

No 430

May 2019

Oaklands News

'An Outstanding Catholic School'

Section 48 Validation



**STEM Visitor
Trip to Sorrento
Goodbye to Year 11 and Year 13**

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



Lead Stories



Oaklands
Catholic School and Sixth Form College

| | |
|--|----|
| From the Headteacher | 2 |
| Year 11 Farewell from Good Morning Club | 4 |
| Year 13 Leavers' Mass and Dinner | 4 |
| Challenge Week | 5 |
| Young Carers' Fundraising | 6 |
| From the Chaplain | 7 |
| Trip to Sorrento | 8 |
| Author Visit | 9 |
| Oaklands Young Journalists | 10 |
| Restorative Justice | 14 |
| Refurbishment News | 16 |
| STEM Visitor | 17 |
| Duke of Edinburgh Award | 18 |
| Summer Music Concert | 19 |
| Oaklands Parents' Association | 20 |
| Oaklands St John's Scholarship Programme | 21 |
| Social Media | 22 |
| Term Dates | 22 |
| Summer Term Calendar | 23 |
| Art Exhibition | 24 |

From the Headteacher's Desk

I am sure most of you will have picked up on the story of the death of racing legend Niki Lauda. It's hard to admit, but like most adults I have inconsistent memories of most of my childhood. However, I do remember the scorching summer of 1976 and watching Lauda's crash at the German Grand Prix at the Nürburgring. Like Ayrton Senna, Lauda was a Catholic and received sacrament of the sick after the accident in Germany.

There are some memories that stick, others quickly fade into the ether. I don't remember my first day at nursery, but I do remember the lofty church hall in which it occurred. Even though I am the middle child, I don't recall my elder sister as a young child, or the infancy of my younger brother. I remember my first day at primary school, but not at secondary school. I remember the emotion of my last day in 5th Year, but not leaving the Sixth form.

There's a lot I don't remember, but I what I do know is that childhood experiences shape the people we become as adults.

Many of my memories from my childhood centre around the church where we lived in Rickmansworth. Just as my childhood memories influence me as an adult, my church memories have shaped my faith today. The church was not just a place for the celebration of the sacraments; there was a scout group, a youth club and the home of the Priory Players, a local church amateur dramatics society. I was involved in all of these. There were social events, and time given up serving on the altar and gardening or cutting the church lawn. It was somewhere that was safe, an extension of home.

I was surrounded by a larger community of faith adults who knew me by name, who would ask about life and school, who would speak blessings and encouragement as I grew and understood a vocation to serve and the importance of family.

At school, we are just about to say goodbye to Year 11 and Year 13. For many of them, the school is their church. I often wonder what little nuggets they will remember when they're adults. Will they remember the whole school Masses or reconciliation in the chapel? Will they remember the times we prayed for members of the community in the final stages of their lives, will they remember fasting and alms giving?

Only time will tell... for those that will not return, I pray that their memories of growing up in a Catholic School will remain with them into adulthood. No matter what the future holds for them, I pray that they always remember and feel God's unwavering love.

Since the last Newsletter, we have received the detailed report form our Section 48 Validation, all parents received a copy of this. I am also delighted that we have secured a £1.7m grant to complete some much required work to Romero Block. There are a number of significant issues to address including the roof of the hall. Please see Page 16 for more details.

Over the last few months I have asked colleagues to have purge on school uniform, in particular the rolling up of skirts. This will continue after half term. Makeup and nail varnish normally applied at home continues to be a problem with a minority of students. There is a school not far from Waterloo station that has solved the skirt issue by introducing a pinafore-style dress for girls. Like you, I want all students to wear uniform with dignity and pride. Please continue to reinforce standards at home.

Both students and staff have commented that this half term, probably more than any other has disappeared at an alarming speed, where efforts have focused on examination classes. I would like to acknowledge the time put in by staff, particularly during their lunch times, after school and during the holidays. It is a pleasure to work with colleagues who show such dedication to their students.

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

Have an enjoyable half term break.

Mr Matthew Quinn



Year 11 Farewell from Good Morning Club

Good Morning Club said a sad farewell to a very loyal group of Year 11s who had been working with the team since they were in Year 7. Initially practising core skills such as spelling and later preparing for their GCSE studies. The students turned up every morning with a positive attitude to learn and were always first to support younger students. They have helped to make Good Morning Club a friendly learning environment where students support each other. Over the years we have prepared for tests, shared worries, battled with spellings and prepared for exams.



Good Morning Club runs every morning in J15 from 8.30am for all students offering support with literacy, numeracy, homework and revision.

Additional Support with homework tasks are also available every lunchtime in J15 and afterschool until 4.45pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays. Revision guidance is available Tuesday lunchtimes and afterschool in J13.

Good luck Year 11!

The Learning Support Department

Year 13 Leavers' Mass and Dinner

Students about to embark upon their final examinations at Oaklands had a splendid end of Sixth Form celebration with us on a warm late spring evening last Thursday 16 May. We celebrated Mass together in the Oaklands Chapel at 6.00pm, led by Fr Gerard. He delighted in the congregation who were at their most exhilarated selves, bordering on rumbustious, as they sang their hearts out for a final time. The moment was more poignant as they would have had one of their first Year 7 Masses in that very same chapel before embarking on their Oaklands career back in 2012.

After lifting the chapel roof with our final hymn, Head Boys, Ryan Crellin-Simpson and Sam James, sent everyone off to the Brookfield Hotel in Emsworth with a final fond reading about the friends forged for life, and the staff remembered for their care and affection towards their charges.

The students all looked beautiful in their summer dresses and smart shirts even though they were in pockets, distracted by Portsmouth FC's battle for a Wembley play off place (0-0 and unsuccessful, in case you wondered). Before sitting down to a sumptuous three-course dinner, we spent time in the garden recording the customary endless group selfies for posterity!

