

No 427 Dec 18

Oaklands News

Spanish Exchange Trip

Pilgrimage to Rome

Christmas Music Concerts

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

I think we can all agree that light is very important in just about every aspect of our lives. But what is it? The debate has raged for generations amongst the giants of the physics community regarding the nature of light, namely whether it is a particle or an electromagnetic wave. For centuries, this mysterious and elusive phenomenon left scientists baffled because with each experiment conducted to define its nature, it seemed to change the way it behaved. In simple terms, light is one of nature's freaky exceptions, and is considered to be both a wave and a particle. Here endeth the physics lesson.

Light and darkness is one of the recurring themes that threads its way through the Bible. It's the theme of light and darkness. We begin with darkness in only the second verse of the entire Bible. The first words of God recorded in the Bible are: "*Let there be light.*" Later we find that "*God is light, and in him is no darkness at all*". The Biblical writers' lives were dominated by the seasons, by light and darkness. They were probably more conscious of the contrast between light and darkness than most of us are today. We have the power of illumination and this provides us with the ability to 'operate' in the dark; I have just driven home from school, we have street lights and head lights. The invention of electricity and then the incandescent lightbulb removed the stark contrast between light and dark.

We are no longer controlled by the contrast. But, that's how the Biblical writers described the coming of Christ into the world. That's how they described the difference that the coming of Christ could make in a person's life. It was the difference between darkness and light. It was the difference between the fear of walking into a dark room – versus the confidence of hitting the switch before you do it. And, if there's one thing that Christmas is, it's the triumph of light over darkness. Isaiah foretold, "*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.*" And Jesus personalised that prophecy when he declared, "*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*"

So how does this relate to the physics lesson? We might not understand the physics of light, but we do see its effect; the moon does not make its own light, we see the moon because it reflects the light of the sun. In the same way we are called to reflect the light of Christ. To call ourselves Christians or followers of Christ is to reflect on Jesus' light. The Christmas season provides us with the opportunity to consider what type of reflection we want to be.



This term has been exceptionally busy, and on behalf of you all, I would like to thank all the staff, teachers and support staff for their commitment and hard work this term.

For students sitting GCSEs or A levels next May, almost half of the academic year has now gone, so for these youngsters the term has been particularly busy. For GCSE and A level, we have set ourselves ambitious targets. A colleague of mine has a coffee mug on which a slogan reads, "*I can teach it to you, but only you can learn it*". Examination success is not attained by chance or teaching alone, it must be sought for with dedication and attended to with diligence and tenacity. The secret to this is revision.

The work on Newman Block is now complete. The internal work completes the refurbishment of the block that started two years ago with the replacement of the windows. We have submitted new bids to the DfE to improve the condition of Thomas More and Romero blocks. This is a competitive process, so fingers crossed. We will know more next April.

On 8th January the school will host the Presentation of Certificates Evening. If you have a son or daughter in last year's Year 11 or last year's Year 13 you should have received an invitation. If you require further details please contact the school office.

Finally, may I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and I look forward to welcoming students back at the normal time on Monday 7th January 2019.

Matthew Quinn

Farewells

At the end of this term we say thank you, goodbye and good luck to three members of staff.

Mrs Nuala Ayles has been at Oaklands for ten years, starting as an exam invigilator for two years and then becoming one of our Cover Assistants. Many parents will also have spoken to her when she has also spent time in our Reception and Students Services.

Miss Carla Parsons has been a Learning Support Assistant in our SEN Department for the last two years, working closely with the teaching staff and supporting individual students.

Miss Jessica Chen joined our Maths department at the beginning of the academic year and has been a Year 7 Tutor.

As these colleagues all move on to pastures new, we thank them all for the contributions they have made to Oaklands and wish them well for the future.

Red Wednesday

On Wednesday 28th November, staff and students at Oaklands joined Aid to the Church in need's Red Wednesday Campaign for faith and freedom.

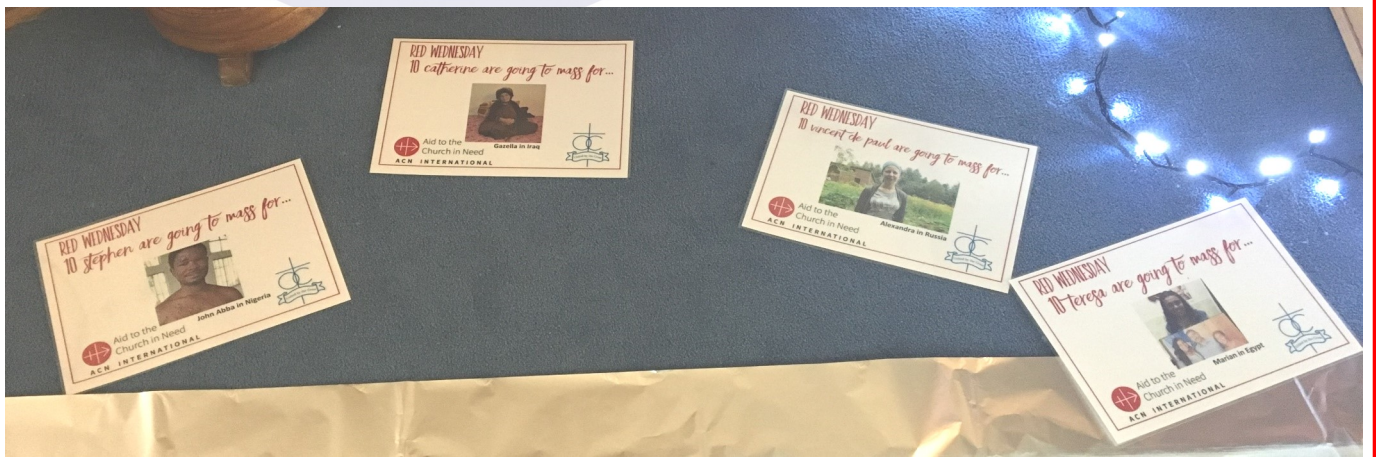
Staff all wore red and red balloons were displayed in classrooms, corridors and the main reception area. Students supported the cause with red hair accessories, jumpers/hoodies and wrist bands; while others wrote in red pen all day to raise awareness and to reflect upon our suffering brothers and sisters around the world.

