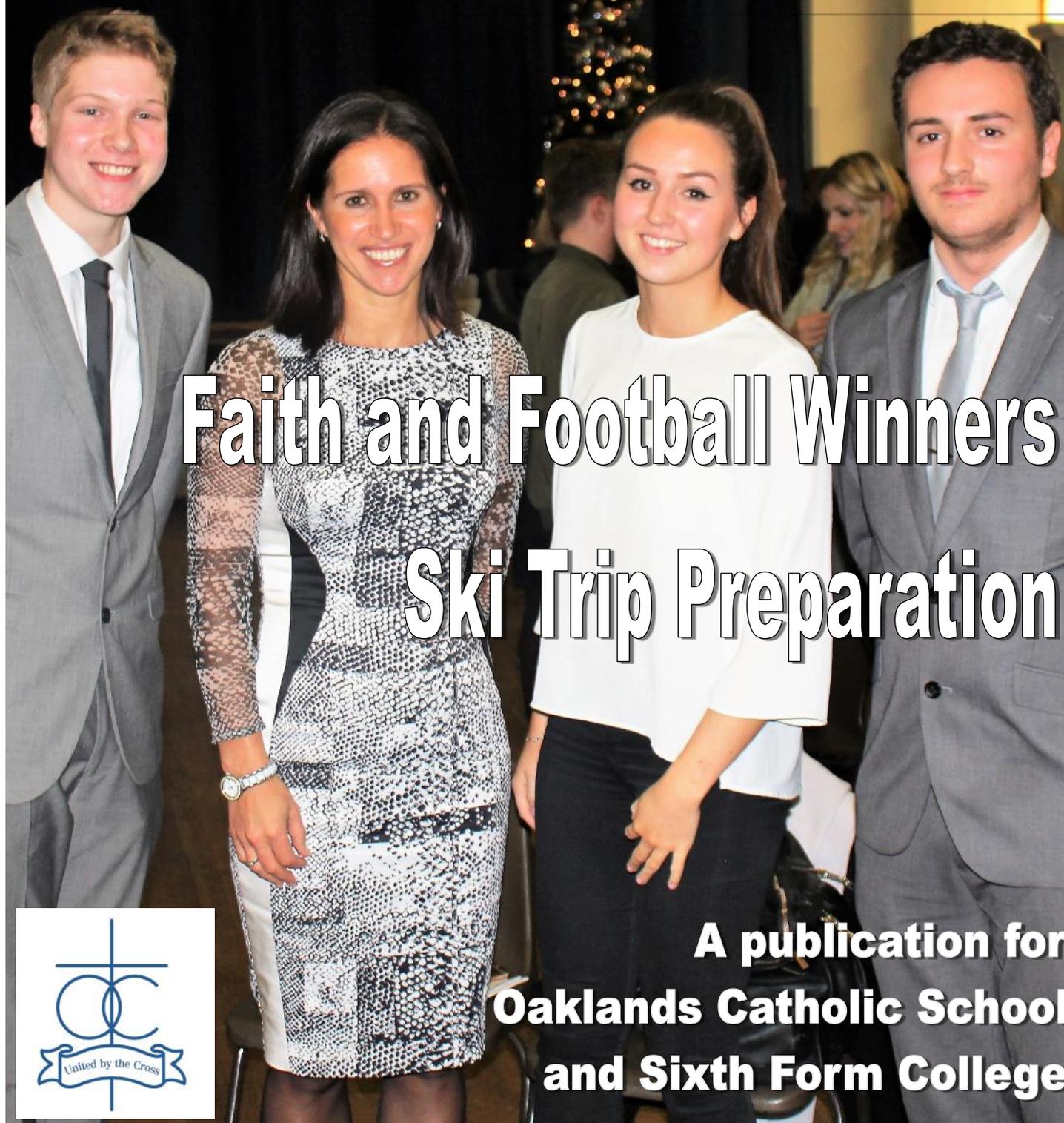


Term Dates for 2017-18

No 416 Jan 17

Oaklands News

Presentation of Certificates



Faith and Football Winners

Ski Trip Preparation



**A publication for
Oaklands Catholic School
and Sixth Form College**

Lead Stories



Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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

On Friday 16th December, I went with two other fans to watch Rogue One: A Star Wars Story, and if that was not enough, the following day we ventured up to London to the Star Wars Identities Exhibition at the O2. Some would call it obsessional behaviour, others a general interest ... I will let you decide!

With the risk of a plot spoiler, Rogue One explores the genesis of the Death Star and the efforts of a brave few who steal the plans, identifying its fatal flaw. In amongst this we are introduced to a new character, Chirrut Îmwe, who is a warrior-monk. Although not a card-carrying Jedi, he sees with the sight of faith although actually physically blind. He continually mutters. "I am with the force, the force is with me"; this is potentially a new mantra for Star Wars fans. It did not go unnoticed that his faith, despite visible disability, highlights a central theme found in St John's Gospel where we read, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed".

The faith that Chirrut demonstrates mirrors that of the many blind men whom Jesus healed, who knew with eyes of faith that Jesus was the Messiah. The unwavering faith of blind individuals is often contrasted in the Gospels with the many sceptics who saw the example of Jesus with their own eyes and still refused to believe.

As the movie reaches its finale, with the rebels attempting to steal the Death Star plans, the faith and actions of Chirrut save the day. He is able to do what others with sight cannot do and his strong convictions end up being an inspiration to others. In the end Rogue One reminds us that we are often blind to the things that really matter.

