

No 415 Dec 16

# Oaklands News

## Little Canada Trip Trip to Berlin

St John's Update  
Fantastic Fundraising



A publication for  
Oaklands Catholic School  
and Sixth Form College



# Lead Stories



**Oaklands**  
Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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## From the Headteacher's desk

I would not say that I was a great fan of Saturday night television, however, over the last couple of weeks I have caught Michael McIntyre's Big Show. During the programme, a number of unsuspecting members of the public are set up as a result of an undercover operation. The unsuspecting 'victim' is set up by members of the family who are in the audience.

The concept of going 'undercover' is used as a format in many programmes; in 'The Secret Millionaire', the millionaire boss goes out of their own comfort zone and goes undercover. They would work as one of the employees in their company or go as a volunteer in a certain organisation, in order to see first-hand what it is like to be in someone else's shoes. Whether it is The Secret Millionaire, McIntyre's Big Show, or something similar, these formats appeal because of the certain and genuine experience of happiness, of surprise, of awe, and sometimes of regrets, or rejoicing at the end of the event.

In a few days, we are going to celebrate Christmas once again. The birth of Jesus is the time when God goes undercover. His cover remains virtually intact through his early life; we know very little about Jesus between birth and the start of his ministry. His cover is eventually blown. There are those who manage to work it out; we read in John's Gospel:

*He said to them, "And who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "You are blessed, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father in Heaven!"*

Then there were the occasions where Jesus was a little more brazen, again read in John's Gospel:

*Jesus shouted to the crowds, "If you trust me, you are trusting not only me, but also God who sent me. For when you see me, you are seeing the one who sent me. I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark."*

In our undercover entertainment shows, once the cover is blown, the relationships created by the charade evaporate. Once Jesus' cover is blown it is the beginning of a life-long relationship with all of us; a relationship that saw Him die on the cross for us. This indeed is the reason for rejoicing, in fact, this is the message of Christmas.



This term has been exceptionally busy; on behalf of you all, I would like to thank all the staff, teachers and support staff for their commitment and hard work this term.

I have been fortunate enough to attend many of the Year and Form Masses this term. The celebration of the Mass provides students with an opportunity to relate the ordinary of everyday life to the mystery of the Eucharist. For many youngsters, school is the only place where they will find Jesus present in the Eucharist, so our Masses must embrace the reality of their lives and experiences. Many families who may not be regular church attenders, often like to go to church over the Christmas period; I have included the times and dates of services in the local Catholic churches over the Christmas Period.

**The school's work for charity continues at a pace;** this term we have focused on raising money to send children to school in Korogocho. Each Form has been set the task of raising enough money to send one child to school. We have also raised a significant amount of money for cancer charities. Again, more details of this is included later on.

The external work on the Newman Block is almost complete. The building has been re-roofed and the windows replaced. This work represents a significant improvement; the building will now be watertight for the first time in over 20 years. We are now bidding for additional money from the DfE to upgrade the internal mechanical and electrical systems. We want to continue with our classroom refurbishment programme; the commitment families make through the Governors' fund helps with this endeavour. If you would like to consider donating to this fund, please see the school website for more detail.

A significant number of students will be sitting internal examinations shortly after the Christmas break. It is important that these go well. The secret to this is thorough and comprehensive revision over the holiday.

Finally, may I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and I look forward to welcoming students back at the normal time on **Tuesday 3rd January 2017**.

**Matthew Quinn**

## Farewells

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

**Ann Davis** has been with Oaklands for 30 years, starting as a Laboratory Technician and Reprographics Assistant in 1986. Ann is looking forward to a happy and relaxing retirement starting with a fantastic holiday in the new year.

**Charlie Macdonald** is leaving our Science Department to go travelling and we wish him well in his adventures abroad.

**Terry Ball** is leaving the teaching profession to join a business and will combine his interests in law and property.

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



## Come Home For Christmas



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



### Havant Pastoral Area Christmas Masses

#### Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Peter the Apostle, Waterloooville

##### Monday 19th December:

6.30pm Carol Service

##### Christmas Eve:

4.15pm Children's Mass with Blessing of Crib

6.45pm Mass with Carols

8.30pm Mass with Carols

11.20pm Midnight Mass (preceded by carols)

##### Christmas Day:

10.30am Mass with Carols

12.15pm Said Mass

#### St. Patrick's, Hayling Island

##### Christmas Eve:

5.30pm Children's Mass

8.00pm Night Mass

##### Christmas Day:

10.00am Mass

##### Boxing Day:

9.00am Mass

#### St. Joseph's, Havant

##### Christmas Eve:

11.30pm Midnight Mass (preceded by carols)

##### Christmas Day:

11.00am Mass with Carols

#### St. Thomas', Emsworth

##### Tuesday 13th December:

6.30pm Carol Service

##### Christmas Eve:

6.00pm Mass

##### Christmas Day:

9.00am Mass with Carols

#### St. Edmund's, Horndean

##### Sunday 18th December:

5.30pm Nativity Service for Children

##### Christmas Eve:

5.00pm Children's Mass

11.30pm Midnight Mass (preceded by carols)

##### Christmas Day:

9.30am Mass with Carols

#### St. Michael and All Angels, Leigh Park

##### Sunday 18th December:

4.30pm Nativity Play

##### Christmas Eve:

6.00pm Mass

11.20pm Midnight Mass (preceded by carols)

##### Christmas Day:

10.00am Mass



## St John's End of Year Report

This year, rather than focus on what we did here at Oaklands, we would like to share with you the report from St John's on how we are making a difference in the lives of many people in Korogocho. I am very proud of everyone in the Oaklands community who have made all these things possible through their contributions and donations. During St John's Week this year, we held many fundraising activities with each Tutor group trying to raise as much money as they could to sponsor at least one child. We also took part in Skype sessions with the pupils and staff of St John's in assemblies and some of our lessons. Many students did different things to raise awareness about St John's for example, one of our students, Ellice Shields decided to create a website to show what the Programme has achieved so far. Please visit <http://saintjohnsclub.wixsite.com/oaklands> to see for yourself.

