

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Stakes Hill Road
Waterlooville
Hampshire
PO7 7BW

☎ 023 9225 9214

☎ 023 9223 0317

🌐 www.oaklandscatholicschool.org

✉ oaklands@oaklandscatholicschool.org



Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Registered in England and Wales, Company No 07721932

Headteacher: Matthew Quinn B.Ed (Hons), M.A., NPQH

Our Ref: MQ/SM

15 April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, I hope that you have had a wonderful, happy and Holy Easter. We had the relaxing of restrictions on 12th April and I hope you have used this opportunity to spend time with friends and family, outdoors!

It would be inappropriate of me not to draw reference to the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, during this period of national mourning. Much will be written about Prince Philip and much will be made of his candour and even of his occasionally outspoken views. The lasting impression must be of a long life, packed with variety and rooted in the service of others, the nation, the Commonwealth and the longest-serving and most faithful consort that any British monarch could ever have hoped to have by her side. Over seven decades, millions of young lives have been helped and shaped through the establishment of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. At Oaklands, hundreds of students have benefited from the scheme he established. It was fitting therefore that there was a return to expeditions for our Bronze, Silver and Gold groups over the Easter holidays under the direction of Mrs Judith Hoar, our DofE co-ordinator, who gives so much of her time in a voluntary capacity along with other staff to ensure our students can participate in this scheme. For Prince Philip's gifts and talents, for the benefits that his life brought to the lives of others, for his sense of duty and calling, and for his many evident and admirable qualities and attributes, we should give thanks and pray that he may be at peace, free from human frailty. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

I would like to issue a few reminders at the start of this term to ensure clarity amongst students and parents.

COVID-19 – Risk Assessment

The risk assessment and processes in school remain as we go into the Summer Term. The DfE position on the use of face masks in school has not changed. Students will continue to be expected to wear face coverings in lessons and in the communal areas, such as corridors, during lesson changeover. This will be reviewed in May in line with Step 3 of the national roadmap. Like many of you, I had hoped for a more positive review of the advice over Easter. We will continue to follow the DfE guidance and see what 17th May brings. All other safety measures remain in place including regular asymptomatic testing with the twice weekly LFT, increased hygiene, ventilation and social distancing where possible.

Lateral Flow Testing

Thank you to all students who have continued with the LFT routine during the holiday.

It is important that all students with a testing kit complete a test by 7.00pm on Sunday 18th April before returning to school.

A reminder that the results must be reported using Test Register, following the two-step process to ensure we as a school get the results and the results are also logged with the NHS.

A positive result must be followed up with a confirmatory PCR test (as the LFTs are not conducted in a controlled environment). Please notify the school if either your child's LFT or PCR is positive so we can take the necessary precautions, by emailing Provision@oaklandscatholicschool.org. Your child can only return to school if the PCR test is negative or they have completed the full isolation period.

Please remember not to send your child to school if they or anyone in their household has COVID-19 symptoms including a persistent cough, a high temperature or a loss of taste or smell.

Testing is a crucial way to make sure that we can break the chains of transmission and protect students and staff. Now that symptom free testing is open to everyone, please consider use of the free testing options that are available to the wider community. To order a kit please follow this link. [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Uniform and Equipment

As previously communicated, we had a key focus on uniform and equipment before the Easter break. However, we did allow some latitude while shops were shut. **All students are expected to return to school in full uniform, including correct shoes.**

During this half term, our 'The Oaklands Way' focus will be 'Back to Basics'. We want to re-establish good learning behaviours and routines with the students. The first week will have a specific focus on uniform and therefore any student that comes to school wearing non-uniform items such as hoodies and jewellery, will have these confiscated in the first instance. We want to ensure that those students who come to school wearing the correct uniform every day are rewarded and know that there is a consistent and fair approach. We ask that you check that your child is wearing the correct uniform before they leave for school. I have included a link to the uniform policy below.

<https://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Uniform.pdf>

Last term students had settled well back into school, however, too many students did not have the correct equipment to ensure effective learning. Tutors will be checking that students have a pencil case and a reading book. Thank you for your ongoing support in this area.

Collecting Students at the end of the School Day

We are still receiving several complaints from local residents about the inconsiderate blocking of paths and driveways outside their houses by those picking up students from school at the end of the day. Please ensure that you follow the highway code and be considerate to those who may need access to their houses in the areas surrounding the school.

Last Sixth Form Parents' Evening for Year 13

Year 13 Parents' Evening Consultation will be held on **Thursday 22nd April 2021** between 4.30pm and 8.00pm. Appointments for these online meetings will need to be made using the information in our recent email to all Sixth Form parents. Consultations will take place online using our virtual software detailed in the email home to parents three weeks ago. If you are experiencing any difficulties contact b.ludlam@oaklandscatholicschool.org.

Extra-curricular

Extra-curricular activities will resume after Easter. However, due to the current restrictions, there still cannot be mixing of year groups and this limits what can be offered at this juncture. The plan will be published on this page of the school website:

<https://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org/students/extra-curricular/>

Finally, in the Gospels since Easter we hear that Jesus continued to appear to his friends and followers after his resurrection. On one such appearance, he said to them, "Peace be with you". However, Thomas who was not there was not convinced, despite his friends being overjoyed. Eventually, Jesus did re-appear to the disciples and Thomas was with them this time. Just as Jesus was with Thomas, so too He is with us. He is with us when other people reach out to comfort and support us and when we reach out to help and care for others. We ask that Jesus remains with us as we begin our new school term.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn
Headteacher