

# Oaklands News

No 449  
April 2023



A publication for  
Oaklands Catholic School  
and Sixth Form College





# Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

## From the Headteacher's Desk

### Lead Stories

From the Headteacher	2
School of Rock	4
Excellence in STEM @Oaklands	6
Ski Trip 2023	8
Duke of Edinburgh Award	9
Maths News	10
Cultural Week	12
Design Department News	14
Learning Support Report	14
Update from Korogocho	15
News from the Sixth Form	16
New Student President	18
Year 10 Geography Trip	18
Flame Congress	19
Literacy News	19
From the Chaplain	20
Havant Pastoral Area Services	21
OFPA	22
Parking Issues	22
Uniform News	23
Coming Soon	24
Sister Ita Conlon, RIP	25
Term Dates	26
Key Reminders (Year 11 and 13)	26
Dates for the Summer Term	27
Sports Roundup	28

I sat in church this evening, 26th March, listening to the story of Lazarus. Lazarus was one of Jesus' friends who he raised from the dead. I have heard this story countless times and on each occasion I am left wondering what Lazarus saw after his death and before Jesus raised him back to life. The whole episode is a little strange. I crudely like to classify Jesus' miracles, and this is one of the 'mega' miracles. If you were one of Lazarus' friends you can imagine how it looked: this man turns up, he prays loudly, looking up to heaven, then after several seconds, your dead friend walks out of his grave - alive!

Nowhere in Scripture do we learn what Lazarus saw after he died. Did Lazarus, have a glimpse of Heaven? Was he caught in no-man's land? Did God give him a guided tour, revealing to him why Jesus had to die? Our human minds are probably incapable of grasping what Lazarus saw. Maybe that's why the Bible doesn't record it. Mere words could never do justice to the encounter Lazarus had.

Even though Jesus doesn't disclose all the facts about Heaven, he does make perfectly clear what we need to do to get there. The most important truth about Heaven in the story of Lazarus is not what he had to say afterwards, it's what Jesus said before he raised him from the dead:

*"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."*

This is the truth of the Easter message which we celebrate next week.



There have been a number of significant achievements over recent weeks and many of them are captured within this edition of the Oaklands News. The three performances of The School of Rock demonstrated the talents of a large number of students. Well done to all the artists, musicians, performers, technicians and back stage support. A fuller report can be found inside.

The time given over by staff is also beyond all expectation; colleagues have given up time to lead the ski trip, Duke of Edinburgh events, STEM activities, Mission Days, to name but a few.

The Easter season provides the school community with the opportunity to reflect. As usual, ashes were distributed to students at the beginning of Lent. Lenten themes have pervaded morning liturgies, morning prayers and assemblies. Last week students had the opportunity to go to Reconciliation; over 600 students received the Sacrament. My thanks to the priests in the Diocese who helped facilitate this.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students continue to remain focused on their examination subjects. Many students have turned in credible results in their recent mock examinations. Within all subjects, students continue to be provided with opportunities to demonstrate the knowledge and skill that they have acquired throughout the course. Over the remaining weeks we will be providing additional classes for some students to support them in preparation for the exams. If your child is required to attend they will be notified individually. A reminder of the key dates for Year 11 and Year 13 can be found on Page 26.

Finally I wish you all a happy Easter and I look forward to seeing the students on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April at the normal time.



Mr M Quinn  
**Headteacher**



**T**his year, our school show was School of Rock, the Musical, based on the movie written by Mike White, with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, script by Julian Fellowes and lyrics by Glenn Slater. This show was a unanimous choice from all members of the Performing Arts Team, who were 'rock ready' from the very first rehearsal!

*After being kicked out of his rock band, guitarist Dewey Finn faces a mountain of debts. He shares an apartment with his best friend, Ned Schneebly, and when Ned receives a call offering him a job at an expensive private school, Dewey pretends he is Ned and accepts the job as a substitute teacher. He soon learns that his class are talented musicians and decides to form a rock band with the students and enters into a local band contest, hoping to win \$20,000.*



As usual, the Performing Arts Team along with other members of staff, put together a polished, impressive and fabulous production. The band provided brilliant rock music throughout and the choreography was wonderful. Behind the scenes, our technical team provided great support and the musical props, costumes and make-up were all excellent.

Performances from the students were all fantastic, but a special mention has to go to Dylan Pratt for his outstanding portrayal of Dewey.

None of this would have been possible without the commitment of many staff and friends of the school. Particular thanks to Steph Richardson and Sadie Whyte for their unstinting commitment.

"This evening I came to the show with my mum and daughter. We absolutely loved it. The stage was full of energy and talent. All three of us are big fans of the film and Jack Black, but thought your stage version surpassed it by a mile. Congratulations to everyone involved in the show you should all be so proud of your part in creating such an evening of top entertainment."

"The show was fantastic - the whole cast were full of infectious energy and excitement. It was amazing to see what talented students we have, and how hard they worked to produce such an entertaining evening."

"My daughter and I came to the show tonight, and we are glad we did - it was awesome! The cast were simply brilliant - please let them know that we really enjoyed ourselves. They are a credit to themselves and of course to you and your colleagues who supported them. CONGRATULATIONS!"

"I went to see the show last night and was impressed with the plethora of talent we have in the school and all who have been involved in the School Of Rock production. Whilst not particularly my cup of tea I found myself tapping my feet and clapping my hands having been swept along by the enthusiasm of the cast. Well done to everyone involved, it was a great night's entertainment, and I am already looking forward to next year's show."





I have done the school show every year I could since Year 7 and it was very sad to do my last one. I've loved the community the show created every year, and it was a pleasure to get to welcome in the new generation of performers. The show helped build my confidence and make friends and it was always some of my favourite times each school year.

**Grace, Year 13**



The show has given me the best family I have at school, I have met people in other year groups that I never would have before. I have done every show that I could during my time at Oaklands and I am sad to see it go, I would always look forward to it every year. I am very grateful to all those involved and wish them all luck in the years to come.

**Ruthie, Year 13**



My first experience of the show was awesome! You get to meet so many people and I have created new friendships, everyone is so nice and funny. I played a background character and even though it was a small part, I still felt involved. My best memories are when most of the cast were sat in the drama studio sharing their best jokes. After hours of rehearsals, the show was perfect. Four of my friends were in the show too which made it more fun! Would I do the show next year? Yes I would - 100%!

**Emily, Year 7**



The school show was the best thing I have done. When they announced that there was a school play, I joined. I went to all the rehearsals and enjoyed them a lot. On the night of the first production I was scared to go on stage, but I did and when I came off, I was so calm and not scared at all. At the end of all the productions I was sad but next year I am definitely going to audition for a speaking role and I can't wait.

**Damilola, Year 7**



**B**ehind the scenes of the School of Rock, Oaklands has a keen group of volunteers who give up their time to help assist with the technical elements of the production. This includes operating the sound desk and ensuring microphones are working, operating the lighting desk and follow spot and being back stage runners helping with set changes. This year, we had a team of eleven students helping, some of which was their first experience of the school show.