### Oaklands St John's Scholarship Programme End of Year Report

St John's school is a Catholic school that offers affordable high quality education to children from poor families in Korogocho. The school was started in 1990 by the Comboni Missionaries as a drop-in center to rehabilitate street children. It later became a learning center for poor and vulnerable children in the community who were locked out of basic education when public schools in the neighbourhood were still charging a lot of money for school fees. Today St John's school has evolved into a fully-fledged primary school that offers high quality education to poor and needy children. This year (2016) the school enrollment is 748 learners; 392 boys and 356 girls, making St. John's the largest, affordable and most progressive primary school in Korogocho informal (slum) settlement.

### Specific Objectives for St John's School

1. Providing affordable and quality pre-primary and primary education to children from Korogocho slums and her environs,
2. Promoting equal learning opportunities to all children irrespective of their religious background. We encourage children from the Muslim community to join our school
3. Developing sporting culture among children and the youth. We have facilities for both in-door and out-door sporting activities open to the school children and the general public. These include a football pitch, volleyball, basketball, netball and short football court. Apart from the usual physical education lessons, the school has regular sporting activities.

### Achievements/Impact to the Community

- St John's school has transformed the life of many youths in Korogocho, some of them are now employed and today they lead decent lives outside the slum.
- The school's sports and music clubs have a remarkable impact on the social and economic life of people the slum. It has not only nurtured talents and helped youth to realize their potentials, but has also created jobs and opportunities that have enhanced personal and social transformation.
- 15-20 pupils of St John's school represent Nairobi County in the national ball games every year. This year the school sent 25 pupils to the National Music and Drama Festivals in Nairobi where they took position one in three items.
- The school has helped to rehabilitate and educate many children who could have been wasted by drugs and alcohol; it has also protected many others from joining gangs and becoming criminals by offering free and affordable education. In short, St John's is here to transform lives of poor people in Korogocho.



The aim of the Oaklands St John's Scholarship Programme is to help the less fortunate in Korogocho community acquire education by paying school fees, exam fee and other basic needs for the learners. This year, 194 pupils benefitted from this Programme; 91 pupils benefitted from full sponsorship while 103 pupils benefitted from partial sponsorship. A total of Kshs 655,200/= was received this year for school fees, sanitary towels and school uniform.

### **Achievements**

- ✓ Our capacity has been increased since we were able to bring more children to school and continue with their education especially the ones who had dropped out of the school because of the school fees.
- ✓ The academic performance of the majority of the 194 children has improved gradually and consistently each time we do exams though some are still on their way to improvement. We hope we will make the average good, the good better and make the better best as we make the best of the best through your continual support. We have some in class eight who have done their national exams and we hope they are going to do well to join good secondary schools come next year.
- ✓ We have also managed to keep children in school without sending them home for money and this has also lessened teachers' work in class as well since very little time is wasted.
- ✓ Buying uniform for a number of our pupils whose school attire was not in good condition or some of them completely lacked has made the children feel important and loved.
- ✓ Purchasing sanitary towels to our girls has built confidence in them and made them not to miss lessons especially during their periods.

### **Specific examples of impact of the support**

Through your support **Naomi Gakenia** emerged as the best girl in our school in 2015 KCPE with 369 marks out of 500. Due to her good result she got a well-wisher to support her in high school and today she is doing so well.

**Joseph Odunyo**, one of the pupils you supported last year emerged the best boy and the best performed candidate in last year's KCPE with 379 marks out of 500 marks. Due to his good performance, he was given scholarship by Nairobi East Rotary Club and today he is the best student in his class in the high school he is studying in.

Let me bring to your attention the impact of your support on the pupils who are still with us in St John's Primary School in Korogocho. Since I may be limited to giving a report about all the pupils you support, I will give a summary report about three pupils.



**Catherine Awino** is 11 and will be in class six next year. She lost her parents while she was still an infant and was taken in by a neighbour who became her guardian. Her performance was very low because she would miss school regularly due to her guardian (single mother) not being able to provide for her family's basic needs and educate Catherine. Today she has really improved on attendance and performance. She never misses school unless she is very sick. In the previous two exams; mid and end term three exams, she scored 385/500 and 396/500 respectively. She is ambitious and wants to study till university, be a pilot and help others as you have done to her.

**Margeret Awino** is 14 years' old and will be a candidate come January next year. She lives with her uncle's family in Korogocho slum. She had been missing school every now and then due to lack of school fees and school uniform since her uncle could not afford providing for his family of six and pay for her school fees. Her performance really deteriorated despite her being a very bright girl. Due to your support she has been the best in her class in the previous three exams i.e. midterm 2 exams 360/500, opener term 3 exams 365/500 and in end term 3 exam 408/500.







