


**Term Dates for 2018-19**

**No 422 Jan 2018**

# Oaklands News

A photograph of two men shaking hands. The man on the left is older, with grey hair, wearing a dark blue blazer over a red sweater and a striped shirt with a red tie. He is holding a glass of amber liquid. The man on the right is younger, with brown hair, wearing a dark grey blazer over a blue patterned shirt. They are both smiling. The background is blurred, showing other people at an event.

**Presentation of Certificates  
Blessed Oscar Romero Pilgrimage  
Rewarding Students at Oaklands**



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

# Lead Stories



**Oaklands**  
Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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## From the Headteacher's Desk

**M**erry Christmas! Happy New Year! I appear to have been saying this since the end of November. Over the last few weeks, as I bump into people that I have not seen since last year, the chime of "Happy New Year!" continues to ring. The reality though is that New Year is quickly disappearing in the rear view mirror, the use of this greetings now falls into abeyance.

The relative closeness of Christmas to New Year is more of a human than Godly construct. For most of human history the New Year started in Spring.

The first record of celebrating the beginning of a new year was around the year 2000 BC. It seemed logical to start the year in mid-March - the time of the Spring equinox. It is said that the early Romans adopted this; their calendar only had ten months starting in March.

Later the Romans then added two months before March and started celebrating the New Year at the beginning of January (which was named for the two-faced god Janus). However, whilst January was chosen as the start of the calendar year, most of the people still celebrated new year at the start of March. So it could be still to come!

In 1582, the Gregorian calendar reform restored January 1st as New Year's Day. The timing of the birth of Jesus relative to our calendar is much debated. Biblical evidence suggests Jesus' birth was not in December; Shepherds did not tend their sheep during the winter months.

Irrespective of the timing, Christmas isn't all over, it is just the beginning of a narrative that sees Jesus dying for our sins so that we might have eternal life. For this reason, at home, we leave a nativity scene up all year.

We then receive a little 'nudge' in January about the importance of Christmas with the feast of the Epiphany. Epiphany actually means "to reveal or appear" and in the church we celebrate this festival because God revealed the Light of the World to us. Epiphany marks the coming of the wise men to see the Christ child. These wise men are significant as they were non-Jews just like us. When they found Jesus, they worshipped him. They worshiped him not only as the King of the Jews, but also as their Lord and Saviour.

They rejoiced because they knew that they were members of God's eternal family. In response to all these great things, the wise men made use of the opportunity to praise God and to show their love in presenting him with gifts.

For many, the greeting "Happy New Year", irrespective of when you think it should start, is little more than exchanging the pleasantries of a season. It is important that we can join the rest of the world, celebrate, look back with thanks, and look forward with hope and set off a few fireworks. However, for us "Happy New Year" is also recognition of the continuation of the dawn of our redemption, something to be happy over all year round.



The term ahead promises to be exceptionally busy for both students and staff with Year 11 and Year 13 preparing for the summer exams. By the time this term finishes, the exams will be five teaching weeks away. The Year 9 Courses Information Evening and the School Production are also significant events. A variety of extra curricular activities are planned including the annual ski trip and Iceland visit.

The Christmas season was particularly busy for the Music department with three different events. My thanks to Miss Flood and all the other staff who assisted.

Congratulations to all students in Year 13 who have sent their applications to the University and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) well before the January deadline and have been receiving offers from their universities of choice.

So far 68 students have applied for degree places in a wide range of courses from Nursing to Sports Sciences and from Film Production to Psychology. Eight of those are for the most competitive university courses either at Oxford, Cambridge or in the highly sought after fields of Veterinary Medicine and Dentistry. So far all eight have either received offers outright or are awaiting the results of interviews at Oxford or Cambridge colleges later this month:

Eleanor Ferris - Medicine - Oxford  
Rebecca Galbraith - Geology - Oxford  
Jonathan Hutchins - Medicine - Oxford  
Seok Jun Lee - Biomedical Engineering - Cambridge  
Fatiah Ogundimu - Dentistry - Various  
Lucy Taylor - Maths - Cambridge  
David Vahey - Chemistry - Oxford  
Helaina Withers - Veterinary Sciences - Various

We wish all students the very best of luck and good judgement in the coming weeks as they make sense of their offers so that they can choose wisely for their degree destinations in September 2018.

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

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

**Matthew Quinn**

## Presentation of Certificates

The school hall was packed full of staff, former students and their guests on Thursday 8th January 2018 to celebrate the school's examination success at A level and GCSE. Students in both year groups were presented with certificates.

The evening started with an address from Mr Quinn. He noted in his welcome the outstanding achievement of students of all abilities and the contribution parents make supporting students at Oaklands. He challenged students to seize every opportunity to develop a broad range of skills as well as being 'revolutionary' in their approach to learning. Every year at exam certificate time, students are given a small wooden cross to remind them of their time at Oaklands.

This year the school invited two speakers. Dr Christopher Dobbs was one of the divers who was involved in the project to recover the Mary Rose. He is now Head of Interpretation at the Mary Rose Museum in Portsmouth. Chris talked about his journey from university to becoming one of the world renowned experts on the Mary Rose project. He talked about diving on the wreck, being brave and overcoming adversity. Chris encouraged students to, as he did, follow a career in an area that they love and enjoy.

David Harrington left Oaklands in 2009 to follow a career in music. He is a sought after composer, accompanist and musical director. He has arranged music for Katherine Jenkins as well as for BBC and ITV productions. David is also the musical director of the popular classical cabaret act 'All That Malarkey'. David talked fondly of his time at Oaklands and the positive impact that it had on his formation as a musician. He then entertained us on the piano.

Both speakers were inspirational and one parent said:

*'The Mary Rose was part of my childhood. What an inspirational story; one of dedication to a cause over 37 years. David was brilliant, it was wonderful to hear how the school inspired him to take up a musical career'*

The celebration was concluded with a vote of thanks from Sixth Form students, Chris Ashby and Megan Moretti. As a note of thanks to our speakers, the school, from its charity collections, will make a donation to *The Mary Rose Charitable Trust* on behalf of Chris Dobbs and *The Forget-Me-Not Chorus* which supports people with dementia and their families through music, on behalf of David.

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

During the evening, the audience were also entertained by members of the cast from the next school production of *Beauty and the Beast*.

For those students unable to be present at the recent Presentation of Certificates Evening, GCSE and 'A' level Examination Certificates are now available for collection from Main Reception at the school for the academic year 2016/2017. **Please note**, these are valuable documents which are expensive to replace and we are only permitted to retain them for one year, after which time they must be destroyed.



