

# Oaklands News

No 418 May 17

'Food for Thought' Trip  
Design and Technology Showcase  
Dance News  
Pictures from St John's, Korogocho



A publication for  
Oaklands Catholic School  
and Sixth Form College



## Lead Stories



# Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

From the Headteacher	2
Open Morning	3
Challenge Week	4
Oaklands Unplugged	5
'Food for Thought' Trip to France	6-7
Design and Technology Showcase	8
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award	9
Dance News	10
Girls' Rugby	11
CAFOD Young Leaders	12
Pictures from St John's Korogocho	13
Oscar Romero Award	14
Library News	14
Latin at Oaklands	15
Cashless Catering	16
Star Gazing	17
Fundraiser for Young Carers	17
Attendance Matters	18
Peripatetic Summer Concert	18
Congratulations	19
Supervision of Students	19
Alumni	20
Noticeboard (including Bus Information)	21- 22
Diary Dates	23
Art and Photography Exhibition	24

For students and for some staff, this term is full of goodbyes. Year 11 had their final Mass on Wednesday 17th and Year 13 on Thursday 25th May. For all students this is not quite the end as they will continue to rub shoulders during the exams. Year 11 also have their prom at the end of June. However, the reality is that by the end of June, some students who have spent years together will never cross paths again, despite the use of social media.

I am probably not alone when I say that I do not find goodbyes particularly easy. The exchange of words might go something like this, *"We really do need to get together more often. I'll give you a call in a few months and see what we can work out. Let's keep in touch until then."* The final thing that often goes into saying goodbye is the making of plans for when I will see the person again. Sometimes those plans are very tentative, but we still seem to be unable to say goodbye without at least proposing some plans for the future.

In today's Gospel from St John, Jesus prepares his disciples: *In a short while you will no longer see me.* Next week, we will celebrate the feast of the Ascension.

Many times when we say our goodbyes, we make all kinds of promises about keeping in touch. However, when Jesus said goodbye, his promises were more than just empty words; the Ascension means something else to us today; Jesus' departure was not a goodbye. Yes, it was an ending; Jesus would depart in a physical sense, but he never really leaves us. The Ascension was the start of something wonderfully new, which would be experienced through the lives of the disciples and the entire church to come. Jesus' living presence is all around us through the life of the Holy Spirit working in and through us. We are never alone. The promise of the Holy Spirit reaffirms this for us. The fact that Jesus does not completely depart, reminds us that unlike the distant friend or relative, we do not worship a distant God who is never here. We worship a God who is active, present and involved in our lives.

This half term, probably more than any other, has disappeared at an alarming speed, where efforts have focused on examination classes. I would like to acknowledge the time put in by staff; it is a pleasure to work with colleagues who show such dedication to their students.

During the course of the school year, the Governors renew a number of their policies. The School Behaviour policy will have a 'reboot' for the September term.

In addition to setting out the expectations on students, we will also describe our expectations of parents as they work to support the school. We will look again at how we manage rewards and sanctions, including exclusion from school, so that there is more transparency for both students and parents. The current policy finds its genesis in a time before social media and the ubiquitous smart phone. How the school manages issues related to these also needs scrutinising. The new policy will aim to foster more collaboration between staff and students, which enables lessons to be not just orderly, but compelling. It will also help students to develop in ways that transcend the curriculum, equipping them for life after school.

The vast majority of students follow the Governors' school uniform policy, which can be found on the school website and in student planners. Over the last half term, I have watched students arrive at school, often alighting from parents' cars, incorrectly dressed, wearing makeup and jewellery contrary to the policy. This situation makes it very difficult for the school. Please do not leave it to the school to challenge your children for something that should be managed at home. If jewellery or make-up is confiscated, parents will be called to collect it from Reception. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

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

**Matthew Quinn**



# Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College



**Tuesday 13th or Thursday 22nd June 2017 11:40 - 13:40pm**

**To book your place, email: [admissions@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto:admissions@oaklandscatholicschool.org)**

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

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Community Unity Opportunity



## Challenge Week

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



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

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



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



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

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

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



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

My thanks go to this year's Challenge Week Group and to all our dedicated staff who have worked hard to plan and prepare this week for our students. We look forward to spending the week with the students and hearing about their activities in the next edition of Oaklands News.

**Oaklands Unplugged:** The concert to end all concerts. Performances from our own students and friends of Oaklands blew away the audience on the evening of Tuesday 9 May.



With one of Oaklands Sixth Form's very own Headboys, Sam Osborne presenting in his own idiosyncratic manner dressed as Cap'n Jack Sparrow. The show kicked off at 7.15pm. The first act being the brilliant Josh Sanderson who saved the show in special ways by stepping in at the last minute to offer some beautiful voice and acoustic guitar songs with Alaina Sparkes on backing vocals. He was followed by the Portsmouth Grammar School visitors band Isolated Islands from Year 10s Rex, Charlie and Ben. Their music was influenced by Tism and Artie Monkeys or Stone Roses and their jaunty three minute pop snippets were impressive and competent.

Another Sixth Form act was the talented Georgia McCarthy from Year 13, representing the Modern Foreign Languages department by singing stunning songs she had written and composed in French and Spanish.

After a serene yet tuneful performance from Georgia, the audience witnessed something no-one ever wanted or expected to see...Mrs Ludlam dressed as a man! In a recreation of Monty Python's sketch 'The Argument Clinic' a group of teachers consisting of Mrs Ellis, Mr Smith, Mr Osborne, Mrs Whyte and Mrs Ludlam gave a classic performance. Some of them might be well-advised to stick to teaching but at least they thought they were funny!