You may not see us, but you would know if we weren't there. We are the tech team, a talented team that allowed you to enjoy the School of Rock. It is my first year here at Oaklands and therefore my first show. It was an amazing opportunity, I had fun, got to know people in different years and developed my skills in the sound team. I would like to give a special thanks to Miss Pinchen and Mr Norris for all your support.

**Alice, Year 7**



## National British Science Week

This year the theme for Science Week, 13<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> March, was **Connections**. The Science Department set challenges which required teamwork and being able to use problem solving skills throughout a range of activities, aimed to challenge and excite our younger learners.

Year 7 spent the week completing their 'egg drop' experiment, the aim of which was to be able to drop an egg and have it land safely using only 3-5 sheets of paper and Sellotape. The students thoroughly enjoyed this challenge, creating a range of different designs including; parachutes, moon landing inspired vehicles and airbag-like designs, with varied success.



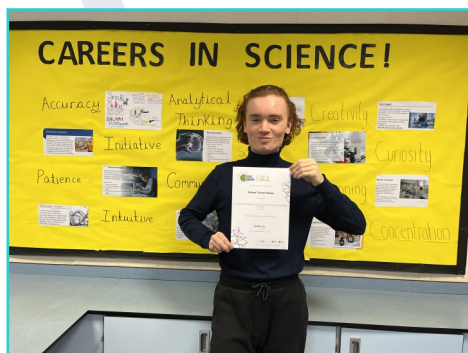
On Tuesday lunchtime, students from Year 7 and 8 were invited to join forces to try and beat our very popular Space-themed Escape room, organised by Miss Lenihan. The aim of the Escape room was to discover an 8-digit number, by completing tasks in their booklets. Our most determined groups managed to complete this in under 10 minutes, winning space themed slap bands and a packet of sweets, much to their delight!



Key Stage 4 students also took part in a contest during the week with their attempt at the Science Olympiad. Students took part in an 80-question quiz and worked hard to gain top marks! The questions certainly tested their knowledge and problem-solving skills, covering topics such as DNA, space, arithmetic and literacy. We hope to receive the results of the quiz soon and be able to celebrate the achievements of our student scientists.

**Miss Schofield**

## Gold CREST Award



Congratulations to Stafford Whelan, one of our Year 13 Chemistry students, who achieved his Gold CREST award recently.

Stafford completed an investigation into the decomposition of hydrogen peroxide using different catalysts. This involved many hours of research, practical work in the lab to collect data and make observations and then writing a detailed scientific report.

Thank you to the Chemistry teachers and Science Lab Technician, Mr Hardaker who supported Stafford with this project.



**Coming in the next edition of Oaklands News ... Faraday Challenge, Biology and Chemistry Olympiads and RSC Schools Analyst competition.**



## Year 7 Visit to Clanfield Observatory

A small group of Year 7 students have given up several lunchbreaks to help STEM Leaders in Year 11 achieve their practical assessment task. As a reward, they travelled to the edge of the South Downs National Park to visit Clanfield Observatory.

It was a grey, wet and windy March day so unfortunately, they were unable to make astronomical observations through the telescopes, however a small team of volunteers made us feel very welcome and delivered fascinating talks about the history of Clanfield Observatory and demonstrated how two of the telescopes work. Specifically, they were taken into two separate domes which housed the Ritchey-Chrétien reflector (the group's largest instrument) and the 7 dome which contains their oldest telescope, which used to be driven by clockwork. It was such a privilege to examine the telescopes closely and understand how the technology has developed over time.

Students were shown Stellarium software that showed the night sky and so learned a lot about constellations and how they could be identified on a clear night. They could even view the night sky perspective from another place on the planet and a specific time and date.

The enthusiastic staff members gave us a talk with many beautiful images to help understand more about astronomy. There was lots of time to ask questions and view samples of meteorite, all of which helped us to understand our own planet a little more.

There is no doubt that we were all enthused after the trip and will try to visit on one of their open evenings and even start doing our own amateur astronomy...when the weather improves.

Thank you to Mrs Cope who organised the trip and to Mrs Hardaker who accompanied us.



*I really enjoyed the trip to Clanfield Observatory. I got to see all of these new things like many more different galaxies, stars and even seeing their telescopes work! I learned a lot of new facts and it's just a great place to be to see all things space.*

*Nimna Y*

*The Clanfield Observatory Trip was a really fun way to look at magnificent pictures of space using the many telescope they had. We learnt a lot about how the telescopes work, what they do and how to use them. There were many facts about the planets, our solar system and so much more. I could go on and on about much I learned on that trip.*

*Sophia G*

*I enjoyed visiting the Clanfield Observatory, we were told lots of information about the planets. I saw a rock that came from Mars and held a piece of magnetic rock that was made of iron that fell to the earth after an explosion, it was much heavier than I expected it to be.*

*Evie C*

## Ski Trip 2023

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 105 students from Year 9, 12 and 13, along with 16 staff departed on a 24-hour long coach journey to Andalo, Italy. The journey was long, but we witnessed impressive scenery as we drove through France, Switzerland and Italy; I like to think that the tunes on my speaker kept coach A going too! However, it was a relief when we arrived in Andalo early on Saturday morning.

My understanding was that we arrived in Italy earlier than on previous trips, which could potentially have been problematic, but we were able to do ski fitting on Saturday and Mr Bamford had organised lift passes to grant us access up the mountain on foot. We spent a couple of hours at the mid-point of the mountain at around 1,500 metres, which meant that we were able to view the snow park (jumps etc) and experience views of the Dolomite mountains. Many of us enjoyed a hot chocolate at the café whilst some of the Year 9 students threw snowballs and made snowmen.



Excitement on Sunday morning was the main feeling amongst the students, but there was a sense of nerves too. With an early start we ate at 7.00am so that we were ready and fuelled for the big day ahead. Breakfast was always a very social event and there could be nothing to complain about as the variety of food spread from as far as cereal to cakes. The nerves stemmed from the fact that five of the eight ski groups had never skied before.

However, any fears were soon eradicated due to the excellent tuition from the ski instructors and also due to the fact that each of the ski groups also had an Oaklands member of staff with them to provide support. Progress was steady for some and rapid for others, but after a few changes to the groups we found ourselves skiing with people with similar ability. After the second and third day, the groups were taken higher up the mountain and I believe that all groups got to the very top of the mountain by the final day. Those that did were fortunate enough to see great views of the western Dolomite mountain range and Lake Garda to the South.



Away from the slopes, we were given the opportunity to experience a variety of activities. We attended Mass on Sunday evening, swimming on Monday, more experienced skiers attempted night skiing on Tuesday and we visited the town of Andalo on the Wednesday and Thursday. Given this schedule - combined with the skiing – we were glad to get some rest on the coach journey back. However, almost all of us left the resort with a degree of reluctance, such was the enjoyment of our time there.

On behalf of all the students, we would like to say thank you to the teachers that went: Mr Smith, Mr Wade, Mr Neil, Mr Whitlock, Mr Osbourne, Mr Leath, Mr Marshall, Mrs Hardaker, Mrs Riddle, Miss Dugan, Mrs Over,

Mrs Sykes, Mrs McCann, Miss Woods and Ms Wilkinson and a special thanks to Mr Bamford for making this all possible.

The week will be one that is remembered. I would encourage those in Year 8, 11 and 12 to put themselves forward to go on this trip next year.