So at the beginning of a new year consider this; do the trappings of our Christian tradition obscure our sight from true faith? We only have to look at some of the instructions from Jesus to understand the simplicity of His message and how we should behave, "Love one another as I have loved you", "Do this in memory of me". Spiritual blindness is an effect of skepticism, and its antidote is the adoption of an uncomplicated child-like faith. How many of us will adopt this simple child-like mantra this new year, 'I am with Jesus and Jesus is with me'?

The term ahead promises to be exceptionally busy for both students and staff with Year 11 involved in practice examinations, the Year 9 Options Evening and the school production of 'Anything Goes'. In addition, a significant number of extra-curricular activities are planned, including the annual Ski Trip. The Christmas season was particularly busy for the Chaplaincy team; in addition to preparation for the services, concerts and masses, Mrs Floyd also invited KS3 tutor groups into the Chapel at registration time to reflect on the Advent message. This term we hope to start a prayer group for parents.

University Success

Congratulations to all students in Year 13 who have sent their applications to the University and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) well before the January deadline and have been receiving offers from their universities of choice. We also have seven students looking at Higher Level Apprenticeships and employment options in the local area. The most hard fought and competitive course offers include veterinary sciences, medicine, engineering, nursing, law and teaching. However we are already seeing some exciting offers being made with two students being awarded invitations for prestigious music conservatoires. Verity Flood has a low offer (meaning that they really like her) for both the Birmingham and Royal Northern Conservatoire whilst Connor Lyster is on course for a scholarship at the Royal College of Music in London. This is both impressive and rare so we are delighted and proud of these two stars. We await news for our ten Oxbridge applicants but can already congratulate Helaina Withers for receiving an offer to study veterinary sciences at the Royal College of Veterinary Sciences.

Enormous thanks and congratulations go to the Sixth Form tutors for their preparation of references and support in helping students write their personal statements.

As many of you are aware Father Kevin is leaving Sacred Heart Waterlooville this week. He takes up a position as Parish Priest in Ascot on 21st January. Father Kevin has been Parish Priest at Sacred Heart for twelve years. His involvement as a Governor at Oaklands stretches further than this. In addition to his governorship, Father Kevin regularly comes into school to celebrate Mass. Many students recognise him as their priest and Oaklands as their church. He will be missed by the school community. Father Jeremy Garratt takes over from Father Kevin on 14th January. I am sure both Father Kevin and Father Jeremy would get great comfort from knowing that you are praying for them at this time of change.



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

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Matthew Quinn

Welcome

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

Teaching Staff

Mr Nicholas Kryes (Science)

Temporary Teaching Staff

Mr Patrick Quirke (RE)

Support Staff

Miss Carla Parsons (Learning Support Assistant)

Mrs Linsey Poulton (Cover Assistant)

Mrs Kristiina Pennell (Reprographics Assistant)

Certificates Evening

The school hall was packed full of staff, former students and their guests on Monday 12th December 2016 to celebrate the school's examination success at A level and GCSE.

The evening started with an address from Mr Quinn. He noted in his welcome the outstanding achievement of students of all abilities and the contribution parents make in supporting students at Oaklands. He went on to say that students need to aim high, prepare to change and be resilient to chart their way through the challenges of life's journey. Along with their certificates, students were presented with a small wooden cross as a memento of their time at Oaklands.

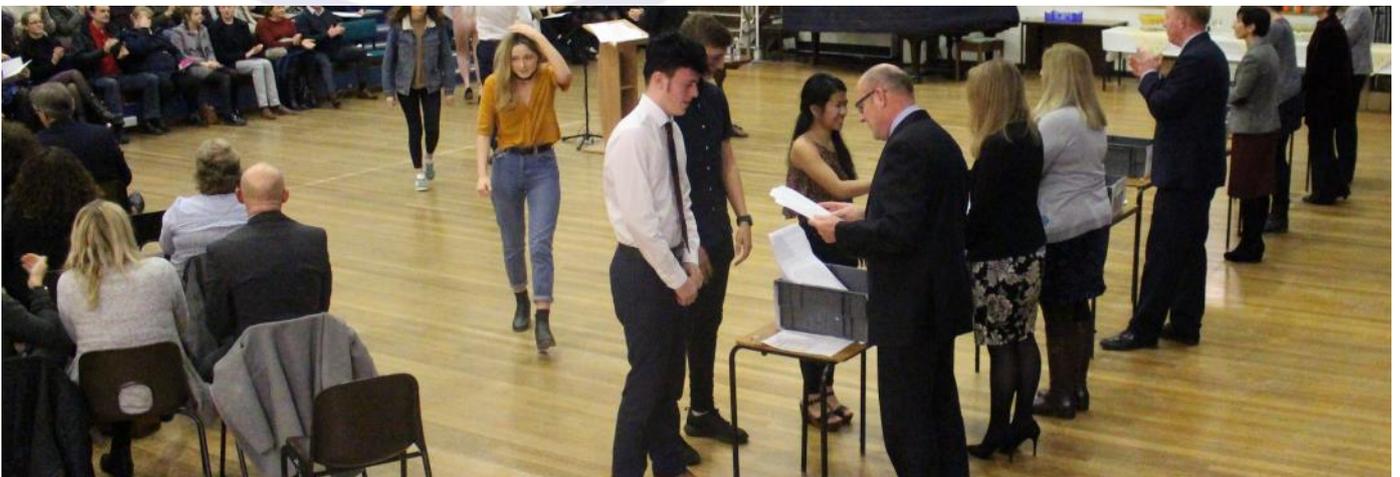
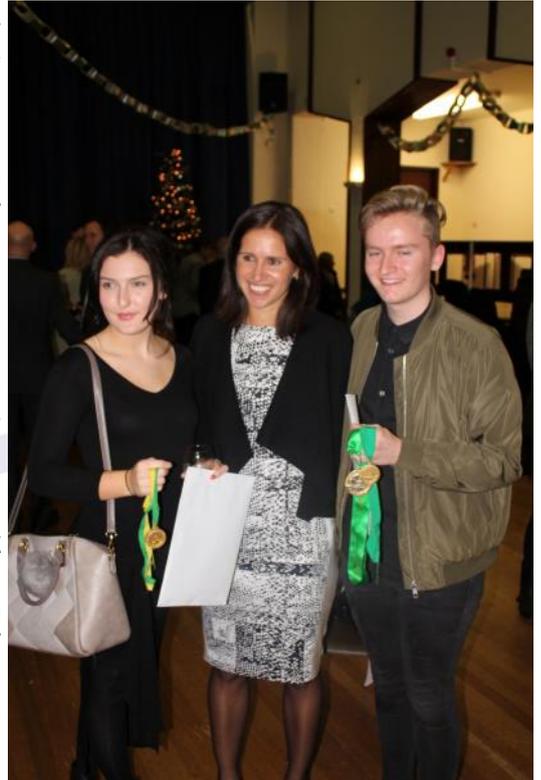
The school was delighted to have two guest speakers. Anna Hemmings MBE, is best known as Britain's most successful ever female canoeist, a two time Olympian and six times World Champion. Anna had a glittering sporting career; she first broke into the top flight of the sport at the age of 19 when she won her first European Championship in marathon canoeing. In 1999 she defended her title and went on to win her very first World Title. Anna is the only British female canoeist to ever hold both European and World marathon canoeing titles concurrently (1999 and 2005). Anna gave a motivational speech, talking about her journey to success.

