

No 423

March 2018

Oaklands News



Beauty and the Beast
Blessed Oscar Romero Pilgrimage
Reports from Italy and USA

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

The story of "Beauty and the Beast" has been around for over 250 years. It has its genesis in a French fairy tale, so, it's not quite as 'old as time'. It hit the main stream again when it received full 'Disneyfication' in the 1990s and then later went on to Broadway, the West End and now Oaklands (see Pages 4 and 5), but there's more to this story than meets the eye. There's a telling of the Gospel story that you might miss.

For a moment let's return to the plot: an arrogant young prince and his castle's servants fall under the spell of a wicked enchantress, who turns him into the hideous Beast until he learns to love and be loved in return. The Beast is created because of the inability to love, an absence of compassion, empathy, kindness, thoughtfulness and genuine concern. It is these attributes that deface the image of God in which we were created.

The unwillingness to love - it is this that makes us less than what God created us to be. Let's be clear, this is not the love that I have for my iPhone or a 'Quarter Pounder with Cheese' meal! It is an unconditional, self-sacrificing, outreaching love. It is the love that we should have for one another, it is the love that seeks to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, offer comfort to the imprisoned, and share hope with the hopeless. There isn't one thing that's simple or effortless about this type of love. Loving your neighbour unconditionally, is just about one of the most difficult and demanding things we will ever be asked to do.

We see this in the story, the Beast knows what he should do but initially gets it wrong. Gradually, we watch the Beast begin to change as Belle enters his life and shows him what love is all about. The Beast begins to feel and to care for others. He begins to lose his "beastliness" long before he ceases to be the Beast. When we are touched by love we want to touch others with love.

There can be no stronger message than the message of love at Easter time. Jesus Christ gave his life so we can live. The promise of the resurrection is that love is real and can overcome all the hatred and indifference. By making the ultimate sacrifice, Christ gave us the ultimate gift: love, but not just any kind of love. It's the kind of love from which hope springs. It really is 'a tale as old as time.'

"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."

There have been a number of significant achievements over recent weeks many of them are captured within this edition of the Oaklands News. A number of students and families have been involved in the Erasmus project, hosting youngsters from Italy Poland and Turkey. Students have returned from successful trips to New York and Italy.

I am always delighted when colleagues come to inform me that they will soon be starting a family or the existing family will soon be increasing in size. With pregnancy comes maternity leave and paternity leave. Over the last few years we have had a number of staff on maternity leave. This, coupled with a natural turbulence of staff moving on and the national shortage in certain subjects, presents particular challenges. We currently have members of staff out in English, Maths, Music and PE. We are pleased to see the return of Mrs Whelan into MFL. If your child does have a change of teacher during the year, please bear with us, as everything reasonable is being done to maintain continuity.

The Easter season provides the school community with the opportunity to reflect on the importance of the season. Lenten themes have pervaded lunch time liturgies, morning prayers, assemblies and registration. Last week students had the opportunity to go to Reconciliation; over 700 students received the Sacrament. My thanks to the priests in the Diocese and beyond who helped facilitate this.

Finally I wish you all a happy Easter and I look forward to seeing the students on Monday 16th April at the normal time.

Mr Matthew Quinn

Cyber Safety

Stories in the news about sexting, cyber bullying and child sexual exploitation always make parents feel concerned about their own child's safety in an online world. Over the past few years, Oaklands has developed and enhanced its curriculum provision in these areas, delivered through PDC, assemblies and the tutorial programme. Helping our students make the right choices to keep themselves safe takes a united effort between home and school. We have developed an area on the parent section of the website where we post up to date articles and information and if we become aware of a particular issue, parents are emailed. Often we involve external agencies to help us in this work and so we were delighted when PCSO Lee Haywood of Hampshire Police told us he was putting together a presentation to help parents and teachers support children around these areas. He came in to show his video to 180 Oaklands staff in February as an introduction to our statutory safeguarding training day and it highlighted the current and local situation with regard to cyber safety.

Following this, Lee offered to lead parent workshops in February and we were delighted that over the five sessions he ran, 85 parents were able to attend. Thanks to the OPA who provided refreshments. One of the school Designated Safeguarding Leads was at each presentation to discuss how we manage situations, such as sexting, in school and how we work with the police. The feedback from parents who attended has been very positive and Lee is now taking his presentation to all local schools. He is also developing a website for parents to keep them up to date with trends, such as the apps which are popular with children and the hidden dangers. Once it is live we will send parents the link.

If you don't know what Calculator+ app is, you should: it is an app which looks like the normal calculator app but once a child puts their code into it, it reveals all the photos they don't want parents to see, hidden well away from their photo stream. The only way you can tell it is different is because it has a + sign next to the app. This, and many other really invaluable pieces of advice and information were part of Lee's presentation. We have asked Lee if he will come back again in the summer term and we hope to fill the Hall with parents wanting to join us in keeping their children safe in an online world.

Mrs Julie Oldroyd

Beauty and the Beast

It's a Tale as Old as Time; the cast and crew of Oaklands' interpretation of Disney's fairytale was timeless. The audiences would agree that it's the music that makes this story about discovering inner beauty particularly special; it's hard to imagine a case for the show's existence without that five-note "Tale as Old as Time" strapline, which rivals the one from Close Encounters of the Third Kind.

Jessica Fitzjohn's Belle was flawless and confident, she skilfully blended the 'girl next door' sweetness with a steely determination not to be rattled by Archie McKeown's Beast.

Archie played the Beast with a masterful mix of dominance and vulnerability; we saw clearly the character's self doubt, and felt joy at his salvation.

Ryan Crellin-Simpson was utterly perfect as Gaston – virile, a narcissist in an amusing way, and a paragon of macho bigotry; just think Lord Flashheart from Blackadder and you would not be far from the truth.

Morgan Dryhurst was especially delightful as Lumière, the affable, charming and debonair candlestick adding joy and wit to his scenes. In addition to the four lead roles, **Maggie Leslie** had Mrs Potts 'down to tee', ably supported by **Sam Farrugia** as Chip, the tea cup; their complementary performance was 'infusing'.

Natasha Mula stole every scene she was in as the maid turned feather duster, playing the character with humour and joy, providing a magnetic stage presence.

Thomas Laidlaw, proved capable of jumping into a character 50 years his senior, playing Belle's loving father Maurice with dignity and eccentricity.

Emma Farrugia gave us a memorably uptight, 'tightly-wound', Cogsworth, and **Jasmin Samuel** added much warmth as Madame de la Grande Bouche, the enchanted wardrobe.

Laura Blackburn's stunning choreography of the show-stopping numbers paid homage to the great Hollywood musicals of Busby Berkeley, making inspired and superb use of the space the hall offers. The minor numbers were none the less important, and their choreography was humorous and would have not looked out of place at the feet of Morecombe and Wise. Adding poise and serenity, you could not fail to be impressed by **Sara Fernandes'** balletic interpretation of the Rose.

But as ever, with an Oaklands' production, it seems unfair just to pick out a few names from a cast and crew which so clearly draws its strength from the way it works together. The teamwork is an absolute delight, and was tested to the limit due to the performances being punctuated by the snow. Huge credit to the leadership of Director, **Sadie Whyte** and Musical Director, **Estelle Flood**. All three nights were packed out with undeniably deserved standing ovations.



Beauty, the Beast and the Band

I am sure that you will all agree that this year's superb production of *Beauty and the Beast* was not without its complexities. First came the massive scene changes, followed by complicated costumes, and then to top it off came the snow. For the Band, these were mixed with tricky harmonies and a big score. None of these obstacles however, made this performance any less of a joy to create - in fact I feel they made the process all the more exciting.

Rehearsing for the band began back in January. From the very first rehearsal, the enormity of the task for us became apparent. The volume of music was double, if not triple from years before. Nearly every scene was underscored by arrangements of Alan Menken's tunes, the dance numbers were extensive and the key changes almost laughable. (Computing 5 sharps to 7 flats on the page turn is quite a feat!) As the weeks passed we became more proficient in navigating the thousands of music cuts, page jumps, tempo changes and pauses. It still astounds me how we managed to pull it off.

Undeniably, we would have not have managed this feat without the excellent direction of our conductor, Estelle Flood. She worked tirelessly with band and singers, and by some mark of genius (or was it magic?) brought the two together to create the spectacle you saw and heard on stage. We were also supported by a number of fabulous people who gave up, Sundays, evenings and whole school days to play with us. Our amazing pianist Nickie Tabear is a true asset who added great depth to the sound. One of our dedicated peripatetic teachers Tim Button played percussion, making the music that bit more magical and Annie Walmsley again joined the band, a regular supporter, who we could not do without. Mrs Quinn played violin as well as creating props, choreographing some hilarious songs and providing us with sweets! Much of the 'Band Banter' was created by Mrs Quinn with nightly sweeps on the time of the last note, or whether the 'invention' would spew out its foam or not. This added great laughter all round! Returning student Daniel Mann on French horn and Tom Groves on trumpet (covered on the last night by another returning student, Sarah Harris) gave the band a stunning brass section, bringing much humour along with them. This year new to the band was the fabulous Laura Vahey on flute, and I transferred from five years in the cast to playing keyboard. We also welcomed the return of old hands Will Udy, David Vahey and Jess Collins, who brought back their marvellous talent!

