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July 2023

# Oaklands News



A publication for  
Oaklands Catholic School  
and Sixth Form College



# Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College



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## From the Headteacher's Desk

Since Christmas, my assemblies with students have explored some of the key Gospel themes, the final one concluded last week, looking at the plight of refugees.

Throughout the Gospel stories, Jesus role-modelled what it means to love with compassion, kindness, courage, and hope. During His brief time on earth, Jesus was good at drawing marginalised people to Himself - those who were consistently and deliberately pushed aside by society. He listened, He *took action*, and He met their needs.

Contrary to human nature, Jesus sought out those who were looked down upon by the majority. He welcomed children; even when Jesus's disciples saw children as a nuisance to be avoided, Jesus saw them as a gift to be welcomed. He values women; at the time of Jesus it was unusual for men outside the family to address a woman in any way. But Jesus did things differently. He sat with a woman at the well, He interacted with Mary when she poured perfume on His feet. Jesus touched lepers; lepers were among the most pilloried in society, the disease came with such horrific consequence including total exclusion from the community. Jesus accepted Samaritans; the Jews and Samaritans had had a long history of mutual disdain.

Loving marginalised people is not an optional upgrade, it's *the way we look like Jesus* and something we try and help our students at Oaklands understand.

### A Difficult Year ...

This year has proved difficult for a number of reasons, not least the industrial action. All employees have a right to withdraw their labour, a position that was won many years ago. Like you, I am pleased that the dispute now appears to have been settled, with teaching unions recommending acceptance of the Government's offer.

Whilst the pay dispute may be over, it does not resolve the issue related to capacity. Attendance, safeguarding and mental health present a trio of challenges, the like of which many Headteachers have never seen. Schools simply do not have the horsepower to address these complex issues.

## ... and a Busy Year

Throughout the year, a large number of students have been involved in the extra-curricular life of the school. I would like to express my thanks to the staff who work tirelessly to provide the 'extras' that enrich the experience of students at the school. Over the Summer we have students and staff visiting Iceland, please keep them in your prayers. If you have followed Oaklands News over the year you will have read about the numerous and varied range of activities and events that have taken place this year, our Cultural Week was a highlight for all of us. We will repeat this again in the Autumn term.

## Student Success

It has been a pleasure to receive students who have made exceptional progress in the classroom, overcome adversity or represented the school. Again this year, I have written to many families offering congratulations and recognising their child's endeavours at school. Our Classcharts system provides parents with real time rewards data. Many students have achieved the top level award badges.

So as this year draws to a close, it is always good to see prospective Year 12 students in school sampling Sixth Form life, a sobering reminder that the next academic year is just around the corner!

## Finally

Please take time to read this packed edition of Oaklands News. Another reminder of the term dates for 2023-24 can be found on Page 39.

Thank you for your prayers, support and encouragement over the last year.



**Mr M Quinn**

## Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College - Alumni

**Were you a student here ... ? Are you just about to leave Oaklands ... ?  
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'

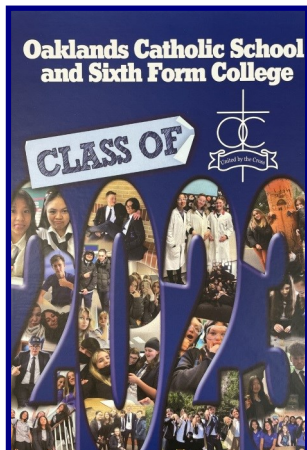
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**J**ust before half term, our Year 11 students joined together for their traditional Leavers' Assembly, Mass and t-shirt signing on the lawn.

Among the tears and the laughter, we gave thanks for the relationships built, happy memories made and talents nurtured over the last five years at Oaklands.



We also had the pleasure of attending the Year 11 Prom on Tuesday 4th July and what a night it was!

All the students looked incredible - stunning dresses, dapper suits and all the glitz and glam that accompanied the theme of 'A Night in Hollywood'. The dance floor was full all evening, with even teachers being dragged on to throw their best shapes.

The staff at the Marriott Hotel complimented our students on their excellent behaviour and we felt very proud to watch them celebrate the end of their GCSE exams and their time at school. A truly special evening for a brilliant year group.

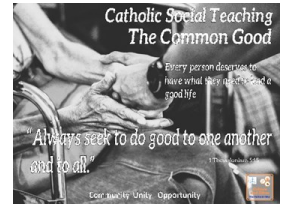


We look forward to welcoming many of the students back to our Sixth Form College in September and we wish those who are moving on to other establishments, apprenticeships and courses every success in the future.

***Mrs Riddle  
and the Year 11 Team***



There are certain values that underpin education in every Catholic school. As a community of faith, we aim to put Christ and his teachings at the centre of what we do through following certain values. At Oaklands, the principles of Catholic Social Teaching summarise our core values. This year, we have made great progress in embedding the principles of Catholic Social Teaching in our school life. They have formed part of our assemblies as well as our weekly Oaklands Way reflection and our general approach to how we run our school. For example, our new student leadership system is based on the principle of work and participation – students are given the opportunities to be part of the decision-making process for the school. They participate and thus feel valued. Below are a few other examples of how we have tried to put these principles into action:



**Human Dignity** – in our approach to behaviour management and classroom practice, every student matters and they are treated with deep respect. This underpins everything we do at Oaklands, we respect the dignity of every person. This is seen in how we treat and speak to each other.

**Common Good** – In Year 9 RE, students learned about sharing earth's resources in the topic on stewardship and what Pope Francis said in 'Laudato Si'. Also, in The Oaklands Way presentations, we were reminded as a community to use well the resources available in school, for example the Canteen, toilets, sports facilities – we must use them well so that others can also use them.

**Solidarity** – in PE, we have been taught to work as a team, cooperate with each other to achieve a common aim. This has taught us to stand up for each other, and recognise that we need each other. In Maths, when learning about percentages and negative numbers, students have also had opportunities to reflect on how other people in the world are negatively impacted by the decisions we make, and thus encouraged to think about standing up for others.

**Rights and responsibilities** – In PDC, we learned about some important laws in our country as well how to keep safe. It is good to know what our rights are but also to know how these rights also place on us some responsibilities. For example, as I have a right to freedom of expression, I also have a responsibility not to say anything that is hurtful and hateful to others

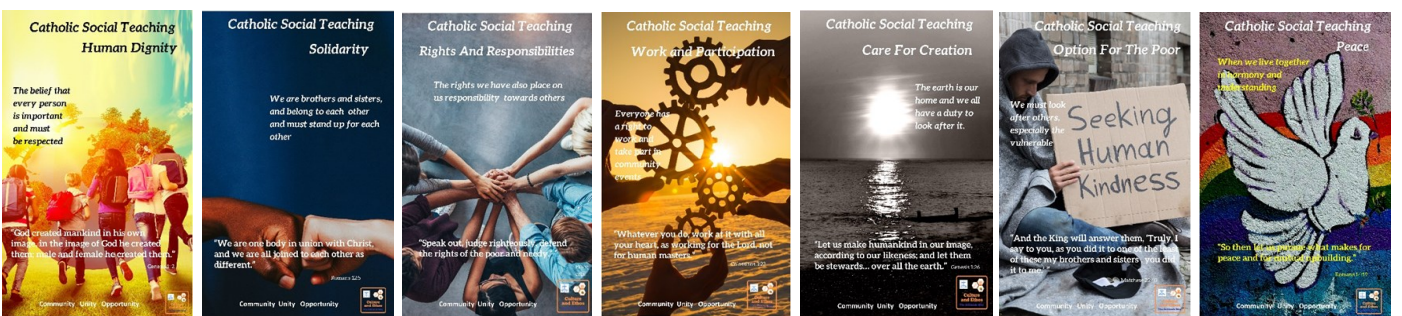
**Work and participation** – in Design and Technology, we learned that God created us and we in turn are also creators. When we work, we are fulfilling God's call for each us to be co-creators with God. We take pride in our work, but also encourage everyone to be involved. As a school this principle also informs how we organise our work. Cooperation between members of each department, consulting staff on important matters and ensuring that the performance management system is as clear and transparent as possible for everyone.