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



- Scarves: the striped school scarf available from the OPA or a **scarf in co-ordinating school uniform colours. Team sport scarves (eg: football etc) are NOT suitable.**
- Coats: no more arguments in shops about what is allowed! These should be either plain navy blue or black without a logo (other colours are not permitted). Coats should be worn over the blazer. **Hoodies, in any form, are not an acceptable item of uniform and will be confiscated.**
- Shoes: formal black shoes (girls – heels should be lower than 2"). Plimsolls, ankle boots and trainer-type/ canvas and suede shoes are not permitted.
- Girls' skirt length: we are continually concerned that girls are wearing their skirts at an inappropriately short length and we would appreciate your help. Please ensure they are bought at the correct length – ie: knee length – and that you check the length before they leave home. Jumpers should not be tucked into skirts. Skirts rolled up at the waist are not acceptable and detentions will be issued.
- Boys' trousers must be navy formal trousers. Slim style is permitted; skinny and super skinny are not; neither are chino-style trousers.
- The school uniform policy on make up (including fake tan) and nail varnish is quite clear – it is not permitted. If students continue to show a blatant disregard for the school rules they will be placed in Inclusions. Your co-operation in getting false and acrylic / gel nails removed and ensuring nail varnish is cleaned off is appreciated.

Since September, we have operated a uniform report card. If a child is placed on this monitoring card and they either improve enough to come off, but then matters slip again, or if the child does not show any improvement whilst on card, this could eventually result in a fixed period exclusion for persistent defiance, particularly if lesser sanctions have failed to have the desired outcome. Your co-operation in ensuring full and correct uniform is critical in maintaining the high standards expected at Oaklands.

### Where can I buy uniform?

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

Skoolkit also offer an online ordering service.

#### SkoolKit Havant

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

Telephone: 02392 455795

#### Skoolkit Fareham

149, West Street, Fareham, PO16 0YA  
Telephone: 01329 822509

Opening hours:  
9.00am - 5.30pm Monday - Fridays  
9.00am - 5.00pm Saturdays

### Nearly-New Uniform

The Oaklands Parents Association is very keen to build up a stock of nearly-new uniform, which can be sold to parents at various events. If your child has outgrown any items of uniform and they are in good condition, or you would like to purchase any nearly-new items, please contact the OPA either via Reception or by email: [opa@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto:opa@oaklandscatholicschool.org).

In addition, the OPA will open the Uniform Shop after school on Friday 23 February, Friday 20 April and Friday 8 June, for parents to bring in or buy items of uniform.

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

## Update from St John's Korogocho

### St John's Week 2017

This was the sixth time we have held St John's Week at Oaklands. It is a week when we think about St John's school in Korogocho. In most of our lessons during that week, we link our learning to the theme of justice or life in Korogocho. Each year group has an assembly that highlights our partnership with the people of St John's and why this is important to us as a Christian community. We remember that as a Christian community, we are called to put our faith into action by helping those in need. The community of St John's is in need and we are helping them meet their need – education. During St John's Week this year, we held many fundraising activities with each tutor group trying to raise as much money as they could to



sponsor at least one child (£45). Some classes had skype sessions with the pupils and staff of St John's. This year, we decided to set ourselves a challenge of covering the distance between here and St John's – 4,232 miles (as the crow flies) either by cycling, walking, running or swimming. Staff, students, governors and parents took part in this challenge. The aim was to cover the distance by the time we break off for Christmas holidays! But being the hard working community that we are, we covered the distance by November 30<sup>th</sup>! Well done Oaklands! **(Mr Sumba)**

### Oaklands St John's Scholarship Programme Report 2017

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved in this wonderful programme that has enabled so many children at St John's to go to school. We are now in our fifth year of this partnership. Thanks to our community of Oaklands, many children from Korogocho slum have been able to get primary education and many have moved on to secondary schools. I invite you to read the report below from the outgoing Headteacher of St John's. The school management board, which is led by the Comboni Missionaries, operates a policy of having a headteacher for no more than a period of three years. This is to ensure accountability and transparency. So with this report from Mr Amuka, we also say good bye to him and welcome the new headteacher, Mr Geoffrey Opondo in January. **(Mr Sumba)**

### **St John's school impact on the local community of Korogocho slum**

- St John's school has transformed the lives of many youths in Korogocho, some of them are now employed and today they lead decent lives outside the slum.
- The school's sports and music clubs have a remarkable impact on the social and economic life of people in the slum. It has not only nurtured talents and helped young people realize their potential, but has also created jobs and opportunities that have enhanced personal and social transformation.
- This year the school sent twenty pupils to the National Music and Drama Festivals at Kakamega town where they took first place in two items. Some of the children have also earned scholarships in decent high schools across the country due to talents nurtured at St John's school.
- The school has helped to rehabilitate and educate many children who could have been wasted by drugs and alcohol; it has also protected many others from becoming gang members and criminals by offering affordable education. In short, St John's is here to transform lives of poor people in Korogocho
- Our candidates pay a visit to the national assembly and the senate each year to learn more about the parliament.

### **End of Year 2017 Narrative and Finance Report on Oaklands St John's Scholarship Programme**

#### **Objective:**

To help the less fortunate in our community acquire education by paying school fees, exam fees and other basic needs for the learners.

## Outputs:

School fees and exam fees were paid during the year for up to 220 pupils. 88 pupils benefitted from full sponsorship while 132 pupils benefitted from partial sponsorship.

A total of Kshs 657,648/= was received this year for school fees, exams and sanitary towels.

## Achievements:

We were able to support the needy and vulnerable children and maintain our pupils' population. This is great for the school because without this programme the number of pupils at our school would have gone down.

The academic performance of the majority of the 220 children has improved gradually and consistently, although each time we do exams, some are still on their way to improvement. We hope we will make the average good, the good better and make the better best as we make the best of the best through your continual support. We have some in Class Eight who have done their national exams and we hope they are going to do well to join good secondary schools next year.

We have managed to keep children in school without sending them home for money, which has also lessened teachers' work in class since very little time is wasted.

Purchasing sanitary towels for our girls has built confidence in them and made them not miss lessons during their periods.

## Challenges Faced:

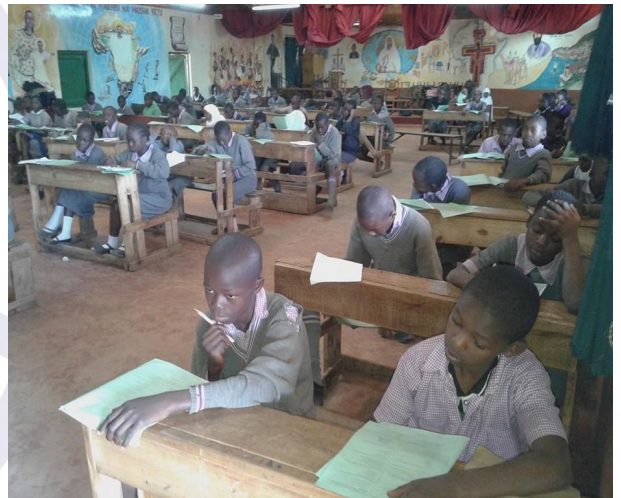
Most pupils in our school are not well off and are facing the same difficulties; hence it becomes so difficult to accommodate each and every pupil's need in the school.

