teachers here. We are very grateful for the tablets.

## Year 7's Challenge Week was based on Africa.

We started off with a trip to Marwell Zoo, which was very memorable because we saw lots of interesting animals and had fun. Some of the animals we saw were penguins, gazelles, rhinos, warthogs, giraffes, zebras and many more African creatures. We also learnt a lot of things, especially when we spoke to one of the keepers. The lady showed us a cockroach and a snake, which we thought were scary but realised that they also helped the environment and helped us live.

Throughout the rest of the week, we did various different activities, some including visitors from Africa that helped us understand their joyful culture. During the week, we did some calligraphy of African tribe proverbs and although sometimes it was difficult, it was fun to experience the different types of writing.

A few tutor groups got to do some African dancing. We had an African man from Ghana visit and even though we were not familiar and felt uncomfortable doing a different type of dance style, it was really weird. But when we started to get the hang of it, we had a wonderful time!

Another thing we made were African masks, where we were allowed to be creative. We also did a bit of learning and found out that some masks can weigh a lot. So when they use these, a person has to climb under as it can also be very long!

We did a lot more fun things during the week and we'd like to thank all the teachers for giving us the opportunity to have an amazing week.

***Suzanna Cruz Alonso, Jasmine Flores and Nicole Blanford, 7Ca***



This was my first Challenge Week and I can say I thoroughly enjoyed it. Challenge week was a great opportunity to work with different teachers and people that I wouldn't normally be able to work with.

My favourite part of the week was our trip to Marwell Zoo on Monday which I didn't think I would enjoy as much as I did – we even saw the Red Panda!



I really enjoyed the calligraphy lesson and came out with what I thought was a nice piece of work. By the end of the week I had learnt lots about the culture and people of Africa. I'm really looking forward to Challenge Week in Year 8.

*Rhys Colley, 7CI*

Challenge Week was great. The theme was Africa, so all our activities were African based.

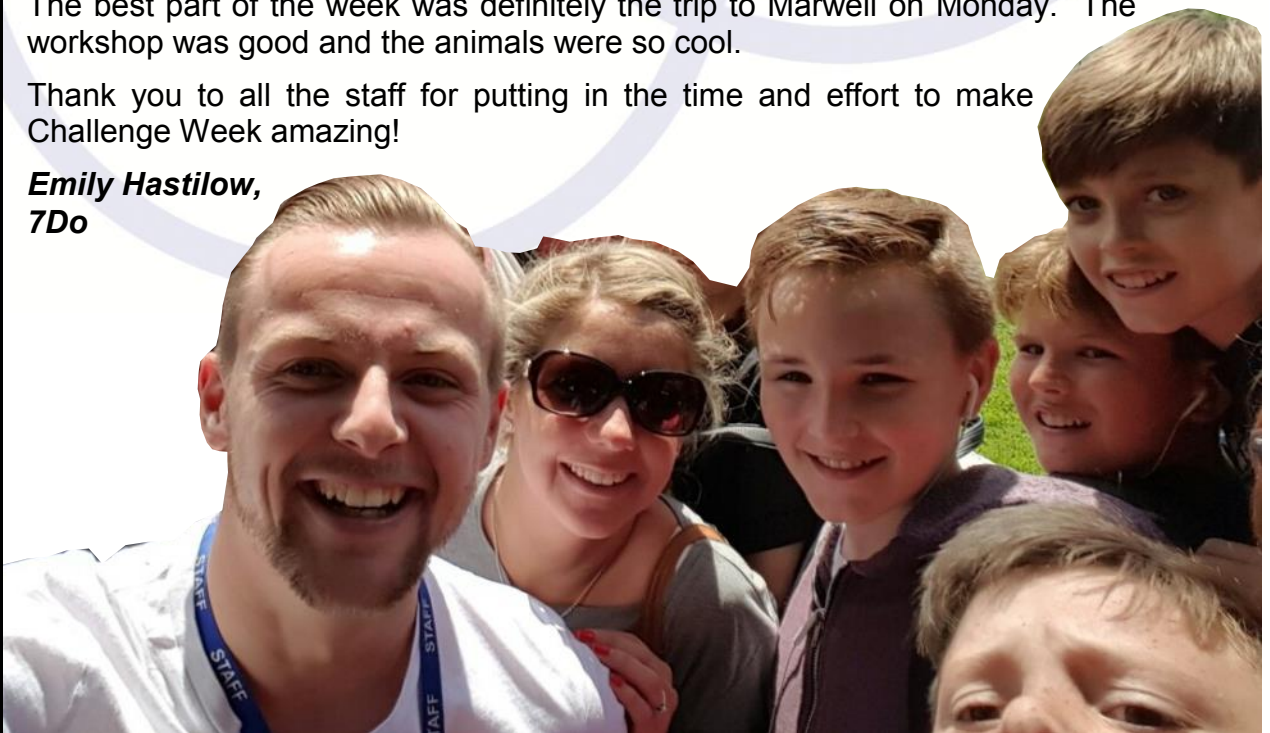
A professional African drummer came in especially to teach us how to play the Jembae. We learned how to play a variety of different rhythms, it was really fun and enjoyable.

We also made traditional African masks after learning all about them through a video. We created our masks with card, feathers, glitter and more and the outcome was loads of really creative African style masks.

The best part of the week was definitely the trip to Marwell on Monday. The workshop was good and the animals were so cool.

Thank you to all the staff for putting in the time and effort to make Challenge Week amazing!

*Emily Hastilow,  
7Do*



After a long day on the ferry and on the coach, we finally arrived at the Centre de Sejour in St Aignan, a small but beautiful town that sits on the edge of the River Cher in the Loire Valley. After everyone had unpacked we were introduced to the lovely staff and went to bed after a long day travelling!

The next day was brilliant as it was extremely warm and we walked to the market in St Aignan to practise our French in real life situations, asking patient locals lots of questions. French markets are amazing, especially the bread and strawberries! In the afternoon we visited the stunning Chateau Valencay and learnt about King Louis. It was huge and full of endless rooms and glorious gardens with Napoleon's Great Labyrinth which most of us completed.

