

No 431

July 2019

# Oaklands News

Erasmus Trip to Portugal  
Challenge Week  
Year 11 Prom

A publication for  
Oaklands Catholic School  
and Sixth Form College



## Lead Stories



# Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Colleagues often asked me, "What is the most memorable thing that has occurred this year in school?" I am spoilt for choice, from success on the sports field, through to the school production of Half a Sixpence; then there was our successful Section 48 Validation and Oaklands winning a £1.7m refurbishment bid. Many of these events have been captured in previous editions of Oaklands News.

The end of the school year is a point to mark. Our Year 11 and Year 13 have already gone and for some families, mainly for reasons of relocation, be it a house move or a new job, it is the end of their time with us. For the staff, it is the end of their ministry for another year as they take a well-earned break. When we come to the end of anything, we can have many emotions. We certainly can feel sad that something that was good for us and for so many, and meant so much, now pauses and for some it ends. Tomorrow will not be like yesterday any more, we can feel a real sorrow in our loss.

There can also be a feeling of fear as the future will look different and in ways that will be new. Year 9 start their GCSE courses, Year 10 and Year 12 approach the final bend of the race. The uncertainty of tomorrow can make us anxious because it will be something we have not seen or experienced before.

So how do we deal with all this as a people of faith? As a Catholic school community, this has always been a fundamental question for everything we do. It is what makes us different from other schools.

That is why, as a people of faith, we need to turn to the Word of God because God always has something to say to us that we need to hear. Our faith is that God never leaves us. He never has to take a lunch break, go on holiday, move house, have time off for the summer break, nor does he retire. In fact, in sending his Son Jesus to suffer and die on the cross, he proves that even though he is God, he is even more with us in any of our anxieties, pain or frustrations.

### A Busy Year ...

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

Earlier this year I was delighted to see students attending the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award ceremony at Buckingham Palace. Over the summer we have students and staff visiting Iceland, please keep them in your prayers.

If you have followed Oaklands News over the year you will have read about the numerous and varied range of activities and events that have taken place including our successful Section 48 Validation. There have been a number of trials as well, home school transport continues to vex the school. A number of bus routes are no longer financially viable which has resulted in a number of painful decisions. In the final analysis the responsibility to transport students to and from school is a parental one. In many areas where local bus services have been withdrawn or curtailed, local communities have banded together to find a solution, this may be worth consideration in the future.

## **Student Success ...**

It has been a pleasure this year to receive students who have made exceptional progress in the classroom, overcome adversity or represented the school. For the sixth year in a row I have written to almost 400 families offering congratulations and recognising their child's endeavours at school. It has also been a pleasure to award a Headteacher's Sapphire Reward Badge to two students for the work they have undertaken in the wider community.

So as this year draws to a close, it is always good to see prospective Year 12 students in school for their taster day and barbeque. A sobering reminder that the next academic year is just around the corner!

Finally, please take time to read this packed edition of Oaklands News, the term dates for 2019-2020 and other dates for the start of the year

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

**Mr Matthew Quinn**

## **Term Dates 2019/2020**

**Autumn Term 2019**  
**Half Term:** Mon 2nd September to Fri 20th December  
Mon 28th October - 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 - 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

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

## Farewells

At the end of this academic year, we say goodbye to the following colleagues who are moving on to pastures new. We would like to thank them for all they have done for the Oaklands Community and wish them well in the future.

**Mr Kevin Quinn** has been at Oaklands for five years. He is leaving to take promotion to Second in Maths at St Philip Howard Catholic High School in Barnham. Mr Quinn has helped with various events but will be remembered especially for running the kite surfing and wake boarding trips. The Department will miss his sense of humour and his hard work in the department.

**Mr Adam Keer** joined the Maths Department as an NQT in September 2015 and is leaving to join the Maths Department in The Petersfield School. Mr Keer has run the Year 6 Maths Challenges and has been a main stay on the Thorpe Park trips. He has also helped to run Operation Christmas Child (shoe boxes) at Oaklands. The Department will miss his drive for improvement and his many acts of kindness to both staff and students.

**Miss Alice Hounslow** joined the English Department in September 2016 and quickly became a committed and enthusiastic member of the team. She has developed a great interest in the pastoral element of teaching and will be sadly missed as a Senior Tutor in Year 9. The English Department will miss her passion for the subject and her commitment to helping students achieve their potential. Miss Hounslow is leaving to pursue a new career as a Senior Executive for Briscoe PR on the River Hamble.

**Mrs Kristiina Pennell** joined Oaklands in January 2017 and quickly established herself as the epitome of calm, organised efficiency. She has not only run Reprographics, but helps manage break and lunchtime duties and has always been available to help others when necessary; all on top of studying with the Open University. We will miss her cheerful personality and friendly smile. Mrs Pennell is starting Primary School Teacher Training in September.

**Mrs Karen Davies** has been our Cover Supervisor since March 2017. She has managed our valuable team of Cover Assistants to help with the smooth running of the school. Karen is leaving us to become a HLTA with Maths Specialism at Portsmouth Academy and we will miss her good sense of humour and her efficiency.

**Miss Alice Arnold** has been at Oaklands since March as a part time Learning Support Assistant. Throughout this short time she has been able to gain invaluable experience for her PGCE which she starts in September. The SEN Department will miss her and the History Department have been grateful for her subject knowledge and support of students in this subject.

**Miss Anna Ludlam** has been at Oaklands during the summer term as a part time temporary Learning Support Assistant. During this time she has been a great support to the SEN Department and to the students she has worked with. We wish her well for her midwifery course in September.

## IT Donations

Have you ever wondered where the old school IT equipment ends up?

We are proud to work with IT Schools Africa and donate most of our old stock to them. The company uses our old kit to help bring IT to schools in Africa who would never get it without donations.

Our most recent donations includes the old WIFI solution and virtual desktops as well as equipment that was not reused in the Newman Block refurbishment.



Oaklands Year 11 students enjoyed their Prom at the Marriott Hotel in Portsmouth on Wednesday 19 June.

The leavers' event saw large crowds gathering outside the hotel to watch over 200 students arrive in a fantastic range of vehicles, some more unusual than others.

The arrivals posed for pictures before walking along the red carpet to enjoy their evening meal together. They were joined by their Head of Year, Mrs Mitchell, Year 11 Form Tutors and many other teachers who have supported them for the past five years.

After dinner speeches saw awards handed out to Prom night guests, and winners included:

- Best Male Sportsperson** - Patrick Bonner
- Best Female Sportsperson** - Emma Mack
- Most Creative Student** - Maria Krolik
- Funniest Student** - Jacob Shucksmith
- Kindest Male Student** - Paulson Shaiju
- Kindest Female Student** - Lucy Dowie
- Hardest Working Student** - Ah Vong Ho Knit Chong
- Most Improved Student** - Oliver Perkins
- Most Likely to become Prime Minister** - Francisco Booth
- Most Likely to make a Scientific Discovery** - Harry Upton
- Most Likely to win an Oscar** - Sam Farrugia
- Most Likely to become famous for their musical talent** - Doh Doggimma

As you can see from this selection of pictures, everyone looked fantastic for their celebration and it was a wonderful way to end a year of hard work and examinations. We wish all the students good luck with their GCSE results and look forward to welcoming many of them back to Year 12 in September.