Then next came along the very talented, singer-songwriter Alaina Sparkes with her immortal tune Snapchat Girl and a lovely rendition of Don't Look Back in Anger.

Finally to finish we rocked out to Flowvers, Year 11 Mattise Moretti's four piece indie-rock band. After a chequered start to this term, to see Mattise leading such a great sound with shades of both Morrissey and Liam Gallagher about his stance, we left the event feeling proud of our students and delighted at the wealth of talent in our midst. We were also delighted to have raised £224.20 for St John's students in Korrogocho, Kenya.

Many thanks to the sound and lighting team for their expertise and to the Music department for rescuing the students with their loan of equipment in the eleventh hour (#forwardplanning) and the site team's Dave McCarthy for hanging on to lock up after we had all finished.

Next year anyone?

By Olivia Powell Y12





**‘Food for Thought’ Trip 2017 – Normandy, France**



**Day 1**  
 What a start! We got to school at 6am and managed to get everyone on to the ferry successfully- just about!!! As we travelled past the Isle of Wight, one boy shouted out “Wow, that was a quick ferry trip, we are coming up to France already!”  
 After a long ferry ride, we took the coach to the beautiful Chateau du Baffy and we all settled into our rooms before we went to explore the site. Dinner tonight started with a soup and was followed by a lovely main course. Best of all though was the stunning dessert – an almond and pear tart – followed by a delicious cheese platter. I think some enjoyed the cheese platter more than others though!  
 The day finished with a relaxing 2 hours of chill out time.



**Day 2**  
 Well apparently not everyone needs their beauty sleep. After a late night due to excitement and some very early mornings, almost everyone made it down for breakfast on time!  
 By 8:30am we were all on the coach ready to depart for the bakery. It was certainly an interesting journey. We were ‘treated’ to some acapella renditions of songs and found out about our very own princess and the pea!  
 We finally arrived at the bakery and it was a truly amazing experience which most of us seemed to enjoy. We were able to make our own baguettes to take home with us. After lunch it was on to the goats’ cheese farm where we were able to milk a goat and try the milk fresh from the udder!! Then it was time for the cider factory. Both were incredible.



Once again the coach ride home was no disappointment with one person asking if Norway was in France and another asking if someone with no tonsils could get tonsillitis. Dinner was once again amazing. As it was someone’s birthday there was a little surprise in store. Along with Emily and a couple of the chateau staff we decorated a couple of cakes with candles. However lighting the candles was interesting as we were all laughing so much the candles kept getting blown out!  
 What an amazing day!



**Day 3**  
 Well, today was full of unexpected comments and remarks, with statements such as `vegetarianism is a disease of the mind’! The day started with a trip to Bayeux where we all saw the beauty of the cathedral and the atmosphere of the market. We all really enjoyed but some consumed just a little too much sugar.  
 Next we went on to the British cemetery where we took in the sheer amount of people who died during D-day. It was also strange, yet incredible, to see German graves in with the Commonwealth games. We found out that these graves were there first and out of respect they were not moved. As we were there someone asked why most of the graves were from June! I wonder why!?!  
 We then headed to the Normandy beaches where we saw the guns used to fight the British sea invasions. It was followed by a very interesting comment from one of the boys as they stated that they could see the Isle of Wight. He must have had amazing eyesight! This was closely followed by a remark from one of the girls asking who won the First World War to which the response was “Germany of course!” I guess you really do learn something new every day. It was such an amazing and eventful day! (They were soon put right on that one by the rest of us).





## Day 4

Where to start? Day 4 was certainly the day for new experiences. Our first stop of the day was La Calvadosienne an oyster farm in Asnelles. Here we had the opportunity to see how the oysters were farmed and to taste some. In the afternoon we drove down to Arromanches for lunch before heading to the caramel factory. It was so amazing! Once the tour was over it was time to go buy some sweets to take home with us. Finally it was back to the chateau for dinner and a disco. The disco resulted in a few dance battles and some amazing freestyling from Joe. By the end of the day everyone was exhausted and we just about had time to pack before falling asleep. Another wonderful day!

## Day 5

Our last day! We were up early to get ready and bring all our cases downstairs. Some of us had to have a little help as there were quite a few stairs. Once we were all loaded on the coach we said our farewells and then went for a little walk around the picturesque village before it was time to go and make some crêpes. We just about had time to pop into a local hypermarket before we had to head for the ferry to go home. We had a lovely ferry crossing home with people taking part in limbo competitions and music quizzes! After about 6 hours on the ferry we were finally home. It was brilliant to see our parents again but it was such an unforgettable trip it was a shame to be home.

Thank you to Miss Mousdale for organising the trip and to all the staff members who came on the trip. It was such an incredible experience and I would definitely recommend the next trip!

Anastasia Lonergan and Jess Keeping





## Design and Technology Showcase

On 30<sup>th</sup> March the inaugural Design and Technology Showcase took place. All of this year's GCSE and A level practical work was displayed in the hall and students had the chance to talk to those in attendance about their work.

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

As well as students and invited guests, a number of judges from a variety of backgrounds, ex-students, current students engineers, product designers and chefs, viewed the students work and spoke to them about it and 'Best in Show' awards were presented for each subject area at each level.

Though many students were nervous about presenting their work to the public, the Food Technology students were put under the most pressure as they were in the food room with three of the judges being observed and graded 'Master Chef' style while re-making their final dish. Guests in the hall were also able to view this as it was streamed back to them.

