

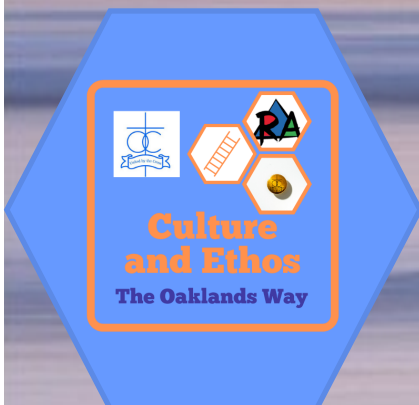
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Oaklands News

Community

Unity

Opportunity



A publication for
Oaklands Catholic School
and Sixth Form College



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From the Headteacher's Desk

After a few months away, a welcome return to the Oaklands News; a sign that a little normality is returning.

There are a number of historic events outside of family life that remain locked in my memory. I recall the Queen's Silver Jubilee, Princess Diana's funeral, the maiden shuttle flight and there are others. I am sure you will have your own list. One reason for remembering these events in our lives is the amount of emotion we invest in them. We are more likely to recall what happened at Christmas when family and friends surround us, than we are to remember what happened on the way to work. Anniversaries also help to fix memories because they have more emotional significance than other days.

One event that is also fixed for me is the first visit of Barack Obama to the UK which happened in March 2009. He arrived at Stansted complete with armoured limousines, helicopters and a mass of high-tech security equipment, including the Presidential limousine, known as 'The Beast'. Many people, including me, were wondering if he was 'the one', he had a political style that was refreshingly dignified, something that had been missing for a while in politics. I remember the words of a BBC reporter who described him as, "The man in whom so many people have invested their hopes and dreams at this difficult time in world affairs."

On Sunday we celebrated Palm Sunday, the beginning of one of the most momentous weeks in history. So many people had invested their hopes and dreams in Jesus at this difficult time. There was Jesus on a donkey and a large crowd of Passover visitors took palm branches and went down the road to meet him. They shouted, "Praise God! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD! Hail to the King of Israel!"

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of what is called Passion Week, by the time you read this it will almost be over. It is referred to as Passion Week because of the emotional and physical suffering Jesus went through on our behalf demonstrating His great love for us.

The suffering and love Jesus has for us is not something that we just reflect on one week out of the year. Rather it is something, like those historic memories, where an emotional attachment needs to remain with us throughout our lives, because what Jesus did then needs to be reflected in how we live our lives now.



Thank you to all of our Oaklands school community for a very successful return from lockdown. Attendance has been good and our students have followed all the safety guidance. I have visited lots of lessons and have seen all the students wearing masks, well ventilated rooms and some excellent learning taking place.

Our in-school lateral flow tests were a success with very high rates of participation. Students have taken home their testing kits and should now complete these twice a week. I am grateful to parents for supporting this. Please remember to ensure your children log the results with the NHS and with the school through Test Register. If you need any help with this then please contact your child's Form tutor. Please see the information further in.

I am also grateful for the support parents have given with uniform. Our students are always well presented, and we want to keep this going. They may wear a coat over their blazer in class if it is cold. This does need to be a coat, as we do not allow hoodies or sweatshirts. They should also wear their school jumper under their blazer. If they are missing any items, then the Easter holidays are a good chance to replace them. Please contact us if you need any help with this. Information about uniform and our supplier can be found on the school website.

School will close at the usual time on Thursday 1st April for the Easter Holidays and reopen on Monday 19th April. Information related to COVID contacts can be found further in.

I hope you are able to enjoy some family time together before we begin our Summer term.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Quinn".

Mr M Quinn
Headteacher

Lateral Flow Test Centre

Staff and volunteers at Oaklands carried out over 4,000 lateral flow tests in the first few weeks of this half term, the manner in which students took part in the tests was a deciding factor in making that effort a success.

Everyone involved with administering the tests was required to take and pass a series of online assessments before taking part. The commitment of both staff and volunteers was extraordinary. Some came in on their days off and offered to do extra sessions to help ensure we had all the required slots covered.

The school gym was converted into our Test Centre with the necessary social distancing and hygiene measures. The whole testing process kept to time and by the end of the second week back all students requiring a test had been through.

Facilities remain on site should a student be required to test at school.

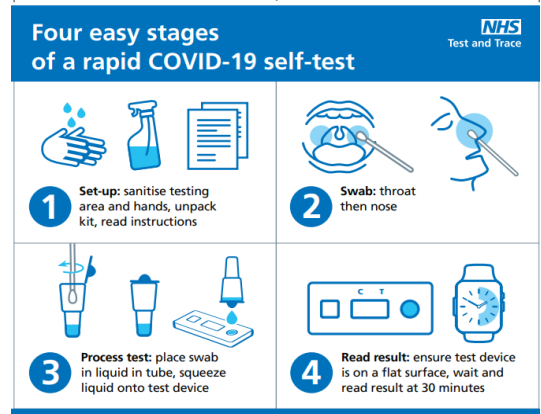


Lateral Flow Home Testing

All students have now been provided with sufficient COVID-19 home testing kits to continue the twice weekly tests over the Easter holiday.

We have had an excellent return rate through the Test Register and results need to continue to be submitted by 7.00pm on Wednesdays and Sundays 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. Please use Test Register to record results. If there are any issues with logging a result with Test Register, please email the results to covidtest@oaklandscatholicschool.org stating your child's name and tutor group and if the test was positive, negative or void.



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.

Track and Trace Over the Holiday

Over the Easter holiday the school has a responsibility to trace COVID-19 cases up until 7 April. In reality, this means that if a student or member of staff tested positive up to and including Saturday 3 April, the school would have to notify families of those students who had been in school if their child was a close contact.

The table below follows the current DfE guidance where schools are asked to look at the two day period before the day of a positive Lateral Flow Test or a positive PCR Test. If a child records a positive Lateral Flow Test, they then need to book a PCR test. If a PCR test is negative, then isolation ends.

