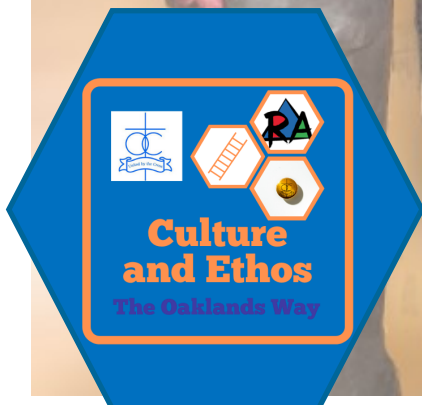


No 448

January 2023

Oaklands News



A publication for
Oaklands Catholic School
and Sixth Form College



Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

From the Headteacher's Desk

Lead Stories

<i>From the Headteacher</i>	2
<i>Presentation of Certificates</i>	4
<i>From the Chaplain</i>	5
<i>Attendance</i>	6
<i>Detentions</i>	7
<i>School Website</i>	7
<i>Dry Slope Ski Trip</i>	8
<i>Extra-Curricular Activities</i>	8
<i>Uniform</i>	9
<i>Student Leadership</i>	10
<i>Inaugural Cultural Week</i>	11
<i>Rewarding Students</i>	11
<i>Post Mortem Live</i>	12
<i>Year 11 + 13 Important Dates</i>	14
<i>Term Dates for 2023-24</i>	14
<i>Calendar Dates for Spring Term</i>	15
<i>School of Rock</i>	16

Welcome to this edition of the Oaklands News and a Happy, if not belated, New Year to you all. I hope everyone had a restful holiday after a busy Autumn term.

There comes a time in all our lives when it dawns on us that we are not as young as we used to be. The turning of a New Year is a reminder of this; whereas the future once seemed to stretch out for eternity, suddenly it appears all too short. The time left to fulfil our dreams is far less than we thought.

The other day I was looking at the applications to join our Year 7 in September 2023. It suddenly dawned on me that some of the youngsters were born after the 2012 Olympics, a moment in the country's history that only feels, to me, like yesterday. I have pieces of clothing older than some of our younger students!

It is easy to be maudlin about the passing of time. One antidote is to make a resolution; an attempt to do something to better yourself or the lives of another. It is in positively changing the life of another that our influence lives on.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is about new beginnings, a fresh start, not of our own making but by the grace of God. However frustrated you may be at your inability to live the life you want to, or to keep to those new resolutions, never lose sight of the fact that the life changing power of God in Jesus is always striving to bring its new creation to perfection; no matter how old, we can all play a part in this.



School Council

One of my work based resolutions for this year is to involve students more in school life and learning. Earlier this year we 'rebooted' our school council and I hope that this will become the vehicle to effect change in school. I have already met with a representative group to talk about how students use the school toilet facilities and the improvements we could make. More information will follow on this issue later in the term.

Punctuality

I undertake duty on the school gate a few times a week. The vast majority of students arrive to school on time, however there are a significant number of walkers and those being dropped off by car who are late to school. Nearly all of our students manage to get here on time, please don't allow your child to be one of those few who fall behind because of poor punctuality.

Attendance

Last term our attendance rates were significantly above the national average. However, the national average post-COVID is lower than it has ever been, so there remains lots of room for improvement. Last term was not helped by concerns about Strep A, there were also a number of other vicious 'bugs' circulating in the wider community. We continue to receive guidance from the DfE on respiratory illness. Obviously, there is a lot of illness circulating and the system is under immense pressure, however our students have missed quite enough over the last few years and they need to be in school. If they are well enough to learn, they need to be here.

University Success

Congratulations to all students in Year 13 who have sent their applications to the University and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) well before the deadline and have been receiving offers from their universities of choice. This year we have a record number of university hopefuls who have been receiving offers from some of the most prestigious universities in the country.

We again wish every student in the Oaklands Sixth Form College the best of luck in their remaining interviews, Spring examinations and the final stages of their A Level courses. Enormous thanks and congratulations also go to the Sixth Form tutors for their preparation of references and support for personal statements

Finally, at the beginning of a new term it is important that the school gets back to its normal rhythm as quickly as possible and students continue to deliver the high standards that you and we expect.