The second speaker was our very own Jessica McKeever, who left Oaklands to work in the Civil Service. She now works at Number 10 Downing Street. Jess was able to talk about the support she received in the Sixth Form, how her experiences at Oaklands had prepared her for the grueling process of securing an apprenticeship and working behind one of the most famous doors in the world.

During the ceremony, students were entertained with excerpts from the next school production, 'Anything Goes'.

The celebration was concluded with a vote of thanks from Sixth Form Student Leaders, Sam Osborne and David Rennie. The school made a donation to two charities chosen by the guest speakers.

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



Maths Challenges

So far this year, Oaklands have entered the Senior Individual Maths Challenge and the Senior Team Challenge competitions. These national events are aimed at Sixth Form students. Of the twenty students that were entered for the individual challenge, we gained five gold awards (top 10%), seven silver awards (top 30%) and six bronze awards (top 60%).



The type of questions these students were faced with included:

What is the smallest square that has 2016 as a factor?
 A 42^2 B 84^2 C 168^2 D 336^2 E 2016^2

Four of these students progressed to a follow-on round, the results of which we are eagerly anticipating. A fantastic year for our older students, especially Victoria Rose (Year 11) achieving a Gold and Ania Savage (Year 8) gaining a silver award!

Well done all those who took part!

9	+	3	=	
+		-		+
6	-		=	4
=		=		=
	+	1	=	16

In November, some Year 9 students helped Mr Keer run a Maths Challenge for some of our neighbouring primary school students, including St Peter's and Berewood. We started with a number crossword exercise and then moved on to the first of three challenges. There were three different colour packs given to Year 9, one green, one red and one blue, all containing ten questions. The primary school groups had five attempts to answer a question from each section. Each attempt was worth a different amount of points. This was very interesting because some of the questions were very difficult and even Year 9 struggled to work them out!

The second round was all about 2017. There were about five questions that no-one could answer, but it was fun because some primary students had answers that Mr Keer couldn't work out!

Finally, the third challenge was a Maths crossword. There were different clues amounting to different spaces in the crossword and each answer would lead you to another clue.

It was a great afternoon and good to see how the children from primary schools can work out some maths questions so quickly.

Year 9 Mathematicians

For those students unable to be present at the recent Presentation of Certificates Evening, GCSE and 'A' level Examination Certificates are now available for collection from Main Reception at the school for the academic year 2015/2016. **Please note**, these are valuable documents which are expensive to replace and we are only permitted to retain them for one year after which time they must be destroyed.

Faith and Football

Each year since 2011, Oaklands' Year 9 students have been invited to take part in a competition against other Year 9s across Hampshire. A competition for Year 9 students only, this is run by Faith and Football, a Portsmouth charity who put so much back onto the local community predominantly through their work with young people, serving our most deprived communities with literacy support, raising money through sponsored events and continually raising the bar in the enterprise stakes. As a result of Faith and Football work, a new cohort of students leave schools every summer instilled with the basics of business and ready to make their own significant contributions to the local economy.



The challenge is simple – run a business for four months, keep a record of all transactions and ideas and meetings and present a business report on your venture at the end. The winner does not necessarily have to have made the most money, they are distinguished above the other thirty teams by the quality of their innovation, effort, teamwork and overall business ethics, energy and understanding. Extraordinarily, teams from Oaklands have now dominated this competition for four years taking either first place (this is our third win) or being runners up (every year)! The secret? There is no secret, we simply have hard work, steely determination and stellar business ideas in abundance amongst our students. Oaklands fielded twenty teams this year and though ZIGAZAG were runners up by a hair's breadth with their brilliant inflatable pets, the 2016 winners were six girls who comprised GLAZED. They made beautiful cupcakes and together with a clear and well-focused business plan, this impressive group took the top prize this year and flew to Goa in India on 4th December for seven days. They visited the various homes, schools and villages that Faith and Football's competition monies are sent to each year through Mustard Seeds Ministries. What did they think of it?