Infectious Period	Positive Date	Last Possible Day of Isolation
31 March and 1 April	2 April	12 April
1 April and 2 April	3 April	13 April

Over Easter, if you suspect your child has COVID-19, please do not wait for the next occasion for their Lateral Flow Test, but instead, book a PCR test as quickly as possible and notify the school by emailing provision@oaklandscatholicschool.org.

Please contact us again, using the same email, as soon as the test results are known. We need to know if the result is positive or negative, for our records.

If we are notified of a confirmed case, we will contact parents as required using the email and texting service.

Please do not use any other telephone numbers, email addresses or contacts, apart from the Provision email, as this is the only one which will be monitored for COVID-19 results over the holidays between 2 and 18 April.

Please do not delay in providing us with any of the information requested.

Student Return from Lockdown

I was overjoyed to find out that we were going back to school! Personally, I found lockdown really hard. Not being able to see my friends or my teachers made an impact on my work, as I found it difficult to ask for help when learning online compared to being at school in person. However, lockdown has taught me to be more independent which now influences me in school.



Before lateral flow tests, I had never been tested for COVID. This made me nervous about the tests as I did not know what to expect. However, after I took my first one, I realised that it was not as painful as I was expecting. Taking the tests has become a part of all of our weekly routine! I have really enjoyed being back to school! It has been amazing to see all of my friends and teachers again! Seeing everyone smile brightens my day!

There are a few things which I have found a bit tricky about coming back to school. My main issue was wearing a mask constantly. This was certainly uncomfortable but what kept me going was that I knew that I was helping to protect my friends, teachers and students around me.

Overall, I'm really pleased about the reopening and I'm very excited to continue to help stop the spread of COVID!

Mischelin, Year 7



Coming back to school was not as bad as I thought it would be, it was really welcoming and much better than home learning because we understood the work better rather than spending the full day on our devices.

I was extremely happy to see my friends and teachers again because it felt like we were talking to an object instead of our friend and teachers. The teachers have been helping us to be back on the right track and have done everything they can to help us. This is really helpful to me and students.

Axa, Year 7

My lockdown was very different to most other people. When lockdown first began, I had to move into my terminally ill sister's house because my mum and I needed to be there to help her. This was hard on me because I could not be in my own house for 3 to 4 months. Despite my mum being a teacher, it was hard to get help at home with my work when I needed it because my mum was often helping my sister as there were days when she was very ill. The live lessons this lockdown were really helpful because I could ask my teachers for help on Teams when I needed it and replay videos if I didn't understand things.

Coming back to school was nice as I got to see all my friends who I had not seen in a while. I feel safe coming to school and being in my Year 9 bubble. It's good that everyone has had their lateral flow tests and although I don't like wearing my mask at all, I understand that we all need to wear them to protect us all at school and especially when I go home to my sister.

Cerys, Year 9

I struggled with online lessons quite a lot due to lack of motivation but they were much better being live on Teams and I enjoyed morning tutor time. It's pretty good to be back in school after 3 months and face to face lessons will help me to improve, and I feel more motivated.

The system of in-school testing felt very planned and efficient, it was really impressive. We didn't miss too much lesson time yet managed to all be safely tested. I believe the schools anti-COVID measures have made a lot of students – including me – feel safe going back to school. For example, mandatory mask wearing, and hand sanitization has limited the spread of coronavirus as well as working in year bubbles and having split breaks and lunch. However, it can be frustrating at times having to wear a mask, even if it's necessary. The food at the canteen is as good as always and there is a nice a variety of meals.

I'm genuinely happy to be back in school especially being able to see my friends and teachers in person. I think easing lockdown will be a huge relief for everyone so we can all just get back to normality.

Jonathan, Year 9



What has it been like for students returning to school after another lockdown?

For most students, returning to school has been a great change from having to stay home due to another lockdown. Coming back to school means that we've been able to leave the house and see our friends - most of which we hadn't seen since before Christmas. Spending time with each other at school has been a much welcome change from sitting at our desks at home! We've also been able to learn with more support from our teachers rather than going through the online lessons independently, which is really useful.

Learning at home has been different for each year group. The Year 7s have spent a lot of their first year of secondary school in lockdown and hopefully now, they will be able to get a better understanding of school life at Oaklands.

For some Year 11s, the time in lockdown has been difficult and stressful as they have been uncertain of how their grades are going to be calculated. Therefore, returning to school allows the Year 11 students to show what they are really capable of in class with the support of their teachers.

Overall, it's great to be back at school, even if we have to get up an hour or two earlier!

Emma and Sasha, Year 11

Student Return from Lockdown (cont)

I could feel the excitement mounting as I drove with my Dad up into Oaklands driveway on Friday 5th March, as being Year 11 we were required to take our Lateral Flow Test ahead of us all returning to school the following Monday 8th March. It would be great to see my friends and teachers again after yet another lockdown and further months of online learning. My teachers have certainly done a wonderful job with that and motivating us also, but you can't beat learning in school!



As our studies resumed the following week, we quickly adjusted back to the 'new normal' but I certainly feel the pressure now and a great uncertainty too as I work towards being awarded my GCSE grades in the Summer. Following on from our mock exams before Christmas, we now have a number of assessments coming at us and we have been back at school only a fortnight so far! Of course we are all anxious to do our best at these as our futures depend upon it. You are constantly aware that there is still a lot of hard work yet to do against a background of fragmented education as a nation. All in all though it is good to be back at school and our teachers are doing their very best to reassure and encourage us as we navigate the tricky road ahead.

We have quickly adjusted to the new system of wearing masks in class and trying not to sound too muffled when we speak and have also got used to carrying out the LFT tests at home twice a week. In a sense while these present a challenge there is an element of fun too and a sense of all being in this together!

One highlight since my return was coming to school on Saturday 20 March to prepare for a mini-expedition to conclude our Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, which we embarked on back in 2019. We went through plans; first aid and food preparation with a boil-in-a-bag meal. All that would certainly have been unthinkable a year ago.