**Wycliffe Mutogia** is 14 and he comes from a family of six with his mother being the sole bread winner after the death of his father which happened when he was 9 years old. At some point in time he had to drop out of school to help his mother take care of the family by helping her to provide for the family needs. He had to indulge in a number of criminal activities at this early age to earn some money. Due to your support, we have been able to accommodate him in school. His performance has greatly improved. Just to show an indicator to this; he had 299/500 marks in midterm 2 exam and improved to 342/500 in end term 3 exam.

### Recommendations

- ✓ We request support for some learners who may lack means to continue with their secondary education.
- ✓ The school fee has been increased to Kshs 1,800 per child per term while exam fees have remained at Kshs 250. This has been done in attempt to look for a long term solution to sustainability of the school.

Report by  
**Augustine Amuka (Headteacher)**

## Autumn Term Fundraising

As well as the ongoing fundraising work for St John's, our students and staff have been busy in other ways raising money for different charities:



During the Inset Day on 23rd September, the staff held a Coffee and Cake Morning and raised almost £500 for MacMillan Cancer Trust.



On Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th October, several Oaklands students helped weekend shoppers at Waitrose in Waterloooville with their bag packing. A total of £568 was raised for St John's and a further £569 for MacMillan Cancer Trust. The students were a credit to Oaklands, giving up their time for two worthwhile causes.



At the end of October, Conor Daniels in Year 8 ran the Great South Run Junior with his brother Ciaran. They raised over £300 for CAFOD. A great achievement; well done!

Just before half term, the school held a non-uniform day and sold various cakes and goods for Stand Up 2 Cancer. Once again, this evidenced Oaklands' great generosity...



The amount raised from our non uniform event was £965.53.  
The 2016 Faith in Football winners, Glazed, made and sold wonderful cakes and raised £107.80.  
Finally the Sixth Form sold SU2C pens, cakes, bakes and wrist bands across the school and raised £492.69.

**This made our total a fabulous £1,556.02**

## Berlin Trip

During the October half term, a group of 36 students went on a visit to Berlin to investigate historical sites and museums associated with Weimar, Nazi and post-War Germany. We met at school at 4:00am on the first Saturday of the holiday and flew from Gatwick to Berlin to spend three nights in the German capital.

The visits started straight away with a sightseeing coach led by a fantastic local guide who told us all about the history of this important city from 1918 to 1989. As part of the tour we even got a chance to listen to evensong at the Berliner Dom cathedral, with amazing organ music, gospel readings, a sung psalm and a homily in German.

Our second morning was spent on a guided visit to Sachsenhausen concentration camp, the second one established by the Nazis. We also had a trip to a nuclear fallout shelter beneath a shopping centre, which was built to house 2,200 people; thankfully this was never used! Our group also went to an excellent museum on resistance to the Nazi government, where we were amazed to discover that many of the brave people who stood against the Nazis were teenagers just like us. We also saw the last remaining large city centre section of the Berlin Wall, which now hosts an outdoor exhibition on the SS, as well as walking to the famous Checkpoint Charlie.

We then had the wonderful experience of visiting the enormous glass dome which tops the Bundestag, the German Parliament building. We had great views over the city at night, and whilst walking to the top of the dome were able to look down upon the Parliament chamber.

As well as all this history, though, we had time to go shopping on Kurfurstendam, Berlin's main commercial boulevard, and over the three evenings we relaxed in welcoming traditional German restaurants and café terraces in the centre of Berlin and had an evening meal at the Hard Rock Café.

The trip was really busy and full of activities, but had the right mixture of study and enjoyment. It gave us a great opportunity to see one of Europe's most exciting capital cities, and led us to a greater understanding of a really important time in history which affected the whole world during the last century.

We would like to thank Mr Cunningham, Mrs Barfoot and Miss Gingras who put such time and effort into organising the trip!

***Year 11 and Sixth Form History Students***





## Battle of Hastings

In a cold wild and wet week in November, lots of Year 7 History classes came into school armed to the teeth with medieval creations from home. Chants of 'Allez! Allez! Allez!' and 'Out, Out, Out' could be heard from the lower fields as the Norman soldiers repeatedly charged the Saxon shield wall. Trickery pulled William, Duke of Normandy through and the famous trick of retreat managed to tempt some of the more inexperienced soldiers down off the hill so a dent could be made in the Saxon line. The final assault of a shower of arrows finished off the Saxon King, Harold and the battle was over. England had a French King, they had been invaded, and life would never be the same again.

The students involved were a credit to their teachers and behaved very well, patiently running through the stages of the battle. They learnt how William's leadership and bravery in battle brought him success and could all provide detailed examples when asked why William won.

Thanks go out to the parents who had clearly had a big input into the amazing array of weapons, from handmade shields and carved wooden swords to crossbows made from cereal packets; the students were all proud to show off their creations.