The day began with a Mass for Year 10, during which each tutor group had adopted a persecuted Christian for whom they were going to Mass on behalf of. 10 Clare went to Mass for Asia Bibi (Pakistan), who has caused quite a stir in the media recently. Fr Jeremy preached an extremely thought provoking homily on the persecution of Christians, even in our own lives.

There was Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for the rest of the school day, as staff and students were invited to go to adoration for someone who can't. The whole of Year 7 came to Adoration, taking time out of their lessons to pray and reflect. In the afternoon, Year 6 students from St Peter's Catholic Primary School came to the Oaklands Chapel to learn more about Adoration, reflect on what it means to be a martyr and to pray for persecuted Christians.

A great effort was also made by many students to fundraise for Aid to the Church in Need, including a red cake sale and guess the number of red sweets in the jar. In the lead up and on the day, the Oaklands Chaplaincy Instagram Account (@oaklands.chaplaincy) was attracting a lot of attention and "regrams" from Aid to the Church in Need UK, really putting Oaklands on the map.

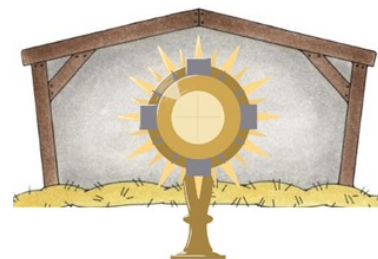
A huge well done to all the staff and students for embracing the challenge and standing up for Faith and Freedom on Red Wednesday.



from the chaplain...

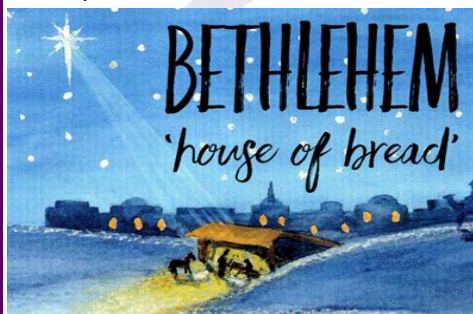
ADVENT

the journey to bethlehem



O come, let us adore him

After an amazing day on Red Wednesday, we then launched straight into the season of Advent. This is a really wonderful season in the Church's year; one full of excitement and anticipation, but also a beautiful time of patiently waiting. During Advent, we don't just wait for Christmas. We reflect on and remember the long wait for the coming of the Messiah, the One who was to free the world from sin and death. We have reflected during our daily worship on the writing of the Prophets; 'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.' (Isaiah 9:2) Such expectant hope and trust that God would keep the promises that He made. We have also journeyed through Advent with Mary; taking time to think about her total trust in God's plan to save the world. 'Blessed is she who believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!' (Luke 1: 45)



In our Advent assemblies, our thoughts turned to Bethlehem, a word that translates from the ancient Hebrew as 'House of Bread'. How appropriate that Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, was born in this place. We reflected also on how our hearts and our own lives are just like the stable in Bethlehem. We may not think of ourselves as worthy enough, and even though there maybe corners of darkness and the odd cobwebs here and there, Jesus desperately desires to be born in our hearts.

Tutor groups and RE classes have been making visits to the Chapel throughout Advent to meet Jesus, the Bread of Life, in the Holy Eucharist for short times of prayer, reflection and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The Chapel has been our own Bethlehem, 'House of Bread'; as Catholics, we believe Jesus to be as real and present to us in the Holy Eucharist as He was as a baby in Bethlehem. Our theme for Advent, has been 'O come, let us adore Him!' These times of prayer have been a welcome oasis of peaceful calm at the end of a long and busy term.



We've also had our Oaklands Advent Calendar Challenge, to help us focus on what this season is all about. Well done to all the tutor groups who have really embraced the daily challenges.