# Year 7 Challenge Week

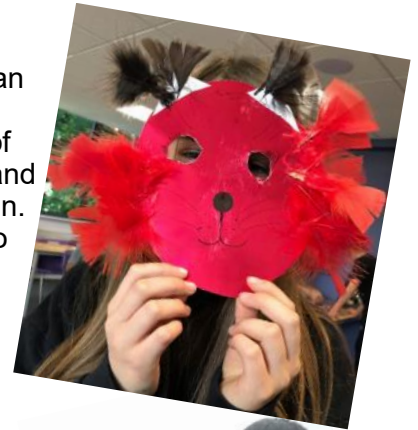
Challenge Week 2019...Year 7 Challenge Week 2019...Year 7

During Challenge Week, Year 7 took part in an array of activities surrounding creativity, culture and conservation. The week began with a trip to Marwell Zoo; exploring biodiversity, environmental conservation and the protection of various endangered species. All of the students observed each of the animals basking in the sunshine and explored the habitats and environments these animals normally live in. Our focus on conservation provided us with the perfect opportunity to consider what we as a society can do in order to protect our ecosystem and prevent these majestic animals from going extinct.

Throughout Tuesday to Thursday, the week continued with the theme of culture, creativity and conservation - the students had various opportunities to push their creativity to the limit by making animal masks, short stories and even their own wildlife documentary!

On Wednesday and Thursday, we were also joined by two African activities practitioners who taught a plethora of Ivorian and Senegalese dance and drumming styles. The students learnt how to move with traditional African music, make and create recycled instruments and use numerous different palm/hand movements for varied sounds. As well as this, Mrs Groucott and Mrs Berogna launched their ecobrick incentive, encouraging students to create ecobricks out of unwanted plastics in order to create Oaklands' very first ecobrick bench!

It truly was an enthralling week and the energy, enthusiasm and zeal that year 7 offered throughout made for a memorable and cultured challenge week. Bring on next year!



*'I enjoyed the change in Challenge Week as I found the concept of conservation and biodiversity extremely interesting. Learning about biodiversity was enjoyable - as well as thought -provoking and interesting - because it taught me a lot about how to reduce our carbon footprint. I also really liked the African drumming and dancing as I have only done it once before. It was intriguing to learn different hand movements and cultural dances from Senegal and Ivory Coast.'*

**Samuel, 7 St Martin**

*'I really enjoyed Challenge Week as it opened my eyes to threatened wildlife and the dangers they face. The best part of the week was going to Marwell Zoo because we got to see all the different animals, species and the habitats they live in. The information there helped me to understand the threats many of these animals face and what we can do to protect their natural habitat.'*

**Tori, St Martin**

*'In Challenge Week, I enjoyed going to Marwell Zoo and seeing all of the animals. It provided an opportunity to learn about the environment and accompanied our work around conservation. It was also really interesting to learn about the numerous cultures and countries of Africa - most of which contain endangered species we discussed throughout the week.'*

**Gregory, 7 St Martin**

## Year 8 Challenge Week

Over the course of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday groups of Year 8 students spent time in the Design and Technology Department learning about the mechanical systems involved in making rollercoasters and other rides. They worked together to make models to show these systems in action.

Everyday the Design and Technology team were impressed with the students' creativity, knowledge, understanding and ability to work in teams to create a massive array of working models.

The task of choosing a winning group was difficult with such a high standard of work on show from all groups.

After much deliberation the Design and Technology teachers awarded the prize to a big group of students who worked together really effectively to produce models of a number of rides.

The students in the group were:

Louie Murdy  
Sofia Doan  
Jessica Robinson  
Emile Hantrais-Smith

Hector Murray Grueso  
Gabriella Nash  
Ethan Whitty

On the Thursday students were able to see mechanical systems at work on rollercoasters and rides when they spent an enjoyable, hot and sunny day at Thorpe Park.



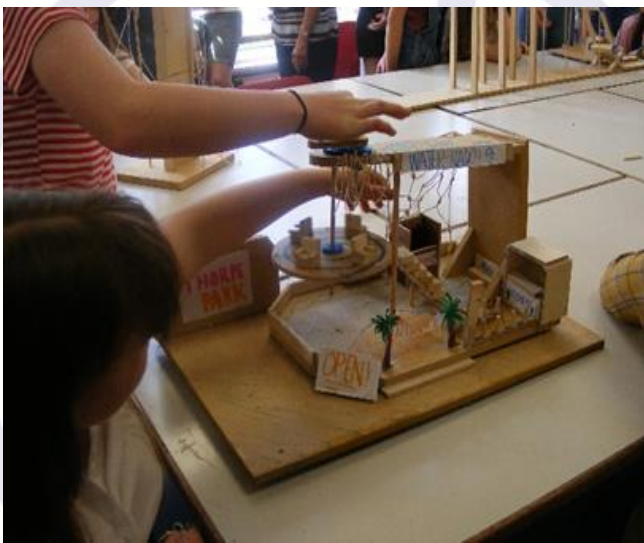
## Year 8 Challenge Week

This Challenge Week, Year 8s completed many STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and, Maths) related activities and challenges in school. I understand that there were some changes to it this year so that it had a much greater STEM focus. During the week, we had a carousel of activities and spent a day in each of the Maths, Science and Design departments. The week culminated in a trip to Thorpe Park where we were able to see many of the things that we had learnt about in the three days prior to the trip.

**Monday (Science)** - To start off the week, my group completed a forensic report and analysis of a fictitious murder that we investigated. Throughout the day we performed investigations including searching the crime scene and even dissecting a real sheep heart!



**Tuesday (Maths)** - During the second day, we attempted three different challenges: making the longest marble run (which my team won!), making the strongest bridge and protecting an egg from a two storey drop.



We also learnt some of the engineering and maths behind the rides at Thorpe Park and what would happen if they were not safe.

**Wednesday (Design)** - For the last day of challenge week on the school site, we made some theme park rides from wood and basic mechanisms. My group made three Thorpe Park style rides and put them together to form a working theme park with a roller coaster, a swing and a drop ride! This was probably my favourite day in school.

**Thursday (Thorpe Park)** - To finish off Challenge Week, we left school at 7.30am to travel to Thorpe Park. During the day, we explored the park in groups of our own choice. From water rides to record-holding roller coasters, we tried nearly every ride and enjoyed ourselves a lot!

Thank you to all the staff that helped out on all of the days and planned this week because everyone enjoyed every day of it. Particular thanks must go to Mr Geddes and Mrs Gildea for organising the week.

**Emile, 8 St Margaret**





## Year 8 Challenge Week

Challenge Week 2019...Year 8 Challenge Week 2019...Year 8 Challenge Week 2019...Year 8

During Challenge Week, about 40 Year 8 students travelled to St Aignan in France. We did many fun activities and had a fab week. The weather was incredible, and everyone had lots of fun.



On Monday we visited a Troglodyte Home also known as a Cave House. It was very interesting, and we also got to learn about and meet some silk worms. In the afternoon we visited a Chateau (castle) and listened to a recording about all the past uses of the rooms.

On Tuesday morning we visited a vineyard and wine factory and also got to taste some red and white wine. We learnt the proper way to taste wine and how to use our five senses while tasting it. In the afternoon we visited a chocolate factory and learnt how the



chocolate is made from a cocoa bean into the finished product. We also tasted some delicious chocolate of all different strengths of cocoa.

On Wednesday we visited the sweet and biscuit factories. In both we watched a video of how the products were produced and then we had a tour of the biscuit factory and got to make our very own sweet!

On Thursday we travelled to the local market and it was very interesting to see the similarities and differences of English and French markets. In the afternoon we went to the supermarket and bought some very healthy food and saw what French people eat on a day to day basis.

On Friday we went to the amazing Beauval Zoo, which is one of the best in France. It was huge and many of us enjoyed seeing the whole zoo from the sky by going in the cable cars!

Everyday we went to the local swimming pool which was loads of fun.

The weather throughout the week was incredible (42 degrees at some points) and many people came back with a tan!