This marvellously affectionate year group gave gifts to their tutors and even produced a framed picture of all signatures for their Year Heads. They did not need to...we will not forget them! We wish all students the very best of luck in their coming examinations and beyond when they begin a new life within apprenticeships, travel plans, employment and at university. We can only hope they remember to come back and see us so we can see how well they turn out.

Best of luck to all the Class of 2019!

Mrs Ludlam



Challenge Week

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

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

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

The booklet, which has already been distributed to students, will give you all the information you need as parents/carers about what your child will be doing each day of the week and so I would encourage you to read it carefully and keep it somewhere safe. Copies can also be found on the school website - <http://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org/page/?title=Letters&pid=52>. Individual timetables will be published in mid-June.

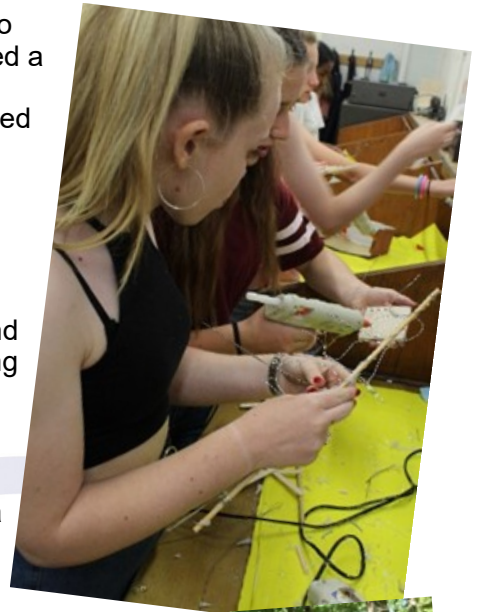
Parental support for the week is vital if it is to be a success. We hope that by reading through what your child will be engaged in, you will recognise the wonderful learning opportunities that your son or daughter will be involved in and you will encourage them to take a full and active part in the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

This year, all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be involved in Challenge Week activities Monday to Thursday 24th – 27th June. Friday 28th June is an Inset Day, so the school is closed for students on that day.

Finally, we have been able to subsidise Challenge Week again this year to try to offer a full and fun week at a reasonable price to yourselves. The cost of your child's activity is, we hope you will agree, excellent value. I would encourage all parents to use the online payment system.

Please can all parents / carers pay by Friday 7th June and ensure all medical information is current. If you need to update us, a copy of the medical form can be accessed here - <http://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org/site/data/files/school/77FC113D63442EEBAAA8A00F9513565.docx>

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



Mr Bamford

During the Easter holidays, three of our young carers endeavoured to complete the Solent Way, walking 15 miles a day for four days.



Throughout their journey they faced strong winds, soaking rain, mist which hid the Isle of Wight for an entire day and, finally on day four, some sunshine!



The girls overcame blisters and sore feet, legs and hips. And they did it all with (mostly) smiles on their faces. In total, they have raised almost **£1000** for the young carers group.



Thank you to all the staff who helped make this possible, but most of all ...
thank you and well done to Beth, Charlotte and Tilly !!



Mary stayed outside near the tomb, weeping. She stooped to look inside, and saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, the other at the feet. "Woman, why are you weeping?" "They have taken my Lord away and I don't know where they have put him." As she said this she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, though she did not recognise him. Jesus said, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said, "Sir, if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him". Jesus said, "Mary!" She knew him then and said to him, "Master!"

(John 20:11-18)

Mary Magdalene is grieving the death of Jesus, not yet knowing or understanding that He has been raised from the dead – He has been resurrected! Jesus, the Son of God, is too powerful even for death and has come back to life. Mary does not recognise Him, until He calls her by her name. Our risen Lord calls each of us by name also, and invites us to share in His new life. This is our Christian faith and we celebrate with great joy! This year, we returned to school on Easter Tuesday, just two days after the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Easter is 50 days, and we the Church are called to celebrate and rejoice throughout this season. As Pope St John-Paul II said, "We are an Easter people and 'Alleluia' is our song."

It always seems strange to have the majority of the so-called 'Easter Holidays' within the season of Lent and the celebration of Holy Week. Just when the Lenten fasting was over, as the triumphant and joyful celebrations of Easter were just beginning, the holidays were over and we were returning to school for a new term.

But Easter is a celebration of newness of life, so what better time to start a fresh. And despite this being a short half term, we have been busy with many celebrations and special occasions in the Chaplaincy. The first was the celebration of the Year 8 Mass; in which we focussed on Mary, the Mother of God and our Mother. All the students in Year 8 participated by presenting Our Lady with a flower that they had decorated and written a prayer on. We then celebrated our Year 11 and Year 13 Leavers Masses; these were tinged with sadness but truly reflected all that they have achieved during their time and were joyful celebrations of all that was still to come. It's always very powerful to give thanks to God, to gather together in Christ, to ask for His blessing, and to fill our students with hope and joy for the future. We keep all our students who are taking important exams at this time very close in our prayers, and wish them every success.

Easter is still not over! We will celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord (a Holy Day of Obligation) during half term and then look forward to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. I wish you all a very joyful and restful half term; long may this beautiful weather stay with us. Perhaps you might say this prayer with your family over the break.

Heavenly Father, thank you that You make all things new. Thank you for the victory and power in Your Name. Thank you that by Your might, Jesus was raised from the grave, paving the way for us to have new life with You. We ask that You renew our hearts, minds, and lives.