Communication was made difficult due to problems with the internet.

Air pollution due to emission of toxic gasses during the burning of garbage in a newly introduced dump site.

## Specific examples of impact of the support:

Through your support Margaret Awino has constantly improved and got 429 marks in her end of term 3 exam, Eugene Omondi has registered improvement up to 391 marks in his end of term 3 exam and Hillary Opondo has also improved bit by bit to 383 marks in in the same exam. Since the three are candidates sitting for their KCPE this year, we hope they will do even better in the national exam. These are just a few among the ones your support has really benefitted. Joseph Odunyo, Naomi Gakenia and Najma Adan among others whom you have supported in the past are really doing well in high school. In fact, they are optimistic of joining university after their final exam in secondary school. This makes us proud of your support since these children are products of it.



## Recommendations:

- We request support for some learners who may lack means to continue with their secondary education.
- We request your support to help us have a better internet connection.
- The school fee has been increased to Kshs 2,000 per child per term while exam fee has remained Kshs 250. This has been done due to the withdrawal of World Food Program from supporting feeding program in primary schools in Kenya. We have increased the fee with Kshs 200 which may not be enough to support a pupil's lunch for a whole term. This implies that the management will be forced to source for more funds to top up the amount.

Thank you for your continued support and I hope that you will continue to work with my successor for the benefit of the children and community of St John's.

God bless you all.  
Yours faithfully

**Augustine Amuka**

**Outgoing Headteacher of St John's Catholic Primary School - Korogocho**

## Literacy News

### Book Bonanza

**T**he Library hosted its third book Bonanza Raffle Extravaganza at lunchtime on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Many students had entered into the raffle hoping to have their names pulled out to be the first to borrow one of the twelve new books on offer, from authors ranging from David Walliams, Anthony Horowitz, Jeff Kinney, John Green and many more.

They were all raffled one by one and the most wanted book was by far "The Gateway" by Jeff Kinney. Everybody was screaming with excitement when it came to this book. Unfortunately, not everyone could win! There were lots of other books too like "EPIC" by Tom Gates, or "Turtles all the Way Down". All of the librarians were busy on Monday and Tuesday putting backs on the books and Miss Sharma and Mrs Berogna were looking forward to seeing everyone's face light up when they got the book that they wanted.

The excitement of students getting the books could be heard in many parts of the school! Staff from the IT and PE Departments wondered on earth was happening and they even came in to see! It's true: there is nothing like a good book!

**Isabelle Barns, 7CL**

We really enjoyed helping out at the Book Raffle and seeing all of the children's happy faces when they won a book. We thought it was a great way to encourage children to read! We could not believe all the noise they made when they were counting down for each ticket to be drawn... They were cheering, hitting their hands on their knees and 'woooing' in excitement, especially for the Jeff Kinney books! It was a great way to finish off the raffle!

**Becky Finan and Sophie Poole, 7 CL**



### Hampshire Book Award 2017

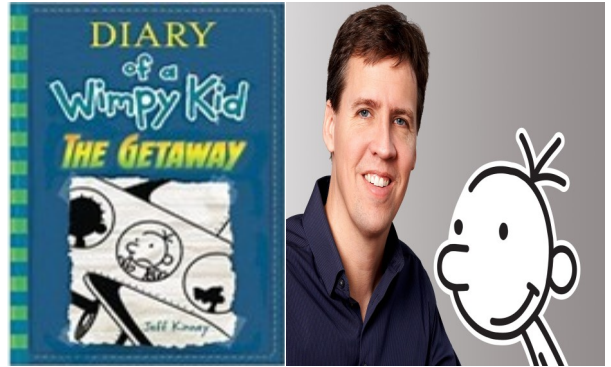
**Y**ear 9 students had the pleasure of meeting Helen Dennis the winning author of the Hampshire Book Award in Winchester in November.

All students had read the six shortlisted books and had made their votes in July. This trip was the final part of the award and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Helen was very happy to sign books with students and we were all engrossed when she spoke about her journey as an author. She is looking forward to possibly visiting us soon!

## Jeff Kinney 'Getaway' Event

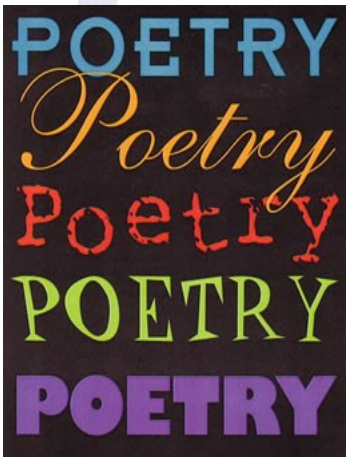
We had great fun at the Jeff Kinney 'Getaway' event on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December. We had a cryptic message the day before calling all Jeff Kinney fans to go to the library at 2.00pm for something special and not to be missed. By 1.43pm, there was a crowd of people who were waiting to come in and enjoy the amazing surprise! Faces were pinned to the windows as they looked on to try to find out more. As soon as the doors burst open, students hurried in with their faces beaming with excitement; their adventure had just begun.



Joseph Garvey and Tyler Edwards (writers of this piece) gladly welcomed everyone in, handing out a brightly coloured 'Getaway' boarding pass to all who entered. Students from every year filed in and took their seats. Miss Sharma hushed them down and started the presentation. The students were transformed from loud and excited to dead silent in awe...

Miss Sharma explained how she and Mrs Berogna had taken a trip to Bath. They were just strolling down a high street when out of the corner of their eyes they saw a camera crew. They took a full look and what they saw left them gobsmacked...It was Jeff Kinney himself! Miss Sharma and Mrs Berogna went over and started speaking to him. They asked if they could take a photo and chatted to him about how their students at Oaklands really loved his books. He invited them to film him giving a personal message to a fan in Y9, Michael Wilson, who had written a letter to him. He even agreed to draw a picture for our very own school Library! He chose to do a drawing of one of his books most loved characters, Manny, and dedicated it to Oaklands Catholic School. Finally, he recorded a message to the students at The Getaway Event saying they should always read books and he said how happy he was with our school.

The finale had then arrived... Mr Quinn showed us his boarding pass...it was a special boarding pass with a coloured sticker on the back of it...whoever had the matching boarding pass won a state-of-the-art signed 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid' book.



## Year 7 Poetry 'Off by Heart' Competition

When Miss Sharma first announced that we were going to be entering a poetry competition, I didn't really want to do it because I was really nervous. Every student in each Y7 English class had been asked to learn a poem off by heart. They would then perform to their teacher who would select an overall winner from their class. Each winner would then be asked to perform in a final competition in the Library.

We were shown some poetry performances and we discussed what made them interesting. We discussed how we would approach learning a poem and shared our experiences of poetry so far. We were then given a variety of different poems to choose from but I had a personal request as I have always had a passion for reading, writing and performing war poems.