We would like to say a huge thank you to Miss Mousdale, Miss Taylor, Mrs Gomez-Lopez, Mr Shaw, Mr Forster, Pete the bus driver and the centre staff and everyone else who made this amazing experience possible. Thank you for a fantastic week!



**Esther, 8 St Teresa**

## Year 9 Challenge Week

Challenge Week 2019...Year 9

Whilst the rest of our year stayed at school to experience their 'Island' activities, 79 Year 9 students attended camp at Tile Barn in the New Forest.

On Monday, we went on the climbing wall and then we did archery. After our lunch we did the short hike. The short hike was fun and very easy, it was to get us familiar with map reading and navigating. We then played games in the evening and burnt out all of our energy and we happy to get to bed!



On Tuesday we did crate stacking in the morning and then we did low ropes. Crate stacking was quite hard but it tested our team work skills. Low ropes involved our whole group working as a team and talking together to solve problems. On Tuesday afternoon we did nightline and mountain biking skills. Nightline was very funny, especially when watching the people with the blindfolds on.

On Wednesday, we all went out on the infamous long hike. My group were very speedy and finished it in under 3 hours. The weather was amazing and so were the views from the top of the few hills we climbed. It was nice to be out in the country side on our own. It was nice to have the freedom of the New Forest.

On Thursday, we helped to pack all of the equipment away and we also cleaned out our own tents. We had fish and chips for lunch which was really nice. We then drove home, all very tired but happy.

I would like to thank all the teachers that came on the camp and gave their time so that we could have a good week and who looked after us through the week. I would especially like to thank Mr Wade who organised the trip and led many of the meetings in school. The week was really fun and very different from anything that I have done in school before.

**Ruthie, 9 St Clare**



## Year 9 Challenge Week

I really enjoyed our last challenge week. Our week revolved around constructing a community stranded on an island following a cruise ship disaster. The scene was set on the first day as we were separated into different groups and planned out our community. We took part in a variety of activities like making flags, learning about how to formulate a constitution, a language translation activity where we had to crack a code and find clues around the school site. We also took part in sporting activities.

We went to Old Winchester Hill and Staunton on the second day with the Geography and History departments.

At Staunton we were orienteering around the park and completed a treasure hunt, where we had to find materials that would be crucial to our survival on the island. We learned how early settlers chose their site at Old Winchester Hill and Mr Bamford explained to us the Geography of the area as he talked about the formation of the dry valleys and how the chalk Downs were created.

On Wednesday, we travelled to Southampton to visit a Sikh place of worship with the RE Department. We learnt the history behind their religion and it was very interesting. After that they gave us all a free meal which included of lentil stew, rice and chapatti bread; it was really good. Before we went to Southampton, we had a talk with a person from the Salvation Army, which was informative.

Experiencing people with other values and beliefs was thought provoking and something I wasn't necessarily expecting from the week.

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

On behalf of the Year 9, I would like to thank the teachers who made the week happen, without them we would not have had such an amazing memorable week. I would like to thank Mr Bamford and Mrs Barfoot in particular as they organised the whole week for us.

**Seren, 9 St Clare**



## From the Chair of Governors

As ever, July is when we say farewell to students in Years 11 and 13 who are going on to further education away from Oaklands, entering the work place or just taking time for themselves having worked so hard to get to where they are today. I congratulate every one of you and wish you all the very best for the continuing adventure ahead.

We also say farewell to several staff members who are leaving the Oaklands community. It is an honour to speak on behalf of the Board of Governors and thank them for their dedication and support to the school and the students irrespective of how long or how short their time at the school has been. We wish you all every success.

Finally, we have also said goodbye to three Governor colleagues, Tess Pritchard, Vicki Bartolo and Andy Hastilow. Each have had long associations with the school; indeed, Vicki and Andy were here as students. Many will also know Andy to have been my predecessor as Chair of Governors and I pay particular thanks to him for his stewardship during some trying times in recent years and for his mentorship before and after I took over as Chair. I know all will retain a special place in their hearts.

As Governors depart, we are always on the lookout for new Governors to join us; contributing their professional skills and personal passion to the continuing developing of the school. If you might be interested in taking on a role in School Governance, then do please get in contact with either me or Mr Quinn through the Clerk to the Governors, [C.Colley@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto:C.Colley@oaklandscatholicschool.org), to discuss the requirement in more detail.

Earlier this year the school was assessed as outstanding in all areas during the Section 48 Inspection. A key headline, among numerous plaudits, was that Oaklands provides 'an outstanding Catholic education rooted in an exceptional commitment to Catholic Social Teaching.' This is absolutely what we aspired for and, combined with last year's Ofsted inspection, underlines just how good a school Oaklands is and how very fortunate we all are to be involved with this school in every sense. The assessment was richly deserved, and my thanks go to all staff and students who demonstrated in abundance all that makes Oaklands the school it is.

If you've visited the school recently, you may have seen that work has begun on the renovation of Romero Block. This is the latest phase in a programme of work that has seen some £3M invested in the school over the past 3 years to refurbish classrooms, toilets & bathrooms; re-roof, re-clad, replace windows and improve lighting & heating controls in some of our older buildings. The school is a much better place for all of this and looking ahead, we are moving forward with the project to install a proper athletics track and 3G football pitch.

The Governors are passionate about making sure the students have the best facilities that allow them to fulfil their potential and which gives them a learning environment of which they are proud. We can only do this with your continued support. A good number of parents and carers already generously donate a small sum monthly to the Governors' School Development Fund, which is how we contribute to the overall cost of funding these projects. As students have left the school, the level of investment to the Fund has tapered off and while we advertise the Fund to the new Year 7 Parents, I do invite any parent or carer in any year who may wish to help the ongoing improvement of the facilities in the school to consider contributing to the Fund; details are available in the Parents' section of the school website and I am being very truthful when I say every little bit really does help.

So as Academic Year 2019/20 draws to a close, we should all look forward to a pleasant and well-earned summer break. I look forward to seeing you all again in September.

With Kindest Regards

**Marc Evans**

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May four of our successful Gold participants went to Buckingham Palace to receive their Awards in the presence of HRH Prince Michael of Kent. Many congratulations to them on this outstanding achievement which has required dedication, determination and perseverance.



Chris Sumner, Morgan Dryhurst, Judy Quinn and Jessica Collins in the palace grounds and Chris, Judy and Morgan with their certificates.

Sadly another four of our successful Gold participants – Eliza McMaster, Francesca Parris, Ben Strutt and Tom Sullivan - were unable to attend this celebration due to their examination schedules. However we hope that they too will enjoy a memorable day out at St James' Palace later in the year to receive their certificates.

## Girls' Football Success

Congratulations to our girl's football team who recently came joint first in the Girls' World Cup Festival - a great achievement!

Well done to Deborah, Kaite, Katie-Ann, Leila, Katie, Lizzy and Grace.



## from the chaplain...

When we returned to school after half term, we were still in the season of Easter as Pentecost approached at the beginning of June. Following on from this amazing celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Church continued to celebrate a whole host of feasts days, including the Most Holy Trinity, Corpus Christi and then the great Apostles Saints Peter and Paul. Only at the beginning of July did we return to what is known as 'Ordinary Time' within the Church; the priests returned to green vestments on Sundays for the first time since the middle of February!

Returning to Ordinary Time can seem like we just return to normal after all the celebrations of Easter and Pentecost. Ordinary sounds regular and mundane and yet, we are called to live an EXTRA-ordinary life! Having celebrated Easter, believing in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, and answering His call to be a disciple means that our lives are never just ordinary. Life with Christ is a vibrant and exciting journey, full of joy and the strength to overcome all challenges... far from mundane!