*Oliver Palfreyman, Year 12*



## Duke of Edinburgh Award

Participants undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh's Award this year are continuing to complete their sections – Volunteering, Physical and Skills – and will complete their expedition training very soon ready for their training/practice and assessed expeditions which begin as soon as the clocks go forward. Over Easter both Silver and Gold groups will be out – three Silver groups for three days across the South Downs and the Gold group spending four days on Dartmoor. Then in May it will be the turn of the nine Bronze groups who will also be tramping the South Downs for two days.

Last Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> March, we were delighted to welcome to Oaklands participants, their parents and family members together with others from the local area who completed their Awards during the previous year. All the participants were presented with their certificates by the Mayor of Havant, Councillor Diana Patrick, and by Councillor Liz Fairhurst, Hampshire D of E Forum Vice President.

Particular thanks to Jem Jeffrey and Ruthie Quinn who supported the evening as announcers, to James Burroughs and Mr Marshall who helped with setting up and controlling the sound system and to Claudia Foster and Adam Hazell who entertained the audience with two lovely songs.

A number of participants from previous years are also going to the Gold Award Presentation at Buckingham Palace in May. We hope they all have a wonderful day without any rain!

Again our thanks are due to all the Leaders, Supervisors and Assessors without whom the achievement of all these Awards would not be possible.

*Mrs Hoar*



Some of our Year 13 Gold Award holders who all received a special certificate in recognition of their achievement.

From left to right –  
Stafford Whelan, Danielle Manners,  
Emma Lane, Ruthie Quinn and Jem Jeffrey  
(the final member of the group Patrick Layton  
was unable to be present).



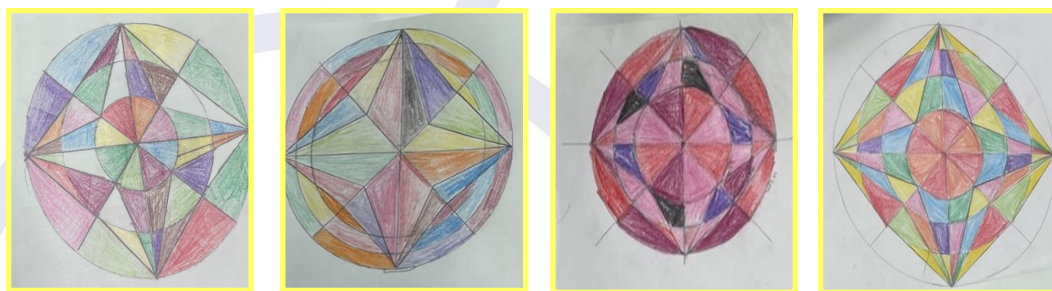
Adam and Claudia provided a musical interlude and also both received their Silver certificates.

**P**i Day is celebrated on March 14th (3/14) around the world. Pi (Greek letter “ $\pi$ ”) is the symbol used in mathematics to represent a constant, the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter, which is approximately 3.14159....

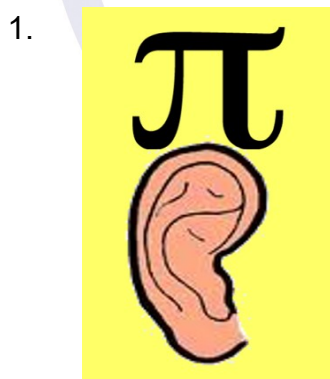
Pi has been calculated to over one trillion digits beyond its decimal point. As an irrational and transcendental number, it will continue infinitely without repetition or pattern. While only a handful of digits are needed for typical calculations, Pi’s infinite nature makes it a fun challenge to memorise, and to computationally calculate more and more digits.

We celebrated Pi Day by writing stories and prayers using digits of Pi as the length of each word. My favourite came from Year 10... “Yet a love, a world invisible to cosmos fills the space” (3 digits, 1 digit, 4 digits etc). This writing style helped some of our students memorise Pi to a significant number of decimals places. Brooke Willis (Year 9) recited Pi to 72 decimal places and as her prize, she got to throw a pie in Mr Kennedy’s face! Later in the day Samuel Mpario (Year 10) used a melody system to recite Pi to over 100 decimal places.

Elsewhere, students used circles and the geometry of Pi to create patterns in shapes. Mrs Wrightson’s Year 9 class produced the following.



Finally, students also took part in Pi Dingbats. This is where you have to work out the word, phrase or thing from picture clues. Here are three for you to try at home; answers can be found on Page 26.



**Mr Gorman**



## Catholic Social Teaching Principles in Maths

Maths is a subject that can leave you in awe, from learning about the Fibonacci Sequence and seeing patterns in nature to the symmetry discovered in space, and can point us towards a Creator.

Through Maths, we want to help students to see the beauty of the subject itself and also how they can make a difference. As a school, our Catholic Social Teaching Principles can help us achieve this. There are eight principles that look at different areas of life: Solidarity, Care of Creation, The Common Good, Rights and Responsibilities, Work and Participation, Human Dignity, Option for the Poor, and Peace.



We want students to understand and live out these principles so that they can continue being the best version of themselves by growing in their awareness of important social issues. In Maths, we encourage topical conversations in lessons, such as how can we make a difference to climate change when learning about negative numbers. This has motivated students to think about how we can care for creation. We have had intentional conversations relating to what **The Common Good** is when learning about percentages, having discussions about tax and debt. Learning about prime numbers has also led to thinking about the ethics behind security and coding on social media platforms (such as WhatsApp).

We also learn about **Solidarity** and **Option for the Poor** when we fundraise for St John's School in Korogocho each year. In our St John's lessons, we compare the similarities and differences between the two schools and calculate the difference we can make when we give our time and money as a school.

There are many conversations to be had about how Maths is relevant to these principles!

These principles, however, are not just had through conversations. Our Catholic Social Teaching can also be shown through creating classroom environments where students can experience what it means to live out these principles. In group work, the students learn how to work together well whilst also learning how to listen to one another towards finding solutions, which embodies **Work and Participation**. **Solidarity** is encouraged whenever students participate in lessons, too. Maths has a reputation for being firm on either right or wrong answers, but we want students to know that whatever their answer is, we can be united and carry on learning together. This is also felt in the tolerance we show towards using different methods to tackle mathematical problems.

Whether we are discussing important issues and the role maths can play in making our world a more just and fairer place, or we are living it out through the way we learn in classrooms, we hope these principles can be formative for how we hope to live in a world designed for us to take care of.

**Mrs Kelly**

**W**e successfully celebrated our first Culture Week from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> of February, starting from our exclusive food market including delicious Mango Sago from the Philippines and delectable mochi from Japan made by the Year 11s of the Charism Team. Our incredible week ended with our long-awaited, show-stopping Catwalk and Performances, featuring students who had put themselves forward to teach us about their cultures. Here is a snapshot of some of the acts.

We enjoyed an up-beat Afro-dance performed by Victoria, Kevwe, Debbie and Joy, choreographed and rehearsed by Nadia. The girls slay a mash-up of different afro-beats that had the crowd screaming for more. They loved it so much; it became the encore of both showcases. It was made even more amazing when our very own Mr Sumba joined in, he was a star!