Please remember that I regularly post a blog to the school website which can be found via the following link: [**Headteacher's Blog**](#)

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.



Mr M Quinn
Headteacher

The school hall was packed full of staff, former students and their guests on Thursday 5th January to celebrate the school's examination success at A Level and GCSE.

This was the first time we held certificates evening since January 2020 due to the impact of the pandemic. The evening started with an address from Mr Quinn. He noted in his welcome the outstanding achievement of students of all abilities and the contribution parents make supporting their children at Oaklands. He also made reference to how Catholic Social Teaching influences what we teach in school and how this prepares young people for the future. Every year at exam certificate time, Year 11 students are given a small wooden cross. Mr Quinn encouraged students to keep the cross safe with their examination certificates.

This year the school invited back as guest speakers two former students, Ryan Crellin-Simpson and Sam James. Sam is undertaking a Politics degree at the University of Surrey and Ryan is studying Drama at Rose Bruford College. They talked about their time at Oaklands and the many fond memories they have and they also talked about how their experience at Oaklands had motivated them to undertake their respective courses post-18.

Entertainment was provided by Ruthie Quinn who sang Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah and members of the Cast from this year's school show, Andrew Lloyd Webber's School of Rock, who performed "If only You Would Listen".



The prestigious Damian Whitfield Awards for outstanding contribution to school life were awarded to Ethan Lehane (Year 13 2021-22) and Leona Newman (Year 11 2021-22).

The celebration was concluded with a vote of thanks from members of the Sixth Form leadership team, Jem Jeffrey and Amélie Evans and at the end of the evening many students and staff stayed to enjoy a buffet provided by the school catering team.

For those students unable to be present at the recent Presentation of Certificates Evening, GCSE and A Level Examination Certificates are now available for collection from Main Reception at the school for the academic year 2021/2022.

Please note, these are valuable documents which cannot be replaced and we are only permitted to retain them a limited time, after which time they may be destroyed.

Alumni

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**



Remembering Pope Benedict XVI

As Christmas tide began to come to an end and the reality of heading back to work resumed, we were saddened to hear about the passing of Pope Benedict XVI. Pope Benedict died on 31st December 2022 at the age of 95, Saint John Paul II was Benedict's predecessor and Pope Francis is his successor, Pope Francis called Pope Benedict a "faithful friend".

As a new year begins, we dwell on the ending of Pope Benedict's life. As we journey through life there are always many beginnings such as the celebration of a new life, the beginning of a new year, the beginning of new job, the beginning of a marriage and so much more. But when it comes to endings, we often don't want to think about them. As Christmas comes to an end and we begin taking down the decorations, there will always be that slight melancholy feeling in the air. Many of us simply never want the joy of Christmas and being with our families to end, even though we know it will come again next year.

This life we live is a journey, with many beginnings and endings. However, we know that at the end of it all, it does not end, we hope to be with Jesus in his Heavenly kingdom for eternity. As many Catholics around the world mourn the loss of Pope Benedict XVI we must also rejoice and pray. We rejoice in the fact that he is now in the hands of God and that his spirit lives on with all the Saints in Heaven, and we pray for his soul just as Pope Francis said "*Father, into your hands we commend his spirit.*"

Students at school celebrated the life of Pope Benedict with a lunch time liturgy and several decades of the Rosary. We were very blessed last year to receive a donation of Rosaries from the Catenian Association, these Rosaries are being prayed every week with the Chaplaincy team who are very grateful for them and enjoy learning about the mysteries of the Rosary.

"My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going." John 14:2-4



Flame is a Catholic Youth Conference open to those of all faiths and none – one of the aims of the day is to help those who may not be engaged with faith to be open to a new vision of what a young, vibrant, active and inclusive Church can look like.

Flame is open to everyone aged school Year 9 (usually 14 years old) through to University age. There are large numbers of Year 10s, 11s and Sixth Formers, as well as University students.