I was also relieved to discover that my uniform still fitted. It seems strange to think that being Year 11, I have only 10 more weeks or so of proudly wearing my Oaklands school uniform then in September it's exciting to think that I will be moving up to the Sixth Form College and Year 12.

Stafford, Year 11



Home learning was one of the most challenging things for students. It would not have been easy without our teachers as they were always online throughout the lessons to assist us.

I was so excited to come back to school after a long time to see all my friends, but going back to school didn't mean the virus had ended so as well as excitement, I felt nervous. However in our school, we sanitize our hands, wear masks and maintain social distancing to help us stop spreading the virus. We also do COVID tests twice a week to ensure there isn't any infection among us.

Oaklands is a safe community to be in during the pandemic and I am happy to be a part of this school.

Amesha, Year 11

As Year 13 begin their mini mocks in preparation for their final eight weeks at Oaklands, we are working with Year 12 students to identify the next steps towards their post-18 destinations.

Without the advantages of the usual wealth of work experience opportunities to help students determine if a particular venue is for them, it has been tricky for some to show their worth to potential admissions officers at universities or even to potential employers. However, as usual some of our clever young people have found a way to be successful in gaining key competencies and experiences, never mind a national lockdown!



We share opportunities for students through Microsoft Teams and some of the brilliant new ways of accessing important career choices are described below:

MOOCS – Massive Open Online Courses. These are usually free or low cost and are offered by universities as a way of showing your abilities beyond A Level. Students have selected this option as part of their enrichment choices and they work on them in their own time. Courses can last two, three or even ten weeks and have post A Level syllabus components.

Summer Schools – many universities are still open for applications for this summer's events. Go to the university website to see what they are offering.

Sign up to University Taster Days! <https://www.unitasterdays.com/search.aspx?TID=9>

Brighton & Sussex Medical School Virtual Work Experience – it has been hard to gain direct patient experience in the last year so students have been directed to this fabulous opportunity: <https://bsmsoutreach.thinkific.com/courses/VWE>

Unifrog <https://www.unifrog.org/> - in Oaklands Sixth Form we use a brilliant careers website, for which all students have a log in. They can take careers quizzes, research university courses anywhere in the world, find apprenticeship opportunities, learn how to construct their UCAS personal statements, record all tutor interactions and interviews so that they can see their progress through the two years in Sixth Form.

Virtual Work Experiences – Dr Colvin posts weekly notices to Year 12's Teams group to offer enrichment choices, online research opportunities to build up their skills in readiness for all post-18 destinations such as this one: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/job-ready-video-interview-masterclass-with-experian-tickets-141811021583?utm_campaign=5f2a3c69a9-Student+opportunities+-+March&utm_term=0_36c44588b4-5f2a3c69a9-116067839&utm_source=Head+of+Sixth+Free+Newsletter&utm_medium=email&mc_eid=fbc98bcb7f&mc_cid=5f2a3c69a9

Whilst we may have lost out on personal contact, the tutorial support for Sixth Formers has, as ever, been excellent. We have missed our Year 12 during lockdown, but know that if they follow up on the opportunities offered they will be at the front of the queue in the Autumn as they start to research and make university and apprenticeship applications.

Mrs Belinda Ludlam
Director of Sixth Form Learning

Behaviour and Standards

At Oaklands, there are two main ways we encourage our students to move towards self-regulating their behaviour to a high standard; one is through the use of praise and reward, the other is through the use of restorative justice and appropriate sanctions.

EPraise continues to be the main vehicle through which staff can reward students and this year we will be focusing in particular on recognising the effort students put into their work or activities in school, especially where they have showed determination and perseverance. We will award EPraise points in line with our teaching and learning initiative 'The Oaklands Way' so staff will use EPraise as a way of commending students who exemplify this.

When it comes to sanctions, there are many reasons why a student may receive one but failure to complete homework is a common reason. Students in Year 7 have a phased introduction to homework to ease the transition between primary and secondary school. This ensures students are given the support they need to develop good habits around the completion of homework. Due to the current restrictions around bubbles, each Year Group will have a centralised detention one day a week. Therefore we cannot accommodate requests to move or changes the day a detention is set. Year 7 DT's will take place on a Monday, Year 8 on Tuesday, Year 9 on Wednesday, Year 10 on Thursday and Year 11 on Friday. Some department detentions may vary but they will still ensure they only have one year group in at a time.

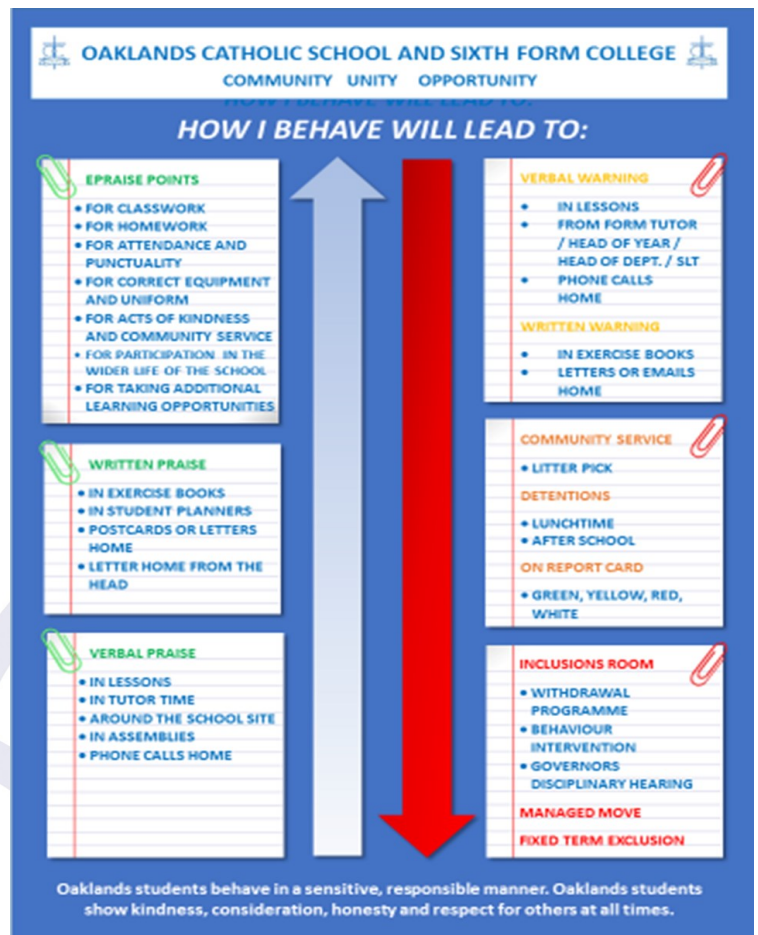
In all cases, detentions are recorded and detention letters are used to inform parents / carers. Signed slips must be returned to acknowledge the detention and to give consent. Whilst consent to detain a child after school is not legally required, at Oaklands we work hard to maintain good home / school communication and so will continue to ask for the reply slip to be handed in. However, if a child turns up for detention without a slip, all efforts will be made to contact the parent / carer for verbal consent as failure to attend a detention will result in an escalation in sanctions. Again, the expectation is that as parents /carers have signed the home-school agreement, they will support the school's behaviour policy in this regard.