oaklands advent calendar

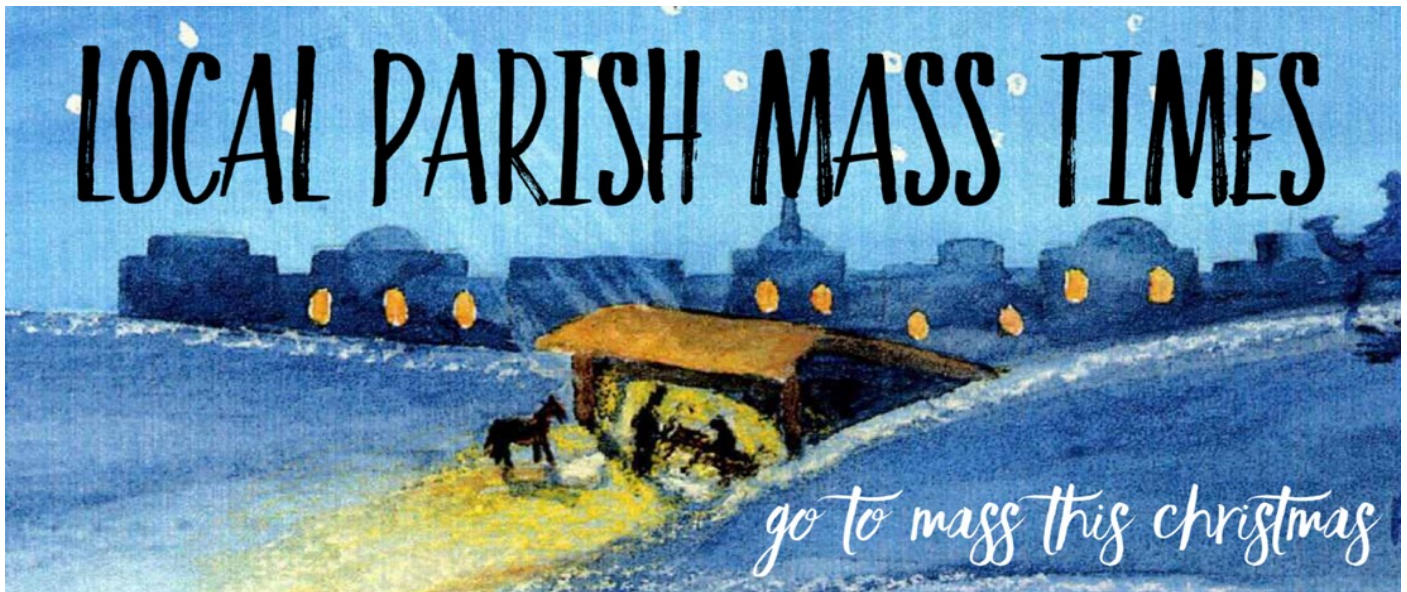


Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1st December Give three people a genuine compliment today and say a prayer for them.	4th December Have a digital detox. Switch your screens for a day and spend more time with people.	5th December Come to Adoration at lunchtime in the Chapel.	6th December Go to confession at lunchtime. #Go2Mass	7th December Look up Isaiah 40:3-5 in your bible (or on the Chaplaincy Instagram). Reflect on this message.
10th December Make a sacrifice today: go without your favourite snack or yummy treat and pray for those who are hungry.	11th December Go out of your way to do something kind for another person.	12th December Come to Adoration at lunchtime in the Chapel.	13th December Visit the School Crib. Take a photo or selfie and tag the Oaklands Chaplaincy on Instagram.	14th December Bring in an item of food for the local food bank.
17th December Come to Adoration at lunchtime in the Chapel.	18th December Write and send a Christmas card to an elderly neighbour.	19th December Come to the Carol Service with your family to sing with the whole school community.	20th December At Mass today, say a special prayer for a persecuted Christian, anywhere.	Christmas Holidays

Just leaves me to wish you a very happy and holy Christmas. I hope you get to spend quality time with your friends and family, and experience the true joy, peace and beauty of Christmas. I wish safe journeys to those of you that will travel to be with family, and prayers to those who are far away from their loved ones. May the birth of Christ, His redeeming love and infinite mercy be of great comfort and blessing to you and your family this Christmas. Wishing you abundant joy and every blessing in 2019.

Miss Keogh

#oaklandsadventchallenge #cometousadorehim oaklands chaplaincy



Sacred Heart, Waterloooville

Christmas Eve (Monday 24th December)
4.00pm – Children's Mass
8.00pm – Christmas Vigil Mass
Midnight – First Mass of Christmas

Christmas Day (Tuesday 25th December)
8.30am – Christmas Dawn Mass
10.30am – Christmas Day Mass

St Michael's & All Angels, Leigh Park

Christmas Eve (Monday 24th December)
6.00pm – Christmas Vigil Mass
10.00pm – Christmas Vigil Mass

Christmas Day (Tuesday 25th December)
10.00am – Christmas Day Mass

St Patrick's, Hayling Island

Sunday 23rd December
6:00pm – A Candlelight Service

Christmas Eve (Monday 24th December)
6:00pm – First Mass of Christmas
11:30pm - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day (Tuesday 25th December)
10.00am – Christmas Day Mass

St Edmund's, Horndean

Christmas Eve (Monday 24th December)
5.00pm – Children's Mass
11.30pm – Carol Service and Mass

Christmas Day (Tuesday 25th December)
9.30am – Christmas Day Mass

St Joseph's, Havant

Christmas Eve (Monday 24th December)
11.30pm – Carol Service and Mass

Christmas Day (Tuesday 25th December)
11.00am – Christmas Day Mass

St Thomas of Canterbury and St Thomas More, Emsworth

Christmas Eve (Monday 24th December)
5.30pm – Carols and Children's Mass

Christmas Day (Tuesday 25th December)
9.00am – Christmas Day Mass



*come and join
the celebration*

The coach left school at 7:30am on 20th November for the trip to Borough Market in central London

When we arrived we were split into two groups. The Year 10s were to be first to explore the market while the Year 11s and the few Year 9s went into Bread Ahead to be instructed in the art of bread making.

Bread Ahead told us how the cross, that is traditionally cut into the top of the soda bread loaf, has holy significance. The water used to make the original yeast culture was blessed by the Borough Market priest and has been kept alive now for 5 years.

They also showed us what happens when fresh yeast comes into contact with salt.

It was then time to have a go at making soda bread ourselves. Instead of using flour to stop the dough mixture from sticking to the preparation surface we used oats which gave the finished loaves an interesting taste and texture.

We then had just enough time to bake and try the finished loaves before wrapping the ones we had made up to take home.

After Bread Ahead we were given time to explore Borough Market. As well as a large variety of the usual market stalls selling fruit and vegetables there were stalls selling fresh fish, cheeses and meats. In addition to these there were a multitude of stalls selling street food prepared in the style of cultures from around the world.

Leaving Borough Market, we headed west along the South Bank of the Thames, passing The Globe Theatre and The Tate Modern. After passing The ITV Studios we arrived at our destination, a Christmas Market beside The London Eye. The stalls were designed in a Tyrolian mountain chalet style to enhance the Christmas effect. There were hand-made crafts, jewellery and artisan preserve sellers plus seasonal things to eat and drink. All too soon it was time to get back on the coach back to school.



Kirsty (Year 11)

Christmas Music Concert

If you missed the Christmas Concert this year then you missed a warm, happy and festive event. The concert featured the Oaklands Concert Band, Choir, Chamber Choir, soloists, Big Band and show cased a teaser trailer for this year's production of Half A Sixpence. If the joy of the trailer was anything to go by, then the Production promises to be an experience to savour! Oaklands Concert Band are an accomplished group of players who produce a competent and, at the required times, sensitive sound. Particularly enjoyable were the Oklahoma! and Frozen medleys, along with the rousing selection from West Side Story.

The Concert also featured vocal contributions from Oaklands Choir and Chamber Choir. The latter is a seasonal group made up of Staff, and students in years 9 – 13. They sang Eleanor Rigby with gusto, and the Nativity Carol with resonance. Most of the students also sang in the Oaklands Choir, a group who meet regularly once a week throughout the year, and sing in four parts. It was easy to see that this group enjoy being together, and enjoy the buzz singing can give!

Jessica Collins, Yr13, and Alice Massaza, a visiting student from Italy in Yr12 wowed us with performances on the Clarinet and Piano respectively. Younger students commented with awe on the beauty, power, sensitivity and competency of their playing. The performances at this concert by our most advanced music students never fails to inspire those following in their wake. Equally inspiring was the audience's eager and active participation in the Twelve Days of Christmas lead by our senior singers!

