

Oaklands News

Challenge Week
Spanish Exchange
Science News

A publication for
Oaklands Catholic School
and Sixth Form College



Lead Stories



Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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A few years ago, as part of our fundraising drive for CAFOD, students, supported by staff, organised a flash mob in Commercial Road, Portsmouth. If you are not familiar with the concept, one person walks out of a crowd and starts dancing and singing. Then at about the same moment others step out of the crowd and join the original performer.

As the performance on Commercial Road continued an audience began to form and a number of students began to collect donations for CAFOD. Once complete the performers dispersed. If you search YouTube you will find many examples of flash mobs where groups of people have organised to assemble in a public place, do something bizarre, and then disperse; our flash mob is still available to view. Whilst flash mobs appear to be spontaneous there is always someone at the centre organising them and the people concerned always have a passion for what they are doing.

I don't think this idea is new; consider the crowds Jesus drew during his ministry. There are a number of examples, Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on the donkey and the crowd who met him at the gate waving palms. Then we have the crowds he drew for the sermon on the mount. All of this occurred without the use of social media.

I love the idea of Jesus being at the centre of a carefully orchestrated event - a flash mob of its time; drawing crowds together was a deliberate provocation towards the Roman imperial power at the time. It also provided Jesus with a platform to promote his passion which he called 'the Kingdom of God', an alternative vision of human life in sharp contrast to the way of the world.

The job of a Catholic school is to excite a passion in youngsters so they too work towards, 'the extension of the Kingdom of God'. Over the last year we have worked exceptionally hard to accomplish this not just through the curriculum but in the many other varied activities. I would encourage you to read the Catholic life section of the school website. Whether you are a student in school, a parent or just a supporter of the school, the passion that Jesus demonstrated leaves us with a single question, a question which could turn our world upside down, depending on how we answer it. The question for you and me is this: are the passions of Jesus, also our passions?

Busy Year

Throughout the year a large number of students have been involved in the extra curricular life of the school. I would like to express my thanks to the staff who work tirelessly to provide the extras that enrich the experience of students at the school.

Over the summer we have students and staff visiting Iceland, please keep them in your prayers.

If you have followed Oaklands News over the year you will have read about the numerous and varied range of activities and events that have taken place including our successful Ofsted inspection. The school cycle never stops; just a few days ago, our new Year 12 students were in school for their taster day and barbeque on the sunken lawn. A sobering reminder that the next academic year is just around the corner!

Student Success

It has been a pleasure this year to receive students who have made exceptional progress in the classroom, overcome adversity or represented the school. For the tenth year in a row I have written to almost 250 families offering congratulations and recognising their child's endeavours at school.

Finally

Please take time to read this packed edition of Oaklands News, the term dates for 2017-18 and other dates for the start of the year, including induction sessions for parents are contained within.

Thank you for your prayers, support and encouragement over the last year.

Matthew Quinn
Headteacher

Sisters of Christ Award

It is always sad and difficult to say goodbye to colleagues, particularly so when the colleague has made such a significant contribution to the life of the school. At the end of the year, we say goodbye to Helen Floyd our Chaplain. Helen has been with us for eight years. From the moment Helen joined us, it was clear that she was on a mission to go out and make disciples from our community by teaching the word of Jesus Christ. If you look at the school website under Catholic life you will see the scope of Helen's contribution. In addition to this she has counselled many students, staff and parents through difficult times. This work is extremely time consuming but its impact can be life changing and life enhancing.

Helen's journey with us been punctuated with much, joy and celebration. There have also been difficult times of disappointment and grief when Helen has stood by, supported and guided this community.



At the end of the school year we always have a number of awards to give students. To remember Helen's achievement we have instigated a new award called the '*Helen Floyd Award*' to be awarded to a student for their contribution to the spiritual life of the school. The first recipient will receive this at the end of term. This is the first new student award for at least twelve years.

In 2009 the school started the Sisters of Christ Award. This award is given to someone who has made a unique contribution to the school over time. This was presented to Helen by Sister Catherine, former Headmistress, on 5th July. Helen is the fifth recipient of this award.

We wish Helen every success and a well earned retirement.

Farewells

With the end of the school year almost here, there are a number of people who are moving on to pastures new. We thank them for all they have done for the Oaklands Community and wish them well in the future.

Mrs Liz Arthurs has been a Physics teacher at Oaklands since September 2008. She has been part of many STEM activities and as you will read about on Pages 20-21 is responsible for many of our winning teams of physicists. Mrs Arthurs has also been responsible for the many scientific Challenge Week activities which our students enjoy every year. We wish her well as she takes up a post at St Vincent College in Gosport.

Mrs Alison Bailey joined our History Team last year as a full time teacher. She will be taking a part time role at Mayville High School in Southsea and spending more time with her family.

Mr Tom Barrett has successfully completed his NQT year in our Geography Department during Mrs Legg's maternity leave. We wish him success in his next appointment.

Mrs Janet Boniface has been associated with Oaklands for many years as one of our cleaning staff. For the last two years she has also taken on the temporary role of Science Technician Assistant, which has now come to an end. We thank Mrs Boniface for her extra work in the Science Department.

Miss Sophie Gingras joined the RE Team in September 2015, having previously studied here as a pupil. Miss Gingras has helped on numerous trips, including skiing and the Challenge Week trip to St Aignan. Miss Gingras is moving to a post at The Petersfield School.

Miss Ahfee Ho Knit Chong was also a student at Oaklands. She started working as a Chaplain's Assistant in September 2013 and after a year, joined our team of LSAs. Miss Ho is starting a teacher training course in September.