Detentions move swiftly up the scale if there is non-compliance on the part of a student to ensure the matter is resolved within a two week timeframe at the most.

Behaviour is very good at Oaklands and standards remain high. This means that overall, we spend more time praising and affirming students than we do sanctioning them. However, this does not happen by chance and we continue to be proactive in maintaining those high standards and seeking ways to work in conjunction with parents and carers to ensure that is the case. Our systems are regularly reviewed to ensure we are maintaining the correct balance with reward and sanction.

Thank you for the support you give in making the Home School agreement a working document in support of the standards we strive to maintain at Oaklands.

Mrs A Bonnington



Rewarding Students

We are delighted that, once again, our students stepped up to the challenge of online learning so brilliantly. Rewarding these efforts is a central part of our culture and ethos. We have an extensive rewards system, which awards individual students for numerous categories including outstanding work, excellent effort and contribution to school life- we've added a new category since our students have been learning in a new way, "*Engagement with online learning*". Teachers have been busy adding points for students and your child should be able to see their reward points online in the usual way.

Each student has their own Reward Account, where they can see which Tutor Group or House is in the lead. Staff award points electronically so that students can see why they were awarded a point and by whom.

Heads of Year, Tutors and subject teachers have been overwhelmed by some of the amazing extra work and the dedication of our students during periods of online learning, and how well they're adapting to life back at school. We're rewarding their hard work, great attitudes to learning and smart uniform whenever we can.

An important addition to our rewards categories are our "ultra-rare" Head of Year and Headteacher's Awards. These badges are awarded for outstanding special achievements and our Year Heads are always looking carefully at which students should receive these special awards in 2021!

At the end of the summer term, our Governors support us in rewarding students who've done particularly well in a subject. The Governors' End of Year Awards are a cornerstone of our ethos of rewarding, and although our traditional ceremony might look different this year, we're still going to acknowledge student achievements by awarding these prestigious trophies to recognise the hard work of our learners over this extraordinary year.

We hope that this system highlights the motivation and commitment of our students, and the inclusive and positive nature of our community here at Oaklands

Ms S Whyte

The Oaklands Way

This half term we are focusing on our return to 'The Oaklands Way' after months of online learning. The return to school has looked much the same as it did in September but this time we had the addition of Lateral Flow Testing. We cannot praise the students enough for how well they behaved during this process.

We have used this half term to remind students of our COVID-19 secure measures. We have explained how important the health and safety measures are in protecting our whole community in and outside of school. There has also been time for students to reflect on what has happened and discuss within tutor groups the impact that this has had on them. There have been numerous reports in the news about the impact of the COVID crisis on young people's mental health and we have addressed this; we are currently planning our 'Lockdown Heroes' assemblies after Easter to recognise acts of kindness.

This half term focus will also help to reaffirm our expectations of students. Our expectations are high; as they should be in order to maintain our Oaklands reputation. Some of our expectations have become even more important, particularly coming in with the correct equipment, as we can no longer provide this without it becoming a cross contamination risk. The students have been brilliant and we cannot express how much we have enjoyed having them all back in as a community.

We would ask that you as parents and carers support us in our efforts and ensure that students are attending school on time, every day, in the correct uniform and with the correct equipment to help us get back to school and keeping safe!

Thank you for your continued support.

From the Chair of Governors

As we head into the Easter break, I reflect on this term which has been perhaps the most challenging I've known during my long history with Oaklands as a parent and a Governor. It has also been mixed with sadness, anxiety, incredible fortitude, unyielding positivity and wonderful selflessness.

The year started with the tragic news about Freddie Fincham, a wonderful young man in Year 9, taken from his family and friends far too soon. More recently an alumni, Bradley Coombes, lost his fight to cancer at the all too young age of just 23. Elsewhere in our staff community, Mrs Nicky Harvey sadly lost her husband Stephen after a period of illness. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families at this incredibly sad and difficult time; as they are also to all others who have suffered bereavements in recent months.



For the year to start with students returning to classrooms only for the Prime Minister to close all schools within a day has understandably increased pressure on families, generated anxiety and tested the patience, resilience and mental fortitude of everyone in our community. I am completely in awe of the way our staff, at every level, have rallied in support of the students. To juggle the responsibilities of their own caring and home-schooling commitments whilst concurrently delivering educational support across all year groups has been nothing short of incredible. On behalf of the Governors, and on behalf of you all, I'd like to thank each and every one of them – from Mr Quinn and his Senior Leadership Team, right through every Head of Year, Head of Department and every member of teaching and support staff, *“Thank you, you have been amazing.”*

Then as we again returned to the classrooms, the volunteers from all corners of our community who stepped up to help deliver the lateral flow testing, without which we could not have allowed students back, was a selfless act – not an easy thing to do, but one they did willingly to allow the school to function as effectively as it has been over the past weeks. Again I thank all volunteers, your efforts are truly appreciated.