One of the favourite music ensembles at school is the Oaklands Big Band. Members, both vocal and instrumental, are in the upper year groups, and the music they played was jazzy and thrilling. The singers, Lucy Dowie, Maggie-May Leslie, and Ryan Crellin-Simpson, sang classic numbers such as Tuxedo Junction, Sway, Autumn Leaves and Fly Me To The Moon, all of which were performed with feeling and character. Oaklands Big Band closed each half of this year's Christmas Concert, and sent the audience both to the Interval and finally home, uplifted and happy.

Ruthie, Y8



I was excited to take part in the peripatetic music concert and was going to sing, *"I feel pretty"* by Bernstein. I didn't know where I would be in the order until I looked at the program and saw that I was going to be second, straight after the Oaklands Band. This made me a bit nervous but it was all ok. Next Miss Flood came and said that there were some crucial people from band missing, so band would perform later on in the concert. It suddenly dawned on me that as the order had changed I was now going to be first. I was really nervous but my friend calmed me down and I prepared myself to open the whole concert.

I got out onto the floor and I felt as though I was going to cry because I was so nervous but I started singing the song and my nerves vanished. I remembered everyone is human here and would understand if I made a mistake so I got on with singing and I did the best I could have done.

Sophie Cunningham was amazing on the flute and I envy her technique and delivery. Sophie had been playing me some songs for me before the show. She had never seen the pieces of music before, but she managed them perfectly first time.

I feel sorry for Imogen Curtis because the music was accidentally turned off halfway through her song but amazingly when the music was sorted out Imogen carried on and finished the song. Thankfully Imogen got another go at singing *"Memory"* by Andrew Lloyd Webber. She sang the song brilliantly with no interruptions later on in the show.

The Flute and the Clarinet Groups were both amazing for them to keep in time with each other. The participants should be so proud of their performance and general skill.

Ryan Crellin Simpson was the only male soloist of the night but that did not affect his performance. He went out and made me pinch myself multiple times to check I was awake because he was so good I thought I was dreaming.

Laura Vahey played probably the best flute recital I have ever heard. Laura has just passed her Flute Grade 8 and is working very hard towards her Diploma.

Oaklands Band had to be one of the many highlights of the night for me. There is so much talent in the Oaklands community and we should be very proud of it all.

I would like to say a very big congratulation to all the performers, teachers and organisers who helped to make an amazing concert.

Hannah (7MG)



On 9th October 2018, Year 12 students from four colleges in the Portsmouth Catholic Diocese and three from Arundel and Brighton Catholic Diocese gathered here at Oaklands for their training day on how to be effective community leaders in matters of social justice and action. The day was led by Sarah from CAFOD.

After the rest of the school groups arrived at Oaklands, we started with a couple of icebreakers to get to know people from different schools as well as to find out what changes they want to see in the world. By doing these simple icebreakers we discovered other people's ideas about how to bring about change whilst exploring the different passions for different causes within the group. We then had a series of interactive quizzes and tasks that helped highlight what we already knew about CAFOD, making sure that we all understood how broad and beneficial the charity is. We also took part in an activity focused around refugees and this gave us a glimpse into the hard choices that refugees have to make and the circumstances that they can easily find themselves in. Through this we gained an understanding about the hard decisions refugees have to make when fleeing their country and about the uncertainty of reaching a safe place or seeing family again.



In the afternoon, we looked deeper into what projects CAFOD is working towards at the moment as well as looking at the sustainable development goals of the United Nations. We looked deeper into the topic of helping refugees and we were given lots of information that opened our eyes to the misconceptions surrounding refugees. This led to us then discussing in our school group about ways to raise awareness through our school and our community.

We decided to concentrate on the lack of sanitation for refugees both in the camps as well as when they are travelling. We aim to use this opportunity as a way to raise awareness to the struggle of all refugees, especially women when it comes to sanitation. We are looking forward to our next workshop in January 2019 at St Joseph's College in Reading to help us further progress with this goal in mind.



Year 9 Dry Slope Ski Trips

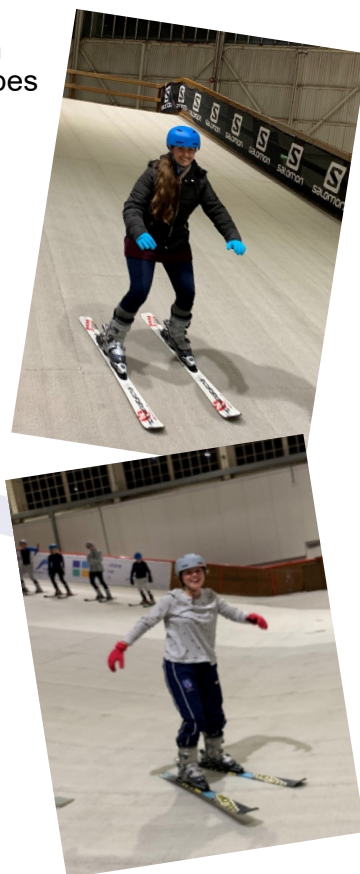
Fifty students attempted skiing for the first time at Calshot Activities Centre in December. You could sense the excitement as the students viewed the slopes as we arrived, but there was perhaps a degree of trepidation.

The trip to Calshot provided the students with the opportunity to wear the equipment and learn the basics; this means that more rapid progress can be made when the students arrive at the resort in February. The slopes are not particularly steep and the carpet-type material is very different from real snow, but the trip is invaluable as the students are able to experience skiing for the first time.

The trip would not have been possible without the help of a number of staff including Mr Bamford, Mr Smith, Mr Wade, Mr Turner, Miss Johnson and Mrs Hardaker.

The trip during February half term is fast approaching. 107 students from Year 9 and the Sixth Form will travel to the Italian ski resort of Andalo. As in previous years, we will drive there leaving on Friday with arrival expected on the Saturday afternoon. The students will ski for 5 days and then leave on Friday from Italy and will return back to school on Saturday.

Snow has already fallen in the resort of Andalo at the time of writing in early December, with reports that there is in excess of 20 centimetres at the summit already. Favourable conditions, combined with prepared students, should result in a really enjoyable 2019 ski trip.