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





The Best in Show Awards were awarded as follows:

GCSE Electronic Products:

Abhinav Shaju

GCSE Food Technology:

Sophie Hanley

GCSE Resistant Materials:

James Saunders

GCSE Product Design:

Imogen Glover

AS Product Design:

Antonio de Abreu Faria

A2 Product Design:

Harry Roxburgh

The Student Choice Award:

Ryan Standen



## Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards



As mentioned in the last edition of the Oaklands News, the Annual Presentation of Awards for the Havant and Waterlooville area was held at the school in March, with the Deputy Mayor and special guests Councillor Roy Perry, Hampshire Duke of Edinburgh Award Forum Vice President, and Martin King, Chair of the Hampshire Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The prestigious Gold Award was presented by Councillor Roy Perry and we were delighted that so many Oaklands students were among the recipients. This is a stunning achievement as the Gold Award requires participants to undertake two of the sections for twelve months with the third for six months as well as completing an arduous four day expedition in wild country and a residential experience of five days. To complete this while studying for their A levels is impressive.

Congratulations once again to:

Emilio de Abreu Faria  
Bethany Harrison  
Jonathan Peach

Holly Reynolds  
Joseph Hurd  
Catriona Robinson

Thomas Ellis  
Cebastian Nunez

Two of the above and three of our previous year's participants have been to St James's Palace in recent months to receive their Gold certificates. This is a wonderful occasion when a special guest, for example Gareth Malone, is invited to speak to small groups and following this the Gold certificate is presented to all recipients by either the Duke of Edinburgh or the Earl of Wessex. In the next few months the remainder of the group will receive their invitation to the palace and we wish them a day to remember and cherish for all their hard work and endeavour.

Unfortunately photography is not permitted inside the palace but these photographs of Molly McMaster and Emilio de Abreu Faria were taken immediately after their presentations in the palace grounds.





## Dance News



### **Dance Celebration Evening**

At the end of last term, we had our Dance Celebration Evening when 80 students had the opportunity to perform in the Oaklands main hall for a live audience. This was initially a showcase event for the Year 11 GCSE dance students to perform their exam pieces in public. The girls produced some excellent performances and I was really proud of what they managed to achieve this year.

A number of students from lower year groups volunteered to dance in GCSE choreography pieces for the Year 11 students. This required many weeks and months of lunchtime and after school rehearsals and the commitment and dedication shown by these students was first class. These pieces were all proudly shared on the celebration evening, along with a number of other dances in a range of different styles.

We were also joined by Year 4 and Year 5 students from our neighbouring school, St Peters, and this helped to create a really fantastic atmosphere. These students had completed a 6 week long project in the PE department which was led by some excellent Year 7 students.

### **Hampshire Youth Dance Workshop (HYDC)**

Since returning from the Spring break, things are busy again in the dance classes. The Year 10 GCSE students were joined by the new cohort of GCSE students from Year 9 to participate in a joint workshop which was led by Tory East, who is the rehearsal director of HYDC. HYDC is an audition based company, which trains Hampshire's elite young dancers. It offers committed and passionate young dancers ways to establish connections in the wider dance community. It was an absolute pleasure to work with Tory and a really fantastic opportunity for our students, which they enjoyed thoroughly.



### **South Downs College Taster Workshop**

Last week, the Year 10 GCSE students were joined by teacher, Sarah Parsons and a number of dance students from South Downs College. The Oaklands students were put through their paces with a challenging routine in a jazz style. The students also had the opportunity to discuss which dance related courses were available to them at the college and quiz the college students on what life is like at the college from their point of view.



### **Breakin' Convention Mayflower Trip**

Our most recent evening outing was to The Mayflower Theatre in Southampton, to catch a glimpse of the Breakin' Convention 2017 Tour. This is a festival of hip hop dance theatre, which showcases the very best acts from around the world and around the corner. We were privileged to see the South Korean super crew of poppers and b'boys *Just Dance*, Canadian urban contemporary duo *Tentacle Tribe* and *Soweto Skeleton Movers* from South Africa. However, we were super impressed that our very own Aaliyah Mathieu was part of South Coast Collabo, which is one of the local acts selected to perform on the main stage. We caught a glimpse of Aaliyah performing her solo in the main foyer early on in the evening. This motivated a number of our Year 7 students to join straight in during the interval to 'freestyle' some of their pre-choreographed routines, to an enormous crowd, alongside a number of the acts who had just performed on the main stage.



## **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Year 10 student, Zara Tree who has been successful in her application to participate in The Masters of Ballet Intensive Course at Sadler's Wells Theatre. The Masters of Ballet is run by The Russian Imperial Ballet School and is the only school in the UK to offer the Russian Vaganova Method. The course is designed for advanced dance students and gives them the opportunity to work with some of the world's most famous ballet masters.



**MASTERS OF BALLET**  
INTENSIVE COURSE IN LONDON

## **Date for your diaries**

Next Show: Summer Dance Show: July 11th 6 - 8 pm (Oaklands main hall)

Next Trip: Rambert: Ghost Dances & other works October 2017 (The Mayflower)

## **Girls' Rugby**

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017, Oaklands Under 13 Girls Rugby Team travelled to Basingstoke Rugby Club to take part in an all-girls Hampshire Rugby Tournament. There were two age groups running - Unders 13s (Yr 7 & 8) and Under 15s (Yr 9 & 10). Oaklands squad was made up of twelve Year 7 girls who had a range of rugby playing experience, they were : Rachel Murphy, Madeline Codling, Ruthie Quinn, Jessie Smith, Nadine McEwan, Imogen Grenfell, Ruby Seve, Freya Dall'Omo, Esme Dall'Omo, Annaliesa Bower, Olivia Boulton and Aimee Davies.