**Care for creation** – in Geography we learned about the effects of climate change and global warming. We are supposed to act, do things that will reduce emissions of harmful gases and toxins into our environment. This linked in what we were also learning in RE on stewardship.

**Option for the poor** – throughout the year, we have held fundraising events to support many who need help. For example, we have continued to support St John's School in Korogocho Slums, Nairobi. We also raised money for Catholic Association for Racial Justice during our Culture week. Another way we have put this principle into practice this year is our continued work in the SEN Department. Supporting all our students who have additional learning needs is making sure that each student is given what they need to learn and do well.

**Peace** – This is an important principle that we try to live by in our community because it is at the heart of our Christian faith. Jesus is known as the Prince of Peace because if the world followed his teaching and way of life, then there will be peace in the world. Some of the key ingredients to maintaining peace are forgiveness and reconciliation. Our focus on restorative justice between staff and students is born out of this belief.

Next year, we will continue to build on the work we have done this year and challenge ourselves to find ways to follow each of these principles in our everyday life at Oaklands. Each department in the school is going to include in their development plans how they are going to promote these principles in their subject area.





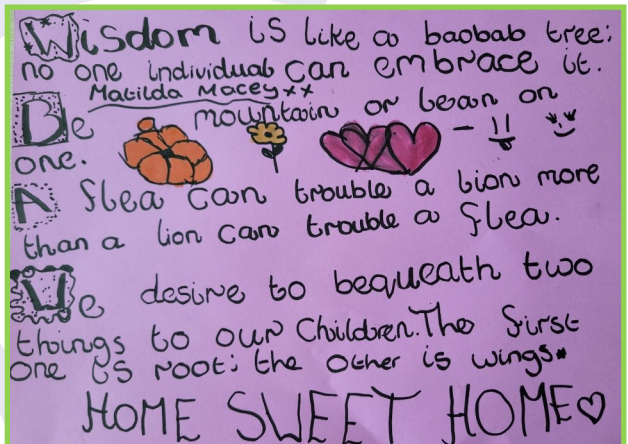
## Year 7 Challenge Week

The Year 7 Challenge Week started with a lovely trip to Marwell Zoo, during which, we spotted a large range of animals, including some gorgeous flamingos, gigantic giraffes, a sleepy sloth and some energetic zebras. It was amazing to see some of the planet's most endangered and vulnerable animals being protected in the beauty of nature. The rest of the week consisted of a carousel of activities all linked to our focus of conservation, culture and creativity. This included some West African dance and drumming lessons, poetry from other cultures, animating and directing a wildlife documentary using stop-motion animation and research about endangered species. I thoroughly enjoyed the week because it gave us an opportunity to learn more about the world around us, exploring different cultures and learning which animals are endangered and why they are so important.

*Emily, 7 St Dominic*

This year, our Challenge Week was based on culture, conservation and creativity. We were taught so many complex West African drumming styles by a brilliant drumming coach and combined this with Ivorian and Ghanaian dance moves taught by one of the external practitioners, Gaspard Sweetie. At the start of the week, we went to Marwell Zoo as a reward trip, observing many different endangered animals - some I hadn't even heard of before! We took hundreds of photos; think of our poor phone storage! The session I enjoyed most was the animation documentary because we created and directed our own stop-motion animation film - it was so messy and colourful!

*Tobias, 7 St Dominic*





## Year 8 Challenge Week

**C**hallenge Week for Year 8 offered an immersive experience of all things STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics).

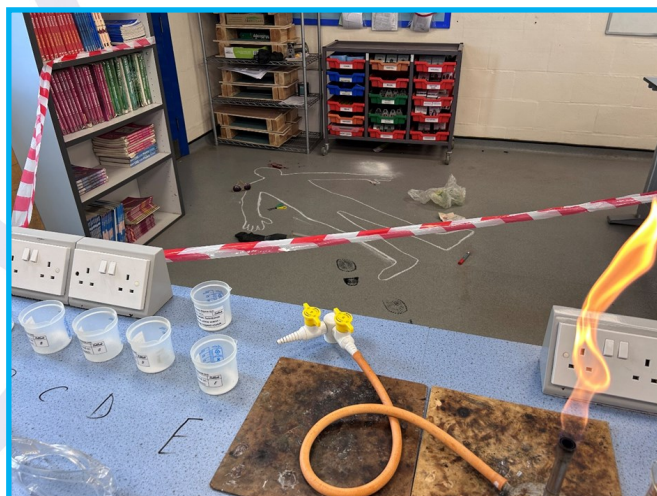
In Design, students were working in teams to produce a range of products to sell as souvenirs at Thorpe Park. The modelling, sketching and building skills on show were extraordinary. Some of the pricing however of these souvenirs may have been as high as the roller coasters at Thorpe Park, but the entrepreneurial talents of our students should not be underestimated. Students worked in the Design workshops for the whole day and were able to demonstrate safe working practices and the ability to work collaboratively.

In Science and Maths, students once again worked in groups to solve the murder of Mr Brownlee (a fictional Science teacher). In Maths, Year 8 cracked coded diary entries and used orienteering skills to solve vital clues. Trundle wheels were also used to measure distances and therefore calculate times to see if the suspects alibis held up. Whilst in Science, students placed on their forensic hats and delved further into the murder scene. Shoe prints were poured over, blood splatters analysed and once again, Year 8 gathered vital clues and evidence to crack the case. The evidence was then gathered to produce a document that could be used by the prosecuting team.

On Friday, students experienced the thrills of Thorpe Park. There was the UK's fastest roller coaster in Stealth, the 120-foot-tall Detonator and the 10 looped corkscrew ride of Colossus. Or you could find Mr Gough and Mrs Kelly braving it on the Teacups!

Students were a credit not only to the school but to themselves. They behaved excellently and were specially commended for handing in three pieces of lost property to Thorpe Park staff.

**Mr A Gorman**





## Year 8 Challenge Week

## Challenge Week 2023...Year 8

Challenge Week for Year 8 this year was a very fun experience. The chance to investigate the murder in Science with experiments was the most enjoyable. The orienteering and coding in Maths was also fun.

**Noah**

I liked the theme of the week and also getting to model roller coasters in Design.

