

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Stakes Hill Road
Waterlooville
Hampshire
PO7 7BW

☎ 023 9225 9214

☎ 023 9223 0317

🌐 www.oaklandscatholicsschool.org

✉ oaklands@oaklandscatholicsschool.org



Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Registered in England and Wales, Company No 07721932

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

Our Ref: MQ/SM

21 October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

It hardly seems possible that we are now at half term. I don't normally produce a newsletter at this time of year; however, I want to keep the communication stream alive. October is the month specially devoted to the rosary as a prayer to Mary our Mother. Many students have experienced praying the Hail Mary and the Rosary. We have a number of families and staff that are experiencing very difficult and challenging situations at the moment; they receive enormous strength knowing that we are praying for them.

Return of the Headteacher's blog

Before COVID, I used to write a regular blog to parents and the community which was posted on the school website. This was quickly overtaken by regular, sometimes weekly letters home. I would like to return to using this medium of communication to talk about issues in school or education generally. My blog has now returned and can be found by following [this link](#).

Pastoral Care

At this time of year, it is not unusual for parents of students that have left Oaklands to write back to the school to thank teachers for the experience their child received. One of the common threads in these letters is the outstanding pastoral care received by their children, be that through the devotion of a form tutor, the work of a head of year or the be-spoke support provided by our extended pastoral team. Also at this time of year, we hear back from universities about students who completed degree courses over the last academic year. This week I was delighted to hear about a student who left Oaklands to go to Oxford University. She completed a Masters degree in Earth Sciences and achieved a First Class. Well done to all former students who have completed courses at the end of the last academic year.

Support for Families in Need

Many families are finding it difficult to make ends meet at the moment. At the end of the summer term the Local Authority provided a small amount of money to support families. This we divided up based upon those currently in receipt of free school meals. This week we received another small allocation which will be distributed to free school meal families. Unfortunately, the DfE or Local Authority do not provide us with any other funds to support families. We have started to compile a website to sign post families to organisations that can help at this difficult time, please follow [this link](#).

Sixth Form College Open Event

Thank you to all families of Year 11 students who attended the Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 13th October. Admission information can be found on the school website by following [this link](#).

If any families were unable to attend and would like to come and have a meeting with Sixth Form staff about subject combinations or application concerns, please do contact us in Sixth Form oaklandssixthform@oaklandscatholicschool.org or 023 9225 9214 (extension 3701). Deadline for application to Sixth Form is **14th December 2022**, though students will be sent their offer soon after completing their on-line applications.

Year 11 Mocks

The mock examinations for Year 11 will take place towards the end of the term, details will be issued by separate letter. Students can prepare for these by starting their revision now. Almost all Year 11 students have met with a member of our Senior Leadership Team and have analysed their end of Year 10 test results and discussed revision strategies needed to help them achieve their full potential.

Homework for Year 7

It has been encouraging to see our Year 7 students make such a positive start to their time at Oaklands. The phased introduction of homework to this year group continues after half term with the addition of Geography, History and Modern Foreign Languages (French and Spanish). The homework timetable can be found on the school website by following [this link](#).

Expectations

Our expectations, as you would want them to be, are high. Our teachers are continuously improving the quality of their teaching and the standard of feedback, together with target setting to ensure that your child knows what to do to in order to succeed. We continue to embed the 'Oaklands Way' which offers teachers excellent ways to be effective and to promote student learning through a consistent approach. It supports teacher planning, motivates students and re-energises classroom activity.

The atmosphere that is created within a classroom by staff and students alike is crucial with regard to maximising progress. Students must arrive ready to learn; this includes having the correct equipment and a reading book. I would ask that over half term you check your child's school equipment and replace anything that is missing or broken. If any family is struggling with the cost of these items, please contact your child's Head of Year and we can provide subsidised equipment.

Parents select Oaklands for several reasons, including the ambitious standards we set. There are a number of 'red lines' over which children should not cross. For example, if a student uses abusive language, they will be given an appropriate sanction.

Conversely, if a child's behaviour or effort should be rewarded, we will praise them either verbally, through written comment or by awarding praise points - these can be seen on ClassCharts. We are delighted with how many praise points have been awarded across the year groups already, particularly for our restorative justice approach, which sees students taking responsibility for repairing broken relationships. Parents can access ClassCharts through an App. Details can be found by following [this link](#). If you have any issues logging into Class Charts or would like your login details, please email classcharts@oaklandscatholicschool.org. It is crucial that you have access to this as valuable information about your child's education, including important announcements are placed on there.

Positive behaviour is a fundamental part of the school's ethos as it impacts on the daily life of everyone in the school and the wider community. The Havant Federation of Schools, of which Oaklands is a part, has issued several joint statements regarding a collective approach to reinforcing high standards across a range of school issues which we support. The statements can be found on our website, [Havant Federation Joint Statements](#), and focus on:

- Relational Conflict and Bullying
- Mobile Phones and Social Media
- Standards, Expectations and Attendance

I would ask that you take time to read them again as they form the basis of the approach taken by all schools in the Havant area.

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

The Catholic Diocese has recently unveiled its draft Ten Year Plan. This is an ambitious project which has considered the survey of 1,000 voices undertaken by the Diocese, as well as the synodal process requested by Pope Francis. These consultations have formed the basis of a draft plan detailing the future direction of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. Details of the plan can be found by following [this link](#). Bishop Philip is keen to hear the views of all stakeholders in the Diocese, which includes schools. Further information can be here found on the [Diocese website](#).

Cycling to School

When the clocks go back and the nights draw in, the British weather invariably gets worse which leads to a loss of visibility on the roads, and pedestrians and cyclists are particularly vulnerable. Whilst I would want to encourage students to cycle, they must wear an appropriate safety helmet. I know from personal experience that a cycle helmet can be a life saver.

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2022

This year, we have two special edition school poppy boxes. As well as the traditional poppies, these contain accessories such as rulers, wristbands, pins and lanyards. After half term, Sixth Formers will visit tutor groups during tutor time for students to make a suitable donation for the items.

Communication

If you change address, e-mail address or mobile phone number then please let us know. It is now a requirement for schools to have at least two emergency contacts for each child, so if we do not already have this information, you will be contacted and asked to provide it.

Thank you for your prayers and continued support for the school.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn
Headteacher