From Europe, we had fashion shows from Italy, Romania and France as well as Isla performing her famous Irish clog dancing, and thus reminding us how dance plays a significant role in helping preserve the Irish identity and expresses nationalism.

From Asia, we had representatives from India, Philippines and China, showing off different dresses for different occasions in the catwalk. Johanna's touching speech about India took us on a journey and really set the background of their performance. Mary brought pride by vocalizing the Filipino National anthem, and had everyone pay respect to the country (The Philippines) by putting their right hand over their chest; this really brought a meaningful sense to the show, that we can all harmoniously respect each other's cultures. As a Filipino, my biggest asset is my voice, and nothing makes me prouder than to sing in front of a crowd. I am thankful for being in this position where I can be a representative of my country. Despite what kind of living situations or economic lifestyle people are in, music is how our country copes with hardships and is an expression of the body. How I can show my gratitude is through lyrics and I was able to sing 'Thank you' to everyone. This really defines how a band of singers and musicians can come together and make music that everyone can relate to. If it is at a concert or even a karaoke, Filipinos know how to sing from the heart.

From South America, we had our proud Brazilian students hyping the crowd with their matching ensemble, waving their flag in the air and even doing a pyramid and from Oceania, we had Brooklyn showing off Fijian dress with sass and poise.

Our final performance was a collaborative effort, dancing to popular Brazilian songs that many would have heard on social media. Everyone who had participated in making the showcase astounding all joined up on stage and jammed and danced. This really is a good example of how culture can bring anyone and everyone together.





Alfie from Year 8 said: "I would like to thank you very much for putting the show together to let everyone have a chance to show off their culture. I really enjoyed the African dancing and music because I had heard this before on TikTok. It was really cool. A lot of the students had good self-confidence, which I liked.... I really hope you can do this again this year and could you please add Thailand as that's my culture. I would like everyone to see my culture. Thank you very much!"

To sum up, our first Culture Week was a phenomenal success and everyone cannot wait for more. A huge thank you to Mr Sumba for being an advocate for the students who felt like they needed to be seen and heard. A great mention to the Charism Team in Year 11 led by Belinda and the Year 12 students for organising this event. A huge thanks to the rest of the Oaklands body for being a huge support for this cause ... we made history!

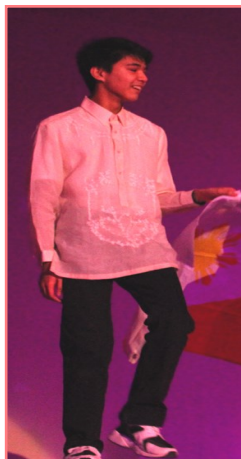
**Alyna Sirikit Andaya (Year 12)**

**I**n primary school, I think there were only two times I got to express my cultural wear. After lockdown, I knew I wanted to push for events such as a Cultural Appreciation Week wherever possible. Knowing other people supported this and felt the same I suggested it to Mr Sumba and I was so glad that it became a reality. I've never felt so excited thinking and composing ideas and being able to share this passion with the other members of the Charism Team. Organising it was extremely fun: from the weekly meetings to the preparations on the day, everything was good vibes and overall successful! Seeing the enthusiasm from the rest of the school is a feeling I will never forget.

**Joy Okechukwu (Year 11)**

**T**he Cultural Day was a milestone in the history of Oaklands and the school lives of its students. As a newcomer to Oaklands and the UK, the Cultural Day and Cultural Performance allowed me to present a small part of my immense Indian culture to a large and appreciative audience. The performance and its planning stages helped me meet peers from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds, which helped in trampling the self-doubt and hesitations that clouded my mind previously and helped me create an environment where I truly felt appreciated, respected and belonging. The performance's success instilled a sense of dignity and pride in my Indian roots. I recognised that when someone discovers their potential and self-confidence in their abilities and identity, they can build a better world.

**Johanna Mariya Jolly (Year 10)**



## Design Department News

### Design Showcase

**O**n 23rd March the annual Design and Technology Showcase took place. This year's GCSE and A Level work was displayed and students had the chance to talk to the Oaklands staff about their products.

The main aim of this event was to celebrate the students' achievements. It is not easy to design and make a product from start to finish and although along the way the students have had ups and downs, they have all produced completed products that they should be proud of.

Another other reason for holding this event was to allow students to gather feedback about their products from other people; this is the final part of the folder work they have to submit for assessment towards their GCSE.

The students all received very positive feedback and the staff were very impressed with not only with the work that was on show but the positive, honest and reflective way that students spoke about their products.



**W**e took a group of Year 11 Art and Photography students along with the A Level Artists to the Tate Modern in London. They all had a great day absorbing the artwork and were keen to ask questions. It is always good for the students to observe the artworks up close to fully appreciate them. They were really well behaved and a credit to the school.



"I found it enlightening." *Bella-Rose*

"Interesting and fun trip with friends. I found a range of artworks that I loved, especially the statement 'What artwork is?' posed by Marcel Duchamp in his 'Fountain' Piece." *Lisa*

"It was fun seeing different art pieces, from paintings to display areas. Each has a meaning behind it." *Belinda*

"Very exciting as it was a new experience. It was fun going with the class." *Neoma*

"Witnessed a different take on Art. Very interesting." *Jules*

"Found the video installations creepy but interesting and the gift shops were fun to explore." *Ethan*

## Learning Support take Learning out of the Box



**W**hen learning is hard it sometimes helps to turn the situation upside down and that's exactly what the Learning Support Department have been doing over the past few weeks. Our team have come up with some ingenious ways to help our students grasp key concepts.

In February we went on a virtual balloon ride around the world – focusing on our geographical skills by improving our knowledge of countries, their location and characteristics. Later in the month we looked at speed, time and distance with balloon

propelled cars and finally we built on our understanding of forces and graph skills by attempting to drop an egg from a height without it breaking and recording the results.

These mini projects can help bring abstract concepts to life and tap into a student's natural curiosity – we have many more mini projects planned for the summer term including a café experience and Let it Grow project.



## Update from St John's, Korogocho

The past term has been one of renewal and recalibration; students and staff alike working together to achieve progress in the endeavour of success with the exam season approaching and furthering themselves both personally and academically. New pressures and stresses emerge, but so too does the feeling of excitement and new beginnings. It seems apt that we have the season of Lent to reconcile our thoughts, reflect on the lessons of last academic year and as we approach Holy week, commemorate Jesus' sacrifice for us all.

St John's have started their new academic year launching a junior secondary section to their school, in the hope that more children will join them in full-time education, working alongside our support and partnership. All year groups/grades are now back in school – learning, collaborating and achieving as a community through their shared faith.

Most recently, the Senior Leadership team has been refreshed at St John's meaning a new Headteacher has been appointed (Mr Stephen Mwangi). 2023 seems to be a year of progression, celebration and thanks for God's blessing, in the effort for renewal and new beginnings.

