

# Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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

Our Ref: MQ/SM

11 June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I trust you and your family are well and were able to enjoy the good weather during the break. I also hope the students have been looking forward to their return to school and the start of the final half of the Summer term. Year 9 have moved on to their GCSE courses, whilst Year 10 and Year 12 prepare for internal assessments.

## Congratulations to Year 11 and Year 13

The end of last half term saw the conclusion to the assessments for GCSE and A Level. Thank you for your incredible support for our students and the staff who have been working with them in such an unprecedented approach to qualification awards. The professionalism of colleagues managing the pressure of this process has been exemplary. This is against a back-drop of shifting sands in the information we have received from the exam boards. Incredibly, more procedural information was published to schools last Tuesday.

We have created a new page on our website which contains resources and activities for Year 11 and Year 13 students to access during this last half term. This includes careers resources, alumni information and extra-curricular activities. The page will continue to be updated with new information over the forthcoming weeks, so please encourage your Year 11 and Year 13 children to access this. [\*\*Y11/13 June-July Activities - Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College\*\*](#)

The page will also contain some pre-learning activities for those students who are returning to our Sixth Form in September.

In addition, information about the pre-Sixth Form Taster Days from 18-18 June can be found via the following link: [\*\*Taster Days June 2021 - Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College\*\*](#)

## Art and Photography Exhibition

We have all had a disruptive two years at Oaklands, but our Year 11, 12 and 13 Art and Photography students have still managed to shine with their creative and imaginative work. The Department is immensely proud of them and would like to share their final pieces with the wider community – unfortunately, we cannot have our usual exhibition at school, but if you follow the link below, you will be able to see the fantastic results of the students' talent and hard work. We hope you enjoy the show!

[\*\*Oaklands Art and Photography Exhibition\*\*](#)

## COVID-19 Lateral flow Tests and Vaccinations

You might have seen that there has been a lot in the media about the much-mooted plans for 12+ vaccines, this follows the successful trials of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine. Approval in the UK has been given by the medicines regulator for children aged 12-15. What happens next will, I suspect, be based on decisions made in Whitehall.

Please can I remind all parents and students to continue to engage with the twice weekly lateral flow tests and report the results through the Test Register App. The LFT process is one of the key control measures we have to ensure we keep our school community as safe as we can as lockdown eases and we are keen to minimise the numbers of students needing to isolate this half term.

## Year 10 Events

Mr Bamford wrote to Year 10 parents about the Year 10 internal examinations on 10 May [Y10-Exams-June-2021-version-1.pdf \(oaklandscatholicschool.org\)](#). In addition, a booklet providing guidance on how to prepare for these exams has also been posted on the website - [YEAR-10-REVISION-BOOKLET-2021.pdf \(oaklandscatholicschool.org\)](#).

A reminder that these exams start next Wednesday and will continue until Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June. Full details can be found in the original letter as above.

A further letter has been sent to Year 10 parents earlier today regarding the various forthcoming careers events and the next stage of your child's education.

[Y10-Letter-Exams-Reminder-Careers-Events-June-July-21.pdf \(oaklandscatholicschool.org\)](#)

## Fundraising Friday 25 June 2021

Every three years we hold a whole school fundraising event and aim our efforts at a worthy charitable cause. This year, on Friday 25 June, all students will be off timetable and involved in a variety of sponsored events for the morning.

Next week students will sign up for an event choice (from the list below) and aim to collect sponsorship from ten family or friends to contribute to our cause. Our chosen charity is Debra ([DEBRA | For people whose skin doesn't work, we do](#)), who have supported the Fincham family through Freddie's illness, and we want to remember him in our fundraising as he would have loved this event.

As his Mum, Mrs Fincham tells us:

*"Thank you to everyone involved in this charity fundraising day, it gives some comfort that we are able to celebrate Freddie's far too short life and impact with his teachers and friends. He was so passionate about fundraising and helping others that it is a very fitting tribute."*

Students will choose from:

- \* A Sponsored Walk along the South Downs Way
- \* Knitting
- \* Dance-athon
- \* Silly Olympics
- \* Gaming-athon
- \* Sportathon
- \* Puzzles&Boardgames-athon
- \* Read-athon
- \* Write-athon
- \* Graffiti-athon

At the end of the morning, we will collate the filming and create a video to remember the event, including drone footage. Students will see what they have achieved and hopefully we will have an early total of funds raised. Students will stay in year-groups within their events, with most taking place outside as well.