When we return after Easter we will have much to look forward to. Not only will the further easing of COVID-19 restrictions and continued vaccination roll-out combined with longer, warmer days start to shift everyone's mood into something far more positive, but we can also look to grow in our Catholic education community. On 1 April, Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School will join Oaklands in the Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust, the first school to do so since our own academy conversion in September 2011. We already have strong ties with the school, as we do with all schools in the Edith Stein Partnership, but it is a very significant moment to expand the Academy Trust and we very much look forward to welcoming all staff and students into the Trust and working with them more formally. As the Trust grows, so governance will adapt to meet renewed responsibilities. The Trust Board (The Directors) will change shape and cease to wholly comprise Oaklands Governors. There will be no change to the roles and responsibilities of the Local Governing Body, although we shall see some changes as Governors come to the end of their term of office. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to again invite any practising Catholics who believe that they have skills that will be of use in the governance of Oaklands to consider offering their services as a Foundation Governor. More details can be provided upon request and Mr Quinn and I are always happy to meet with anyone who might be interested.

I wish you all a very happy and safe Easter and, as the various restrictions ease next term, look forward to seeing more of you in person at Oaklands in the Summer Term.

Marc Evans

From the Chaplain

Another year passes, and another Lent in lockdown. Perhaps we are all getting just a small taste of what it was like for Moses and the Israelites wandering in the desert for forty years, desperately searching and waiting for the Promised Land. We've grumbled and moaned, we've looked for answers, we've tried to find the way; I'm sure we've even doubted God or asked why He has seemingly left us in this wilderness for so long now! The Israelites didn't have a "roadmap", like ours from the PM, but they had God with them day and night; He never abandoned His people.

Perhaps the mundane monotony of lockdown reminds us of the lockdown we place upon ourselves through sin; we repeatedly make the same mistakes, we hurt others, we turn away from God, and we get lost wandering in our own desert of shortcomings and failures. Lent is a time to repent; to turn back to God with all our hearts, to seek forgiveness from the fount and source of limitless love and infinite mercy. When we seek forgiveness from God, He sets us free from the captivity of sin; we are invited into a share of the Promised Land.

The vaccine rollout is our hope for the end of this crisis, the light at the end of a very dark tunnel, the ticket we all need to get out of lockdown and have freedom from COVID-19 restrictions. It's taken a lot longer than any of us first thought to get out of this pandemic, and we're certainly not home and dry yet! But at least it hasn't taken forty years.

But more importantly, we must remember that there is a greater freedom that is being offered to us. Freedom from sin that restricts our lives far more than we realise. Freedom from our own selfishness to live a life more open and receptive to love and mercy, goodness, beauty and truth. Life in the light of Christ's resurrection. The vaccine to our sin is the Cross; the mercy of God, His love made visible in Jesus, the blood poured out on the Cross for our salvation. This vaccine offers us protection from harm and keeps us safe, it is our ticket to freedom in the Promised Land. Perhaps this Lent, in particular, (or maybe this whole year has felt like Lent!) has drawn us deeper into the suffering of Jesus; we've all bared our crosses, some have been heavier than others, but we have journeyed with Christ. And now, maybe more gloriously than ever, we rejoice in the victory and majesty of the resurrection!

Lenten Reconciliation

Unable to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation to the whole school, as we normally would during Lent, on Wednesday 24th March all of Years 7 & 8 were invited to the Chapel to celebrate this wonderful sacrament of forgiveness. Once again, this proved very popular, with most students accepting the invitation and partaking in this Lenten observance. Over 200 students met with Christ and received His love and mercy in a very real way!

To help students to prepare to meet with Christ in the Sacrament, they watched an online assembly in the morning (this can be found on the Chaplaincy YouTube channel).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZpn8en8yw0&t=230s>

The Sacrament of Reconciliation has become somewhat misunderstood in the Catholic Church, and its importance diminished. Even getting to Church in the past year has been a challenge, let alone celebrating the Sacraments, but these are the places where we truly meet with Christ. If it's been a while, I really encourage you to take the opportunity. Here is a beautiful explanation about the power of confession and Christ's mercy. **Confession is a place of victory.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YiVjwlUO9Sc>

We are very grateful to Fr Peter Johnstone (Chichester), Fr Phil Carroll and Fr Elijah Fru (Cathedral Parish, Portsmouth), Fr Rob Stewart (St Margaret Mary's, Park Gate), and our own Fr Jeremy, for giving up their time to come and celebrate this sacrament with our students.

Mrs S Farrell
School Chaplain



Year 13 CREST Awards

Since September 2019, A Level Chemistry students have been working on projects to achieve CREST awards. The process has been disrupted to school closure due to the Coronavirus pandemic but students remained committed and have reaped the rewards with confirmation of their CREST award classifications and the arrival of certificates in February and March this year.

Oaklands Chemistry students were part of a project, funded by the Gatsby Foundation, which explored the benefits of STEM activities, specifically CREST awards in this case, on the engagement with and understanding of A Level Science curriculum. Guided by teachers and with support from the lab technician and staff from Gatsby and The British Science Association, students started by synthesising Aspirin from Oil of Wintergreen. This allowed students to become more confident with the more complex laboratory glassware and techniques that they might not come across at such an early stage in their academic careers.

Students then formed small teams and chose suitable investigation projects, linked to the Aspirin synthesis. They had to complete research and then justify their method ensuring it could be linked to a real-life application; examples include investigating different acid catalysts and investigating effect of pH on permeability of Aspirin through a partially permeable membrane. Students completed between 40-70 hours of work, with class work, laboratory sessions in free time and research/write up out of school. They have developed excellent analytical skills, team working skills and report writing skills, to name a few.