After looking through several poems, we chose an amazing and emotional, eight verse GCSE poem by Wilfred Owen. It is about the horrors of war. I learnt the poem in just five days and performed it to my class, 7 St. Stephen. Everyone did so well! The next day, I had been called to see Miss Sharma ... I couldn't believe it when I heard the news...I had been chosen to go forward into the final round of the competition.

### The Finals ...

I performed to the judges (Mr Keer, Mrs Berogna and Mrs Smith) and they were quoted as saying: 'it was very intriguing, emotional and captivating'. I WON!

Even better, Miss Sharma thought that I should enter a National War Poetry Recitation Competition as part of my prize! Another challenge was upon me and I have since learnt and performed 'Break of Day in the Trenches' by Isaac Rosenberg!

All that hard work was definitely worth it.

**Jessica Pal, 7 St Stephen**

## Lessons from Auschwitz

On 14<sup>th</sup> November, Ronan Karlinski and I (Jonah North) travelled with the 'Lessons From Auschwitz Association' to Auschwitz Birkenau. It was an unforgettable experience which has given us a different outlook on the horrific event of the Holocaust. It was a 22-hour round trip leaving at 2.00am and getting back at midnight.

With the flight leaving Gatwick at 4.15am, landing in Krakow at 6am we got straight on a coach to the town of Oswiecim, this was the town that was renamed as Auschwitz by the Germans because it was easier to pronounce for them showing a lack of respect to the Poles. The town was eerie and the only way to describe it was as if there was an elephant in the room that no one wanted to address. From there we went onto the first work camp which was around five minutes out from the town centre. It was striking how commercialised it had become, we waited for around forty-five minutes before we got our headsets and were toured round.

For both Ronan and myself I think the most memorable moment of the trip were the rooms full of possessions: pottery, hairbrushes and cosmetic items were kept, stacked high were suitcases and bag suggesting the people going into the camp thought they were to stay, however the harsh reality was that 75% of arrivals were sent straight to the showers. Hundreds and thousands of shoes both child and adult highlighted the individuals who went through the mass industrialisation process. Two tons of hair kept behind a glass cabinet which was not even half of the amount they accumulated.

From there we went to the death camp, which is what you think of when you see Auschwitz Birkenau, the gateway with the railway running through; with the high fences and guard posts. By 3.00pm it started to become dark and very cold, they had told us to pack layers, but I don't think you could have packed enough as you would always feel chilled. With a long walk down from the gateway to the destroyed showers you couldn't have imagined what those people went through, for me I didn't know how to process what I saw. Seeing it in films, pictures and documentaries is one thing but when you are there you just don't really know what to think. Jews from all across Europe spent from nine days plus, in small cattle carts, at one end was a bucket of water and the other was a toilet. We stayed till dark where we had a short Ceremony of Remembrance, listened to testimonies and looked round the "Cleansing Rooms" where upon arrival those "lucky ones" who weren't killed were put into outfits and had their heads shaved.

From this experience the Lessons From Auschwitz Association wanted us to think about the individuals involved rather than the Holocaust being a general event. For me after hearing no more than five different testimonies from inside the camp it made me realise the sheer number of people who were murdered. Also, the rooms full of possessions made you think of all the people who were killed. We also saw hundreds of Zyklon B canisters, and were told that 5-7 canisters would be able to kill roughly 1000 people.

However, the trip was a real eye opener and has made myself and I'm sure Ronan as well, see events similar to this in a different light. As well as wanting us to individualise the Holocaust the other message they send out is a famous quote from Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel which says "The only thing we learn from history is that we learn nothing from history".

**Jonah North & Ronan Kalinski (Year 13)**



## Politics at Oaklands

### Parliament Week, 13th-17th November

Parliament week is a national initiative to get the general public, but especially schools, talking politics. At Oaklands we wanted to consider the different options open to our students when they come of voting age. We played host to visiting speakers from The Green Party, The Liberal Democrats and The Conservatives. Our students constructed a series of probing questions that challenged the speakers on their views on issues such as Brexit, tuition fees and party loyalties. The students gave up their lunchtimes to attend and demonstrated a keen interest in the world around them.



### Government and Politics Trip to London

On Tuesday 21st November, 16 Year 12 Politics students visited London. They completed a tour of the highest court in the UK; The Supreme Court before being able to observe one of its trial's in action. After lunch they moved across Parliament Square and had a tour of parliament including visits to The House of Commons and The House of Lords who were both in session. The House of Commons were debating the minutia of the Brexit bill. A session with Parliament's Education outreach service on the role of pressure groups in British politics followed before meeting our local MP Alan Mak in Westminster Hall. A busy but focused day!

### Question Time

On Friday 29th September, six students and myself attended a Sixth Form Question Time under the banner of "All Things Bright and Beautiful" at Portsmouth Cathedral. Upon arrival we were greeted by the charismatic panellist, the Anglican Priest, author and BBC presenter the Reverend Peter Own Jones who warmly welcomed us and with whom we grabbed a photo opportunity as a claim to fame!

Inside, there were sixth form students from Portsmouth Grammar School, Portsmouth High School for Girls and several other local sixth form colleges. We were also introduced to others on the high profile panel: David Shreeve (Environmental Advisor to the Archbishops' Council of the Church of England and Executive Director of the Conservation Council), the Venerable Joanne Grenfell (Archdeacon of Portsdown) and Francis Graves (lecturer and design tutor to Architectural Schools, in Cambridge, Paris and Brussels). Within minutes all attendees were seated and the questions commenced. During our time there we explored ecological and the environmental issues from the retrospective perspectives of science, faith and the arts. The main topics of debate were nuclear power, the power of protests and the scandal of litter. We discussed these topics with collaborative thoughts and in the end came up with numerous questions which led to further reflection and nods of agreement across the floor. By the time it was finished we were still asking questions. Filled with donuts and tea, we further debated and rated the day with 5 stars!

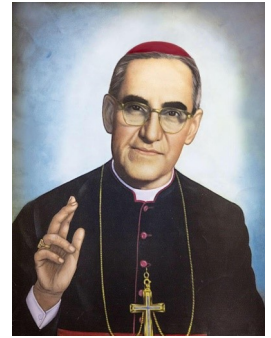


**George Ragg Griffith, Year 12**

### A pilgrimage in the footsteps of Blessed Oscar Romero by Mugeni Sumba

#### Day Four: Friday 17 November

Today we journeyed out of San Salvador to a chapel in San Pedro Nonualco. On the way, I noticed how the vegetation was very similar to what we have in Kenya. It was an eye opener as I had not really thought much about the geography of the country. It is funny how something as simple as seeing a tree, grass or weed, that I associate with my village in Kenya, here in El Salvador really amazed me. So all the way I was watching the vegetation and terrain – and in my head, I was in Kenya. For it was very similar.