Mrs Alison Jerome joined the Maths Team in September 2003. Mrs Jerome has contributed to the musical life of the school, playing in the Whole School Shows, the School Band, Liturgies and Masses and singing in the Chamber Choir. After fourteen years at Oaklands, Mrs Jerome will be enjoying a well-deserved rest and we wish her well in the future!

Mrs Lindsay Lynas became an English Teacher at Oaklands in September 2014. She has been a key member of the Sixth Form team helping many students with the UCAS process for university places. Mrs Lynas is leaving to become Head of English at St John's College in Southsea.

Miss Beth Moore has been at Oaklands for a year since leaving our Sixth Form. Miss Moore will be starting her degree at the University of Surrey in September and we wish her every success.

Mrs Janet Payne has been a Maths Teacher at Oaklands since September 1986 and the Head of Careers since September 2000. Mrs Payne has encouraged many students in making the right choices; her knowledge and expertise has helped so many students plan for their future after Oaklands. She has also helped on numerous ski trips, student camps, Challenge Week activities and run our successful trampolining club, attending many competitions. We all wish her well for the future.

Mrs Elaine Pearce started at Oaklands as a Special Needs Assistant in 1997 and worked in the Learning Support Department for fifteen years. For the last five years Mrs Pearce has worked in our busy Student Services. I am sure the students will miss her calm, efficient and friendly manner as much as her colleagues will! Good luck Mrs Pearce!

Cycle Safety

Towards the end of the year all students were given an assembly on cycle safety. We have an increasing number of students cycling into school and this is to be encouraged. The Local Authority are in the process of improving the cycle network outside school. Unfortunately, a Year 9 student was involved in an accident on his journey to school. Without a cycle helmet he would have sustained serious injury; our assembly focussed on the importance of wearing a helmet to and from school. One of the videos we created can be found on the school website.

From the beginning of September if students cycle into school and they are not wearing a cycle helmet, then their bicycle will be locked up until they can provide the assurance that they will use one.



With the end of term rapidly approaching, it is the right time to once again pause and reflect on the year that has just passed. Despite the political rhetoric to the contrary, educational funding remains one of our biggest strategic challenges. My hat goes off to all the staff who continue to deliver the highest standards of performance despite the constraints placed upon them. The contributions that we receive from parents remains a vital supplement to the budget and helps to ensure that we can continue to maintain and develop our facilities and equipment. I would like to personally thank all parents/guardians who have given generously this year, and I am sure will continue to support the school going forward.

Our 'good' Ofsted result this year was the result of an incredible amount of hard work by everyone involved. The governors have always taken the line that our strategy should be to improve the school based on our values and ethos not necessarily an external framework. The importance of an Ofsted inspection should not be underestimated however and this was a great outcome for the school.

The vast majority of our students remain a credit to both their families and the school in terms of their behaviour and conduct whilst on site. We have seen however a rise in behavioural incidents over the last year which the senior team (supported by the governors) have taken a hard line on. I would reiterate that the expectation is that parents/guardians fully support the school in all reasonable sanctions and actions taken to address behavioural issues.

I hope by now that all parents are aware that the Diocese is making changes at a strategic level which will affect the governance of all Catholic schools under its control. At the moment, Oaklands is the sole member of a multi-academy trust (MAT). This is an umbrella legal entity which was put in place so that multiple schools could join together and collaborate to achieve economies of scale and share best practice. We are now moving forward and I would expect that over the next 12 months or so, we will see more schools join our MAT. This process offers a number of benefits, but is not without its challenges. The challenges relate to the change process and how this is managed. After much consideration and debate, Matt Quinn and a few of our governors (including myself) have volunteered to assist in the roll out of the MAT project. Our judgement is that if we are actively involved and supporting the process, then this is the best way that we can ensure that the best outcome is achieved for not only Oaklands, but Catholic education as a whole in the area. We will continue to keep you updated as this project continues.

As a final comment, I would like to congratulate the entire Oaklands community on another fantastic year. Have a safe and restful summer break and see you in September!

With best regards

Andy Hastilow

The Oscar Romero Award at Oaklands

As I wrote in the last Newsletter, the Oscar Romero Award is an award that will help Oaklands celebrate our achievements in promoting social justice in our community and neighbourhood. It will also challenge us to think of ways we can respond to the social justice issues around us.

Since my last update we have started to move things forward in our application for the Developer level. Firstly, I attended a Heads of Department meeting and asked each department to nominate a champion for the Award to help me in my endeavour to rebrand us as a Romero school. In addition, I arranged a whole staff INSET with a representative from CAFOD, Susan Kambalu, to educate the staff in Catholic Social Teaching and help them better understand how they can incorporate this into their lessons. We looked at the origins of Catholic Social Teaching and the key principles which are derived from documents and encyclicals written by the Pope. The seven principles are: dignity, solidarity, the common good, the option for the poor, peace, care for creation and the dignity of work and participation. This was incredibly successful and hopefully from September our work will enable us to achieve the next stage of the award. Finally, I held a meeting with the original Romero Award team and we discussed how we would like to move things forward. We are going to advertise the award again to all year groups to encourage them to get on board and have come up with some ideas with regards to the curriculum and practical strands.

Overall, things are moving in the right direction and all I can say is watch this space for September and look out for my updates! This is an award for everyone to get involved in, parents included, so please do contact me on 02392259214 or j.barfoot@oaklandscatholicsschool.org if you have any questions or ideas.

Mrs J Barfoot

For many in Year 11 the Prom is a highlight of the year. It is a fitting end to all the hard work during the examinations. The Prom celebrates the year group as a community.