Throughout the week we visited a Sweet Factory, a Vineyard, and a Biscuit Factory, but these were far more interesting than English factories because they all made delicious products that were special to France. We all brought back a treat for our parents to say thank you for giving us the opportunity.

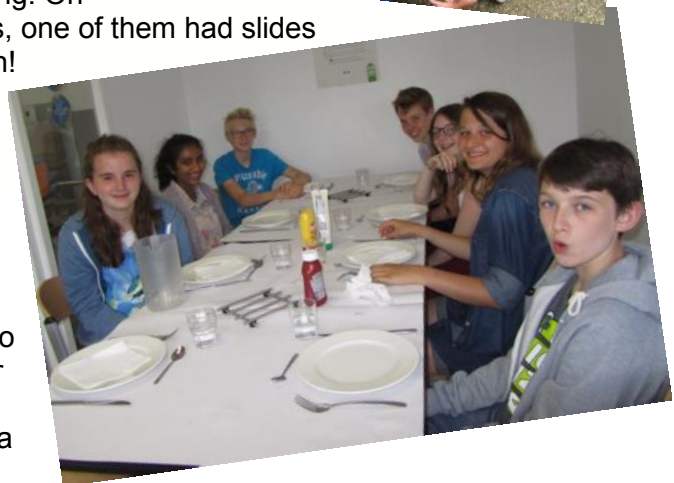
One of our favourite activities was the visit to ZooParc de Beauval which is one of the best zoos in Europe. We were allowed to go round the zoo in small groups with our friends but were recommended to see two things - the sea lion show in the morning and the bird of prey show in the afternoon. Both of these shows were amazing; a parrot even landed on Ella's head. In Maison de la Magie we experienced some fantastic magic tricks, learned about Robert Houdini and walked through a hallucinoscope room which was unreal! On the final day, we visited Troglodyte houses which are houses made in caves! The most interesting part was when we saw how they used caterpillars (silk worms) to make their own silk in La Magnanerie.

Of course, a holiday isn't a holiday without swimming! On three evenings we visited the local swimming pools, one of them had slides and an outdoor area; we even saw Mr Shaw dive in!

Overall we think that the French trip is one you shouldn't miss as it's full of educational but fun opportunities and experiences. A final thank you needs to be said to all the staff at the Centre de Sejour for hosting us for the week! The food was mainly traditional French cuisine and it was delicious, so thanks to Damien and the team for keeping us from going hungry! Another thank you to Rob, our amazing coach driver who put up with our awful singing on the coach every day and drove us safely all the way from home to West France! And a final thank you to all the teachers: Mr Shaw, Mrs Hardaker, Mr Keer, and Miss Bastian!

Thank you for putting up with us for a whole week and thank you for a memorable experience! It was unforgettable! Merci Beaucoup!

*Daisy Hazel and Ella Mulcahy*



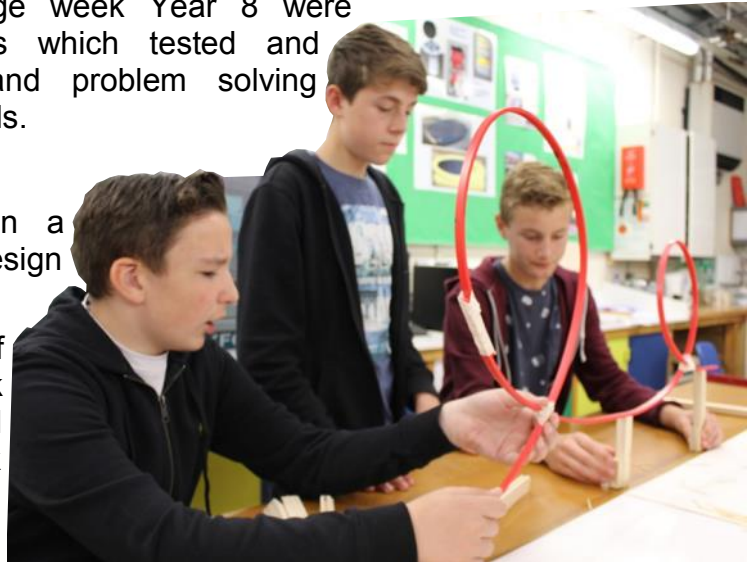


Over the course of Challenge week Year 8 were involved in two challenges which tested and developed their creative and problem solving abilities and their team working skills.

### The Innovation Challenge

Students were asked to design a themed area for an Art and Design based theme park.

They spent the Monday of Challenge week at Thorpe Park researching the layout and attractions at a typical theme park and one other day during the week designing and modelling their own themed area for an allocated artist, designer or design movement. The themes included Steampunk, Art Deco, Banksy, Dyson, Surrealism, Pop Art and DaVinci.



Each day the work produced by the groups was outstanding. They covered all aspects of theme park design, from rides to souvenirs and advertising to catering. Working in teams with only four hours to produce the models and materials needed to present their ideas was a tough challenge and they all did incredibly well.

### The Enquiry Challenge

CSI Oaklands style - Year 8 spent a day in science solving the murder of Mr Burnlee. Students completed a full day of forensic testing to determine the likely murderer and experienced the role of a pathologist with a heart dissection.

They had to pull all the evidence together and write a forensic report on who is the most likely candidate.



The students got a chance to use their practical and problem solving skills.



During Year 9 Challenge Week, we visited a Gurdwara and the Hindu Temple in Southampton. We watched them perform some of their cultural traditions, like ceremonies; we found these ways of praising their God very interesting.

At the Gurdwara, the Sikh place of worship, we had to take off our shoes and wash our hands, and the boys and girls were split up. On one side sat the girls and on the other, the boys. At no point could our backs be facing the front as it is disrespectful. Also our feet should not be pointing or facing the front as it is also seen as a sign of disrespect. Everyone was welcome, rich and poor, just as long as they covered their heads. They give everyone who visits free meals, which were delicious.