The day was structured so that the teams would play in two different pools of teams with one pool in the morning and the second pool in the afternoon. Oaklands' morning fixtures would be against Bishop Challenor B, Amery Hill, Applemore, Cantel and Ryde.

The opening fixture was against Bishop Challenor B who the girls beat 2 tries to 1, with Ruthie Quinn and Olivia Boulton scoring the Oaklands tries. The second fixture was against Amery Hills who came away with the victory 4-2, with Ruthie Quinn scoring both Oaklands tries in this match. Next up for the girls was Applemore who won 2-1 with Ruby Seve scoring in this match. Cantel were the next opponents and Oaklands returned to winning ways with a 4-2 over Cantel with Ruthie Quinn scoring 2 tries and Annaliesa Bower & Madeline Codling scoring a try each. The girls' final fixture of the morning was against Ryde who came away with a 3-1 victory, Oaklands' try scorer was Rachel Murphy.

Following a break for lunch, the afternoons pools were decided and Oaklands found themselves in a very tough pool against Cams Hill A, Bishop Challenor A, Tonybee and Perrins.

The opening fixture of the afternoon was against Cams Hill A who got a 5-1 victory, Ruthie Quinn being our try scorer. Next up for the girls was Bishop Challenor A who got a 4-1 victory; again, Ruthie Quinn got the Oaklands try. The next match was against Tonybee who got a 5-0 victory over the girls and then Oaklands' final fixture of the day was against Perrins who came out on top with a 6-0 victory.

All twelve of the Oaklands girls had great fun and learned a lot from the experience of playing in competitive matches. The girls can be proud of their performances as they were the only all Year 7 team playing in the tournament and their individual and team progress was clear to see.

I would also like to thank Mr Dryhurst for his support and knowledge on the day, helping prepare the girls for all the matches they played.

Mr Horrod





Since October last year, together with fourteen other Year 12 students, I have been involved in the CAFOD Young Leaders' Programme. During this time, I have helped organise fundraising events, taken part in CAFOD's campaigns and led assemblies on the work of CAFOD. I was also able to go and meet with other CAFOD Young Leaders from other Sixth Form Colleges like Farnborough Hill, Christ the King on the Isle of Wight, St Anne's in Southampton, Salesian College in Farnborough and St Joseph's Reading. I have met with young people from different colleges in London who did their programme at CAFOD Headquarters – Romero House. During these training sessions, we explored and shared ideas about what we could bring into our own schools or colleges to promote the work of CAFOD, like getting involved in the Lent Campaign.

On 27 April, with three other Young Leaders (Megan, Gavin and Olivia) and Mr Sumba (who had been mentoring us throughout the year) I travelled to Romero House in London for the final training and presentation of certificates session. On arrival, we were welcomed by Sarah, who had been one of our correspondents and works in CAFOD's education department. There were many other Young Leaders from other Colleges so we started the day with some ice breakers. We were encouraged to get into groups with people that we didn't know. After a series of training activities and input, we were taken by Sarah for a tour around CAFOD offices. We saw CAFOD at work – there were people talking to colleagues in different countries about their work, with many of them speaking in different languages. During our tour we learnt about how the money that we have raised during the year has been put to work in helping others who are struggling overseas.

One of the things we were invited to get involved in was the new CAFOD campaign "Power to Be." The aim of this campaign is help people in developing countries get electricity. I did not know that there are so many people in the world who do not have electricity. Without electricity, they are not able to do simple things that I take for granted like reading in adequate light, charging my phone, watching TV etc. However for many of these people because they have no access to electricity, they give birth, work in the dark and this is not very good for their health. This campaign is to raise money so that these communities can have solar panels in places like schools and health clinics. In schools, children will be able to study and learn in adequate light and in health clinics they will help keep the vaccines refrigerated.

To get involved we all wrote messages on sun rays about why we personally thought it was important for people all around the world to have power and this was then put around a circle creating a sun image. We were also able to present to the different schools at the end of the day what we had done over the past year in terms of fundraising and how we had been able to share CAFOD's work with our School. In this presentation we were able to highlight how we felt about what we had been able to achieve with one of us saying *"In our eyes what we have done is small but in the grand scheme of things we have done something massive as now with the money that we have been able to raise someone might be able to go to school or have light in their local hospital"*

Later on, after we had been able to take part in more games and watched videos about the "Power to Be" campaign, we were presented with our certificates and thanked by CAFOD for our work that we had completed in the past year. From getting involved this year I hope that I have been able to inspire others in our school to know that even the smallest activities that promotes awareness can make a big change in the world.

By Niamh Joyce





Pictures from St John's



Entrance to St John's School in Korogocho—the school accepts children from all faith backgrounds



Sharing a meal – going to school ensures that these children at least have one meal a day

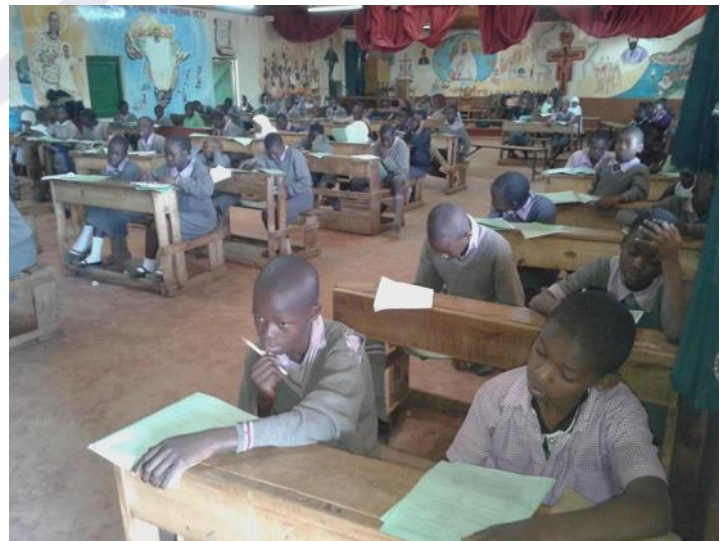


We are proud of our school and keep it clean

School is fun!