Keep Your words of truth planted firm within us, help us to keep focused on what right, give us the power to be obedient to Your Word. We ask that You will be our defence, keeping our way clear, removing the obstacles, and covering the pitfalls. Shine Your light on us, so that we can make a difference in this world. May we reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing. We make this prayer through Christ our Risen Lord. Amen.



Trip to Sorrento

On Monday, we all met on the school drive for an early coach drive to the airport. We were all really excited! When we got to the airport, we checked our bags in and went through security. After the brisk check in, we all roamed around Terminal 5 in small groups to get some lunch and met back shortly after midday. We had a short, relaxing flight for 2½ hours and finally made it to Rome! At this point, we were so excited that we could hardly wait to get to the hotel in Sorrento but first had a 3½ hour coach ride there from Rome. Finally, we had made it safe and sound for some dinner where we were kindly served pasta, pork, mash and ice cream! Then we checked into our rooms and slept.



On Tuesday morning, we all went downstairs to the dining rooms to have breakfast. We were able to serve ourselves with a variety of bread, cereals, pastry, yoghurt, biscotti and toast and it was so tasty. After gathering together, we made our way to the coaches where we went to the pasta factory. Here we got shown how they make pasta and we learnt all the different types and how long they take to make. It was so interesting. After the demonstration, we had the opportunity to buy some pasta to take home with us and it was amazing seeing how many varieties and colours you could get!

Shortly after, we hopped back onto the coach that took us down to Herculaneum where we were given headphones so we could listen to the tour given by our guide of the ruins. It was so exciting to see all of the ruins and we even saw remains of the skeletons that were left there! After this experience, we were able to buy some food and souvenirs and eat our packed lunches. The coach then took us back to town where we looked around the shops and walked to the gelato factory. This is where we got to try different flavours of gelato and learn about how it is made. The gelato was so nice and everyone enjoyed it! Then we went back to our hotel, had some dinner and slept.



On Wednesday, we had a lot of fun going to many places. We went to a mozzarella farm, an olive oil factory and a pizza demonstration. At the mozzarella farm we watched mozzarella being made and we even got to try some. There was also some new food that most of us have never tried before. We all enjoyed trying new things because it was so tasty! After that we took a short journey to the olive oil factory where we got to try lots of new and different flavours of olive oil. This was interesting, as we never knew there were so many flavours like spicy, orange and lemon and it was delicious! We could also buy some olive oil if we wanted.



We then went back to the hotel to relax in our rooms for a bit and also get ready to go to the pizza demonstration and dinner. This is where we made a pizza base and then got to choose our pizza toppings for our dinner. We each got a whole pizza and it was so yummy! When that had finished we came back to the hotel and had a good night's rest.

On Thursday, we woke up bright and early to start our day and went down for breakfast and it was delicious as always. After that we had a quick trip to the cafe down our road for a lovely three course meal. This consisted of special bread dough balls, pasta, pork and chips and for desert a delicious lemon cake. All of us enjoyed this; it was amazing! We then headed to the shops nearby to spend the last of our Euros.

After saying our last goodbyes to Sorrento we packed our bags and took the long journey to Rome airport. We hopped on the plane and eventually arrived at school around 12pm.

After this trip, everyone said they had so much fun and wanted to go back again! Thank you to Ms Mousdale, Mrs Osborne, Mr Forster, Mr Dawson, Mrs Juncklaus and Mrs Brettell for taking us on such a wonderful trip.

Emma and Sophie, Year 8

Author Visit

We were delighted with this rare opportunity to meet a real-life author, Miriam Halahmy. When we arrived we were bounding with excitement. Firstly, she read out a passage from her book "Hidden". The book is about a girl living on Hayling Island; she is a quiet girl and has a best friend called Samir. Their lives are normal until the dreadful day they pull a drowning man out of the sea. He turns out to be an immigrant and he is desperate not to be told on. Faced with the most difficult decision ever, do they help the man in or leave him to look after himself?

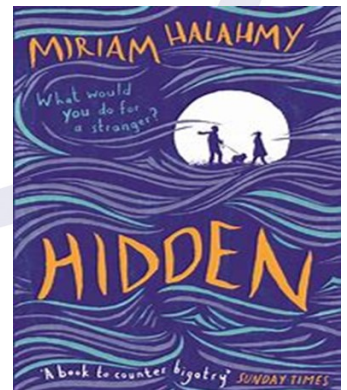
After she told us about her life and work, including why she became a writer, she read us some passages and got us to act out a particular scene. We were then asked questions by Miriam about the book and just general questions that allowed us to reflect: "What would you do if you were in the same situation and saw someone getting beaten up?" This really got us thinking.

We were finally invited to meet her in person and she signed a bookmark for us all showing her previous books and future books.

At lunchtime, students were also invited to chat to her in the library. Many even took photographs with her and asked her more questions!

Thank you, Miriam!

Tyler, Joey and Will, Year 9



Miss Sharma and a group of Oaklands students have been working with other schools in the Havant Federation and The News to produce regular features written by young journalists.

Here are our latest articles which will be published in The News:

Racism

Sometimes I ask myself: 'Why can't we live without all this fuss about our differences and how we look? Why is it so difficult to accept diversity?'

Is it not wrong for only certain people to benefit from the many opportunities that our world has to offer?

It's a matter of fact that people are still treated differently today depending on their religion, beliefs and skin colour.

In recent decades, some people could barely walk on the street or take a bus without being criticised and discriminated just for being different from most of the others in society.

Much has changed and a lot has been done since then about the integration of every single individual.

Nowadays, there are specific laws in place to protect people from racist discrimination like the Equality and Diversity Act of 2010. This law in the United Kingdom states the right of every single individual, in this specific society, to have the same status and be treated rightfully and equally with the same opportunities, in day to day life as well as at work, regardless of any difference of race, religion and much more.