Oaklands Parents' Association (OPA)



Thank you to everyone who supported the **Christmas Craft Fayre** by buying raffle tickets, giving donations or joining us on the day. A special thank you to St Peters School Choir and Oaklands Band for their wonderful musical interludes, getting us all in the festive mood. We made a fantastic £2,600 pounds which will be used to provide the extras to enhance your child's experience at Oaklands.

We continue to support the school, by selling refreshments at Parents' Evenings, concerts and the school production. Please come over, say hello and buy a drink when you attend any of these events.

Can you help? Could you spare 2-3 hours one evening this school year to assist with refreshments? If so, please email us on OPA@oaklandscatholicschool.org.

Have you considered joining the OPA committee? We are a friendly bunch, co-ordinating fundraising throughout the year. We meet on the first Monday of each month at 7.30pm in the Sixth Form block (next meeting is 14 January, 7.30pm at the 2nd hand uniform store!). Please email us to find out more.



Dates for your Diary

Nearly New Uniform Shop (4.00-4.30pm)
OPA Committee Meetings (7.30pm)

11 January, 1 March, 26 April, 7 June
14 January, 4 February, 4 March, 1 April, 13 May,
3 June, 1 July

Thank you and on behalf of the OPA committee, I wish you all a lovely Christmas.

Caroline Rose

During Half Term, Oaklands students participated in a Spanish Exchange Trip to Gran Canaria where they explored Spanish culture, school, food and festivals.

On October 18th it was finally time for our return visit to Gran Canaria. Students from San Antonio Maria Claret, our partner school in Spain, had spent a fantastic week at Oaklands the previous year and we couldn't wait to see them again.

We were collected by our partners' families at Las Palmas airport and went back to the host families houses where they made us feel very welcome. We spent Friday at school. With school, starting at 8.00am it was an early start for some of us before combating six lessons in Spanish with subjects like RE and Spanish. School finished at 2.30pm when we went home and had lunch.

In the evening, we attended the school's sport event in pouring rain and tried some of the Spanish food prepared by parents on site, before sitting down and watching a football match.



The weekend with our host families was very relaxed. On Saturday, we all met at Las Canteras beach and spent time swimming and sunbathing on the beach, learning the Gran Canaria culture! Afterwards some of us went shopping.

The next day was also spent with the families; a few of us headed north to Agaete where we relaxed in natural pools before going to look around the town centre while some of us went to the south and relaxed at Playa del Inglés (English Beach). It is called this due to how pale the sand is. There are also sand dunes there, which made it a perfect destination for the Oaklands students to take some photos.

The following week started with a trip to the brand new Poema del Mar (a state of the art aquarium) where we had a two hour guided tour around their facilities in Spanish. Afterwards we spent time exploring the old town in Las Palmas with a treasure hunt around the area.

It was an enjoyable day out of school, however in the evening we all had to rest up and get a good sleep because we had an early start the next day.





On the penultimate day, we all met at school before 8.00am as we were getting a coach up the mountain towards Teror. We made the steep hill climb, part of a three coach contingent on pilgrimage to Our Lady of Teror's temple. The parish priest led us in prayer to our Lady and afterwards we took part in some traditional games, including skipping. We taught them how to play tug of war (which we won every time).

The final day we joined the celebrations of the school patron saint and founder San Antonio Maria Claret. After prayers and a thought-provoking performance by students, we joined in the games, dancing and other activities. There was a carnival atmosphere and all the students really enjoyed it. We were all sad when we had to leave our host families and fly back to England.

On arriving back in England we were not tired at all, we all spent the journey back reliving the memorable trip we had had and saying how much we wanted to go back. We fell in love with the island; we improved our Spanish and cannot wait to see our exchange partners again. In Ed's words: it was 'so wonderful experiencing the different culture and making friends from other countries. It's a trip I'll never forget.'

I think that last sentence describes it for everyone that took part.

Andrew, Year 11

CONSULTATION

ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS SEPTEMBER 2020

As required by regulations the Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust Company operating as the Local Governing Body of Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College, Waterlooville will be conducting a consultation on its proposed admissions arrangements for the school year 2020– 2021. The consultation period runs for a minimum period of 6 weeks from 1 October 2018 until 31 January 2019.

Copies of the proposed arrangements can be obtained from the school office or downloaded from the school website www.oaklandscatholicschool.org

Comments on the arrangements should be sent to the Clerk to the Governing Body by 31 January 2019. Email: C.Colley@oaklandscatholicschool.org

The Governing Body will consider all comments received before determining its admission arrangements by 28 February 2019.

Poetry 'Off-By Heart' Competition

To prepare for the poetry competition we started off by watching videos of other poets perform their famous poems to hear how they emphasised the words and paused for dramatic effect. This included poetry from Benjamin Zephaniah which we all enjoyed. We even had a go at reciting with him!

We were then introduced to a group of poems for us to choose from to recite for the competition. I chose 'Out in the Dark' by Edward Thomas. I chose it because I liked the way that it rhymed and how the poem flowed.

After we had chosen our poems our homework was to learn our poem off by heart; we shared our class ideas on how to do this. One way that I memorised my poem was reading parts of the poem bit by bit. Once I had memorised the first few lines, I would do the same and then added the next few lines until I had memorised it all.

In class we practiced reciting and reading them to our partners to know how it felt to perform in front of an audience and to get feedback on how we could improve upon our recitation. Also we highlighted words in our poems that we would emphasise in our performance.

After much hard work, the lesson had arrived where we had to recite our poems to the class for the competition. We listened to everyone's poem, whilst Miss Sharma graded our performance on three things: diction, dramatic interpretation and on our impact on the audience.

It was so close! Miss Sharma even had to bring back ten people for another round of their poems to help her to decide who should be the overall winner in our tutor. Belinda won in our tutor. She performed the moving poem 'The Émigrée' by Carol Rumens. Then Belinda had to perform against the seven other pupils who had won in their group.

I did not have a favourite performance, I thought everyone did exceptionally well and tried their best. Well done to everyone who recited their poems!