This year the Prom was held at the Marriot Hotel Portsmouth. A team of students, led by staff, have been working for a long time to arrange the evening. From around 6:30pm students arrived in a variety of different vehicles, from stretch limousines, classic cars and this year even a tank.

Guests were almost unrecognisable in their resplendent attire as many proud parents looked on as students walked down the red carpet. Once inside they were treated to a three course banquet during which they were entertained by two conjurers. The night was rounded off with a disco (non compulsory for staff!)

As usual students behaved impeccably, they were a credit to themselves, their families and the school. Mrs Richardson, Head of Year, said, "It was a wonderful evening, they were all fantastic

Journey into adulthood

The Prom is an important event in the lives of students and for many of them it is one of the events that marks the start of the journey into adulthood.

The Prom is a fitting tribute to the class of 2017; well done to all the students for giving the evening a special atmosphere, you deserve nothing less.



Year 7 Pilgrimage

On Wednesday 14th June, Year 7 were invited to partake in an exciting pilgrimage to St John's Catholic Cathedral in Portsmouth in order to expand our religious views. We participated in many thoughtful activities which really made us develop our opinions and beliefs in RE.

On the day we arrived to school and left for the cathedral at 9 o'clock - we travelled on coach and the journey took approximately 20 minutes. We were split off into our groups and journeyed through the venue.

My group's first activity was recording our life aspirations on blank stickmen, and later by choice, sharing them with the group. I think this was an effective way to get us to think of exactly what kind of people we want to be, and shifting ourselves in order to reach our goals. I believe this was an attempt to teach us that our own opinions are more important than others.

Next we explored the main body of the cathedral and recorded our findings in small booklets which were provided for us. These activities were fun as we got to explore the appearance of the church in close detail.

To me, the most breath-taking part of the trip was the overall aesthetic and experience of Mass in the cathedral, it was very beautifully designed and I found the stained glass windows very beautiful. We finished the day with Mass in the cathedral, similar to the one we have in school and most of us received the body and blood of Christ.

We left the cathedral and headed back to school in time for lunch and period 5 where we reflected on the trip.



Year 7 Challenge Week 2017

Challenge Week 2017...Year 7

Monday

On Monday, we went to Marwell Zoo. We boarded our buses after being put into groups of about 20. We arrived at the zoo at about half ten and went straight to the first animals, the penguins they were cute! We then moved around the zoo stopping at all the different animals. Some of our favourites were the giraffes, tigers, hippos, meerkats, reptiles and the animals in the tropical house. During the day we stopped for lunch, ice cream and snacks/drinks as it was very hot. At the end of the day we went to the gift shop, spent our money and rested before returning to school on the busses. We had a great time!



Tuesday

On Tuesday, we did lots of activities which included creative writing, African people, storytelling and animal masks. I enjoyed African masks because I got to express myself in a more creative way. We all did different activities depending on which group we were in. Everyone enjoyed creative writing because we could settle down and enjoy the wonders of our imagination. We wrote about Africa and people on journeys through Africa. We got to spend more time with people we wouldn't normally work with in the classroom. Throughout the day we learnt a lot more about Africa and the culture surrounding it.



Wednesday

On Wednesday, we took part in the activities which we didn't do on Tuesday including African flags, African Experience Gym, Music and Drama and Calligraphy. The African Experience Gym was fantastic because we were being instructed by two people from the Ivory Coast, who were experts in what they were doing, it was invigorating! We were taught how to do a certain style of dance and we did some native African drumming.

We did more drumming to a song called 'Africa' in our Music lesson, and in a drama lesson we learnt about the intricate Burkina Faso Masks. In our calligraphy lesson, we read some African Proverbs which teach people about life. We learnt how the letters are formed in Calligraphy and how to hold the pen, which was amazing because it was a completely new style of writing.

Thursday

Thursday was our last day of Challenge week. During the morning, we worked together in our groups to create presentations to about some of the lessons we had. Our group worked on talking about calligraphy. We started our presentation by recalling our day and telling of our adventure before going on to calligraphy and how we persevered to get brilliant results. Other subjects that the other groups covered were, African Masks, African People, African Music and Drumming, Creative Writing and Story Telling. It was a great performance and the parents were thrilled.

Challenge week has been a great experience for us all and we would like to thank the staff for making everything happen!

By Ruthie Quinn and Athene Ryan

Year 8 Challenge Week at School

During challenge week for Year 8, we were given two tasks, which were organised by the Maths, Science and Design departments. The week was interesting because we had to work with people we had never done so before; the activities were also completely different from what we normally do in school, which was really enjoyable.



On Monday of the week we headed to Thorpe Park, where we got the inspiration for the mini coasters we would go on to make the next day. We went on as many rides as we could, which was great fun – even the teachers (see photo!) went on the rides. As well as actually going on the rides, we examined how a number of the rides worked and researched the other aspects of the park, such as food provision.

Continued Over



The following day we made rides based on a certain art theme such as: Steampunk, Art Deco, Banksy, Dyson, Surrealism, Pop Art and DaVinci.

A few members of our group went and did a catering activity making the food for the menu. The best people received prizes. Everyone got to try the food and all the rollercoasters were amazing.

The next few days were based on CSI. We had to find out who killed Mr Burnlee. In the Maths section we had to figure out the codes that the murderer gave for clues. We had to go round the murder scene including the whole school.

In the Science side of it we were doing the forensics of the investigation. We looked at the footprints and the powder we collected from the scene. It all started to add up until we found out it was more than just one person. Then we went and dissected his heart (an animal I might add!). We made the poster explaining the evidence of who it was.

Generally it was a very good week and I would like to thank the teachers – particularly Mrs Gemmell – for organising such interesting activities.

