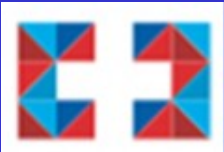


No 434  
Jan 2020

# Oaklands News



**Culture  
and Ethos**  
The Oaklands Way



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

# Lead Stories



**Oaklands**  
Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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## From the Headteacher's Desk

**Welcome to this edition of the Oaklands News.**  
**A happy, if not belated, New Year to you all.**

I am not sure that the Oaklands News should be a vehicle to review the latest cinema releases. Last Saturday night I went to see *1917* (other war films are available on other platforms). As I got up from my seat, I heard the man behind me say "*I feel like I have run a marathon*". The illusion of the continuous shot clearly had an engrossing impact on the audience. This new epic film, set during the First World War, is a cinematic treat. Sam Mendes' *1917* opens in the tranquil stillness of the French countryside to reveal two British soldiers taking time out. Lance Corporal Blake and Lance Corporal Schofield are soon sent on a mission across enemy lines to warn another regiment that they are headed into a trap.

The images created are beautiful without marginalizing the horror of the conflict, making full use of the cinematic language, within the illusion of one continuous shot. The camera acts as your eyes, at times following, at others ahead of the two protagonists. Mendes' epic adds to the cannon of movies handing the Great War story on to the next generation.

For the 48 hours after the showing, no spoilers, *1917* continued to play on my mind. I remember a similar experience the first occasion I watched *Schindler's List*, *Shawshank Redemption*, *Dead Poets Society* and others. For me, *1917* was poignant as my great grandfather lost his life in that conflict.

Storytelling is literally 'as old as time'. It's the ancient concept of a tale told around a campfire: something that touches the conscious, incites emotion and empathy. The best stories are something heard rather than told, where we become embroiled with the characters, we are there. The question remains: *why* do stories work so well? They stick with us long after any diagram or speech, as with parables and jokes that we repeat again and again.

Central to our story is sacred scripture. The Bible stories are not only central to faith, but they are also the natural carriers of faith from one generation to the next. We know the God who created us because someone heard the story, and someone else repeated the story, and someone wrote the story down, and many were willing to die for the story and we are the beneficiaries. This prompts a question: *are we going to be the generation that does not pass the story on?* Stories are never more than a generation from extinction.



This year, the Bishops of England and Wales have called for a Year of the Word, under the title '*The God Who Speaks*'. The aims of the project are to inspire all Catholics to encounter Christ more deeply through engaging with the Bible creatively, by ensuring it is accessible to all as part of their faith journey (more about this further in). The Bible offers a master story that we are invited to make our personal story. We become characters in that story. If we join that story, we have both rights and responsibilities. One of those responsibilities is to remember what God has done and to tell it to the next generation.

## Ofsted

Last September the Government again changed the methods by which they measure schools, and I suspect, following the December election we can expect a further iteration before long. This continual state of flux, which blows with the political wind, calls for some resilience. Our last inspection was almost three years ago so we can expect an inspection within the next year. Some of the changes are to be welcomed; the inspection process will spend more time looking at curriculum and less looking at internal data. The process of preparing for inspection is continual. Inevitably, this places hard working staff under further pressure. It is likely the new standard will result in fewer schools achieving Outstanding. The school cannot duck the challenges of the new Ofsted framework (nor would parents expect us to) and for a while this may be uncomfortable. If we do not address these challenges, change and adapt, then we will be doing our students a disservice. We have a very professional, creative and dedicated staff who prepare and deliver fantastic lessons so I am, as ever, optimistic for the future. Part of the new Ofsted process will look in detail at the views of parents. Every year we survey about 500 families either through postal surveys, on line or by handing you a questionnaire to complete at Parents' Evenings. Thank you for the comments that you have made. In the last Oaklands News we fed back a number of key action points.

## University Success

Congratulations to all students in Year 13 who have sent their applications to the University and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) well before the January deadline. Again, we have a number of successful Oxbridge applicants. We live in interesting times, with a large number of universities offering unconditional places. We wish every student in Oaklands Sixth Form the best of luck in their remaining interviews and the final stages of their A Level courses. Enormous thanks and congratulations also go to the Sixth Form tutors for their preparation of references and support for personal statements.

Finally, at the beginning of a new year it is important that the school gets back to its normal rhythm as quickly as possible and students continue to deliver the high standards that you and we expect. Your continual reinforcement at home of school policies and procedures is very much appreciated.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

**Matthew Quinn**

## Carol Service

**The busy Christmas term concluded on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December with the school carol service.** As usual, this was a joyous occasion with contributions from the Year 7 choir, school musicians and readers. My thanks to the hard work of students and colleagues who made the event so joyful. Particular thanks to Sarah Keogh, our School Chaplain, who co-ordinated the event, ably supported by the music department. Over 500 parents, relatives, former students and staff attended.



