

Our Ref: RKS/DMB

Dear Parents/Carers

We are delighted that your child will be joining Oaklands Catholic School in September. As our Year 7 students embark upon their new journey, we would like to highlight the significant role that literacy plays in their academic future.

At Oaklands your child will engage in 'Flying Start', which involves fifteen minutes of independent reading at 2.25pm each day. Not only does this allow them to engage in reading for pleasure, but it also enhances their use of vocabulary, their use of accurate and sophisticated punctuation and their use of accurate spelling. It also enhances their ability to decode and interpret information in the world around them and develops their comprehension skills. I am certain that you will understand how vital these skills are.

According to research from the Institute of Education (IOE), 'children who read for pleasure are likely to do significantly better at school than their peers'. They examined the effect of reading for pleasure on cognitive development over time and found that **'children who read for pleasure made more progress in maths, vocabulary and spelling between the ages of 10 and 16 than those who rarely read.'**

It is our expectation that every child will have a suitable reading book with them every day. To support our new Year 7 students, I have been fortunate enough to acquire a range of reading books and am able to offer every student a brand new book of their choice – from a list of seventeen recommended titles – at the heavily discounted price of just £3.00. The school will meet the cost of the book for pupil premium students. As a compulsory piece of equipment, every student will be asked to select a book; this also ensures that every student can actively take part in 'Flying Start' and will encourage a 'buzz about books'. It will also form part of their English curriculum. The books are suitable for 11 year olds and are selected by an independent panel of experts to cover books across a variety of genres, styles and abilities. The titles and more information about each book can be found by visiting <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/programmes-and-campaigns/bookbuzz/students/bookbuzz-books/>

**Students will have the opportunity to select their book title when they arrive at Oaklands in September; their chosen book will be delivered in October.**

Payment must be made before your child starts school at Oaklands. Our preferred method of payment is online. Alternatively, you can pay by cash or cheque (made payable to Oaklands Catholic School).

Reading is a huge part of your child's life at Oaklands. In addition to your child's participation in 'Flying Start' each day, they will also have a fortnightly lesson in our Library. All English lessons also start with dedicated reading time. I do, therefore, look forward to you taking the time to continue to support and encourage your child in this area. A KS3 booklet list is also available on our website. Please encourage our future Year 7 students to engross themselves in some popular KS3 titles before they even arrive!

Yours sincerely

Miss R Sharma  
Literacy Co-ordinator and Teacher of English

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