Following is my interview with a student from a secondary school:

Who is most affected by racism?

People from other ethnic backgrounds are most likely to be affected by racism as some Caucasian people years ago had more rights only because they were seen to be more advanced and superior.

What emotions are more often caused by racism- anger or depression?

I think both. This is because when somebody says something horrible you can feel angry and upset at the same time; asking yourself: 'Who do you think you are to talk to me in this way?', 'Is what they are saying true?' or 'Why can't they accept me for how I am?'

Why do you think people feel the need to say vile things to people of different ethnic backgrounds?

I think that some people say toxic things to people of other backgrounds because some countries are less developed and the inhabitants were gauged to be incapable of having control over their lands, therefore, people thought it was right to take over and deprive them of their rights upon their lands and dominated their countries. This shows that they might discriminate over default.

It has happened to my sister and I; we have been addressed with racist words like 'Paki' and 'Muslim', even if we are not, or to receive comments like being told to go and wash ourselves just because we are slightly darker in skin colour than the others.

Suddenly, I understood how the world sees us, so that is when I began to research about discrimination and racism.

I decided to take a survey; these were the results:

Who is most affected by racism?

22% of people chose Caucasian and 78% of people chose people of other ethnic backgrounds.

What emotion is more often caused by this - anger or depression?

61% voted anger and 39% voted for depression.

Are people more likely to give money to a homeless Caucasian person or a person with an ethnic background?

72% answered Caucasian and 28% answered people of ethnic backgrounds.

However, on the contrary, people also do discriminate against Caucasian people because they are different in ways like (yet again): religion, beliefs and skin colour. Unfortunately, this sad truth about the human race, revolves around these three things, but being different doesn't make us any less human; it is just the quantity of pigmentation in the skin.

Beliefs and religion are very personal too and they shouldn't affect or concern anybody else than the individual.

I think that it's very important to continue raising awareness and to continue training the new generations about the meaning of 'Equality and Diversity', helping people to understand what it's about and to accept it with an open heart and mind.

Being respectful, rightful, open-minded and understanding with everybody is the key to cancel **divides** between people of different ethnic groups. In doing so they'll feel accepted, cared for, understood, equal and they'll be prone to give their precious contribution to the society's growth. If each one of us would apply these simple rules to everyday life, we'll contribute to create a fair and rightful world with no more hate and discrimination.

Lately we're fighting against the rebellion and changes in nature that, with tsunamis, earthquakes, powerful storms, drought, are causing poverty and loss of lives; they are challenging the existence of the human race on planet Earth.

I think that we should all stick together to find a solution to these huge problems and not create isolation and hatred because of worthless reasons like the colour of their skin that has nothing to do with ability, loyalty, competence, friendship or love.

Jessica Pal, Year 8

Why are most of our times spent on our mobile phones?

The 21st century has seen inventions that have changed our generation and that have also made history. One of those inventions includes mobile phones. The invention has been made so popular over the years that a major addiction has been created and caused us to ask many questions related to the subject. What is so addictive about our phones that we spend most of our times on them? How has it become a major addiction?

One main reason is that the mobile phones can help keep in contact with a person, at anytime and in any place. This can also include communication over social media.

Social media was initially made to introduce yourself to others and make new friends with others who use it as well, but nowadays, social media has become more popular than ever. It is not just used for making new friends but also for putting your entire life on there and witnessing others in doing so as well. Therefore, some teens (and many adults) have been stated to say that when they do go on their phone, they would usually go on social media first and then proceed with their daily routine either on their phone or in general. The statistics show that there are approximately 3.4 billion users who are active on social media!

Another way of communication is FaceTime, Skype and WhatsApp calls. The reasons for a lot of usage on those apps is because of being able to see the person that you call, its free and it uses the internet for connections so therefore mobile data is not used when Wi-Fi occurs. A majority of people use those apps to video chat with family or close friends; usually people use it as an excuse to 'catch up'.

It is because technology over the past few years has advanced, that more and more people are getting in the habit of using these apps constantly and admiring our technology which is advancing by the second.

Another reason as to why they are addictive is due to entertainment. Examples of such are: games (etc. 'Fortnite', 'Heads Up', 'Subway Surf', 'Temple Run'), stream live TV/ movies (etc. Netflix, I.T.V Hub, BBC iplayer, Amazon Prime video...).

A phone is a miniature portable television that can be used anywhere at any time with or without Wi-Fi. It is also for taking people's boredom away by either watching a favourite show or playing a favourite game.

An anonymous parent has summarised their opinion on this overall topic saying, "*A mobile phone is very easily accessed and makes children and adults curious about other people's social lives. Media can be about advertising, video chatting with a friend or family member or even on the internet in general.*"

In conclusion, time is said to be spent on our phones due to the fact of wanting to know about other people's (or even a place) social life, including celebrities, a family member, a friend or even a character in any sort of series, film or documentary.

Could you live without yours?

Maria Mihut, Year 7

Plastic Crisis

In recent years many have come to question just how much we are damaging our planet. The most pressing problem is plastic. Plastic takes 450-1000 years to degrade and, in that time, it can do horrific damage to the environment.

Experts say that an estimated 8 million pieces of plastic enter the ocean every day. 51 trillion microscopic pieces of plastic pollute our planet weighing 969,000 tons. Not only is plastic waste harming sea life, it is also harming us. One in three fish caught for human consumption has plastic in it.

It is still hard to tell what negative impact this will have on us, but it can't be good. Not only are we consuming food with harmful plastics in them, dolphin calves are also dying because the milk from their mothers is poisoned with chemicals from plastics that they have eaten. Every year, more and more dolphins wash up on the beach dead and soon they will be extinct if we don't do something. Nowhere is safe from plastic pollution. Even on remote, uninhabited islands, plastic is washing up on the beach from nearby continents.