**T**he school hall was packed full of staff, former students and their guests on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 to celebrate the school's examination success at A Level and GCSE.

The evening started with an address from Mr Quinn. He noted in his welcome the outstanding achievement of students of all abilities and the contribution parents make supporting students at Oaklands. Every year at exam certificate time, Year 11 students are given a small wooden cross. Mr Quinn encouraged students to keep the cross safe with their examination certificates.

This year the school invited two speakers: **Tom Gregory**, swimming record breaker and **Aidan Fitzgerald**, former student and Data Analyst at Sony.

Tom Gregory is the record-breaking British swimmer you've never heard of. He was the youngest person ever to swim the English Channel at 11 years and 333 days. Tom talked about his achievement and how he prepared for the record-breaking attempt over 30 years ago. It was a story about courage, determination and resilience. Tom has captured the story award-winning book called *A Boy in the Water*.

Aiden FitzGerald left Oaklands in 2007, going to university to study statistics. Following university he had a number of jobs before finally securing a position with Sony. He talked to students about his journey and in particular about finding a career that resonates with your passion, for him it was computer games and statistics.

Both speakers were inspirational and one parent said *"What fantastic speakers and such a contrast; both of them excelled in their field. There were some great messages about determination, tenacity, not giving up and following your dreams. I wish more people could've heard what they said tonight, a brilliant choice"*

Entertainment was provided by Maggie Leslie and Doh Doppgima, who are two of the principles in the forthcoming production of High School Musical.

The celebration was concluded with a vote of thanks from Sixth Form students, Jess Keeping and Eleanor Andrew.

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



**F**or those students unable to be present at the recent Presentation of Certificates Evening, GCSE and A Level Examination Certificates are now available for collection from Main Reception at the school for the academic year 2018/2019.

**Please note**, these are valuable documents which are expensive to replace and we are only permitted to retain them for one year, after which time they must be destroyed.



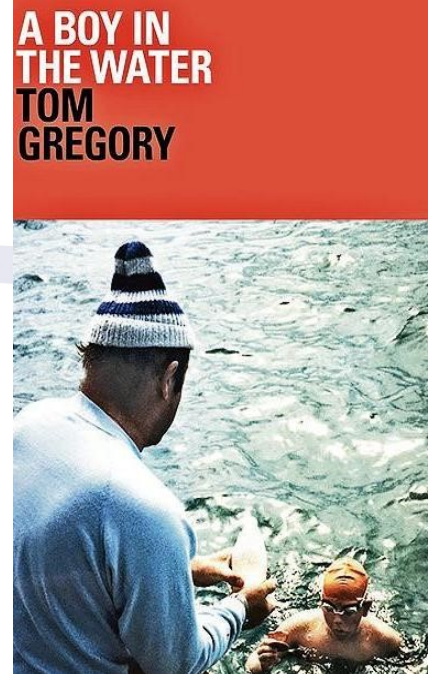
Before the Certificates Evening, Tom Gregory spent two lessons with Year 8 and Year 9. He talked about his achievement of swimming the English Channel at such a young age and spoke about his book *A Boy in the Water*.

Last Thursday, Tom Gregory visited our school to motivate us young adults to be resilient in everything we do. He did this by telling us his own story about how he had to overcome his personal obstacles to reach the goal he had aimed for – being the youngest person ever to swim across the Channel. Tom spoke about how the people he surrounded himself with influenced his success and how he wants us to push ourselves further so that we can be like him.

He encouraged us to 'write our own story' and make a difference in our lives and in the lives of those around us too. The point of his success wasn't just about his swimming journey - it was how he pushed himself through his hardest challenge.

When discussing the author talk in our English lessons, it was clear his presentation had positively inspired many of us and for that, we are very grateful.

*Saxon and Grace, Year 9*



Tom Gregory painted his story, for the uncultivated mind of youths, with enthusiastic and vivid imagery. His story was rich in motivation, with a moral underlining of the potency of perseverance and dedication- a message all teens could benefit from.

*Ayana, Year 9*

During the assembly, motivational advice was given that can be applied to everyone. Tom Gregory had enthusiasm and that quality is a crucial component for success. His vivid descriptions of the sea and his overall experience of swimming across the British Channel are inspiring. His speech has been an educational lesson for all.

*Alexandra, Year 9*

### **O**ther student's comments:

'Mr Gregory's inspirational words should never be forgotten.'

'His story will stay with me forever'.

'Tom showed us that with the right amount of determination and training, we can achieve anything that we want in life'.

'Tom's story inspired me to push myself further in my sport and to make the most out of every opportunity'.

## Rewarding Students

We're delighted that our students are so hardworking, polite and kind and rewarding this is a central part of our culture and ethos. We have an extensive rewards system which awards individual students for outstanding work, excellent effort, attendance and contribution to school life. Teachers were consulted in order to create our awards categories and students can be awarded for a diverse range of qualities- from academic excellence to helpfulness and participation in extra curricular activities.