**Kirstie Austin, 9CA**

During Year 9 Challenge week, we visited two types of religious places of worship: a Gurdwara and a Hindu temple. At the temple, we had to take our shoes off as a sign of respect. When you walk into the temple, the first thing that caught my eye was all the colourful and amazing pictures that are hung up, covering the tops of every wall. However, the most beautiful altar and statues I have ever seen were right at the front of the temple. It was a magnificent and amazing sight—there were so many colours: gold, pink, purple, blue, white, yellow and green. It was so colourful. We witnessed a ceremony which they have every day. It was very interesting and I now understand the religion a lot better.

Overall I think it was a brilliant experience and I would love to visit again.



**Y**ear Nine is the last year to have a challenge week and what better way to finish is by having a Year Nine Camp!

The whole week was definitely a challenge because as soon as we arrived we took part in some of the site's activities. These included Mountain Biking, Climbing, Archery and Low Ropes. These challenged us a team and as individuals. Some groups had to do the short hike as soon as they got here which surprised us all as by 'short' hike they meant 10km.

The long hike on the last day definitely lived up to its name as we hiked through lots of fields, navigating it ourselves with compasses and maps. Although we had prepared our route some groups still managed to get lost and found it harder to get back. Despite this and the rain we all enjoyed the week especially the BBQ waiting for us back at camp for when we finished the hike. We were all definitely challenged during the week and made lots of fun memories. We would like to say thank you to all of the staff that gave up their time to make it possible; these were Mr Tindal, Mr Wade, Mr Jones, Mr Whelan, Mr Smith, Mr Turner, Miss Tilley, Mrs Bradley, Mrs Watson and Mrs Baxter.

*Gabriella Mula Yr9*



I really enjoyed Challenge Week this year at Oaklands. I didn't go on camp this year because my friends decided to stay at school as the activities looked very good.

On the first day we had to imagine we had been stranded on a desert island with nothing and we needed to build a community for us to live in and make rules for the island. Our island was called Britain Jr, and we designed a flag for it.

On the second day, we visited a Hindu temple to research and see real life communities other than our own in action. We also visited a Sikh Gurdwara.

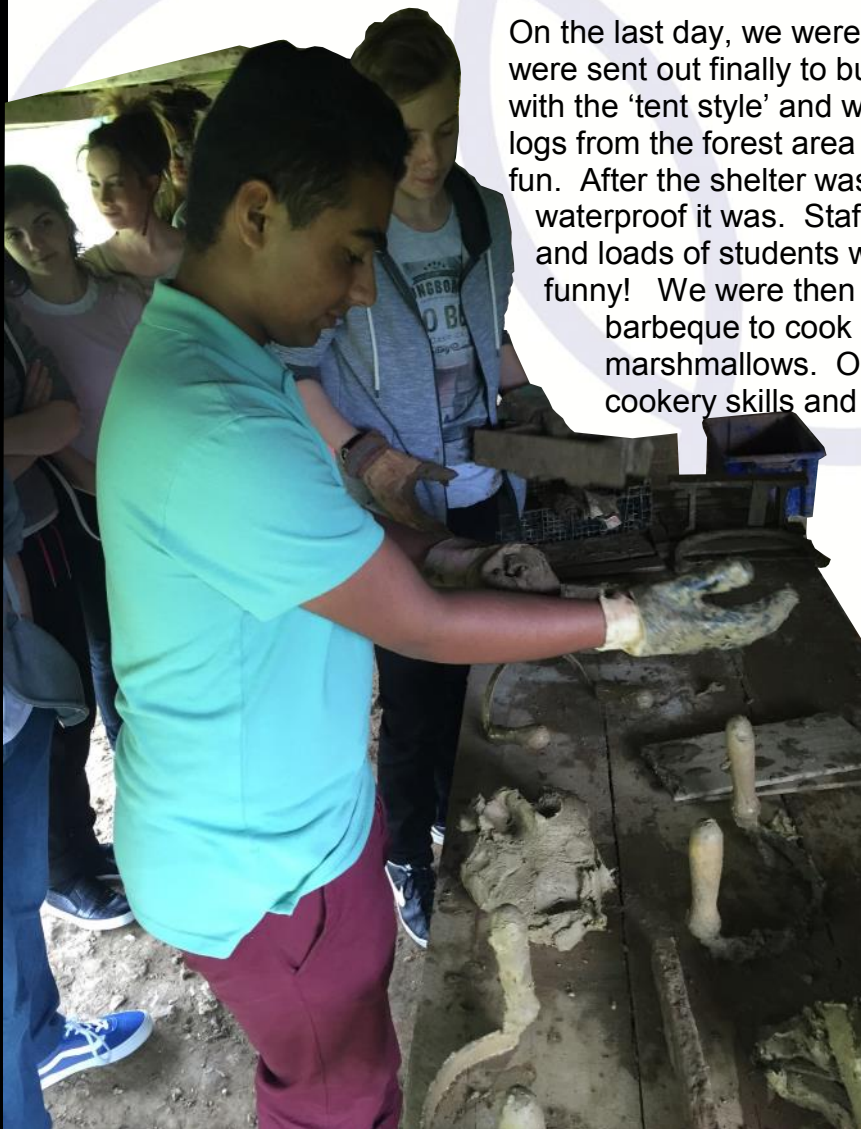
On the third, we went to the Weald and Downland Museum to see how people built their homes and buildings in the olden days before they were built like they are today. This really helped us when we came to build our shelters because we could build them with good techniques that held up very well. We also got the chance to build our own brick wall and even make a brick from scratch.

On the last day, we were given our equipment and were sent out finally to build our shelters. We went with the 'tent style' and were sent to fetch sticks and logs from the forest area behind Oaklands—this was fun. After the shelter was built, it was tested for how waterproof it was. Staff poured water all over us and loads of students were soaking wet—it was so funny! We were then given a disposable barbeque to cook hot dogs on followed by marshmallows. Our group won the best cookery skills and we were all given Haribos.