Half of the class submitted and achieved Gold CREST awards, the highest standard available, and the remaining students achieved Silver CREST awards, another difficult level to reach. In some cases, the project write-up has also been used to obtain EPQ qualifications, all useful for UCAS/apprenticeship/job applications.

The CREST award projects have provided a fantastic enrichment opportunity and it is something that the Science department hope to do again. Here are some quotations from some of the students who participated:

'I am glad that the school has given us the opportunity to complete this award. As a student, I spent the majority of my academic years watching my teachers perform complex lab experiments, so designing and planning our own was an exciting prospect. We conducted many amazing chemical reactions during the award and spent many hours obtaining results and writing our project reports; our certificate is the culmination of all of our hard work, and will be very useful evidence for applications.'

Prince Paradza

'Carrying out this investigation has taught me a lot more about this particular field of chemistry. My background research into the chemistry, uses, and history of aspirin has given me a much larger breadth of knowledge about how aspirin works in the body, the changes that have been made to aspirin since it was first discovered and the multiple different uses for aspirin in today's society. Furthermore, this investigation taught me about the multiple different factors that must be considered when medicines are being developed on an industrial scale; not only does the quality of the product matter, but also the economical side of it. In my opinion, the most beneficial thing that I have learnt from this investigation, is how to execute practical skills more professionally and efficiently. Additionally, this project allowed me to enhance my ability to work as a team, a skill which will be very beneficial to me in the future.'

Claudia Hobbs

'Completing the Crest award has provided me with many opportunities and skills I would need in the future such as teamwork, organisation skills to planning and write-ups. Visualizing the process behind the synthesis of aspirin for my gold crest award qualification in chemistry motivated me to choose Pharmacy (Mpharm) at university to study. Synthesizing aspirin showed me the simplicity in manufacturing such a commonly used drug. I was very fortunate to take part in this opportunity and through this, the biggest lesson learnt is to keep going as it's all worth it in the end as I've had to overcome challenges to reach the gold level'

Liyana Chirimal

'From this project, the most important thing that I have learnt is how to carry out a full investigation effectively and how to execute practical skills more efficiently. In addition, my research into aspirin has widened my knowledge about how the drug works and the changes that have been made to aspirin since it was first discovered. Furthermore, carrying out this investigation has taught me about the many factors that must be considered when medicines are in development on an industrial scale – it is not only the quality of the drug that matters, but also economic factors. Alongside this, I have also been able to enhance my ability to work as a team which will be important in the future.'

Eleanor Hobbs



Opportunity for Year 9 Students

8 Places at a Virtual Summer School

Oaklands will be hosting a STEM event by Seafarers UK for some Year 9 students, and as part of this, we have been offered 8 (4 boy, 4 girl) fully funded summer school places with Southampton University.

The summer school will take place from 2nd to 4th August 2021, 10am to 4pm each day. Students will participate from home with virtual instructions and support and all equipment needed will be posted home in advance.

This course would normally cost £200 per student.

The University of Southampton invites you to explore the fascinating world of Future Marine Engineering, and to experience the challenge of innovative design for the maritime environment. The course is hosted by the Maritime Engineering Group within the Civil, Maritime and Environmental Engineering Department, which is home of the largest university-based towing tank in the UK and the National Infrastructure Laboratory.

Through this course you will learn what it takes to design ships, renewable energy technologies, and remotely controlled systems. You will face the challenges of manoeuvring your ship in stormy sea states, optimising ship propulsion and operating underwater vehicles. You will also have the chance to talk to talented young engineers and researchers, who are directly involved across the maritime frontier, from world class sailing competitions to building the vehicles which dwell in the unexplored abysses of our planet.

More information can be found by following the link below:

<https://www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk/course-page/93bcc821-9f64-eb11-a812-0022481a5c82>

Interested students should register their interest by contacting either:

**Dr Dixon (Head of Science) or
Mrs Hardaker (Science Teacher and STEM Co-ordinator)**

Fancy an Eggciting Challenge over the Easter Break?


Follow this link for instructions to make a parachute for an egg/Easter egg.

<https://www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk/downloads/EaH-03-The-Parachute-Challenge.pdf>

Further STEM challenges can be found on the Smallpiece website:

<https://www.smallpeicetrust.org.uk/engineering-at-home>



A promotional poster for the Year 7 Science STEM Club. The background is light blue with water droplets. On the right, there is a photograph of laboratory glassware including a beaker with yellow liquid, a petri dish, and test tubes. The text is centered and includes the school crest, event details, and contact information.

Starts after Easter

**YEAR 7
SCIENCE STEM CLUB**

WHERE: LAB 7

WHEN: WEDNESDAYS 3:20-4:20PM

ENGAGE IN FUN PROJECTS/COMPETITIONS

WORK TOWARDS CREST AWARDS

LEARN ABOUT STEM CAREERS

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
SPEAK TO YOUR SCIENCE TEACHER**



Governor Vacancy

We currently have vacancies for two Foundation Governors on our Governing Body and would like to fill these positions as soon as possible.

The governors of a Catholic school work as a team, in close co-operation with the Headteacher and all the staff. Foundation Governors share the responsibilities of all governors:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

In addition to this, Foundation Governors are appointed specifically to ensure:

- That the religious character of the school is preserved
- That the school is conducted in accordance with its trust deed
- That the religious education curriculum is in accordance with the Bishop's policy for this Diocese

The school would benefit from people with recent or current experience in their professional roles, in accountancy, project management, HR, logistics and people skills.

We feel sure that there are members of the Catholic community prepared to take on this important role and give their time and commitment to helping us to continue to improve the school's performance. There are incidentally great benefits in terms of personal development and wider experience in an important and dynamic field.

If you are a practising Catholic and feel you might be ready for the challenge please contact Clerk to Governors, Mrs Claire Colley, at the school, c.colley@oaklandscatholicschool.org for an application form or to ask any questions you may have.

Uniform

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.