Our online reward system, **Epraise** gives each student their own Reward Account, where they can see which tutor group or House is in the lead and they can redeem their points in the online shop or donate them to charity. Staff award points electronically so that students can see why they were awarded a point and by whom.

Staff can also award Accolades (individualised praise messages), and students reach Achievement Milestones on the Epraise system. To show our students how proud we are of their achievements we award them with a special badge and certificate when they achieve their milestones: Bronze for 40 points; Silver for 70; Gold for 100; Ruby for 130 and Sapphire for 150. Epraise points also form the cornerstones of our Leadership Ladder programme, and are an important element in our students achieving these important awards.

Heads of Year and Tutors enjoy being able to give pastoral reward points to those students who contribute to school life in other ways - resilience, work with the chaplaincy and contribution to student council can all be rewarded, for example.

With our new focus on "The Oaklands Way", each half term a special reward point can be given in the category of our half-termly focus. These have varied from "ready to learn" to "keeping safe". These Oaklands Way reward points have become one of our most well used categories.

Students can also spend their points in our online shop, which offers all kinds of fun and useful purchases such as phone cases, notebooks, pens, key rings, footballs, earphones, stress animals, food and activity vouchers and much, much more. Students can browse and order online in their Epraise account and then collect their purchases during Tuesday breaktimes from our Business Support office in the White House.

An important addition to our rewards categories were our "ultra-rare" Head of Year and Headteacher's Awards. These badges are awarded for outstanding special achievements and our Year Heads are currently choosing which students should receive these special awards in 2020!

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

When your child achieves an Epraise milestone they will receive a badge and a certificate which will list the categories under which their points were awarded. Why not have a look at your child's account and see how well they are doing?

**Ms S Whyte**



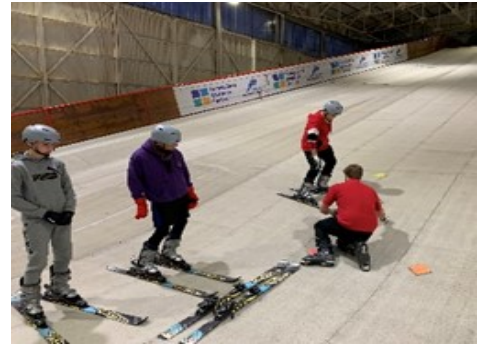
## Year 9 Dry Slope Ski Trip

There were 68 students who attempted skiing for the first time at Calshot Activities Centre on the evenings of 13<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December. You could sense the excitement as the students viewed the slopes as we arrived, but there was perhaps a degree of trepidation.

The trip to Calshot provided the students with the opportunity to wear the equipment for the first time and learn the basics; this means that more rapid progress can be made when the students arrive at the resort in February. These trips would not have been possible without the help of a number of staff including Mr Bamford, Mr Smith, Mr Wade, Mr Whitlock, Miss Hall-Stride and Mrs Palfreyman.

The trip during February half term is fast approaching. 106 student from Year 9 and the Sixth Form will travel to Andalo; the students will ski for five days in the Italian resort. The 2019-20 ski season in the Alps looks as though it will be a great year. There have been huge amounts of snowfall in the Alps already and this bodes well for us when we arrive in February.

**Mr Bamford**



## Year 12 Geography Trip

The A Level Geography exam board specification states that students must study an example of a stretch of coastline where 'hard' and 'soft' engineering are employed to manage the coast. Rather than using materials in the core textbooks, I decided to take the students to West Wittering in January. We were fortunate in that we had good weather on the morning of the visit, albeit a little windy!

Coastlines are dynamic environments. This was evident as many of the students who had been there in Year 10 remarked on just how much had changed since their last visit. Coastal managers there have held the view that the sea wall has had a detrimental impact on the beach in front of it. The reflection of waves has resulted in a scouring effect of the beach, which has left the sea wall further exposed. The policy now employed is one of 'Adaptive Management', which means that managers will not 'hold the line'. The sea wall and the groynes are being allowed to deteriorate: the idea being that this will produce a wider, shallower beach, which will be more effective at dissipating wave energy (in theory!). The students had mixed views on this, but it is clear that they all appreciated that there is a finite pot of money available and decisions relating to coastal protection are invariably challenging.



Our students will experience further field work in June when they will attend a three day trip to Dorset to prepare them for their A level coursework, worth 20% of their final grade. Trips like this are not able to take place without support from my colleagues and on this occasion Mr Quinn accompanied us.

**Mr Bamford**



The year 2020 has been declared 'The Year of the Word – The God who Speaks' by the Bishops of England and Wales. This is to be a year of rediscovery and a renewed appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures and the great gift of the Bible.