Challenge Week was really fun and thanks to all the teachers and staff who helped make it really good.

It was a great Challenge Week to end on and I will always remember the fun I had with my friends.

**Lloyd Hastilow, 9Te**



The Learning Resource Centre has enjoyed several events this term:

**Year 7** students were involved in the Going for Gold reading incentive, this required the students to read different books to their normal choice and genres, certificates were presented for the Pentathlon (5 completed challenges) and Decathlon (10 completed challenges)

**Year 8** students took part in the Hampshire Book Award, twelve students were chosen to read six books that had been shortlisted for the award. They were asked to score each book on enjoyment, enrichment and engagement. We met several lunchtimes to discuss the books as we were reading them. Some were not as enjoyable as others and some were completely different genres to what they would normally read. All students completed the books and we had some great discussions over lunch.



During challenge week, only seven students were available to attend the voting day at Crookhorn School of Technology. We enjoyed a fun morning meeting other students from other local schools and again discussed the books before

deciding on the overall candidate we wanted to put forward to the vote. Looking at the Stars by Jo Cotterill was the winner. A recommended read for the summer holidays.



**Year 9** students participated in the Carnegie Book Award. Again students were chosen to read eight books that had been shortlisted, a little more challenging this time, but eight students completed them all. The winner was announced in June, One by Sarah Crossan; the majority of our students strongly agreed with this choice so again another recommended read for the summer. We've



enjoyed a busy year in the library with the Literature quiz, World Book Day, National Literacy Day and the above awards, I would like to say a special thank

you to my loyal hard working Student Librarians, Nina Hallum 8DO, Andrew Palmer 8CL and Joe Harper 7VP; they have helped me out enormously in my first year and I am grateful for the extra pair of hands every day.

Enjoy a great summer!

**Mrs Berogna**

*The more that you read,  
The more things you will know,  
The more that you learn,  
the more places you will go.  
---Dr Seuss*





**H**aving steered their way through five years at Oaklands and with GCSE examinations fading into the distance, it was high time to complete the year with the Year 11 Leavers' Mass before the end of half term then the Prom once the examinations had finished.

### **An emotionally charged day**

Just before half term an emotionally charged day started with the final Mass. Father Gerard Flynn led the celebration and the students took the lead in the readings. Students then moved on to the sunken lawn for the traditional 'T' shirt signing.

### **Students arrived in a host of incredible chariots**

A dedicated team, had been working hard all year, under the supervision of Mr Whelan and Mrs Baxter, to arrange the Prom at the Marriott Hotel in Portsmouth. The evening started at 6:30pm when the students made some show-stopping entrances to a gasping crowd of well-wishers, family and friends. Students arrived in a host of incredible chariots: limousines both contemporary and vintage, even a fire engine. Despite the damp weather spirits were high.

### **Celebrity style photo shoot**

Upon arrival the students entered the hotel via the red carpet only to be greeted by a celebrity style photo shoot. Many of the students looked resplendent and at times unrecognisable. As a year group they truly were a sight to behold and I for one felt very proud to see the smart, intelligent, well rounded adults they have clearly become.

The Marriott Hotel had been transformed into an outstanding venue. Once inside the tables were decorated to a beautiful standard emphasising the importance of the evening, the spread of food was incredible and the guests were entertained by a magician during dinner.

### **Fitting tribute**

It was a fitting tribute to the Class of 2016. Most importantly, however, well done to all the students for giving the evening such a special atmosphere. You deserved nothing less and I hope you can find space in your Year Book for some of the photographs.

There is something quite different about leaving school at the end of Year 13 compared with Year 11. For most Year 11 students they will come back to Oaklands and enter the Sixth Form, which brings the security that comes from familiar faces and surroundings. For Year 13, there is a sense that they will not pass this way again. Thirteen years of school and college-based education is a significant part of their lives, with half of that time being spent at Oaklands.

## Fantastic celebration

The year group honoured the tradition of completing the year with Mass in the chapel, celebrated with Father Kevin. This brought together the year group in an emotional celebration. During Mass the readings and reflections allowed students to consider their time at school and friends past and present. Students also contributed to the music. A large number of staff joined the students in the celebration.

## Dinner at the Brookfield

A convoy of Sixth Formers and staff then made their way to the Brookfield Hotel in Emsworth for the end of year dinner. The setting was perfect and the food served during the evening was suitably impressive, meeting the high standard the school has come to expect from the Brookfield. The dinner concluded with presentations by Sixth Formers to a number of staff.



## Maths Challenge



We had further success in the Junior maths challenge with a number of Year 7 students receiving awards.

A big well done to Chris Rose and Ania Savage who both received Gold awards.

Further congratulations to Ania who managed to get into the follow on round, putting her in the top 5% of entrants in the country.

## Year 10 Geography Field Trip

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

140 students took part in this valuable experience. At GCSE, students have to collect primary data to enable them to complete their controlled assessment. This is an important piece of work as it is worth 25% of their total grade. We base our controlled assessment on the Coasts topic and the coast at West Wittering is ideal to study coastal processes and the impact that management has on the area.

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

The Geography department provide a number of opportunities to experience fieldwork. In fact, 36 students from Year 10 will be visiting Iceland during the summer holidays; a full report will appear in the next newsletter.



## Playground Rivers

The Geography department at the school delivered 'Playground Rivers' sessions to some Year 7 and 8 pupils in June.

These students have been studying rivers this term and enjoyed the learning activity outside of the classroom. All that is required for this activity is a slope, a hose, three different types of sediment, some string and some key words cards.

During the session, the students were required to do the following:

- Predict the path of the river
- Determine how rivers transport sediment
- Have an appreciation of landforms created by rivers
- To develop team work



The students engaged really well and were able to employ advanced terminology by the end of the sessions. Fieldwork is becoming increasingly important, as the requirements for GCSE and A level starting in September is that students needs to go out for at least two full days (GCSE) and four days (A level). Utilising the school grounds in years 7-9 is essential for preparing students to complete the more detailed work that is to follow, should they opt for the subject as they get older.