~

Life in the Chaplaincy has been very busy over the last few weeks! We began the half term by leading the music at the Annual Schools Mass at the Cathedral, celebrated by Bishop Philip. Over twenty students from Oaklands joined with students from schools all across the Diocese for a very joyful Mass. Certificates for the Romero Award were also presented to many schools by Bishop Philip during this Mass. Year 7 then had their pilgrimage to the Cathedral, which was a great day! (See article for more details).

We've also had a couple of wonderful celebrations of Mass during lunchtime in the school Chapel, with students voluntarily coming along to pray for particular intentions and students known to them who are in need of our prayers. Masses have also been followed by sharing doughnuts together... food for the soul and the body!

Over the summer holidays, along with two students, I will be joining with the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Josie (Year 10) and Mylenna (Year 9) have been sponsored by very generous donors to help them participate in this fantastic opportunity. We will travel overnight by coach to Lourdes, where we will meet up with the other pilgrims. While in the beautiful sanctuary, we will explore more about the Spirituality of Lourdes, whilst helping the pilgrims (pushing wheelchairs, serving at meal times etc.), as well as having plenty of fun and yummy French cuisine! Please keep us in your prayers, and if you have any prayer requests or intentions please do let me know and we will take them with us to Our Lady. Also, keep up-to-date with all our antics on the Chaplaincy Instagram [@oaklands.chaplaincy](https://www.instagram.com/oaklands.chaplaincy)

Looking ahead to next year, I look forward to sharing Youth Alpha with Year 8 as part of their RE lessons, as well as hosting a Mission Day for each year group throughout the year, with guest speakers and exciting presentations. Watch this space!

I wish you a very happy and peaceful summer holiday. I hope you all find time to rest and relax with family and friends, as well as enjoy some sunshine. Please be assured of my prayers.

***"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."***

***(Matthew 11:28-30)***



## Year 7 Pilgrimage

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June, the whole of Year 7, accompanied by their tutors and RE teachers, set off for St John's Catholic Cathedral, the 'Mother Church' of our Diocese and the home of our Bishop, Philip.

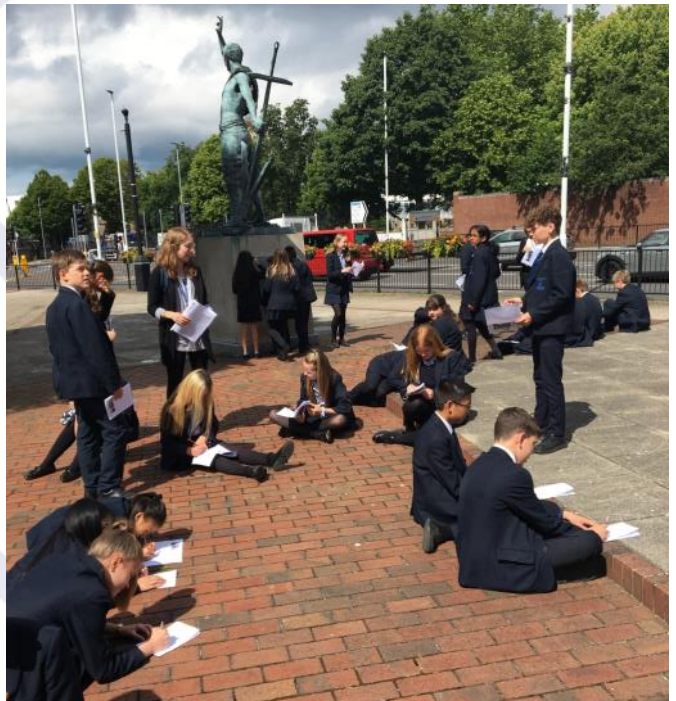
The primary purpose of the pilgrimage is to make a special journey, which reflects our own personal, spiritual journey towards God. But it is also a celebration of all that our Year 7s have achieved during their first year at Oaklands.

During our time at the Cathedral, the students learnt about many features of the beautiful building, as well as exploring their own faith and more about the richness of our Catholic tradition. We then joined with the cathedral parish for Mass at 12.15pm; this was a joyful celebration, during which our students led the readings and the prayers, as well as enthusiastically joining in with the singing!

Unfortunately, we all got absolutely soaked in a terrible storm on our way back to school, but it didn't dampen our spirits; it reminded us that we all experience difficulties in the storms of this life, but when we journey with God we are always kept safe.

To finish our day, we had a special guest come to visit us from 'Aid to the Church in Need', a fantastic charity who help and support the suffering and persecuted Church across the world. Having made their own special journey in the morning, Year 7 then heard about some very different journeys; those made by persecuted Christians in Iraq fleeing conflict and violence. All the students put themselves in the shoes of a real person and had to make the difficult decision of staying or leaving their home in search of safety. It was a very interesting and thought-provoking afternoon!

Having journeyed with the Year 7s during their first year here at Oaklands, it was a really joy to travel with them to the Cathedral! We are all very proud of you.



## Careers News

This half term has been very busy for careers events. Year 10 have focussed on thinking about their futures and have had a chance to work with Talk the Talk to help them present themselves particularly thinking about interviews. They have had college and sixth form taster experiences and really enjoyed these. Then they had a carousel of activities where they got to learn about money management, career research, finding out about apprenticeships, the armed forces careers in the Royal Navy, University and further interview information. The careers opportunities finished for them with the mock interviews where they made us very proud as they looked great and we had fantastic reports from the interviewers. Please ask your son/daughter about their feedback.

Year 7 and 8 had a STEM roadshow presentation where they learnt about Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths and how they contribute to our modern communication. They took part in interactive activities and had great fun.

### Year 10 Professional Day

We had a chance to visit different talks throughout the day. We got the opportunity to go to a Forces Talk, apprenticeship talk or a university talk. We were also taught about money and saving. It was a great day and helped us learn about our options in the future.

**Jemima, 10 St Clare**

A day of learning about various aspects of working life through taking part in different workshops. These included a workshop about taxes, loans and handling money, talks about post-16 options, eg further education, apprenticeships and the armed forces, an opportunity to research career options and a workshop about how you should dress and present yourself at an interview. These useful activities helped Year 10 to think about their future.

**Isabella, 10 St Clare**

Having a man come into school to tell us about interviews really boosted my confidence because it helped me understand what type of questions they would be asking and helped with the type of replies I had to give. Also it helped me find out about the types of jobs there may be in the future and gave me an idea of what I want to be.

**Annie, 10 St Teresa**

### Oaklands Sixth Form Taster Day

We had the opportunity to look around the Sixth Form and choose which A Level subjects we would like to try out. Each session included an overview of the A Level course, what the exams would include and a chance to take part in an interesting lesson.

**Isabella, 10 St Clare**

I went to the Oaklands Sixth Form Taster Day and really enjoyed it because I really thought it helped me understand what life would be like in a sixth form environment. When I went for the Taster Day, I took subjects which I would ideally choose in my options for A Level, which are Law, Psychology and History. The taster/trial day helped me a lot as it felt as if I was in the Sixth Form for a day so I really did feel what a college would be like.

**Lorne, 10 St Teresa**

### Year 10 Practice Interviews

To me the mock interviews were really useful as it gave me an idea of what an interview would be like in the future. It has really boosted my confidence for the future interviews I may have.

**Emma, 10 St Dominic**

We had the chance to have a mock interview and were able to dress up in interview clothing for the day. It was very helpful in practising our interview skills.

**Jemima, 10 St Clare**



## Careers News

### Year 7 and Year 8 STEM Roadshow

A few weeks ago, a small group of STEM Ambassadors presented an assembly to us. It contained fun games such as racing the spheres (mechanically programmed balls) and testing out night goggles. It was very interesting and packed with information and inspired me to further research STEM careers.