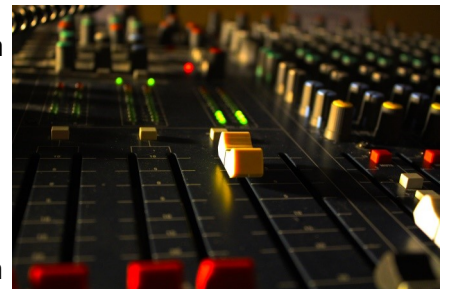
By the time the curtain came down on the last night, I could not deny that this show had been a rollercoaster. However, in many ways, it felt that what we had achieved was magic. The complexity of this show was challenging (to say the least) but worth it to the last note. An experience I will certainly never forget, even if I have "Be our Guest" still stuck in my head! I hope *you* enjoyed watching the show as much as we enjoyed creating it and that you will return next year for another brilliant performance.

Judy Quinn 12MD

A View from Sound and Lighting

Beauty and the Beast came to be one of the biggest shows any of us in the sound and lighting crew had taken part in, not least because it was the final show for three of us. Most of the team had not worked with each other before either, with only Ewan Elder, Tom Wilson and myself on the desk last year. Douglas Quinn and Michael Newham transferred to the lights from being runners for the past three years, and David Skelton joined on sound effects. We all learnt new skills, with everyone having different roles to the previous year. Thankfully, the equipment turned up in ample time, so we were ready to take part in rehearsals long before the show started. After the first show, we were hoping that the snow would not come and postpone the other performances. We were ready for the next two nights! When the upsetting news of the show's postponement was announced, we were devastated. However, we immediately started to look forward to the following week. On Tuesday afternoon, we were worried that we would be rusty; however, after a game of football, we went and gave it our all with a seamless performance. Wednesday night showed a few challenges, mainly the loss of clips for mics, but luckily, we found our way around this and Wednesday night was the most exhilarating performance of them all. One of the hardest parts of the show was packing it down. The difficulty was in the sadness, since we knew that the majority of us may not be at Oaklands for another show.

Ben Sadler 11CL



Last academic year, the School Council began discussing our PE kit. Many students felt that the current kit was out of date and that more modern fabrics and an update on the items students could wear was long overdue.

A consultation process began which involved students, parents (including the OPA), governors and PE staff. Thanks to all who contributed to this consultation which was overwhelmingly in favour of change. The colour, design and variety of items available for students to wear were all considered so that students can mix and match items to ensure they feel comfortable to participate in PE and Games lessons, eg, a student in Key Stage 3 will now be able to opt to wear a polo top and training trousers.

Students and PE staff in particular like the logo being on all items as this means there is no debate about what is or isn't school approved kit; it also means our teams will be wearing a smart kit for fixtures.



The change will be phased in over three years. The first year group for whom the new kit is compulsory are the Year 7 students coming in September 2018. Students in Years 8-11 may of course purchase items of the new kit and we accept there may be some mixing and matching going on for a while as we move from the old to the new.

All items of our uniform are available at Skoolkit in Havant or Fareham or via their online ordering service.

Well done to the School Council who have once again been at the forefront of championing student voice in the decisions that affect the Oaklands community.

Mrs J Oldroyd



Road Safety - It's Everyone's Responsibility

"I wound down my car window and shouted a warning to a pupil who was about to be hit by a reversing car who hadn't seen her" "Afterwards I felt physically sick at the thought of what could have happened".

The above was part of a conversation I had with a member of staff who reported to me that she had just witnessed a very serious 'near miss' which could have ended up in a pupil at our school being seriously injured, or worse, because a car was manoeuvring inside a designated car park having just dropped their child off before school.

As a school we take road safety very seriously because we recognise the significant hazard there is surrounding the movement of vehicles and pedestrians around the site, particularly in the morning as students arrive for school and again when they leave in the afternoon. We try to mitigate the risk as best we can and is why we have rules in place such as:



- A 5mph driving limit for every vehicle whilst on the school premises
- Not allowing cars on site until 3.50pm so that we can ensure the buses, collecting a large volume of our students, have a priority right of way
- Students must not ride their bikes on site but must walk them from and to the main gate using pathways and pedestrian crossings
- Pedestrians must use the pathways and pedestrian crossings provided and not walk on the roads at any time
- Students must be dropped off in the morning on the bus shelter side of the road and be picked up from the grass bank 'Pick Up Point' on the other side of the road in the evening after the buses have left.
- Students should not be dropped off in any other area of the school, including the roundabout and car parks, unless written permission has been given for a student to be dropped off by the White House (normally for medical reasons only)

A 'Near Miss' is reported as an accident waiting to happen. I would urge all Parents/Carers driving on site to abide by the above rules. Just think how you would feel if you were the Parent/Carer of a child who was knocked over or the Parent/Carer manoeuvring a vehicle outside of the designated drop off or pick up point who knocked that child over.

Your continued support in making Oaklands a safe place for all our students and staff to learn and work in will be hugely appreciated.

Mr Tim Finch
Director of Business and Finance / Health and Safety Officer

Parking

A reminder to parents/carers 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 ZIGZAG lines is an endorseable offence. We have been told that this will be enforced.

Ski Trip Reports

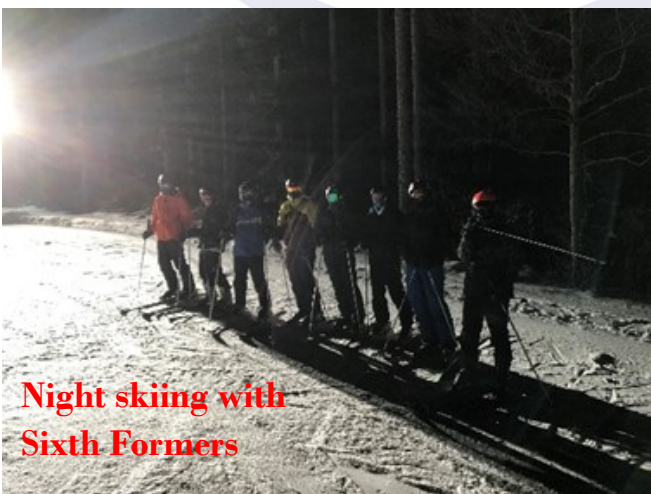
During the February half term, 107 students from Year 9 and the Sixth Form, accompanied by 16 staff, visited Italy on the annual ski trip. This was the fifth time that the school have gone to Andalo, in the western Dolomite region of the Alps and 2018 promised to offer the best conditions yet, given the huge amount of snowfall across the Alps during this Winter. The conditions did prove to be excellent, but the group had to endure a 24-hour journey on the coaches and get skis fitted before skiing commenced on Sunday.



We had nine ski groups, three of which had experienced skiing before. These groups progressed quickly up the mountain and soon reached the 2125 metre summit. Progress for the beginner groups was slow at first, but they too made significant improvements after a couple of days. Most groups reached the top of the mountain by the end of the week and witnessed stunning views, including Lake Garda to the south.

Groups 1-3 were also given the opportunity to experience night skiing on the Tuesday night. The resort illuminates one slope for people to ski on, which our students used for about two hours. We did stop for a hot chocolate in a mountain restaurant halfway through, such was the cold at night!

Away from the slopes, the group attended mass on Sunday, visited the local town and went swimming. However, many were happiest when relaxing at the hotel after the physical exertion of skiing during the day.



Mr Bamford intends to go to the same resort again next year and letters will be available for this trip soon. I would urge students in current Years 8, 11 and 12 to go as we really did have an excellent time. In fact, on behalf of the students, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Bamford and his team for organising the trip, which clearly involved a considerable amount of organisation.

We returned to Oaklands on Saturday, a little later than expected, for a much-deserved rest.