Then we arrived at our first destination – the site where Maryknoll Sisters, Maura Clarke and Ita Ford, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel and Cleveland Lay Missionary Team Member Jean Donovan were raped, tortured and murdered by the members of the Salvadoran military on 2 December 1980 (nine months after the murder of Romero.) We were told the story of these women by Fr Tom, an Irish American Franciscan priest who knew and worked with these women missionaries. He described to us how these women were absolutely dedicated to helping the children who had lost their parents because of the conflict. He talked about Jean Donovan, who kept saying if she goes back to the USA (she was American), who would look after the children? Their lives were for the children.

Hearing how they were abducted from the airport, driven to this lonely place, raped several times, tortured, killed and then buried in a shallow grave made me wonder what was really going on in the heads of those soldiers. These women must have been really terrified and must also have known that they were going to die.

There were reports that the soldiers went back to their barracks celebrating and boasting how they had taught those women a lesson. You might ask why these women were targeted. We were told that it was because they were Americans and one of them was the daughter of a member of the US military, who specialised in US Army helicopters and ammunition. So she knew what the US Army helicopters sounded like. She was able to tell people back in the US that it was American weaponry that was being used to kill innocent people and the Salvadoran government and the military people in the US did not like it at all. So the women had to die.

I was filled with anger standing at the spot where these four women were brutally murdered and aware that some of those men who did this are still alive somewhere. I bent down and touched the grass and soil – where the blood of these justice-witnesses had been shed. My heart was beating so fast. Then the anger left me and I just felt numb, filled with the question, 'How could they do this?'

After listening to the testimony to these women, we celebrated Mass in the chapel that has been built on the site in their memory. As I listened to the readings and looked at the photos and murals of these four women, the question that kept coming up over and over again was, 'How did they carry on knowing that they were putting their own lives at risk?' HOW? It was here that for the first time I become aware of the 'perpetrators'. I prayed for conversion. Up to this point on this pilgrimage I had focused on the victims. Now I started thinking about the perpetrators. At first it was anger towards them – how could they? I asked. However as we come to the end of Mass, while praying after receiving communion, I felt sorry for them and to some extent could see why Jesus, on the cross, had said 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing.'



From here we went to San Juan Nonualco. This was a reflective journey. I found that I did not want to converse with anyone. I felt alone with the question HOW ringing in my head – How could the soldiers do this? How could these women carry on doing their work? How for both victim and perpetrator! At San Juan Nonualco, we went to the shrine of yet another priest – an Italian Franciscan priest, Fr. Cosme Spessotto, who was shot in the church as he was about to celebrate Mass. His story was narrated to us by a local Franciscan priest and a lay woman. Again, I heard how a person decided that the lives of ordinary people was more important than their own and so spoke against the acts of violence by the army. Standing at the site of his murder, looking at the bullet hole in the pillar where he was kneeling when gunned down, again I was overwhelmed first by anger and then sorrow for the soldier who pulled the trigger. To the local community, Fr. Cosme died for protecting them and to them, he is their martyr and saint.



On the journey back to San Salvador, I was lost in my thoughts and I fell asleep. Back at Centro Loyola, after tea we spent the evening with Fr Rafael Urrutia, the Archdiocesan Vice Chancellor. He was ordained a priest by Romero in 1979. (Romero appointed him Vice Chancellor and all successive Archbishops have reappointed him.) He was also appointed to head the team that would put together the case for the canonisation of Romero. He shared with us how this journey had been – he said it had been both frustrating and challenging. He narrated how he faced obstacles and even hostility from some bishops in El Salvador and Rome – those who believed that, although Romero was killed by the military, he was not killed because he was defending the faith. Rather, they held, that he was killed because he got himself involved in politics and supported the guerrilla movement. So it was Fr. Rafael's job to find everything that Romero had written or what he had said – evidence to show that everything he did was informed by the Gospel, the teaching of the Second Vatican Council and the Bishops Conferences of Medellin (Colombia) and Puebla (Mexico). He said that with the election of Pope Francis and appointment of a new Papal Nuncio to El Salvador, the process started moving more quickly and the obstacles started melting away. This culminated in the beatification of Romero in San Salvador on 23 May 2015. Fr. Rafael announced to us that on Monday 13 November 2017, he had received news from Rome that everything about Romero's canonisation had now been finalised and they were just waiting for Pope Francis to set the date. There was an applause from all of us.

We asked Fr. Rafael where they would hold the canonisation. His reply was that although many Salvadorans would like the ceremony to be in San Salvador, his view was that it would be best to have it in Rome so that Romero would be recognised as a saint for the whole world – an example to all who work for social justice around the world. A little thought popped into my head – 'yes, that would be good because those in Rome who could not see how Romero was preaching the Gospel might just get a little 'grace' from the ceremony and may be the scales from their eyes would fall off so that they saw the truth as it is.' This was really good news and did cheer us up. Fr. Rafael also told us that the process of canonisation of Fr. Rutilio Grande was also going ahead and he said that Pope Francis had said that for Fr. Rutilio's miracle, they have Romero. How apt that the Pope sees it this way.

So as this day came to an end, my overwhelming feelings were those of gratitude, wonder and astonishment.

Gratitude to the victims of the conflict – that they had stood firm for their beliefs.

Wonder as to how they did it.

Astonishment that the perpetrators could not see (and some still don't see) that Romero and all their other victims were doing good for society and following the teachings of Jesus.

HOW could you not see that it was all for the common good?



## Day Five: Saturday 18 November

Today was another eye and heart opening day. We visited Aguilares, a town in the north of San Salvador, where Fr. Rutilio Grande, together with a catechist Manuel Solorzano and a young assistant Nelson Lemus, were killed on Saturday 12 March 1977. They were travelling in the late afternoon to a little village called El Paisnal, about 3.5 miles from Aguilares, to celebrate Mass when they were ambushed. Accompanying us as the witness for this part of our pilgrimage was Eva Menjivar – a lady who worked with Fr. Rutilio and is still very involved in promoting justice in her community.

Our first stop was the church in Aguilares, where Fr. Rutilio was stationed and where the bodies of the three were brought after their assassination. We heard that on hearing the news of their murder, Monsenor Romero travelled straightaway to Aguilares that night. Eva told us how she helped wash the bodies of the three and then laid them out in the church while, together with Romero, they discussed what they should do. It was here that it was decided that the following Sunday there would be only ONE Mass in the whole of San Salvador Archdiocese – Misa Unica. Eva said she felt afraid, yet also determined. The Christian community was in shock. To show how this story is still very much alive and many witnesses are still out there, a lady come into the church saying she had heard that we were here to hear about Fr. Rutilio. She had with her a letter written by Fr. Rutilio to her parents in January 1977. Her parents were good friends with Rutilio and in the letter we heard him thanking them for their prayers, support and friendship as well as reminding them that although the work he was doing was putting his life at risk, he believed that this is what God had sent him to do. He asks them to pray for him to remain steadfast to his mission despite the threats he was facing everyday.