**Evie, 7 St Dominic**

### Southern Universities Network

Earlier this year, the school received funding from Southern Universities Network (SUN) who run outreach projects with schools and colleges. SUN are currently focussing on the opinions of Y9-13 students in order to help raise the number of youngsters in the South who stay in education post-18.



Part of this funding was allocated to a small group of Year 10 students (Emily, Heather and Thara) to carry out a research project. The girls invented a careers-based survey which was circulated to all students at Oaklands via Show My Homework. Twelve other schools in the area also took part and the final event and presentation of the year took place on 26th June at Southampton University. The Oaklands Team won first prize for their survey and the amount of responses and were awarded £2,000 for the Careers Department.

*The SUN young researchers project provided us with valuable life skills such as communication and collaboration. It gave us something to put on our CV and helped us develop our public speaking skills*

**Heather, 10 St Dominic**

*We signed up to SUN to better our CVs and ran focus groups to create a survey with SUN. Through this we were invited to a presentation with the Department of Education and have been further invited to the Department of Education's Autumn Annual Conference.*

**Emily, 10 St Dominic**

*SUN young researchers had meetings at Fairthorne Manor every month or so, where we either prepared or discussed our findings. Our school had the most replies to the survey created which meant a prize was won for the careers department*

**Thara, 10 St Dominic**



Geography students in Year 10 visited East Wittering and West Wittering on either the Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday after Challenge Week, as part of their Geography course. This was a valuable trip for us, as we will be examined on our fieldwork experiences in a GCSE paper at the end of Year 11.

In the morning we all took the coach down to West Wittering, where we examined the effect that longshore drift had on the beach. We mainly focused on the groynes there: they trap the sediment carried from longshore drift and help to build up the beach. We measured the drops from the top of each of the groynes to beach level on either side to see if they were working effectively. We also learnt about how managers have protected the coast in that location over the years.



I found it strange that decision makers have opted to abandon the hard management strategies at the Hinge – the most vulnerable part of the spit. The sea is already eroding this area and I am not sure that it will develop into a wider and shallower beach, which is what they are hoping to happen. I wouldn't be surprised if the sea breaches the spit in the not too distant future.



After our lunch break, we travelled to East Wittering where we completed a human geography study.

Our aim was to ascertain whether tourism is important to the economy of East Wittering. In order to make this judgement, we conducted a questionnaire survey in which we asked members of the public where they were from, how long they were staying and which facilities they would be using.

In addition, we conducted a land use survey of the area to attempt to determine the importance of tourism to the local economy (i.e. was there a high proportion of buildings that cater primarily for tourists, rather than locals?).

We enjoyed the trip and we look forward to completing the associated follow-up work.

**Emily, 10 St Dominic**

The after school gardening club started in early 2018 using the garden next to the driveway. The area had not been used for a number of years and the first job was to clear the brambles and weeds to see what we had to work with. Various beds emerged and plans began to take shape.

During the first year potatoes, runner beans and rhubarb were successful and we harvested fruit from the established trees. Later in the year, with the help of additional student volunteers, we were able to replace the rotten planters and re-organise the area. We decided to have a stall at the Christmas Fayre and using produce from the garden made a range of preserves and baked goods, which we sold to raise funds for further seeds, bulbs and compost. Our aim is to be self-sustaining and to raise money ourselves to fund the cost of stock and equipment.

This year has been very successful so far with the growing of onions, mange tout, broad beans, red and black currants and herbs which have been sold to staff. We still have fruit and potatoes to harvest later on and hope to have a stall again this year at the fayre.

The keen volunteers come along on a Thursday evening after school and at present are from Year 7 and Year 10. Some have an interest in gardening and the outdoors and others use it as a volunteering or skills experience for the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme.

The group would like to thank a few people who have kindly donated plants, equipment, topsoil or volunteered time – Mr Quinn, Mrs Brettell, Mrs Osborne, Mr Parker (Governor) and Mr Colley (Governor).

We have our first Oaklands competition underway and staff are anxiously waiting to see who will be the winner of the Oaklands Staff Sunflower Competition!

In the future we would like to enter local competitions and build on achievement with the RHS Gardening for Schools scheme. We would love to welcome new volunteers and if any students think they might be interested please pop in to see me in the White House.

## Mrs Colley



*The gardening club is such a brilliant idea and gives me something to occupy myself with. The garden has produced lots of fruit and veg recently, which were sold to staff to help plant more for next year. I have helped in the garden in many different ways such as watering planting and picking. It is great to have the garden that we can work in and it is also great how we have Mrs Colley to head up the club.*  
**Hannah, 7 St Margaret**

*I signed up for gardening as my volunteering for my Duke of Edinburgh. We have planted vegetables and herbs as well as flowers and fruits and have transformed the school garden. At the last Christmas fair we used produce from the garden to make scones and cakes and sold them to raise funds to put back into the garden.*

**Emily, 10 St Dominic**

*I've enjoyed helping in the school garden. My favourite jobs were picking apples and putting straw around the strawberry plants. Helping on the stall at the Christmas Fayre was fun and we raised a nice amount of money.*

**Cerys, 7 St Dominic**

## Young Carers

Here at Oaklands we are very open about our more relaxed definition of a young carer. A local, community-based young carers group may be restricted by venue (both size and availability), supervision numbers and funding. We, however, are lucky enough to have a venue which is big enough to hold large numbers, staff who are ever-so generous with their time and the opportunity to hold a lunchtime group, and this means we can welcome not only the 60+ young carers we recognise here at school, but also their friends. We strongly believe our young carers appreciate that we allow them to bring friends along, and the Sports hall is often buzzing with activity as badminton, basketball, cricket and handball games vie for space. Staff can typically be found cowering in the corner, trying to finish their lunch before it gets knocked from their hands by an errant shuttlecock!



As much as these activity groups are a needed and welcome opportunity for fun for our young carers, it is also important to find time to sit and talk with them. *How are things at home? How is little brother/sister getting on?* I had the opportunity for plenty of these chats during the Easter Holidays as I was joined by three young carers and an assortment of volunteering staff to walk the Solent Way, a 60-mile route between Milford on Sea and Emsworth. The three students did remarkably well, covering the distance in good time, keeping smiles on their faces and representing their school, their families and young carers everywhere in the best possible way. Over £1000 was raised for the young carers group, a terrific amount and something they should be incredibly proud of.

We've had other fundraising endeavours this year, including the much-loved staff curry night at the Shalimar in Waterlooville. Regulars of the restaurant will agree that the food is always top-notch, but the generosity of the owners to allow us to hold the evening, our second one now, is always hugely appreciated. The young carers group was also one of Waitrose' three charities of the month in May and we took home a staggering £729, the largest total ever given by the Waterlooville branch.

This fundraising helps us to keep offering valuable opportunities to our young carers. As always, we've been ice skating at Christmas and to the Young Carers Festival this summer, but we've also been able to offer some of our young carers the opportunity to complete a First Aid course, giving them valuable skills which will benefit them not only in their caring role, but also later in life. Ensuring that our young carers leave Oaklands as ready as they can be for life after school is a vital part of our role here and is a responsibility we cherish.

My personal thanks go to all of the staff who have generously given up their time and efforts this academic year. Mrs Jones, Mr Turner, Mrs Hardaker, Mrs Gomez Lopez, Miss Gooch, Mr Gisby, Mr Olford, Mr Whitlock, Mrs Berogna, Mrs Nicholls, Mrs Whittingham and Mrs Harvey ... thank you for making our efforts possible.

Finally, some of our young carers have unfortunately had to deal with significant loss this academic year. We are, as always, here to offer them love and support, and our thoughts and prayers go with them into the summer holidays.