## Politics at Oaklands

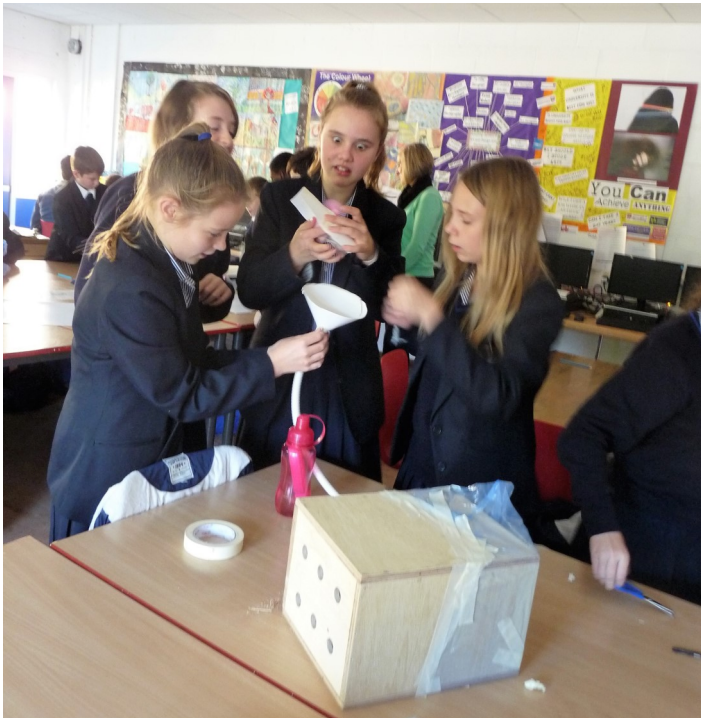
The Politics Department at Oaklands has been really busy over the course of the last term! Students have been focusing on American politics in Year 13 and have been avidly watching the drama unfold with the recent elections. Understanding how Donald Trump won the election even without winning the popular vote has been a real focus and has prompted many of them to question the Electoral college system.

Back on British ground the Politics Club have been considering the impact of Brexit and Trump's elections on our political future. Who can lead a clear path through the quagmire that seems to be facing us at the moment? With Labour disintegrating and the Liberal Democrats seemingly a spent force, will UKIP present a credible challenge and build on their 4 million votes at the last election? This would fit with the rise of right wing parties in Europe.

All of these issues and more were put to Alan Mak MP for Havant when he visited Oaklands on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November. He told the students about his political career and then opened the floor to questions that ranged from a challenge to his stance on Syria to the future of the Trident programme. The students prepared and presented themselves well and Mr Mak was very informative in his responses and interested in our students and their concerns. We hope to be visiting him at the House of Commons soon!







There should be a link between the curriculum in a Catholic school and the mission of salvation that we find in the Gospels. Sometimes this is obvious to see in the subjects we teach, on other occasions less so. For the last two years, we've developed a special scheme of work for Year 7 students that emphasises the Gospel values found in John 10:10 'I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full'.

This year, our new Year 7 students also experienced this popular programme - for two days their lessons were timetabled differently - the students worked with new teachers and experienced their subjects through the focus of the 10:10 message. Teachers across the curriculum shared the wonder of their specialism through their personal understanding of the Gospel message.

The tasks undertaken in each subject were hugely varied; in Drama, students had fun creating improvisations based on their dreams and wishes and thought about how children in other parts of the world may have different hopes. In French, the students learned new vocabulary related to the language of prayer and wrote their own prayers in French. In History, they considered why the church was so important in the Medieval period. In Food Technology, they learned about the significance of bread in the Mass, and made their own large loaves. Every subject in the curriculum was represented with a range of exciting and colourful lessons.

Fr Gerard and Deacon Mark celebrated Mass for us on Friday afternoon to close the programme. Many parents and parishioners came to celebrate with us and as part of the offertory procession, the students brought gifts to the altar representing their work in every subject over the two days.

One of our great pleasures after Mass was the beautiful harvest loaves that the students had made, being given to the parishes as a gift from our school to the wider community.

Many thanks to Mrs Floyd, our chaplain and Mrs Nicholls for all the hard work in organising the day and subject teachers for planning such exciting lessons to enable students to explore their faith.







On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October, ten Year 9 students travelled to the Naval Fire Power Museum in Gosport to compete in a technology competition against other schools.

After a short journey in the minibus we arrived at the museum. We listened to our briefing; the instructor described what we would have to build for the competition. We were then able to listen to some of the engineers from Lockheed Martin talk about their jobs and what the different types of engineers do.

The task in hand was to lift a model helicopter 10cm off the ground and place it into a truck. We were split into two teams

and we moved to the activities room where we would design and make our crane. We would have to take into consideration the weight and practicality of our machine, like real engineers would have to do on a real project.

After 15 minutes of designing and planning, we got to work on building the crane. The crane was easy to make but then we had to sort out weight issues and gearing problems for the mechanism. This was challenging because we had to achieve the right balance, however eventually we came to an agreement and we were all happy.

We were concerned about industrial espionage as other schools appeared to be copying our design but little did we know that our crane was extremely heavy compared with other schools. After a few hours of fine tuning and careful adjustments we were judged in our heat on the ability to lift the helicopter. Out of the five teams in our heat, we won and had a place in the final. Sadly, we narrowly missed out on the win and came second overall. We believe we were robbed!

Once all the judging had finished we had the miserable job of taking our crane apart. Our thanks to Mr Horrod for organising this fantastic trip. We learnt about real world situations and making compromises during design processes and teamwork.

**By Douglas Quinn and Michael Newham, 9CI**

## Clothes Show Visit

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, fifty students and five teachers travelled to the Clothes Show in Birmingham. After three hours on a coach, we finally arrived at the NEC. After checking in with the teachers, we were able to go shopping!

With celebrities like Joey Essex and Binky from 'Made in Chelsea', many people spent time meeting different famous people they have watched and admired on screen. Personally, I met Binky, which I was certainly very happy about!