The most pressing problem is single use plastics. They are used once for a short amount of time and then take around 450 years to degrade. Plastics like this are made in huge numbers every day and are resulting in huge amounts of plastic pollution being deposited on land and in the sea.

Coral reefs, such as the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Australia, are suffering as well. Plastic pollution combined with rising temperatures in the water, due to global warming, ensured that last year 50% of the Great Barrier Reef died. If coral reefs go extinct, so will most of the diverse wildlife that inhabits them.

But are all plastics bad? Plastic is very important in many ways. People in hospitals rely on equipment made of plastic to save their lives. Plastic is used for many important things that other materials would not be able to do. Plastic gloves are used widely in hospitals, vets, dental surgeries, forensic science and factories. The gloves are mainly used for hygiene but in forensic science they are used to preserve criminal evidence. The gloves must be thrown away and replaced for every new job/patient to prevent the spread of illnesses. Modern eye glasses are made of plastic; they are clearly needed. Some disabled people rely on plastic straws to drink from; metal straws get too hot and paper straws get soggy!

As well as being needed in the medical industry, plastic is very important in the making of cars, planes, clothes and packaging. Most plastics are easy to spot but others are hardly noticeable. It seems that we need plastic in our lives, but we need to change the way we dispose of it... Less plastic needs to be made and more of it recycled or we could witness the extinction of some of the world's most loved species. Do you recycle all that you can? What could you do to help? Mrs Legg, a geography teacher at Oaklands Catholic School states: 'the world generates 3.5 million tonnes of plastic waste a day and only 32% is recycled in the U.K. We must act now.'

Oaklands Catholic School now has a green recycling bin in every classroom.

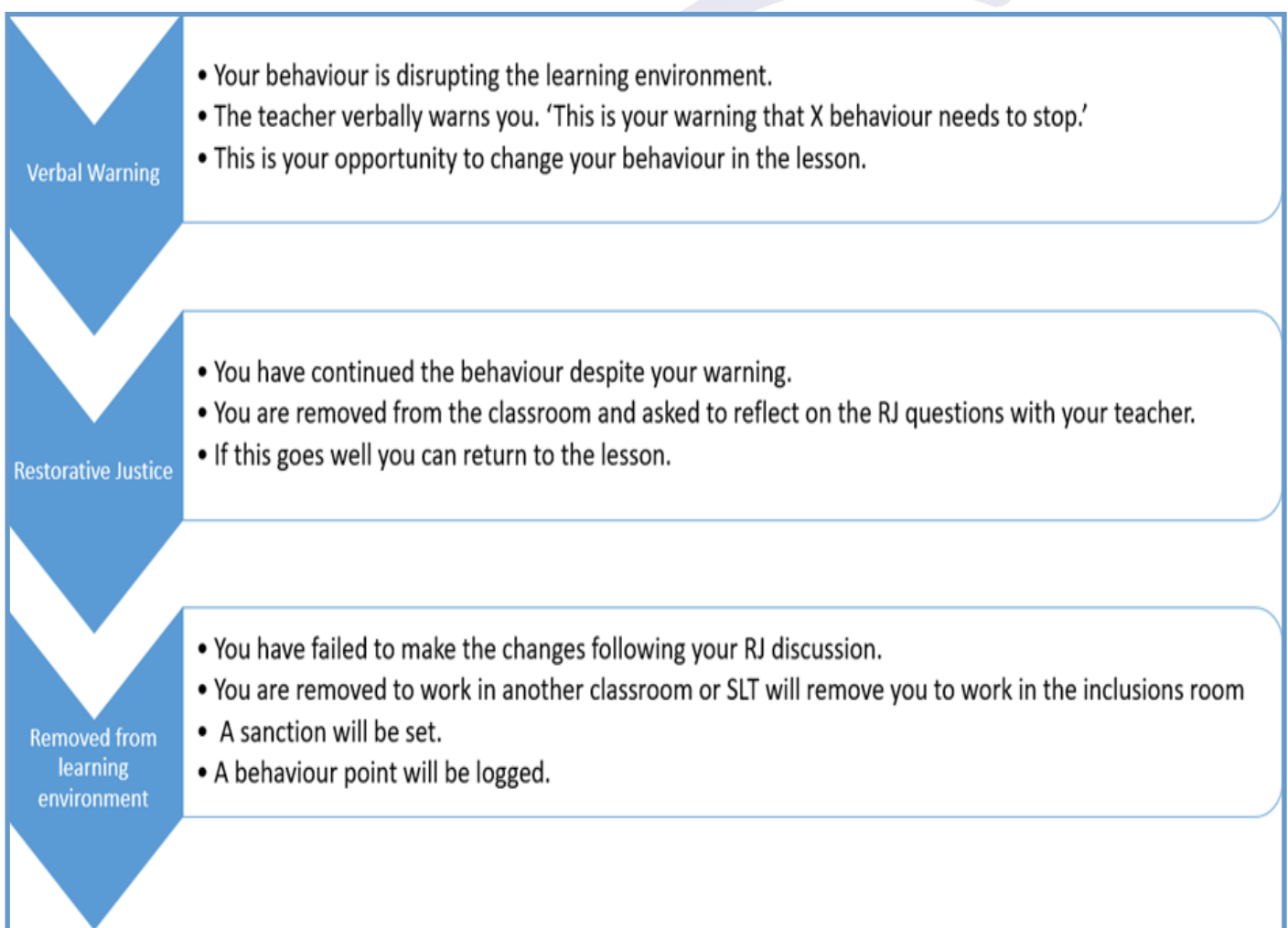
Iona Lingham, Year 8

Restorative Justice

Over the last two years we have embedded 'The Oaklands Way' with both staff and students. 'The Oaklands Way' is intended to maintain high standards and expectations around teaching and learning and provide a consistent approach across the school.