By Maria, 7Te

Congratulations to our Y7 finalists:

Penelope Baker, 7CA
Natalia Curczuk, 7CL:
Cerys Colley, 7DO
Anna Bryant-Philpott, 7MG
Tom Gozucukuk, 7MT
Belinda Chau, 7TE
Saoirse Lehane, 7ST
Josh Mills, 7VP

A very special thank you to our student judges:

Jessica Pal- Last year's Y7 winner.
Ruthie Quinn- Last year's Y8 winner.
John Willis- Y9.
Edward Beard-Y9.
Jane Pearce-Biney- Y8.
Sam Kiesel- Kasuzi- Y8.



Reading Club

Every Thursday the library hosts a Reading Club for all students. This year we have seen our biggest increase in members and particularly male students.

Each week we meet up and eat lunch together discussing what we are reading and sharing good books.

We also do a group read, our most recent one being 'Harry Potter and the Philosophers Stone' following this Mrs Harris has organised a trip to Harry Potter in the Snow in January.



We will always welcome new members, so please come along and join in the fun!

School Production

Half a Sixpence



26th, 27th and 28th February 2019

Arthur "Artie" Kipps (Ryan, Y13) and Ann (Maggie, Y11) were childhood friends. When they were parted as children, Kipps cut a sixpence in half and told Ann to look at it whenever she missed him. Years later, Kipps is working as an apprentice in Folkestone. Ann arrives in the town, looking for him and they re-kindle their childhood friendship.

Then everything changes - Kipps meets Chitterlow (Samuel, Y13) and finds out that he has inherited a fortune. He leaves the shop, meets and falls in love with Helen Walsingham (Daisy, Y11). Ann finds out and furiously tells Kipps that she never wants to see him again.

Kipps isn't happy with the changes "high society" forces upon him. After a showdown with Helen's tyrannical mother, Mrs Walsingham (Jess, Y12), he realises it is Ann he loves and calls off his engagement with Helen.

Ann and Kipps marry and start a new life with Kipps' fortune, but Ann just wants a simple life, and the money causes rows between them. Kipps learns that his financial adviser (Oliver, Y10) has speculated all his money away. The couple are reconciled, realising all that matters is each other.

Cast, band and crew represent every year group and have been working hard since October to bring the show to life!

With catchy songs including "Flash, Bang, Wallop!", "If the Rain's Got To Fall" and "All in the Cause of Economy", this light-hearted comedy is guaranteed entertainment for the whole family. Tickets go on sale in January.

Mass in honour of St Oscar Romero, by Bishop Philip

I'm old enough to remember the horror and sadness that spread over the world on 24th March 1980 when the then Archbishop Oscar Romero, archbishop of San Salvador, was assassinated during Mass, a remarkable priest whom everyone knew was ever close to his people the poor, and ever close to the Lord. It was a special joy when last month the Holy Father declared him to be a saint, bishop and martyr.

Last Saturday, 24th November, we had a Mass in the Cathedral in the afternoon to celebrate his canonization, with a special celebration and talk afterwards. The event was organised by Mugeni Sumba, RE teacher from Oaklands Catholic School, Waterlooville, in conjunction with the Romero Trust and CAFOD. A number of schoolchildren, teachers, school chaplains and heads were present, including Fr Tom Grufferty, Chaplain to Heads and Deputies, Fr PJ Smith, Episcopal Vicar for Education and Mgr. Jeremy Garratt Episcopal Vicar for Vocation.

After the Mass there were refreshments in the Cathedral Discovery Centre, and an inspiring talk given by Stephen Davies from the Romero Trust. You can see some photos of the event on the Diocesan website, via the following link, where you can also read my homily and listen to Stephen's talk:

<http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/thanksgiving-mass-canonisation-of-archbishop-oscar-romero.php>



Oaklands Memorial Against Hatred and Intolerance



This Memorial is an idea that was born out of one of the topics studied in Year 9; **Genocide and the Holocaust**. We learnt that the root cause of a lot of conflict in the world is hatred and intolerance. For example the hatred and intolerance of Nazism led to the horrific events of the Second World War.

The centre piece of the Memorial will be the **1.5 million buttons** that we collected from the community. **Why Buttons?** Because they are found on our clothes and they give us dignity by holding our clothes together. Buttons also come in many forms, shapes and sizes; just like people come in many shapes, colour, sizes, orientation etc. Yet, **we are all in one race, the human race**.

We need your help to build this memorial. May be you could donate a bench, bricks, a bag of cement or may be your expertise. We would like to hear from you, so please get in touch via the school email address: oaklands@oaklandscatholic.school.org.

Thank you.

Mr Sumba

Our objective is to help the less fortunate pupils and families in St John's Korogocho community to acquire education by paying school fees, exam fees and other basic needs of the learners. This year, we have enabled 181 pupils to go to attend school at St John's.

We will give a full report from St John's in the January edition of this publication. For today, we would like to share with you the wonderful news of exam results of some of the children who have benefitted from this programme.

In Kenya, pupils sit a national exam called Kenya Certificate for Primary Education to mark the end of primary school sector. The maximum marks available is 500 and the higher your marks are, the greater your possibility of securing a place in a good secondary school as well as attracting sponsorships or scholarships. Anything above 400 is considered a very good performance and that is what happened to **Margaret Awino**. She achieved 405 marks and thus secured sponsorship from the Jomo Kenyatta Foundation Trust, a big mobile phone network provider in Kenya. Just as our programme ensured that Margaret was able to attend school without any disruptions, the sponsorship she has secured will also ensure that for secondary school, she can be fully focused on studies without worrying about fees.

Other pupils who also performed very well are Hawa Adan who achieved 351, Seline Achieng 309, Joan Amadi 349 and Peter Nyaga 339.

Thank you for your support of this programme and we hope that you will continue to do so in 2019 as St John's start their new academic year in January. On behalf of the St John's community in Korogocho, we wish you a Christmas full of blessings and a very happy new year of 2019.

Mr Sumba

*Hawa Adan, Seline Achieng,
Peter Nyaga, Joan Amadi and
Margaret Awino*

(Clockwise, from top left)



During the October half term, a group of Year 11, 12 and 13 students went to Rome as part of a Religious Education pilgrimage. In the four days we were there we visited loads of different places and we found out a lot about their historical backgrounds and importance to different people.



