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Oaklands News



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Oaklands Catholic School
and Sixth Form College



Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

From the Headteacher's Desk

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The Christmas bible story has three main Characters, Mary, Joseph and Jesus. Much airtime is given to Mary and Jesus but what do we know of Joseph? How can we characterise the man whom God chose to parent His own Son?

Within the story there are a few things I think we can conclude. First, he was spiritually sensitive. His response to Mary's pregnancy was compassion for his betrothed, he heard and obeyed angelic revelation, his observance of the rituals prescribed by the law following the birth of a male child; and his annual pilgrimages to Jerusalem in celebration of the Passover support a sense of emotional intelligence. Second, he was unselfish, assuming fully the role of a father towards a child that wasn't his own. He offered Jesus physical protection during his infancy and childhood. He trained Him in the carpenter's trade. Third, he was capable of handling adversity. Joseph's decision to wed Mary, despite the criticism that the child was not his, doubtless sparked criticism from those around him. He endured the difficult circumstances of traveling during Mary's pregnancy, and later becoming a refugee fleeing to Egypt out of fear for Jesus' safety. Finally, when faced with the fact of Mary's unexpected pregnancy, he didn't react in bitter emotion and disgrace her publicly. He was objective and reflective.

Joseph behaviour speaks to all of us when we are put in a leadership position. There are times when we all have to lead, be that in our professional lives, within our families or with friends. The thread that runs through Joseph's story is his ability to make decisions - a leadership quality that we all need.

Napoleon Bonaparte once said that "Nothing is more difficult, and therefore more precious, than to be able to decide." He recognised that a few critical decisions put leaders to the test. In turbulent times, some leaders make tough choices with courage and conviction. Others cannot cope with the complexity and uncertainty. There are many examples across history where indecision has resulted in the opponent getting the upper hand.

Great leaders share the credit when it goes well but shoulder the burden when times are difficult, it is in these situations where decisiveness comes to mind. Great decision making takes practice. As you now know even in family life, this process requires a certain level of comfort with discomfort. Think about the decision to move house or to find a take a new job. We could play it safe and defer important decisions to others, spend hours and hours analysing and agonising over every option, or we could accept the level of risk and go for it.

Making good decisions in difficult situations is no small feat, because these types of decisions involve change, uncertainty, anxiety, stress, and sometimes the unfavourable reactions of others. How many times have you had to balance emotion with reason, perhaps for a higher cause?

We often think of great leaders as charismatic or flamboyant, nothing in the biblical record suggests that was Joseph. His overarching traits were obedience and humility. Because he was willing to submit to every legitimate authority, God entrusted him with a leadership role like no other, fathering Jesus Christ. What an example he is to us all.

At the beginning of this term, I hoped that things would start to return to normal, indeed for a while they did. As you will be aware, the Omicron variant of coronavirus is causing great concern and is spreading very quickly. Schools have been issued with limited new advice. You will have received various correspondence about the LFD testing programme at the start of next term. Over the holiday, I will continue to remind parents about this. It is important that we have a high uptake.

I appreciate that many parents have already agreed to having their children vaccinated. I would encourage those of you that have not made that decision, to discuss this with your GP. It is important that we try to protect our community as a whole and to try to limit the development of new variants, and the disruption that they then bring. Vaccination is a key weapon in this fight.

Face Coverings in Schools

Information in this area has been strengthened by the Government and at the time of writing the guidance is as follows:

Face coverings should be worn by pupils and students in Year 7 and above (which would be children who were aged 11 on 31 August 2021), staff and visitors in communal areas, unless exempt. This is a temporary measure. Pupils and students in Year 7 and above in these settings must also wear a face covering when travelling on public transport and should wear it on dedicated transport to and from school, college, or higher education provider.

It is therefore essential that ALL students wear a mask in indoor communal areas such as corridors. It is also important that ALL students remember to bring their own mask to school every day. We have a very limited stock of masks in school, and we are rapidly running out due to the amount we are having to give out.

As we run in to the Christmas break, it is vital that we all adhere to these rules. Please remember that anyone who tests positive on or after Wednesday 15 December will be isolating for Christmas Day, and so this will have a huge impact on plans that you may have made.

It is important that we also do all we can to protect our staff who are unable to 'work from home' like so many others can do, it is this that has led to the cancellation of many of the events that we normally hold at this time.

Finally, in these uncertain times, I would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year.



Mr M Quinn, Headteacher

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College - Alumni

Were you a student here ... ?

Stay in touch with us and help ...

It doesn't matter when you left school, whether you're in further education or employment or where you live - Oaklands still needs your help! If you would like to see our exceptional school continue to thrive, please let us have your details by signing up to the Future First database.

Go to www.futurefirst.org.uk

Go to the 'Sign Up' tab

Click 'Former Student'

Type in **Oaklands Catholic School**





We were delighted to be able to hold three Christmas lunches for our students this year.

Everyone enjoyed the festive food and atmosphere and thanks go to our fantastic Catering Team !



Our Saviour in a Manger

Each candle lit during Advent has an important meaning, hope, peace, joy and love. Hope for the coming of Jesus Christ our Saviour, the peace that the Lord brings to us, the joy of His birth and the unconditional love that He has for us.

This Advent I find us all hoping for the health of those around us and hoping for the future of our world. During Advent we are given the opportunity to reflect on our lives, to reflect on how we can make ourselves ready for the coming of Jesus and how we can make the best out of a difficult situation.

I find that Mary, our Lord's Mother did exactly that. All Our Lady had was a stable and a manger to give birth to Jesus, and despite this Jesus was comforted by his Mother's warmth, wrapped in her unconditional love, and Our Lady had the tender encouragement from her spouse Joseph to help her in this difficult situation.