Tom Purnell (Y12)

During February half-term, a group of Year 9s and a bunch of Sixth Formers left England to go skiing, destination: Andalo, Italy. Friday midday, we left the school with a long journey ahead of us. The mood was upbeat on our coach but after countless hours, conversations started to lessen and lessen until sleep was the main agenda. Having awoken very early, the view from the coach was stunning, the Austrian mountains shimmering in the sun-stunned snow. The penetrating orange-pink hue that the sun gave off, reflected upon the weary faces and seemed to slowly enlighten them like a match to slow-burning candle, and the mood was rekindled once again. Despite a minor traffic set back, cards and other forms of entertainment seemed to kill the time and before we knew it Mr Bamford welcomed us - rather abruptly - into Italy (and to its U-shaped valleys) and once again the coach seemed to bumble along merrily and begin its steady climb up into the mountains.

Looking towards Lake Garda with Group 2



Upon arrival at the hotel on Sunday morning, we were all eager to stretch our legs and breathe fresh, mountain air. In a near-zombie state, we shuffled to our rooms to unpack; the rooms were spacious and the view from the windows and balcony was breath-taking. The snow-peaked caps of the mountain glinted off the shining sun and, armed with sunglasses, we were told to head down to the ski resort in order to get our gear!

The first day, we were up nice and early so that we could prepare ourselves to head down to the slopes. All the groups assembled and the holiday began. There were exposed ski chairs that went about 20 metres up mountain and if you were surprised by the height, gleaming gondolas travelled from the bottom all the way up to the 2000m summit! As the week progressed, green slopes turned to blue, to red (and black for some); snowplough turned to parallel and some onto carving.

In my group, we often went off-piste and the steady descent was filled with surprises such as little jumps and a natural halfpipe, needless to say my heart was in my mouth! On the Tuesday night, a select few went night-skiing down the flood-lit blue slope which was empty save from the whoosh of wind and the conglomeration of colours. We got to choose our groups and myself with seven mates shot down the slopes in a bid for victory and speed. According to one of my group members 'It was great fun!' and with help of a ski speed app, we could track our speed.

Every day, a lucrative lasagne or a pan-tastic pizza waited for us and cured our hunger before the afternoon ski. As the days went by, people formed new friendships, ski-skills developed and the instructors began to join in with the banter... 'Wa wa wahhhhhh' was a definitive favourite from my group's instructor whenever anyone fell over and his voice will continue to taunt me if I ever fall over again. A couple of times he took us to the ski-park where we did jumps and stunts and the feeling of flying will remain with me forever.

When the week drew to a close, we handed back our gear and after snapping some photos, #skiing ;), we boarded the coach for the return journey. Upon arrival in the UK, we were happy to be on home soil but there was the unanimous feeling of sadness as we had left a part of our lives behind us yet that part of life will stay with me forever... what an experience!

Fun on the slopes



George Ragg-Griffith 12MD



British Science Week is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM), featuring entertaining and engaging events and activities across the UK for people of all ages. The Science Department embraced this with a number of activities to engage pupils and stimulate an interest in STEM.

Throughout the week, students completed Science based mini-quizzes during tutor periods.

Dr Read organized the Biology Challenge, an online, quiz based competition hosted by the Royal Society of Biology. This is aimed at students with a natural curiosity for the natural world and an interest in biology outside of school, including watching natural history programmes and taking notice of the news media for items of biological interest. Students from Years 8-10 took part and the results will be published in April.

Mr Charig and Miss Draycott organised a Sixth Form activity, which was not for the faint hearted – rat dissections. Students could work on laboratory specimens and examine external features as well as internal muscular, organ and vascular systems following anatomical diagrams. This allowed them to make comparisons with other mammalian species such as the human! Around twenty students took part in this wonderful opportunity to make their textbook knowledge three-dimensional!

Oaklands Chemistry Club students with Mrs Lenton and Mrs Hardaker hosted a Demo Day on Thursday lunchtime. Established members of the Chemistry Club set up experiments so that other students could come and have a go at practical activities, which are not commonly part of everyday lessons at KS3.

There was a great buzz of excitement as well as loud bangs and mysterious looking clouds of gas in lab 7, as much of the fun revolved around Dry Ice (solid carbon dioxide) experiments. Students made exploding film canisters, performed colour changes by adding dry ice to dilute alkaline solutions with universal indicator, made fire extinguishers, self-propelling pipette boats and giant cloudy bubbles. In addition, a distillation was carried out to extract citrus oils, and milk was used to make a type of plastic.

Students were very sad to leave but we suspect that we will be getting a few new members to Chemistry Club! A big thank you to all the Chemistry Club team and Science Laboratory Technicians who helped to organise and stage this, but in particular to Ava White (7St) and Erika Campbell (7Mg) who helped to research and practise experiments as well as prepare equipment during their free time.



The final activity of Science Week took place on Saturday 17th March when Mr & Mrs Hardaker and Miss Johnson met outside school bright and early, ready to head off to Birmingham NEC for the Big Bang Fair with 10 students from Year 8 and 9.

The journey may have been smattered with snow flurries but this did not hinder the enjoyment with plenty of laughter, singing and excitement to be heard coming from the back of the bus. Once at the venue we fought against the sudden winter winds and admired a few of the cosplay outfits of those headed to Comic Con, which was also happening that day.

The Fair itself was packed to the brim with fascinating stalls manned by companies, universities and voluntary organisations, all offering careers advice, virtual reality goggles to try, competitions, 3D printing/images, insights into charities like Wateraid, even a climbing wall and of course lots of brilliant freebies! Meeting so many scientists from different industries was invaluable for not only the students but the teachers too who managed to pick up some slime mould samples to grow our very own unicellular organisms at school!

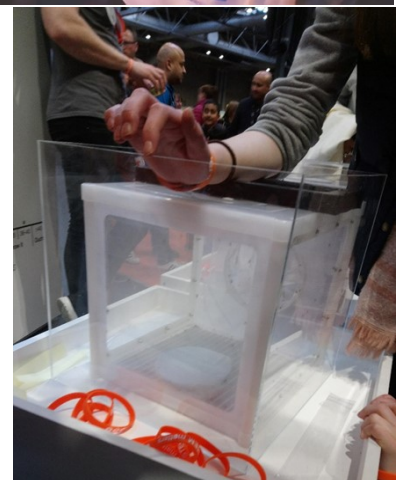
The individuals from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine were kind enough to have an in depth conversation with us about mosquitoes and possible ways of investigating them in a lab environment. This will be particularly useful information to bring back for those involved in the Chemistry Club as they are currently working on ways to repel and attract mosquitoes in order to study them and the spread of malaria!

After a wonderful few hours walking around and taking in everything the show had to offer it was sadly time to head home. The journey back to Oaklands was thankfully smooth considering the race was now on to avoid the snow before it got heavy!

Everyone made it back safe, happy, a little tired and with a whole lot of new inspiration and ideas.



The Big Bang
UK Young Scientists & Engineers Fair



Royal College of Science Union - Science Challenge Final

Way back in December, Dr Sue Read registered Oaklands for the 2018 Science Challenge run via the Royal Science Union. It is a competition run as an outreach project by Imperial College, London. There are four categories with two entry levels, one for Imperial College students and the other for school sixth form students.

Layana Sani in Year 12 entered and won the Feature Article category for school students. Her article will be published and she has a prize of £200. Layana and her family attended a dinner and presentation at the House of Lords and has now been invited to tea with Lord Robert Winston.

The question answered by her article was: *"To what extent have giant leaps in scientific progress been influenced by shifts within the scientists themselves?"*

Well done Layana - a scientist for all of our futures?



5th-9th of March was National Careers Week and was a fantastic opportunity for the whole school to engage in activities to learn more about the world of work. As the Government has recently released its new Careers strategy which focusses on skills and talents, we too as a school chose to think about the gifts that God has given us and how they will help us be employable in the future.



Assemblies focussed on employability and we were lucky enough to have an ex student each day volunteer through our Alumni to speak to students about their career path:

Monday, Year 11 Assembly
Tuesday, Year 10 Assembly
Wednesday, Year 9 Assembly
Thursday, Year 8 Assembly
Friday, Year 7 Assembly

Craig Sadler, a Firefighter
Chris Bates, a Civil Engineer
Matt Moss, a Police Officer
Linda Campbell, an Assistant Headteacher
James Richardson, a Pilot

During tutor time students discussed and considered the importance of certain attributes for the workplace, particularly thinking about using initiative, punctuality and co-operation/team work. Staff also displayed details of their own career paths which encouraged much discussion about how the world of work is changing and how they progressed to where they are today. It was a successful week and left students looking forward to future careers events and lessons.

During National Careers Week we had an assembly where an ex Oaklands student, Matt Moss, came in to speak to us. He is now a Police Officer and he spoke about his career and explained about the different pathways to get a job. This was really interesting because I learnt that we didn't need to go to university to get into the police force but if you did you could earn more money and have different opportunities. In tutor time we looked at key skills and attributes that we will need for jobs like attendance, initiative, being well presented and co-operation. These discussions made me realise how important my skills and qualities are for employment. We also made our own CV which helped me understand what I would need to do when it comes to applying for jobs. It was a very informative week.