Listening to Eva telling us about washing the bodies of Rutilio, Manuel and Nelson, I was moved by her courage and faith. I looked at her and then at the spot where she said the bodies were laid out and I felt that I was in a very special place, a place where faith was alive.

We then proceeded to the shrine on the spot where the three were ambushed and killed. As well as having our morning prayer here, we also had a few moments of private contemplation and reflection. As I stood here, again my thoughts drifted to the killers – how did they feel pulling the trigger? As they fled, what were they thinking? Feeling? Did they ever feel that maybe they had done a wrong thing?

From here we continued to El Paisnal, where Rutilio and his companions were going to celebrate Mass on that fateful Saturday in March 1977. Incidentally, El Paisnal was Fr. Rutilio's home village – so he was a local boy! The three are buried here just below the altar in the church. It was here, standing by the graves of the three that Eva narrated her full story to us. She said how she, and many in the community, felt like the light had been extinguished from their lives. She said they felt like they were being suffocated. And she broke down and wept. Looking at her I could not help but feel admiration. She said she wept because there are people who are still afraid even today because of what happened then. Those murderers had also 'killed' faith in some people and she said that was terrible. She said she is still active in the community because she believes that the work of liberation started by Fr. Rutilio and all the others, who had been killed, must continue. (Note: The canonisation of Fr. Rutilio includes Manuel and Nelson)





I sat down in this church very aware that I was in a holy place. I went and knelt by the tombs of the three and prayed for Eva. Again as I knelt there, my mind drifted to the perpetrators and I prayed for them too – for their conversion. The killing of these three, especially Fr. Rutilio has a great effect on Romero. I thought about my own life; who is my friend who occupies the place Rutilio occupied in Romero's life?

## Day Six: Sunday 19 November

Today was a special today for me and my family as it is the anniversary of my brother Juma, who passed away in 2004.

We spent the morning in the Cathedral Crypt where we joined the 10 am Mass celebrated by the Romero community. Every Sunday at 10am there is a Mass held in the Crypt of the Cathedral by Romero's tomb. The Mass is led by a different community each Sunday.

Before Mass, I prayed by Romero's tomb and lit two candles; one for those people who have been significant in my life but have now passed on to the next life. The other was for my family, friends and those still alive who play a significant role in my life. The Mass was really lively and I was lucky that I sat next a member of the congregation who spoke English so she was able to translate for me whenever something important happened. I looked around at the congregation and realised that many of the people present at this Mass would have been alive when Romero was alive – and would have participated in the Masses he celebrated.

I met a woman who was at the funeral Mass as a 14 year old. She said that although they knew that it was probably going to be violent, they were still determined to be there. She has never seen so many people in one place as on that day.

There was tension in the air as Mass started. She described how she was absolutely terrified when shots were fired during the Mass. With her friends they ran to the Crypt of the Cathedral. She could not understand why they just could not let them bury their Monsenor in peace. She was also at the beatification Mass. She says this was one of her most moving spiritual experiences – contrasting the funeral Mass where the government and soldiers were hostile to now where the security forces were there to keep the congregation safe. She shed tears of joy and said that Romero was guiding the nation.

For me, celebrating Mass at the tomb of Romero was spiritually very uplifting. Seeing so many people who knew and heard Romero made me acknowledge the true meaning of Romero being a contemporary saint.

After Mass we went to a town called Suchitoto in the north of San Salvador. This town still has many Spanish features – houses, cobbled roads! Lunch was at a very good hotel – the food was excellent. This was followed by a ride across the lake which reminded me very much of a similar trip on Lake Victoria in Kenya – so many similarities! The boats, the water hyacinth, the birds, the local buildings – it was as if I was back on the shores of Lake Victoria in my local town of Port Victoria in Western Kenya.

So what are my thoughts about today? The Mass by Romero's tomb made me ask myself, do I really understand what death means for me as a Christian? For a Christian, what is death?



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

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

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

Staff can also award Accolades (individualised praise messages), and students reach Achievement Milestones on the epraise system. To show our students how proud we are of their achievements we award them with a special badge and certificate when they achieve their milestones: Bronze for 40 points; Silver for 70; Gold for 100; Ruby for 130 and Sapphire for 150. Heads of Year and Tutors enjoy being able to give pastoral reward points to those students who contribute to school life in other ways- helpfulness, resilience and Chaplaincy and contribution to student council can all be rewarded, for example. With our new focus on "The Oaklands Way", each half term a special reward point can be given in the category of our half-termly focus. This half term, that's "the golden rule". These Oaklands Way reward points have become one of our most well used categories.

Students can also spend their points in our online "shop", which offers great purchases such as phone cases, notebooks, pens, key rings, footballs, earphones, stress animals, food and activity vouchers and much, much more. Recent administration changes have now allowed us to introduce an even wider range of reward vouchers.

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

An important new addition to our rewards categories are our "ultra-rare" Head of Year and Headteacher's Awards. These badges are awarded for outstanding special achievements.



So far we've awarded eight Head of Year's Awards. The first of these went to Sam Kift in Year 8 in recognition of his commitment to charity. Sam raised £1,000 in sponsorship to complete the Junior Great South Run. When the run was cancelled due to Storm Brian, Sam was undeterred. Rather than let his sponsors down, Sam ran the distance in his local park instead. Mr Whelan, Head of Year 8, felt this was worthy of the school's very first purple badge!

Grace Fincham in year 8 is the recipient of our very first Headteacher's Special Award. She was one of four young people to play the role of Tiny Tim alongside Rhys Ifans and the professional cast of "A Christmas Carol" at London's Old Vic theatre. Mr Quinn awarded his first turquoise badge in recognition of her hard work, achievement and commitment.



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

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

## Governor Meets up with Former Students

## Oaklands News

Last year, local Members of Parliament, and former Oaklands students, Caroline Dinenage MP and Penny Mordaunt MP, joined a select group of visitors to the United States Navy's aircraft carrier USS George Herbert Walker Bush on exercise with the Royal Navy in the North Sea.

The visit was coordinated by Commander Marc Evans RN, the Group Logistics Commander for the United Kingdom Carrier Strike Group and [since September] the Chair of Oaklands' Governing Board.

The objective of the visit was to demonstrate how 'big deck' aircraft carriers operate at a time when the Royal Navy's new aircraft carrier, HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH, was conducting sea trials in the same sea area just a week before she arrived in Portsmouth for the first time.

Caroline and Penny were flown onboard from Stansted airport, experiencing an 'arrested landing' when their aircraft caught a wire on the flight deck and decelerated from 150 mph to 0 in less than 3 seconds:

They witnessed flight deck operations at close hand and met many of the 60 Royal Navy personnel living and working onboard the ship during the exercise before being catapulted off the ship for the return flight.