Ronnie Evans – 8VP

Year 8 Challenge Week at Saint Aignan, France

After a long day on the ferry and the bus we finally arrived in Saint Aignan, a small town in the middle of France where we would spend the following week. The town sits on the River Cher in the Loire valley. After everyone had unpacked we were given a lovely meal by the French staff who worked there.

The next day it was lovely and warm and we went to a French market next to a big chateau in the town of Saint Aignan. In the afternoon, we went to the troglodyte museum where we met a man who farmed silk from the silk worms. He lived in a house that had been carved into a cliff face and sold the silk that he farmed from the silk worms. It was really interesting!

On Sunday, we went to a vineyard and we sampled wine and saw how the wine was made. In the afternoon, we went to a chocolate factory. We tasted lots of samples and they were very nice!



Over the course of the week, we went to the Chateau du Valencay and went through a big maze. We went to a sweet factory and the museum of magic. One of everyone's favourite activity was going to the Zoo Parc de Beauval. It is one of the best zoos in Europe. We went swimming every evening. On the last day we went to a supermarket and all the boys bought party poppers and balloons because it was someone's birthday.

The trip was really fun and it was definitely worth the long coach drive to get there.

When we got back to England it was 10:00pm and we arrived back at school at 11:00pm. We were all so grateful that Mr Shaw organised the trip and also to his team of Mr Geddes, Mrs Riddle and Miss Gingras for giving up their time to take us on the trip.



Year 9 Challenge Week at School

Challenge Week 2017...Year 9 Challenge Week 2017...Year 9



This year was our last challenge week and it was brilliant. Our week was based around a community stuck on a desert island following a cruise ship disaster. The scene was set on the first day and we were split into different groups and planned out our community. We took part in lots of activities like creating flags, agreeing on a constitution, played sports and designed where everything on the island would be.

Then we went to Uppark and Staunton taking part in activities including den building; it was really fun. At Staunton we were orienteering around the park and completed a treasure hunt, where we had to find materials that would be crucial to our survival on the island.

On Wednesday we travelled to Southampton visiting two religious places of worship. First we went to a Hindu temple and learnt about how they worship the Gods. Then we travelled to a Sikh temple and learnt the history behind their religion like why you have to cover your heads; it was very interesting. After that they gave us all a free meal which consisted of lentil curry, rice and naan bread; it was lovely!



Finally, on Thursday in our groups we designed and built shelters. We did this by going into the woods behind the school; it was amazing to go foraging in the woods for materials. After all the groups had built shelters we had a BBQ of hot dogs, burgers and the best bit was the toasted marshmallows. At the end of the day, we put the materials back into the woods going home after having one of the best weeks of our school life.

On behalf of the students I would like to thank the teachers who made the week happen, without them we would have such an amazing memorable week. I would like to thank Mr Bamford and Mrs Barfoot in particular as they organised the whole week for us.

Kirsty Clarke 9MG

Year 9 Challenge Week at Camp

This year was the last for Year 9 and for 80 of us we attended the annual Year 9 camp. We went to Tile Barn in the New Forest. The campsite we stayed on was very nice and clean. There was also another school staying there but we didn't talk to them very much.

As soon as we arrived we took part in activities: some of which were as a team and others were individual; we took part in archery, crate stack, low ropes, mountain biking, climbing and nightline. Some of which was very fun and some like mountain biking was very challenging and tiring. My favourite activity was the nightline because it was very funny as we were blindfolded and didn't know where we were going.

We also did short hike and by short I mean 10km! We did that with a teacher but still almost got lost as Mrs Over hadn't done it before either so no one really knew where to go. On the day after, we did a long hike which lasted all day; we walked for around six hours in the pouring rain. Others who didn't get lost only took around four hours. We had a map and a route card but still managed to get lost and ended up going two miles off map!! It took us ages to find where we were going as we had to walk through forest and fields which all looked the same! We were very grateful for the BBQ when we came back.

Even though it rained all week, everyone had such an enjoyable time and made lots and lots of fun memories. It was a good way to have our last Challenge Week. We would like to say a big thank you to all the staff who made it possible: Mr Wade (who organised the camp), Mr Neil, Miss Over, Mrs Hardaker, Mrs Tyler, Mrs Watson, Mr Turner, Mr Jones, Mrs Carruthers and Mr Smith.

Charlotte Verney 9CL



Oaklands St John's Scholarship Programme



We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported this programme this year. Together we have continued to make life better for many children and their families in Korogocho. We hope that you will continue to support us next year as well. We are also looking for ways in getting more people involved in the programme; could you tell your friends and family about this programme and ask them to join?

If you ever need more information about St John's and what we are doing there, do not hesitate to ask. Call Mr Sumba on 023 9225 9214 or email him m.sumba@oaklandscatholicsschool.org

We would like to end the year by sharing with you what one of the students at St John's said about the programme.

Thank you and may you all have a pleasant summer

Mr Sumba on behalf of the Oaklands St John's Team





My name is Eugene Omondi. I am fourteen years old. I am a pupil at St John's Primary School in Class Eight. I am the second born child in our family and have three siblings. I have an older sister who is in her third year at a local secondary school and a younger brother and sister in Class 4 and 1 respectively. Since my dad passed away two years ago, my mother has been looking after us by selling fruit and vegetables by the road side. What she gets is not always enough to meet all our basic needs.

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

If it was not for Oaklands, many pupils in our school would not be going to school today. Here in Korogocho, most families are poor and sometimes cannot even afford to buy food. The money you are raising and sending us for our school fees is helping me and many other children go to school. I am working hard. I do not want to let you down because I know that you have given something up so that you can give me a chance to go to school. My aim is to get at least three hundred and eighty marks in KCPE, our national examinations at the end of this year, so that I can join a good government secondary school.