Emma McQuiston 9Do

Alumni

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College - Alumni

Were you a student here ... ?

Stay in touch with us and help ...

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

Go to www.futurefirst.org.uk

Go to the 'Sign Up' tab

Click 'Former Student'

Type in **Oaklands Catholic School**



As part of the First World War Centenary we were given the opportunity of a Battlefields Tour from 4th to 7th March.

Memorial Museum Passchendaele

We went to a museum in Belgium, which commemorated the people involved in the war. There was a dug out trench to show what the trenches were like during the Great War. This then led into a traditional trench, with small shelters, which would have been incredibly cramped and small holes between the sandbags to shoot out of, but were too small to be shot into. There was a wooden flooring, which was put in place during the war to try to prevent trench foot.

Menin Gate

On the Monday, at 7:30, we went to the Menin Gate to watch a daily act of remembrance performed by a few members of the army. The service was haunting with the soldiers playing the Last Post, a lament on the bagpipes and then the Last Post once again. The Menin Gate itself was filled with the names of the missing. A few people went forward and laid wreaths in the missing soldiers' honour.

Sunken Lane

On Tuesday, we went to the sunken lane and found out about the soldier's waiting experiences, the immense range of a machine gun and the tragic loss of so many soldiers, many before they had a chance to even raise their guns.

SOUP!

At lunchtime on Tuesday, we went to Avril's tearoom, where we had a delicious bowl of homemade vegetable soup and a baguette! Yum!

Making Sculpture

We went to a workshop in Ypres, Belgium where we made sculptures for the Coming World Remember Me commemoration of the 600,000 killed in Flanders during the First World War similar to the Tower of London poppies project. The sculptures looked like people bent over with their heads in their hands and their hands in their knees; this represents the sadness and suffering caused by the effects of war.

Tyne Cot Cemetery & Memorial

Finally, on the last day we went to Tyne Cot Cemetery where over 11,000 bodies were buried, some even as young as 18. It was horrifying to think that each person had a life and their deaths affected around 50 people each.

By Rio Bivens 9MG & Josh Tyler 9MG



CAFOD Fast Day

Thinking about others and helping others is a key message of the Gospel. We are told that to love God, we must also love our neighbour.

Friday 23 February was CAFOD Fast Day, a day when Catholic communities across England and Wales fast or take a simple meal so that we can help those in need. This year at Oaklands, our catering team served a simple meal of soup and rolls to staff and students. It was a good way for us to think about how our choices and actions can make a difference to the lives of other people.

We followed this up with a non-uniform day where both staff and students dressed down for a pound. We will send all the money we raised to CAFOD knowing that the amount we raised will be matched by the Government as part of its pledge to CAFOD's Lenten Campaign.

CAFOD Workshop

At the beginning of March, we were fortunate enough to have Mrs Alison Humphreys, a teaching volunteer for CAFOD, run workshops with Year 7. The aim of the workshops were to raise awareness amongst the students of the refugee crisis and the conflict in Syria.

Students were first reminded what CAFOD stands for and the work that it carries out in the world. Then, students engaged in a practical activity which is designed to enable students to truly empathise with the situation that thousands of refugees find themselves in – being forced to leave their homes for their own safety with only a handful of possessions, if that.

Students were then asked to write a message to a refugee on cards that were provided by CAFOD. The messages have been collected, will be handed back to CAFOD and in turn sent off to some of the refugee camps. The messages were incredibly thoughtful and really quite moving. Many students wrote about the importance of hope and wrote how we as a community are praying for them as well as raising awareness of the refugee crisis to others.



Fairtrade



On Wednesday 28 February, our Fairtrade Team joined the Mayor of Havant and her Consort for the Fairtrade Coffee morning at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waterlooville.

It was good to join in with the wider community to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight. It was also an opportunity for us to think about the people who produce our food, clothes and other products we use every day. In some of our lessons we are also learned about Fairtrade and why it is important to buy products with a Fairtrade mark. We also led assemblies to all year groups in the school, reminding them of the difference Fairtrade makes to many families and communities in the developing world.

As a school with Fairtrade Status, we try to support Fairtrade wherever we can and we are planning a Fairtrade Afternoon Tea in the summer to promote Fairtrade among Year 7s and 8s.

St John's Update

A message from the new Headteacher of St John's, Korogocho

Dear Oaklands Community,

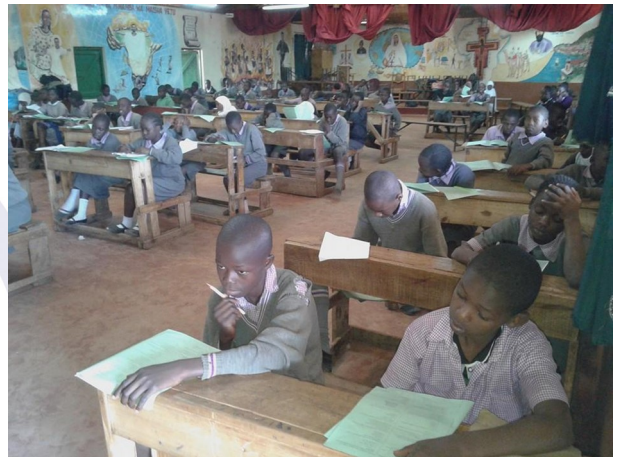
Many greetings from all staff and pupils of St John's. We are doing well together with the pupils under our care.

May I take this opportunity to introduce myself to you as the new Headteacher of St John's. I have been teaching for seven years and have had a good experience interacting with children from different background. On my staff, I have 19 teachers and one social worker. I also have four cooks and four guards/ security men. Together we look after the 670 pupils we have this year from reception to class 8 (our final year of primary school).

My vision has been always to empower the children to acquire skills in their lives in terms of education and helping them grow up and become better people in the society. I intend to work with all the stakeholders of St. John's school in order to help the less privileged in the society acquire education. It is a challenging task, but I am grateful to you and others who are helping us to provide education to these marginalised children. We thank you for the support you are giving us.

GOD BLESS YOU and thank you.

Geoffrey Elloh Opondo



Oscar Romero Award for Schools



On 7th March, we heard the wonderful news that Blessed Oscar Romero's canonisation had been approved by Pope Francis.

As a school participating in the Romero Award for Schools, this is an inspiration for us as we believe that Romero was a Christian who put his heart, soul and strength into making this world a better place for all people.

Let us pray for his intercession, that we too, like him, will be voices for the voiceless and say without ceasing, 'it is not God's will that some have everything and others have nothing'.

Day Seven: Monday 20 November

Today we travelled to the North East of El Salvador – to the birth place of Romero, Ciudad Barrios. We were met by the local Romero committee, local people who have taken up the responsibility of keeping the memory of Romero alive in his home town, especially now that no one from his family lives in the town. We visited the church where Romero was baptised and saw the building that was the school where he went and the carpenter's shop where he worked for a while before joining the seminary to train as a priest. Romero filled this place up – his murals, paintings, photographs, statues. As I walked in the church, I was very aware that Romero would have been here several times – I could imagine his parents teaching him to pray and sitting with him at Mass. Sitting and praying in the place Romero was baptised, prayed and grew in faith, felt very special, especially because I think this is where he got his faith from – the local Christian community. I felt that I was certainly walking in Romero's footsteps. The Mayor of the town came and presented us with a copy of Romero's birth certificate. He said he was proud that one of their own was seen as an example to many people of how to live a good Christian life. A son of Ciudad Barrios had become a father to the world.

The local Romero Committee gave each of us pilgrims a special Romero Cross. Julian Filochowski, the Chair of the Romero Trust, presented a book containing all the documents pertaining to the beatification process of Romero to the committee so that they can put it in the local Romero Museum they are building. Being here really felt like we were celebrating Romero's life. It was beautiful.

We then proceeded to Perquin Lenka, a town further north, towards the border with Honduras. The landscape was mesmerising. The hills, valleys, waterfalls, the coffee bushes! As I came to the end of this day, my overwhelming thought was, 'Today I felt that the people who talked to us about Romero did it from their hearts and saw Romero as one of their own – they talked about their son, brother, uncle. There was nothing else other than this is our own. Very moving indeed. And with this, it struck me that today was the first day of our pilgrimage where we did not visit any sites associated with bloodshed or torture.

The final thought for me was... where have I got my faith from? What sustains my faith? Today I saw people who claimed Romero as theirs – who are the people who claim me as theirs?

