

Parent/Student FAQ for Oaklands Sixth Form application

Do we have to be a Catholic family to apply to Oaklands?

Whilst you do not have to be a practising Catholic to enrol in Oaklands Sixth Form College you do have to know that we are a Catholic Sixth Form and accordingly have a sympathy for the ethos and values that we strive to provide in our values-based educational approach.

How many students from schools other than Oaklands join Sixth Form?

This can vary from 10-35. This year (2021) we have 34 students from other schools in South East Hampshire. Sometimes students come back to Oaklands after one year in a larger FE College and join us for Y13. This year we have students from **St Edmunds, Park, Horndean, Warblington, Mayville, Springfield, Priory, Crookhorn and Portsmouth Grammar School**. We also have students who have started elsewhere and changed their minds to come to us.

How many students are in Sixth Form?

There are currently 235 students in Oaklands Sixth Form; 125 in Year 12 (first year) and 110 in Y13 and Y14. Some years we have slightly more some slightly less.

How long are lessons?

Each lesson length varies but are between 50 and 75 minutes.

What is the shape of the day?

- **Registration: 0900 - 0920 (Sixth form students attend this when they have Lesson 1, it is not compulsory every day)**
- **Lesson 1: 0920-1020**
- **Lesson 2: 1020-1120**
- **BREAKTIME**
- **Lesson 3: 1140-1240**
- **Lesson 4: 1240 -1340**
- **LUNCH**
- **Lesson 5: 1425 - 1530**

Sometimes some subjects in Sixth Form operate a Lesson 6: 1530 - 1630

Do you have provision for students with additional needs?

We have an excellent Special Education Needs department in main school who provide high quality expertise to our Sixth Form students who may have additional or complex need. Early interview after initial application allows for a full identification of what is needed and what can be provided. One to one support for EHCP students is of course available. Equally, students with additional need can access one to one support outside of lessons.

Can students buy food on site?

Yes, we have a fully stocked competitively priced canteen with hot and cold food options. We also cater for all dietary preferences including vegetarian, vegan, gluten free and lactose intolerant.

Some students bring their own food in as well or leave site to buy their own food or eat at home if they live locally.

Can students leave the school site during the day?

Yes, we have a sign out facility so that we know who is on or off site. Students have an id badge with a bar code that allows them to sign in or out hands free.

What happens if you are unsure about your course choices and want to change?

All Year 12 students have until the end of September in the year of entry to change their mind or try other subjects. We appreciate that students change their mind between application and enrolment or even after starting a course. As a small sixth form we can enact changes quickly in response to students wishes.

Can students choose four or even five A Levels?

Some students (GCSE grade 8-9) will have an option to study four subjects. It is up to the learners themselves. A university offer tends to be based on three not four subjects so we like to protect students against spreading themselves too thinly across their courses and achieving less well as a result.

Where are Oaklands Sixth Form results from last year?

The results for 2019 and 2021 (centre assessed grades) are on the school website

Are there any trips?

Subject to Covid-19 regulations we operate a ski trip in February for Year 12 to Austria. Details are shared with all applicants.

In addition, all sixth formers are invited to a New York/Washington DC trip in February half term.

We also offer a trip to Auschwitz for two sixth formers.

There are Biology and Geography field trips in addition.

Numerous theatre trips are included as part of extra-curricular activities within the performing arts.

In science, where possible there are trips out to science and maths fairs as well as in school opportunities to lead on projects with lower school groups such as Chemistry Club.

All subjects offer subject or revision conferences when available.

Are there any enrichment activities?

On Wednesday afternoon students in Y12 sign up to any number of enrichment opportunities for which there is support and supervision: work experience, school displays team, performing arts, sports, subject ambassadors for Oaklands departments, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), leadership opportunities across the school such as Head boy and girl and other student leads who assist lower years.

Do students study anything in addition to their three or four courses?

In addition to 29 Level 3 courses (A Levels) at Oaklands we offer a chance to complete an Extended Project Qualification (Grades A*-E at AS Level).

Where can they study onsite when not in a lesson?

We have a large, dedicated Sixth Form library where students can use computers or work on table. In addition, we have an additional room with more desktop computer for Sixth Formers to use. Students can work in any empty classrooms if they wish to have a space to work in a small group to discuss work.

Students in Oaklands have a large common room where they can relax between lessons or work on independent study.

What happens if a student is not working hard?

We carry out regular progress dips so that the central team in sixth form know who is drifting away from their targets. These students will attract a discussion about organisation, time management, course choice and work ethic to ensure they can start to make progress again. Every student has a tutor and we have an academic support tutor who carries out one to one work with students to support them to success.

What happens if a student misses a lesson?

Attendance is monitored closely and the Director of Sixth Form or our academic support tutor works with individual students who may have issues with attendance or illness to ensure they are supported to catch up again.

What happens if a student wants to go home after their last lesson? Do they have to wait til the end of the day?

No, students only have to be in lessons on their timetable. They are welcome to stay in college all day if they are catching a school bus home. However, they do not have to and can go home as soon as their last lesson is over.

How do we find out about bus passes?

Additional information about bus passes is available from the sixth form team on oaklandssixthform@oaklandscatholicschool.org

Students needing 16-19 Bursary Fund support can enquire using this email.

Can students bring their own car or motorbike onto the school site?

Of course, all students' cars or motorbikes need to be registered with us as a private site. Please collect a form from reception in Sixth Form in September of your year of entry or as soon as students pass their test and plan to bring in a vehicle.

Can students smoke onsite?

Sorry no. You will need to go off site to smoke.

Can students have friends from other colleges on site in Oaklands?

Sorry no, we issue all Oaklands Sixth Form students with an id badge and ask anyone without a badge to leave site. We have to look after all of our main school students so access to Oaklands is restricted to enrolled students only and registered (at main reception) visitors with appointments, regardless of whether they were previously a student in main school. Any ex-Year 11 students is politely asked to leave unless they have a valid appointment with a member of staff, of course.