Our Lady is a role model for us all during these times of uncertainty, we can call upon her for strength and encouragement to make the best out of any situation we may face.



This Christmas is not about wanting more, it is about giving more. Giving to those less fortunate than us and being grateful for everything that we already have.

We live in a world of consumerism where Christmas is about buying the best gifts and shopping at the best supermarket. There is no doubt that Christmas has lost its true meaning for so many people. But we can change this. Instead of wanting more or writing Christmas lists, think about how you can give to those who truly need your help. Find a local food collection bank, visit your elderly relatives that you have not seen recently, help those around you with chores, or simply do something kind for someone else.

Prepare yourselves spiritually for the coming of Jesus on Christmas day, prepare for the Lord this Advent by giving.

God bless you all and have a very blessed Christmas.

Miss Heath

The Chaplain



Christmas Music Concert

After the past year, there's nothing more rewarding than a night filled with singing, dancing and performing. On Thursday 9th December, we came back together for a well-deserved and much needed festive celebration!

The vast array of talented musicians, whether instrumentalists, vocalists, or both, showed a promising insight into the incredibly exciting things to come in 2022, along with the return of the legendary Oaklands Musical, with the stunning opening number of 'The Addams Family'.

Despite the year we've missed, the Oaklands Performing Arts Department is up and running with strength!



"I enjoyed the concert and it was really fun to see all the different instruments that people play and the varied types of music."

Being part of a band helps a lot with improving sightreading, as you constantly have new pieces to learn and play. All the different parts fit together so well and even though I was terrified originally, it was a great experience and was amazing!"

Gracie, 8Mt

"Last night there was a concert that featured many solos and group work, such as 'The Addams Family' and Sing Squad who sang many songs including 'We are the Champions'. The cast of 'The Addams Family' had already memorised a dance for the show in March 2022. The whole concert was fun and very enjoyable."

Patrick, 7Te

"I started the piano in September. We don't have one at home so I could borrow a keyboard from school; I practise at least once every day and now really enjoy playing. I have joined Sing Squad who meet every Tuesday and I am in the cast for "The Addams Family".

I can now play quite confidently and was able to perform 'Once in Royal David's City' at the concert. The concert has been the funnest thing I have ever done! I sang four songs with Sing Squad and did a super-fun dance for the show. I have loved all of my music experience so far and can't wait for more!"

Lucy, 7Te

"It was amazing borrowing a violin from school and it gave me the opportunity to practise every day and to get better. This helped me to play the William Tell Overture in the concert and I was really proud".

Rares, 7St

Instrument Loan Scheme

We have been able to loan a number of instruments to students this term. In the recent concert it was pleasing to see these instruments being used and we were delighted that Rares performed a solo.

We are especially able to loan violins and brass instruments (euphonium, tenor horn, French horn), so please contact Mrs Richardson if you would like to find out more about this opportunity (s.richardson@oaklandscatholicschool.org)

Oaklands Band at St Peter's Primary School

Members of Oaklands Band had a fantastic time at St Peter's for Breakfast and Brunch with Santa on Saturday 11th December.

It was very exciting playing Christmas hits, including 'Christmas Medley No 1' and 'All I Want for Christmas is You'. A small group also played some lovely traditional carols. The whole day was festive and fun.

Students also enjoyed playing lots of silly games while waiting to perform!



Carol Service

As you are aware, we unfortunately had to make the decision to cancel our Carol Service as a face-to-face event. However, we were still able to film the liturgy and our Year 7 students, who are singing a range of contemporary and traditional carols.

We therefore invite you watch this from home - a link has been posted onto the school website and you can access this via [Oaklands Catholic School - Christmas Carol Service 2021 - YouTube](#)



Last Post

On Thursday 11th November, Oaklands joined the nation at 11.00am with our act of remembrance.

Jude Stanley in Year 11 had agreed to play the Last Post at the start of the school's one minute silence, which set the tone perfectly. Jude performed extremely well and the solo was very well received by students, staff and the visitors on site.



And Finally ... please can you help ?

Do you have an unwanted piano stool at home that you could donate to the Music Department? If so, please contact Mrs Richardson (s.richardson@oaklandscatholicschool.org).

Thank you

The Science department have enrolled all **Year 10** Triple Science students on a **STEM Leaders Course**. They are hoping to achieve a Level 2 qualification in STEM leadership and deliver outreach STEM activities to feeder schools in order to show evidence for their qualifications. Thanks go to BlueSpark Foundation who are providing a grant which will cover the cost of the course for this academic year. More information on this will follow in 2022.



The first of many STEM Curriculum days, the **History-STEM event** took place for **Year 7** students on 20th-21st September with the 'Body in the Sandpit' event.

The objective of the day was to investigate the mysterious appearance of a skeleton in the Oaklands School long jump pit and work out who it belonged to! The students were first briefed about the day and then came down to examine the skeleton and a number of clues. Once they had made their initial observations of the 'crime scene', the students were sent to the Science Department to conduct a series of experiments that hopefully would narrow the field and allow them to discount some of the 'characters' based on scientific data. Students conducted DNA testing, finger printing and skeletal analysis. This allowed them to identify the ethnicity, height and gender of the skeleton.