Day 8: Tuesday 21 November

Today we visited a little village called El Mozote where about 800 people were massacred by the army in December 1981. Most of these were elderly men and women including children. Our witnesses for these terrible events were Sr Anne Griffin and a local woman called Aramita. Sr Anne told us the background to the massacre – how one of the local leaders and businessmen had gone to the army barracks and told the commanders there that there were no guerrillas in El Mozote. He was reassured that the army were only after the guerrillas and therefore his village will be spared the purge that was coming. He returned home and went to neighbouring villages telling people El Mozote will be spared. Many people heeded his news and moved to El Mozote, believing it was safer. However, a few days later, the army came and rounded up everybody from their houses and brought them into the town and separated men from women and children. Men were lined up and shot. Women and girls as young as 10 were first raped then sent to a house where they were shot as well.



Around 140 children between the ages of 0 and 12 were put in one room – the room that the priest used to stay at when he visited El Mozote. They were bayoneted, shot and then grenades were used to blow up the house. All the other houses that had bodies of men and women were burned too. We were told that the General who was in charge of the operation had said that they were going to raze the whole place down. They were going not just to kill the fish, they were going to drain the water out. Sr Anne told us this while we stood at the village memorial for all the people who were killed there. It was and still remains difficult to comprehend how those soldiers could do what they did.

From here we moved to the site where the children were massacred. Aramita shared with us her experience. She does not know how she survived – for some reason, the soldiers did not go to her house when they were rounding people up. So she heard her neighbours being pulled out of their homes – she named members of her own family that were killed that night. Then they smelt flesh burning! They were absolutely terrified. One of the women who escaped, Rufina Amaya, managed to get word out to San Salvador of what had happened.

One of the pilgrims asked Aramita how she carried on despite witnessing such terrible atrocities. She replied that it was because she believed in a God of justice. To her, the loss of the lives of many children inspired her to ensure that the children of her village are protected. This is why she agreed to go to the Central America Court of Human Rights in Ecuador to be a witness against the state of El Salvador. The ruling of the court was that the government had committed crimes against humanity and was ordered to rebuild the infrastructure around El Mozote, a new road, a new school – primary and secondary, a health centre and then compensate the families who lost their loved ones and or property.

I looked at the names of the children written on the wall of the church. Some of them were not even one. I saw names of children who were eight years old and those who were ten and I thought of my own children. And then it hit me... the soldiers knew that these were innocent children and yet they went ahead and killed them. How could they?

We celebrated Mass in the local church beside the spot where the children were killed. During the Mass, images of children I know flashed through my mind – through them, I saw the names of the children who were killed here and I found myself weeping. After Mass, I saw some local children selling roasted peanuts. I felt numb, lost for words – how do these children feel seeing this memorial every day and knowing what happened to children like them here? And for the second time I found myself wiping tears off my face.

In the afternoon we visited the Museum of the Revolution in Perquin, set up by former guerrillas to commemorate the Salvadoran Civil War (1980 – 1992.) I saw a make shift camp, a replica of what the guerrilla camp would have looked like – tunnels, tents, wash areas, rope bridges and the radio station. In the Museum, I learnt that many children and women joined the guerrilla movement to fight the oppression. Children as young as 10. I looked at their faces in the photographs and one thing that was definitely missing was fear. I saw determination. Even though they knew that the enemy (government and the US) had superior weaponry and man power, they still took up the fight. We were told that many people believed that after the assassination of Monsenor Romero, there was no chance that the government would listen to reason – Romero was holding the country together and his death was more or less the trigger that set off the full scale civil war.



| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|--------|
| Hijo de Maria Argueta | - Años | Miriam Márquez | 1 Año |
| Hija de Aquilino Diaz | - Años | Celestino Márquez Argueta | 1 Año |
| Hija de Aquilino Diaz | - Años | Hijo de Meregilda Márquez | 1 Año |
| Hijo de Otilia Hernández | - Años | Hija de Vicenta Torres | 1 Año |
| Hijo de Otilia Hernández | - Años | Hija de Santos Chavarria | 1 Año |
| Hijo de Otilia Hernández | - Años | Hija de Enemio Rodríguez | 1 Año |
| Hijo de Otilia Hernández | - Años | Hija de Abdilio Vigil | 1 Año |
| Hijo de Dominga Chavarria | - Años | Nicolasa Márquez Márquez | 1 Año |
| Hijo de Dominga Chavarria | - Años | Hijo de José Vigil | 1 Año |
| Hijo de Dominga Chavarria | - Años | Esmeralda Aide Chicas Rodríguez | 2 Años |
| Carolina Chicas Rodríguez | 1 Año | Hija de Eugenia Claros | 2 Años |
| Hija de Alberto Claros | 1 Año | Hija de Ascensión Márquez | 2 Años |
| Hijo de Arturo Chicas | 1 Año | Hija de Martina Argueta | 2 Años |
| Hija de Hilda Márquez Pereira | 1 Año | Hijo de Facundo Chicas | 2 Años |
| Hija de Benito Romero | 1 Año | Hija de Santos Márquez | 2 Años |



In the evening, Sr Anne come back to share with us more about life in this guerrilla held part of the country and the difficulties they faced. She also talked about her work now – trying to identify all the victims of the conflict as well as helping people to tell their stories or find out what happened to their loved ones. She said this was a very difficult task as still they face a lot of opposition from the government and many people are still afraid of reprisals. Getting justice for the victims is a road full of obstacles.

As I went to bed at the end of this day, I thought about the children who lost their lives in El Mozote and those who died as active combatants in this conflict – if they had lived, what would they have become? It was with a very heavy heart that I went to bed and needless to say, I had a very restless night.

Day 9: Wednesday 22 November

With the experience of yesterday still weighing heavily on my mind, we left Perquin and travelled back to San Salvador via Gotera (San Francisco.) We stopped at Gotera because one of the pilgrims, Sr Anne Kelly (the Abbess General of the Sisters of St Clare) used to work here and wanted to say hello to her Sisters. The local parish priest, Fr Alfredo, a Franciscan from Limerick in Ireland, come on the coach and spoke to us about his experience in Gotera. Gotera has a military camp/barracks, and so many people came here hoping that this was a safe place but it was also a target for the guerrillas who tried to shell it. They had camps for these displaced people and it is with these people that Fr Alfredo, Sr Anne and the other priests and nuns worked with during the civil war. Fr Alfredo told us that many of the people in the camps were children who had been separated from parents or whose parents had been killed. He said that although life was difficult, he was amazed at how people also supported one another – in the face of so much evil and darkness, the good in the human person was still able to shine forth through the kindness and companionship that people offered each other. Fr Alfredo also informed us that he had been in San Salvador when news of the assassination of Romero came through and attended the funeral Mass. When asked if Romero had made any difference to the Salvadoran society, he said that he thought people were slowly beginning to understand what Romero was teaching and his message of liberation was beginning to take root. Romero did not die in vain, Fr Alfredo concluded.



Back in San Salvador, we had Mass with Cardinal Gregorio Rosa Chavez, auxiliary bishop of San Salvador. He was the only Salvadoran who participated in every single meeting between the government and the guerrilla movement (1984 – 1989), that led to the signing of the peace treaty in 1992. Cardinal Chavez told us about Romero and his influence on his life, as well as on the whole society. He said Romero's message was simple, 'We must challenge injustice wherever we see it informed by the Gospel of love.'

After tea, we had a talk from Sr. Martha Zechmeister, a theologian to the Romero Centre in UCA. Sr. Martha shared with us the theological basis of the liberation work in El Salvador. She referred to the ideas of her colleague Fr Jon Sobrino, that we must live in the present and see the crucifixion of the day. For us to be true Christians, we have to respond to our reality, for that is where Christ is. She said that for them in El Salvador, Romero is not a holy saint to be followed by looking at his life, rather, it is for them to become him (Romero) today. She concluded her talk with a warning that we must not sanitise Romero but see him in the reality of the crucified people. This means that we must respond to structural sin.



As I went to bed at the end of this day many things went through my mind. One that really stood out was the fact, that in the face of evil, darkness and suffering, there are people who always stand up for good, light and compassion. It is not so much about how much darkness there is; a little light, even faint, can make a huge difference. As I drifted off to sleep, I thought about the people who have been 'a light' in my life.

Day 10: Thursday 23 November

Today was a very different day to the others so far. It was a day of hope. We visited a community in Guamango – in the West of El Salvador towards the border with Guatemala. This is a community that is being supported by CAFOD as they try to make their lives better. We saw how people are trying to live in harmony with themselves, the community and the environment. Women have formed co-operatives and support groups where they help each other out with loans and advice on running projects that bring them income and independence. We met three women who are members of this community and they explained to us how they organise and run their projects. It was refreshing to see that here are a people who are identifying their problems and doing something about it. We were told that their main fear was for their children, especially as they became teenagers as they were drawn into gangs. The alternative offered to them was to see that farming and small businesses can earn them a living, especially if they follow the farming that does not harm the environment. El Salvador is a very hilly country, so the methods of farming must be those that also counter soil erosion.