On the first day we visited the Venerable English College and had Mass which was celebrated by Cardinal Vincent Nichols (Father Jeremy and lots of other priests also participated in this service). For the rest of the day we walked around Rome with Father Jeremy leading the way. As we went round he gave us information about some of the buildings and places of interest. We learned that the dome of the Pantheon was the largest in the world for 1300 years and still today remains the largest unsupported dome in the world! Having been told about the tradition of throwing a coin over our right shoulder to guarantee our return to Rome, we went to the Trevi Fountain where we threw in our money in a chance that one day we may return.



We ended the day with a great meal; we even managed to miss the thunderstorm while we were eating and we had a lot of giggles waiting for the bus!

The second day was quite cold, especially after the sun of the first day, but we still had a great day, starting with a visit to St John Lateran Basilica which we found out is the oldest church in the world and is the church of the Bishop of Rome – the Pope! It's also supposed to have the heads (or at least part of them) of Saints Peter and Paul placed above the Papal Altar.



After lunch we had a guided tour where we saw the Colosseum, the Roman Forum and Circus Maximus, where the Roman chariot races used to be held. We found out that in its early days there was even a sea battle held in the Colosseum, and that the name Colosseum comes from the huge 30 metre tall bronze statue of the Emperor Nero that used to stand just outside the amphitheatre. Before we went for our evening pizza we went to the top of the Aventine Hill and looked through the keyhole of the Knights of Malta building, where we were officially seeing three countries in one view!

On the third day the sun was shining again as we rose early to have Mass said for us by Fr Jeremy in St Peter's. There was a long queue to get in past security but we got in eventually and it was well worth the wait. It was amazing to be able have our own private Mass at the Altar of St Pius X and some of the students helped out by reading and being altar servers. Next on our itinerary was a guided tour of the Vatican Museum, including the amazing Sistine Chapel. In the museum there were enormous numbers of statues and paintings which covered the walls all the way to the ceiling. There were famous paintings like 'The School of Athens' by Raphael which shows Plato and Aristotle to represent philosophy.



We were exhausted after all our walking, so after lunch and shopping for Pope Francis t-shirts and Vatican flags (ready for the next day) we went back to the hotel for a well deserved rest.

Finally our last day arrived and we were up and ready to go to the Papal audience in St. Peter's square where we listened to the Pope give his themed speech. Our school was even mentioned by name! It was amazing to see Pope Francis as he made his way around, waving and smiling. He was so close you almost felt as if you could touch him.



After this, we made our way to the Spanish Steps via a delicious gelateria called Giolitti, and we made the most of our final hours in Rome doing some last minute shopping. We then had to return to the hotel where we picked up our luggage and headed back to the airport.

Overall, this trip was a great experience and will be in our memories. We also learned about new cultures whilst we were in Rome and the food was really tasty. Rome was a beautiful place and we would love to return.

We were very grateful to have the opportunity to go on this trip and would like to thank the teachers who took us: Mrs Palfreyman, Mr Sumba, Mrs Brettell and Father Jeremy.

William Beacon, Lauren Dollery, Dominika Malecka

Over the summer I am delighted to report that all those who started their Bronze Award last year have now completed. At an assembly in late September 36 students were presented with their Bronze Letter of Recognition and Badge.

Congratulations to:

Victoria Allard
William Beacon
Francisco Booth
Elliott Cotton
Alys Hantrais-Smith
Eleanor Hobbs
Zoe Hurd
Finn Loftus
Joshua Owen
Douglas Quinn
Archie Sadler
Sarah Sullivan
James Wilson

Isaac Bailey
Patrick Bonner
Tom Christie
Miriam De Sousa
Daisy hazell
Jude Hughes
Anthony Idiata Mendez
Ella Mulcahy
Rory Parry
Rebecca Rankin
Elliot Sammars
Hannah Ugboma

Joseph Bailey
Charlotte Bonney
Dylan Cooper
Freya Gover
Claudia Hobbs
Rosie Hurd
Aimee Joyce
Ojoachenyo Onuh
Charlotte Piper
Callum Read
Jacob Shucksmith
Sienna Wheeler



Certificates will be presented by local dignitaries on 29th March 2019 at 7pm at the SE Hampshire Award ceremony which takes place in our own hall. We hope to see as many of you there as possible together with your parents, carers and siblings.

Our Silver group were equally successful with 25 participants who started the award finishing it. A tremendous achievement particularly whilst completing their public examinations. This group too have been presented with their Letter of Recognition and Badge and will also receive their Certificates at the SE Hampshire Award ceremony on 29th March 2019.

Congratulations to:

Penelope Batty	Lottie Beaton
Jeffy Bijumon	Isabelle Bonner
Kieran Breathnach	Emily Chatfield
Thomas Collins	Timothy Doherty
Thomas Ferris	Matthew Galbraith
Finlay Harrison	Lloyd Hastilow
Daniel Hurd	Angus Hutchins
Phoebe Jeffery	Emilia King
Rebecca Lavery	Richard Pass-Alamo
Emily Perdu	Abigail Tuttle
Laura Vahey	Maxwell Watkins
David Way	Billie-Mae White
Anju Yeldho	



Silver Group 1 – not lost yet!!

It is an outstanding achievement that of the nine participants who undertook the Gold Award last year, five of them have already completed and we hope the remaining four students will soon follow. This group are looking forward to their Presentation at the palace in the first half of 2019.



Many congratulations to:

Morgan Dryhurst
Tom Sullivan

Eliza McMaster
Chris Sumner

Judy Quinn

This term we have seen new groups start at all levels of the Award. At present we have four Bronze groups, two Silver groups and three Gold groups. All participants are undertaking activities in the three sections – Volunteering, Physical and Skills while some of the Golds have already completed a Residential which is an additional section at this level. Expedition training has started at all levels and the Bronze and Silver groups recently undertook a Navigation Exercise in the South Downs around the village of Stoughton. Apart from one short, sharp shower we stayed dry so groups were able to concentrate on practising their map and compass skills.