The theme of Flame 2023 – which is exactly 150 days before World Youth Day in Lisbon – takes the WYD Scripture "Mary arose and went with haste" and crystallises it into the theme, "Rise Up!"

Rise up after the pandemic, Rise up as young Catholics, Rise up – as Mary did – for the surprising and beautiful adventure that is our Catholic faith.

The conference takes place on Saturday 4th March in London and if you are interested in going with the Portsmouth Diocese group please see Mrs Farrell or Miss Heath for more information.

Attendance

Please can you ensure that if your child is absent from school that you notify the school before 8.00am or as soon after that time as you can. It is a requirement that parents notify the school when their child is absent and to state the reason for that absence with an indication on the first day as to whether it is likely to be a longer term absence.

Parents can communicate via one of the following ways:

- **By email** to absence@oaklandscatholicschool.org (leaving a contact number on the email for verification purposes).
- **By phone** using the main school number 02392 259214 and selecting Option 1, or
By phone using the Absence Line 02392 248053
These numbers automatically go to voicemail and you will need to leave a message stating your child's name, Tutor Group and the reason for their absence. If you require a call back, then please say so in the message and the Attendance Manager will get back to you.
- **By text** to 07943 104534
- **Via ClassCharts**



You can leave a message using any of these methods as soon as you know your child will be absent from school.

In line with the school's safeguarding procedures, it is important that all students are accounted for each day. It may therefore be necessary for the Attendance Manager to contact you during the morning for clarification of absence.

Any absence of five days or more must be supported by medical evidence (eg. letter from GP or consultant, copy of the appointment card, prescription, named and dated medicine etc). Evidence will also be required for any student whose attendance is below 90%.

If the absence is planned, eg. for a medical or other off-site appointment, please let us know in advance to ensure that your child is not delayed in being signed out of school. Students leaving must sign out at the Attendance Window. An adult must contact the school in advance of collection with a reason for absence. Without this, students will not be permitted to leave the school site.

Students should always come to the Attendance Window to sign in if they are arriving after 9.00am (please do not go straight to registration or assembly). Any students returning during the day from an appointment should also ensure they sign back in at the Attendance Window, even if it is during break or lunchtime.

Holiday requests and requests for absences (eg. for music exams, college interviews etc) must be made on the correct Leave of Absence Form so that they can be coded accurately. This form is available on the school website via this link [Oaklands Catholic School Application for Leave of Absence](#).

Holidays will not be approved unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Punctuality

Students who are late to school or lessons will be given a lunchtime detention to pay those minutes back. If a student is late to lessons, the class teacher will add these to ClassCharts; these will be totalled and students will then be set sanctions at either lunch time or after school.

Every term the late minutes data is analysed and we will write home to parents of the most persistent latecomers.



Detentions

All parents know that from time to time youngsters step the wrong side of the line. With good parenting comes the responsibility for setting clear boundaries and, where necessary, taking action when these are pushed. In school one of the sanctions we have at our disposal is a detention, which can occur during or after school, on Inset days or Saturday mornings.

With both in and after school detentions, the 2011 Education Act, in addition to giving schools the power to search students and sanction students for behaviour outside of school, **states that parental consent is not required for detentions** and detentions outside school hours can be issued on the same day.

Whilst the law is quite unambiguous, at Oaklands we are aware that for some students transport to and from school creates issues for same day detentions. In most circumstances parents will be given advanced notice of a pending detention via ClassCharts. However, in the final analysis, if a parent does not agree to a detention then the sanction can escalate to the point where a youngster is excluded. I am sure all parents would want to avoid this.

Finally, if you do receive a detention notification on ClassCharts for your child, please remind them of their responsibility to attend the detention as directed.

If you are not logged into ClassCharts, then please contact your child's Form Tutor as you will be missing vital notifications and information.

School Website

Our school website contains plenty of important and relevant information for both parents, carers and students.