With so many different make up, clothing and food stalls, no-one could say that there was nothing for them to do. Many stalls were selling gift bags with some amazing products. As well as shopping, there was some fantastic stalls showing some outstanding fashion designs. This gave me some inspiration for what I want to do in the future with my creativity. Also at the Show, we were able to see what some of the new styles of the world are going to be - I am very excited for them to come out!

After all our browsing and shopping, we made our way to the main hall which was where the fashion show was to be held. This was absolutely amazing! Each outfit had a themed dance and song, overall it was the best day ever! To be able to say that I went to the last Clothes Show in Birmingham is great.

Thank you so much to Mrs Wise, Miss Hounslow, Mr Ball, Mrs Cook and Miss Dugan for taking us!

**By Aimee Joyce, 9VP**





**T**wenty-eight students from Year 9 travelled to PGL Little Canada on the Isle of Wight on Friday 16<sup>th</sup>– Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September on a joint Geography/Business Studies/English trip. The students were accompanied by Miss Dugan, Mrs Quinn, Mr Smith and Mr Bamford.

Our first stop on the Friday was Osborne House where the students viewed the house, Queen Victoria's private beach and the Swiss Cottage. Following our evening meal, the students enjoyed a camp fire where they toasted marshmallows, chatted and listened to music.

The students spent Saturday focussing on the Geography aspect of the trip. Our first stop was Ventnor on the south coast. Being situated there, the town is at the mercy of the storms coming from the Atlantic to the southwest. The geology at Ventnor, combined with the frequent large waves, has resulted in the provision of a variety of coastal defences. The students considered why 'hard' coastal defences such as rock revetments and sea walls had been used, rather than 'soft' management such as beach replenishment. Mr Smith discussed the economic concept of cost: benefit analysis – for every £1 spent on defences, there must be £8 worth of benefit. He discussed that costs were not just financial, but planners must also factor in environmental and social costs too. Miss Dugan was able to discuss the onomatopoeia exhibited by the waves in the swash up the beach.

From Ventnor, we travelled along the coast road towards the Needles. Before arrival there we stopped just southeast of Freshwater Bay where it was clear that the geology was changing from sands and clays to chalk. The cliffs there were changing fast and the students were able to see where there had been recent rotational slumping. At Freshwater Bay, the students were able to see how the chalk rock had been folded due to the Alpine orogeny, which is also responsible for the South Downs. 'Destructive' waves were also present there and students discussed how these have a weak swash and strong backwash. The coastline faces South at that point, which puts the location at the mercy of the waves that have come from the southwest with a large 'fetch' across the Atlantic Ocean.

At the Needles, we discussed how the coast was 'discordant', as the rock bands were at 90 degrees to the coast and due to the differential rates of erosion had resulted in the Needles promontory. When asked, students thought that the Solent must have been there for millions of years, but Mr Bamford was able to explain to them that it only really came into existence about 8,000 years ago due to the eustatic changes in sea level that took place following the conclusion of the last Ice Age. The waters are still creeping in today due to isostatic changes in sea level: the south is dipping into the sea as the pressure of the ice – which was at its thickest over Scotland – has been removed, allowing Scotland to rebound upwards, with a corresponding dip for us in the south where there was no ice coverage. We visited the Needles Old Battery, which offered the closest view of the Needles. In addition, we explored the exhibit that explained the importance of the site for the rocket testing that would have powered missiles for potential use during the Cold war.



We managed to squeeze in a stop at Carisbrooke Castle before returning to the PGL centre for an afternoon activity session. After dinner, we took the students to Ryde and walked the length of the pier before returning back to the centre for a well-earned rest.



Sunday was spent at the PGL centre. The students were given the opportunity to attempt a number of challenging activities, including: Zip Wire, Climbing, Aeroball, Abseiling and the Giant Swing. However, a group of students chose to join Mr. Bamford and Mrs. Quinn for excursions around the island on the Sunday. In the morning they visited Appuldurcombe House, which are the remains of what must have been one of the finest houses in the country, with grounds created by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. We also visited Shanklin, Sandown, Bembridge windmill and Culver Down. The students in the afternoon visited the south coast, Yarmouth and Mottistone Manor.

Mrs Quinn recorded some of their thoughts from the weekend, some of which have been shared below:

- Douglas – “Geography on beaches – you can see it for yourself rather than drawings in textbooks”
- Kate – “I learnt key Geography words such as groyne and abrasion. Also, I learned about soils/rocks such as chalk, clay and greensand”
- Helena and Roxy – “The giant swing at PGL was amazing”
- Doh – “A good way to get to know other students”
- Ella – “I loved the free ice creams!”

The students appeared to really enjoy the trip and were disappointed when it was time to return to the mainland. In fact, they really were a pleasure to spend time with.

**Mr Bamford**

## Library News

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, some Year 9 students were very lucky to attend Winchester Guildhall for a presentation given by the author Jo Cotterill, winner of the Hampshire Book Awards.

All students had read six books that had been shortlisted. We met every couple of weeks at lunch to discuss the books and in June they voted for their favourite.

We enjoyed a fun and informative presentation and all students had a great morning.

**Mrs Berogna & Miss Dugan**



On Friday 25th November, the Library held a Book Draw giving all students the equal opportunity to be the first to borrow some brand new published titles, from many popular authors including, JK Rowling, Zoe Suggs, David Walliams, Anthony Horowitz, Jacqueline Wilson and Jeff Kinney.