Caroline said; "It was an honour to visit the USS George HW Bush Strike Group, along with other Portsmouth Harbour MPs. Naval heritage is so important to our local area, and it was great to learn more about the art of big deck operations as we enter a new stage of our rich naval history. I was able to meet some of the 60 strong Royal Navy UK Carrier Strike Team who've been embedded on the US aircraft carrier in recent weeks, and the take-off and landing by 'cats and traps' was an experience I will never forget!"

And many congratulations to Oaklands on such fantastic exam results – the school must be incredibly proud. I am sure this success reflect a great deal of hard work, so very well done to everyone involved."



## 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**



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

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

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

Parents can communicate via one of four ways:

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

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

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

### Punctuality

Students who accrue minutes late to school or late to lessons will be asked to complete a sanction until their punctuality improves.

Currently, if a student reaches 30 minutes late in total they will have a lunchtime detention. If they get to 60 minutes or higher they will be given an after school detention. We hope that these sanctions will teach the students the importance of punctuality and help them to understand that every minute late is lost learning time. Once the students have had a sanction, if they continue to accrue late minutes, they will have an additional sanction.

## Detentions

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

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

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














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

What to do:  
advice on  
childhood

Go to school: if  
needed get  
treatments as shown

Can be spread to  
other children. Some  
restrictions for school  
attendance

Don't go to school  
and see the GP

What it's called	What it's like	Going to school	More advice
Chicken Pox	Rash begins as small, red flat spots that develop into itchy <a href="#">fluid-filled blisters</a>		Back to school 5 days after the onset of the rash
Common cold	Runny nose, sneezing, sore throat		Children should be given paracetamol, plenty of fluids to drink and can be sent to school. Ensure good hand hygiene – dispose of tissues and regularly wash hand with soap and water*
Conjunctivitis	Teary, red, itchy, painful eyes		Treatment is not usually required. Try not to touch eye to avoid spreading
Flu	Fever, cough, sneezing, runny nose, headache, body aches and pain, exhaustion, sore throat		Children should go back to school when recovered - this is usually about five days. Ensure good hand hygiene*
Glandular Fever	High temperature, sore throat (usually more painful than any before) and swollen glands		Child needs to be well enough to concentrate at school
Hand, Foot and Mouth disease	Fever, sore throat, headache, <a href="#">small painful blisters inside the mouth and on tongue and gums (may also appear on hands and feet)</a>		Children can go to school with hand, foot and mouth disease
Head Lice	Itchy scalp (may be worse at night)		Treat child and all other family members by wet combing with a nit comb and conditioner
Impetigo	Clusters of <a href="#">red bumps or blisters surrounded by area of redness</a>		See GP. Back to school when the lesions crust over or 48 hours after the start of antibiotics
Measles	Fever, cough, runny nose, and watery inflamed eyes. Small red spots with white or bluish white centres in the mouth, <a href="#">red blotchy rash</a>		Contact your GP (by phone initially) if you think that your child might have measles. Back to school 4 days from on-set of rash
Ringworm	<a href="#">Red ring shaped rash</a> , may be itchy rash, may be dry and scaly or wet and crusty		See pharmacist for advice about treatment.
Scabies	<a href="#">Intense itching, pimple-like rash</a> . Itching and rash may be all over the body but is commonly between the fingers, wrists, elbows and arms		See pharmacist for advice about treatment. Back to school after first treatment
Scarlet fever / strep throat	Severe sore throat and painful glands in neck. No runny nose or cough. <a href="#">Associated with sandpaper-like pink/red rash</a> in scarlet fever.		See G.P. Return to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics
Shingles	Pain, itching, or tingling along the affected nerve pathway. Blister type rash.		Only stay off school if rash is weeping and not covered
Sickness bug/diarrhoea	Stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea		Return to school 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting. See G.P if they appear to be getting dehydrated (passing little urine or becoming lethargic)
Threadworms	Intense itchiness around the anus		Get treatment from local pharmacy or GP. Everyone at home should be treated
Mild tonsillitis	Sore throat associated with runny nose or cough		See G.P if they are not starting to improve or fever persists for more than 5 days

Please visit the following websites for more information:

[Should your child go to school](#)  
[Worried your child is unwell](#)

This information is a guide and has been checked by health professionals, however if you are unsure about your child's wellbeing we recommend you contact your pharmacy or GP to check

## CATCH IT

Germs spread easily. Always carry tissues and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.



## BIN IT

Germs can live for several hours on tissues. Dispose of your tissue as soon as possible.



## KILL IT

Hands can transfer germs to every surface you touch. Clean your hands as soon as you can.



**Healthier Together**  
Improving the health of children and young people in Dorset, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight



**Term Dates 2017/2018**

<b>Autumn Term 2017</b>	Fri 1st September to Thurs 21st December
<b>Half Term:</b>	Mon 23rd - Fri 27th October
<b>Spring Term 2018</b>	Thurs 4th January to Thurs 29th March
<b>Half Term:</b>	Mon 12th - Fri 16th February
<b>Summer Term 2018</b>	Mon 16th April to Fri 20th July
<b>Half Term:</b>	Mon 28th May - Fri 1st June
<b>INSET Days are as follows:</b>	Friday 1st September, Monday 4th September, Friday 22nd September, Thursday 21st December, Friday 9th February Friday 20th July

**Term Dates 2018/2019**

<b>Autumn Term 2018</b>	Mon 3rd September to Fri 21st December
<b>Half Term:</b>	Mon 22nd - Fri 26th October
<b>Spring Term 2019</b>	Mon 7th January to Fri 5th April
<b>Half Term:</b>	Mon 18th - Fri 22nd February
<b>Summer Term 2019</b>	Tues 23rd April to Fri 19th July
<b>Half Term:</b>	Mon 27th May - Fri 31st May
<b>INSET Days are as follows:</b>	Monday 3rd September, Tuesday 4th September Friday 28th September, Friday 21st December, Friday 28th June, Friday 19th July
<b>Student Return:</b>	Wed 5th September, phased return for Y7 & Y12 Thurs 6th September, all students to return