*Mr Bamford*



## Year 9 Geography Fieldwork

Twelve Year 9 Gifted and Talented Geography students attended a rising sea level workshop at the University of Portsmouth on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June. The students conducted fieldwork at three locations: Gunwharf, Old Portsmouth and Southsea esplanade to assess the current state of the coastal defences and which areas were particularly prone to further increases in sea level.

During the day, the students gained an understanding that sea levels can fluctuate naturally, but that increases recently have been due to anthropogenic factors. Moreover, the students used high-tech data collection techniques using an elevation app on phones to ascertain the height above sea level for the various locations. Internet sites with models for the impact of projected sea level rise were also used and it became apparent just how precarious a position Portsmouth would find itself in if there was just a rise of two metres.

A key part of the day was to produce an academic poster and an associated presentation to outline the findings from the fieldwork. Crucially, students had to identify which areas were most in need of protection. Gabi Mula and her group (Finlay Harrison and Abi Sumpter) was praised by the university lecturer for her view that although Gunwharf was the most valuable, it wasn't the most vulnerable. Her assertion was that it was Old Portsmouth that was in most need of protection and that Southsea esplanade perhaps didn't warrant further protection given current financial constraints, due to the open space directly behind it; she couldn't justify the expense of coastal protection as a result.

Three other schools were also present – Gabi, Finlay and Abi won the award with their presentation with Jonathan Dopson's group a close second.

## Year 9 'Chemistry at Work'



Ten Year 9 students travelled to Winchester Science Centre to attend the 'Chemistry at Work' trip in May this year.

Bille-Mae White and Eleanor Andrews give an account of the trip:

"There was recently a Chemistry trip to the Planetarium in Winchester. It went really well, starting off the day with a quick demonstration. This was of the Whoosh Bottle where they lit some fuel and we discussed what was happening in the experiment. We then went around in small groups and saw demonstrations of liquid nitrogen and how to breathe in a submarine. We also got to explore the hands-on exhibitions which were really fun. We then had a chance to talk with ambassadors from various Chemical companies and discuss our future careers. It was really useful to speak to people who work in this field and to give us an insight into working in the scientific world. We later finished with a Planetarium show which was the highlight of the day. We all enjoyed taking part. Thank you Science Department for this opportunity."



### Year 5 Visits to the Science Department

This year both Year 5 classes from St Peters school had the opportunity to spend an afternoon in the science department.

The students enjoyed a whole afternoon of practical work, using many pieces of equipment, including Bunsen Burners and microscopes.

Both classes showed their appreciation and were a pleasure to have for the afternoon.

Thank you Year 5

## Stem Roadshow

On 16th June 2016 the STEM Roadshow visited Oaklands. It focused on the science of waves - highlighting three key forms - sound, light and water.

Run as a partnership between BAE Systems, the RAF and the Royal Navy, the roadshow showed us about the need for scientists and engineers in the future. Students from Years 7 and 8 had a lot of fun watching and taking part in the demonstrations. Here are some of the things they said.



- ◆ I learned lots about light and sound and it was really fun.
- ◆ I really enjoyed it, especially the voice beat box when we made noises that were repeated over and over.
- ◆ It was exciting to see the lights and how the laser beam bounced off things.
- ◆ I liked the sound waves in the long tubes when we made different sounds by swirling it faster.
- ◆ I didn't know that there were so many jobs you could do with Science.
- ◆ I think I might want to be an Engineer.
- ◆ I can't wait for them to come back next year!

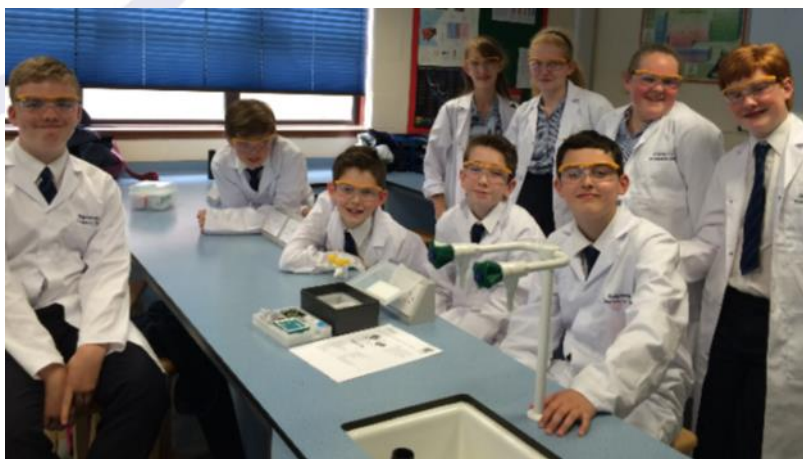
## New Equipment for Chemistry Club

Oaklands Chemistry Club have been very fortunate in receiving an Education Award from the Biological & Medicinal Chemistry Sector of the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC). Some of the current members can be seen in the photograph wearing embroidered lab coats and goggles which have been purchased with some of the funding along with a hydrogen developer kit which arrived in the post and will be used to make a hydrogen fuel cell that will power a model which they hope to build in September. The rest of the grant will be used for solar panels, CREST awards and dry ice.

Despite the lack of sunshine recently Chemistry Club members have had great fun participating in the RSC Global Starlight Challenge which is investigating UV protection from materials used in space. Students used UV sensitive beads to assess which materials and liquids offered the best protection. They were very surprised to find that tea was one of the best!

Many other experiments have been carried out this year including making crystals, biofuel generator, cosmetics and 'oobleck'.

William Beacon, Lucie Dowie and Nathania Kan entered the 'Scrub up on Science' bath bomb competition and although they did not win have obtained enough data to earn a Bronze CREST Award. Dominika Malecka and Isabel Rushmere have been researching hydrogels (mainly those used in nappies) and hope to complete their CREST awards soon.



To finish the year members were treated to a series of demonstrations including the Thermite reaction, Elephants toothpaste and the exploding hydrogen glove!