The new Headteacher expressed: *"Thank you for your correspondence. I am so overjoyed by the prospect of working with the children at St John's and furthering their lives and education. We are all doing well and have started our new year. On behalf of St John's Primary and Junior Secondary School, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your support. Putting more than 80 pupils in our Junior Secondary section of the school for a whole term, full-time (3 months), is not just support but huge blessing. We are grateful and we continue praying for you and your continued support – both through challenging times and in days of success. Be blessed."*

It is important to remember that just three years ago, we were entering a time of such uncharted uncertainty, with many hardships and difficult decisions to follow. Yet now, we are looking toward brighter days, fresh opportunities, success and forgiveness – alongside our friends, family and loved ones. With the season of Lent, we have an opportunity to remind ourselves of the value of repentance. A key time to focus on repenting sin and consecrating oneself to God. Lent should not be a time of loss, but celebration. God's love for us and his forgiveness, allows us to come together in faith – we are united by the cross borne by Jesus.

It's evident that even during times of strain and pressure, we are all centred around our shared faith and belief that there will be brighter days ahead. I will leave you with this piece of scripture from Peter 3:18: *"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."*

Happy Easter and thank you for your continued support.

**Mr Osbourne**



**2**023 has got off to a blistering start for the Oaklands Sixth Form College and below are just some of the selected highlights we would like to share.

### UCAS applications

Year 13 deserve congratulations for all their hard work in successfully completing their UCAS applications and preparing for life beyond Sixth Form. Despite the unprecedented national competition for degree and apprenticeship places, Oaklands Sixth Formers have still managed to secure a range of excellent post-18 offers and places. These range from medical degrees to legal apprenticeships. We wish them every success as they now prepare for their final exams shortly after Easter.



### Catholic ethos

A high point of the term was the special Sixth Form Mass held in February. It was a truly wonderful and moving occasion to see us all truly united by the Cross as we filled the main hall with all our Sixth Form family. Similarly, there was a vivid sense of belonging and continuity as the Sixth Form came together with the rest of the school community to celebrate the Ash Wednesday Mass.

Our liturgical assembly programme for both Year 12 and Year 13 has also continued and has included opportunities for a range of external speakers. These have included alumni who returned to share with our students their insights and advice based on personal and professional journeys since leaving Oaklands.

We are also planning to have Father James from Sacred Heart to come give a special blessing to the Sixth Form after Easter.

### Sixth Form speakers

We have had a wide range of exciting guest speakers this term. These have included a bespoke session delivered to Year 12 from an external study skills and motivational organisation called Maximize. Maximize work across hundreds of schools to promote evidence-based good study practice, and to help students such as ours to take ownership of their learning. The feedback from Year 12 was very positive and we look forward to inviting Maximize back next year as part of our induction programme.



More recently we have also had a speaker from the Charlie Waller Trust (mental health charity) visit to give all our students a presentation on mental health and managing stress. This powerful session included both moving personal testimony and invaluable advice on mental health. Speaking with students afterwards, many had felt this session had really helped them and provided some practical techniques for managing stress and negative feelings.

### Sixth Form events

Earlier this term aspiring Year 12 and Year 13 Medics, as well as those with a more general interest in Biology, were able to attend the 'Post-Mortem Live Show' hosted by the school. This the UK's only live human body dissection experience and offered our students a front row seat into the fascinating world of anatomy, physiology and pathology. Although definitely not for the fainthearted, it was great to see Oaklands students roll their sleeves up and work alongside a trained clinical team to observe, dissect and record findings to try and solve a medical mystery. Our thanks to the Science Department and site team for all their hard work in helping making this special event happen.





In conjunction with local GPs and charity, the Sixth Form has now successfully launched a book club and mentoring programme for aspiring Medics. This new initiative is aimed at giving our students a realistic insight and some practical advice into the careers in medicine. Our thanks to Dr Dixon for helping initiate this exciting opportunity.

The HE Plus programme has also gone from strength to strength. Working in partnership with the University of Cambridge, students are able to attend a range of university style lectures across a range of disciplines. This has helped our students both extend their academic understanding and given them a flavour of what to expect if they decide to take their studies further at the end of their time in Sixth Form.



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE



The Sixth Form also hosted a Post-18 Evening Event for parents. This was an opportunity to learn and discuss the possible pathways open for our students once they complete their studies at Sixth Form. The high turnout was fabulous and it helped reinforce how fortunate we are to have such a supportive and engaged parent body.

Another highlight this term was the fabulous EPQ presentation evening in which our students showcased the research they had undertaken for their various projects. From the effects of space travel on the human body through to colonial legacies in Nigeria, the sheer range and ambition of the projects was marvellous. With great displays and engaging presentations, the evening was a real success. Congratulations to all those who took part and to Dr Colvin for organising this event. A big thanks also to all the Governors, parents and teachers who came along in support.

## **Student leadership**

This term also saw some excellent campaigning for the positions in the new student leadership team. We are blessed to have so many talented and committed young people willing to step up and serve the school. Congratulations to Leona Newman and Nadia Norman who are our new Student President and Vice President respectively. Well done also to all those who will be assuming key positions as deputies and in committees. Your work will be vital for our future success.

Our gratitude also to the outgoing Student President (Blessing Okani) and Vice President (Jem Jeffery) alongside the rest of the Year 13 student leadership team, you have all given so much to our Oaklands community. We wish you all the best for the future.

## **New logo**

After much consultation, the Sixth Form at Oaklands Catholic School now has a new logo! We do hope you like it.

Finally, a thank you also to the Sixth Form students, support staff and teachers for all their hard work and dedication this term.



THE SIXTH FORM  
Oaklands Catholic School

Happy Easter!

**Mr Godwin**

I would like to take this opportunity to express what a great honour it is to be elected as the new Student President of Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College. I believe that becoming Student President is an amazing opportunity for me and I want to make this school an even better one than it already is for us all.

Oaklands is an excellent school, however as with anything, there is always some room for improvement. In my opinion, the best way to improve it for us all is to listen to the voice of the students! Throughout the two weeks of my campaign, I enjoyed hearing what the students thought should be changed and how they hoped to make the school an even better learning environment.

My motto for the campaign was *'For the Students, By the Students'*, and I plan to stick to that for the duration of my time as President. The vision I have is to make Oaklands a place where students have the power and the opportunity to raise any and all issues and concerns, and to trust that they will be heard. I want to make the leadership team the bridge between the student body and staff as well as between the Sixth Form and the lower school.

The leadership team has a major role to play in improving the school. I hope the entire team will work together, with Nadia (the Deputy President) and I leading the drive forward, to make this school a better place. The student leaders will act as mentors, friends, role models, and as a source of support and advice for younger students - be the voice of the lower school student body in times where they do not feel like they have one.

Nadia and I will work together with the Charism, Curriculum, Co-Curriculum and Pastoral Teams to develop new schemes (such as the mentoring project) to support students throughout the school and organise events such as Culture Week, so that students not only have the support they need but also the opportunity to celebrate their diversity.

Thank you to everyone who took part in our recent election vote and I would like to thank Nadia for her fantastic campaign and I hope we can work closely together over the next year.

**Leona Newman, Year 12**



## Year 12 A Level Geography Trip



The A Level 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, I decided to take the students to West Wittering in January.

Coastal managers there have held the view that the sea wall has had a detrimental impact on the beach in front of it. The reflection of waves has resulted in a scouring effect of the beach, which has left the sea wall further exposed. The policy now employed is one of 'Adaptive Management', which means that managers will not 'hold the line'. 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.