School Mass



Taking examinations





## Oscar Romero Award

### Exciting News – The Oscar Romero Award at Oaklands

In 2016 Oaklands embarked on an exciting journey to become an Oscar Romero School in light of a new award that has been created for all Catholic schools across the United Kingdom.



The Oscar Romero Award is something that enables schools to celebrate their faith and acknowledge all of the wonderful work that they do to promote Catholic Social Teaching and social justice. It looks at three different areas, the strategic policies of the school, the curriculum and the practical side of the school to firstly recognise all their hard work and then challenge them to do even more. So far, the school has been successful in its application for the participator level of the award and we are now in the process of applying for the second stage, which is the developer level. A group of staff, students and governors is leading this and we hope to continue to update the school community with our progress throughout the academic year.

We hope that this Award will help our school to become a place where we truly live out our mission statement – Community Unity Opportunity! We need parents to be involved too. Therefore, if you feel that this might be something you are interested in and want to know more, please contact me at the school.

Thank you

Mrs J Barfoot

## Library News

Congratulations to Niamh Cooper, Year 10, who has been shortlisted for the Hampshire Schools Library Service Librarian of the Year. As part of the final process, she will be interviewed here at school on 5th June. Here is part of her application ... well done and good luck, Niamh!



### **Book - NOUN**

**a written or printed work consisting of pages glued or sewn together along one side and bound in covers: "a book of selected poems"**

Above is the very literal definition for book and although true, a book is often seen as much more by so many people. A book is a window of sorts, a portal through which one may travel to almost anywhere human kind have reached and then to the furthest reaches of human imaginings, all without lifting much more than a finger to flip the page – that would be my personal definition of a book and I do not doubt there are an uncountable number of other definitions out there.

A library is a room or collection of books, organised and taken care of by librarians, and giving access to a massive variety of books to people who otherwise would not be able to access them. It is a room of knowledge, stories and history, fiction and truths, unity and culture available for not just one person but to be shared. The atmosphere reflects this and can be different for everyone: for some a safe place to escape reality, for others to learn and extend their knowledge, or even just to find a good book. This is why it is important that libraries are maintained, and why we have librarians, even if their jobs may sometimes simply be viewed as keeping order and putting books away. As a group or an individual they keep the system going, therefore making the library and its contents accessible in places like schools.

Since I have been a librarian, my job has included the involvement in several events such as The Hampshire Literature Quiz, World Book Day events, book bonanzas and guest authors speaking. I have also assisted - alongside the other student librarians - with the re-organisation of the '14+ Reader' section and our 'Non-Fiction' section, making a range of books more accessible for everyone. I adore my job because I am able to be involved in all of this and be surrounded by books. I love books, the enjoyment they can bring and the knowledge they can bestow.

*"A room without books is like a body without a soul."*  
— Marcus Tullius Cicero

This quote by Marcus Tullius Cicero is one of my favourite quotes about books. I believe it gives great perspective on libraries as they are rooms with the purpose to contain books, and so the books contained within the room are its soul and its purpose.

## A 5<sup>th</sup> Cohort of Oaklands Students sit GCSE Latin

In their first week of public examinations this year, nine year 11 students sat two papers in Latin: one examining understanding of the Latin language, the other a paper on Latin Prose Literature.

This is the fifth year that a group of students have sat a Latin GCSE (Short Course) in addition to their other subjects. Students voluntarily attend a Latin session after school once a week for 45 minutes, from the September in year 9, looking at grammar and vocabulary. Students find it fascinating to work out the Latin roots of many English words, and often say how it helps them with their English vocabulary. It is fantastic as a teacher to see students becoming animated discussing the common root, for example, of groups of words such as expire, inspire, perspire, transpire, conspire, and even 'Holy Spirit'. Many students, understandably, find Latin grammar tricky, but soon find themselves using terms such as accusative, dative or ablative absolute with confidence, and even in some cases, with swagger!

In year 11 this group of students have also given up the equivalent of 2½ days of their holidays to study the real Latin needed to sit the Prose paper. This year we studied works in the OCR anthology written by Caesar, Tacitus and Cicero, under the heading of 'Conflict and Conquest'. In the past, students have looked at other works by these authors, in addition to the works of Pliny, Suetonius and Livy. It never ceases to amaze me how students rise to the challenge of a Latin Prose examination, especially when faced with, for example, Caesar's accounts of the strategies at play in ancient battles, or Cicero's speeches ridiculing and criticising the leaders of the day. Many students comment on how relevant and alive these so-called dead texts are!

At Oaklands, Latin also continues to be a successful venture for students, irrespective of whether they go on to GCSE or not, in fulfilling the Skill section of their DofE Awards, since they attend both voluntarily, and for a period of time.

With the demise of the Short Course within the new examination structures, I realise that Latin, as a Full Course, becomes perhaps too big a task for students in addition to their curriculum subjects. However, I am currently looking at what is on offer in terms of qualifications, and hope to be able to find a feasible end goal for Latin students, in addition to the DofE.

I am grateful to all the Latin students, past and current for their perseverance, dedication and commitment. I thank Miss Dugan for her help in the classroom, and Mr Shaw and the MFL Department for their support. There is a group in Year 10, and another in Year 9 who continue to value and find joy (yes, joy!) in studying Latin.