Anina Sebastian:

"The trip to Goa was one of a lifetime. It simply opens your eyes to a completely different way of living and you can be a part of something that impacts someone else's life forever. My favourite part of the trip was meeting the young people at the Little Angels home and seeing how welcoming they all were to us, treating us like family. We were able to help them paint the walls of their house as they started a chapter of their lives at a new home. This trip to Goa is truly life changing and I am so grateful for the opportunity that I have had, it makes all the hard work worth it!"

The trip is planned and run by Faith and Football's Mick Mellows and Mustard Sees Ministries' Rick and Gilly Reilly-Davidson in Goa. Each day we visited both the sights of Goa as tourists and took gifts and much needed funds to the places that have long been supported by the money all the schools raise. Whilst the team enjoyed the sun and luxury of the trip they were never far from a visit or meeting with those whose lifestyles could not have been more different from six girls from Hampshire in the UK.

"I thought the pool, beach and elephants were amazing, but my favourite thing was meeting the Little Angels. We helped paint their home and they were all very friendly. Going to India was one of the best experiences of my life and spending it with amazing friends was the cherry on the top. We have made so many memories together and most will last a lifetime. Thank you!"

Laura Vahey





"My favourite part of the trip was meeting all of the boys at Little Angels. They all had so many different backgrounds and a lot of their stories from before they came to Little Angels were very sad to hear. But they were all so happy and normal there, you would never have guessed. I didn't think painting with them would be so much fun, but it was! Having to say goodbye was very hard, because even though we had only known them for three days it felt like much longer. I really enjoyed the trip and am so glad I had the opportunity to go!"

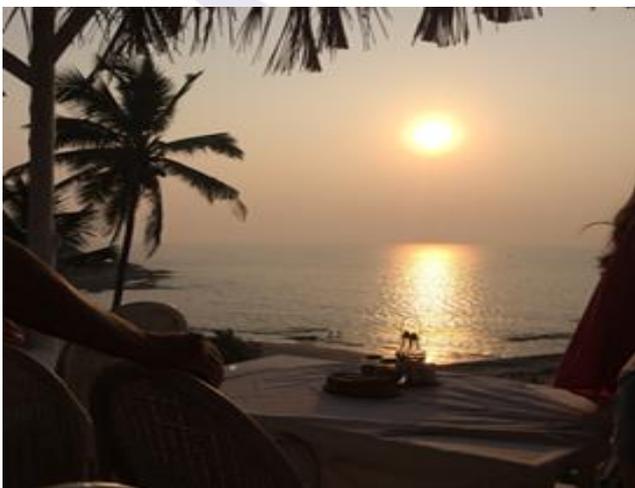
Susie Barrows

"Going to India was something that I will never forget. All the things that I saw and the lessons that I learnt will stay with me forever. My favourite part of the trip was when we visited one of the local villages to hand out rice and sweets. I really enjoyed to see how happy everyone was. When we played games and interacted with the children, it was amazing how happy it made them as in the UK we take treats, such as sweets for granted and don't realise how much they mean to some people. I also really loved visiting Sanjay's special school as the children, no matter how old, were all really excited to go to school and so happy to be there. Overall, the trip was unforgettable and truly life-changing. It has helped me see how fortunate we are in the UK and has changed my attitude towards life."

Jessica Keeping



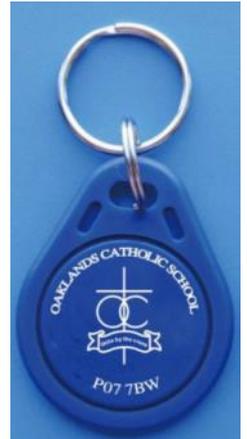
Very well done to Jessica Keeping, Anastasia Lonergan, Laura Vahey, Anju Yeldhu, Susie Barrows and Anina Sebastian for being such noble and deserving 2016 winners. You make the Oaklands community justly proud of your achievements and the way you conducted yourselves whilst in India.



Cashless Catering

Back in 2013, Oaklands introduced a cashless catering system using the latest technology. The system was introduced to allow the school to continue the development of our meal service and provide students with a more efficient, faster and ultimately better quality of service. Clearly the continued success of this initiative requires the full support of parents/carers in order for us to optimise the benefits of this system.

The system uses the latest proximity technology and means that students do not need to carry cash throughout the day. This technology not only aims to provide a cashless environment within the school but can be improved to provide further functions in the future. All staff and students are shown how to use the system and each pupil is provided with a proximity fob registered in their name, free of charge. A daily 'spend limit' can be programmed into the system for your child if you wish.



Ultimately for the system to work effectively money should be paid into a student's account in advance or on the day and any money they then spend on food and drinks will be deducted at the tills. Pupils on Free School Meals will be issued with an identical fob which will be electronically topped up with their meal entitlement value.

There has been a growing trend over the past few months of pupils bringing cash to top up their fobs when purchasing food at breakfast, break and lunchtimes. This clearly does not meet the cashless catering environment the school is trying to achieve and ultimately undermines the benefits that the system was originally installed for to achieve.



We are now investigating the provision of 'top up' machines in school that students can use to top up their fob outside of mealtimes but we would ask parents/carers to support us in our aim to achieve a cashless environment by regularly topping up the fobs using the online payment system.