Please take time to look at this and then regularly re-visit during the year for updates and reminders

www.oaklandscatholicsschool.org

Suggested Top Ten Links

1. Uniform (*About Us*)
2. E-Safety (*Parents*)
3. Newsletters (*About Us*)
4. Child Protection and Safeguarding (*About Us /Policies*)
5. Letters (*Parents*)
6. Headteacher's Blog (*Community*)
7. Homework and Extra Curricular (*Students*)
8. Forms (*Parents*)
9. Online Payments (*Parents*)



**Oaklands Catholic School
and Sixth form College**

**1971
to
2021**
Founded by the
Sisters of Christ

Dry Slope Ski Trip

Thirty Year 9 students attempted skiing for the first time at Calshot Activities Centre on 13th January.

You could sense the excitement as the students viewed the slopes as we arrived, but there was perhaps also a degree of trepidation.

The trip to Calshot provided the students with the opportunity to wear the equipment for the first time and learn the basics; this means that more rapid progress can be made when the students arrive at the resort in February.



These trips would not have been possible without the help of a number of staff including Mr Bamford, Miss Woods and Mr Whitlock.

Mr Bamford will take another 10 students to Calshot within the next two weeks, as the first trip was over-subscribed.

The trip during February half term is fast approaching. 106 students from Year 9 and the Sixth form will travel to Andalo; the students will ski for five days in the Italian resort. The 2022-23 ski season in the Alps started poorly, but recent snowfall bodes well for good conditions when we arrive.

Mr Bamford



Extra-Curricular Activities

The extra-curricular timetable has now started for the Spring term.

There are many lunchtime or after school activities on offer to suit different ages and interests including music and sports clubs, craft (including knitting and origami), creative writing, politics, code club, gardening and many Science clubs.

For the full list, please visit our website via the following link:

[Spring-23-Extra-Curricular-Activities.pdf \(oaklandscatholicschool.org\)](https://oaklandscatholicschool.org/Spring-23-Extra-Curricular-Activities.pdf)

Many thanks to all the staff who run these extra-curricular opportunities.

Uniform

The long dark nights and cold weather mean it's time to turn our thoughts to what our students are wearing. We ask you to help us maintain high uniform standards by supporting the uniform rules:

- ◆ **Shoes** – students are required to wear black flat proper shoes; girls' heels should be no more than two inches. There has been a recent fashion of students wearing canvas casual shoes or leather trainers / trainer style shoes– this is not acceptable and contravenes the uniform regulations and has health and safety implications due to the type of sole. The shoes should be leather, not suede.
- ◆ **Coats** - for inclement weather, parents may purchase a plain (without logo) appropriate school coat, preferably navy or black to be worn over the blazer. Denim, leather or leather look jackets are not acceptable. Hoodies and sweatshirts are forbidden and not considered an acceptable item of school uniform. *Non-uniform items of clothing which are repeatedly worn into school despite verbal warnings will be confiscated.*
- ◆ **Scarves** - should be in appropriate school colours and not linked to any football team. Students will be asked to remove any non-regulation item of uniform.
- ◆ **Cosmetics** – makeup, false tan, nail varnish/Shellac/ artificial nails are all prohibited. Staff have been equipped with cleansers/removers and students will be ordered to remove these forms of cosmetics. *Given the current hygiene requirements, nails should be kept as short as possible to aid good hand washing technique.*
- ◆ **Jewellery** – students are permitted to wear a simple cross and chain, a watch and ONE pair of plain stud earrings in the LOBE. Other body piercings, ie nose, eyebrow, tongue, bellybutton, upper ear are not permitted and students will be ordered to remove them. Items which do not conform to our regulations will be confiscated.
Please note that if a student gets their ears pierced during term time they will be asked to remove them for PE for health and safety reasons; we can no longer allow students to tape them up. Refusal to remove them will result in an after school detention. We advise getting any piercing done at the start of the summer holidays to avoid any issues.
- ◆ **Hair** - exaggerated, coloured, or bleached hairstyles are not acceptable at Oaklands. This includes beading and extreme colouring/highlights. Excessively long and excessively short hair styles are considered exaggerated and are not acceptable. Hair must not hide the face – all features must be visible. Long hair must be tied up for PE.
For parents' guidance, boys' haircuts should be of no less than a Grade 2 on any part of the head. All boys should be clean shaven. Hair accessories must be navy, royal blue or white.