Yes, 2018-19 has been the busiest of years for the Young Carers group. Next year we look forward to offering the same support and opportunities to our existing and new young carers.

Have a great summer!

**Mr Richard Jones**



## Goodwood Trip

On Friday 5th July, Year 10 Design and Electronics students were fortunate enough to not only visit The Goodwood Festival of Speed but also attend the “Better by Design” seminar hosted by Dick Powell, co-founder of Seymour and Powell with speakers who are leaders in their specialist field.



The first speaker was Andrew Winch, founder of Winch Design, who designs private jets and yachts for the world's most prosperous clientele, designing and creating the interiors and exteriors to fit the client's bespoke requests for their transportation of choice. Andrew Winch's love of yachts began in his childhood years, spending summers sailing the Solent in his father's boat. Winch achieved a degree in 3D Design which he gained from Kingston College of Art and then worked as an apprentice for Jon Bannenberg, a renowned yacht designer. He later established Winch Design with just the help of his wife, which has since then grown into a sought after company for those looking to buy a private yacht or jet.

The second speaker was Richard Seale, who spoke about the future of technology - autonomous cars, VR designing and the virtual collaborative workspace. Seale opened by talking about the Virgin Galactic project which was first founded in 2004 and the first passenger flight launched this year with the help of Richard Seale. He showed us two videos next to each other, one a computer-generated version, created 15 years before the other video which was of Virgin Galactic's first flight. These videos were almost precisely the same, and it goes to show how anything can be achieved that is dreamed up.

Seale also talked about how most of the autonomous cars of the future will work in a similar way to how we currently use taxis, and some will be owned by people that want to enjoy a private or personal car. He also envisaged autonomous campervans for those who travel on an almost daily basis but also need to be able to live and work while they travel. Richard Seale suggested these cars will also clean the air while in use, in order to work towards a more sustainable future and combat climate change. It was inspiring to witness VR designing and how this is already being used to collaboratively design with colleagues in different areas of the country (or even the world). This process means that designers can quickly create drawings of cars and products in a virtual environment in life-size proportions for the designer, whereas techniques of using traditional CAD, clay and models take longer.

Another surprising advantage of VR is its ability to help some sight issues. An example of this was a story that Seale told us about a student called Mikey - who although entirely blind in one eye and could only see one inch from his face with his other eye, could, in fact, see clearly when using VR. The implications of this are life-changing for Mikey and others like him, and he may now be able to pursue a career in design which previously thought to be impossible.

The third and final speaker was Dee Cooper, she worked for Virgin Atlantic and recently helped designed the Scarlet Lady – Virgin's brand-new cruise ship that is currently being built, ready to set sail in 2020. Along with the cruise ship, she also designed an app for the ship where, when a customer's phone is shaken champagne is automatically ordered and brought to the passenger. The ship designers composed the use of a catamaran net as a relaxation space to give the ship a traditional hammock feel as well as a more modern communal atmosphere.

Powell also spoke of the complexities that designers face when going through the process of designing and making a product or vehicle. She specifically spoke about when designing an aeroplane seat for first class. Dee built a prototype of the seat, all of it working except for the tray, which when pressing the button failed to pop open. If only she had access to Richard Seale's VR design software at the time!

The “Better by Design” seminars were genuinely inspiring and gave us a glimpse into a fascinating, innovative future of the design world which I cannot wait to be a part of.

**Caitlin, 10 St Vincent**



## Uniform Reminders

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

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

- **Blazers** are compulsory and must be worn to and from school. Please ensure your son/daughter is wearing it correctly when they leave the house (and it is not rolled up in their bag!).
- **Jumpers** are optional in the summer term due to (hopefully!) warmer weather. A recent trend in the female jumper has developed – girls have taken to tucking their jumpers into their skirts. This is not acceptable and they will be asked to untuck it. Please ensure they leave the home without their jumper tucked in.
- **Boys' Trousers** should be navy blue, formal tailored trousers. Skinny fit / super skinny fit trousers are not acceptable. Slim fit are acceptable. Parents are warned NOT to buy cotton mix chino style trousers as you will be asked to replace them.
- **Skirts** should be navy blue, with sewn down pleats all around. We face an ever-present battle with our female students regarding the length of their skirts. Many girls roll up their waistbands and this results in skirt lengths which are not appropriate for a mixed learning environment. Please help us to help you – buy sufficiently long skirts, check the waistband before the girls leave home. We will insist that they roll them down.
- **Shoes** – students are required to wear black flat proper shoes; girls' heels should be no more than two inches. There has been a recent fashion of students wearing Converse type, canvas casual shoes or leather trainers – this is not acceptable and contravenes the uniform regulations and has health and safety implications due to the type of sole. The shoes should be leather, not suede.
- **Coats** - for inclement weather, parents may purchase a plain (without logo) appropriate school coat, preferably navy or black to be worn over the blazer. Denim, leather or leather look jackets are not acceptable. No other colours or patterns are permitted. Hoodies/sweatshirts/ gillets are forbidden and not considered an acceptable item of school uniform.
- **Scarves** - should be in appropriate school colours and not linked to any football team. Students will be asked to remove any non-regulation item of uniform.
- **Cosmetics** – makeup, false tan, nail varnish/Shellac/ artificial nails are all prohibited. Staff have been equipped with cleansers/removers and students will be ordered to remove these forms of cosmetics.
- **Jewellery** – students are permitted to wear a simple cross and chain, a watch and ONE pair of plain stud earrings in the LOBE. Other body piercings, ie nose, eyebrow, tongue, bellybutton, upper ear are not permitted and students will be ordered to remove them. Items which do not conform to our regulations will be confiscated. *Please note that if a student gets their ears pierced during term time they will be asked to remove them for PE for health and safety reasons; we can no longer allow students to tape them up. Refusal to remove them will result in an after school detention. We advise getting any piercing done at the start of the summer holidays to avoid any issues.*
- **Hair** - exaggerated, coloured, or bleached hairstyles are not acceptable at Oaklands. This includes beading, braiding and extreme colouring/highlights. Excessively long and excessively short hair styles are considered exaggerated and are not acceptable. Hair must not hide the face – all features must be visible. Long hair must be tied up for PE. For parents' guidance, boys' haircuts should be of no less than a Grade 2 on any part of the head. All boys should be clean shaven. Hair accessories must be navy, royal blue or white.

### SANCTIONS:

- Warning to correct uniform
- Email home to parents with a warning that if no improvement next step will be uniform card
- Student placed in uniform card
- If there is a X on the uniform card and extended DT will be set for the Thursday and uniform card extended for a further two week period
- If another X on the uniform card a 2 hour SLT DT will be set for the Friday
- If student fails to correct their uniform following this; a Fixed Period Exclusion will be put in place for 'Persistent Disruptive Behaviour'.

This years Art Exhibition was another great success displaying the wealth of talent that we have within Oaklands. The work was very varied ranging from painting and drawing, print, photographic installations and water features. Their was a great turn out of students, parents and staff with very positive feedback from all.



## Kitesurfing Armada

On 21<sup>st</sup> June Mr K Quinn and Miss Hall-Stride took fifteen Year 7 students to Hayling Island for the 2019 Kitesurfing Armada.

The students attended an insightful talk from Lewis Crathern, pro kitesurfer, about kitesurfing, wind energy, plastic pollution and the enviroment. They also watched a kitesurfing demonstration in very marginal winds. Lewis was narrating his kitesurfing from a wireless headset and the students were very amused when his kite fell out the sky and he started drifting down to the Inn on Beach but carried on talking the whole time.

There was also a parkour and mountain biking demonstration and a mass yoga session.