For further information, please contact Mrs Hardaker or Mrs Lenton in the Science Department.

# Young Carers' Festival

This was the Oaklands Young Carers Group's sixth visit to the Young Carers Festival at Fairthorne Manor, and it was a huge success, despite the inclement weather we had to endure. Twenty-three young carers attended this year along with four members of staff, Mr Jones, Miss Tilley, Mr Turner and Mrs Gomez-Lopez.

The pitch we were given was cramped and the event shelter only just fitted in. Lucky for us it did though, as Saturday afternoon treated us to plenty of rain and a hail storm of epic proportions, with acorn-sized hailstones carpeting the campsite and creating rivers of rainwater along the well-trod paths up to the main staging area.

The activities and entertainment were as fabulous as any previous year, with the addition of live music from Jake Quickenden. Regular events such as the silent disco, fairground rides, abseiling and kayaking were all on offer to create an action-packed weekend for all.



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

During the summer holidays 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](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/RichJones).



Students from Year 12, having now finished their exams, have had the opportunity to visit two local universities. Each organisation contrasts significantly with the other so offering helpful comparisons in choosing both courses and type of campus in the coming higher education application season.

Bournemouth University with the tagline BU was our first stop and we were met and ushered into a brand new building where an ebullient third year student extolled the virtues of B-Town and all the university courses it had to offer. He was a Business and Management student who had spent a placement trimester in New York and was being snapped up by IBM for a high-flying role in Human Resources. The emphasis given during the talk was on employability and rightly so with accountability being high on all would-be graduates shopping lists in these days of £40K+ debt after completing a degree.



Bournemouth University facilities were impressive with new buildings and lecture theatres as well as beautiful sun-terraces and atriums for grabbing a swift Latte between seminars. The media school was particularly admirable with a state of the art radio and TV broadcasting facility and recognition as the birthplace of Sully from Pixar's Monsters Inc. All aspects of creative and sporting performance industries were well catered for and Oaklands Sixth Formers were converted from a distant to a keen interest in applying there.

After a quick lunch stop, we arrived at Southampton University and were met by two third year students brimming with enthusiasm and warmth for all things Southampton. An informative presentation from ex-Oaklands student, Andrea Bell, gave the visitors a sense of Southampton's UK and global ranking with prominence rightly placed on the high value of a degree from this Russell Group University. Again the new academic buildings and accommodation for lucky students evoked awe from our group. A swimming pool and student-rates cinema were similarly seductive with students on the visit having their heads turned once more though just as big a selling point was our Romanian tour guide Marion's stream of texts offering him a PhD and employment on the same afternoon.

Employability was a recurrent theme on both tours and Q and A sessions, though both establishments impressed with their industry links. This was a valuable exercise in weighing up the relative merits of choosing a high-ranking university with competitive entry requirements or an establishment with a world class reputation for sports, media, nursing and business training that can place students at the centre of their chosen industry before graduation. Equally both cities were warm in their welcome for a student life that would bring more rewards than a degree level qualification.

Now to make some decisions ...

**Mrs Moss and Mrs Ludlam**



On Monday 11 July, our Sixth Form students ran a 'new look' Penny Fayre, with a huge effort from all involved.

The Summer Carnival took place on the sunken lawn and invited pupils from Year 6 at St Peter's Primary School followed by our own Year 7 and Year 8 students.

Youngsters brought in sponsorship money to take part in a series of challenges - doing the plank, juggling, hula-hooping, penalty shoot-out, sponging Sixth former and the loudest scream.

In addition, all students could take part in a team ski race, have their picture taken in a photo booth, enjoy the music, tin can alley, identify the celebrity baby, bounce a ball into fishbowls, have a hand henna tattoo design and even more!

A definite favourite was the candy floss and popcorn stall.

One of our Sixth Form students was particularly instrumental in the organisation of this event. Helena Cox-Smith has been preparing for several weeks so that the day went with a bang. She will be the recipient of the monies raised for a volunteer project she is helping with during the summer in South Africa, working in the townships.



Well done Helena for all your hard work and many thanks also to Years 6, 7 and 8 for your valuable contributions.

Nearly £1,100 was raised through the event!

Next year, perhaps we will invite more to join in with an even bigger and better carnival in July 2017.

# 2016 GCSE and A Level Art and Photography Exhibition

What an exciting end to the year! The exhibition was a huge success, with a range of work from all of our GCSE Art and A-Level Art and Photography students. They all worked incredibly hard to complete their coursework and create colourful and meaningful final pieces.

Of course, the British weather let us down on the day of the exhibition with a torrential down pour, but it did not put off the students and the rest of the exhibitors. We received a host of compliments about our students' work, which is fantastic. There were all sorts of pieces of work on display and our students really pushed themselves to show off their artistic skills.

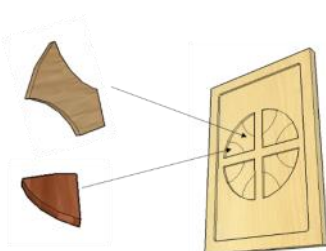
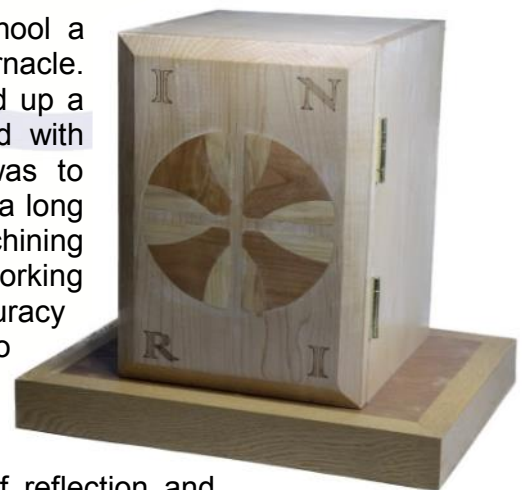
We said goodbye to our year 13 students, who finished the year with a BANG!! We are very happy that some of them are going to continue their creative journey into higher education and have been accepted into some great universities, such as Bournemouth and Imperial College London.