**Oliver**

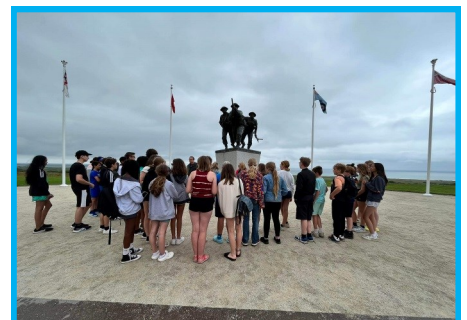
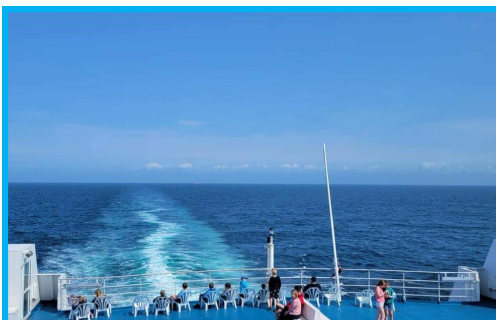
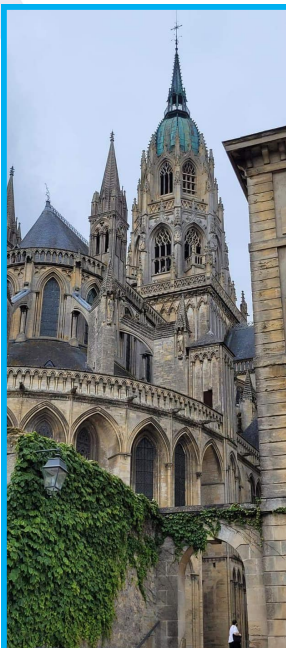
I really liked Challenge Week and I think the best thing was Thorpe Park. I did also like the activity of cutting into and looking inside the lamb's heart.

**Lilly-Ella**

Challenge Week, where do I start! I think it was one of the best experiences in Year 8. We completed many intriguing puzzles and experiments trying to conclude the murderer of Mr Burnlee. We spent three days trying to problem solve in order to make an eye-catching poster holding our key evidence we collected about the suspect. It was enjoyable and interesting and my favourite part was probably the heart autopsy. This was because it was like nothing we have done before and gave us a chance to explore what our own heart looks like. I also thoroughly enjoyed Thorpe Park of course, another amazing part of Year 8 Challenge Week! We had the chance to go off on our own and explore all of the exciting rides. To prepare we designed our own roller-coaster and theme parks, yet again piquing my interest. As a whole, Challenge Week was absolutely amazing and extremely pleasurable. All of the teachers put in a huge effort to make it a fun time and I am very thankful.

**Isla**

A group of forty five Year 8 students travelled to France to stay at Château Falaise. During their visit they visited a boulangerie where they made their own organic sour dough baguettes, visited a distillery in Calvados to sample fresh apple juice, watched how caramel is made and learned about the process of making goats cheese. They visited the Bayeux Tapestry, the British Normandy Memorial and Mont-Saint Michel. Although it was a very busy week, there was still time to relax, eat plenty of ice cream and visit an aqua parc to try out the water slides! The students thoroughly enjoyed their time and the group received many comments from local people and centre staff on their respectful and exemplary behaviour.





## Year 9 Challenge Week

**D**uring Challenge week, some of our Year 9 students travelled to The New Forest for a residential trip to Tile Barn, Brockenhurst. We began at Oaklands on Tuesday morning with coaches departing at 7.30am. On arrival at camp, students were allocated their tents and prepared for the first activity. The activities included a short hike through the New Forest, with students developing their ability to navigate using a map, compass and route card. This would give them an opportunity to self-navigate a route before taking on the infamous Long Hike. Mr Wade had to rescue a few students who had discovered a church in completely the wrong direction (St John the Baptist). Most other groups, including staff, successfully navigated their way around the walk. Other activities included crate stacking, abseiling, climbing, mountain biking, low ropes and nightline. Between activities, students had time (without their mobile phones) to enjoy each other's company and take part in Rounders, Badminton and Ultimate Frisbee. In addition, students spent some time carrying out camp duties such as washing up and being responsible for waste and water. The week ended with all students navigating the Long Hike with varied success. Students were seen through checkpoints by staff but not necessarily in the order they left camp!

Thank you to all the staff who supported the organisation and running of the trip: Mr Smith, Mr Neil, Mrs Mitchell, Mr Semple, Miss Heath, Mrs Beauvoisin, Miss Standen, Mr Osbourne, Mr Dawson and Mrs Jones.



**D**uring Year 9 Challenge Week, we started off with four challenging tasks. These were a translation task to find missing treasure, a sporting task where all of the teams could take part in a sport of their choice, a flag task where all of the teams had to make a flag for their team that stood out among the rest and an RE task during which we discussed the conflict in our world and whether true peace would ever be possible.

My group started off with the translation task; we had five letters to find, but by the end we had only found four. We moved on to sport where my friends and I took part in a fun tennis task. After break we tackled the flag making task. I made a nice pink flag that was one of the four flags on the final design so I was very happy. To end the day we did the RE task when we discussed the power of true freedom.

On Wednesday, everyone got to go on two trips that were based on Geography or History, depending on our GCSE choice. I chose History and so I was given the opportunity to go to Portchester Castle and Fort Nelson - both trips taught me a lot about the History GCSE that was soon to come. We went behind the scenes to see the true history of where we live today.

I understand that the Geographers did a beach survey on Hayling Island and then experienced orienteering at Staunton Country Park. The survey was similar to what Geographers do at GCSE, so it will prepare them well for their trip in Year 10.

On Thursday we wrote reports on our trips on Wednesday and this gave us another insight as to what the GCSE would be like. We also had different levels of challenges allowing the teams to choose from a range of different challenging questions.

Lastly, on Friday all the teams were given the challenge of building a fort with limited resources and whatever we could find in Frenstaple Woods. Our forts had to be waterproof and they had to hold the whole team. My team's fort was attached to the border fence. After the fun of fort building we all were given mini BBQs and cooked hotdogs outside our forts.

I would like to give a big thank you to all the staff that made this amazing week possible and I would like to give a big thank you to the main organiser of this week Mr Bamford.

*Islwyn, 9 St Dominic*

## From the Chair of Governors

As the curtain comes down on another academic year, it is timely to reflect on how well the school has performed in an ever-changing climate. Despite last Summer seeing the return to a full series of exams since 2019, many of our students have been taking public exams over the past couple of months for the first time in their lives. Along with my colleagues on the Local Governing Body, I have been truly impressed by how the whole school community, and especially the staff and students, have continued to adapt and overcome the many challenges they have faced in bringing them to this point in their academic lives. I wish to express my sincerest thanks to you all for your hard work and perseverance.



Just before Christmas, I wrote to parents and carers to say thanks for your support during the year and especially for the encouragement and motivation you give to your children at home. This partnership, between home and school, is critical to success and I extend my thanks to you also for adapting to various changes and being there when your children needed you most. I know that you will be as keen as anyone to see the fruits of everyone's labours when the exam results are posted next month.

As a Local Governing Body we challenge the school to ensure that student behaviour, at the very least, meets the standards we set and which you expect. The vast majority of students behave extremely well and adhere to what are very reasonable expectations. Our students are fundamentally responsible for the choices they make and therefore for their own behaviour and while the majority are absolutely great, there has been an undercurrent of challenge from a small minority of parents who seem content to pass all responsibility for their child's behaviour to the school and dismiss unacceptable language, attitude and reckless behaviour as 'normal'. I appeal to all parents and carers to uphold the Home School Agreement you signed when your child started at Oaklands and return your young people to us in September reinvigorated and determined to be the best they can be and willing to meet our behavioural standards.