Our students will experience further field work in May when they will attend a three-day trip to Dorset to prepare them for their A level coursework, worth 20% of their final grade.

Trips like this are not able to take place without support from my colleagues and on this occasion Mrs Quinn and Mrs Willis accompanied the group.

**Mr Bamford**



## Flame Congress

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March, students from Oaklands joined the Portsmouth Diocese with Miss Heath and Mr Semple to attend the 2023 Flame Congress in Wembley Arena.

Flame is a Catholic Youth Conference open to those of all faiths. One of the aims of the day is to help those with faith to be open to a new vision of what a young, vibrant, active and inclusive Church can look like. The day involved guest speakers such as The Archbishop of Perth, Timothy John Costelloe, singer and songwriter, Adeniki, and Robert Billot. There was also amazing live music from One Hope Project, Guvna B and Faith Child. The day closed with a time of beautiful prayer and adoration.

Many thanks to the Catenians for helping with the costs of the tickets.

*"The best part for me were the songs especially from the artist Guvna B. It was really exciting and I met lots of new people. I really enjoyed the video from Ant and Dec where they remembered Dec's brother Fr O'Donnelly, who would help organise Flame events in previous years. I enjoyed the many speeches that were made about the faith of God. Overall it was a great experience and I had lots of fun and I would definitely recommend going!"*

**Marine, Year 11**



## Literacy News

### World Book Day, March 2023

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March was filled with book activities for World Book Day.

Year 7 students were invited to 'Read a Book in a Day', *The Humiliations of Welton Blake*, by Alex Wheatle, starting in Period 1 and completing in Period 5. At breaktime in the library students competed in a Big Book Blooket Quiz (an online quiz platform) and at lunchtime students enjoyed 'The Masked Reader' where students had to identify which teachers were reading books behind masks!

To help celebrate the day, our English Department were dressed as Dickens characters!



### Magical Book Night

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, students spent an evening celebrating Magical books. Many dressed up and enjoyed a selection of magical-themed food as well as book readings throughout the evening.

**Mrs Berogna**

### *Holy Week and Easter*



In the first century, the early Christians celebrated every Sunday in commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus. By the second century, they established a particular day for the celebration of the resurrection, which was connected to the Jewish Passover.

Their observance began at sundown on Saturday evening. They called it the Night of the Great Vigil, a time of remembrance and expectation that lasted throughout the night so they could sing "Alleluia" at dawn on Easter morning.

By the fourth century, it became customary for people to make pilgrimages to Jerusalem to celebrate what was called the "Great Week," which included Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. The diary of a woman named Egeria in 381 contains the first accounts of the special rites, prayers and devotions that took place in Jerusalem during the Great Week.

Over time, the practice of observing Holy Week spread throughout the Christian world, with prayers, historical re-enactments and special liturgies. During the Middle Ages, the celebration of the Easter Vigil gradually fell out of practice. The important days of the week were Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.



**Palm Sunday** - *'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!'* ~ Matthew 21:1-11

We remember and celebrate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem; we join with the crowds and sing hosanna, as we wave palms to worship the King.



**Maundy Thursday** – *'Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.'* ~ John 13:1-17

On Maundy Thursday, we gather, as the disciples did, to celebrate the Lord's Last Supper. We hear how Jesus washed the feet of his friends, setting an example of service, leadership and love to us all. As we recall the Passover from death and escape into the desert of the Israelites, we enter more fully into the mystery of the Lord's Passover from death to life. Jesus gives himself to each of us in the Eucharist, the new and everlasting covenant. Following the meal, we accompany Jesus to the Garden of Gethsemane.



**Good Friday** – *'Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.'* ~ John 19:30

We fully immerse ourselves in the Lord's Passion and death; a day of fasting and abstinence, a serene and quiet day. As Mary did, we accompany our Lord on the streets through Jerusalem, the way of suffering, to Calvary; a crown of thorns for King, humiliated and crucified for our sake.



**Holy Saturday** – *'Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.'* John 19:42

We wait in anticipation and expectant hope as the work of salvation and Jesus' conquering of death is completed in the quiet tomb.



**Easter Sunday** – *'Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.'* ~ John 20:1

We rejoice and sing "Alleluia!" for the Lord is risen indeed! Jesus has conquered death; the grave has no victory, for the gates of Heaven have been swung wide open!

We pray that you will experience Holy Week and Easter with an even greater understanding of the Lord's love for you. Please try and attend one of the services in the local area or in your community during this time.

May you be truly blessed by the Risen Lord! We wish you a very Happy Easter.

**Mrs Farrell and Miss Heath**





## Sacred Heart and St Peter the Apostle, Waterlooville

### **Palm Sunday (2<sup>nd</sup> April)**

Mass 10.30am  
Mass 6.30pm

### **Maundy Thursday (6<sup>th</sup> April)**

Mass of the Lord's Last Supper 8.00pm

### **Good Friday (7<sup>th</sup> April)**

Children's Stations of the Cross 10.00am  
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 3.00pm

### **Holy Saturday (8<sup>th</sup> April)**

Vigil and First Mass of Easter 8.00pm

### **Easter Sunday (9<sup>th</sup> April)**

Mass 8.30am  
Mass 10.30am  
**NO 6.30pm Mass**

## St Michael's and All Angels, Leigh Park

### **Palm Sunday (2<sup>nd</sup> April)**

Procession with St Francis Parish from Leigh Park Library 9.30am  
Mass 10.00am

### **Maundy Thursday (6<sup>th</sup> April)**

Mass of the Lord's Last Supper 7.30pm

### **Good Friday (7<sup>th</sup> April)**

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 3.00pm

### **Holy Saturday (8<sup>th</sup> April)**

Vigil and First Mass of Easter 8.30pm

### **Easter Sunday (9<sup>th</sup> April)**

Mass 10.00am

## St Thomas' and St Joseph's, Emsworth

### **Maundy Thursday (6<sup>th</sup> April) – St Thomas'**

Mass of the Lord's Last Supper 7.00pm

### **Good Friday (7<sup>th</sup> April) – St Thomas'**

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 3.00pm

### **Holy Saturday (8<sup>th</sup> April) – St Thomas'**

Vigil and First Mass of Easter 8.00pm

### **Easter Sunday (9<sup>th</sup> April) – St Thomas'**

Mass 9.00am

### **Easter Sunday (9<sup>th</sup> April) – St Joseph's**

Mass 11.00am

## St Patrick's, Hayling Island

### **Palm Sunday (2<sup>nd</sup> April)**

Procession of Palms and Mass 10.00am

### **Maundy Thursday (6<sup>th</sup> April)**

Mass of the Lord's Last Supper 7.00pm

### **Good Friday (7<sup>th</sup> April)**

Children's Stations of the Cross 10.00am  
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 3.00pm

### **Holy Saturday (8<sup>th</sup> April)**

Vigil and First Mass of Easter 7.45pm

### **Easter Sunday (9<sup>th</sup> April)**

Family Mass 10.00am

## St Edmund's, Horndean

### **Palm Sunday (2<sup>nd</sup> April)**

Mass 8.30am  
Mass 10.30am

### **Maundy Thursday (6<sup>th</sup> April)**

Mass of the Lord's Last Supper 7.30pm

### **Good Friday (7<sup>th</sup> April)**

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 3.00pm

### **Holy Saturday (8<sup>th</sup> April)**

Vigil and First Mass of Easter 8.00pm

### **Easter Sunday (9<sup>th</sup> April)**

Mass 9.30am





The Oaklands Friends' and Parents' Association (OFPA) will be holding a Summer Party on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July on the Sunken Lawn. Live music will be provided by local band 'Wonderboy', and a bar will be in place selling alcoholic and soft drinks. Guests are welcome to bring their own snacks.