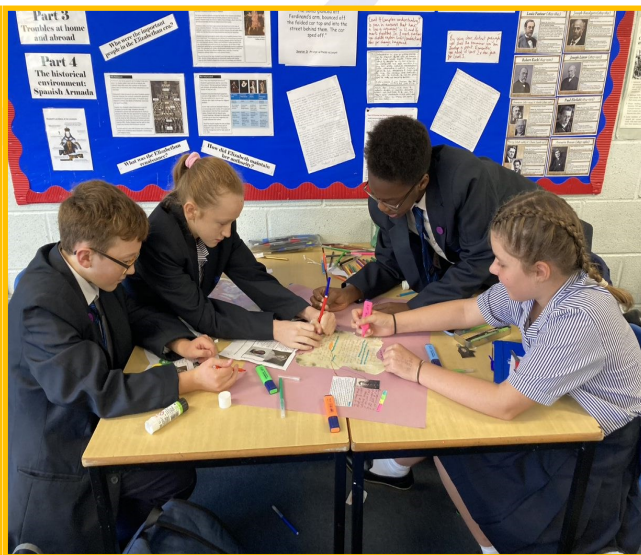


Then it was up to the History Department where they were working in teams to present their evidence and their hypothesis about who they thought the 'Body in the Sandpit' was. This was an opportunity to develop the skills of team working, communication and presentation. It was also great for the students to get to know each other better. Some of the presentations were fantastic and both the Science and History teachers were really impressed by the quality of argument. The day ended with the cohort in the Hall and we were able to announce who the 'Body' was (Charles Dickens or Charles Napier, depending on which cohort students were in). We were also proud to announce the winners of the groups who put forward the most compelling presentations.

"Our STEM Day was a great chance to meet other tutor groups and it was really fun. I loved trying to investigate who it was and working with my team to complete it. The teachers organised it amazingly and we all made an amazing display at the end." **Poppy, 7St**

"It's an extraordinary way to combine STEM and History together and opened more opportunity for me and other pupils within the curriculum." **Jamie, 7St**

"I think the Body in the Sandpit day was really good as I am quite interested in mysterious crime scenes. We guessed it was Charles Dickens, but the evidence pointed out it was Charles Napier, who died near to Mr Quinn's office." **Binil, 7St**



Both Departments were very happy with the work that the students did that day. It was a fun, informative and rewarding experience for both teachers and students.

**Ms Wilkinson,
Head of History**

STEM Clubs

Extra-curricular clubs are back at lunchtime and so STEM clubs have featured in the Science block on Mondays and Thursdays. Students have been planning investigations with rockets and older students have been making soap and trying Sixth Form organic synthesis such as making aspirin.

Year 8 students who joined the after-school STEM club in Year 7 have continued with projects after school in the **Year 8 STEM Club** and are currently working towards Bronze CREST awards with projects such as investigating the energy released by food and research into plant and animal life sampled from habitats on the school site.

Sixteen Year 8 students from the STEM club were awarded Discovery CREST award certificates during their praise assembly at the end of November. They developed a method for the separation of food colouring using chromatography and used it to identify colourings in an unknown chemical. The investigation is now used for Key Stage 4 students as part of the Chemistry curriculum. The students are pictured here, proudly holding their certificates.



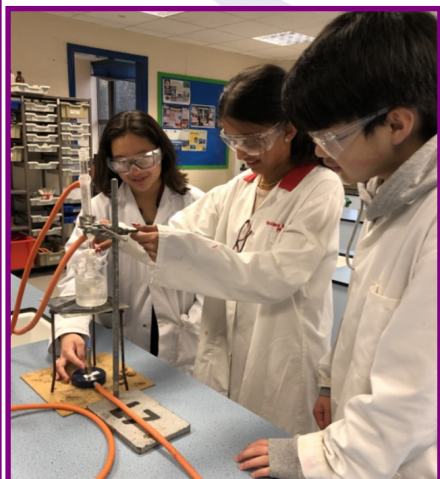
Sixth Form CREST Awards

Following the success of last year's A Level students who gained ten Silver and ten Gold CREST Awards between them, a large number of the current **Sixth Form** Chemistry students have embarked on projects to achieve CREST awards and so Lab 7 is a hive of activity for 2-3 evenings each week. Although CREST awards cannot be used for UCAS points, they are a recognised award that provide very useful evidence for UCAS statements and university interviews. Some of the skills that students are gaining include:

Team work
Research
Communication

Project management
Problem solving

In addition to this the laboratory work is complimentary to their Chemistry curriculum and enriches their learning, helping them to embed knowledge through hands-on experience. Practical work counts for up to 30% of the final grades and is assessed through exam questions and evidence of competence in key practical skills, many of which can be gained through completing the CREST awards and so provide extra assessment opportunities for teachers. In many cases the projects can be used as part of an EPQ and so students can gain an extra qualification alongside the CREST award.



This year students are working on a variety of projects including synthesis of Aspirin using different catalysts, extracting Aspirin from shop bought tablets to extract starting materials and reuse out of date products, making soap, investigating catalysts for decomposition of hydrogen peroxide and generation of hydrogen fuel for possible use in hydrogen fuel cells.

Students are learning to be resourceful and research their own methods with trial and error along the way, sometimes even making their own equipment, for example constructing an electrolysis cell with pencils as electrodes.

Three year 12 students during their second attempt to extract salicylic acid from Aspirin tablets.

Year 8 – Portsmouth STEM Crew Maritime Roadshow

Six students from **Year 8** STEM club were accompanied by Mrs Lenton to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard for the STEM Crew Maritime Roadshow, an event for girls to increase awareness of STEM careers and empower them to make informed choices about their future. There was a particular focus on the maritime sector with a wide range of hands-on activities and demonstrations.

On Monday 29th November, we went to a STEM day at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. It was a girls' trip to inspire young people to get involved in STEM and maritime jobs, as it is currently a male-dominated industry.