The library was full to the brim with anticipating students waiting to see if their name was to be pulled out.

**Miss Sharma and Mrs Berogna**

From 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> November, Ms Juncklaus and Mrs Broadway attended a transnational meeting in Finland as part of the Eudaimonia/ Erasmus+ project. We visited our partner school Salo Lukio in the south west of Finland for three days and worked with teachers from Italy, Portugal, Hungary and Finland.

The aim of the project is to enhance the wellbeing of our students and teachers by reducing stress levels, improving our posture, increasing our motivation to learn more independently and try out new technologies in our classrooms. As part of our project we also want to do some charity work – so we can make other people happier and therefore improve their wellbeing.

During our visit we were able to discuss the ideas of the project with our partners from other countries, we observed lessons in the Finnish school, visited another secondary school in Salo in order to expand our international links, introduced the Eudaimonia project to the Salo Lukio school community by presenting our own schools, visited a care home with the Finnish students who read and talked to the elderly residents, completed the mindfulness exercise and attended some relaxation activities such as a tango concert, trekking in the woods and of course taking the Finnish sauna.

The Finnish teachers organised a very busy schedule for us but we really enjoyed every activity. It was a fantastic opportunity to share our ideas and culture and to have a flavour of the Finnish lifestyle. We learnt that, although we are all Europeans, we are very different in many aspects of our lives – language, traditions, food, teaching pedagogy, even the classroom layout and furniture.

We are very grateful for the Finnish hospitality and hope we can return this back when they come to visit Oaklands in March 2017. If you are interested in hosting one of our European students (6-10 March 2017) please contact Mrs Broadway ([U.Broadway@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto:U.Broadway@oaklandscatholicschool.org)).



## Oaklands Parents Association (OPA)

The Oaklands Parents' Association (OPA) are a group of parents and staff whose purpose is to raise funds to help provide those little extras that will benefit your children and enhance their time at Oaklands. Sadly we are saying goodbye to many of the Oaklands parents this year and for the OPA to continue, we need your help.

Throughout the year, we organise and run events, including our major fundraiser, the Christmas Craft Fair. We are always present at school parents' evenings and school concerts, serving refreshments and selling raffle tickets. We regularly donate several thousand pounds to various departments throughout the school and still have more to donate to the next big school project.



We are actively seeking new committee members, so please contact us if you would like to find out more. We meet once a month on the first Monday at 7.30pm, in the Sixth Form block. Our next meeting is on Monday 9 January, so if you can spare a few hours a year it would be great to meet you. Equally, if you wish to be involved in events occasionally, without the commitment of regular meetings, please contact us to add your name to our brilliant team. We are always happy to hear from new parents and get some new ideas, so please come along.

Finally, a huge 'thank you' to all parents, friends of the school, not to mention the stallholders themselves, for making this year's Christmas Craft Fayre on 12th November such a tremendous success. At the end of the day when all monies were accounted for a fantastic **£3,532** had been raised for the school, which will help provide valuable equipment and resources.

Thank you once again.

Alison Evans (Parent in OPA)

Email:

[alison.evans320@ntlworld.com](mailto:alison.evans320@ntlworld.com)



## Uniform Matters

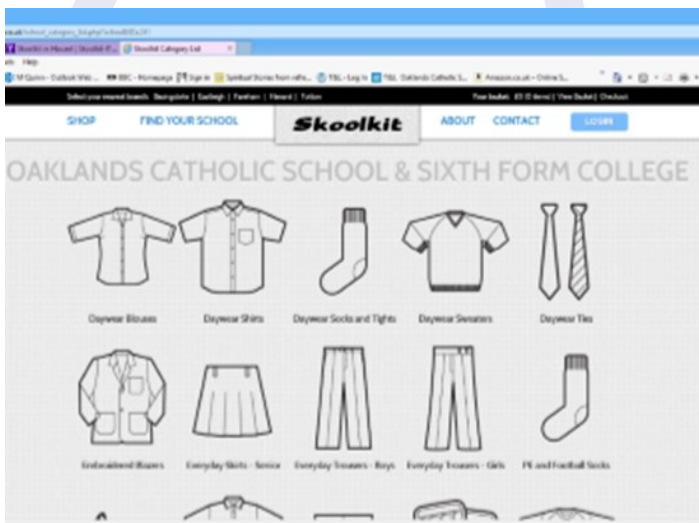
The long dark nights and cold weather mean it's time to turn our thoughts to what our students are wearing. We ask you to help us maintain high uniform standards by supporting the uniform rules:

- Scarves: the striped school scarf available from the OPA OR a **scarf in co-ordinating school uniform colours. Team sport scarves (eg: football etc) are NOT suitable.**
- Coats: no more arguments in shops about what is allowed! These should be either plain navy blue or black without a logo (no other colours are permitted). Coats should be worn over the blazer. **Hoodies, in any form, are not an acceptable item of uniform and will be confiscated.**
- Shoes: formal black shoes (girls – heels should be lower than 2"). Plimsolls, ankle boots and trainer-type/ canvas and suede shoes are not permitted.
- Girls' skirt length: we are continually concerned that girls are wearing their skirts at an inappropriately short length and we would appreciate your help. Please ensure they are bought at the correct length – ie: knee length – and that you check the length before they leave home. Jumpers should not be tucked into skirts. Skirts rolled up at the waist are not acceptable and detentions will be issued.