We hope you will support your sons and daughters to collect their sponsor money so we can raise our usual impressive sum for a very worthy recipient!

**Early Finish - events will run from 9.00am – 1.00pm** and students will then be in tutor bases for the film and goodbyes. **The Oaklands day can then finish at 1.30pm** for those who can travel home; bus companies will be collecting from school between 1.30 and 1.45pm. Those leaving school by cycle or walking can also leave. If students have a transport difficulty and need to stay until collection at 3.30pm as usual, we can organise an activity for the afternoon. Please let us know by emailing your child's Form Tutor or Head of Year.

### **Water Bottles and Uniform Reminder**

As the weather finally seems to be improving, can I please remind parents that students are advised to bring in their own water bottles that can be filled up at the various water fountains and taps around the school.

In addition, we expect students to uphold our high standards in the wearing of uniform and that that no other jacket or top can be worn as an alternative to the school blazer.

### **Holiday Activities Programme**

Over the last two school holidays, Oaklands has successfully run a Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. This is a Government initiative to support families. We will be running this programme again this summer, which targets, in the first instance, FSM children.

The programme dates are as follows:

26 July - 30 July 2021  
2 August - 6 August 2021  
9 August - 13 August 2021  
16 August - 20 August 2021

Our HAF provision is aimed at youngsters in the current **Year 4 and Year 5**. If you have children in this age range and you meet the criteria, booking will be available through our school website from midday on **Tuesday 15 June**. Places will be offered on a first come first served basis.

Please note that the provision has been oversubscribed on previous occasions and we are limited to 30 places a week.

## Key Dates for this Term

I have listed here some of the remaining events of this academic year. However, please be aware that these may be subject to change or cancellation, should the Government guidance on restrictions change.

Wednesday 16 - Friday 18 June	Pre-Sixth Form Taster Days
Wednesday 16 June	Year 10 Exams start (to 24 June)
Thursday 17 June	Year 8 Parents' Evening (online)
Thursday 24 June	Year 13 Leavers' Mass and Meal ( <i>COVID restrictions allowing</i> )
Friday 25 June	Fundraising Friday
Monday 28 June	Year 12 Exams start (to 6 July)
Wednesday 30 June	Year 10 Sixth Form / South Downs College Taster Day
Thursday 1 - Friday 2 July	Year 10 Practice Interviews
Thursday 1 July	Peri / Music Concert (evening)
Tuesday 6 July	Year 11 Prom ( <i>COVID restrictions allowing</i> )
Thursday 8 July	Sports Day
Friday 9 July	New Year 7 Induction Day
Monday 12 July	New Year 7 Induction Evening for Parents
Thursday 15 July	Last Day of Term for Students
Friday 16 + Monday 19 July	Staff Inset Days
Tuesday 10 August	A Level Results Collection
Thursday 12 August	GCSE Results Collection

## Key Dates for Next Academic Year (Provisional)

Tuesday 31 August	Inset Day
Wednesday 1 September	Phased return for selected Year 7
Thursday 2 September	Phased return for Year 7, Year 11 and Year 13
Friday 3 September	All Students to return
Thursday 30 September	Open Evening
Friday 1 October	Inset Day
Thursday 14 October	Sixth Form Open Evening
Monday 25 - Friday 29 October	Half Term
Thursday 16 December	Last day of Term for Students
Friday 17 December	Inset Day
Tuesday 4 January	Start of Spring Term
Monday 21 - Friday 25 February	Half Term
Friday 8 April	Last Day of Term
Monday 25 April	Start of Summer Term
Monday 2 May	Bank Holiday
Monday 30 May - Friday 3 June	Half Term
Friday 1 July	Inset Day
Tuesday 19 July	Last day of Term for Students
Wednesday 20 July	Inset Day

## Finally

This Sunday, the Old Testament reading, Psalm and Gospel alike, all use simple and beautiful images from nature to teach us eternal truths. It is as if we are being encouraged to both see and draw from the wisdom of God as expressed throughout the natural world. Perhaps in our prayer for this coming week, we can make a special effort to look more deeply at nature on our doorstep and connect more meaningfully with it. May we have eyes to see God's Kingdom at work throughout nature and in our fellow human beings. May we grow ever closer to God in all that we do, so that we may be living expressions of God's Kingdom on Earth.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Quinn', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mr M Quinn  
**Headteacher**