We can't wait for next year's exhibition.



## QA Hospital Chapel Project

Queen Alexandra Hospital Chapel contacted Oaklands School a while ago to commission us to design and build a new tabernacle. Matthew Neilson, a Product Design Sixth Form Student, worked up a design concept that involved a light coloured tabernacle inlaid with darker wood in the shape of a cross. The lighter colour was to symbolise the hope and light of the cross. The construction was a long and challenging process involving computer controlled machining processes for the inlay, laser engraving and traditional wood working skills. The product had to be completed to a high degree of accuracy and quality and Matt worked with determination and skill to complete the project successfully. The final product looks fantastic and reflects the drive and determination that Matt has put into the project, producing a product that looks and feels professionally made. We hope that it may provide a source of reflection and comfort in the hospital chapel for years to come.



The design concept, showing the machined wooded inserts.

Over the last academic year the Duke of Edinburgh's Award has continued apace at all three levels. I am delighted to report that another two of our Sixth Form students have completed the prestigious Gold Award. Special congratulations to Holly Reynolds and Emilio de Abreu Faria.

This year's Bronze Award participants have now completed their expeditions and 19 students have already completed their Award. Congratulations to:

- |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Sophie Beacon        | David Beard     |
| Abbey Blackmore      | Jessica Collins |
| Ryan Crellin-Simpson | Morgan Dryhurst |
| Joseph Ellul-Turner  | Emma Farrugia   |
| Cameron Fawl         | Jiphonse Jiji   |
| Angus Lochrane       | Eliza McMaster  |
| Francesca Parris     | Judy Quinn      |
| Layana Sani          | Abhinav Shaju   |
| Ben Strutt           | Thomas Sullivan |
| Tamia Varghese       |                 |

It is hoped that over the summer a number of other Bronze participants will complete the Award.



Our Silver Award group are currently undertaking their assessed expedition on the Isle of Purbeck having completed a practice expedition over Easter in the New Forest. When this is completed a significant number of the group of 24 will have their Award sent for final approval.

Last year our Bronze and Silver award groups achieved the highest completion rate in the County at 98%. We are looking for the current groups to emulate or even surpass this figure!

The 12 Gold participants have participated in a weekend in March in the Brecon Beacons to gain some mountain experience for their expedition section. Unfortunately the weather was unseasonably glorious! They then undertook a practice expedition during the Easter break on Dartmoor including a 'wild' camp. On this occasion the weather was more typical with low cloud and sheeting rain but the two groups coped well in the conditions. The group have just returned from a successful assessed expedition on Exmoor. The expedition began with an overnight stay at Minehead Youth Hostel before venturing straight out on to the moor the following morning. It was a challenging experience being totally self sufficient for four days covering up to 20km each day with many ascents and descents and camping in remote spots. The journey home was very quiet! Hopefully over the next few months the Gold group will be in a position to complete all five sections needed to complete their Award.



None of this would have been achieved without the dedicated support of a number of people from both inside and outside the school particularly to support the Expedition training so thanks is due to: Mr T Brinnen, Mr K Geddes, Mr P Hoar, Mr R Jones, Mr & Mrs C Matthews, Mrs N Riddle, Miss H Roberts, Mrs K Speller, Mrs J Stirling, Mr L Tindal, Mr J Turner, Mrs J Tyler, Mr C Wade, Mr C Walder, Mr P Whelan, Mrs C Wise, Mr H Wrightson.

## Kite Surfing

On 17th June, fifteen Year 7 students went to Hayling Island to visit the Kitesurfing Armada, a weekend long kite surfing festival, where on the Sunday, 423 kite surfers broke the world record for the most kite surfers on parade for a one mile stretch.

The students listened to an inspirational talk from Lewis Crathern, a professional kite surfer and the man who jumped over Brighton pier using a kite. They also got to look around at all the kite surfing equipment and got lots of freebies!



## Wakeboarding Club

We have had a very good year in the wakeboarding club. Twelve sessions were run through the year and all students who participated made fantastic progress and all had a great time. In particular, Gaby Mula has done fantastically well and is the first student to progress onto hitting the jumps and sliders, showing a great attitude when she crashes; never letting it put her off.

The club will be run again next year and anyone interested in joining should talk to Mr K Quinn (Maths Teacher).

## St Peter's Link

On a very hot morning on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 61 Year 6 students from St Peters visited Oaklands to complete a morning session on the Mayan Civilisation.

The pupils worked with History club students from Oaklands in Year 8 & 9 to complete tasks that looked at clothing and beauty, food, cities and temples, gods and religion and stories and legends.

Both sets of students really enjoyed the experience and the Year 6 students are very excited to be coming up to Oaklands and further their study of History next year!

Megan Day





## 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](http://www.futurefirst.org.uk)  
Go to the 'Sign Up' tab  
Click 'Former Student'  
Type in **Oaklands Catholic School**



Since being at Oaklands, I've just finished my first year of studying Musical Theatre Level 3 Diploma at Chichester College. This combines the skills of acting, singing and dancing which have all been put towards my final performance this year.

I have really enjoyed this course because it's more practical which I know is a better way for me to learn. I think this has shown me that an academic approach to learning is not my groove!

I've been able to follow my dreams by the continuous support from the staff at Oaklands and the opportunities they've provided me with.

I look forward to seeing what the future holds!

**Sarah Percival**



My best friend and I are in our 10th month of our wonderful gap year around Australia before we start university in September. We are having the time of our lives backpacking and have seen incredible things in every state here in Australia. This place is beautiful and travelling is one of the most amazing things we have ever done. It is a fantastic way to meet so many people from all around the world. We have learned all about the aboriginal cultures of this land and done crazy activities like skydiving, bungy jumping, taking a helicopter over the Great Barrier Reef and then snorkelling in it too. We would definitely recommend coming here to see the east coast, west coast and especially Tasmania - it's too perfect to miss from sun to snow, beaches to mountains and waterfalls to theme parks. Australia is one amazing place to live.