SANCTIONS:

- ◆ Verbal warning to correct uniform- this will be logged on ClassCharts
- ◆ If there are three logs for poor or incorrect uniform in one week a Wednesday after school detention will be set
- ◆ Student placed in uniform monitoring
- ◆ If there is still no improvement a student will be set an SLT extended detention

Your co-operation in ensuring full and correct uniform is critical in maintaining the high standards expected at Oaklands.

OFPA Uniform Sale

The Oaklands Friends' and Parents' Association run a second hand uniform shop which is based at the end of the chapel building at the White House. Orders should be submitted via email to opa@oaklandscatholicschool.org by the last Wednesday of the month during term time and can be collected from the shop on the last Friday of the month.

For full details, including a price list please visit the school website [Second Hand Uniform - Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College](#)

Orders for the next sale should be placed by Wednesday 25th January for collection on Friday 27th January.

Student Leadership at Oaklands

Education in a Catholic school is not just education for the sake of it; rather it is for **enabling young people to acquire skills necessary to live life in a certain way**. This means that at Oaklands, we aim to motivate young people to become people of challenge, change and transformation;

- ◇ **Challenge:** to be unafraid and unashamed to challenge anything which denigrates or belittles a person; to see every person as a brother or sister made in the image and likeness of God
- ◇ **Change:** to be advocates for change where it is needed
- ◇ **Transformation:** to be personally transformed, and through that transformation, work to create a world of justice and peace for all

This year, we have embarked on a new style and structure for student leadership that we believe will support our students to become instruments of challenge, change and transformation. This leadership structure will allow students to be actively involved in the everyday life of the school, thus allowing them to develop personally as well as making the school a good place for all of us.

To be able to achieve this, we have adopted an extended student leadership headed by a President and Senior Deputy, assisted by four Deputies. These four Deputies will lead other students leaders from Years 10 – 13 who will be divided into four teams, each responsible for the four key areas of our school; charism, curriculum, pastoral and co-curriculum.

- ◇ **Charism** - promoting the Catholic culture and ethos of the school and Sixth Form College. The main aim of this team will be to lead events that will help the school community put its faith into action by organising events like fundraising, cultural week, affinity groups etc.
- ◇ **Curriculum** - improving the students' experience of the curriculum on offer. The main aim of this team will be to work with teachers and Heads of Department to help improve the curriculum provision by organising participation in school/college open evenings, working with departments to organise student voice events, Sixth Form students to support for KS3 and KS4 students etc.
- ◇ **Pastoral** - improving the students' overall experience in our school community. The main aim of this team will be to work with Heads of Year and tutors, as well as the Deputy Head (Pastoral) and the Pastoral team to help improve the pastoral provision by supporting Year 7 induction activities and events, organising student voice on pastoral issues like evaluating and improving behaviour policy, organising and leading student drop-in sessions for support and mentoring etc.
- ◇ **Co-curriculum** - the school's provision of events and programmes that support the curriculum and leads to personal development. The main aim of this team will be to work with Heads of Year, Heads of Department and staff to enhance the co-curricular provision in our school by leading some extra-curricular activities on offer in the school like sports, eco and environmental club, Fairtrade, Library etc.

Our aim is to have more students involved in leadership in the school because we believe that when given a chance, young people do step up and make great contribution to any community. When they take up these leadership roles, our students will acquire skills that will benefit them. We know that a strong student leadership body will result in a better experience for all around the school, and thus fulfil one of the main aims of Catholic education, enabling young people to acquire skills necessary to live life in a certain way; **challenge, change and transform** society.

Mr Sumba



According to the Oxford English Dictionary, culture is the way of life of a people, including their attitudes, values, beliefs, arts, sciences, modes of perception, and habits of thought and activity. In this sense, culture is an important aspect of any person because in many ways, it defines who that person is. We all belong to a culture, and sometimes we can belong to different cultures because of where we trace our origins from, what we believe, what we find important to us, where we live, what we do etc.