*Scripture is at the centre of everything the Church does. The Word of God shapes our prayer and worship. The Bible shows us how to understand the world, how we are called to live and relate to each other.*

*For the word of God is alive and active. Ephesians 4:12*

Christmas already feels like a long time ago, and while we settle back into the rhythm of Ordinary Time, we know all too well that Lent will soon be upon us!

January is a time for resolutions and new starts, taking stock and setting goals; it is filled with expectancy... what will this new year, and indeed new decade have in store? Perhaps in this Year of the Word, you could resolve to read your Bible more, pick it up for the first time in a while, or even open up a Bible for the very first time! (If you don't have one, I'd be very happy to supply you with one!) The Bible contains a story of love; the never-ending, overwhelming, merciful love of our God who still speaks directly to us from within its pages. Perhaps start with one of the Gospels, they're shorter than you think! (Luke is my favourite) and allow yourself to encounter the Lord. Be drawn in by the stories, get swept away by the miracles, and listen to the teaching of Christ, the Lord who invites you to know Him and to love Him.

*Continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3: 13 – 17)*

~

There's lots to look forward to here in the Chaplaincy, even before half term, including our Year 9 Mission Day on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February and our Sixth Form Mission Morning on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February.

With the assurance of my prayers for you and your families.

**Miss Sarah Keogh, Chaplain**





## 'Unusual Kindness'

The theme for this year's Week of Christian Unity (20th-24th January) is taken from Acts 28:2, when the people of Malta showed St Paul (a stranger to their land) unusual kindness; they reached out with generous hospitality to provide food and shelter for St Paul and the crew who had been shipwrecked.

~

We look but what kind of looking do we do? How do we see and understand ourselves, especially in light of our relationship with the Living Christ? We know that God speaks to us in small voices, but also in the people and places we least expect. In supposed barren hard places there can spring unimaginable beauty and nourishment. In spite of the turbulence of the world at the present time, we also discover acts of kindness, of love, forgiveness and hospitality in places or from people we did not expect.

Our Bible story gives us a very real story of human fear, survival, hope and love. It invites us to reflect upon the abundance of God's grace and fullness, that we can see if only we stop and look closely at what is in front of us. In the most difficult situations, inhospitable places and even in the most inhospitable people, there we will find something of God's grace.

We are invited in this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity to see God working through people and places which offer unusual kindness. If only we would do the appropriate kind of looking.

Our prayer for Christian unity is deeply rooted in the Bible. We pray for unity because Jesus prayed that His disciples would be one, that the world might believe (John 17:20-21). St Paul also urged the churches to which he wrote to recognise their unity in Christ, even though there was much diversity within them (1 Corinthians 12:12-27).

**Loving God, grant us the Spirit of unity, that we may be one. Enable all the members of the body of Christ to live together in unity and friendship. Teach us to love one another as Christ loved us and help us to show one another the unusual kindness that can only come from knowing Your Son, Jesus. Unite us by the Cross through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Unusual Kindness at Oaklands

BUY SOMEONE SOME  
LUNCH.



POST SOMETHING KIND  
ON SOCIAL MEDIA.



January is a long, somewhat bleak month, with perhaps little to look forward to. A week of unusual kindness was just what we needed! Staff participated in a 'Secret Santa' style acts of kindness challenge, choosing the name of a colleague to perform an act of unusual and unexpected kindness for. Many tutor groups did a similar thing, bringing much joy and fun to the week.

DON'T WATCH TV OR PLAY  
GAMES, TALK TO YOUR FAMILY  
INSTEAD.



DO SOMETHING NICE FOR  
SOMEONE WHO LOOKS AFTER  
YOU.



There was an 'Acts of Kindness' treasure hunt, with many different suggestions of how to be kind popping up all over the school; Key Stage 3 were set the challenge of finding them all **AND** putting at least a few of them into action. There was a prize for anyone who found all of them!

The Discipleship Team and Year 7 GIFT Team showed great kindness and warm hospitality by providing hot toast in the Chapel every break time (they were spreading kindness... just like butter on toast!) Many students came to enjoy the fun and merriment, being challenged to then pass on and play the kindness forward to another.

let's spread... KINDNESS



Oaklands Chaplaincy

CU WEEK 2020



## Year 7 STEM Trip

Year 7 had a fun STEM day in December, making and testing elastic powered cars and had to present their results on a poster. The team posters were judged and the 10 winning teams (30 students) were invited to attend a trip to the Mary Rose Museum.

The trip took place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January and was a great success! The storms had abated just in time so staff and students arrived at Portsmouth Dockyard safe and dry. We were invited into the purpose-built lab inside the Mary Rose museum to start our visit with a 'Shipwreck Science Workshop', where students participated in practical activities that focused on material conservation and forensic science.