We joined the local community for lunch and then we went to visit other families in the village. I was astounded at how life here was very similar to life back in Kenya – the way the family houses were laid out, the crops they grew (maize, millet, cassava, oranges, beans, papaya, avocado, cocoyams, sorghum.) This type of subsistence farming supported the family's own food supply and any surplus was sold to boost family income.

It was good to see a people trying to make a difference in their own lives. It was a wonderful way to finish this pilgrimage, on a note full of hope. A hope that strives to make a difference in people's lives for salvation is about enabling people to have life – challenge injustice informed by the Gospel of love.

I went to bed thinking – it is not all lost. Even in the dark, so long as there is a faint light, it offers hope. So long as this hope is one informed by love, then change can happen. My call as a Christian is to be one who brings this hope.

As I came to the end of my pilgrimage I reflected on what I had learned, gifts and graces I had received. In other words, what am I called to be? This pilgrimage has taught me that I am called to be faithful. Faithful to God and faithful to my community. It is when I am faithful that I bring hope. I heard from witnesses stories that were heart wrenching – stories from Anita, whose brother, Fr Octavio was brutally murdered together with four catechists; the brutal murder of Fr Rutilio Grande and his two companions; the massacre of the six Jesuit priest, and their housekeeper and her daughter; the torture, rape and murder of the three nuns and their lay missionary colleague; the murder of Romero and the massacre of the innocent children, men and women in El Mozote. In all these stories, I felt nothing but darkness and despair. However if I look on the side of the witnesses, they were strong in their belief that the death of these martyrs was not in vain. As Romero said in one of his homilies, '...if they kill me, I will rise again in the people of El Salvador!' All these witnesses and victims had/have hope and were/are faithful. As a Christian, I am called to be a person of faith and hope, one who is full of hope and brings hope to others. This is why Romero will soon be canonised a saint – he was faithful and brought hope.

Thank you for reading about my pilgrimage in El Salvador. I know that some of it was difficult to read and I can assure you, it was difficult for me too, to write about it. However, I hope that by sharing my experience with you, you too will experience the same 'hope' as I did. Please feel free to contact me at school if you have any questions or observations about what I have shared in Oaklands News.

Mr Sumba



As part of the Erasmus+ Programme, twenty students and fifteen teachers from Turkey, Italy, Poland and Spain visited Oaklands from 12th to 16th March.

Monday

On the first day of school we got to know each other by doing ice breakers. We first went to assembly and watched a teacher talk about Fairtrade. Then we were given a short welcome by Mrs Broadway before moving on to two different activities. We were divided into seven groups, with our exchange students and another pair. We then played a global bingo in which we went round and asked people questions to fill in our sheet. The questions were about us as people and it forced us to interact with others - then the winners shouted out BINGO! and the game ended; it was a really fun game to help us learn about other people and what they had done in the past.

Then we had a competition to see who could build the tallest tower out of marshmallows and spaghetti – our group failed - this was fun and got very competitive very quickly. We did this to help our team building skills and to learn more about each other - the winning team had a really tall tower. We shared the leftover marshmallows - they didn't last long. After that we listened to people from each school talk about their schools; this was very interesting as we got to see how foreign schools were different to ours, some of the schools had videos and PowerPoints about their best bits of their school. Then we got given a treasure hunt about the safety signs within our school – we went around the school and discovered how Oaklands helped keep us safe - this showed the foreign students how our school's safety worked. At break time and we talked to our partners and showed them a bit about our school.



After break we went to lessons and showed our exchange students what English lessons were like. Many of the exchange students found it very interesting to see lessons in a different school. At lunch time we went outside and had lunch and showed our exchange students more of our school. After lunch we had a lesson of PE – we played bench ball and had lots of fun interacting with the other students through sport. It tired us out. Once school finished we dispersed and many students went home. Some of us had after school clubs so the exchange students went along and enjoyed the extra curriculum lessons too. Some students went home with their exchange students and took them to places that they often go to – some of the students went swimming or to other interesting places. All of the activities today helped us to get to know each other better and helped us to expand our knowledge of other schools.

By Ruthie, Julia, Cem and Flavia

Tuesday

On Tuesday 13th March, students from Turkey, Poland, Italy and Spain took part in a dance movement session. This session was run by Zoe who is a dance and theatre movement teacher. We were separated into two groups to come up with different ideas to present to Year 7's. Group 1 worked on a movement called 'Hi' as we said 'Hi' to each other in our warm-up session. Group 2 worked on their movement called 'Bye'. These two ideas correlate each other and made a unique performance. Within these sessions, we built and learnt how to trust each other. This was a key concept because we had difficult moves which needed trust from everyone to create it effortlessly. One move in particular where someone was wrapped around another person's waist. This needed the most trust from both partners. This also created friendship without saying a word to each other in our warm-ups. By saying Hello and Goodbye to each other shows the importance of the words. It only takes one person to say Hello to make someone's day. This shows a different side to our lives as many people have their heads in their phones not paying attention to the world and people around them. This showed us that communication is a key skill we need in life. not just by sending a message to each other on a device. Therefore, this dance session took our minds away from our devices and what we know and open our eyes to a different way of speaking to each other.



By Anya, Simge, Abraham, Efe, Dominika and Nikola

Can kite making be exciting? Surprisingly, YES! On Tuesday we were divided into groups of four and created kites from a variety of materials, with the help of Ms Mousdale. But why have we been doing that? At the same time, while making kites, we integrated and relaxed. In this activity we got to know everyone in our group. Sometimes, in life, we need breaks and especially this one, which was a great break.

By Alfredo, Lukasz, Ozge and Edward

Wednesday – Trip to London

We arrived at school at 7:45am. We got on the coach and left straight away. After about 2 hours, we finally arrived in London. We walked along the Embankment next to the River Thames; across the river we could see the London Eye. We all took lots of pictures. Then we walked around London for 2 hours stopping at famous landmarks like Buckingham Palace and Big Ben. We reached the British Museum and went in the main entrance (all of us hungry and tired of walking) but got told we had to go on a five-minute walk to the back entrance because we were a big group. Despite us all being a bit annoyed at this, we went inside and had a great time. We ate lunch in the Great Court and then went off in groups. In these groups we looked at all the interesting facts (and ignored the boring ones!). My group got lost! At the end of the trip to the museum, we had the opportunity to buy souvenirs and food for the long journey back. On the coach on the way back, we were stuck in a lot of traffic in London (it was a bit boring and some of us fell asleep)! We arrived back at Oaklands at 6-ish. Although we were all tired, we had an amazing day out and had a lot of fun!



By Olivia

Thursday - Trip to Portsmouth

On Thursday, all of us took a quick, 45-minute journey to Southsea Common. Once we arrived outside Southsea Castle, we walked along the pier. As we were walking we saw the waves crashing into the shore and coming onto the pathway but missing our feet. After a while, we eventually reached Portsmouth and had a great view of the Spinnaker Tower with the range of colours. Once we had reached the shops, we were told that we could have 40 minutes to look around in groups. In this time, some of us chose to eat our lunch on the go or went to buy food from some of the shops. After our time shopping, we all went to the Spinnaker Tower where we saw the view of Portsmouth and tried out the glass floor. Some of us were scared of the glass (including some teachers) but were reassured by the rest of us that it was perfectly safe. After we all were finished on the Spinnaker Tower, we walked to the Historic Dockyard where we all had some free time in the Mary Rose Museum. When we were all looking around, some of us whizzed through it and bought some things in the gift shop whilst the rest of us took our time. When we had all finished in the museum though, our day had come to a close. Some of us had plans to stay in Portsmouth, or lived nearby so were allowed to make our way there whilst the rest of us took the journey home. With this day trip to Portsmouth, we had all created new and stronger friendships between us, with our shopping trip and time in the museum.



By Francisco, Rebecca, Dominika, Alessandro and Katherine

Friday

On Friday, we made scones, sandwiches and shortbread petticoat tails. Students from all around Europe learnt how to make these traditional British treats and ate high tea. We gathered around the teacher and waited for the instructions, partway through I accidentally turned everything to liquid and some people baked the scones with the jam already in, and some had their sandwiches with the butter on the outside. But after a while the air was filled the alluring treats of British baked goods and we got to eat the treats as well. Everyone was satisfied - eating what you make is better than eating something made by others. We all helped each other and the English hosts helped us translating the recipe - it was a very good activity for teamwork and also a good experience.