At Oaklands, we are proud of our culture as a Catholic school community. However, we are also aware that in our community, there are many cultures represented, especially based on ethnicity.

Following on from our Affinity work in the last couple of years, we decided that we should celebrate this aspect of our community in a more explicit way. We are therefore going to hold our inaugural Cultural Week from Monday 6th–Friday 10th February. During the week, we will celebrate our uniqueness as a community made of people from different cultural backgrounds. We hope that this will be a time for us to learn and know more about the different cultures that are represented in our school. We will have guest speakers come in to share with our students the importance of culture. In some of their lessons, students will engage with the meaning and impact of culture on an individual's life. The week will culminate with a number of our students taking part in a show of cultural dress and attire in catwalk style and performances of song and dance from around the world.

On Friday 10th, we will hold a non-uniform day to allow students who would like to dress in a way that represents their culture to do so. As usual, we would like to collect £2 per student for this, and the money raised will be donated to charity.

More details about the activities for this exciting week will be shared during the next few weeks.

Rewarding Students

We're delighted that our students and parents continue to work with us to make ClassCharts a success. A real benefit of this system is that everyone can see how their efforts and achievements at school have been rewarded in real time. We have an extensive rewards system and commend our students in numerous categories including outstanding work, excellent effort and contribution to school life.

In liaison with students, we've changed our rewards milestones and created milestone beyond Sapphire because the move to ClassCharts has motivated our students to do well, and staff can award them instantaneously as the system is always live on teachers' laptops. This means we're seeing more well-deserved points awarded. Students receive a badge at 50 point increments (bronze, silver, gold, ruby, sapphire and now diamond for 300 points). The increase in positive points means we're on a trajectory to have more Sapphire and Diamond badge holders than ever before, so we're liaising with student council to consider whether we might need to add an even higher one!

Heads of Year, Tutors and subject teachers have been delighted by some of the amazing extra work and community efforts of our students. We're rewarding their hard work, great attitudes to learning and smart uniform whenever we can.

An important addition to our rewards categories are our "ultra-rare" Head of Year and Head Teacher's Awards. These badges are awarded for outstanding special achievements and our Year Heads are always looking carefully at which students should receive these special awards in 2023!

At the end of the summer term, our governors support us in rewarding students who've done particularly well in a subject. The Governors' End of Year Awards are a cornerstone of our ethos of rewarding, and we're excited to be able to hold our traditional awards assemblies at the end of the school year.

We hope that this system highlights the motivation and commitment of our students, and the inclusive and positive nature of our community here at Oaklands.

Ms Whyte

Post Mortem Live

On January 16th, *The Post-Mortem Live* visited Oaklands Catholic School as part of their 2023 tour. As a reward for hosting the event we were given an exclusive show for around 100 Sixth Form and Year 11 students studying triple Science, all free of charge.

According to their website, the show is “the UK’s first immersive live post-mortem experience.” This event allows individuals who are interested in the post-mortem industry to not only learn about the process needed to determine the pinnacle cause of death; but to handle and dissect real specimens of porcine origin throughout the event.