We were given a brief history of the Mary Rose Ship with theories about why it sank in July 1545, in the Solent, North of the Isle of Wight. Students were able to examine replica artefacts, similar to some of those salvaged from the Mary Rose and then learned about how polyethylene glycol was used to preserve the wooden hull after it was raised in October 1982. Students were challenged to think about the conditions at the bottom of the Solent and to think about why the hull was not intact when raised. It was really interesting to see pictures of some of the marine life that was responsible for eating most of the wooden hull.

Students used light and digital microscopes to examine preserved and rotting wood and could see clear differences in cell wall structure as well as the external texture and colour of the wood. They also had a challenge to match samples of leather to the correct animal that they came from, using microscopes and a key.

It was really interesting to learn how skeletons, and hence DNA, found with the ship could be tested and pieced together to help build profiles on the size and origin of men working on the ship. In particular the DNA could even help to predict their eye and hair colour and the composition of their teeth helped to identify where they might have been born. Scientists could even tell their role in some cases, based on the impact it would have had on their bones. A good example was the way that Archer's bones/spines showed signs of twisting and were largely due to the muscles they had developed as a result of practising archery from the age of 7.





After the workshop we were given a guided tour of the museum by a volunteer named Jim who was able to give fascinating insights into how tough life was on the ship as well as background information about King Henry VIII and artefacts found with the ship and Tudor craftsmanship. Our science knowledge was further extended when we learned about the different types of metals and wood used in making the ship and its weaponry and how readily the ferrous items rusted away in comparison to some of the impressive bronze items such as the guns (cannons). It was fascinating to learn more about how ornate the guns were with features such as Tudor roses and lion heads and how they achieved this despite the lack of technology! Looking at the head lice combs, basic food rations and demanding work, we all agreed that life on the ship would have been challenging and we were quite happy to be living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century rather than Tudor times.



A very big thankyou to Alumni, Martin Montague who very kindly sponsored this trip; staff and volunteers at the Mary Rose Museum; and the members of Oaklands staff who accompanied students.

**Mrs Hardaker**

## Oaklands Alumni

### Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College - Alumni

**Were you a student here ... ?**

**Stay in touch with us and help ...**

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

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

Go to the 'Sign Up' tab

Click 'Former Student'

Type in **Oaklands Catholic School**



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

Any absence of five days or more **must** be supported by medical evidence (eg: letter from GP or Consultant; copy of the appointment card, prescription; named and dated medicine etc). Evidence will also be required for any student whose attendance is below 90%.

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

Parents can communicate via one of four ways:

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

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

Holiday requests and requests for absences (e.g for music exams, college interviews etc) must be made on the correct Leave of Absence form (see the school website) so that they can be coded accurately. Holidays will not be approved unless there are exceptional circumstances.

### Punctuality

Students who are late to school or lessons will be given a lunchtime detention to pay those minutes back. If they fail to attend the detention then they will miss the whole of lunch the next day. If a student has had to attend a lunchtime detention three times in one week they will be given a detention after school. Every term the late minutes data is analysed and we will write home to parents of the most persistent latecomers.

## Detentions

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

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

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



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

- Scarves: the striped school scarf available from the OPA OR a **scarf in co-ordinating school uniform colours. Team sport scarves (eg: football etc) are NOT suitable.**
- Coats: these should ideally be either plain navy blue or black without a logo. Coats should be worn over the blazer. We are permitting the light reflective jackets to be worn as they are a good way for students who walk / cycle home to be visible. **Hoodies, in any form, are not an acceptable item of uniform and will be confiscated as will gilets. Leather jackets are not permissible.**
- Shoes: formal black shoes (girls – heels should be lower than 2"). Plimsolls, ankle boots and trainer-type/canvas and suede shoes are not permitted.
- Girls skirt length: we are concerned that some girls are wearing their skirts at an inappropriately short length and we would appreciate your help. Please ensure they are bought at the correct length – ie: knee length – and that you check the length before they leave home. **Jumpers should not be tucked into skirts.** Skirts rolled up at the waist are not acceptable and students will be sanctioned if they do not wear uniform correctly.
- Boys trousers must be navy formal trousers. Slim style is permitted; skinny and super skinny are not; neither are chino-style trousers.
- Jewellery: Only **one** pair of **plain studs worn in the earlobes** is permitted. NO other piercings are allowed and students who persist in wearing others will be placed in the inclusions room if they refuse to remove them. The only other item of jewellery allowed is a plain crucifix necklace. **ALL OTHER JEWELRY WILL BE CONFISCATED** and returned at the end of the half term. We also advise that you only get new piercings done at the start of the summer holiday as all piercings have to be removed in PE for Health and Safety reasons.
- The school uniform policy on make up (including fake tan) and nail varnish is quite clear – it is not permitted. If students continue to show a blatant disregard for the school rules they will be placed in Inclusions. Your co-operation in getting false and acrylic / gel nails removed and ensuring nail varnish is cleaned off is appreciated.