For further information, please contact the school or visit our website and go to the Parents/Online Pay section using the following link:

<http://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org/page/?title=Online+Pay&pid=36>

Thank you for your support.

Oaklands Parents Association (OPA) - We Need You!

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 6 February, 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.

Alison Evans (Parent in OPA)

Email: alison.evans320@ntlworld.com

Rewarding Students

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

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

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

Staff can also award Accolades (individualised praise messages), and students reach Achievement Milestones on the epraise system. To show our Year 7 and 8 students how proud we are of their achievements we award them with a special badge when they achieve their milestones: Bronze for 40 points; Silver for 70; Gold for 100; Ruby for 130 and Sapphire for 150.

Heads of Year and Tutors enjoy being able to give pastoral reward points to those students who contribute to school life in other ways- helpfulness, resilience and Chaplaincy and contribution to student council can all be rewarded, for example.

Students can also spend their points in our online "shop", which offers great purchases such as phone cases, notebooks, pens, key rings, footballs, earphones, stress animals, food and activity vouchers and much, much more.

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

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

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

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

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 Catering Facilities

We can also facilitate

Meetings Conferences Training Days

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

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



02392 259214 Ext 294

lettings@oaklandscatholicschool.org



Kintbury is the perfect balance between spiritual development, relaxation and good fun. We arrived Monday evening to a warm welcome. After the first evening meal we were able to get straight into the experience with team building. Despite how this sounded, the activity turned out like everything on the trip as good fun. We were then put into small groups, groups that we would spend the duration of the trip with. In these small groups we had the opportunity to learn more about ourselves and others. We would end every day with an evening prayer in the prayer room which gave us the opportunity to reflect on our day.

On Tuesday we were given the opportunity to pair up with someone that we do not usually socialise with and to go on a short walk with them. By the end of the walk you felt like you had really got to know someone else. We were then given the opportunity for some down time which we all used to take a break and socialise with our friends and play games. We also had the chance to take part in a quiz which required use of our useless knowledge!

On Wednesday we prepared our own Mass. Each small group was given a different part of the Mass to focus on and make their own ready to take part in on Thursday. Wednesday was also the day for affirmations. This is where each person makes a personal message to other people in their groups for them to keep. It was a great way to get positive messages across to people and to put everyone in a good mood.

On Thursday we were all starting to feel down as it was the day we were returning back to school. The trip was just not long enough! We all took part in the Mass that we had prepared ourselves before an emotional goodbye.

Kintbury was an experience that taught me about myself, helped me build relationships with others and it allowed me to have a very fun week.

Ryan Crellin-Simpson, 11VP

Charity Concert - Talent Wanted!

On Wednesday 5th April 2017, members of the Sixth Form will be hosting a concert to raise money for St John's, Korogocho.

Your head boys, Sam Osborne and David Rennie are looking for a select few of widely talented Oaklands students to perform to an audience. They are looking for sophisticated acts and would welcome anything played live and would like to include a variety of acts including music, dance, comedy sketches, poetry recitals, etc.



If you are interested, please contact Sam Osborne at 10osbornesa@oaklandscatholicsschool.org and tell him what you would be thinking of doing.

The concert will be at 6.45pm and tickets will be available for students, parents, friends and family! More details to follow soon, but please put this date in your diaries.

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 a chat for you with the Head, Chair of Governors or a serving Parent Governor. Commitment is a minimum of three 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 for an application form which will need to be completed and returned to the school by 12.00noon on Thursday 12th January 2017.

Alumni

David Jarczyk was at Oaklands from 2004-2011.

After getting his degree in Chemical Engineering from Swansea, he applied to join the Royal Navy and passed out from Dartmouth Royal Naval College on 15th December 2016.

David is training to be a Marine Engineer and will be going his first Ship, HMS Ocean in January as a Sub Lieutenant. He is aiming to become a submariner in the fullness of time.



Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College - Alumni

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

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

Go to www.futurefirst.org.uk

Go to the 'Sign Up' tab

Click 'Former Student'

Type in **Oaklands Catholic School**



CAFOD Young Leaders' Conference

On 11th October 2016, fifteen Oaklands Sixth Form students took part in their first CAFOD Young Leaders Conference on how to become effective leaders. The Conference was held here at Oaklands in our main school hall. We were joined for this conference by Sixth Form students from St Joseph's College in Reading, St Anne's School in Southampton, Christ the King College on the Isle of White, Salesian College and Farnborough Hill both in Farnborough. The day was led by Sarah Burrows and Julia Platt (née Quinn) from CAFOD HQ – Romero House, in London, assisted by Lynda Mussell, our local CAFOD Coordinator in the Portsmouth Diocese. We were delighted to see Julia as she was a teacher here at Oaklands not so long ago!

With a prompt 9:30am start we quickly began team building activities – got to meet and know the names of the students from other colleges and then moved on to tasks that allowed us to learn more about CAFOD and its role in the world today. These activities lead us to become good friends with those from other colleges, and we are able to share our work with CAFOD through social media, especially our Oaklands Young Leaders' twitter account (@CAFOD_Oaklands).

Since our initial training day, our team of young leaders; Ashy, Sandra, Melna, Mileine, Megan, Rachael, Quinn, Gavin, Ronan, Katie, Niamh, Wendy, Olivia, Fatiah and Natasha have raised £152 through raffles and cake sales for the Oaklands St John's Scholarship Programme. At the moment, we are planning their next fundraising activity – a Rave for Refugees which will be taking place in January. Please support us if you can.

Our next training day will be at Farnborough Hill in January – we are looking forward to it as well as meeting our friends again.