Thank you very much Oaklands, I pray for all of you always.

The advancement of Geographical skills as well as brushing up on Coastal case studies before the summer examinations was the purpose of the recent trips to the Isle of Purbeck for our Year 12 Geography students. The group was accompanied with Mr and Mrs Hoar, Miss Helyer, Mrs Broadway, Mr Smith, Mr Ludlam and Mr Bamford.

During their two day visit the students were taken to some of the finest coastal scenery in the UK (if not the World?) and were able to see how coastal management has been conducted along Christchurch Bay from Hengistbury Head to Hurst Castle Spit. The students also studied sand dunes at Studland and examined the concept of vegetation succession.

The geology of the Purbeck coast was explored late on the first day as the students were shown Old Harry Rocks at the chalk headland of Handfast Point., Many could not believe that this band of chalk once joined with the Needles on the Isle of Wight forming a land bridge before sea levels rose after the last Ice Age. The importance of the geology along the coast from Exmouth in Devon to Old Harry Rocks in Dorset has resulted in the area being branded a 'UNESCO World Heritage site' and as such puts the area on a par with places such as the Grand Canyon and the Great Barrier Reef. The importance of the area was not lost on the students as they explored Swanage, Durdle Door, Lulworth Cove and Stair Hole.

The students collected a variety of data during the two days:

- Land use survey and questionnaires at Barton-on-Sea
- Sand dune data at Studland
- Groyne and longshore drift analysis at Swanage
- Beach transect surveys at Ringstead Bay

These experiences were designed to provide the students with experience of fieldwork. Each of the students will need to produce a report, which is worth 20% of their A level. Students will need to collect their data over the summer holidays and produce the report during the autumn term next year.

Inspection Visit with Students (Years 7-10)

Although Mr Bamford had been to the areas discussed above many times before, the new A level that the Year 12s are studying has a slight change of focus from previous years. As such, the Geography department were keen to go to the locations – particularly Studland – to make preparations for the Year 12 trip. Rather than just go on his own, Mr Bamford and Mrs Quinn took a bus load of students from Years 7-10 during the half term holiday to visit the places two weeks before the Year 12 trip. In fact, these students went further west than the Year 12 and visited Weymouth, Chesil Beach and Portland Bill.



Year 10 Geography Field trip

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

140 students took part in this valuable experience and are the first of our students to study the new GCSE Geography course.

The new course has had a shift of focus; instead of completing a report during the autumn term that is worth 25% of the GCSE like our current Year 11 students, our Year 10 will be tested on their fieldwork experiences in an exam paper at the end of Year 11. In fact, the new specification demands that students experience human fieldwork as well as physical fieldwork. Consequently, our students examined the physical processes along the coast at West Wittering in the morning and then completed a tourism study at East Wittering in the afternoon.



The Geography department provide a number of opportunities to experience fieldwork. In fact, 40 students from Year 10 will be visiting Iceland during the summer holidays; a full report will appear in the next newsletter.

Hampshire Records Office Trip

In the middle of a heat wave, ten students from Year 7 and 8 made their way over to Winchester to visit the Hampshire records office. They were there to examine how the records office works, how artefacts are preserved and protected and also to investigate the Wessex film and sound archive.

The students had a tour of some of the special artefacts including documents with original wax seals from Henry VIII and Elizabeth I. They examined photographs of Havant as it used to be over a hundred years ago and saw parish records that documented the local impact of plague in the 1500s.

After a talk from the 'book hospital' which showed the students how different paper has to be restored and protected we moved to the stores where eight miles of shelving stores over a million different local artefacts!

Our final destination was upstairs to the Wessex film and sound archive where the students looked at films and advertisements from as early as the 1930s. It was a very interesting day for the group and the work on their archive film project 'A Moment in Time' continues.



On Sunday 2nd July around 10pm, nineteen tired but excited Spanish students arrived at Oaklands from the picturesque island of Gran Canaria.



Our first day at Oaklands was full of activities and the opportunity to get to know each other. By the end of the day, we knew we were going to have a wonderful week. P1, we had a meet and greet session where we talked about our different lifestyles comparing England and Spain. The next two lessons were with partners and our visitors had the chance to see what we learn and how subjects are taught at Oaklands.

P4 was an informative history of England lesson with Dr Colvin and after an hour, they knew lots about our Kings and Queens and other important facts of our history.

After lunch, our visitors made delicious typical English scones with Ms Osbourne and Ms Mousdale which they enjoyed with clotted cream and jam, yummy!

On Tuesday, we had a trip to Portsmouth and we went up the Spinnaker Tower. We had the most fantastic view of the South Coast with clear sky, we all crossed the amazing glass Sky Walk and we even had time to relax and enjoy the Sky Garden 110 metres high. After that, we walked to the Hot Walls and the Square Tower to have our lunch before getting the bus back to School. P5, we all went to lessons.

On Wednesday, we had a trip to Staunton Park, best local opportunity for our Spanish friends to see a typical English farm. We looked at the animals; we went around the maze and the amazing Victorian Glasshouse with the famous giant Amazon water lily and other plants from around the world set in a rainforest environment. Back to school for an inspired English-Drama lesson with Mrs. Ellis where our Spanish friends had a chance to understand and act part of a Shakespeare play, "*Ser o no ser, esa es la cuestion*".

During P5, we had a PE lesson where we played a football match England vs Spain and ... "*some things never change*" quote from Mr Wade.

On Thursday, we went to London. We did lots of walking and lots of sightseeing as for many of our Spanish friends it was the first time in our capital city.