We are very grateful to all the expedition supervisors and assessors who have enabled the participants to complete their Awards so successfully. Thank you to: Mrs C Boichet, Mr T Brinnen, Mrs H Clarke, Mr K Geddes, Mr P Hoar, Miss S Johnson, Mr E Maskell-White, Mrs F Quinn, Mr A Quirk, Mrs N Riddle, Mr P Smith, Mr J Turner, Mrs J Tyler, Mr C Wade, Mr C Walder, Mrs C Wise, Mr B Wrightson

Oaklands Alumni

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Presentation of Certificates



for 'A' Level and GCSE Students
of Summer 2018

Tuesday 8 January 2019

7.00pm

Contact

r.moss@oaklandscatholicschool.org

Community

Unity

Opportunity

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**



Maintaining Standards

If you have ever watched any of the 'reality' TV shows about life in secondary schools, you can be left with the impression of an 'us and them' battleground between the will of the student and the staff. This, coupled with underfunding - which leaves everyone stretched to deliver what they would like to - to meet an ever increasing array of complex needs of our students, has made for some gripping, if worrying, TV viewing.

At Oaklands, the shared values we have as a school community and the genuine respect that exists between parents and staff, staff and students insulates us against a great deal of the external pressures schools face. Our mission statement 'No-one gets left behind' is something we strive to achieve every day.

That is not to say that the issues we are experiencing as a society aren't being mirrored in school. However, our Catholic ethos allows us to articulate a clear set of values that challenges many of the negative influences in a very self-centred age where each person seems to feel entitled to voice an opinion and judgement, even if it results in diminishing another person in the process. Maintaining a clear set of expectations around relationships and how we respect others in Oaklands is essential to keeping the school a safe and happy place for all.

In recent months, we have appointed another member of staff to our non-teaching pastoral support team and we have embedded the Restorative Justice approach which was launched in September. Our pastoral team spend much of their time unpicking the relational conflict issues that occur between teenagers and they help to restore broken friendships or support students to move on to new friendships. This is achieved through a process of reflection and mediation, which is facilitated by skilled staff. What we know about, we deal with and we would always encourage parents and students to pass issues on to us so that we can help. Too often, parents tell us they did not involve us as their child asked them not to, by which time matters can be much harder to unpick. Restorative justice enables all parties to accept their part in 'what went wrong' and moves our students away from a blame culture which can too readily make them 'victims'. The Restorative Justice approach enables students to develop resilience and gives them the skills to resolve conflict in an appropriate way, when it occurs.



Following the Anti-Bullying week assemblies and activities in November, next term some of our students will be trained as Anti-Bullying ambassadors. The Anti-Bullying Ambassador programme is part of the charity, The Diana Award. The Diana Award was founded as a legacy to Diana, Princess of Wales' belief that **young** people have the power to change the world for the better. The students will spend the day training in London with two of our pastoral staff and then return to school to embed this exciting initiative across all year groups.

Parents expect us to maintain high standards of behaviour at Oaklands. We believe that our Behaviour Policy and rewards and sanctions systems help students journey towards becoming self-regulating young adults who know right from wrong, who accept their responsibility when they make poor choices and are rewarded when they get it right. Our students will continue to be challenged to be the best they can be, supported by a school that believes in 'the potential for greatness' of all its students.

Mrs J Oldroyd, Deputy Head

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, ie, 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

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.

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:

Thurs 7th January to Friday 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 30th November,
Friday 21st December, Friday 19th July

Oaklands lose in a closely fought match against Henry Court on Tuesday 16th October. In a match that went back and forth throughout, it was Henry Court that took the win in the end 33 – 31. *By our Sports Reporter, Andrew, Year 11*

Henry Court put pressure on Oaklands at the start. Within two minutes Gary had made a spectacular try-saving tackle just inside the Oaklands' half to prevent Henry Court scoring early on. Henry Court put the pressure on again and almost broke through but this time it was Elliott who made the tackle which he said was his 'best point of the match' to deny an almost certain try. Then after 12 minutes, the Oaklands defence were finally breached as a gap appeared and a pass led to the opposition getting the first points on the board for the game. **0-7**. Straight from kick-off, Oaklands put the pressure on Henry Court. Then 14 minutes into the first half, a loose pass fell in the way of Joe and he picked it up, broke tackle after and scrambled to just outside Henry Court's line. This led to an opportunity for Max, who got the ball from a tackle and ran in for the try and scored Oaklands' first points of the game. **7-7**. Then with the last play of the first half, a missed kick into touch by Nick allowed Luca (albeit with a lucky bounce over the Henry Court player) to snatch a try to send Oaklands in with a 5 point lead after the conversion was missed.



Half Time: Oaklands 12 – Henry Court 7

At the start of the second half, Henry Court came out and put the pressure on again and caught Oaklands off guard. In the space of 5 minutes, Henry Court scored two spectacular tries. The first was a drive from their 22 all the way to score with great recycling of the ball and passed to score. **12 – 14**. Their second was a mixture of pace and skilful hand-offs as they cut open the Oaklands defence once again to score into the corner. **12 – 21**. At this time the Oaklands' heads did not drop, they rallied together and came back strong. With the next Oaklands possession, Leo drove deep into the Henry Court half before being tackled and the play moved on to Luca who ran round the outside of their defence before cutting in to score. **19 – 21**. With 9 minutes to go, Leo drove again down the wing before offloading to Nick who claimed a penalty. Off the penalty, Nick dived in between 3 defenders to score. Unfortunately, and crucially, the conversion was missed. **24 – 21**. Almost instantly Henry Court replied as they got a scrum of the kick off and used the width of the pitch to exploit the Oaklands defence and score. **24 – 26**. Then heartbreak for Oaklands, as Henry Court get the ball on the half way line, they break free, avoiding tackles and go in to score with a minute left to play. **24 – 33**. However with the last play of the game, Nick and Dylan combine to exploit the opposition defence before spreading play nicely wide to Joe who nipped in with a try. **31 – 33**.

After the game I spoke with Oaklands' coach, Mr Neil about what he thinks his team needs to improve on before their next game, against Romsey. *"Our defensive line because our tackling is really good,"* explained Mr Neil, *"however when they run into space it is difficult to stop so if we can sort that out before next game we should be good."* In the attacking sense, however, Mr Neil was impressed with how his team coped. *"We did not just throw the ball away today as if we did not want it, we carried it as far as we could before presenting it to the team. Overall the team has impressed me today and I'm proud of the spirit they showed today on the pitch."*

My Man of the Match today goes to Leo as he terrorised the Henry Court defence and had some good offloads, often attracting more than one player to tackle him which meant open space for his team mates.

Final Score: Oaklands 31 – Henry Court 33



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