**Sanny Hoskins (left) and Megan Dove (right)**

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.**

**Here are some pre-shopping reminders for you, in preparation for September. Please also refer to our website for more information.**

- **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 navy blue, formal tailored trousers. Parents are warned NOT to buy cotton mix chino style trousers as you will be asked to replace them.
- **Skirts** should be navy blue, with sewn down pleats all around. We face an ever-present battle with our female students regarding the length of their skirts. Many girls roll up their waistbands and this results in skirt lengths which are not appropriate for a mixed learning environment. Please help us to help you – buy sufficiently long skirts, 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.
- **Coats** - coats for boys and girls should be plain navy blue or black. Please try to keep any logo or trim to a minimum. *Scarves* should be in appropriate school colours and not linked to any football team. Hoodies are not permitted and are not considered suitable outdoor clothing for school. Students will be asked to remove any non-regulation item of uniform.
- **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, ie nose, eyebrow, tongue, bellybutton, upper ear 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](mailto:OPA@oaklandscatholicschool.org)

With the end of the school year almost here, there are a number of people who are moving on to pastures new. In addition to the list in the last edition of Oaklands News, here are the remainder 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.

**Miss Aurore Bastien and Miss Katie Andrews** have been covering maternity leave for Mrs Whelan and Mrs Hoskin. We wish them both well in their next appointments.

**Mrs Barbara Cariss** has been at Oaklands for 21 years and is also looking forward to her retirement in the summer. Mrs Cariss has worked closely with Mrs Rowsell in the Learning Support Department and helped many of our students reach their potential.

**Mrs Yvonne Harris** has been an LSA at Oaklands since September 2001 and is also retiring at the end of the academic year. Mrs Harris has worked in the Learning Support Department, working closely with students who require additional help in their studies.

**Mr Rob Smith** has been at Oaklands since September 2005. He has taught History and Government and Politics and more recently enjoyed leadership responsibility in our Sixth Form. Mr Smith is moving to Portsmouth High School.

**Mr Roger Osborne** has been the Facilities Manager since September 2013. He is involved with the health and safety for the school, minibus driving and training and many other 'behind the scenes' activities. Roger is retiring at the end of August for a well-earned rest.

**Mr Dan Tyler** has been a member of the History department since September 2008. He is moving to become Head of Subject at Brune Park School in Gosport.

**Mrs Carla Pendleton** has been a Maths teacher at Oaklands for 9 years and is taking up a position at St John's College in Southsea.

**Mrs Vanessa Vacher** is our Attendance Officer and has worked at the school since September 2005. I am sure you will all have heard her friendly voice if reporting your child absent from school. Mrs Vacher is leaving us in the summer due to family circumstances.

**Mr Lee Tindal** is our Head of PE and has been at Oaklands for seven years. As well as overseeing our busy PE department's sporting fixtures, he has led many school trips and camps. Mr Tindal has a new position at The Royal School in Haslemere.

**Mrs Caroline Corker** has worked in our Modern Foreign Language Department since November 2008. She is embarking on an exciting adventure to teach at Georgetown in the Ascension Islands and we wish her and her family every success in their new life!

**Mrs Dervla McConn-Finch** has worked at Oaklands for fifteen years and will leave her post as Assistant Headteacher to become a Deputy Head at Holy Cross School in New Malden, Surrey. Mrs McConn-Finch has taught languages and RE during her time here as well as her being pastoral leader for KS3 and her position on the Senior Leadership Team. We wish her luck in her new position.

### 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 - September 2016

Friday 2nd September

Monday 5th September

Tuesday 6th September

Staff INSET Day

New Year 7 and Sixth

Form students to

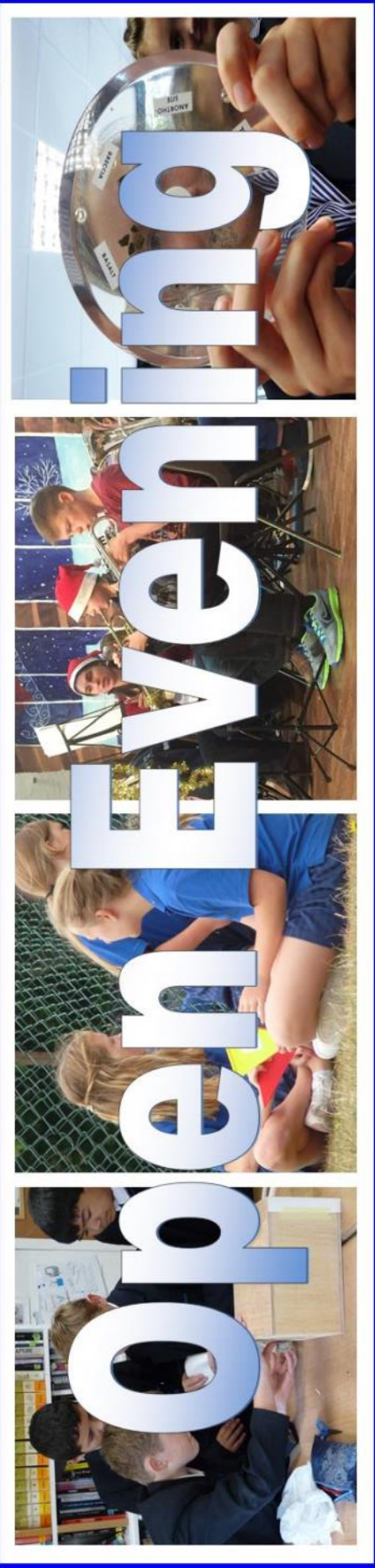
attend

All students to attend







# Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College



**Thursday 22nd September 2016 5.00 - 8.00pm**

**Oaklands has a strong reputation for the highest academic standards within a strong caring Christian community where each individual student is valued.**

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 www.oaklandscatholicsschool.org



Community Unity Opportunity