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

### Where can I buy uniform?

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

**Skoolkit**

### Second-hand uniform

The Oaklands Friends and Parents Association is very keen to build up a stock of second-hand uniform (particularly blazers and jumpers) which can be sold to parents at Parents Evenings and other evening events. If your child has outgrown ANY item of uniform and it is in good condition please launder and leave it at Reception where we will arrange for the OFPA to collect it. If you are interested in purchasing second hand items please make contact either via Reception or by email:

[opa@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto:opa@oaklandscatholicschool.org)

During this Half Term we will be having another strong focus on uniform. Any student who is not meeting our expectations will be given a behaviour point and placed on uniform card. Please help support the school in maintaining high standards by checking your child's uniform before they come into school and taking any items that could be confiscated.

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

During the Erasmus Week of 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> December, we did lots of activities with our exchange students, we enjoyed spending time with people from other countries and learning about their cultures.



We started the week with a day in school, doing ice breaker activities and baking – learning about what other countries eat at Christmas.

We spent Tuesday at the Weald and Downland Museum – despite the rain we enjoyed learning about old English traditions. We then had Christmas dinner back at school and some of the exchange students experienced their first encounter with a traditional Christmas dinner. In the afternoon we sang 'Silent Night' in many different languages then we sang a couple of Christmas songs all together.

On Wednesday we went to Winchester and went Ice Skating, we also went around the Christmas market and some people had McDonalds for the first time.

On Thursday we stayed at school and baked mince pies with our partner students, we also spent some time in the computer room and we made Kahoots about other Christmas traditions.

On Friday we went to the Kings Theatre to see the Pantomime – Aladdin. It was nice for the students to experience their first ever pantomime. Then we walked to Commercial Road and we looked around the shops for a short period of time. After, a small group of us went to Gunwharf and some went bowling and the others went up the Spinnaker Tower, then we all met up and went to Nandos.

Overall, it was a great week! We had a fantastic time learning about Christmas traditions and working with students from Poland, Hungary, Finland, Portugal and Estonia.

***Ruthie, Daniel and Harriet (10CL)***





*From Fr Maurizio, St John's Korogocho*

**M**r Geoffrey Opondo, the Headteacher of St John's, has reported that the academic results have been excellent due to the hard work of all involved, the commitment of the students and the support and love of people like you at Oaklands.

Next year, the school has had to slightly increase the school fees due to the rise in costs for the services needed to provide education to the almost 700 students of St John's.

Even this year, due to the increase costs we were no longer able to cover all expenses and we really struggled to pay salaries and purchase food and all the school needed items to guarantee that teaching goes on.

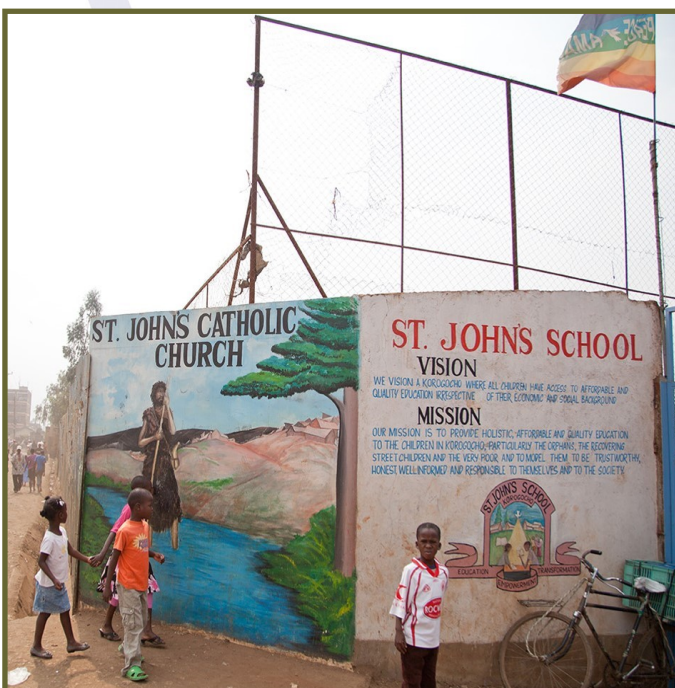
It was not an easy decision but we had no choice but to increase our school fees.

Support from donors (thank goodness not Oaklands!) has greatly diminished and we have to begin the process to make our school as much as possible self- sustaining. This is also part of a bigger process of educating parents and families about the importance of education for their children and making them responsible for this. Our school fees, even after the increase, are still the lowest and all parents know this, together with the quality education we continue to provide. While we try to make our school financially manageable we are also educating our parents and all the community on the importance of education and the need to "invest" in it.

Concretely what has increased are: cost of food to be purchased; cost of all school related materials (pens, books, exercise books, paper, etc); costs of utilities (electricity, cooking gas, etc.); the inflation related salary increase for all teachers and the taxes connected with it. On the other hand we are reducing some of our administration costs, which amount to less than 7% of all costs.