Tickets details will be released soon, but please hold the date in your diaries and we look forward to seeing as many parents and friends as possible, to enjoy a relaxing Summer evening with great music and great company.

We would like to thank everyone who supported us during the school show performances by buying refreshments and 50:50 raffle tickets, and a special 'thank you' to our A Team who helped each evening.

Our next Uniform Sale will be at the end of April, with orders being required by Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April, for collection on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Nicky Woolhead, Chair*

## Parking Issues

I have written to all parents on a number of occasions this year about parking on the school site. I am pleased to say that after my last letter there was an improvement. Unfortunately, this appears to have been short lived.

The photograph here is typical of the challenges we face when drivers park on double yellow lines and in designated 'no parking' areas. These restricted zones are there for a reason; they form part of our mitigations to keep children, adults and road users safe.



It is also saddens me to report that when staff have spoken to drivers who are incorrectly parked, they have sometimes been greeted with verbal abuse - this is neither appropriate or acceptable.

We will continue to challenge drivers who are parked incorrectly or who attempt to enter the school site before the allotted time.

*Mr Quinn, Headteacher*



## Uniform

**A**s I am sure you will be aware, the Government have updated their guidance for school uniform and asked schools to ensure that branded items are kept to a minimum in order to keep the cost more affordable for parents and carers.

In response to this, we have reviewed our uniform policy and an updated version can be found on our website or via this link: [Updated Uniform Policy March 2023](#)

The key changes are:

- ♦ **Students who wear a blouse will now be required to wear a plain white reverse blouse, not the blue and white striped one.**
  - ◇ This will be easier to purchase at most mainstream uniform suppliers.
  - ◇ Existing students are not expected to purchase a new blouse until they need one and from September 2023 students in Years 8-11 will still be allowed to wear the blue and white stripe blouse.
- ♦ **The only branded item of clothing you have to wear in school is the school blazer.**
  - ◇ We have been working with Skoolkit to try and reduce the cost of this item and a slightly cheaper blazer is now being stocked.
- ♦ **If students would like to wear a jumper they can purchase a branded one but this is not a uniform requirement.**
- ♦ **The PE kit has also been adapted to limit the amount of branded items that need to be purchased.**

**All students are now required to wear the branded PE shirt.**

  - ◇ All other items *can* still be purchased with the Oaklands logo from Skoolkit, but alternatively they can be bought from other retailers.
  - ◇ Students who choose to wear sports leggings must purchase the Oaklands branded ones.

**If you have any questions regarding uniform, please contact your child's Form Tutor.**

The Oaklands Friends' and Parents' Association run a second hand uniform shop. Orders should be submitted via email to [opa@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto: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](#)



# BUY YOUR OWN MATCH TOP!



**Basketball Jersey**  
£20.00



**Match Shirt**  
£26.00 - £35.00



**Alternate Match Shirt**  
£26.00 - £35.00

Visit:



**KARUTA**  
SUPPORT YOUR TEAM



SCAN ME

**COMMUNITY UNITY OPPORTUNITY**

**THE OAKLANDS WAY**

## Coming Soon ...

### Iceland Trip Reminder (Years 10-12) July 2023

The trip **information evening** will take place on **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 6.00pm** in the **Main Hall**. During the evening, we will explain our plans for the trip, show slides taken on previous visits, discuss clothing required and go through things such as code of conduct.

**This is an important meeting and we expect every student and their parents to attend.** Mr Bamford has made Iceland trip groups on Teams, so all the information/letters can be found there.



### Challenge Week 27-30<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Challenge Week is a well-established Oaklands tradition dating back to 1987. Over that time successive dedicated teams of staff have formed a Challenge Week Group who work to put together a fantastic week of enrichment activities for Key Stage 3 students. Challenge Week is intended to allow students to have fun whilst learning; spending time with teachers and other students outside of the classroom environment, free from the constraints of a timetable. It is a genuine opportunity to work in a cross-curricular way and to learn new information and skills that we could not deliver through our normal curriculum and timetable structure.

The Challenge Week group is still finalising plans, but in brief:



**Year 7** will have the opportunity to visit Marwell Zoo on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June as part of their week based on the theme of culture and conservation, run by the English and Performing Arts Departments.

**Year 8** will be working on various STEM activities run by the Design, Maths and Science Departments – the week will culminate in a trip to Thorpe Park on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June.



A group of 40 **Year 8** students will be visiting the Chateau Falaise in Normandy with Food teachers and members of staff from the MFL department.

A group of 80 **Year 9** students will be going on camp in the New Forest run primarily by the PE Department; the rest of the students will be working with the RE, History and Geography departments.



By June, **Year 9** students will know if they are studying History or Geography at GCSE and these departments will take the students on two of the days to do various activities (including field trips on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June). The other two days will be looking at the theme of community/sustainability and developing team work.



**Year 10** students will be off timetable taking their summer examinations at this time.

### Extra-Curricular Timetable for the Summer Term

The extra-curricular timetable will change for the summer term. We hope to update the timetable on our website over the Easter holidays, but the information will also be shared on each year group Team. [Extra Curricular - Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College](#) is the page on our website where the timetable will be published.



## Sister Ita Conlan, RIP

It is with great sadness that we said goodbye to Sister Ita Conlan, RIP, after a long and very fruitful life. She was one of the few remaining nuns from the founding order of the school. Sr Ita came to Oaklands (then Convent of the Cross for girls) in the early 1960's and taught Maths. She was a well loved and respected Senior Teacher for many years. Sr Ita then went on to be Mother Superior of the Order of The Sisters of Christ, which gifted the school to the Local Authority in 1971, when it became Oaklands Catholic School and started taking in boys. Please pray for the rest and peace of the soul of Sr Ita and also remember her family and friends at this sad time, along with the whole community of the Sisters of Christ; she will be greatly missed. Mr Quinn and a number of former staff are attending her funeral on 31<sup>st</sup> March in Kent.



This article appeared in the Tablet on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2014

It is astonishing how a single teacher can transform the vision and life chances of a whole generation of schoolchildren, writes Jon Cruddas. That was the case with Sr Ita Conlon, a Sister of Christ and my maths teacher at the Oaklands Catholic Comprehensive in Waterloooville, Portsmouth, which I attended from 1973 to 1980. Sr Ita was head of maths and a one-person engine in terms of social mobility and nurturing education potential. My memory of her is that she was quite petite and wore an old-fashioned black habit. She never raised her voice but, my goodness, she could be fierce. There was an understanding that a certain standard of behaviour was expected and that if you didn't meet it there would be consequences. I was a lively youngster and I remember I was in detention regularly, but I always respected Sr Ita. She was a stickler for discipline, but she had a sense of humour.