Finally, I would like to say 'Well Done' to the class of 2017 cohort - whatever the outcome, we are incredibly ('credo' – I believe!) proud of you all.

Mrs Fionnuala Quinn





In 2013, the School introduced a cashless catering system using the then latest technology. The system was installed 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 currently uses 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 also facilitates other functions such as use of school printing machines. All staff and students are shown how to use the system and each pupil is provided with a proximity fob registered in their name, initially free of charge. Lost Fobs will be replaced at a charge of £2.50. A daily 'spend limit' can be programmed into the system for your child if you so wish.

Ultimately for the system to work effectively money should be paid into a student's account in advance and any money they then spend on food and drinks will be deducted at the tills. Pupils on free school meals are issued with an identical fob that 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 or because they have forgotten or lost their fob. 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 to achieve. Pupils have to queue for longer because more and more pupils want to pay by cash and the School cannot afford to operate more than the four payment points it currently provides.

We will be installing an upgrade to the system over the May 2017 half term, which will bring us up to date with the technological advances associated with such a system. As part of this upgrade we will be installing a re-valuation machine that will allow students to check their balance and if necessary top up their fobs by inserting notes or coins into the machine. Clearly topping up online in advance is still the preferred method as it will avoid unnecessary cash being brought into school. All students will be issued with a brand new proximity fob during the tutor period on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017. This will be programmed to transfer any balances (surplus or deficit) from the online payment system. From break time on this date no cash will be accepted at the payment points within the canteen.

There will still be emergency provision of a school meal or sandwich, which will be arranged by the finance office issuing a voucher to be used in the canteen. This will need to be repaid by the Parent/Carer by the following day and the proximity fob topped up online to pay for the emergency meal provided by the School and ensure sufficient funds are available for the next day. The school will only be able to offer this concession in emergencies and repeated use of this facility will not be allowed.



Looking ahead, the school is considering introducing a biometric system to replace the proximity fobs. This system relies on a fingerprint reader and is used widely in other schools. The advantages are that it does not rely on students always remembering their fob and also avoids the fobs being used by other children if they are mislaid by their rightful owner. The aim would be to introduce the biometric system in September 2017 for the New Year 7's and then gradually rolled out to rest of the school over the academic year.

The school would welcome Parent/Carer feedback on this and any other comments regarding the provision of catering at the School and parents have all been emailed a letter with further details. Further information regarding biometric systems is available on the School website.

If you have any particular issues regarding the catering service provided to your child(ren) please contact our Catering Manager Mrs D Dodds via the main school number or via email to [oaklands@oaklandscatholicsschool.org](mailto:oaklands@oaklandscatholicsschool.org)

Your continued support in this endeavour is greatly appreciated.

## Star Gazing

This May, the Cosmology Department from the Physics Department at Portsmouth University visited Oaklands and set up an Astrodome in the school hall for the day; five lucky classes attended the event for their Science lesson. The Department conducts outreach lectures in secondary schools to encourage pupils to think of a career in Physics.

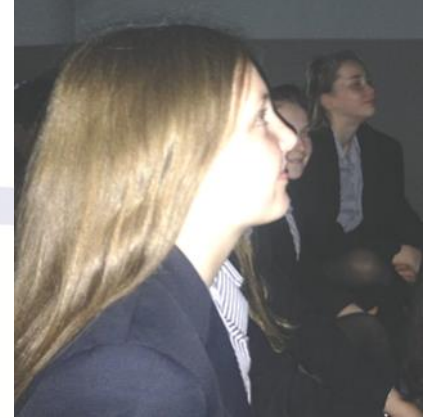
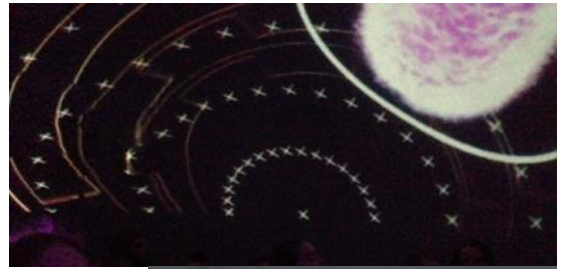
Each class had an introductory talk about the work currently being carried out at the University and what roles the staff have in researching space. This included some of the exciting facts about the universe which are currently being investigated.

The students were taken inside the Dome and treated to a spectacular show. The show included looking at the sky above Portsmouth and identifying some star shapes and named stars. The talk also included how technology relies upon the satellites above our Earth and how they function to allow our mobile phones to work. The students learned how the different wavelengths are used.

The classes also have a revisit lesson by the Cosmology Team next term. This lesson will include some of the science behind the colours seen in the universe and the elements that cause these colours. This will link well with the GCSE Physics topic on Space and the Electromagnetic Spectrum.

We would like to thank the University for visiting us and we look forward to more educational visits from the team. We will also be nominating a student from Year 10 and Year 12 to receive the Physicist of the Year Award 2017, which will be presented by Portsmouth University in July.

*Mrs J Tyler*



## Young Carers Fundraiser



Over the past few years, Mr Jones has been fundraising in a variety of ways for the Young Carers group at Oaklands - he's shaved his hair into a Mohican, walked through the night from London to Brighton and spent five weeks with a rucksack on his back, crossing Spain. In all, with the help of sponsorship money and donations, over £5,000 has been raised, which goes towards respite breaks and activities for our Young Carers.

This week, Mr Jones organised a staff curry night, which was well attended by teachers, LSAs, support staff and some ex-colleagues as well. The lovely ladies in Student Services organised a raffle to support the evening and a brilliant total of £410.50 was raised.