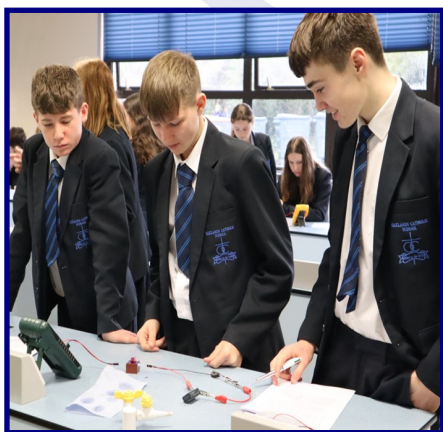
We drove down in the minibus and arrived at 9.30am. There were lots of other schools there, and at 10.00am, a lady called Hannah told us about her job as a professional sailor for Britain. It was very interesting, and we learnt that she gets to sail many different types of boats with all different sized groups of people, sometimes only two and sometimes up to twelve.

After the introductory speech, we went to a Sublime Science workshop and watched some fun hands-on experiments before getting to make our own slime (some went better than others!!).

We then went to a competitive boat making workshop, where we split into two teams to make and race boats down a gutter. Prior to making our boats, we were told how to ensure they would be stable and fast; there would be no point having a fast boat if it sank! Michelle, Eva and Katie's boat involved a lot of Sellotape!!

After lunch, we had a growth mindset lecture, about how to think positively about things, before going to ask people who worked in STEM about their experiences. These people were very inspiring, and all had different stories and experience of being in STEM careers.

It was a very fun day, and we enjoyed it a lot. Thanks to Mrs Lenton and Mr Hardaker for organising the trip!



More recently, **Year 10** students were off-timetable on 3rd December for the **Year 10 STEM day** during which students built a colorimeter out of Lego, LED bulbs and electrical components. Students then used the colorimeter to test standard solutions of a medicine in order to generate a calibration graph. This was then used to test batches of medicine of unknown concentration and assess whether they would be safe to sell in the marketplace for paediatric use.

Students gained a valuable insight into STEM careers, particularly that of an analytical chemist, and the testing involved in the development of a formulated drug so that it passes the quality control checks required by regulatory bodies so that it can be sold in the UK and globally.

Knitting and Origami Clubs

Lab 10 (Kolbe block) is bursting with quiet activity every Friday lunchtime as two clubs, Origami and Knitting are sharing the space and keeping each other company.

As always pom-pom making is extremely popular but some of the older students have been very focused and managed to make larger items such as the scarf pictured here.



This is the first year that Miss Lenihan has hosted the Origami club and it already has a large group of regular attendees across different year groups.

Students have created everything from origami bookmarks, cranes and flowers to more festive paper chains and baubles that have been used to decorate Lab 10 for Christmas.



Fancy making your own? All you will need is two pieces of paper, some glue and a little bit of time.

Round bauble: [Origami BAUBLE | How to make a paper Christmas bauble - YouTube](#)
 Diamond bauble: [Origami diamond ornaments. Christmas decoration. Ideas for Christmas - YouTube](#)

Year 7 Foodbank Donations

Well done to Year 7 for entering fully into the true spirit of Christmas!

The students have been thinking of those who may not be able to enjoy Christmas fully and decided to act.

As well as making Christmas cards and sending messages to residents of local care homes, they have collected almost 250 items, which have been donated to the Waterloooville Foodbank.

Mrs Cunningham, Mr Neil and all the Year 7 tutors are very proud of them.



Students from the Gardening Club and Learning Support have once again been busy in our school garden.

At the beginning of December, flowers and foliage were used to create the beautiful Advent window candle decorations for the Chapel.

On Friday 3 December, as part of the RHS Big Soup Share, students used pumpkins, onions, leeks, carrots and parsnips grown in the school garden to make delicious soups. These were served with freshly homemade bread and enjoyed by staff at lunchtime.

Thanks to Lucy (Y7), Willow and Sienna (Y8), Archie and Dondavid (Y9) and Marie (Y12) for their hard work and Mrs Sullivan, Mrs Rowsell and Mrs Humble for their help and support.

Mrs C Colley



The Oaklands Friends and Parents' Association (OFPA) would like to thank you for your support this year. We have been very pleased to be able to help the school community by purchasing the frames used for the new permanent display in the hall foyer which celebrates the history of the school, and also providing a bench in memory of Freddie Fincham.



Our nearly-new uniform sales will continue every month from January 2022. Orders should be submitted by the last Thursday of the month during term time and collections will be available on the last Friday of the month at 3.20pm. Our uniform shop is situated at the end of the Chapel building, adjacent to St Peter's School. Orders should be sent to opa@oaklandscatholicsschool.org. A price list and more information can be found on the school website [Second Hand Uniform - Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College](#)

Our 50:50 Club also continues to be successful and after Christmas we will be launching a QR code to make it easier for parents to join this scheme. Numbers for the monthly draw cost £1 and you can have as many as you like. Each month's takings are divided into two with one half being awarded as a cash prize to the winning number.



Thank you to all parents who purchased tickets for our online Christmas raffle and thank you to everyone who donated towards the prizes, including festive goods and a very generous £50 hairdressing salon voucher. Congratulations to our winners!

We wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas.

ClassCharts

Thank you to all the parents who submitted a response to the ClassCharts survey that was sent out. The responses have been overwhelmingly positive. We also surveyed staff and students who also feel that ClassCharts has had a positive impact on teaching and learning, behaviour around school and home school communication.



The survey revealed that overall, ClassCharts has helped you as parents feel better informed about your child. We hope that in the New Year we can send the comments alongside the behaviour logs so that you have a greater understanding of why your child has been given a positive or negative log. We will also start using the announcements facility to keep you up to date with school events.