### Where can I buy uniform?

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



#### Skoolkit, Havant

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

Telephone: 02392 455795

##### Opening hours:

9.00am - 5.30pm Monday - Fridays

9.00am - 5.00pm Saturdays

Sundays & Bank Holidays – Closed

#### Skoolkit, Fareham

149, West Street, Fareham, PO16 0YA

Telephone: 01329 822509

##### Opening hours:

9.00am - 5.30pm Monday - Fridays

9.00am - 5.00pm Saturdays

Sundays & Bank Holidays - Closed

### Second-hand uniform

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

If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact Mrs Oldroyd (Deputy Head) or your child's Head of Year/Tutor.

**Cross Country**

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November, the inter South East Hants cross country qualifier took place at Horndean school. Students had the opportunity to qualify and subsequently represent the district in the forthcoming county competition. The team performed excellently which led to qualification by students in Y9,10 and 11. Particular mention goes to Jacob O'Hara who finished 1st and Alys Hantrais-Smith who finished 2nd in respective races.

**Year 8 Rugby**

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 15 boys from Year 8 participated in a Hampshire Festival of Rugby tournament. With the team in high spirits after a number of games against local rivals, resulting in Oaklands winning, they went into the tournament with a positive mind set.

The first game saw them play Applemore School; Oaklands were off to a flyer with strong running from a number of the team, in particular Dan Gifford and Harry Jewitt-White saw us into a comfortable lead.

The second game was to prove to be the toughest fixture of the morning. This was against a strong Bay House School team, after a nervous start and strong running from a number of the opposition, our strong defence turned the ball over for Dan Gifford to race the length of the pitch and score. This seemed to inspire us and we went on to score a further two tries. The other games in the morning saw Oaklands pit themselves against Toynbee School and Bitterne Park School, with Oaklands running out comfortable winners to top the morning groups.

After a small break for lunch, Oaklands were seeded with all the other unbeaten teams; this would clearly be more difficult than the games they had played in the morning. We faced a strong Priestlands School team (would later go on to not lose a game); this was a nervous occasion with Priestlands bearing down on the Oaklands try line. We kept our nerve and battled hard to keep them at bay. Then it was our opportunity to have the ball, there was no stopping Dan Gifford who produced what had become a trademark run, from one end of the pitch to the other to put us ahead. Oaklands tried to keep Priestlands at bay, but they proved too strong in the end and with some delightful interplay, Priestlands finally broke our sturdy defence to level the score at one try a piece. The final few minutes of the game had Priestlands trying to knock down a defiant Oaklands defence wall, we held firm and the game ended in a draw, 1 – 1.

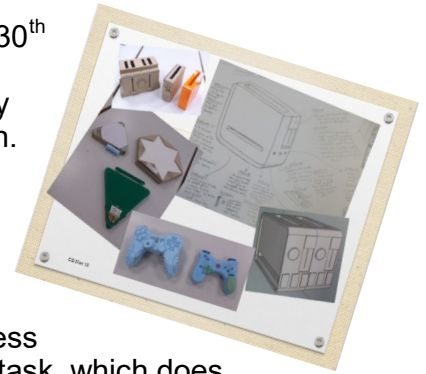
The next game saw Oaklands pitched against a strong running John Hanson school. We were playing some really expansive rugby by now, taking on board the amount of space out wide, with great hands shown by Harvey Doran and Rhys Woolhead feeding Julius Lewis, who made a surging run; John Hanson scrambled their defence just keeping him out. After more good handling skills, Dan Gifford received the ball in space, with a quick turn of foot he was able to punish the opposition defence to score. With seconds remaining in the game, cometh the hour cometh the man, Baylea Hebb-Smy put his body in the way of John Hanson's strongest runner to slow him down enough to allow Alfie Docherty and Harry Jewitt-White to tackle him into touch, which proved to be the last play of the game.

The final two games didn't see Oaklands end on a high, with a few injuries being sustained and the effects of strong defensive performance taking its toll, meant that we lost our final two matches.

Overall it was a fantastic day of rugby and a pleasure to watch how all of the Year 8 rugby players grew in confidence. Special mention for all involved: Ben Cunningham, Dan Gifford, Dan Palfreyman, Baylea Hebb-Smy, Will Castle, Rhys Woolhead, Tom Mason, Matt Crouthers, Harry Jewitt-White, Ethan Lehane, Matt Wallington, Rhys Colley, Alfie Docherty, Julius Lewis and Harvey Doran.



This year we are holding a special Showcase Exhibition on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March. At this event, GCSE and A Level Design and Technology students will be displaying their work and giving the Oaklands community the chance to see what they have completed as 60% of their qualification. The idea behind this is that it is both a celebration of their work and a chance for them to gather valuable feedback for the evaluations they have to include in their folders.



The event will be held in the Hall from 5.00-8.00pm. Further details and invites will follow but we currently would like to invite parents/local business representatives to act as judges on the evening. This is not an onerous task, which does not require any specialist knowledge and you will be fully briefed. We intend to offer 'best in show' prizes in a number of categories and you would be required to look at students' work, ask them questions about it and fill in a simple report. The exception to this format is the judging of the dishes produced for Food Technology which will be re-made on the evening and judged in a 'Master Chef' style.

If you are available to volunteer your services as a judge please contact Mrs Claire Gemmell via email [claire.gemmell@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto:claire.gemmell@oaklandscatholicschool.org).