By Rowan, Pelin, Imogen and Alessio

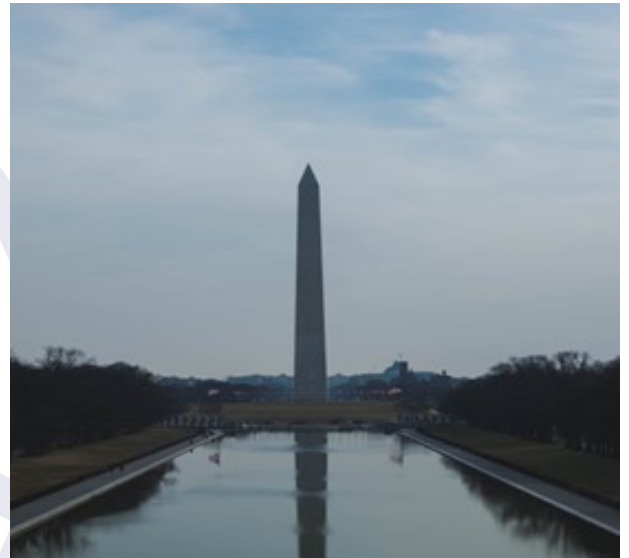


**Tuesday 13th February**

After what seemed like an overly-extensive flight, we arrived in Washington DC mid-afternoon. When we came out of the airport, we boarded a coach to have a guided tour of the city. On the tour we saw a few of the main sights that make the city what it is. We saw the site where the commercial airliner crashed into the Pentagon and also saw the world renowned Washington monument. After we finished our short coach journey the driver dropped us off at our hotel. After we had settled in and unpacked our bags, groups of us visited the surrounding area and found a bite to eat at the local 'shake shack' which is a small burger joint that runs throughout the states. We then went back to the hotel for a well-earned, long nights sleep so that we were ready for the next day and what it held.

Wednesday 14th February

After a good night's rest, we all woke up ready to see more of the historical city. The first thing we went to see was the Vietnam War memorial; it was staggering to see the vast amount of names that were inscribed on the extensive wall, and it was truly humbling. We then went to see the famous 'reflective pool' and the belittling Washington monument, it was truly incredible to see such a building that is so big that they had to change the materials they were using not even half way up! All we had to do to see the next huge monument was to turn around 180 degrees. And there was the Lincoln memorial, for the countless amounts of time I've seen it in the movies, I have never thought about how big it actually was; but they do say that in America it's always supersized!



We then took the scenic route to the Capitol building, and on our way we saw the Nelson Mandela memorial. It was really inspiring seeing and reading out all of his famous quotes from his multiple speeches that were written on a protracted wall situated by his memorial. We were also able to walk past the White House (but we did not see Mr Trump). When we arrived at the Capitol building we met with our tour guide; who was British! Inside it is truly immense, and it's incredible how vast that place really is. We saw some amazing artwork and architecture and the ceiling painting was incredible and everyone was in absolute wonder and awe.

Our next stop was the Air and Space Museum and we looked around there for an hour and a half and it was interesting to see not only the amazing machines of flight but also how far flight technology has come. After the Air and Space Museum, we said goodbye to our tour guide and got the metro back to our hotel.

Thursday 15th February

We all had breakfast early so that we could have a good amount of time for the day ahead of us because we had a lot that we had to do in one day. We started off our jam-packed day by heading to the Holocaust Memorial Museum. It was so overwhelming to be there but at the same time it was so solemn throughout the building. Going around the Holocaust Memorial Museum was very humbling and hearing all of the devastating but sometimes hopeful stories was truly moving.

After the memorial museum we all went to the National Museum of American History. This museum was all about every single aspect of American history, however personally my favourite parts of the museum were the American war section and the American film industry section because both of these sections interest me a lot. After we visited all of the museums, we went back to the hotel via the metro. Then in the evening a few of us went ice skating for our last night in this historical city.



Friday 16th February

Today we woke up all super excited to head to the Big Apple, New York City. We quickly packed our suitcases and headed down to breakfast after saying bye to our lovely hotel room. At about 8.30am our coach arrived to drive us to NY and we piled on all filled with joy and excitement. We spent around two hours on the coach, chatting listening to music and having an amazing time recollecting what we had done in Washington.

Then we arrived at Gettysburg, many of us didn't know what this place was but it was a village filled with rich history and many stories. Gettysburg was been one of the destinations for the biggest battle during the American Civil War in 1863. We were fortunate enough to experience a tour of the quaint village where we were shown houses that had bullet holes in the side and barns with canon ball sized holes smashed out of them. As well as this we saw many statues dedicated to the battle given by all of the American states, some were large and some were small but they all were dedicated to the fact that America was a strong force to be reckoned with and to remember people who fought for their country. Halfway through this tour we stopped at the top of a huge hill. Our lovely tour guide told stories of how the Americans charged through the "valley of death" to fight for what they believed in and it was a huge honour to see where many lost their lives. At the end of this tour we headed back to the little museum to experience the most amazing piece of artwork many of us had ever seen. The Gettysburg cyclorama was a huge piece of hand-painted artwork made in the 1800s to keep the images of the final confederate assault to happen in the war alive. It filled a whole room and took altogether four years to make and perfect. After this amazing experience to indulge in the rich American history we again boarded our coach heading out to New York.



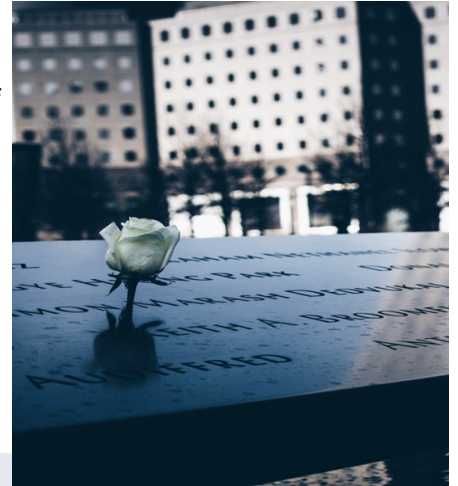
After a long journey from Washington we finally arrived at New York, as we started to pull near the city the huge skyline amazed us all as our jaws were in the floor to how tall some of these buildings were. We could pick out so many famous buildings and monuments and we were all so excited to get to our hotel and explore. By the time we unpacked, sorted out our rooms it was time for something to eat.

Tonight was a special celebration as Jonah was 18! He chose a Latin restaurant near our hotel where we ate tacos, salads, quesadillas and fajitas; some of us even trying octopus. It was an amazing way to celebrate his birthday. We walked to the nearest subway station and carefully tried to figure out our way to the amazing Empire State Building. We spent a while buying metro cards and checking how to get there with the help of some locals. After the quick subway ride we were all ecstatic that we were heading up

to the top of this iconic building. We waited in line for a little while and finally reached the lifts to send us up to the top. As we soared up to the top of the building our ears popped but our tummies fluttered as we were all excited to experience something special. The views from the top of the Empire State were phenomenal; you could see out for miles and in the evening the city that never sleeps was well and truly awake. All of us agreed that this was a experience that we would never forget in a hurry. After a busy day we headed back to our hotel and got a good night sleep ready for another jam packed day tomorrow.

Saturday 17th February

Today was our first full day in New York and everyone was excited to experience things we had only ever seen in television before. We headed off into the subway station again and set off into Lower Manhattan to meet our lovely tour guide. He took us around and showed us some of the places he liked to call the real New York. After walking through lots of little streets we finally came out to a huge clearing. The 9/11 sites were situated right at our feet, the pools span for what seemed like a lifetime showing where the twin towers once stood. This was a very surreal experience for us all. There were endless amounts of names carved into the stone, some with white roses sticking out to symbolise their birthdays. Everyone was very moved by this and we thought about what this dreadful attack did, not just to America but the world and how all those people who died deserve to be celebrated. After a while taking in the pools and thinking about the tragic event we headed off. It was a short walk to the entrance for the ferry to take us to Liberty Island.



After enjoying refreshments from a NY deli, we reached the long queue to get onto the ferry. We waited for what seemed like a lifetime (and Mr Whitlock finally found his first Trump supporter) and boarded the ferry. As we set off we all ran to the top deck daring the chill to experience the fantastic view of the city's skyline. All of the buildings looked like they didn't stop and was a truly amazing moment. Soon, the Statue of Liberty veered into sight and although not as big as we imagined it was a beautiful statue. We could see why it was an emblem for Americans. We hopped off the ferry and got the chance to wander around the bottom of Miss Liberty before heading out to Ellis Island, the place where the immigrants had to check through to enter the USA. We looked around a museum sharing some of the stories of the people who had walked through these very halls. After lunch we

headed back to the mainland and we walked back to the 9/11 pools and into a memorial gallery. This was a quiet building which shared stories and personal possessions of the people who had been there on that fateful day. The room with the exhibits was dead silent as all of us were shocked by images and personal stories of what had happened. It was a truly eye opening experience and one I am sure none of us will forget. After reflecting on this we all decided it was time to shop until we drop. We went to the biggest Macy's, Sephora and plenty of others. After we had bought as much as we could we headed back to the hotel for a well deserved rest after a long day of walking.