At Oaklands, there are over 50 self-identified Young Carers from every year group; there will undoubtedly be more than we are aware of. However, the national average is 1 in 12 young people who have to take on extraordinary levels of care within the home. These youngsters may assume responsibility for cooking, cleaning and shopping for the family; ensuring younger siblings get to and from school each day; administering medicines to parents or family members.

If any parents would like to help fundraise for our Young Carers group please leave a message for Mr Jones at our main Reception and he will be happy to contact you.



## Each and Every Day Matters

Attendance is the single most important factor in success at school – both academic and social. If you're not there, you can't learn! Reading someone else's notes is never the same as your own work. Our overall school attendance for Terms 1 and 2 this year is 96% - which is just above the Government target of 95%.

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

- Illness has accounted for almost 3% of all absence to date – it is important to only keep your son/daughter off school if they are genuinely too ill to come in.
- Holidays have accounted for 0.05% of our absence figures (unauthorised Family Holiday accounts for 0.18%) – we strongly recommend that you do NOT take your child on a holiday during term time. The Governors' policy clearly states that holidays will not be authorised unless there are extraordinary extenuating circumstances which are outlined in the policy. It affects their learning and chances of success in later life. 17 absent sessions = one grade less at GCSE. Do you want to disadvantage their future?
- Medical appointments have made up 0.35% of our absence – please try to make these after school hours.
- Use email to confirm the absence: [absence@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto:absence@oaklandscatholicschool.org)
- Some parents have received letters informing them that their son/daughter is a Persistent Absentee pupil (ie: either in or close to 90%). Please attend the meetings with the Head of Year and Senior Leader to agree a Personal Attendance Plan.
- Don't be too quick to agree to your child having a day off – are they really that ill?

Please see below our figures for the first two terms of this academic year 2016-2017:

Year Group	Authorised Absence	Unauthorised Absence	Total %
Yr7	3.0%	0.3%	3.3%
Yr8	3.5%	0.2%	3.7%
Yr9	3.7%	0.4%	4.1%
Yr10	3.8%	0.3%	4.1%
Yr11	4.2%	0.6%	4.8%

**Remember – Each and Every Day Matters!**

## SUMMER PERIPATETIC MUSIC CONCERT

**THURSDAY 15 JUNE 2017  
7.00PM IN THE SCHOOL HALL**

**COME AND JOIN US FOR AN EXHIBITION AND CELEBRATION OF THE STUDENTS' MUSICAL ACHIEVEMENTS FROM THEIR PERIPATETIC LESSONS THIS YEAR**



**OAKLANDS BAND  
SOLOS AND ENSEMBLES  
PIANO - WOODWIND - GUITAR**

**FREE ENTRY - ALL WELCOME !**



## Congratulations



Students currently in Year 11 are the first cohort to take the new style GCSEs in English and Maths.

For the exam boards this presents a problem determining where the grade boundaries will sit. As a consequence the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) were commissioned, by the DfE, to undertake a research project. This involved a random selection of students from the national cohort to undertake reference tests and a number of Oaklands student were chosen to be put through this ordeal.

As a way of saying 'thankyou' to the students, NFER placed all the students into a national draw to win a prize.

Eleanor Whitlock was drawn out as the successful winner and has won an iPad Mini. Well done!

## Supervision of Students

The school site is open at the beginning and end of the day for parents to drop off and collect their children.

Parents/carers need to be aware that there is no active supervision of students until 8.25am. Once they come on site, students should move to the hard play areas/top and bottom playgrounds where a member of staff is on duty in this area from 8.25am until 8.50am. Students may also go the canteen before school. Once the bell rings at 8.50am, students move to the Hall for assembly or to their tutor bases. Should there be inclement weather, the site staff will advise the senior leader on site who will make alternative and appropriate arrangements as to where students should go, as required.



At the end of the day there is active supervision on the drive until the last bus has gone. If students are staying behind for after school activities, the parent will have agreed with their child the place/time for collection. Some activities have a clear start/finish time and this is listed in the extracurricular timetable published each term. Others, like homework club, operate a sign in, sign out procedure as the start and finish times are entirely dependent on the amount of homework as child has to complete. All staff running after school activities maintain a register of attendance.

At the end of the school day, students should be either onsite in a designated or chosen activity with parental knowledge, or they should be off site. It is not permissible for students to be waiting on our school site for significant periods of time awaiting collection by parents. If a student is concerned at the end of the school day or after an activity because a parent has not turned up, then they can report to main reception up to 4pm or find a member of the site staff/ senior leadership team to obtain help.

Please help us to keep your child safe on site by reading these arrangements and co-operating with them.



## 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**



### Gerald Brooks, leaving year 1980

Current job: Head of Training and Competence/Learning and Development Manager

I studied Mathematics at the University of Essex and have worked for the London Underground. I have lived in France, India and now work in the Middle East. In my current job I ensure that workers for the Dubai Metro and Tram are trained and capable of doing their jobs. I work with people in engineering, maintenance and management.

My piece of advice is: travel as often as you can, whenever you can, the world is smaller than you think and more diverse than you could imagine!



### Denise Coleridge, leaving year 1983

Current job: Advocacy Coordinator

I went to college to study A-Levels. After my studies I went to work at Barclays Bank, where I have worked ever since. My job now is to work with a range of banks across the region and support leaders to improve customer service by looking at the feedback they have received from customers.

My favourite subject at school was History as it was real life stories. During my time at Oaklands I learnt about team work, through PE or group activities, eg school camp. Team work is vital in my role in order to achieve desired results.

