

# Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Stakes Hill Road

Waterlooville

Hampshire

PO7 7BW

☎ 023 9225 9214

☎ 023 9223 0317

🌐 [www.oaklandscatholicschool.org](http://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org)

✉ [oaklands@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto:oaklands@oaklandscatholicschool.org)



Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust  
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**Headteacher:** Matthew Quinn B.Ed (Hons), M.A., NPQH

Our Ref: MQ/SM

26 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

This will be my last letter for the Spring term. Anything I need to communicate with you I will wrap up in the Oaklands News, which is returning next week.

We are now in the final quarter of the Lenten season. It is tempting to associate Lent with negativity, particularly in the current climate; we give up things we enjoy, dwell on our failings and so on. Yet Lent is life-giving, positive. In two weeks' time, we celebrate that Jesus loved us so much, He willingly died on the Cross. That perfect love forgave sin and conquered the power of death. Lent certainly asks us to admit that we are human and as a result we have shortcomings but also, more importantly, that God's love is greater than our sin. It is through our Lenten sacrifices, acts of love and prayer that we open up to God and one another.

Our Lenten season has overlapped our return to school, we have enjoyed excellent attendance over this period and I would like to extend my continued thanks for your support in ensuring such high levels of student attendance, correctly worn school uniform and completion of homework tasks.

I do not underestimate the hard work and effort the parents put into helping their children, and our successes can be attributed to this collaborative approach.

## Uniform

Uniform gives our students a sense of belonging and creates an identity for the school in the community. I appreciate that replacing items, particularly shoes, has been difficult. Equally some youngsters have grown rapidly over the last few months necessitating the replacement of items. For these reasons it was appropriate apply some latitude this term. I am however expecting all students to be back in full school uniform after the Easter break.

Skoolkit are due to re-open on 12 April and information can be found on the website about ordering uniform. [Skoolkit Shop Reopening](#)

## Half Term Grades (Year 7- Year 10 only)

These grades will be published via the SIMS App next week. You will receive an email when they are available.

## Extra-Curricular Activities

We have already resumed a number of after school activities, in particular for outdoor sports. Following the Easter holiday, a full programme will resume in year group bubbles. Details will be shared with students and posted on the school website.

## Free School Meal Vouchers

As per the Government's COVID-19 Winter Grant Scheme, we have been issued with school meal vouchers for students who are eligible for free school meals. Vouchers will be sent to the same email address that they were sent to previously during the school closure, and should arrive before the end of term.

## LFT Home Testing Kits

All students will be provided with sufficient COVID-19 home testing kits, which they should continue to use twice weekly during the Easter holiday. We have had an excellent return rate through Test Register and results need to continue to be submitted by 7.00pm on Wednesday and Sunday over the holidays and into next term.

Over Easter, we are responsible for track and trace so it is important that parents ensure we are informed of all test results, including any PCR tests taken should your child develop COVID-19 symptoms. If there are any issues with logging a result with Test Register, please email test results to [CovidTest@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto:CovidTest@oaklandscatholicschool.org)

All the information previously communicated regarding home testing still applies and can be viewed on the school website. It is important that students continue to register tests both with the school and the NHS through Test Register and thank you for your support in helping us achieve such a high return rate. [LFT Home Testing - Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College](#)

## ESafety

Our ESafety consultant, Lee Haywood from Online Safety UK, is gathering information from parents and students so that he can tailor his resources and training based on current need, particularly as so much has changed as a result of lockdown. Please do take 5 minutes to complete the parental survey. [Coming out of Lockdown - Parents / Carers \(google.com\)](#)

## Key Dates

Key dates for the coming term are listed below. Please check for regular updates on events.

### Spring Term

Last day of Spring Term	Thursday 1 April 2021
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### Summer Term

Start of the Summer Term for students	Monday 19 April 2021
Summer Half Term Holiday	Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June 2021
INSET Day	Monday 7 June 2021
Last day of Summer Term	Friday 16 July 2021

Once again thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn  
**Headteacher**