Mrs Broadway runs an 'International Club' at school and as part of that we are involved in working with various schools across the EU. We have done various projects with partner schools, but the current project, organised through the Erasmus+ programme, involves schools from Poland, Hungary, Estonia, Portugal, Finland and of course us in the UK.

Each country hosts a week-long meeting and it was the turn of the Portuguese to host the schools in June. I was fortunate enough to be selected to attend the trip, along with Julia Sajkowska in Year 9. Mrs Mousdale and Mr Bamford accompanied us for our trip to Portugal. I was very excited to go, as although I have travelled quite a lot, I had not been to the Azores.



**Day one:** We flew to Lisbon, the capital of Portugal, on Sunday and we had time to explore the city. Being a Geography teacher, Mr Bamford was keen to explain to us that many of the buildings look similar as there were of a similar age. This was due to the catastrophic earthquake (and associated tsunami) of 1755 which destroyed the city.

**Day two and three:** After an early start, we flew from Lisbon to Pico – one of the 9 volcanic islands that make up the archipelago. We knew they were volcanic, something that became clear as we flew in to land as Pico Mountain dominated the landscape. In fact, it is the highest mountain in Portugal at 2,351 metres.

We were met by our host families and spent time with them over the next two days. During those two days we were shown some of the traditions on the island as the islanders were celebrating the Festival of the Holy Spirit.

These celebrations involved a dressed parade with some paraders carrying baskets of bread on their heads, the crowning of queen of the festival and a community meal. I couldn't understand why bread was carried, but I found out it came from the start of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The Queen of Portugal at the time, Isabel, wanted to help people struggle from famine in Portugal and distributed bread to the poor people. Her husband, King Dinis, told her to stop doing this. One day he saw her with something under her cloak and he thought she had disobeyed him. Isabel said a quick prayer and when she opened her cloak, the bread had turned to roses. I have never seen such processions and strength of community spirit before.





**Day four:** This was our first day in school (Escola Cardeal Costa Nunes). We spent time trying to get to know each other and we were given a tour of the school. The school was built in 1996, but it seemed much older. It made me realise how fortunate we are at Oaklands to have continual improvements being made – e.g. the N block refurbishment. The whole reason for going to Pico at that time of year was to experience the festival. In fact, the project that we were there to do was all about ‘traditions and new technologies’. We watched videos made by the students from the different countries about their traditions – some had similarities with us, but some were bizarre! I showed my video which looked at Stonehenge and the celebrations around 21<sup>st</sup> June and 21<sup>st</sup> December.



In the afternoon, we walked along the coast to look at the vines grown to produce their wine. The United Nations has designated the area a UNESCO World Heritage site due to the unique way in which the wine is produced on Pico. The volcanic soils, winds and harsh sea spray are not ideal conditions for growing grapes, but the farmers have shown great ingenuity over the years. The volcanic rocks on the ground have been collected and piled into dry walls which has created a patchwork of tiny plots where one or

two vines are grown within them. The idea being that the walls provide shelter (they had to move the rocks anyway) from the wind and spray; the rocks also trap heat during the day and this is released at night providing further warmth for the vines.

**Day five:** We spent the morning working on school preparing our videos. In the afternoon, we visited the location where the wine is made. This was really interesting as the guide explained the differences between the various wines produced. The islanders are clearly proud of their wine!

**Day six:** We drove along the coast to Laje do Pico where we visited the whaling museum. It was quite difficult to watch footage of a whale hunt from the 1960s using the traditional methods. Thankfully, whaling has stopped on the island and the whales now attract tourists. However, it was interesting to see their way of life in years gone by. In the afternoon, we visited coastal arches (Mr Bamford liked this!) and the wine museum in Madalena. In the evening, our hosts put on an evening at the school where our videos from the week were shown. Our host families put a lot of effort into providing really good food and entertainments – I particularly liked seeing the local traditional dancers.



Things were going really well until about 22:45 on that final evening. Miss Mousdale and Mr Bamford received a text from our airline stating that our flight for Saturday morning had been cancelled. This meant we didn't get home until Monday afternoon instead of Saturday evening. It was a disappointing end to our week, but it didn't detract from the enjoyable week that we had. Julia and I met some really nice people and we made new friendships. We hope to see some of those friends when we host the next meeting which is going to take place in December 2019.

**Joe, 10 St Dominic**

## St Peter's Scientific 'Reading Challenge' Reward

Today was St Peter's students' reward for successfully completing their Reading Challenge. The students were from Year 2 to Year 6 and they all came in to have an afternoon of fun and activities in the Oaklands' Science labs.

I was stationed with Miss Sharma at the reward session as a helper; I was chosen by her in my capacity as a young journalist to observe and help the students there, whilst Mrs Hardaker led the session. John, Poppy and Leona were also selected. I thoroughly enjoyed helping them through the activities.

The students arrived and were excited to be with us! All seemed to enjoy themselves while they made their own universal indicator made of crushed cabbage and tested it against samples from many different substances. They discovered that lemon juice and orange peel are both acids!

Firstly, we gathered the materials we would test against both the universal indicator and the red cabbage indicator. We made the red cabbage indicator using cabbage we crushed and then poured boiling water over. After we made the indicator, I recorded the results on a sheet and, although the cabbage was nearly correct, it was not as accurate as the universal indicator.

We then moved on to the next experiment, the Rainbow Challenge. To complete this challenge, we had to choose the materials that we thought would turn a certain colour and then put them in the order of the rainbow. Unfortunately, another team won and claimed the prize, but my team managed to secure second place just seconds later.

The students worked in groups according to their age and eventually, all the students managed to put the liquids in colour order and make a rainbow! Overall, all the students challenged themselves and had a good and educational time with everyone that helped. They had worked hard and deserved this reward. Miss Sharma said that *'the way that they worked together and supported one another was superb! Additionally, they listened to our helpers from Oaklands and accepted their advice with ease. Congratulations again to Year 3 who were victorious in the Science Rainbow Challenge and thank you so much to our wonderful helpers'*

John, a Year 9 student, said *"it was great for the children as they learnt how technical it can be in secondary school."*

So what did the children themselves have to say?

*'Really interesting. Loved the experiments especially the universal indicator work.'*

*'I learnt so much information from the Science afternoon. I feel it's given me a head start for September. I would never have thought of using red cabbage in Science!'*

*'The Science afternoon was really good. I loved the rainbow challenge - it was hard but I enjoyed it. It helped me realise that I needed to concentrate.'*

*'I had a great time. I learnt lots but had fun as well. The teacher was really nice and it made me relax about joining the school in September.'*

We look forward to being able to organise even more events like this next year!

**Rowan, 8 St Margaret**



## Hampshire Book Awards Voting Day

On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July we went with Miss Sharma and Mrs Berogna to the voting day workshop at Cowplain Community School. We, a group of eleven Oaklands students, joined other schools in voting for the winning book of the Hampshire book awards.

The choice was out of six books and the most exquisite and gripping book was chosen. This was only after many discussion questions were answered!

Our votes were passed on to the main event and were counted along with the other votes from the rest of the schools in Hampshire who were meeting the following day to vote. We discussed what we liked and disliked about each book before deciding which to vote for.

It was fun to connect with children from other schools and discover how they felt about each book. All the books were amazing but we managed to decide which book to vote for individually. From the votes counted on Tuesday, 'Shell' by Paula Rawsthorne was in the lead and definitely an Oaklands favourite! Once all of the other votes were counted it was revealed that 'Shell' was the winner of the Hampshire Book Awards 2019! HOORAY!

**Iona, 8 St Stephen**



## A Visit from Oppo

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June, the whole of Year 7 enjoyed a wonderful visit from Oppo the dog and learned about his vital part in the Hampshire Search and Rescue team. It was a delightful assembly filled with interesting facts including rescue records in Hampshire.