We are going to insist on high standards of uniform after Easter now we have settled back into the routine of school. There will be regular uniform checks in tutor time and parents will be contacted if full and correct uniform is not being worn. As previously, if you have any specific issues around uniform please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.

Please refer to our website for more information about Skoolkit opening hours and online ordering service.

- **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 warmer weather. A trend in the wearing of 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 canvas casual shoes or leather trainers / trainer style shoes– 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. Hoodies/sweatshirts/ gilets are forbidden and not considered an acceptable item of school uniform. Non-uniform items of clothing which are repeatedly worn into school despite verbal warnings will be confiscated.
- **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.
Given the current hygiene requirements, nails should be kept as short as possible to aid good hand washing technique.
- **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 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:

- Verbal warning to correct uniform
- Email home to parents with a warning that if no improvement next step will be uniform monitoring
- Student placed in uniform monitoring
- If there is no improvement a detention DT will be set and uniform monitoring will be extended for a further two week period
- If there is still no improvement a student will be set an SLT extended detention
- If student fails to correct their uniform following these interventions, a Fixed Period Exclusion will be put in place for 'Persistent Disruptive Behaviour'.

News from St John's, Korogocho

The last period of lockdown was fraught with difficulty and challenge for all. However, students and staff were better equipped to tackle the online world of teaching and learning; adjusting our lives to regular Teams calls and assignments, in a way none of us would have ever imagined possible. It seems perfect that we have the season of Lent to reconcile our thoughts, reflect on our time in lockdown and as we approach Holy week, commemorate Jesus' sacrifice for us all.

St John's had a full term before Christmas with grade 4, grade 8 and form 4 all back in school – learning, collaborating and achieving as a community through their shared faith. All other learners managed to return to school for the new academic year in January 2021. Headteacher, Mr Opondo, writes: *"We are doing our best to manage and cope with COVID rules and protocols to curb the spread of the disease in school. We have been provided with hand washing facilities, though not enough masks to keep learning in progress throughout the school. Some learners had to relocate to other schools due to financial instability at home, while others joined our school from other areas. We really appreciate your continued support. Be blessed."*

It is important to remember that COVID-19 has affected us all in many ways. We have all had a difficult time to navigate – especially those at St John's, ensuring learners have the best possible opportunity to access their education and continue their learning journey. With the season of Lent, we have an opportunity to remind ourselves of the value of repentance. A key time to focus on repenting sin and consecrating oneself to God. Lent should not be a time of loss, but celebration. God's love for us and his forgiveness, allows us to come together in faith – we are united by the cross borne by Jesus.

It's evident that even during times of difficulty and struggle, we are all centred around our shared faith and belief that there will be brighter days ahead. I will leave you with this piece of scripture from Psalm 33:20-22: *"We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you."*

Happy Easter and thank you for your continued support.

Mr C Osbourne



Easter Mass Times and Services



Please check the website of each Parish to check whether a booking system is in place.
If you turn up without booking, you might be turned away.

Sacred Heart, Waterloooville

Maundy Thursday (1 st April)	8.00pm Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday (2 nd April)	3.00pm Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday (3 rd April)	8.00pm Solemn Vigil and First Mass of Easter
Easter Sunday (4 th April)	8.00am, 10.30am, 6.30pm Mass of Easter

An online Mass for Easter Sunday will be available on our YouTube channel as usual.

St Michael & All Angels, Leigh Park

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available before Mass. It is expected to livestream all of these Liturgies.

Maundy Thursday (1 st April)	8.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper, followed by Adoration until 10.00pm.
Good Friday (2 nd April)	10.00am Stations of the Cross 3.00pm Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday (3 rd April)	10.00am Blessing of Easter Food 8.00pm Solemn Vigil and First Mass of Easter
Easter Sunday (4 th April)	10.00am and 11.30am Mass for the Feast of the Lord's Resurrection

St Joseph, Havant and St Thomas, Emsworth

Maundy Thursday (1 st April)	7.30pm Mass at St Joseph, Havant
Good Friday (2 nd April)	3.00pm Solemn Liturgy at St Joseph, Havant
Holy Saturday (3 rd April)	8.00pm Solemn Vigil and First Mass of Easter at St Joseph, Havant
Easter Sunday (4 th April)	9.00am Masses for Easter at St. Thomas, and St Joseph

St Edmund's, Horndean

Maundy Thursday (1 st April)	7.30pm Mass of the Last Supper
Good Friday (2 nd April)	3.00pm Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday (3 rd April)	8.00pm Solemn Vigil and First Mass of Easter
Easter Sunday (4 th April)	9.30am Mass of Easter

St Patrick's, Hayling Island

Maundy Thursday (1 st April)	8.00pm Mass of the Last Supper
Good Friday (2 nd April)	3.00pm Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday (3 rd April)	8.00pm Solemn Vigil and First Mass of Easter
Easter Sunday (4 th April)	10.00am Mass of Easter