At one point – it was either in my fifth or sixth year – she was my form teacher, and it was then that I fell more under her influence. She helped me to understand that working hard at school is much more than a passport to a well-paid job. Education, as she explained it, was about enabling us to become wiser citizens. It was about becoming more active, knowledgeable and engaged. Though I didn't know it at the time, what in fact she instilled in me was a passion for the common good. She presented a vision of a society that is not a tomised, and offered a deeper story of endeavour and the contribution we can make to a common life that we share with others. Ultimately, I think she believed her role as an educator was to help her pupils to become more upstanding citizens.

Sr Ita created greater life opportunities for our family and countless others. I was one of five children and she taught all of us. My older sister, Marie, was the first in our family to go to university and owes much to Sr Ita's mentoring. Naturally, Marie read maths. Recently I discovered that Sr Ita also taught Louise Casey, who has held several high-profile government posts in the field of social welfare and is now director general for troubled families at the Department for Communities and Local Government. We swapped memories and agreed that Sr Ita was a legend.

I was never much good at maths. It was entirely down to Sr Ita that I studied it to A level. I then switched to social sciences at university, eventually obtaining a PhD in industrial and business studies, but the grounding I had in maths has always served me well. I was able to go to university because of the environment at home and at school. I was fortunate enough to go to a very good comprehensive. Without these advantages – and Sr Ita – my life could have taken a very different course.

*Jon Cruddas was the Labour Party's policy coordinator and MP for Dagenham and Rainham. March 2014*

## 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](http://www.futurefirst.org.uk)

Go to the 'Sign Up' tab

Click 'Former Student'

Type in **Oaklands Catholic School**



**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:**

Fri 1 September 2023  
Mon 18 December  
Fri 19 July

Fri 29 September  
Tues 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 are accurate at the time of going to press. The school reserves the right to make alterations.**

## Key Dates and Reminders for Year 11 and Year 13

**Public Exam Season**

GCSE Exams 15 May to 21 June  
A Level Exams 15 May to 26 June

**Contingency Day**

Wednesday 28 June

**Yr 13 Leavers' Mass and Celebration**

Thursday 11 May (evening)

**Yr 13 Last Day**

Friday 12 May

**Yr 11 Leavers' Mass and Last Day**

Friday 26 May

**Yr 11 Prom**

Tuesday 4 July

**A Level Results Day**  
**GCSE Results Day**

Thursday 17 August  
Thursday 24 August

### Contingency Day

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 until Wednesday 28 June. In addition, there are two half day contingency days on 8 and 15 June, which should not affect holiday plans, but all students should be aware.

### Equipment

Parents should be aware of the equipment their children will need for exams.  
A list of items needed for each subject will be on our website:

[Examinations - Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College](#)

### Pi Dingbats Answers ... (from Page 10)

1. Pioneer (Pi-on-ear)
2. Pineapple (Pi-n-apple)
3. The Empire Strikes Back



# Dates for the Summer Term

Monday	17 April 2023	<b>Spring Term Begins (Week 1)</b> Iceland Trip Information Evening (6.00pm) Governors' Business & Collaboration Committee Meeting OFPA Meeting (7.30pm)
Thursday	20 April	Year 8 STEM Showcase Evening
Friday	28 April	<b>Year 12 Written Reports Home</b>
Monday	1 May	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
Monday	8 May	<b>Bank Holiday (additional for King's Coronation)</b>
Tuesday	9 May	<b>Year 9 Assessment Week</b>
Thursday	11 May	<b>Year 13 Leavers' Mass and Celebration (evening)</b>
Friday	12 May	<b>Year 13 Last Day</b>
Monday	15 May	<b>GCSE / A Level Exam Season Starts</b> <b>Year 8 Assessment Week</b> Governors' Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting OFPA Meeting (7.30pm)
Wednesday	17 May	Full Governors' Meeting
Wednesday	24 May	<b>Year 10 Parents' Evening</b>
Friday	26 May	<b>Year 11 Last Day with Mass and Celebration</b>
Monday-Friday	29 May-2 June	<b>Half Term</b>
Monday	5 June	<b>Year 7 Assessment Week</b> Governors' Business & Collaboration Committee Meeting OFPA Meeting + AGM (7.30pm)
Wednesday	7 June	<b>SEN Parents' Evening</b>
Monday	12 June	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations (+ Tuesday 13 June) Governors' Ethos and Strategy Meeting
Thursday	15 June	KS4 Induction Evening
Monday	19 June	Art Exhibition Week Year 10 Professional Day <b>Year 12 Parents' Evening (online)</b>
Wednesday	21 June	<b>Year 10 Tests (to 30 June)</b> Summer Music Concert (7.00pm)
Thursday	22 June	Year 10 Taster Days (Sixth Form or HSDC)
Tuesday-Friday	27-30 June	<b>Challenge Week</b>
Wednesday	28 June	<b>GCSE / A Level Exam Contingency Day</b> <b>Year 12 Tests (to 7 July)</b>
Saturday	1 July	OFPA Summer Party
Monday	3 July	<b>Year 10 Work Experience Week</b> OFPA Meeting (7.30pm)
Tuesday	4 July	<b>Year 11 Prom</b>
Wednesday	5 July	Full Governors' Meeting
Friday	7 July	<b>New Year 7 Induction Day</b>
Monday	10 July	Year 10 Practice Interviews (+ Tuesday 11 July) New Year 7 Induction Evening (for parents) <b>Year 7-9 Reports / Year 10 Grades + Summer Homework (this week)</b>
Tuesday	11 July	Year 10 Post-16 Info Evening
Wednesday	12 July	Sixth Form Induction Day
Thursday	13 July	<b>Sports Day</b>
Monday	17 July	<b>Year 12 Exam Grades</b>
Tuesday	18 July	<b>Last Day of Term</b>
Wednesday	19 July	<b>INSET Day</b>



## Year 7 and Year 8 Cross Country

In February, a selection of students attended the Southeast Hampshire Cross Country trials at Churchers College. Students who had performed well in the school race were chosen to complete the course in an attempt to qualify for the County competition.

The students selected were Ryan Smith, Jace Garmonsway, Zach Kelly, Alice O'Brien, Luke Cunningham, Daisy Skuse, Callum Redshaw, Connor Marples, Chloe Hunter, Ciara Stainsby, Emi Hurst, Felicity Crocker.

All students qualified which was an excellent achievement by the team.

## Basketball

We have seen an influx of students competing for the school in basketball this year. This is largely due to the success of our current Year 11 team and current Year 8 team who won the Hampshire Cup last year.

Well done to our Year 9, 10 and 11 teams who remain undefeated this year in the Federation League.

Students can be seen wearing the new Basketball kit.



## Year 9 and Year 10 Rugby

In February, the Year 10 Rugby team played in the Hampshire Bowl final at Ganger Park, Romsey. On this occasion, they came second best but put in an excellent effort in a very close game against Ringwood. The team also enjoyed success in the most recent 7's competition at Boundary Oak, where they won the Bowl final.

In the same competition the Year 9 team came runners up in the Cup final, with Harry Woolston being awarded player of the tournament.