In September we launched 'Restorative Justice' as part of 'The Oaklands Way'. Restorative Justice helps all members of our community reflect on how our actions impact on others and ourselves. This has been particularly valuable when students disrupt the learning of others in lessons as it encourages them to have a conversation with the teacher that not only helps them to accept responsibility for their part in the disruption but it also allows staff to help support the students to move forward and break down any potential barriers to learning.

After half term we are implementing an addition to the classroom procedures which will further embed this approach

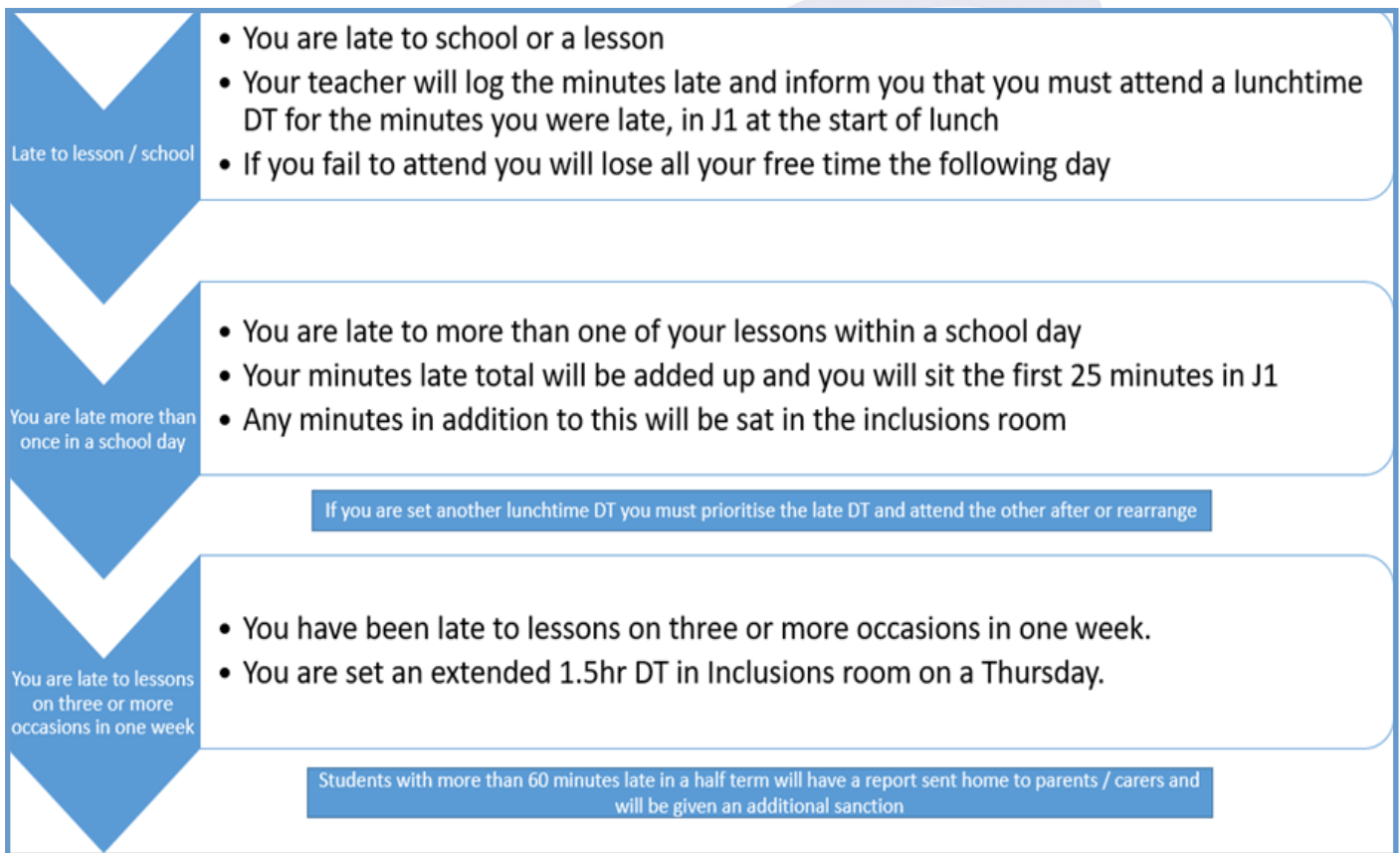


This will allow there to be clear and consistent boundaries for all students in their lessons but will also ensure 'Restorative Justice' is used as an early intervention to help support students back into the learning environment. Students have two opportunities to modify any poor learning behaviours before any behaviour point is logged on our system. It also means that students know that expectations are the same across the school and disruptive behaviour will not be tolerated.

Punctuality

Punctuality to school and lessons is vital if students want to get the best possible outcomes from their time in education. If a student is late to a lesson it means valuable learning time is being missed, but it also disrupts the flow of lessons and therefore has a detrimental effect on all students in that classroom.

We have been sanctioning students on a weekly basis using late minutes detentions and for the most part these have been very effective in getting students to learn to arrive on time. However, due to the nature of the late minutes detention, the sanction can often be sat two weeks after the lateness has occurred and it then loses its impact with the students. We are going to trial a new system after half term.



We are hopeful that this will have a greater impact on the students as they will see a more immediate consequence for their poor punctuality. We will also send home a minutes late report to parents/ carers for anyone who has 60 minutes plus within a half term so that you can support us in encouraging good patterns of punctuality.

Thank you for your continued help and support.