We also hope to move to setting all homework just on ClassCharts in the future (now KS4 use Teams most of the time) but we will keep Teams alongside. Most of the students prefer the functionality of Microsoft Teams as it enables them to view previous class material and communicate with their teachers, but parents find it easier to see what is set on ClassCharts. Therefore, we will eventually move to setting all homework on ClassCharts but students may be directed to Teams from there to submit the work and have it marked.

Thank you for supporting the launch of ClassCharts and encouraging your children to log in and check their own progress. If you have any questions or if you have yet to log in and would like support, please email classcharts@oaklandscatholicsschool.org and we would be happy to help.

Mrs A Bonnington

Time over the course of the past two years has seemed to range from a lifetime, to the blink of an eye. National lockdowns seem like a nightmarish blur, yet the coronavirus news updates remind us that it is indeed a reality still. However, the certainty of education looks decidedly different from 12 months ago – with staff and students alike being vaccinated in the UK, and a comprehensive booster campaign on the horizon, things seem more normal than before the first wave.

Things are also improving in Korogocho. Many staff members at the school are now vaccinated against the virus and living standards are slowly improving in the fight against COVID-19.

As per the Ministry of Education guidelines in Kenya, St John's closed temporarily for one week's rest, after which students resumed their learning on the 12th October 2021. Since the restart, St John's have welcomed back all students in each grade, to ensure all children receive the teaching and learning they need. We hope that as a partnership, we can support St John's throughout this process of reinvigoration, and ensure our partnership continues to be fruitful, supportive and loving.

Back in October, we held our annual St John's week, where we learnt a little more about Korogocho, how and why our partnership is meaningful and what we can do as a community in order to help provide the necessary support for our friends in Kenya. Over the course of the week, we held a number of activities to help raise money and continue our worthwhile support of both communities. We raised an incredible amount of money for St John's, despite the constant pressures caused by the pandemic; a true testament to the commitment and dedication of all the staff and students.

More poignantly, students in Year 7 (experiencing St John's week for the first time) also wrote letters to some of the students in Korogocho and I thought I would share one which truly embodied our shared community spirit:

Dear St John's,

I'm Aaron and I am in my first year at your partnership school, Oaklands. I have recently joined the school and since I have started, I have loved hearing about the special community bond between Oaklands and St John's. Recently, we've had our annual St John's Week and we have been taking part in lots of activities like raffles, non-uniform and cake sales. I am really inspired by some of the stories of your students and I would like to help out more.

In the future, we all hope we can support you further and I promise to do my best to raise as much money as possible - plus, we want to be the best and most successful tutor group for raising money! I look forward to hearing from you soon!

It's evident that the power of community is awe-inspiring and brings people together in a number of ways. I will leave you with this piece of scripture from [Ephesians 4:16](#): "From whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."

Have a very merry Christmas and thank you for all your support.

Mr C Osbourne

Since the start of this academic year, approximately £5,000 has already been raised for St John's in Korogocho.

This amazing amount has come from St John's Week, House Fundraising Days, non-uniform days and our regular donations.

We would like to thank everyone in our Community for their support.

Particular thanks go to Rio Bivens in Year 13. Rio has supported St John's throughout her time at Oaklands and this year was no exception as she raised a fantastic £441.50 during St John's Week by coming to school looking 'daft'.



This amount will support nearly ten children to go to school in Korogocho for a year.
Well done and thank you Rio!

At the end of the summer term the Gold groups successfully completed their assessed expedition on the Isle of Purbeck. Their route was challenging with a lot of 'ups and downs' as well as at times having to 'clear the way' as many paths were overgrown and had not been walked over the lockdowns. The weather also presented its own challenges from hot and balmy to torrential downpours which caused flooding on the campsite and on the route necessitating a re route on the final day. Throughout it all the groups remained cheerful and determined to complete and they finished in bright sunshine on the beach at Studland.

Enjoying a relaxing evening around the campfire with the bonus of being able to dry out our boots and the toasted marshmallows were delicious!



Braving the elements on the final day. The sun did shine later!

Over the summer a number of students completed their awards. Congratulations to:

Silver Award

Charlotte Bland
Patrick Layton

Seren Jackson
Lara Mogridge



Bronze Award

Zoe Ganado (*with apologies Zoe's name should have been included in the list last summer*)
Racheal Acheampong
Isobel Goff
Adam Maple
Jaison Varghese

Alyna Sirikit Andaya
Holly Jenkins
Georgina Mathieu
Lauren Way

Rowan Dodsworth
Ayana Jino
Jude Stanley



A number of Year 13 students who have now completed the prestigious Gold Award and will visit the Palace (hopefully – Covid restrictions allowing) during 2022 to receive their Awards. Notwithstanding the difficulties of completing expeditions this year the Gold group found securing Residential activities very challenging. However they have persevered and have taken part in experiences ranging from field trips in Shropshire and the Isle of Syke, to helping at a catechetical camp in Devon, to Land & Wave activities in Dorset and supporting St Peter's Primary School on their residential stays at the Sustainability Centre. Well done and it is hoped the remainder of this group will complete their Gold Award before leaving Oaklands. Many congratulations to:

Cieran Churcher
Emily Hastilow
Olivia Pope

Rhys Colley
Heather Layton
Ben Tuttle

Josie Freeman
Meghan O'Neill

Charlie Peach *(this student left the Sixth Form in 2018 and has now completed a First Class Honours degree at Bristol proving it is never too late to complete your Award!)*.