We visited the London Eye, Houses of Parliament, the Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, The Mall, Trafalgar Square, The British Museum and finally Covent Garden. It was a very busy day but we all enjoyed it. There were many tired but happy faces on the journey home.



Friday was the students' last day at Oaklands. P1 and P2 we had normal lessons and after break, our Spanish friends had a Mindfulness session with Mrs Whyte where they learnt about the brain and how to enhance their personal experiences in life. After lunch, we had the last lesson with our partners before we all enjoyed a BBQ on the sunken lawn. We were all very sorry that this was our last activity together and the last night with host families before our friends travelled back to Gran Canaria. An early flight next morning and they all got back home safely, reflecting on a wonderful experience in England.

We cannot wait to return the visit in October.

By Andrew Palmer and Francisco Booth. (Year 9)



Creative Writing Club

In Creative Writing club this year, we have had a huge amount of success. Not only have we had numerous young writers published but we have also branched out and increased our numbers 10-fold. More and more young people are joining the Young Writers' Association and are networking with other young writers to share ideas, stories, poems and general wonderment in the world of Writing.

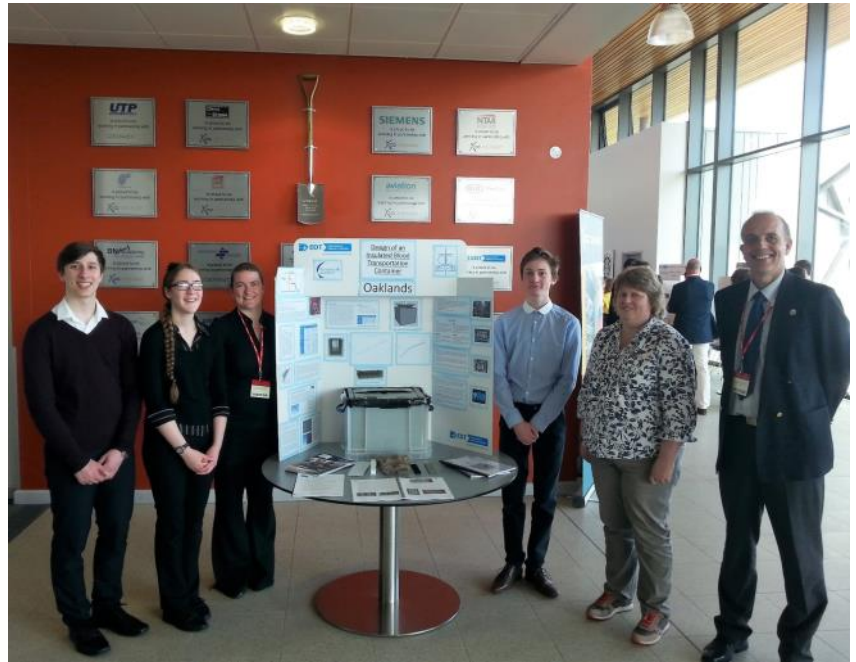
Our success this year has boiled down to the sheer innovation and hard work of each individual who has a hunger for the sublime. We have had fifteen published young writers, Beau Rimmer leading the way with four published works nationally. An outstanding achievement to say the least! Beau is also continuing to work on his first novel and is currently in talks with a first-time publishing group to produce the incredibly funny 'Grumpy Grandparents' series, inspired by David Walliams. However, let's not forget the success of all of our young writers who have been published either for the first time in Year 7 or for the second or third time. Well done to all, you have been simply magnificent with your dedication to the Creative Writing club by coming every Monday lunchtime to share some different perspectives and ideas.

So if you fancy yourself as a successful writer or just want to have a go at something new and meet some friendly faces, then come along to the Creative Writing club (every Monday lunchtime). Who knows, you may just be the next J.K. Rowling, J.R.R Tolkien or even the next Beau Rimmer! We look forward to seeing you in the new academic year and hope to bring more success and amazement to the writing world of Oaklands.



A Level Physics Engineering Project

Every year for the last eight years we have been selecting students from the A level physics course to participate in a gifted and talented program run by the Engineering Education Scheme (EES). It links a college with an industry sponsor and this year we were linked with Portsmouth Aviation in Portsmouth for the first time. The project they set was one that they are currently researching and so was relevant to the outside world. The project was to design and build a prototype of a ruggedised container that could hold at least 15 litres of blood and maintain the temperature from 2°C to 6°C for 24 hours without active cooling. This box would be used for humanitarian effort in disaster zones. The students had to analyse, using thermal modelling and practical work, the thermal properties of typical insulations and construct a prototype. The presentation day at CEMAST in Gosport demonstrated the long hours and hard work the students (Lucy Taylor, Joe Marinaccio and Oliver Baker) had put into the project; the organisers were very impressed by their professionalism on their presentation and display and enthusiasm for the project.



GCSE Physics Olympiad Results

Four of our best Physics students in GCSE entered the Physics Olympiad competition and achieved our best ever results at Oaklands.

They were:
Abhinav Shaju - Bronze level 2,
James Saunders - Bronze level 1,
Layana Sani - Bronze level 1
Judy Quinn – Commendation

This competition encourages the study of Physics and recognises excellence in young physicists. Well done.

To find out more visit www.physics.ox.ac.uk/olympiad.

Year 12 Schools Challenge Winners

A team from Oaklands Sixth Form are the winners of the Blott-Matthew 2016 – 2017 schools challenge.

The Airport to Airport Challenge required teams of Year 12 students to devise a fast, efficient and cost effective travel system between the five London based airports. Luton, Stansted, London City, Gatwick and Heathrow.