My piece of advice is: enjoy school and get involved. The more you put in the more you will get out. Along the way you will learn life skills which will stand you in good stead later on.

### Megan Campbell, leaving year 2014

Currently studying: Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Chichester

RE was my favourite subject at school as it allowed us to have in depth conversations about issues that occur in the world. It also encouraged me to develop my own opinions about certain things and be confident in having that opinion.

Since leaving school, I have gone to University, taken on a responsibility as a Youth Worker at my Church as well as travelling to Ghana in aid of a charity called Compassion, which sponsors children in poverty. I even got to meet my own sponsored child in person and was invited to visit her family and her home. It was an eye - opening experience.

My piece of advice is: work hard to the best of your ability, and don't compare yourself to others. You never know what amazing opportunities will come your way. Just be confident in being the best version of you!



**Sacred Heart Church  
Waterlooville**

**GRAND SUMMER FAIR**

**356 London Road, PO7 7SR**

**GRAND RAFFLE DRAW PRIZES**

**Cash Prizes £150, £50 & More**

**REFRESHMENTS, PIMMS BAR, BBQ**

**Bouncy Castle, Skittle Alley, Coconut Shy,  
Plant Stall, Try Your Strength, Bric a Brac, Tombola,  
Cake Stall and many more events and attractions**

**see you there**

**SATURDAY 3RD JUNE - 12PM TO 4PM**

**ADULTS 50P - KIDS GO FREE**

**A fun family day out for the whole community**

**We would like to thank all our sponsors and supporters**

**Beals Estate Agents, Coop and Barrell Funeral Services, Mary Rose Museum,  
Banks Fish and Chips, Sorrento's Ristorante, Bat and Ball Pub, Waitrose,  
Sainsbury's, Domino's Pizza, Waterlooville Golf Club**



**Bus Pass Applications for the Academic Year 2017/2018**

Parents/Carers of students who currently receive or may be entitled to a bus pass funded by Portsmouth City Council, postcode areas PO1 to PO6, will need to make a new application before 30th June 2017. The application form can be found at the following link <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/schools/school-transport-and-travel.aspx>. Alternatively you can call the Civic Offices on 023 92 834962.

Parents/Carers of students who currently receive or may be entitled to a bus pass funded by Hampshire County Council can find details at the following link <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schooltransport>. Alternatively you can call the Passenger Transport Group on 01962 846924.

For details of the School Contracted 653 Bus serving the Fareham/Porchester postcodes PO12 to PO17, please contact Claire Pasterfield at Oaklands Catholic School on 023 92259214 EXT 294. **All applications to be submitted by 30th June.**

For details of the School Contracted 654 Bus serving Hambledon/Denmead, please contact Claire Pasterfield at Oaklands Catholic School on 023 92259214 EXT 294. **All applications to be submitted by 30th June.**

For details regarding assistance with travel for Post 16 Students, please use the following link <http://www.oaklandscatholicsschool.org/page/?title=Sixth+Form+Bus+Pass+Information&pid=153>. Alternatively, you can contact the Sixth Form Administration Office on 023 9225 9214, Option 2.

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

*Oaklands has a number of facilities available to hire.*

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

\*\*\*

*We can also facilitate*

**Meetings            Conferences            Training Days**

\*\*\*

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

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



*Telephone 02392 259214 EXT 294*

*Email*

[lettings@oaklandscatholicsschool.org](mailto:lettings@oaklandscatholicsschool.org)

*Scan our lettings QR Code*

★ ★    **OAKLANDS**    ★ ★  
**PARENTS ASSOCIATION**

**A G M**

**Monday 5 June 2017**

**7.30pm**

**Sixth Form Block**



**All Welcome!**

## Dates for the Summer Term

Mon-Fri	29 May—2 June	Half Term
Wednesday	7 June	<b>SEN Parents' Evening (5.00pm)</b>
Monday	12 June	Governors' Business & Collaboration Committee Meeting
Tuesday	13 June	<b>Open Morning (11.40-13.40pm)</b>
Wednesday	14 June	Year 7 Pilgrimage
Thursday	15 June	<b>Art and Photography Exhibition (5.00-7.00pm)</b> <b>Peripatetic Music Concert (7.00pm)</b>
Monday	19 June	Year 10 Professional Day Governors' Ethos Committee Meeting
Tuesday	20 June	Year 10 Professional Day
Wednesday	21 June	Year 9 Relationships Day Year 11 Prom
Thursday	22 June	<b>Open Morning (11.40-13.40pm)</b> Year 8 Reports Home
Monday	26 June	<b>Challenge Week</b>
Friday	30 June	<b>Inset Day—School Closed</b>
Monday	3 July	OPA Committee Meeting (End of Year Celebration)
Tuesday	4 July	<b>Year 10 Post 16 Information Evening (7.00pm)</b>
Wednesday	5 July	Year 7 Reports Home
Monday	10 July	Sixth Form Taster Day Summer Dance Show
Tuesday	11 July	Sixth Form Taster Day
Wednesday	12 July	Sports Day Year 9 Reports Home Full Governors Meeting
Friday	14 July	New Year 7 Induction Day
Monday	17 July	New Year 7 Parents' Induction Evening (7.00pm)
Tuesday	18 July	Sixth Form Summer Carnival Year 10 Exam Grades Home
Wednesday	19 July	Year 12 Exam Grades Home
Thursday	20 July	<b>Last Day of Term</b>
Friday	21 July	<b>Inset Day—School Closed</b>

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

## 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.

Wednesday 6th September all students will return to school





Oaklands Catholic School

# ART & PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

THURS 15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

5-7PM IN THE GYM



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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