Over the summer holiday, students in Year 9 were given the opportunity to apply to start their Bronze Award in September and we have a group of 61 students who are now making good progress on their sections (Volunteering, Physical and Skills) and have also undertaken two expedition training sessions including personal kit, First Aid, map skills and a navigation exercise/walk out on Stoughton Down which all groups completed very successfully.

There is also a group of 24 students who have begun their Silver Award and they also have completed a navigation exercise/walk as part of their expedition training.



One of the Silver groups taking a break at East Marden church on their recent walk.

Finally we have a group of 7 students in Year 12 who are undertaking their Gold Award and currently busy not only completing their sections but planning their expeditions to Dartmoor, Brecon Beacons and Exmoor. All set to take place during Spring/Summer 2022.

Mrs J Hoar

The exam board specification states that students must study an example of a stretch of coastline where 'hard' and 'soft' engineering are employed to manage the coast. Rather than using materials in the core textbooks, the Geography department decided to take the students to West Wittering in December.



Coastlines are dynamic environments; frequent visitors to West Wittering beach will have witnessed the changes that have occurred over the years. Since 2008, the coastal management policy employed there is one of 'Adaptive Management', which means that managers will not 'hold the line', but will intervene if they think it is necessary. The sea wall and the groynes are being allowed to deteriorate: the idea being that this will produce a wider, shallower beach, which will be more effective at dissipating wave energy (in theory!). The students had mixed views on this, but it is clear that they all appreciated that there is a finite pot of money available and decisions relating to coastal protection are invariably challenging. Interestingly, recent erosion has prompted the managers to pile up large piles of sand to protect the car park (these can be seen in the photo above).

Once we had finished at West Wittering, we drove towards Selsey and managed to gain access to Bunn's holiday park. At the western end of their premises is the Medmerry coastal realignment scheme. Finished in 2013, this £30 million project involved building a 7km earth embankment inland. Once completed, a breach was made in the existing beach, which resulted in the sea flooding in creating a new salt marsh environment on the flat land behind – the theory is that allowing the sea to flood here will relieve pressure on other parts of the coast.



Accessing Medmerry with students was a first for the department, which was fitting given that the students on the trip had not been able to experience fieldwork at GCSE due to the pandemic. Our students will experience further field work in June when they will attend a three day trip to Dorset to prepare them for their A level coursework, worth 20% of their final grade.

Mr Bamford and Mrs Sykes

A Level English Trip

On Thursday 18th November, A Level English Literature and Joint English students went on a trip to see 'The Immersive Gatsby' in London to support their study of the novel.

As you stepped into the theatre you were transported to the "roaring" twenties in America with the audience dressing up and wearing items from flapper dresses to suits. With chairs and tables scattered around, everybody settled in and began chatting, waiting for the show to begin. Actors were interspersed among the audience and involved in the play while in character, some unknown to the guests at Gatsby's party.

Music suddenly erupted and Jordan Baker emerged on the stage, transporting us to West Egg and one of Gatsby's famous weekend parties, where we were some of the "uninvited" guests. Setting the tone for the evening, everyone began to dance together in the centre of the party. Unexpected guests were taken by the actors into Tom and Myrtle's apartment, Wilson and Myrtle's apartment and Gatsby's room and study to learn about each of the character's endeavours. These side events followed the order of the novel's plot, giving each audience member a unique experience and different insights into characters' relationships amongst each other.

The first half of the experience evoked a light-hearted atmosphere among the audience, through games such as 'spin the bottle' and 'truth or dare', leading to some of our Sixth Formers having to participate. Plus, during the interval characters mingled and had chats with audience members, including being invited to trips to Monte Carlo; among other things. However, in the second half the tone changed, mimicking the novel's conventional links to the tragic genre.

Although providing a remarkable time, we returned back to school early the next morning, resulting in many tired faces wandering around Sixth Form the next day!



Sixth Form Post-18 Destinations

Ninety applications for UCAS are being completed at the time of writing. Over fifty have already been sent off and with the deadline of 15 January 2022, we are working our way through the final few. Already we are seeing students in receipt of excellent offers from the UK's top universities. Whilst in the last fortnight, five students have been having their demanding online interviews for Cambridge University for Architecture, Maths and Law. We wish those students every possible bit of luck to secure an offer for study there in 2022.



Students were able to secure preparation for the testing Oxbridge applications through *Zero Gravity*, a free service that pairs students with a second or third year student in their chosen field. They are mentored through their final year of A Levels as well as through the bruising application process.

With the 2020 GCSEs having been decided by Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) we have noted an increase in admissions testing from universities eager to assess candidates beyond the hurried grading of Summer 2020.

We are also excited to see many students applying for apprenticeships for sponsored degrees alongside their UCAS applications. This year so far there are accountancy, project management and quality surveyor qualifications so far. We know as we go into the new year more will come through. Students are targeted by us in the central Sixth Form team when we know a student is interested in a particular area of employment, we then support them with CV writing and interview skills. Students access this potential degree apprenticeship through the Y13 Zone on our Teams channel. Staff post new apprenticeships for post-18 leavers and the process of researching and applying begins.

Any student who remains uninspired is offered a careers appointment with our brilliant post-16 specialist Benia Sztucki. Benia never fails to inspire and motivate students at the top of Oaklands to find the reason why they are working so hard for A Levels.

Mrs B Ludlam



Jim Roberson

Jim Roberson is an experienced Assistant Head from a local school but in addition, he is straight out of the Bronx, a borough in New York City. Apart from being a great advocate for self-discipline in his previous school, Jim travels the country giving motivation, inspirational talks to young people about their education. He also runs a group who take youngsters out to visit London and other cities who would otherwise never have to opportunity to venture out to see life beyond their hometown.