Sadly, at least for me, this is my last communication as Chair of the Local Governing Body as I am standing down after ten years as a governor, the past six as the Chair. When I started as a governor in 2013, school governance was something of a mystery to me. I quickly learned about our role in supporting the school and acting as a critical friend. I made good use of the excellent training offered to Governors by Hampshire Governor Services and, encouraged by longer serving members, realised that there really is no such thing as a stupid question and that asking 'why?' was just a great way to start an objective discussion.

We are always on the lookout for new Governors and at the recent new Y7 parents' evening, I was asked what exactly do we. The 'formal response' is that the Governors are responsible for overseeing the management side of a school - strategy, policy, budget setting and staffing. We help enable the school to run as efficiently and as effectively as possible; we work alongside the senior leadership team and support the teaching staff to provide the excellent education they do for your children. A previous National Schools Commissioner once said, "Governors are, in my view, the unsung heroes of the system" and I would very much echo that sentiment. An effective Local Governing Body can make a significant difference to the way a school operates – it helps to set and deliver a robust School Development Plan (the rolling plan relating to overall school improvements that are linked to the long-term strategy). Governors will engage in regular monitoring (not 'inspecting'), visiting the school to look at how individual departments work and fulfil the school's mission and vision for your children. Governors will conduct some routine, but mandatory, health & safety and safeguarding checks. We seek to get a good feel for the school's character, its ethos and deep-rooted catholicity. We take considerable interest in the wellbeing of the students and the staff and as Chair I have regular meetings with the SLT to take soundings and monitor this important area. We look at the condition of the premises and facilities and work within a really challenging financial backdrop to get the necessary investment in place to improve school infrastructure.



It may not sound exciting, but securing funding – a combination of public grants backed up by the Governors School Development Fund – for classroom upgrades, new roofs and improved heating and lighting systems (changes that not only help the school to save money, but helps to reduce our carbon footprint) really does ensure that core funds can be used most effectively to deliver the curriculum for your children. We routinely invite parents and carers to help with our rolling programme of work by contributing to the GSDF and I am really grateful to those that do, but those that do remain a minority. We could do so much more if a much greater number from the school community were willing to gift us a couple of pounds each month. This would help us immeasurably as maximising the school's finances is at the heart of many of our discussions and with money being forever squeezed it is at the root of good governance to ensure that every decision we make is the best choice for the students at Oaklands. Please look at the website <https://www.oaklandscatholicschool.org/parents/governors-fund/> for more details about how you can contribute to the Development Fund.

And if you think you could help in the art of school governance, or just want to find about more about becoming a governor, then please do contact the Clerk to the Local Governing Body, Mrs Colley, [C.Colley@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto:C.Colley@oaklandscatholicschool.org).

I will miss my day-to-day interactions with the School after so many years as a parent of three Oaklands alumni and as a governor. I thank all I've met and worked with in so many guises for their support over all the years and wish you all the very best for the future. Enjoy the summer break – you've earned it.

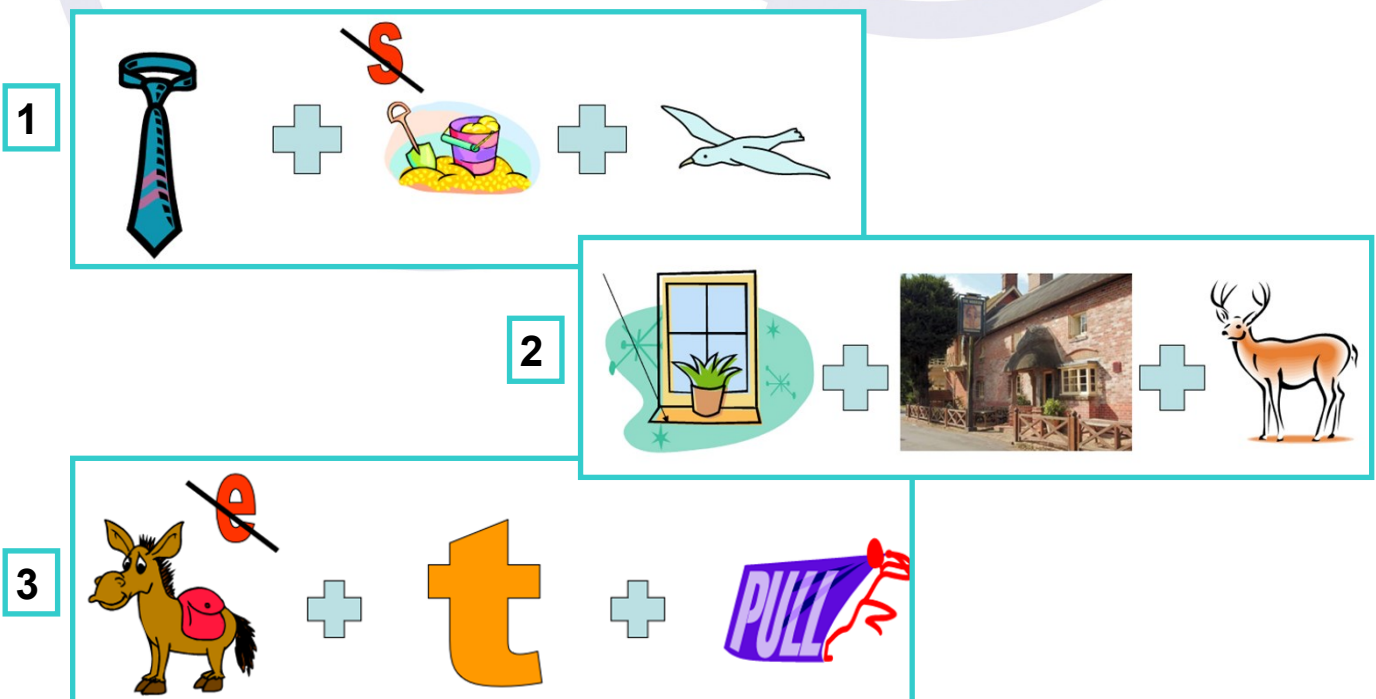


**Marc Evans**

## Dingbats

Following on from the last edition of Oaklands News and the article on Pi Day, several readers have asked if Dingbats would be returning ... Mr Gorman is only too happy to oblige!

Answers can be found on **Page 39**.



## Waterlooville Music Festival



**O**n Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June, 25 students performed in a concert at the Waterlooville Music Festival. St. George's Church were excellent hosts and made us feel welcome during our sound checks. We took a group of volunteers from our new GCSE (Year 9) class and Sixth Form. SingSquad also performed brilliantly. It was a varied concert including a cello solo, a piano solo, flute solo and vocal solos and duets. Well done to our soloists – Mia Hardwick, Libby Hardwick, Asti Hayes, Michelle Parvin, Tilly Groves, Ashlee Pratt, Amy Collins, Esther Burrows, Eniola Akintunde, Lilly Sheaff and Eva Ng.

*"I played at the Waterlooville Music Festival. We went to the church and a variety of people performed. There were singers, violin and cello players and I played my flute. I really enjoyed it because I was able to perform in front of friends and members of the public. It was interesting to see all the talent in our school. I really enjoyed it."* **Eniola**

*"I played at the WMF. It was my first violin solo ever. I enjoyed the whole experience and everyone was very supportive. It was interesting to see the amazing talent of others in my school. Everyone's performances were very impressive and they were very confident. It was fun."* **Tilly**



*"We went to the WMF and performed solos, duets and SingSquad. I enjoyed performing my solo in front of people. It's really good that we are given the opportunity to perform, it gets us used to performing so we can improve our performance techniques. This is especially good for people who want to pursue a career in music."* **Lilly**

## BTEC Music Night

**O**n Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May our BTEC music performance students put on an evening of live music, a variety of tunes ranging from Michael Jackson to Niall Horan.