I want to thank you and all at Oaklands for your continuous support and love for us and our children: you are very special!

Thank you very much and God Bless you all!



Our school website contains plenty of important and relevant information for both parents and students. Please take time to look at this and then regularly re-visit during the year for updates and reminders [www.oaklandscatholicschool.org](http://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org)



## Suggested Top Ten Links

- |                                      |                      |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Uniform                           | (About Us)           |
| 2. E-Safety                          | (Parents)            |
| 3. Newsletters                       | (About Us)           |
| 4. Child Protection and Safeguarding | (About Us /Policies) |
| 5. Copies of Letters                 | (Parents)            |
| 6. Homework and Extra Curricular     | (Students)           |
| 7. Forms                             | (Parents)            |
| 8. Events Calendar                   | (Community)          |
| 9. Online Payments                   | (Parents)            |
| 10. Prevent Strategy                 | (Parents)            |



## Term Dates 2020-2021

**Autumn Term 2020**  
Half Term:

**Tuesday 1st September to Friday 18th December**  
Monday 26th - Friday 30th October

**Spring Term 2021**  
Half Term:

**Monday 4th January to Thursday 1st April**  
Monday 15th - Friday 19th February

**Summer Term 2021**  
Half Term:

**Monday 19th April to Monday 19th July**  
Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June

**INSET Days are as follows:**

Tuesday 1st September, Wednesday 2nd September,  
Friday 2nd October, Friday 27th November,  
Friday 18th December, Monday 19th July

**Student Return:**

Thursday 3rd September, phased return for Y7 and Y12  
Friday 4th September, all students return

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



# Spring Term Calendar

Monday	6 January 2020	Year 11 Book Sharing Week
Thursday	9 January	<b>Presentation of Certificates Evening (7.00pm)</b>
Monday	13 January	Year 11 Mock Grades Home Governors' Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting OFPA Committee Meeting (7.30pm)
Thursday	16 January	<b>A Level Art &amp; Photography Mock (to 17 January)</b> <b>Year 11 English Practice Exam</b> <b>Year 11 Parents' Evening (5.00pm)</b>
Monday	20 January	<b>Faith Unity Week</b> Governors' Business & Collaboration Committee Meeting
Wednesday	22 January	<b>RSE Consultation Focus Group (7.00pm)</b>
Thursday	30 January	<b>Year 9 Options Evening (7.00pm)</b>
Monday	3 February	OFPA Committee Meeting (7.30pm)
Tuesday	4 February	Year Group Photographs (Y7, Y9 and Sixth Form)
Wednesday	12 February	Full Governors' Meeting
Thursday	13 February	<b>Year 10 Practice Exams</b> KS3 / KS4 / KS5 Grades / Reports Home
Friday	14 February	<b>Deadline for Year 9 Option Returns</b> <b>Year 10 Practice Exams</b> Ski Trip Departs
<b>Mon-Fri</b>	<b>17-21 February</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
Monday	24 February	<b>Year 11 Maths / English / Science Practice Exams</b> Y12 Written Reports Home
Tuesday	25 February	<b>Year 11 Maths / English / Science Practice Exams</b> Year 9 Teenage Booster Injections (+ 26 February)
Wednesday	26 February	Ash Wednesday Services
Monday	2 March	Governors' Ethos Committee Meeting OFPA Committee Meeting (7.30pm)
Wednesday	4 March	<b>Whole School Production</b>
Thursday	5 March	<b>Whole School Production</b>
Friday	6 March	Non Uniform Day (** change of date **) <b>Whole School Production</b>
Monday	9 March	Year 7 Book Sharing Week <b>Year 13 Practice Exams (to 18 March)</b>
Tuesday	10 March	<b>Year 12 Post-18 Information Evening (7.00pm)</b>
Thursday	12 March	<b>Design Showcase (5.00-8.00pm)</b>
Wednesday	18 March	Full Governors' Meeting
Thursday	19 March	<b>Year 7 Parents' Evening (5.00pm)</b>
Wednesday	25 March	<b>SEN Parents' Evening (5.00pm)</b>
Wednesday	1 April	<b>Year 11 Art, Photography and Textiles Exams</b> <b>Year 11 Final Predictions and Tutor Reports Home</b>
Thursday	2 April	Y7-Y10 Grades / Y13 Predicted Grades Home <b>Year 13 Parents' Evening (5.00pm)</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>3 April</b>	Passion Services <b>Last Day of Term</b>

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

## Noticeboard

### BAE Systems teams up with STEM Returners again to attract a new cohort of returning STEM professionals

Have you taken a career break from an engineering or a technical sector and wish to return? Are you working below your experience in a different sector? Do you have an engineering or technical degree that you aren't using? Do you just wish to transfer sectors but don't have any experience?