Olivia Powell



St John's Scholarship Programme

As reported in the previous edition of this publication, we are now in the fourth year of this wonderful life-enhancing programme at St John's. Here is a reminder of how it all began.

In February 2011, CAFOD announced that it was running a competition to send students from a secondary school to a developing country to see how it was working with its partners to tackle the problem of poverty. After considering the criteria for applications, Oaklands entered the competition. We put together our application – detailing how we have supported the work of CAFOD over the years and how we believe that we are playing our part in making the world a better place by the little things we do. To my great surprise, I received an email in March informing me that together with four other schools, we had been shortlisted to go to the interview stage! The interviews took place at Romero House in London, the Headquarters of CAFOD. The students representing Oaklands were Holly Phillips, Callum Stirling and Lara Woodgate, all in Year 11 at that time. The following day, we were informed that together with another school, St Columba in St Albans, we had been successful and so would be visiting Kenya in the summer! I couldn't believe it!

After some preparatory meetings, taking our vaccinations and appearing on BBC Radio Solent we left for Kenya in June 2011. While in Kenya, we visited two communities – St John's Sports Society in Korogocho and a community self-help group in Kitui (North East of Nairobi.) We saw how CAFOD was literally changing lives of many people, young and old, but the lasting impression made on us was by St John's. The young people in this slum were full of hope and optimism.

When we asked how we could help, they told us to help build a gym where they could train. They wanted a place that would help them keep away from the dangers on the streets and also equip them with skills to make them employable. Sports was one of the things that gave them their dignity back. Living in a slum, they were faced by many challenges and dangers but St John's Sports Society compound was an oasis for them. When we come back to Oaklands, we shared our story with the rest of the school and as a community, we decided to raise money to build this gym for the young people of St John's. In eighteen months, we had raised an incredible £25,000! St Columba in St Albans also raised a similar amount and thus together, we financed the building a gym with many other facilities for St John's community.

In June 2013, we were invited back to St John's for the opening of the gym. I accompanied three students – Londwa Dlamini, Harry Hick and Jessica Park on this visit. We were overwhelmed with the gratitude of the people of St John's. However, faced with people who were so grateful with so little made us ask ourselves what we could do to help more. We again asked St John's how we could help them. This time, Fr John, the priest in charge of the centre, shared with us his frustration at the lack of funds to help children go to school. As a school, this struck a chord with us – education is one of the keys to success! We therefore decided to help those families that were really struggling to send their children to school by providing them with financial support.

How were we going to do this without creating a problem of dependence and without creating division in the community itself? St John's School's management team, led by the priest in charge, decided that they would assess each family's need each term and determine which children were desperately in need; these would be the children who would be enrolled on the programme for that term.

It is on this basis, that we set up Oaklands St John's Scholarship Programme. In this fourth year of the programme, I am proud to say that over 700 hundred children have benefitted – either by getting their full school fees for the year paid or just a term's fee! Please refer to the last edition of Oaklands News to read the stories of some of the children.

Since September 2016, we have raised £7,297.75 as detailed in this table.

I am greatly humbled by the generosity of all people who contribute; we are changing the lives of many children and families in Korogocho by enabling these children to go to school.

Fundraising Activities	£4,159.01
Standing Orders from individuals and organisations	£1,340.00
Gift Aid Scheme	£1,000.00 £798.75
GRAND TOTAL	£7,297.75

Finally, for the last 4 years, we have managed to keep the figure of sponsoring a child for a term at £10 (or £30 per year). However, an increase to inflation rates in Kenya and fears of Brexit have led to the fall in the value of the pound and the fee for a term has now gone up to £15 (£45 per year). I hope that we can continue to support this project and enhance the lives of the children at St John's.

Mr Sumba

Attendance Procedures

Please can you ensure that if your child is absent from school that you notify the school before 8.30am or as soon after that time as you can. It is a requirement that parents notify the school when their child is absent and to state the reason for that absence with an indication on the first day as to whether it is likely to be a longer term absence.

Any absence of five days or more must be supported by medical evidence (eg: letter from GP or Consultant; prescription; named and dated medicine etc)

If it is a planned absence eg: for a medical or other off-site appointment, please let us know in advance to ensure that no child is delayed in being signed out of school. Students leaving must sign out at the attendance window. An adult must contact the school in advance of collection with a reason for absence. Without this, students will not be permitted to leave the school site.

Parents can communicate via one of four ways:

- By email on **absence@oaklandscatholicsschool.org** (leaving a contact number on the email for verification purposes).
- By phone using the main school number **02392 259214** and selecting option 1
- By phone directly through to the Absence number **02392 248053**
- By letter, addressed to Mrs Richardson, Attendance Officer, which your child should hand in to her at the attendance window.

Students should always come to the attendance window to sign in if they are arriving after 9.00am in the morning (please do not go straight to registration or assembly). Any students returning during the day from an appointment should also ensure they sign back in at the attendance window, even if it is during break or lunchtime.

Holiday requests must be made on the correct Leave of Absence form (see the school website). However, holidays will not be approved unless there are exceptional circumstances.

School Uniform Issue and Sanctions

The school uniform policy on make up and nail varnish is quite clear – it is not permitted. Unfortunately, a number of students demonstrate blatant disregard for this, in particular, wearing false nails and this issue has escalated in recent weeks.

From Monday 16th January, students who come into school wearing stuck-on gel, acrylic or shellac-type nails will be placed in Inclusions until they are removed. They are inappropriate for school; students find it difficult to hold a pen and they are a health and safety risk in PE, technology and science. Parents can buy over the counter removers or arrange for their child to have them removed but this must be done overnight to allow the child to return to lessons as quickly as possible.