The performances were a mix of both solos and group performances from students AJ Sakutukwa, on drums, and Reuben Whiting, on vocals and guitar. Students were performing for their Solo Performance Unit and Ensemble Skills Unit.

With some light-hearted chat between performers and the audience, it created a brilliant and professional standard concert. Audience members were joining in at every possibility, clapping hands and singing along.





## Summer Music Concert

The Summer Concert was a fabulous evening of talent with group performances and soloists from Year 7 all the way through to Sixth Form, on flute, violin, guitar, piano, drumkit, saxophone and voice. Several students performed solos for the first time.

It was a wonderfully varied evening with the *Star Wars Theme* performed by Oaklands Band, *Zombie* by Rock Band Club, *Becketts Blues* by the Recorder Quartet and a rhythmically exciting piece by Samba Group, not forgetting the Charlie Boundy Quartet playing an energetic rendition of *Johnny B Goode*.

*"We really enjoyed opening the Concert with the Band; it went super well! We also very much enjoyed playing with Samba and Evie did a solo. We were all very nervous but all very proud of ourselves at the end. It was also a great opportunity to listen to other talents."*

**Sophie and Evie**



## Scales and Arpeggio Test

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June we had five competitors for the Scales and Arpeggios Test. It wasn't the most exciting sounding of events but we enjoyed the enthusiasm that the students brought with them. The students were tested according to the requirements of their exam grade and received feedback to help with their practice. We had some sweets and shared some prizes and hopefully a good time was had by all, we certainly laughed a lot! Well done to **Gracie Carey** who was the winner of our Oaklands Competition.

We wish you the best of luck with your forthcoming exams, and we've already heard that Alec Stanley achieved a distinction in his Jazz Grade 4 Tenor Saxophone! And well done to Lucy Coles, Francesca Kotruchova, Lily Kochmanski-Machado for also taking part in this event.

## Mock Theory Exam

Over the last term we have had about ten students regularly attending Music Theory Club on a Thursday morning from 8.15am. Three of these students having completed their work booklets, decided it was time to give a mock paper a try! Not everyone passed on this occasion but it was excellent practice and the students identified the areas they need to work on.

Theory club is all about learning to write music down correctly, understanding the Italian terms used for describing music and understanding scales and chords in greater depth. We would like to encourage more music students to attend this club as it is an important part of music and particularly useful for those wishing to study GCSE or A level Music.

## Year 6 Concert

Our young musicians gave a concert on the Year 7 Induction Day, they all performed extremely well and we hope it will inspire our new students in September to learn an instrument or join one of our many extra-curricular activities.

*"I performed Jitterbug on the violin. This was my second concert and even though I was nervous, I tried my best and am so proud."*  
**Blessing**

*"Today I played my euphonium for the first time in a concert. I have only been playing for 4 lessons but I think I did really well. I was very nervous to start but I am glad that I persevered and did it; I am very proud of myself."*  
**Noah**



## Performing Arts News (cont)

### Music Tuition

**W**e have a wonderful team of Visiting Music (Peripatetic) Teachers at Oaklands, with some staff even having waiting lists, but don't let that put you off! Students can choose to be taught in groups, ranging from 2 to 4 students, or individually.

Lessons are available on Strings, (violin, viola, cello), Brass, (trumpet, trombone, French horn, tenor horn, tuba, euphonium), Woodwind (flute, clarinet, saxophone, recorder), Guitars (classical, electric, bass), Keyboard (piano, electronic keyboard), Voice and Drum Kit.

We are particularly keen to promote Violin and Brass lessons and we have a number of these instruments that can be borrowed from the Music Department so you don't need to worry about the cost of purchasing an instrument for the first term or so. It may be useful to know that instruments can be bought through the school, free of VAT using the Assisted Instrument Purchase Scheme (AIPS). This is a Government initiative designed to increase the number of students learning to play an instrument. There are certain conditions that have to be met to benefit from this initiative and if any parent wishes to take up this opportunity then they should email Mrs S Richardson for details.

The cost for individual lessons is £193.00 per term and group lessons are charged at £95.00 per term. Students receive 32 lessons across the academic year. Please contact Mrs Richardson or the Finance Office for further details.

A letter with more details and application form can be found on the Oaklands website via this link: [Music Tuition Letter 2023](#)

**Congratulations** to students who have passed the following exams; all are taught by our Peripatetic staff:

|                         |                |             |
|-------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Sarah D'Costa           | Grade 4 Violin | Merit       |
| Taneisha Hwata          | Grade 1 Piano  | Merit       |
| Lucy Coles              | Grade 2 Piano  | Distinction |
| Lily Kochmanski-Machado | Grade 2 Piano  | Merit       |
| Albie Brough            | Grade 1 Piano  | Distinction |
| Nokutenda Makuni        | Grade 2 Piano  | Distinction |
| Gracie Carey            | Grade 5 Piano  | Distinction |

We are still waiting for results of the guitar exams.

### Show Preview

**I** was so happy when I found out what the show was this year. Les Misérables! I signed myself up for auditions as soon as I could. It was the musical that got me into musicals so I was ecstatic.

To audition for the show you need to try to attend an after-school learning session to learn all the songs for auditions. Everyone is so welcoming and kind there. We all learnt the songs and we sounded amazing all together.

I'm so excited for the show next year already, knowing how amazing everyone is. My audition was at the beginning of July and I really hope I get Gavroche! To be honest though I would be happy to get ensemble - just to be part of a show is so special. I am so grateful for the opportunity and so thankful. It is going to be an amazing show, I can't wait!

**Amy**





## News from St John's, Korogocho

The new academic year began in Korogocho back in April – at a time when we were just emerging from the season of Lent and returning for the Summer term. Summer is a season of revitalisation, optimism and hope for the future. The Gospel teaches us that this is also a time of strength and to love our lives to the full – embracing all that nature has to offer and being joyous in capturing the spirit of life. St John's have been focusing on this during their first term of the academic year – teaching students about the prominence of colour in the Liturgical calendar (something we also pride ourselves on here at Oaklands). July is a time for marvellous greens, reflecting growth and maturity of crops planted in the Spring. This symbol of hope is the colour of the sprouting seed and arouses the faithful hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection.

The Headteacher of St John's (Mr Stephen Mwangi) expressed most recently that the students are thriving now that the new year has begun – allowing students the access to education that they so desperately desire. In our most recent correspondence, he offered his thanks for our continued support:

*"Greetings in the name of God, I hope you are doing well. The current Kenya system of education is called the 'Competency Based Curriculum'. We have shifted from the earlier 844 system where we were doing 8 years in primary school. Now, we do 6 years in primary then progress to Junior Secondary for 3 years. We have been privileged to have Junior Secondary facility in our school. We are studying the following subjects: Primary, Math, English, Kiswahili, Science, Agriculture, Home Science, Art & Craft, Social Studies, Religious Studies, Music and Computer Studies. The students are thriving under your stewardship and that of God. We are attempting to offer a full range of studies to help our children have better opportunities. Our continued partnership means so much to the staff and students here at St John's. We appreciate your continued support to our children; may the Almighty God continue adding more in the hands that donates."*

We have all had a time to reflect on a joyous start to the year – especially those at St John's, ensuring learners have the best possible opportunity to access their education and continue their learning journey. With the upcoming summer break for Oaklands, we have an opportunity to rest, recuperate and recalibrate ourselves – starting afresh for the new academic year. Pope Francis recently commented on the power of the summer as *"the perfect opportunity to delve into this prayer, and a providential moment to enhance our commitment to seek and encounter the Lord. In this period, students are free from scholastic duties and many families are taking their vacation; it's important that in the time of rest and detachment from daily concerns, they can re-energize the forces of body and spirit, deepening their spiritual path."*

I will leave you with this piece of scripture from [Psalm 113:3](#): *"You have set all the borders of the earth; you have made summer and winter. From the rising of the sun, to its going down, the Lord's name is to be praised."*

Have a wonderful summer and thank you for your continued support.