## Oaklands Production - 'Anything Goes'

Rehearsals have begun in earnest for our whole school production **"Anything Goes"** – a musical comedy combining the iconic music of Cole Porter with the writing genius of PG Wodehouse. From October through to our performance dates in March, large numbers of keen students attend singing, acting and dance rehearsals three times a week to create an amazing experience for our community to enjoy.



As ever, we have a multi-talented cast, band and crew: every year group is represented as well as staff and friends of the school. You may have seen our "sneak-peek" performances at the Christmas Concert and Presentation of Certificates evening- we know you'll love the full show when our band, costume, choreography and set fall into place. Also new this year are the presence of student director Natasha in Year 12 who has taken responsibility for several key scenes and our brilliant team of tap dancers under the tutelage of Choreographer, Mrs Blackburn.

### Synopsis:

Reno Sweeney (Verity, Year 13), evangelist turned bar hostess, gets such a kick out of Billy Crocker (Archie, Year 12) that she boards a Europe-bound liner to dissuade him from pursuing Hope Harcourt (Jess, Year 12). Although Billy dreams of Hope all through the night, Hope is determined to marry Sir Evelyn Oakleigh (Ryan, Year 11). Crocker has boarded without a ticket, so is forced to adopt a number of disguises. Also aboard is, the Reverend Dr. Moon (Morgan, Year 11), whom the FBI has branded "Public Enemy 13". Moon's ambition is to rise to the top of the list. On landing, Hope discovers she has inherited a fortune, drops her Sir Evelyn and agrees to marry Billy. Oakleigh turns his attention to Reno, and Moon, to his dismay, learns that he has been judged harmless and dropped from the FBI list.

### Songs you might know:

I Get A Kick Out Of You; Anything Goes; You're The Top; Blow Gabriel, Blow; It's De-lovely

The Performing Arts Team- Mrs Whyte, Miss Flood, Mrs Richardson and Mrs Blackburn- look forward to welcoming you to what promises to be a fantastic show.

Tickets will be available in January.

A number of our Parent Governors have come to the end of their term or their children have now left the school. We would like to fill these positions as soon as possible.

The Oaklands Community has always prided itself on a close partnership with parents which bring great benefits to our children. One of the most significant ways you can help is to volunteer to be a Parent Governor. The Governing Body's main task is to support and challenge the school as a critical friend. The Governors set the strategic direction of the school to ensure that pupils receive the best possible education and that there is a good plan for future development and improvement.

Parent Governors are warmly welcomed as vital members of the team and play a key role in ensuring the Governing Body is aware of the views of parents and what they might think of any matter under consideration. We try to ensure that at least one third of the Board are current Oaklands parents.

If you are not sure whether this is for you then we would be delighted to arrange for you to chat to the Head, Chair of Governors or a serving Parent Governor. Commitment is a minimum of 3 meetings a term and all Governors are fully protected by insurance. There is as much training as you want and new governors are allocated a 'buddy' and a department in the school.

If you feel you might be ready for the challenge please contact Clerk to Governors, Mrs Claire Colley, at the school, [c.colley@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto:c.colley@oaklandscatholicschool.org) for an application form which will need to be completed and returned to the school by 12.00 noon on Thursday 12th January 2017.



## Oaklands Alumni

### 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**



**Matthew Everett was at Oaklands from 2005 to 2012 and he writes ...**

*At present, I am studying the LPC - the Legal Practice Course. This is a mandatory professional qualification that has to be undertaken before beginning training as a solicitor; this finishes in February. I then begin a two year training contract at an international commercial law firm in London, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. Providing everything goes according to plan, I will qualify as a solicitor once that finishes, in February 2019.*

*In terms of how I got here, I left Oaklands sixth form in 2012. I did a law degree at Oxford. This was a four year course, with my third year being spent abroad. I went to Leiden University in the Netherlands, where I studied European and International law. I graduated this summer.*

*I was able to secure the training contract during university, after I completed summer internships at different law firms. One of these was Freshfields itself, but I also spent time at Herbert Smith Freehills, and Slaughter & May.*





## A Few Gentle Reminders ...

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

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

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

## 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**

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*We can also facilitate*

**Meetings    Conferences    Training Days**

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**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](mailto:lettings@oaklandscatholicschool.org)

*Scan our lettings QR Code*

## Parking



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

It is important that consideration is given to residents who live in these areas around the school.

Parking outside the school on the ZIG-ZAG lines is an endorseable offence. We have been told that this will be enforced.

## Term Dates 2016/2017

**Autumn Term 2016**  
**Half Term;**

Fri 2nd September to Fri 16th December  
Mon 24th - Fri 28th October

**Spring Term 2017**  
**Half Term:**

Tues 3rd January to Fri 7th April  
Mon 20th - Fri 24th February

**Summer Term 2017**  
**Half Term:**

Mon 24th April to Fri 21st July  
Mon 29th May - Fri 2nd June

**INSET Days are as follows:**

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

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College  
presents:



**Cole Porter's brilliant musical comedy comes to  
Oaklands Catholic School**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March,  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March,  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**Tickets released in January**



**Stakes Hill Road, Waterlooville, Hants, PO7 7BW**

**(023) 92 259214**

**[oaklands@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto:oaklands@oaklandscatholicschool.org)**

**[www.oaklandscatholicschool.org](http://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org)**



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OF SCHOOLS**