Teams of students across the South East tackled the multifaceted challenge primarily aiming to limit travel time between two airports to a maximum of 20 minutes. Consideration for the environment together with the likely impact on residents had to be taken into account. Furthermore, teams could only employ existing or technology available in the next ten years. Solutions included skynets, maglevs, tunnels and helicopter transfers.

Richard Blott and Charles Matthews were extremely impressed by the submissions received, and warmly congratulate the finalists. However, the depth and complexity of the project did mean a number of participating teams withdrew due to time constraints and forthcoming exams. This meant that the number of final entries came from a small and select number of schools. As a result, the top seven entries were of an incredibly high standard, making the judges work more difficult than ever.

The Oaklands team consisted of Max Birmingham, Rebecca Galbraith, Guy Mullins, Will Udy and David Vahey.



St Peter's Science Visit

Year 5 pupils from St Peter's visited our Science Department and investigated how to get salt from a mixture using filtering techniques. They then evaporated a solution to be left with pure salt, using Bunsen Burners.



They watched another separating technique called 'Electrolysis' to get Copper from Copper Sulphate solution.

This was followed by a Biology section, making their own microscope slides to look at onion cells. This was using a microscope.

They were given a booklet on all the techniques and three ideas for them to try out on return to school around this theme.



Erasmus Trip

At 8:00am on Sunday 14th May we met outside the school drive and left almost straight away. We left for Gatwick and there was no traffic. We got to Gatwick and went through check-in and security then had a few hours to go in the shops where we bought lots of sweets and drinks. The flight took 2 hours and 20 minutes and we were there by 3:30pm Hungarian time. We met our Hungarian students there and we went home with them. Liza and I went to her house and played board games with her and her sister. Liza and her sister, Vikki, speak perfect English. Then we watched a film and then to bed.

By Emma Mack

On Monday morning, Eszter and I took the bus into her school in Budapest where we met the other students and their partners. We then listened to the presentation everyone had made about their school and had greeting from the headteacher. After this, we went on a short tour of their school and listened to some young children singing Hungarian folk music in their music lesson. In the afternoon we took a bus and a train into central Budapest. We crossed the River Danube on the chain bridge and walked up to Buda castle. It was very beautiful. In the evening, Eszter and I went to a pizzeria and played snooker. It was a lot of fun.

By Ella Mulcahy



Tuesday morning we rehearsed for our concert for Wednesday. The Finnish and Portuguese students played and sang traditional songs from their countries and I played two songs on the piano. It was very nice to hear music from the other countries and I felt that I learnt a lot. Then we went for a walk and we went on the children's railway. Some of us went up to the observation tower and some of us stayed at a cafe. We then walked behind the cafe to find a chair lift that took a picture of us. We waited for the bus to go to a spa. The spa was very nice and warm and at the spa there were some saunas as well. Then we looked at Budapest at night and went home.

By Rebecca Rankin

On Wednesday morning, we all met at the Houses of Parliament. The headteacher of our partner school organised a tour for us and then we met a member of Parliament. We looked around parliament and saw the first crown of the Hungarian kings. Then we walked to St Stephen's Cathedral and looked around for a bit. We then went on a tram and went back to the school for the concert. Every partner country had a performance and I played a solo as well as a duet with Eszter. The concert was organised to raise money for a local school for disabled children. In the evening we did some shopping and went bowling.

By Ella Mulcahy

Thank you to Mrs Broadway, Miss Flood and Ms Mousdale for organising this wonderful trip

Young Carers' Festival

At the end of June the young carers group attended the 18th annual Young Carers Festival, held as always in the fabulous surroundings of Fairthorne Manor. Along with the usual attractions such as fairground rides, discos, high ropes and a spectacular fireworks display, The Children's Society had found exciting additions such as a planetarium and a caving truck, both of which proved hugely popular.

This was the seventh year Oaklands has taken a group to the festival, and this year was the biggest group yet, with 32 students spending a fantastic weekend kayaking, abseiling, dancing and making cupcakes. As well as the activities the ever-present Voice Tent was bulging at the seams with local councillors, representatives from charities, the Armed Forces, colleges and universities and various support services, all there to offer support, guidance and opportunities to the 2000-plus young carers in attendance. Special thanks go, as always, to the dedicated staff who help run the young carers group and volunteer their time to make weekends such as this possible.



The young carers group has grown considerably from the small gathering which first took place some seven years ago. We now have over 60 identified young carers here at Oaklands, and there will certainly be more we are still to reach. The weekly activity and homework groups and offering to listen and comfort when needed is the very core of the support we offer our young carers, and they will always remain valuable and important. However, trips such as the young carers festival and our yearly Christmas trip to Winchester Cathedral Ice Rink offer something equally as important; the chance of respite, the chance to spend time with other young people and, perhaps, a rare chance to be nothing more than a child having fun, relieved of all worries and responsibilities, even if only for a short amount of time. The impact of the young carers group is evident in the students it supports as they grow in confidence and ability.



With the group having grown so much we find that offering these activities to all becomes increasingly difficult and expensive. Over the past seven years Mr Jones has undertaken various fundraising activities, from having his head shaved by students, to hosting curry evenings and even spending an entire summer holiday walking 500 miles across Spain, and has raised a considerable amount of money.

However, as the group grows the raised money goes less far, and with a first child on the way, opportunities for Mr Jones to undertake 5-week treks are likely to diminish. Therefore, we are actively seeking sponsorship for the group, and any donations will be gratefully received.

Mr Jones would also be very interested in speaking to any local businesses who might like to offer ongoing support for the group to allow not only for current activities to be sustained, but so that further support may be explored.