Dates for the Summer Term

Monday	19 April	Spring Term Begins (Week 2)
Wednesday	21 April	HPV Injections Year 13 Mock Grades Home
Thursday	22 April	HPV Injections Year 13 Parents' Evening
Monday	26 April	Governors' Business & Collaboration Committee Meeting
Thursday	29 April	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Monday	3 May	Bank Holiday
Monday	10 May	Governors' Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting OFPA Meeting (7.30pm)
Tuesday	11 May	Year Group Photos (tbc)
Wednesday	19 May	Full Governors' Meeting
Tuesday	25 May	Year 11 Mass and Last Day (provisional)
Thursday	27 May	Year 13 Last Day (provisional) Year 10 Post-16 Evening (7.00pm) Year 12 Grades/Attitudes Home
Friday	28 May	Year 10 Sixth Form Taster Day
Monday-Friday	31 May-4 June	Half Term
Monday	7 June	Inset Day Governors' Business & Collaboration Committee Meeting OFPA Meeting (7.30pm)
Wednesday	9 June	SEN Parents' Evening
Thursday	10 June	Year 12 Parents' Evening
Monday	14 June	Pre-Sixth Form Taster Week Governors' Ethos and Strategy Meeting
Thursday	17 June	Year 10 Tests (to 24 June) Year 8 Parents' Evening
Thursday	24 June	Year 13 Leavers' Mass and Meal
Friday	25 June	Fundraising Friday
Monday	28 June	Year 12 Tests (to 6 July) Year 7 Reports Home
Thursday	1 July	Year 10 Practice Interviews Peri / Music Concert (7.00pm)
Friday	2 July	Year 10 Practice Interviews Year 8 Reports Home
Monday	5 July	OFPA Meeting (7.30pm)
Tuesday	6 July	Year 11 Prom (tbc)
Wednesday	7 July	Full Governors' and Trustees Meeting
Thursday	8 July	Sports Day
Friday	9 July	New Year 7 Induction Day
Monday	12 July	New Year 7 Induction Day New Year 7 Induction Evening (for parents) Year 9 Reports/Year 10 Reports & Summer Homework/Year 12 Exam Grades
Thursday	15 July	Last Day of Term
Friday + Monday	16 July + 19 July	Inset Day

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

Term Dates 2021-2022

Autumn Term 2021
Half Term:

Tues 31st August to Fri 17th December 2021
Mon 25th October - Fri 29th October

Spring Term 2022
Half Term:

Tues 4th January to Fri 8th April
Mon 21st - Fri 25th February

Summer Term 2022
Half Term:

Mon 25th April to Tuesday 19th July
Mon 30th - Fri 3rd June

INSET Days:

Tuesday 31st August, Friday 1st October,
Friday 17th December, Friday 1st July, Wednesday 20th July

Student Return:

Wed 1st September, phased return for Y7
Thurs 2nd September, phased return for Y7, Y11, Sixth Form
Fri 3rd September, all students to return

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

Noticeboard



FREE EVENTS IN HAMPSHIRE Easter Holidays

For EVERYONE! **FAMILY FUN DAYS**
FREE activities for the whole family!

10am - 2pm

Family Fun Days will take place in family bubbles outside and there will be a mix of activities arts and craft, games, cooking and something special each day.

All Family Fun Days will take place outside so please be prepared with the appropriate clothing and footwear.

10am - 3pm **YOUTH PROJECTS**
Activities include:

- Game Design
- Wood Work
- Robotics Engineering
- Graffiti Art
- Business Enterprise & T-shirt Design
- Scrap Robots
- Jewellery Making
- Bake and Decorate a Cake
- App Design
- Bike Fix
- Clay Modelling

For 11-16 year olds

VENUE NAME	FAMILY FUN DAY	YOUTH PROJECT
Winchester		
Henry Beaufort School	✓	✓
Basingstoke		
Westside Community Centre	✓	
Vyne Community School		✓
New Forest		
Oakfield Primary School	✓	
Eaglewood School		✓
Andover and Test Valley		
Romsey Community School	✓	
Longmeadow Centre		✓
Knights Enham Junior School	✓	
 Gosport		
St. Vincent College	✓	✓
Fareham		
Henry Cort Community College	✓	✓
Havant		
Park Community School	✓	✓
Hayling Island Community Centre	✓	
Cowplain Community School		✓
Farnborough		
The Grange Community Junior School	✓	
Eastleigh		
Itchen Valley Country Park	✓	✓
Pilands Wood Community Centre	✓	
Aldershot		
Alderwood Leisure Centre	✓	✓
Bordon/ East Hants		
Weyford Primary School	✓	✓

2-course hot lunch included everyday!
Visit www.connect4.org.uk for more details or email admin@connect4.org.uk

Connect with us!
www.connect4.org.uk

✉ admin@connect4.org.uk
f facebook.com/Connect4Families



Support with heating costs, for families facing Winter hardship due to COVID-19



Information for Parents and Carers

As part of the connect4communities programme, the Citizens Advice Service is helping families and individuals with energy costs over the winter period – gas, electric and water.

The COVID Winter Grant scheme has been extended to 16 April, meaning this help is available for a few more weeks.

Contact details for the local branch of the Citizens Advice Service can be found on this website:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/.../contact-us/contact-us/>

Please note that the local branch will complete a quick eligibility check and refer parents and carers to the distributors of the grant and financial support will be provided to the family or individual seeking help.

The eligibility criteria for this support - to heat homes - is wide-ranging to ensure the money is as accessible as possible and is as follows:

Families with children:

- Families in receipt of benefits related free school meals
- Families including 16-18-year olds previously eligible for Free School Meals
- All children with a social worker
- All children open to Early Help
- All households with 2 - 4year olds accessing childcare and eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium
- Households with a young carer
- Those who it is believed will struggle to afford to heat their home adequately and/or maintain a reasonable standard of living this winter

Households without children:

- Care leavers
- Households that have been identified as going into debt for the first time
- Households or individuals with no other way of obtaining funds, e.g. those who face choosing to pay either rent or bills (considered unmanageable debt)
- Those who it is believed will struggle to afford to heat their home adequately and/or maintain a reasonable standard of living this winter

Support from this fund, distributed by the Citizens Advice Service, can take the form of:

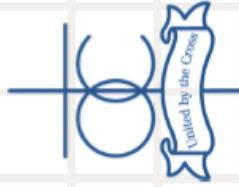
- Pre-paid energy cards or the payment of a fuel bill on behalf of an eligible household

Other sources of welfare support

Local sources of other welfare support can be found through:

- The connect4communities online directory:
<https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/home.page>
- Connect to Support Telephone Helpline:
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus/volunteer-welfare>
- Connect to Support Online Resources:
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus/volunteer-welfare>

Further information about connect4communities is available at connect4communities.org



Oaklands
Catholic School and Sixth Form College



Excellence in STEM
 A rich and varied curriculum
 Your child's school from 11 to 18



www.oaklandscatholicsschool.org

community Unity opportunity

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