Mrs Bonnington

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College secures a further £1.7 million grant to improve our facilities

Once again Oaklands has been very successful in securing a Capital Improvement Fund grant from the Department of Education to carry out essential condition and compliance work in our Oscar Romero Main Hall block.

The work will include improvements to the condition of this important school hub building through the replacement of damaged and leaking roofing, replacing old and unserviceable ventilation and new double glazed doors and windows.



The students and staff changing and shower areas will be totally refurbished and fitted with modern facilities. Other improvements will be made through the replacement of some flooring and compliance works to improve fire and electrical safety.

This latest grant brings the total funding we have received direct from the DofE over the past four years to nearly £4 million. This has included the full external and internal refurbishment of our Newman Teaching Block and vital improvements to lighting and heating control throughout the school.

Capital projects of this nature are vital in order that we can maintain a safe and increasingly environmentally sustainable school which enhances the teaching and learning for our staff and students.

In order to be successful in securing this level of capital funding the school has to make contributions towards the cost and much of this comes through the generous donations made by parents and friends of the school to the Governors' School Development Fund.

If you would like to find out more about how you can contribute to the Governor's School Development Fund then please contact the Finance Office finance@oaklandscatholicschool.org or phone the school reception.

Initial planning and design meetings have already taken place and contractors will begin to set up on site during half term. Work will start later in June and will continue during the summer holidays.

We will continue to keep you updated on the progress of this exciting project.

Mr Finch
Director of Business and Finance

Eddie Henbury, a Chemical Engineer, from Exxon Mobil paid a visit to the Science Department on Thursday 8th May 2019 and four lucky Year 10 and 11 classes were enthralled by his exciting, interactive talk with fire burning and explosive demonstrations.

Eddie gave students an insight into how crude oil is made over millions of years, the wide range of products that it is used for and also explained how Exxon Mobil are constantly striving to make their processes more environmentally friendly. It was interesting to see how technical materials and innovative products are often created or designed by observations of living organisms and to understand that the process requires determination and persistence. Eddie made many of the pieces of equipment used and so he was able to explain to students that he had refined them through trial and error.....and a few disasters!

Some of the highlights from the sessions included:

- Flames, dancing to the beat of music
- An LED fan to create moving holographic images
- Farts as fuel – the explosive power of a ‘sneaky one’
- Vortex flames using a turntable and old waste paper basket
- Generating ‘lightning’ with a Tesla Coil

Eddie was able to contextualise some of the curriculum that KS4 students have been learning and its importance in understanding products that we use in everyday life. He also raised awareness of how technology has changed our lives. There was no shortage of volunteers, who jumped at the opportunity to light whoosh bottles, play with light sabers powered by wireless energy transfer and even get wet in a hydrogel water challenge.

At lunchtime, a group of KS3 students from STEM Club and some interested in STEM careers were also treated to demonstrations and Year 12 Chemistry students were invited to chat to Eddie about careers in his field.

The Science department would like to thank Exxon Mobil and Eddie for a fantastic day and are looking forward to another visit next year.

James, Year 11 – *“A great way to revise organic chemistry”*

Emily, Year 11 – *“It was fun – 5 stars!”*

Sean, Year 11 - *“It was smashing, a great way to end our year in Science”*

Sam, Year 11 - *“Some of the equipment we saw was interesting but especially the fan LED”*



Since the last report all of our groups at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels have been working towards the completion of their Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections. I am delighted that at both Bronze and Silver levels most participants have now finished these (Gold always takes longer as some sections last for 12 months). This means that once the expeditions have been undertaken Awards can be finally approved.

The expedition season is well and truly underway with both Gold and Silver practice expeditions taking place on Dartmoor and in the New Forest respectively during the Easter holidays.

The assessed expeditions for these groups will take place on Exmoor and the Isle of Purbeck in July.



Heading over the stepping stones on Dartmoor

Our four Bronze groups successfully completed their training/practice weekend in May on the South Downs, camping at Clanfield Scout Campsite. Their assessed expedition takes place in June, again on the South Downs camping on the Bereleigh Estate north of East Meon. We expect all groups to be successful as their navigation and campcraft was good on the practice weekend.



Group 2 - Ready to go!



Group 1 - On their route ... not lost yet!



Group 4 - Taking a break in Chalton



Group 3 - Cooking their dinner in camp

In March the local Presentation Evening was held at Oaklands with 350 guests attending to see participants presented with their Awards at all three levels. Congratulations to all those who completed Awards last year and we look forward to seeing all our current participants being recognised for their achievement next year.

Year 9 students should look out for announcements about meetings to learn about the Award how you can get involved during the next half term.

Summer Music Concert

SUMMER PERIPATETIC MUSIC CONCERT

**THURSDAY 13 JUNE 2019
7.00PM IN THE SCHOOL HALL**

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



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

FREE ENTRY - ALL WELCOME !



The OPA Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 3 June at 7.30pm and all parents, carers and staff at the school are invited to attend. The treasurer will present a financial overview of funds raised and how these have been spent and the Acting Chair will outline plans for next year. An election will be held for various positions within the Committee.

If you are unable to attend, there are still ways you can support the OPA:

- Donate or buy Nearly New Uniform. Every penny raised goes to the school. Please bring in any good quality, freshly laundered school uniform to the White House Reception or along to the Nearly New Uniform Shop (see dates below).
We would particularly welcome donations of blazers, new-style PE kit and smaller sizes.
- Enter the monthly 50/50 Club Prize Draw. Half the funds raised goes to the school and the other half goes into the draw. The more members we have the bigger the fund!
Congratulations to recent winners Gemma Bonney (March) and Jason Alexander (April)
- If you see the refreshment table at a school event - Parents' Evenings, concerts, school production etc, please come over, say hello and buy a drink or a raffle ticket.
- Forward your email address to become a member of the A Team - volunteer helpers that serve the refreshments
- Donate a raffle prize

Please email us to find out more on OPA@oaklandscatholicschool.org.