**Mr C Osbourne**





## Year 12



**T**he advancement of Geographical skills, studying coastal case studies and experiencing fieldwork were the reasons for the recent trip to the Isle of Purbeck for our Year 12 Geography students. The students were accompanied by Mrs Broadway, Mrs Sykes and Mr Bamford and stayed at Swanage YHA.

**Day 1:** Students studied how coastal management has been conducted along Christchurch Bay from Hengistbury Head to Hurst Castle Spit. The cliffs at Barton-On-Sea and Highcliffe suffer from rotational slumping and this location is quoted in almost every textbook, so it was really useful for our students to actually see what was happening there.



Following a brief lunch stop at Mudeford spit, students drove through Bournemouth and on to Studland via the Sandbanks ferry. The students studied the sand dunes there and tested the concept of vegetation succession and how effective management is in preserving them. Late in the afternoon, the geology of the Purbeck coast was explored as the students were shown Old Harry Rocks at the chalk headland of Handfast Point.

**Day 2:** The importance of the Geology along the coast from Exmouth in Devon to Old Harry Rocks in Dorset has



resulted in the area being branded a 'UNESCO World Heritage site' and as such puts the area on a par with places such as the Grand Canyon and the Great Barrier Reef. The importance of the area was not lost on the students as they explored Durdle Door, Lulworth Cove and Stair Hole, although the highlight of the trip this year was the boat tour from Lulworth Cove to Durdle Door. We also visited Portland Bill, discussed the raised beach there and examined Chesil Beach which connects the island of Portland to the mainland. The students examined whether the textbook theories associated with beach



formation occurred at Ringstead Bay by collecting data. We also focussed on human Geography by visiting Poundbury on the outskirts of Dorchester. Poundbury is an experimental new town/extension of Dorchester, with a design endorsed by King Charles on whose land it is built. The students had mixed feelings about the settlement, but it was certainly of interest.

**Day 3:** The final morning was spent around Swanage. The students surveyed the groynes along the beach to see if they were effective in building up the beach and examined rates of longshore drift.



The experiences on the trip were designed to provide students with data for their coursework. Some students will use this data in their study, but others will simply replicate the techniques in a study area of their choice between now and the end of the year. The report that is produced is worth 20% of their A Level.

**Mr M Bamford**



## Year 10

**Y**ear 10 Geography students visited West Wittering beach, East Head spit and East Wittering in West Sussex over two days in June as part of their GCSE Geography course.

The exam board require students to collect data in Human Geography and also in Physical Geography. For the Human study, we visited East Wittering to ascertain how important tourism is for the settlement. To do this, students completed a land use survey and also conducted questionnaires. For the Physical study, students looked at the groynes along West Wittering beach to assess whether these were trapping sediment. In addition, we walked around the area to reinforce their subject knowledge on hard and soft management strategies.

The Geography department provide a number of opportunities to experience fieldwork. In fact, thirty students from Year 10-13 will be visiting Iceland during the summer holidays; a full report will appear in the next newsletter.

*Mr M Bamford*



## Playground Rivers with St Thomas More's Primary School



**T**he Oaklands Geography Department delivered 'Playground Rivers' sessions to ninety students at St Thomas More's Primary school in June. This was part of their 'Aspiration days', where external speakers provided the students with a variety of sessions and experiences.

All that is required for this activity is a slope, a hose, three different types of sediment, some string and some key words cards.

During the session, the pupils were required to do the following:

- Predict the path of the river
- Determine how rivers transport sediment
- Have an appreciation of landforms created by rivers
- To develop team work



The pupils at St Thomas More's engaged really well and were able to employ advanced terminology by the end of the sessions. Mr Bamford and Mrs Over ran the sessions, which were well-received.

*Mr M Bamford*

## Uniform Changes for September 2023

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

In response to this, we have reviewed our school uniform policy. An updated version can now be found on our website [Policies - Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College](#).

The key changes are that those students who wear a blouse will now be required to wear a plain white revere blouse, not the blue and white striped one. This change has been made as plain white is far easier to purchase at most mainstream uniform suppliers. Existing students are not expected to purchase a new blouse until they need one, as of 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 that students must wear in school is the school blazer. We have been working with Skoolkit, and some of you may notice that it is now slightly cheaper. If students would like to wear a jumper, they must purchase a branded one, but this is not a uniform requirement.

The school PE kit has also been adapted to limit the number of branded items that need to be purchased. All students are now required to wear the branded PE polo shirt. All other items can still be purchased with the Oaklands logo from Skoolkit; alternatively, you can buy these from other retailers. Those students who choose to wear sports leggings must purchase the Oaklands branded ones and Year 7 and 8 girls are expected to wear a rugby top and shorts for rugby (same as for the boys).



Getting the basics right with uniform is a good indicator of a student's level of commitment, co-operation and a sense of pride about being part of the school community. Our staff work hard to uphold the rules regarding uniform and we would be very grateful if you could reiterate those rules at home and check that they leave the house looking smart.

At Oaklands we insist on high standards of uniform; there are regular uniform checks in tutor time and parents will be contacted if full and correct uniform is not being worn.

If parents have any specific issues around uniform please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.

Please refer to our website for more information about Skoolkit opening hours and online ordering service.

- **Blazers** are compulsory and must be worn to and from school. Please ensure your son/daughter is wearing it correctly when they leave the house (and it is not rolled up in their bag).
- **Jumpers** are optional but can be purchased from Skoolkit if your child would like to wear one.
- **Trousers** should be navy blue, formal tailored trousers. Skinny fit / super skinny fit trousers are not acceptable. Slim fit are acceptable. Parents are warned NOT to buy cotton mix chino style trousers as you will be asked to replace them.
- **Skirts** should be navy blue, with sewn down pleats all around. We face an ever-present battle with our students regarding the length of their skirts. Many students roll up their waistbands and this results in skirt lengths which are not appropriate for a learning environment. Please help us to help you – buy sufficiently long skirts, check the waistband before your child leaves home. We will insist that they roll them down.
- **Socks** - students should wear ankle socks and or/tights. Knee high socks are not allowed to be worn.
- **Shoes** – students are required to wear black flat proper shoes; 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 appropriate school coat, preferably navy or black to be worn over the blazer. Denim, leather or leather look or faux fur jackets are not acceptable. Hoodies/sweatshirts are forbidden and not considered an acceptable item of school uniform.
- **Scarves** - should be in appropriate school colours.
- **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.
- **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 excessive 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, short 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 Class Charts (more details in September)
- If there are five logs for poor or incorrect uniform in one week a HOY DT will be set
- Email home to parents with a warning that if no improvement next step will be uniform monitoring
- Student placed in uniform monitoring
- If there is still no improvement a student will be set an SLT extended detention
- If student fails to correct their uniform following these interventions, a Fixed Period Exclusion will be put in place for 'Persistent Disruptive Behaviour'.