Any students coming into school wearing nail varnish will be given nail varnish remover in either their tutor base or in student services. Once they have co-operated in removing the varnish they will be able to go to lessons.

It is difficult to see how any student can attend school wearing such nails without parents being aware. Your cooperation and support in this matter would be appreciated.

Important Reminders

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

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

However, since our school site is generally a very safe place, we consider that in most circumstances, the whole school day should be considered as phone and electronic device free. We continue to **recommend** that students do not bring their mobile phones or other electronic devices to school. They are very expensive items and, if they go missing, the school will not take responsibility for them.

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



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

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

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

Detentions

All parents know that from time to time youngsters step the wrong side of the line. With good parenting comes the responsibility for setting clear boundaries and, where necessary, taking action when boundaries are pushed. In school one of the sanctions we have at our disposal is a detention. This can occur during or after school, Inset Days or Saturday mornings.

If your child is detained during school time then they will normally be asked to write in their planner so that you are aware.

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

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

Young Carers' Ice Skating

The Oaklands' Young Carers group has been visiting the Ice Rink at Winchester Cathedral for five years. It has become somewhat of an annual tradition which marks both the end of the calendar year and the conclusion of the first term of the school year. The evening was fun-filled and a fabulous way to recognise the efforts made by our young carers to help support their parents, loved ones and families. We are, as always, incredibly proud of the work they do.

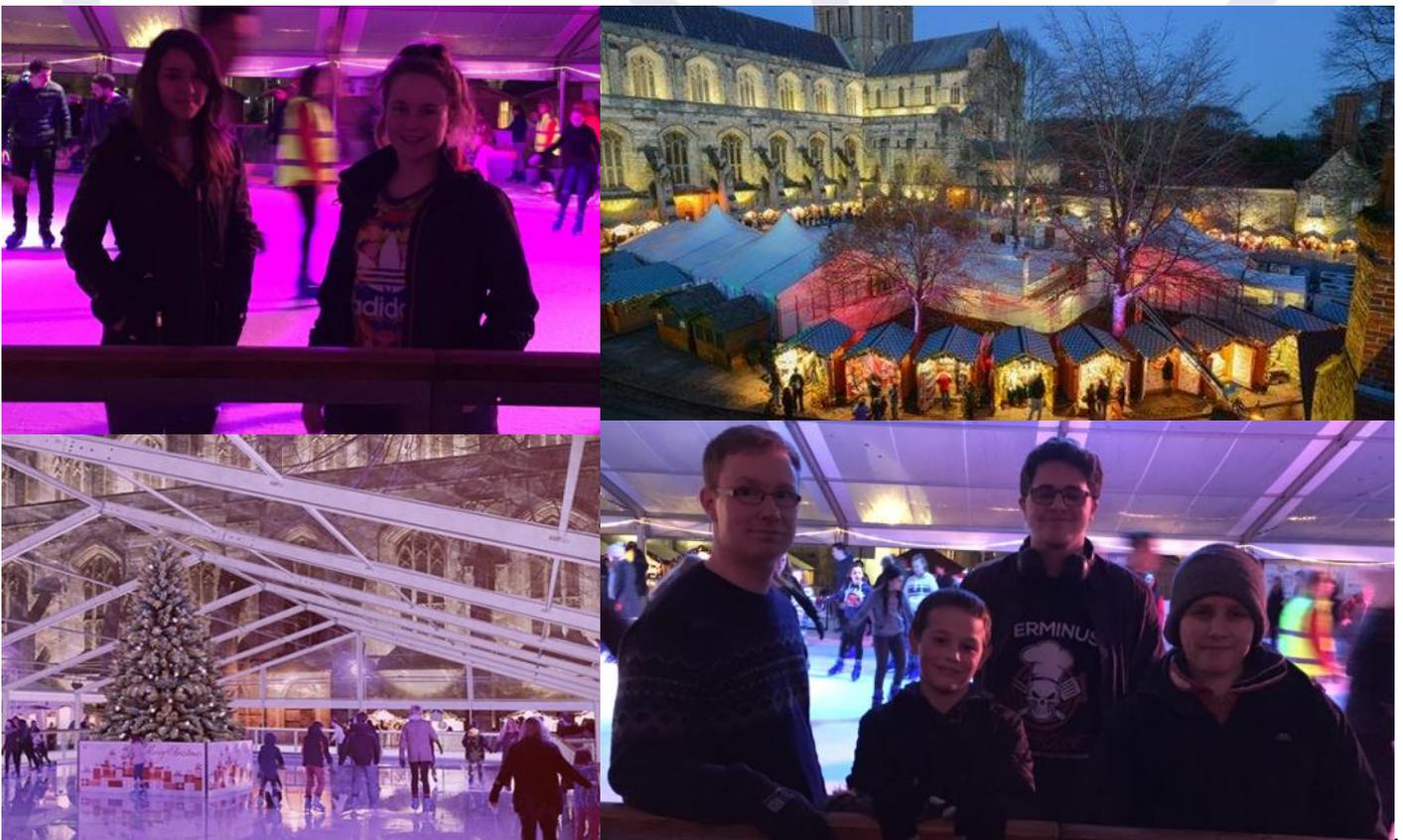
For those reading who have never visited the cathedral at this time of the year, I would wholeheartedly recommend a visit. The cathedral square is home to the newly covered ice rink. The roof keeps any rain off the ice while the side-less construction allows the music and atmosphere to drift into the square and among the hundreds of people who are perusing the excellent Christmas market or queuing for a footlong hot dog, burger or hog roast from the food stalls.