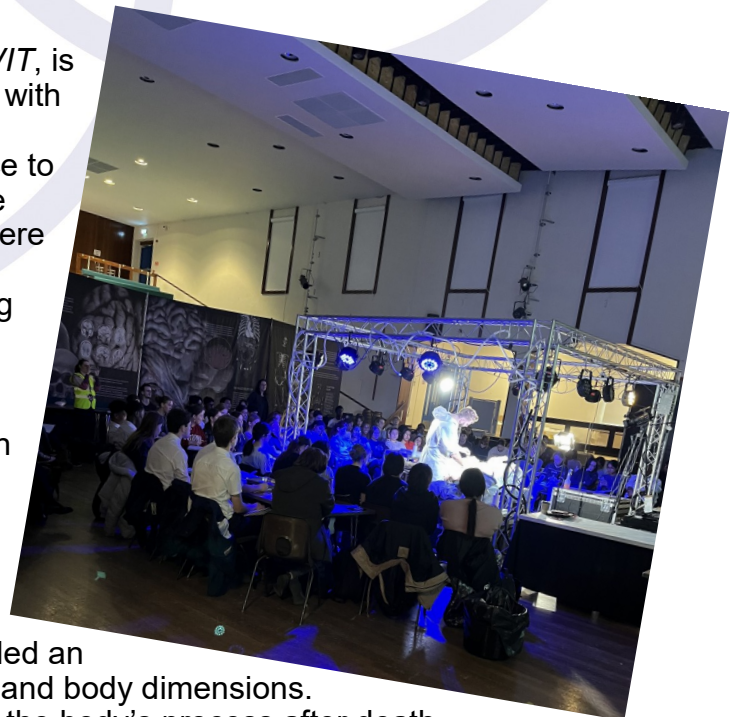
Upon arrival, we noticed how surprisingly relaxed the atmosphere was. Students were seated in close proximity so that a clear view of the presentation and the semi-synthetic cadaver could be had. They were able to take photographs of the setting as well as the various dissections they completed. Several tables were spaced throughout the room, allowing all participants to have a chance at dissection.

Sam and his colleagues presented the event. All were engaging, enthusiastic and knowledgeable about their subjects with an abundance of scientific terminology and intriguing facts.

The 4-hour long event, began with a walk-through of what was to come, followed by a general safety talk about proper conduct and the specimens provided to us. After jewellery was removed and sleeves were rolled up, an introductory video was played to set the scene of the death the semi-synthetic cadaver had endured. This worked well to create mystery around the cause of his death.

The corpse, presented by the organisation *VIVIT*, is the world’s only semi-synthetic cadaver. Filled with real (porcine) organs, the cadaver has been cleverly designed to create a similar experience to that of a real human corpse. It even has visible blood pooling on the skin and body hair. We were extremely impressed with this piece of equipment, but it may not be such a fascinating sight for those of a squeamish nature! The cadaver features a realistic Y-shaped incision down the torso, allowing a full view of the organs inside, demonstrating clearly how much time has been spent on perfecting this model.

Sam, who informed us that he has completed roughly 25 real human dissections, started by explaining the most important terms when describing conditions post-mortem. This included an in-depth discussion about anatomical position and body dimensions. He then went on to explain brain anatomy and the body’s process after death.



According to *The Post Mortem Live*, the point of the event is to be able to “*expose students to real specimens, to bolster human anatomy in context, and develop practical skills.*”

Dissections of the eye and brain taken from half a pig’s head organs was a relaxed but informative experience. Gloves and sanitation stations were provided, and the crew was on hand to answer any questions participants had about the procedure. Guests were provided with tools and allowed to explore the workings of the organs at their leisure. As the event went on, participants learnt more about the story of the cadaver based on the injuries and conditions of his body.

After further presentation and dissection, the cause of death of the cadaver was released, signalling an end to this fantastic experience. Sam, whose knowledge and enthusiasm was admirable, remained on guard to answer any lingering questions after the show. All students were given access information to download a certificate which could be used as any evidence for their college and university applications.

The business development manager of the company reported:

“We absolutely believe that the experience is more beneficial with the inclusion of real specimens, we’re giving the audience the opportunity to learn through hands-on dissection, something that is not widely available. After all, how can there be a post-mortem without dissection?”

An event such as this, open to our students, aims to provide a realistic experience of death and the medical/post-mortem industry which are crucial in encouraging a new generation of professionals to pursue that line of work.

Mrs Gamble



Public Exam Season	GCSE Exams (15 May to 21 June 2023) A Level Exams (15 May to 26 June 2023)
Contingency Day	Wednesday 28 June 2023 This day is set aside should sustained national or local disruption arise during the exam season. This means that all candidates must be available to sit exams from the start of the season (Monday 15 May until Wednesday 28 June).
Year 13 Leavers' Mass and Celebration	Thursday 11 May 2023 (evening)
Year 13 Last Day	Friday 12 May 2023
Year 11 Leavers' Mass and Last Day	Friday 26 May 2023
Year 11 Prom	Tuesday 4 July 2023
A Level Results Day	Thursday 17 August 2023
GCSE Results Day	Thursday 24 August 2023