Jim came to talk to Year 9, Year 10 and the Sixth Form in October, sharing his own life story from a challenging start to playing football for the NFA in the States and now to great success as a result of making the very most of the opportunities afforded him by his schooling. Jim shares insights into the importance of education to raise up young people to achieve their potential. He does this with music and stories and massive amounts of kindness to others alongside his trademark good humour.

All students who meet Jim fall in love with his wit and honesty. He is very straightforward in his instruction to them. If you want to become your best self you need to listen, do the work and stay focused.

Jim will be returning to talk to these year groups later in the year and students keep asking when that will be. He will also come to work with our Affinity Groups to talk to students about their understanding of diversity and their experiences at Oaklands.

Katie Kittermaster

Katie is a popular music artist that came into our school to tell us about mental health and her own experiences with it. It was a very nice event and was very kind of our teachers to set it up.

Katie told us that she was very fond of music since she was a child and that music helped her communicate with us. She sang a few of her songs, along with an Ed Sheeran song. She said that her career was thanks to Ed.

The mental health aspect was very useful for many. It taught us that we are not alone and that we can always talk to someone if something is wrong. Katie said she also struggled with her mental health as a child and told us that talking to someone will always help, especially if it's a friend or someone you know you can trust.

At the end of the session, Katie offered us a picture with her and an autograph. It was a very enjoyable event and I hope we have more things like this in the future.

Lilli, 9 St Catherine

On 11th November, sixteen girls from Years 7 and 8 took part in The Hampshire Girl's Rugby Festival.

At 9.00am, we got on the bus and started our trip. After around 45 minutes of chatting, laughing, and singing we arrived at our destination of Trojans Rugby Club. As soon as we arrived, we put on our rugby boots and started practising and warming up.

We played our first match and performed well for a first game. We had some things to improve on but with a bit of practice we achieved them and scored around two tries. We had three more matches until lunch. Every match we played we kept on getting better and better.

During our lunch break we ate and decided to play a game where you ended up rolling in the mud, which made no difference because we were already very muddy from playing the matches before. Lunch ended and we got back to work and played three more matches. All of them went great, we really learnt how to communicate and work as a team.

We all got a gold medal at the end of the tournament, we worked so hard and did an excellent job. We won, we drew, and we lost but we all had a fun time.

Elizabeth, 7Mg



Senior Maths Challenge

Congratulations to all who participated in the Maths Challenges this term, especially those who achieved certificates.

Alistair and Barney Hayes both did really well in the Senior Challenge, particularly as they are only in Year 9, and were both awarded Silver Certificates.

Emile Hantrais-Smith's result was also exceptional as he is only in Year 11 and managed to qualify to the next round: Senior Kangaroo which will take place towards the end of term. He was awarded a Gold Certificate and Andy Lin and Blessing Sibanda, also both in Year 11 were awarded Bronze.

Several Year 12 students were also awarded Bronze and Silver Certificates.

Here are a few of the questions from their paper ... how well would you do?



Cicely had her 21st birthday in 1939.

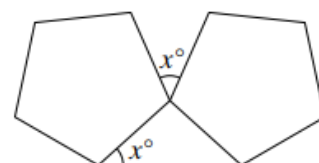
When did she have her 100th birthday?

- A 2020 B 2019 C 2018 D 2010 E 2008

The diagram shows two congruent regular pentagons and a triangle. The angles marked x° are equal.

What is the value of x ?

- A 24 B 30 C 36 D 40 E 45

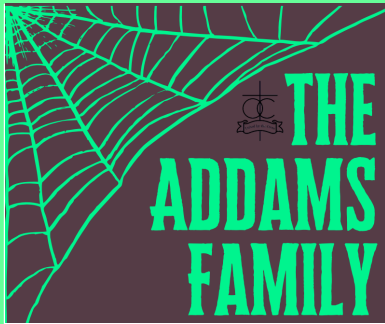


Which of these numbers is the largest?

- A 2^{5000} B 3^{4000} C 4^{3000} D 5^{2000} E 6^{1000}

Let x be a real number. What is the minimum value of $(x^2 - 4x + 3)(x^2 + 4x + 3)$?

- A -16 B -9 C 0 D 9 E 16



The Performing Arts team have been absolutely delighted to begin work on our show for 2022.

Mrs Richardson and Mrs Blackburn have wanted to produce The Addams Family for a while, and it's definitely a bit different! This musical was written in 2010 and is based on the comic strip of a kooky family created by cartoonist Charles Addams for The New Yorker magazine. You might also remember the classic 1960s TV show and the animated films based on the family.

Mrs Richardson and Mr Marshall are working with the students on the vocal challenges of a show which has a huge variety of musical styles, whilst Mrs Blackburn returned from maternity leave and immediately got everyone up and dancing ready for our concert performance last week.

Ms Whyte is directing two casts as we have decided to hedge our bets and cast two actors for as many roles as we possibly can, to try and mitigate against any disruption. This means we took the unusual step of adding a fourth night to our performance run, so that our hardworking principal cast members get two show nights each.

As ever, we've got a cast with representatives from every year group in our school and Sixth Form college. Our band is made up of students, staff and friends of Oaklands as are our creative team and backstage crew.

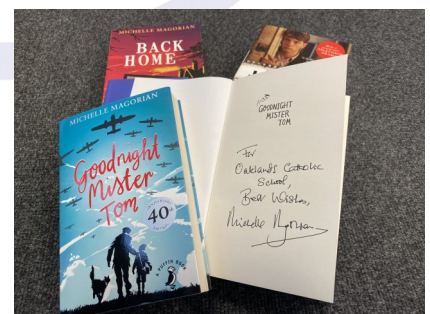
Tickets will go on sale in the new year for our performance run in March.