In recent years, we have had to stop going for dinner after the ice skating - we are simply too large a group to squeeze into a busy restaurant; this year we totalled 42 with staff. The group itself is now at around 50 students who have identified as young carers, a quite incredible number of very inspirational young people. The desire to offer support to such a high number of students has led to us running a second group, a lunchtime quiet meeting in one of our computer rooms where our young carers and their friends can come to do homework, sit and chat or speak to staff about any concerns they have.

2017 will hopefully be a big year for the young carers group here at Oaklands. We will, of course, be attending the Young Carers Festival in the summer and undertaking the necessary fundraising which allows us to continue our support. However, there are also plans afoot for a second Family Fun Day similar to our offering two years ago, details to be announced in the Spring.

Oaklands will also be seeking to receive the Bronze Young Carers in School Award, a national recognition of the work schools do in supporting young carers.

From all the young carers here at Oaklands, and from the staff who volunteer their time to make the support possible, may you all have a healthy and happy 2017.



Ski Trip Preparation

Sixty-five students attempted skiing for the first time at Calshot Activities Centre on two evenings in December. The trip to Calshot provided the students with the opportunity to wear the equipment for the first time and learn the basics; this means that more rapid progress can be made when the students arrive at the resort in February. These trips wouldn't have been possible without the help of a number of staff including: Mr Smith, Mr Wade, Mr Turner, Mrs Payne and Miss Dugan.



The trip during February half term is fast approaching. 106 students from Year 9 and the Sixth Form will travel to the Italian ski resort of Andalo. As in previous years, we will drive there leaving on Friday with arrival expected on the Saturday afternoon. The students will ski for five days and then leave on Friday from Italy and will return back to school on the Saturday afternoon.

The start of the ski season has not been great across the Alps. Many resorts have been heavily reliant on the production of artificial snow, with some resorts not even open at all. High pressure has dominated this area of Europe and the skies have been clear. Fortunately, our resort – Andalo – has an extensive network of artificial snow cannons and the majority of slopes are open, even if natural snow is mostly absent. Hopefully, we can look forward to good conditions when we arrive there in February.

<http://www.paganella.net/index.php?language=E> provides further information on our resort.

Mr Bamford



Term Dates

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.

Term Dates 2017/2018

Autumn Term 2017
Half Term:

Fri 1st September to Thurs 21st December
Mon 23rd - Fri 27th October

Spring Term 2018
Half Term:

Thurs 4th January to Thurs 29th March
Mon 12th - Fri 16th February

Summer Term 2018
Half Term:

Mon 16th April to Fri 20th July
Mon 28th May - Fri 1st June

INSET Days are as follows:

Friday 1st September, Monday 4th September,
Friday 22nd September, Thursday 21st December,
Friday 20th July.

Tuesday 5th September will be a phased return for new
Year 7 students and Year 12 and Year 13.

All students will return to school on Wednesday 6th
September 2017.

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

Dates for the Spring Term

Tuesday	3 January 2017	First Day of Spring Term
Monday	9 January	Year 11 Practice Exams Commence OPA Committee Meeting (7.30pm)
Monday	16 January	Governors' Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting
Monday	23 January	Faith Unity Week Governors' Business & Collaboration Committee Meeting
Monday	30 January	Year 11 Book Sharing Week
Tuesday	31 January	Class Photographs (Y7, 11, 12 and 13)
Thursday	2 February	Year 9 Options Evening (6.00pm)
Friday	3 February	Year 11 Mock Grades Home
Monday	6 February	OPA Committee Meeting (7.30pm)
Tuesday	7 February	Y13 Reports Home
Wednesday	8 February	Full Governors' Meeting
Thursday	9 February	Year 11 Parents' Evening (5.00pm)
Monday	13 February	Y12 Reports Home
Tuesday	14 February	Year 12 Post-18 Information Evening (7.00pm)
Wednesday	15 February	Year 8 Progress Review Home SEN Parents' Evening (5.00pm)
Friday	17 February	Ski Trip Departs
Mon-Fri	20-24 February	Half Term
Tuesday	28 February	Year 7 Progress Review Home
Friday	3 March	Non-Uniform Day
Monday	6 March	Governors' Ethos Committee Meeting
Tuesday	7 March	Whole School Production
Wednesday	8 March	Whole School Production
Thursday	9 March	Whole School Production
Monday	13 March	Maths GCSE Preview Evening (Y9) (7.00-8.30pm)
Wednesday	15 March	Full Governors' Meeting
Thursday	16 March	Sixth Form Practice Exams Commence
Tuesday	21 March	Year 10 Reports Home
Wednesday	22 March	HPV (2) Vaccinations (Y8 Girls)
Monday	27 March	Year 7 Book Sharing Week
Thursday	30 March	Design Showcase (5.00-8.00pm)
Monday	3 April	English GCSE Preview Evening (Y9) (7.00-8.30pm) OPA Committee Meeting (7.30pm)
Wednesday	5 April	Charity Concert
Thursday	6 April	Year 7 Parents' Evening (5.00pm)
Friday	7 April	Sixth Form Practice Grades Home Last Day of Term

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The school reserves the right to make alterations.**

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College
presents:



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

**Tuesday 7th March,
Wednesday 8th March,
Thursday 9th March 2017**

Tickets released in January



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(023) 92 259214

oaklands@oaklandscatholicschool.org

www.oaklandscatholicschool.org



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