Sunday 18th February

Today we all woke up excited for our last day in New York, we scoffed down breakfast and prepared to go out on a day of memories again. We headed to the subway and got on the trains to Lower Manhattan. We were heading to the famous NBC studios where Jimmy Fallon films his world famous show. We all were excited to go into the Rockefeller Centre and get an inside peak at what happens at the studios. We all geared up for a tour and saw how programs were made, how they were edited and broadcast. We even got to film our own short film in one of the rehearsal studios. After this we went and saw the studio Jimmy Fallon's show is in and saw what the audience sees on an average Saturday night. After this amazing experience we headed out for another amazing walk around New York and we stumbled upon Times Square. It was huge with billboards looking like they were touching the sky and thousands of people walking round and taking pictures. We had an hour to explore shop and get lunch. We managed to find a backstreet NY pizzeria where we sat and ate huge slices of pizza for only a \$1. After checking out more clothes and buying gifts for family and friends we said a final goodbye to our tour guide and headed back on the subway to our hotel where we were picked up ready to head off to the airport. New York was an amazing experience, one that I will never forget, where we all saw the most amazing things and had a great time.

We thank Dr Colvin, Mr Whitlock and Mrs Ellis for this amazing trip and for helping us make memories we will never forget.

Annalucia Navato and Louis Holbrook

Sacred Heart of Jesus and St Peter the Apostle, Waterloooville

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|-------------------|---------|--|
| Thursday 29 March | 8.00pm | Maundy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper |
| Friday 30 March | 10.00am | Good Friday Stations of the Cross for parents and children |
| | 11.15am | Ecumenical Procession of Witness from Sacred Heart |
| | 3.00pm | Liturgy of the Lord's Passion |
| | 7.30pm | Prayers around the Cross (informal service of readings) |
| Saturday 31 March | 8.00pm | The Easter Vigil |
| Sunday 1 April | 8.30am | Easter Sunday Mass |
| | 10.30am | Easter Sunday Mass |

St Patrick's, Hayling Island

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|-------------------|---------|--|
| Thursday 29 March | 5.00pm | Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) |
| | 7.00pm | Mass of the Lord's Supper with Watch |
| Friday 30 March | 10.00am | Stations of the Cross for children |
| | 11.00am | Walk of Witness (starting at St Mary's) |
| | 3.00pm | Liturgy of the Lord's Passion |
| | 6.00pm | Maria Desolata |
| Saturday 31 March | 7.30pm | Vigil Mass of the Resurrection |
| Sunday 1 April | 10.00am | Easter Sunday Family Mass |

St Joseph's, Havant

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|-------------------|---------|---|
| Thursday 29 March | 7.30pm | Mass of the Lord's Supper, followed by Vigil before the Blessed Sacrament |
| Friday 30 March | 3.00pm | Celebration of the Lord's Passion |
| Saturday 31 March | 7.30pm | Easter Saturday Mass |
| Sunday 1 April | 11.00am | Easter Sunday Family Mass |

St Thomas', Emsworth

| | | |
|----------------|--------|--------------------|
| Sunday 1 April | 9.00am | Easter Sunday Mass |
|----------------|--------|--------------------|

St Edmund's, Horndean

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|-------------------|---------|---|
| Thursday 29 March | 6.30pm | Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Adoration, night prayer and Watch |
| Friday 30 March | 9.45am | Good Friday, Churches Together Walk of Witness from Holy Trinity, Blendworth Lane |
| | 3.00pm | Good Friday Liturgy of the Passion |
| Saturday 31 March | 8.00pm | Easter Vigil |
| Sunday 1 April | 10.30am | Easter Sunday Mass |

St Michael and All Angels, Leigh Park

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|-------------------|---------|--|
| Thursday 29 March | 8.00pm | Maundy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Adoration at the Altar of Repose |
| Friday 30 March | 3.00pm | Good Friday Celebration of the Lord's Passion |
| Saturday 31 March | 10.00am | Blessing of Easter Food |
| | 8.00pm | Easter Vigil |
| Sunday 1 April | 10.00am | Easter Sunday Mass for the Feast of the Lord's Resurrection |



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.

Jumble Sale

Saturday 21 April from 11am to 1pm in St Joseph's Hall, 134 West Street, Havant PO9 1LP

Clothes, shoes, linen, nearly new items, toys, books, CDs and DVDs. Donations can be delivered to the hall on Wednesdays between 10am and 11.30am, or at the Sunday Masses at Havant or Emsworth, or contact Jim Graham on 02392 471191 to collect.

Profits this year will go to the Elizabeth Foundation at QA Hospital and the International Refugee Trust.

Host Families Needed

Interstudies are now recruiting host families for September 2018 placements. The students should attend Oaklands and study A Levels. It is a great experience for all the family and we pay a generous monthly allowance.

To find out more, please email: paula.w@interstudies.com.

Term Dates

Term Dates 2018/2019

Autumn Term 2018
Half Term:

Mon 3rd September to Fri 21st December
Mon 22nd - Fri 26th October

Spring Term 2019
Half Term:

Mon 7th January to Fri 5th April
Mon 18th - Fri 22nd February

Summer Term 2019
Half Term:

Tues 23rd April to Fri 19th July
Mon 27th May - Fri 31st May

INSET Days are as follows:

Monday 3rd September, Tuesday 4th September
Friday 28th September, Friday 21st December,
Friday 28th June, Friday 19th July

Student Return:

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.**

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|----------------|----------------------|--|
| Monday | 16 April | First Day of Summer Term OPA Committee Meeting (7.30pm) |
| Wednesday | 18 April | Sixth Form Practice Grades Home |
| Thursday | 19 April | HPV (2) Vaccinations (Y8 Girls) Year 13 Parents' Evening |
| Tuesday | 24 April | Dance Showcase (6.00-8.00pm) |
| Wednesday | 25 April | Year 11 Final Predictions Home |
| Thursday | 26 April | Design Showcase (5.00-8.00pm) |
| Monday | 30 April | Year 10 Book Sharing Week Science GCSE Preview Evening (Y9) (7.00-8.30pm) |
| Wednesday | 2 May | SEN Transition Evening for New Year 7 |
| Monday | 7 May | School Closed—May Day |
| Thursday | 10 May | Year 10 Parents' Evening (5.00pm) |
| Monday | 14 May | Governors' Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting OPA Committee Meeting + AGM (7.30pm) |
| Wednesday | 16 May | Full Governors' Meeting |
| Thursday | 17 May | Final Day Year 11 |
| Thursday | 24 May | Year 13 Leavers' Mass and Meal |
| Friday | 25 May | Final Day Year 13 |
| Mon-Fri | 28 May—1 June | Half Term |
| Thursday | 7 June | Year 12 Parents' Evening |
| Monday | 11 June | Governors' Business & Collaboration Committee Meeting |
| Wednesday | 13 June | SEN Parents' Evening (5.00pm) |
| Thursday | 15 June | Art Exhibition (5.00pm) Peripatetic Music Concert (7.00pm) |
| Monday | 18 June | Year 10 Professional Days (+ Tuesday 19 June) Governors' Ethos Committee Meeting |
| Friday | 22 June | Year 11 Prom |
| Thursday | 21 June | Year 8 Reports Home |
| Monday | 25 June | Challenge Week |
| Friday | 29 June | Fun Friday |
| Monday | 2 July | OPA Committee Meeting (End of Year Celebration) |
| Wednesday | 4 July | Year 7 Reports Home |
| Thursday | 5 July | Year 10 Post 16 Information Evening (7.00pm) |
| Wednesday | 11 July | Sixth Form Taster Day Year 9 Reports Home Full Governors Meeting |
| Thursday | 12 July | Sports Day |
| Friday | 13 July | New Year 7 Induction Day |
| Monday | 16 July | New Year 7 Parents' Induction Evening (7.00pm) |
| Tuesday | 17 July | Year 10 Exam Grades Home |
| Wednesday | 18 July | Year 12 Exam Grades Home |
| Thursday | 19 July | Last Day of Term |
| Friday | 20 July | Inset Day—School Closed |



SHOWCASE



**A Level
Product Design**

**GCSE
Electronic Products**

Resistant Materials

Fashion & Textiles

**Food Preparation
& Nutrition**

26th April 2018

5-7pm

Main Hall



Stakes Hill Road, Waterlooville, Hants, PO7 7BW

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www.oaklandscatholicschool.org



**HAVANT FEDERATION
OF SCHOOLS**