Term Dates for Academic Year 2023-24

Autumn Term 2023 Half Term:	Friday 1 September to Monday 18 December Monday 23 - Friday 27 October
Spring Term 2024 Half Term:	Tuesday 2 January to Thursday 29 March Monday 12 - Friday 16 February
Summer Term 2024 Half Term:	Monday 15 April to Friday 19 July Monday 27 - Friday 31 May
INSET Days are as follows:	Friday 1 September 2023 Monday 18 December 2023 Friday 19 July 2024 Friday 29 September 2023 Tuesday 2 January 2024
Student Return:	Monday 4 September (Year 7 and Year 12) Tuesday 5 September (Years 7, 12 and 13) Wednesday 6 September (all students to return)

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

Calendar Dates - Spring Term 2023

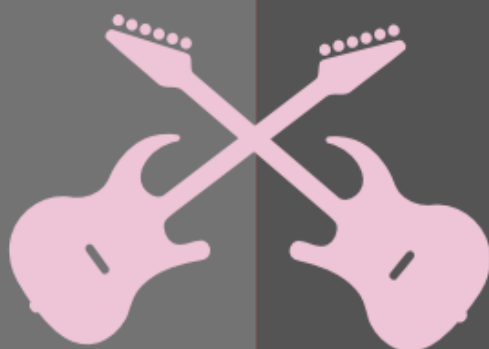
Thursday	26 January	Year 9 Options Evening (7.00pm)
Wednesday	1 February	Year 10 English Exam Local Governing Body Meeting
Thursday	2 February	Year 10 Maths Exam
Monday	6 February	Cultural Week Deadline for return of Year 9 Option Forms Oaklands Friends' & Parents' Association (OFPA) Committee Meeting (7.30pm)
Wednesday	8 February	Year 9 Teenage Booster Vaccinations (+ Thursday 9 February) ESCAT Trustees Meeting
Friday	10 February	Non-Uniform Day (<i>change from previously published date of 24 February</i>) Ski Trip Departs
Mon - Fri	13 - 17 February	Half Term Break
Monday	20 February	Governors' Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting
Wednesday	22 February	Ash Wednesday
Monday	27 February	Year 12 Post-18 Information Evening Governors' Ethos & Strategy Committee Meeting
Wed - Fri	1 - 3 March	School Show
Friday	3 March	CAFOD Fast Day World Book Day at Oaklands
Monday	6 March	Year 13 Mocks Start (to 14 March) Careers Week Year 7 Book Sharing Week Oaklands Friends' & Parents' Association (OFPA) Committee Meeting (7.30pm)
Wednesday	8 March	SEN Parents' Evening (online)
Monday	13 March	Science Week Year 8 Science Fair Week Year 11 Maths / English / Science Exams (+ 14-15 March)
Wednesday	15 March	Local Governing Body Meeting
Thursday	16 March	Year 7 Parents' Evening (in the Hall)
Friday	17 March	Duke of Edinburgh Award Presentation Evening
Thursday	23 March	Design Showcase
Mon - Fri	27 - 31 March	Year 12 Assessment Week Year 7-9 Grades / Year 11 Final Predictions and Tutor Reports (this week)
Wednesday	29 March	ESCAT Trustees Meeting
Thursday	30 March	Year 13 Parents' Evening (hybrid)
Friday	31 March	Passion Services 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.

Monday	17 April	Students Return for Summer Term Iceland Trip Information Evening (6.00pm)
Thursday	20 April	Year 8 STEM Showcase Evening (more details to follow)
Monday	1 May	BANK HOLIDAY
Monday	8 May	BANK HOLIDAY (extra for King Charles III Coronation)
Tuesday	9 May	MFL Speaking Exams start Year 9 Tests Week
Monday	15 May	PUBLIC EXAM SEASON STARTS Year 8 Tests Week
Wednesday	24 May	Year 10 Parents' Evening (online)

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College
Presents

SCHOOL
OF
ROCK



1st, 2nd, 3rd March 2023
Romero Auditorium
7pm