**Skoolkit**  
SCHOOLWEAR FOR 4 - 16 YEAR OLDS



## Oaklands Friends' and Parents Association (OFPA) Second Hand Uniform

### DONATIONS

Please donate any good quality, clean school uniform  
(Year 11 ... don't forget to drop of your uniform on Results Collection Morning)

### SHOP

The shop will be open between 1.00-3.30pm on Thursday 24 August.  
We are not taking orders, just turn up to see what we have available in stock.  
Payment by card or cash

**G**reetings from the Sixth Form!

As we approach a well-earned break we would like share with you just some of the highlights of what has been a full, yet intensely, rewarding final term.



### **UCAS Fair in Winchester**

In April, our Year 12 spent the day at a national university and careers fair in Winchester where they were able to meet with a wide range of providers and explore a range of post-18 pathways. Alongside an impressive haul of brochures and freebies, this visit was a real eye-opener and has helped many decide on what they want to do after Sixth Form.

### **SF Sports Event**

Making the most of the beautiful weather, the Sixth Formers took the initiative in organising their own sports event in May and this was a great success. The breadth of sporting events ranged from football to frisbee, to "capture the flag". A big thanks to Nadia, Leona and to all those who worked so hard to make this happen. We have decided to make this a regular Year 12 vs Year 13 fixture so watch this space!

### **Year 13 Leavers' Breakfast**

It was a bitter sweet mixture of the sadness of goodbyes and gladness in bright new starts, that we began our farewells to the Year 13 with a special Leavers' Breakfast. It was wonderful to hear the building fill with joy and laughter; seeing the Sixth Form come together as a family to share a prayer and then tuck into freshly baked pastries, juice and coffee. Thank you to Dawn and her team in the kitchen for making such fabulous food.

### **Year 13 Leavers Mass and Evening**

Perhaps the most lasting Sixth Form memory this term has been the Year 13 Leavers' Mass and Evening. It was truly moving to have us all come together as a Christian community in a final Mass, all observed with the deepest reverence and respect. It was both a fitting farewell to our Year 13 and a wonderful affirmation of our core Catholic ethos; a vivid reminder as to why we have been described as the Sixth Form with a soul! Later that evening, we made our way in a flotilla of cars and buses to The Queen's Hotel in Southsea for a fantastic night of song, dance and laughter. Once Duran Duran started playing, there was only ever going to be one winner on the dance floor and I'll let you guess who!





## **Sixth Form UCAS and Post-18 Pathways Day**

In June, all of Year 12 came off timetable for a UCAS and Post-18 Pathways Day in the Sixth Form. This included a series of presentations and workshops designed to help students understand and prepare for their next steps after Sixth Form. Sessions included advice on how to research and apply for university courses, apprenticeships and the world of work. This day has really helped galvanise students into preparing their personal statements ready to hit the ground running in Year 13. A big thanks to all those colleagues who helped make this day a success.

## **Year 12 University Visits**



Across June and July, our Year 12 were given the opportunity of attending a series of university visits. These included day trips to the University of Bath and the University of Southampton. There was also a residential visit to University of Oxford. During these visits, our Year 12 students were able to attend lectures across a variety of subjects and speak with lecturers and undergraduates. These visits offered an invaluable insight into university level study and life. The response from our students has been very positive and it is clear that many have been encouraged to aspire to apply for courses and institutions that they may never have considered.

## **Sixth Form Taster Days**

We have just come to the end of our second Sixth Form taster day of the term. The first, in June, was for our Year 10 and this week, it was for Year 11 students, many from both Oaklands and beyond. These taster days are when we throw open our doors to give students an insight into the daily life of the Sixth Form. During these taster days students attend a variety of showcase lessons across subjects, some of which they will have previously not encountered. There is also an opportunity to speak with A-level teachers, the Sixth Form Team and student leaders. Year 10 and Year 11 students had a great time and it is pleasing to hear that so many are keen to join us in the future. I suspect the doughnuts and pizza at breaktime and lunch may have swayed some!

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

Have a good Summer holiday!

***Mr D Godwin***

**T**his term has seen a lot of activity of all D of E groups. It began in the Easter holiday when three Silver groups completed their Practice Expedition on the South Downs camping at Cocking. Although dry and bright during the three days the nights were extremely cold so much so that the start of Day 2 was delayed due to a frozen water pipe on the campsite. Despite this the groups learned valuable lessons for their Assessed Expedition which took place recently on the Isle of Purbeck. Having to set up camp and cook in the rain was a new experience but on the following two days the sun came out and finally ice creams were enjoyed on the beach at the conclusion of a very successful expedition.



## *Setting off in the wind*

Eva, Amelie, Olivia, Cerys, Erin, Hannah and Jess

## *Negotiating the woods on Day 2*

Sophie, Maria, Jonnie, Emily, Emily, Hannah and Anna

## *At the finish, grateful to take off their packs and boots*

Matthew, Blake, Sam, James, Max and George

For many of these participants the expedition was the final section of their Silver Award so congratulations to the following who have all been awarded their Silver badges:

Anna Bryant-Philpott  
George Crocker  
Emily Howford  
Blake Morgan  
Amelie Rowe

Samuel Clarke  
Erin Freeman  
James Lane  
Hannah Newton  
Eva Townsin

Cerys Colley  
Jonathan Fry  
Maria Mihut  
Olivia Perdu  
Jessica Woolhead



Hopefully the remaining five participants will complete over the summer for a 'full house' of Silver Awards.



The Gold group completed their Practice Expedition over Easter on Dartmoor in dreadful weather conditions. They remained stoic and cheerful despite the heavy rain, sleet and cold which prevented them camping out for two nights. They were very grateful to the hospitality extended by the Dartmoor YHA Manager who found them shelter inside and they enjoyed the experience of staying at a Youth Hostel including entertaining other young guests and even acting as 'judge' in a painting competition! Despite this the group completed their walks every day and managed to camp out on the final night when the weather had abated.



This group will complete their Assessed Expedition on Exmoor at the end of August when we hope for improved weather conditions!



*Braving the conditions ... and later on the clapper bridge at Postbridge as the weather cleared*  
Amy, Emilie, James, Ed, Alex, Beth and Esther

During May and June the nine Bronze groups also completed two overnight expeditions in the South Downs. On the training expedition they quickly realised that overpacking your rucksack was not a good idea as well as what food cooks best on a Trangia stove after a long day's walk. This was all a good learning experience for their Assessed Expedition which was then successfully completed.



Some of the groups with their supervisors on the training expedition at Butser Hill



One group ready to set off on the final day of their Assessed Expedition





Following these expeditions we are delighted that some 32 participants out of 55 have now completed their Bronze Award.

Hopefully the rest will follow over the summer holiday – we are aiming for a 100% completion rate!