A big thank to everyone who attended the Art exhibition this year. Once again it displayed the vast wealth of talent that we have within Oaklands with both GCSE and A Level Art and Photography students. I would not only like to thank the staff and parents for attending the event but more importantly the students. They have worked extremely hard over the past two years and this was evident in the work that was proudly displayed.



A group of A level Art students were fortunate enough to attend a two day print workshop at Winchester University this term. They were given a tour of the department and exhibition and had the workshop to themselves to produce some outstanding Screen prints.

Mr Richard Forster

Oaklands Parents' Association

Firstly a big thank you to the new parents who came along to the AGM last month. We were really overwhelmed with the turnout and are pleased to report that all the vacancies on the Committee have now been filled! Thank you all.

Remember, there are several ways in which you can support the work of the OPA.

- Donate or buy Nearly New Uniform from us. Every penny raised goes to the school.
- Enter the monthly 50/50 Club Prize Draw. Half the funds raised goes to the school and the other half goes into the draw! The more members we have the bigger the fund!
- If you see the refreshments table at a school event- grab a drink or buy a raffle ticket.
- Forward your email address to become a member of the A Team – volunteer helpers that serve the refreshments.
- Donations for raffle prizes are always appreciated, chocolate and bottles are always helpful!



Please remember the Christmas Craft Fayre on 18TH November, 12.00-3.00PM

If you know someone who would like to sell at the Fayre and would like a table please contact us on opa@oaklandscatholicschool.org

Getting the basics right with uniform is a good indicator of a student's level of commitment, co-operation and a sense of pride about being part of the school community. **Our staff work hard to uphold the rules regarding uniform and we would be very grateful if you could reiterate those rules at home and check that they leave the house looking smart.**



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

- **Blazers** are compulsory and must be worn to and from school. Please ensure your son/daughter is wearing it correctly when they leave the house (and it is not rolled up in their bag!).
- **Jumpers** are optional in the summer term due to (hopefully!) warmer weather. A recent trend in the female jumper has developed – girls have taken to tucking their jumpers into their skirts. This is not acceptable and they will be asked to untuck it. Please ensure they leave the home without their jumper tucked in.
- **Boys Trousers** should be navy blue, formal tailored trousers. Skinny fit trousers are not acceptable. Parents are warned NOT to buy cotton mix chino style trousers as you will be asked to replace them.
- **Skirts** should be navy blue, with sewn down pleats all around. We face an ever-present battle with our female students regarding the length of their skirts. Many girls roll up their waistbands and this results in skirt lengths which are not appropriate for a mixed learning environment. Please help us to help you – buy sufficiently long skirts, check the waistband before the girls leave home. We will insist that they roll them down.
- **Shoes** – students are required to wear black flat proper shoes; girls' heels should be no more than two inches. There has been a recent fashion of students wearing Converse type or canvas casual shoes – this is not acceptable and contravenes the uniform regulations. The shoes should be leather, not suede.
- **Coats** - coats for boys and girls should be plain navy blue or black. They can only be worn on top of blazers and not instead of. Please try to keep any logo or trim to a minimum. Scarves should be in appropriate school colours and not linked to any football team. Hoodies are not permitted and are not considered suitable outdoor clothing for school. Students will be asked to remove any non-regulation item of uniform.
- **Cosmetics** – makeup, false tan, nail varnish/Shellac/ artificial nails are all prohibited. Staff have been equipped with cleansers/removers and students will be ordered to remove these forms of cosmetics.
- **Jewellery** – students are permitted to wear a simple cross and chain, a watch and ONE pair of plain stud earrings in the LOBE. Other body piercings, ie nose, eyebrow, tongue, bellybutton, upper ear are not permitted and students will be ordered to remove them. Items which do not conform to our regulations will be confiscated.

SANCTIONS:

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

NEARLY NEW UNIFORM

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

Student News and Photos



Mileine Ward (Year 12) was in Offenburg, Germany this term for the World Dance Championships. There were 36 countries competing and she and her team won Gold in the Song and Dance Troupe and Silver in the Tap Troupe. England won the World Cup overall.



Alex Blythe (Year 9) and Zara Tree (Year 10) have been given a fantastic opportunity to train and perform with the English Youth Ballet this Autumn. They will both gain experience of what it is like to be part of a

professional dance company and will then take part in three performances of Copellia at the Kings Theatre in Southsea.



Benjamin Pope (Year 8) represented England in the British Para-Swimming International Meet in Sheffield earlier this year and swam an amazing personal best in both his 50m freestyle and 100m freestyle. Ben was ranked number 1 in England for his 50m freestyle for his age. Ben has now been chosen for the Swim England Junior Development Programme; an opportunity only given to a small number of youngsters across the country. Congratulations!

Well done to Matthew Galbraith (Year 10) who represented Hampshire in Athletics this term and to Josh Wise (Year 10) who also represented Hampshire for the javelin event in the English Schools Track and Field Championships in Birmingham.



Congratulations to Josh Wise and James Shaul (Year 10) for their promotion into the London Irish Silver Academy.

This is a fantastic achievement—well done!

Cricket at Oaklands



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 9th February, 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

ARE YOU LOOKING TO HIRE A GREAT VENUE

Oaklands has a number of facilities available to hire.

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

We can also facilitate

Meetings Conferences Training Days

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

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

Telephone 02392 259214 EXT 294

Email

lettings@oaklandscatholicschool.org

Scan our lettings QR Code



Oaklands 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**





Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College



Thursday 21st September 2017 5.00 - 8.00pm

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

Stakes Hill Road, Waterlooville, Hants, PO7 7BW
(023) 92 259214 Fax: (023) 92 230317
oaklands@oaklandscatholicsschool.org
www.oaklandscatholicsschool.org



Community Unity Opportunity