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

Thursday	4 January 2018	<b>First Day of Spring Term</b>
Monday	8 January	Year 11 Book Sharing Week <b>Presentation of Certificates Evening (7.00pm)</b>
Monday	15 January	Governors' Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting
Tuesday	16 January	Year 11 Mock Grades Home
Thursday	18 January	<b>Year 11 Parents' Evening (5.00pm)</b>
Monday	22 January	<b>Faith Unity Week</b> Governors' Business & Collaboration Committee Meeting
Tuesday	30 January	Class Photographs (Y7, 11, 12 and 13)
Thursday	1 February	<b>Year 9 Options Evening (7.00pm)</b>
Monday	5 February	OPA Committee Meeting (7.30pm)
Tuesday	6 February	Y13 Reports Home
Wednesday	7 February	Full Governors' Meeting
Friday	9 February	<b>Staff Inset—School Closed</b> Ski Trip Departs
<b>Mon-Fri</b>	<b>12-16 February</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
Monday	19 February	Y12 Reports Home
Tuesday	20 February	<b>Year 12 Post-18 Information Evening (7.00pm)</b>
Wednesday	21 February	Year 8 Progress Review Home <b>SEN Parents' Evening (5.00pm)</b>
Tuesday	27 February	Year 7 Progress Review Home
Wednesday	28 February	<b>Whole School Production</b>
Thursday	1 March	<b>Whole School Production</b>
Friday	2 March	Non Uniform Day <b>Whole School Production</b>
Monday	5 March	Governors' Ethos Committee Meeting
Thursday	8 March	Sixth Form Practice Exams Commence
Monday	12 March	<b>Maths GCSE Preview Evening (Y9) (7.00-8.30pm)</b>
Monday	19 March	Year 7 Book Sharing Week
Tuesday	20 March	Year 10 Reports Home
Wednesday	21 March	Full Governors' Meeting
Monday	26 March	<b>English GCSE Preview Evening (Y9) (7.00-8.30pm)</b>
Tuesday	27 March	<b>Dance Showcase (6.00-8.00pm)</b>
Wednesday	28 March	<b>Year 7 Parents' Evening (5.00pm)</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>29 March</b>	<b>Last Day of Term</b>

## Consultation on Changes to Sexuality Education

The DfE has launched a call for evidence to gather views of interested organisations on how relationships education, including relationships and sex education (RSE) for older children, should be taught in schools.

**The call for evidence is open until 12 February 2018** and we are expecting the Catholic Education Service (CES) to distribute further information to help inform any responses. This call for evidence and the process of wider engagement aims to gather views on the content and teaching of these subjects. It will look to establish:

- what teachers think they should be teaching their pupils;
- how parents expect their children to be taught this topic in a safe and age-appropriate way;
- what young people themselves think they would benefit from learning in these subjects.

The Catholic Academies and Schools Office (CASO) will be making a submission on behalf of the Bishop in due course.

The link to the call for evidence can be found at: <https://consult.education.gov.uk/life-skills/pshe-rse-call-for-evidence>

The full consultation on the draft statutory guidelines for Relationships Education [primary] and RSE [secondary] is not expected until well in to the Spring and details of this will be available in due course.

## Host Families Wanted

Do you have a spare room?

Would you like to host a young person from another country?

We are looking for host families for the academic year of September 2018 - June 2019.

If you live in the Havant, Waterlooville or Cowplain area and feel you could give a young person the opportunity to live and study in the UK, learn about our culture, and earn some extra money whilst doing so, please contact me by email at [H.JEWER@sky.com](mailto:H.JEWER@sky.com) for more details.

More Information about hosting can also be found at <http://www.xploremychoice.com/>



A number of students are wearing their Smartwatches to school. Many of these watches can receive and send texts and connect to social networks and some have integrated cameras. I am sure all parents can see the issue this presents in the classroom and in addition they are costly items to bring into school.

I would like to remind you, once again, that the school's current policy bans Smartwatches. Similar to mobile phones, they are not to be seen **during the school day (8:50-3:40) and must be switched off at all times including break and lunchtimes.**

Our normal disciplinary sanctions will apply, which in most cases will include the temporary confiscation of devices by staff and appropriate arrangements being made for their return to parents.

## A Few Gentle Reminders ...

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

\*\*\*

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

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

*Scan our lettings QR Code*

## Parking



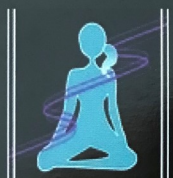
A reminder to parents who are collecting and dropping off their children at school mornings and afternoons; please do not block driveways, park on the white lines, double yellow lines or grass verges in local residential areas such as Durham Gardens, Place Crescent, Shaftesbury Avenue and Lombardy Rise.

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

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

## L.A Fitness Genie

Fun Friendly Fitness



- 1-1 PERSONAL TRAINING
- 1-1 PILATES SESSIONS
- GROUP PILATES COURSES
- SPORTS MASSAGE
- ZUMBA FITNESS
- ZUMBA GOLD
- ZUMBA TONING

- FACEBOOK L.A Fitness Genie Waterlooville
- EMAIL [lisa.ayling@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lisa.ayling@hotmail.co.uk)
- PHONE 07889318630

**LISA AYLING LEVEL 3 qualified and fully insured**

## TIMETABLE 2018

### ZUMBA

- MONDAY 9.30am Denmead All Saints
- WEDNESDAY 6.30pm Oaklands School

### ZUMBA GOLD

- WEDNESDAY 9.30am Denmead Community Centre

### ZUMBA TONING

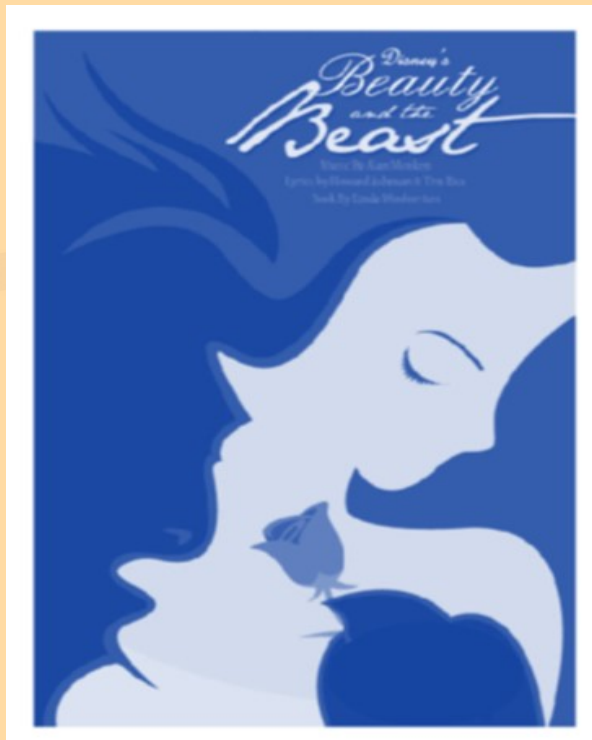
- TUESDAY 6.15pm Oaklands School
- THURSDAY 9.30am Denmead Community Centre

### PILATES

- MONDAY 11.00am Denmead Community Centre
- TUESDAY 9.30am Denmead All Saints  
7.00pm Oaklands School
- WEDNESDAY 10.30am Denmead Community Centre  
7.30pm Oaklands School

# *Beauty and the Beast*

*Wednesday 28 February,  
Thursday 1 March, Friday 2 March  
7.00pm*



*Oaklands takes on the challenge of Disney's classic  
- a true family favourite!*

*"Be Our Guest" for this magical "Tale as Old as Time"!*

*Tickets are available via the school website  
or the following link:*

<https://www.tickettailor.com/.../view-event/id/136840/chk/1a80>



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

**(023) 92 259214**

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



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