Dates for your Diary

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

7 June
3 June

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 3033

Email

lettings@oaklandscatholicschool.org

Scan our lettings QR Code





A School Trip



Locals using the School Library



The IT Suite

On this page we share with you some photographs from St John's School community.

These photos give us a snap shot of the life in the community, from the Passion/Palm Sunday celebration to the students preparing for exams. We also see the pupils in their lessons as well as on trips and how the local community use the school facilities.

In the next edition of Oaklands News, we will share with you some reflections from St John's and inform you how much money we have raised this academic year.

We thank you enormously for your continued support of this programme. We are making the world a better place, but most importantly we are putting our school's mission statement of Unity Community Opportunity into action; we are united in our faith in Jesus and the power of the Cross, we are also a community that strives to offer opportunities to all, so that all can realise their potential as children of God.



In the Exam Hall



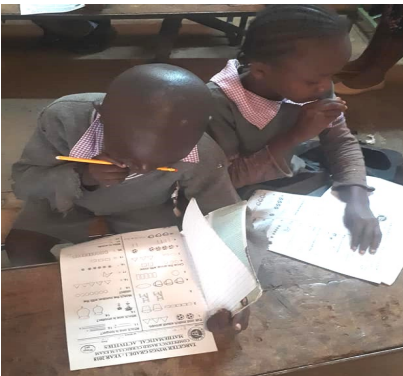
School Mass



New Classroom



Listening to Music



Thinking Hard



Palm Sunday Procession

From time to time students think it is amusing to post information on social media about their school or their staff. We are aware from speaking with other Headteachers, both locally and in other areas of the country, that Oaklands is not alone in being subjected to often libellous, derogatory and inappropriate comments. Much of this appears on Instagram under the title of a 'meme', although it is not limited to this platform.

Information posted on social media can be traced and there have been a number of successful prosecutions. You will no doubt be aware of the Government's drive to curb some of the negative elements of social media. Many youngsters do not realise that at the age of ten they are criminally responsible for their actions, be that physical or in the virtual world.

Whilst tracing the authors of these sites takes time, we will be relentless in working with social media organisations and the police. It is very easy to identify youngsters who follow or 'like' these sites; they are in effect condoning or supporting the information contained in them.

Oaklands' Governors will not differentiate between those who author sites and those who support them. Students who bring the school into disrepute and post inappropriate images and comments about staff can expect a robust response from the school. Where necessary this will include being excluded from the school community and if appropriate, permanently.

We would ask that you remind your child about the responsible use of social media, particularly Instagram. We thoroughly investigate social media posts that have been brought to our attention and a swift response can be expected by the school.

Thank you for your support.

Term Dates

Term Dates 2019/2020

**Autumn Term 2019
Half Term:**

Mon 2nd September to Fri 20th December
Mon 28th - Fri 1st November

**Spring Term 2020
Half Term:**

Mon 6th January to Fri 3rd April
Mon 17th - Fri 21st February

**Summer Term 2020
Half Term:**

Mon 20th April to Fri 17th July
Mon 25th May - Fri 29th May

INSET Days are as follows:

Monday 2nd September, Tuesday 3rd September
Friday 27th September, Friday 29th November,
Friday 20th December, Friday 17th July

Student Return:

Wed 4th September, phased return for Y7 & Y12
Thurs 5th September, all students to return

| Mon-Fri | 27-31 May | Half Term |
|-----------|-----------|---|
| Monday | 3 June | Year 7 Tests (all week) OPA Committee Meeting and AGM (7.30pm) |
| Thursday | 6 June | Year 12 Parents' Evening |
| Monday | 10 June | Governors' Business & Collaboration Committee Meeting |
| Wednesday | 12 June | SEN Parents' Evening (5.00pm) |
| Thursday | 13 June | Art Exhibition (5.00pm) Peripatetic Music Concert (7.00pm) |
| Monday | 17 June | Year 10 Professional Day Governors' Ethos Committee Meeting |
| Tuesday | 18 June | Year 10 Southdowns College/Sixth Form Taster Day |
| Wednesday | 19 June | Year 10 Professional Day Year 11 Prom |
| Thursday | 20 June | Year 10 Practice Exams (to 27 June) Year 8 Reports Home |
| Monday | 24 June | Challenge Week |
| Friday | 28 June | Inset Day - School Closed |
| Monday | 1 July | Year 12 Exams (all week) OPA Committee End of Year Celebration Year 10 Geography Field Trip |
| Tuesday | 2 July | Year 10 Geography Field Trip |
| Wednesday | 3 July | Year 10 Geography Field Trip Year 7 Reports Home |
| Thursday | 4 July | Year 10 Practice Interviews Year 10 Post 16 Information Evening (7.00pm) |
| Friday | 5 July | Year 10 Practice Interviews |
| Wednesday | 10 July | Sixth Form Taster Day Year 9 Reports Home Full Governors Meeting |
| Thursday | 11 July | Sports Day |
| Friday | 12 July | New Year 7 Induction Day |
| Monday | 15 July | New Year 7 Parents' Induction Evening (7.00pm) |
| Tuesday | 16 July | Year 10 Exam Grades and Summer Work Home Year 12 Exam Grades Home |
| Thursday | 18 July | Last Day of Term |
| Friday | 19 July | Inset Day—School Closed |

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



OAKLANDS CATHOLIC SCHOOL
AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY AN EXHIBITION OF

THURSDAY 13TH JUNE 2019

5-7PM IN THE GYM