If so this could be the opportunity for you! After the unprecedented success of the first 2 programmes where 100% of returners were offered permanent roles, we are currently sourcing candidates for the new BAE Systems 'STEM Returners' programme, a 13 week, fully paid and supported return to work programme starting in March 2020 in Portsmouth. All candidates will also have the opportunity to obtain a permanent role at the end of the programme. No career break is too long, register to return to STEM today! For more information please visit [www.stemreturners.com](http://www.stemreturners.com) <<https://urlsand.esvalabs.com/?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.stemreturners.com&e=2443b848&h=adaa2821&f=y&p=y>> or email [hello@stemreturners.com](mailto:hello@stemreturners.com) <<mailto:hello@stemreturners.com>> .

More information on the programme is also available here: <https://www.stemreturners.com/2020/01/17/bae-systems-teams-stem-returners-portsmouth/>

### 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 3036

Email

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

Scan our lettings QR Code

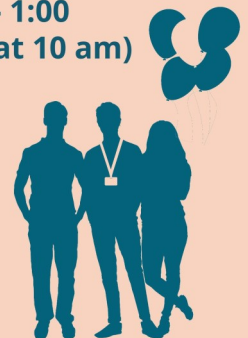


## Volunteering Open Day

**Come and find out more about the volunteering roles we have to offer**

**at Tesco Community Room,  
Tesco Havant, Solent Road  
on 30th January 2020  
from 9:30 - 1:00  
(presentation at 10 am)**

for more info see  
[www.tinyurl.com/joinHavant](http://www.tinyurl.com/joinHavant)  
or email  
[recruit@cahavant.org.uk](mailto:recruit@cahavant.org.uk)



### Parking

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

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

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



### Road Safety



Please remember that students must be dropped off in the morning on the bus shelter side of the road, and be picked up from the grass bank 'Pick Up Point' on the other side of the road in the evening.



# PORTSMOUTH YOUTH DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2020

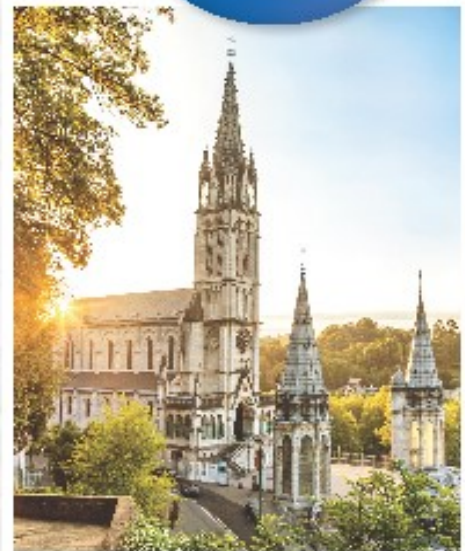
Under the leadership of Bishop Philip Egan



15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> July 2020 | 5 days

£**545**  
per person  
sharing

- Flight from **Bournemouth Airport to France**
- 4 nights' accommodation in the **Hotel La Solitude**
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner whilst in Lourdes
- Guided **walking tour of Lourdes** visiting places associated to St. Bernadette
- Full **assistance of Joe Walsh Tours guides** and representatives throughout the pilgrimage
- **Full religious programme** facilitated by Joe Walsh Tours in conjunction with the Diocese of Portsmouth
- Return flight from France to UK Airport and coach transfer to Portsmouth

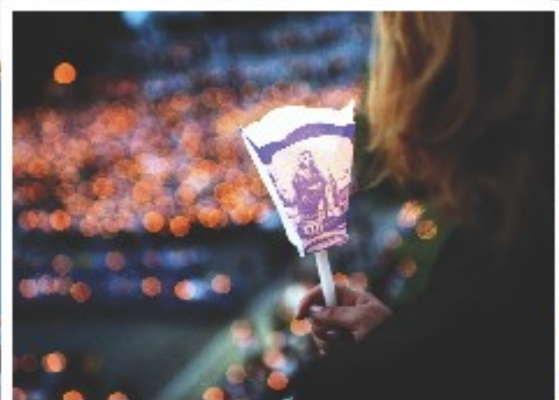


## To Book:

Please contact Fr PJ Smith;

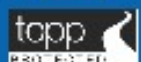
T: 07780 221686

E: [lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



**Joe Walsh Tours** | [www.joewalstours.co.uk](http://www.joewalstours.co.uk) | E: [info@joewalstours.co.uk](mailto:info@joewalstours.co.uk)  
T: 0203 4680617 | FOLLOW US: **Joe Walsh Tours** **@JWTPilgrimages**

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**Oaklands Catholic School and  
Sixth Form College Presents**

**Disney**

# **HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL**

**ON STAGE!**

© Disney

**Tickets available NOW**  
**Via the link on our website**  
**or**  
**from our finance office**

**4th, 5th, 6th March 2020**  
**7pm, Romero Auditorium**

