

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Our Ref: MQ/SM

11 March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Last Friday we held a non-uniform day to support charities helping provide humanitarian assistance as a result of the situation in Ukraine; so far we have raised over £1,000, a tremendous response from our school community. This will be donated through the Disasters Emergency Committee. CAFOD are also currently coordinating a campaign to raise money for the people of Ukraine, many of you will be aware of this through your parishes, we will contribute to this over the coming weeks and months. In Oaklands' Sixth Form, students and staff have brought in a wealth of specific items to donate to Stella's Voice, a local charity who are driving loaded vans out to Moldova in the coming weeks. Please continue to keep all those affected by the situation in your prayers. The Pope and other religious leaders have all called for prayers of peace across Ukraine and I would ask you to support them.

In school this week

In school this week we have had the pleasure of the school musical *The Addams Family*. The school production is the first time many youngsters experience quality performance; the chance to embody a character rather than purely watch or read about one. For other students, it provides an opportunity to take on some responsibility, be that backstage, with costumes, or in a technical capacity. Experiences like the show teach young people lifetime lessons. My thanks to all the staff involved, particularly Ms Whyte, Director and Mrs Richardson, Musical Director.

This week has also been National Careers Week. All students received a presentation from former Oaklands Students who talked about their journey from Oaklands through to their current career. My thanks to all the external speakers who gave of their time this week. On Tuesday, 56 Year 10 students attended a careers event at South Downs College.

A virtual Careers Fair is currently available for students. Please take a look and encourage your children to as well, follow [the link](#). To support National Careers Week the organisers have also produced a parents' guide outlining some of the events taking place as well as providing useful information about options and routes. The guide can be accessed [here](#).

Canteen food price rises

I have written to you already this year about the rise in the cost of wholesale food. Earlier this academic year we needed to raise the price of canteen products to cover additional costs. Unfortunately, price rises are running away faster than we can run towards them.

Wholesale food costs are based on the cost of raw materials, labour and the energy required in production. These are all impacted by inflation which is now running at over 5%. We are doing our best to keep costs down and minimise the use of products which have seen the largest price rises, however from 1st April we will have to raise canteen prices by 1-2%. If any parents are experiencing financial difficulties at this time, please contact us and we will help signpost you to support services. The canteen is not a profit-making venture. The costs of energy, administration, equipment procurement, maintenance and repair are not recovered through the food we sell.

COVID-19

Like many schools we have seen a slight uptick in cases for both staff and students, which has resulted in absence. Your child may have had a number of cover lessons this week. Although the legal requirement to isolate has been removed, the advice remains to isolate until you have a negative LFT. A number of parents have started to enquire about the processes and procedures if the Government removes access to testing. At this juncture I do not have an answer to this, as soon as we receive more guidance I will forward it to you.

Year 9 Options Reminder

A reminder to our Year 9 students, parents and carers that the deadline for returning their Option choices for next academic year is Friday 18th March. A copy of the Options Booklet and guidance for returning the form can be found [here](#).

Foundation Governors

We currently have vacancies for two Foundation Governors on our Governing Body and are seeking enthusiastic volunteers from across the catholic community to join us. Please see the attached flyer for more information and if you have any questions or would like further details, please contact our Clerk to Governors, c.colley@oaklandscatholicschool.org

Finally, we are now into the second week of our Lenten journey. It is tempting to associate Lent with negativity, particularly with so much uncertainty around. Lent is a disruptor and so it should be, we give something up or try and do a little extra. Yet Lent is life-giving, positive culminating with recognition that Jesus willingly died on the Cross. Lent certainly asks us to admit that there is room for improvement, more importantly, that God's love is greater than our inadequacy.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn
Headteacher