In our library lessons this term, we have been reading about a messenger and rescue dog in the book 'Soldier Dog' by Sam Angus. Meeting a real rescue dog in real life has been a once in a lifetime experience.

We were informed that Oppo plays a massive role in helping and finding those who are in danger. So far this year, he has found three people, considering that they could be in areas where no man could think of. Impressively, his strong sense of smell is a whopping 100,000 times better than a human being! This is a reason as to why dogs are a big part in our lives.

Oppo is a Stage 3 dog. This means he has high qualities of a rescue dog and has trained immense amounts and has an exam every six months to test his abilities. This includes finding someone.

When Oppo finds someone, he sits in front of his trainer and looks up into their eyes. This gives the trainer the message that Oppo has found something or someone. Once the trainer has received that message it is their job now to follow Oppo. Oppo will lead ahead and come back to see where his trainer is and once they are near, Oppo will circle what he has found. From there, the trainer takes charge.

In conclusion, we think that Oppo is a gifted dog that has made a mark in people's lives and will hopefully continue doing so!

**Maria, 7 Teresa and Maria, 7 Teresa**



## And Finally ... Celebrating our Librarians

We would like to thank our student librarians for their tireless commitment to our library. They regularly give up their free time to assist with the day-to-day running of the library including stock handling, book processing, assisting with events and ensuring that it is an enjoyable and friendly place to be.

Thanks to Joe, Beth, Beau, Grace, John, Leona, Tiwa, Tilly, Anna, Hannah, Callum, Jeffrey and Ed. Have a lovely holiday!

**Mrs Berogna and Miss Sharma**



**Thank you and well done to ...**

- Year 7** who have raised £910.23 this year  
Special thanks to 7 St Vincent for raising £177.80
- Year 8** who have raised £691.05 this year  
Special thanks to 8 St Martin for raising £139.70
- Year 9** who have raised £623.85 this year  
Special thanks to 9 St Martin for raising £231.39
- Year 10** who have raised £475.15 this year  
Special thanks to 10 St Teresa for raising £89.40
- Year 11** who have raised £484.99 this year  
Special thanks to 11 St Martin for raising £80.00
- Sixth Form** who have raised £607.48 this year

**A fantastic total of over £7.000 has been raised by the Oaklands Community, enabling 181 children to go to school at St John's.**

**Thank you all for your support!**

*"I thank you Oaklands School. I used to be sent home all the time for lack of school fees. Now, that is history - and I love being in school. I know that I can be someone now. Thank you for helping me up the step." **Adriana***

On Wednesday July 10<sup>th</sup> we gathered in the Chapel for a liturgy to commission the new Year 10 Buddies.

Eighteen students have been selected for this role and Miss Keogh reminded them in the liturgy that Jesus sent his disciples out in twos to do his work and so the Buddies will also work in pairs to support the new Year 7s.



The Buddies made a commitment during the liturgy to be supportive and helpful role models for the younger students and the closing prayer (below) captures the importance of the valuable service these students will give to the Oaklands community.

They were given their badges and their first tasks have been to support the new students on their Transition Day on Friday July 12<sup>th</sup> and to welcome them and their families on the new student Induction evening on July 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Lord Jesus, we give you thanks for inspiring in these students a desire to help others and to serve the Oaklands School community. Lead and guide these new buddies as they undertake this valuable ministry of caring for our new Year 7s and helping them to feel welcome in this place. We pray that they might serve you Lord, other students, and the whole school community with generosity, kindness and love. May they flourish in their responsibility, bearing much fruit and may they help to build Your Kingdom by being people of welcome and friendship.*

*We pray also for our new Year 7s who will join our school community in September. May they feel welcomed, empowered to be all that God has created them to be and inspired by others around them to do their very best.*

*We make our prayer through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.*

*Amen.*

## Online Payments



If you are already using SCOPAY (previously known as Tucasi), the good news is that they have rebranded and updated their user interface meaning their website is now easier to use. They have also released a mobile app which is available on the Apple App Store and Google Play.

If you do not yet use SCOPAY ... did you know that you can pay on line for your child's dinner money, trips, events, revision materials and some student resources?

With the new App, you can access this system anywhere at any time and make payments using a credit or debit card.

All parents can have access to SCOPAY, so if you have not already registered, please contact the Finance Office who will issue you with your individual account details.

For more information, please visit our website via the following link:

<http://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org/page/?title=Online+Pay&pid=36>

## ALPHA COURSE

The internationally successful Alpha Course is coming to Sacred Heart of Jesus & St Peter the Apostle church this autumn. Don't miss this great opportunity to go back to basics and grow your faith, encounter Jesus in a new way, be renewed in your spiritual life and learn from others on the journey.

Join us for a taster session on Monday 16 September at the Sacred Heart Parish centre at 7pm. An informal event with food and refreshment available, why not bring a friend or family member? The main course starts the following week on Monday 23 September at 7pm in the Parish Centre.

For more information on the Alpha Course there is a great video at [https://youtu.be/fViYK\\_Xb3Wg](https://youtu.be/fViYK_Xb3Wg) and if you'd like to register your interest in attending or have any questions please email [alphawaterlooville@gmail.com](mailto:alphawaterlooville@gmail.com)



FANNING THE FLAME CATHOLIC MISSION  
[www.FanningTheFlame.co.uk](http://www.FanningTheFlame.co.uk)

AN AMAZING ADVENTURE  
SUMMER CAMP 2019  
19th - 23th August

FOR AGES 10 - 25

If we walk in the light, as He is in the light,  
we have fellowship with one another.  
1 John 1:7

MASS - TEACHING - CRAFTS - WORKSHOPS - SPORTS - HORSERIDING - TALKS - DRAMAS  
GREAT FOOD - Q&A - MUSIC - ADORATION - TEAM ACTIVITIES - CONFESSION



FTFCM is an apostolate of The Dominican Sisters of St. Joseph, Registered UK Charity 1050485

## Water Safety Guidelines from Hampshire County Council

As school holidays approach and the country experiences the current warm weather, children want to cool down quickly and have fun in the water. It is important to remember that a child can drown within seconds. In particular, babies and small children can drown in very little water as they do not have the range of motion to move their heads. Child drowning is often silent and without struggle. Wherever a child is enjoying the water there are a number of steps that can be taken to reduce risk and accident:

- Be vigilant, make sure your child is supervised at all times in or around water.
- Always swim at beaches and pools where there is a lifeguard.
- Make sure there is a fence around any garden pools or ponds.
- Familiarise yourself with the location of any ponds, lakes or pools at new locations.
- Make sure your child stays hydrated and takes regular breaks.
- Satisfy yourself that your child is not out of their depth when in water.
- Make sure paddling pools are emptied and turned upside down when not in use.
- Keep paddling and swimming pools free from trip hazards.
- Don't leave toys in paddling and swimming pools.
- Make sure your fence and gate is secure to ensure that your child can't access water hazards in neighbours' gardens.
- Supervise your child in the bath at all times, even if their elder sibling is present.
- Don't expect an elder child to be responsible for the safety of younger siblings.

**Should an accident occur seek medical attention immediately by ringing 999**

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

## Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College - Alumni

**Were you a student here ... ?    Stay in touch with us and help ...**

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

Go to [www.futurefirst.org.uk](http://www.futurefirst.org.uk)

Go to the 'Sign Up' tab

Click 'Former Student'

Type in **Oaklands Catholic School**





# Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College




**Thursday 26th September 2019 5.00 - 8.00pm**

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

 Stakes Hill Road, Waterlooville, Hants, PO7 7BW

 (023) 92 259214 Fax: (023) 92 230317

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