Anniversary Celebrations

As part of our celebrations of 50 years of comprehensive education at Oaklands, I've been speaking to one of our amazing community of alumni, Michelle Magorian.



Michelle is an author for young people and her book "Goodnight Mister Tom" is 40 years old. To celebrate that anniversary, alongside our own 50th anniversary, Michelle got in touch and donated several signed copies of her books to us. It was lovely to speak to her, as my favourite novel as a child was "Back Home", another of her books. It was a joy to be able to tell Michelle the impact her book had had on me as a girl. I was even more excited to receive the parcel of books in the post.



Michelle was an Oaklands student in the 1960s (*pictured here in the centre*) and has great memories of our school. She describes how she always felt loved and valued by the Sisters of Christ who established Oaklands.

"If you had a talent or an interest, you were always encouraged, because the Sisters' view was that was God-given, so you should just get on and use it".

Ms S Whyte



Term Dates - Spring Term 2022

Tues - Wed	4 and 5 January	LFD Testing for all students
Tuesday	4 January	Year 11 Book Sharing Week
Monday	10 January	Year 11 Mock Grades (this week) Governors' Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting Oaklands Friends' & Parents' Association (OFPA) Committee Meeting (7.30pm)
Thursday	13 January	Year 11 English Exam Year 11 Parents' Evening (online)
Monday	17 January	Faith Unity Week Governors' Business & Collaboration Committee Meeting
Tuesday	18 January	Year 10 Professional Day
Wednesday	19 January	Year 13 Written Reports
Thursday	27 January	Year 9 Options Evening
Tuesday	1 February	Year Group Photographs
Wednesday	2 February	Local Governing Body Meeting
Thursday	3 February	Open Mic Night (Student Bands Night)
Monday	7 February	Safer Internet Week Oaklands Friends' & Parents' Association (OFPA) Committee Meeting (7.30pm)
Wednesday	9 February	Year 10 English Exam ESCAT Trustees Meeting
Thursday	10 February	Year 10 Maths Exam
Monday	14 February	Year 12 Written Reports
Friday	18 February	Year 11 Science Exam New York / Washington Trip Departs Years 7-10 Grades / Reports
Mon - Fri	21 - 25 February	Half Term Break
Monday	28 February	2nd COVID-19 Vaccinations for Students Year 11 Maths / English / Science Exams (tbc) Governors' Ethos & Strategy Committee Meeting
Tuesday	1 March	2nd COVID-19 Vaccinations for Students Year 11 Maths / English / Science Exams (tbc)
Wednesday	2 March	Ash Wednesday
Thursday	3 March	Year 12 Post-18 Information Evening
Friday	4 March	Non-Uniform Day
Monday	7 March	Careers Week Oaklands Friends' & Parents' Association (OFPA) Committee Meeting (7.30pm)
Tuesday	8 - 11 March	School Show - The Addams Family
Monday	14 March	Science Week Year 7 Book Sharing Week
Wednesday	16 March	SEN Parents' Evening (online) Local Governing Body Meeting
Thursday	17 March	Year 13 Mocks Start (to 25 March)
Thursday	24 March	Year 7 Parents' Evening (online)
Wednesday	30 March	ESCAT Trustees Meeting
Thursday	31 March	Design Showcase
Tuesday	5 April	EPQ Presentation Evening
Thursday	7 April	Year 13 Parents' Evening (online) Year 13 Mock Grades and Predictions
Friday	8 April	Passion Services Year 7-9 Grades / Year 11 Final Predictions and Tutor Reports Last Day of Term

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

Parish Mass Times this Christmas

Please go to Mass this Christmas! Our Lord is waiting for you.
Our churches are very safe with every safety precaution in place
to keep everyone safe and well!

Mass is open to everyone; we simply ask that you wear a face-covering,
use sanitiser and sit where advised.

Thank you.

PLEASE CHECK PARISH WEBSITES AND NEWSLETTERS FOR ANY UPDATES

Sacred Heart, Waterloooville

Christmas Eve (Friday 24th December)

4.00pm – Online Children's Service

8.00 pm – Christmas Vigil Mass

Midnight – First Mass of Christmas

Christmas Day (Saturday 25th December)

8.30am – Christmas Day Mass

10.30am – Christmas Day Mass

St Michael's & All Angels, Leigh Park

Christmas Eve (Friday 24th December)

4.00pm – Christmas Vigil Mass

6.00 pm – Christmas Vigil Mass

8.00pm – Christmas Vigil Mass

Christmas Day (Saturday 25th December)

10.00am – Christmas Day Mass

St Patrick's, Hayling Island

Christmas Eve (Friday 24th December)

6:00pm – Family Mass

11:30pm – Midnight Mass

Christmas Day (Saturday 25th December)

10.00am – Christmas Day Mass

St Edmund's, Horndean

Christmas Eve (Friday 24th December)

5.00pm – Children's Mass

Midnight – First Mass of Christmas Mass

Christmas Day (Saturday 25th December)

9.30am – Christmas Day Mass

St Joseph's, Havant

Christmas Eve (Friday 24th December)

8.00pm – Carol Service and Mass

11.00pm - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day (Saturday 25th December)

11.00am – Christmas Day Mass

1.00pm - Christmas Day Mass (Polish)

St Thomas', Emsworth

Christmas Eve (Friday 24th December)

5.00pm – Christmas Vigil Mass

Christmas Day (Saturday 25th December)

9.00am - Christmas Day Mass