Congratulations to the following:

Tia Abbinnett  
Amelie Bland  
Ava Bridger  
Alasdair Combe  
Oliver Edwards  
Kyle Gardner  
Mimi Harberd  
Eleanor Jones-Thompson  
Jemima Mason  
Hollie Phillips  
Olivia Twine

Alex Balasa  
Rebecca Boichot  
Nelly Buah-Mensah  
Cecilia Crocker  
Finlay Furlong  
Isla Gray  
Barney Hayes  
Zoe Leslie  
Christa Nibigira  
Alicia Richards  
Daniel Verney

Matthew Hordell  
Sofia Machedon  
Jack Perkins  
Szeni Sowe  
Isaac Warren

Jasper Johnson  
Rafferty Marchesi-Kopar  
Molly Perkins  
Joseph Trott  
Katy Watson

## Thank you

None of these achievements would have been possible without all the Supervisors and Assessors who gave up their time to support the groups particularly in the expedition section.

Our sincere thanks go to Mr T Brinnen, Mrs P Darch, Miss R Galbraith, Mr P Hoar, Ms S Johnson, Mr R Jones, Mr D Quinn, Mrs F Quinn, Miss R Quinn, Mrs N Riddle, Mr P Smith, Mr T Sullivan, Mr J Turner, Mr C Wade and Mrs C Wise.



Enjoying an evening meal at Upper Parsonage Farm, East Meon

## Student Success



**J**ack McNeill (Year 11) was selected to carry the Royal Standard flag at the King's Coronation by the Portsmouth Royal marines Cadet Corp. Jack had a uniform made especially for him for the occasion and led a procession into Westminster Abbey.

**E**mily Doswell (Year 11) and her Sea Cadet Team attended the UK National Drill Competition at HMS Raleigh. They won gold for Best Armed Guard, gold for Best Guard Commander and gold for Best Armed Arena Display, and also Overall Best Area.

Congratulations and well done to them both!





## CREST Awards

A number of students are putting the finishing touches to Gold CREST awards for a diverse range of projects. The CREST awards have involved research, problem solving, organisation, research and communication skills and allow students to understand how to set out project aims in advance and the importance of seeking help when needed. One group have gathered data in a mini health study where volunteers had to take a probiotic drink or tablet each day and then give health updates on a weekly basis. Another group is investigating the impact of drinks such as apple or orange juice on the uptake of iron, mimicking the gut with Visking tubing and analysing data with a REDOX titration.



## RSC Analyst Competition



Year 12 Chemistry students were invited to take part in the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) Analyst competition where students had to demonstrate and expand existing chemistry knowledge, skills, and aptitude for analytical science through practical experiments based on a relevant problem. This year, the problem was based on a Grand Baking Competition. The day of the final has arrived and the tent has been thrown into chaos with sabotage to the bakers' ingredients and the discovery of a menacing missive, students had to unmask the saboteur using results from analytical tests. Congratulations to the winning team Emma Townsend, Skye Daniels and Joe Agathanthelou, who achieved the highest score from Oaklands.

## STEM Leaders

Twenty-eight Year 11 students achieved a level 2 qualification (equivalent to a GCSE grade) in STEM Leadership this year. The students have completed coursework alongside their Triple Science studies and also completed practical STEM tasks which they had to help plan and then lead. These included the History-STEM day and an enrichment rock salt separation activity for small groups of Year 7 students. Congratulations to all those who achieved this qualification.

A small group of Year 9 students have also made great progress with the level 2 STEM Leadership qualification and were involved in leading during the Year 7 STEM day as well as an outreach activity for students from Morelands Primary School. Teachers were very impressed with the resources that one group of students



made to support the Year 5 students with their rock salt separation. Many of the Year 9 STEM Leaders were able to apply their skills by helping out with Year 7 transition events also. Some of the Year 9 STEM leaders are pictured here, including Katie and Faith with the leaflet that they helped to produce.





## Excellence in STEM (cont)

### Year 7 STEM Day

Year 7 were off timetable for most of the day and engaged with building straw towers. They learned about the importance of triangles in design to add strength to structures and also how to create a stronger base so that their towers could withstand a potential earthquake. Students worked in small teams and rose to the challenge of creating a very tall tower that was aesthetically pleasing and earthquake proof. Some example towers are shown below:



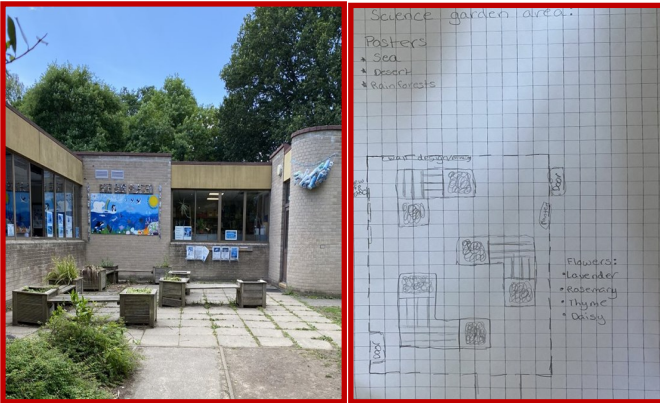
### Year 8 STEM Day

Year 8 prepared and built their own cars for testing with artistic flare and much excitement in the weeks leading up to the day. On the day of the event, Students spent most of the day testing out their cars, to discover how they could make them faster and more stable for a final speed test at the end of the day. Their team work and communication skills throughout the day were admirable and all completed the challenge with an outstanding set of results, and a much-improved understanding of the Scientific method. All evidenced by their brilliant posters at the end of the challenge.





## STEM Club

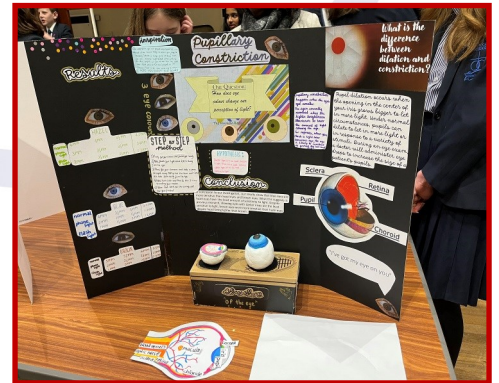


In our final term, our Science and Nature Club team worked hard to decide how to improve our climate change display outside the Kolbe block. After much deliberation, the decision was made to start designing a more climate and ecosystem conscious garden area. Students have started to redesign the displays and update these with more recent concerns and considerations, across a number of different biomes. They have also begun to arrange for the benches and planters to be fixed and replanted with bee and other insect friendly plants and sky planters made of recycled and

reused materials. This climate-conscious theme will continue into next year, with plans to raise awareness of eco-friendly clothing, clothing dyes, upcycling and the downsides of fast fashion.

## Year 8 Science Fair

Over the spring term, all of Year 8 took part in a six-week project during lesson time surrounding a Scientific investigation of their choice. Students worked together in small groups, initially researching their chosen topic and deciding what aspect of the topic they were going to investigate. Students then had to carry out some preliminary testing to see if their variables would produce valid results before they set out on their final experiments. Students chose an array of topics to investigate, examples include; how much energy was stored in various foods, the best type of disinfectant, the science of lava lamps and digestion of raw vs cooked foods. Once the students had completed their investigations, they had to write up their experiments in a Scientific manner and present their findings on a project board. Parents were then invited into school for an evening, they listened to guest speakers from Southampton University and a local Architecture company and then got to circulate around the hall to look at all of the students' project boards. The evening was a great success and the students who attended received a lot of praise from the parents for their hard work with the projects. **Congratulations to Erin, Milly, Anna and Maria from 8 Saint Martin** who were the overall winners of the Science Fair for their project on microbiology and investigations into the effectiveness of plant based antibacterial agents.



We have managed to secure a grant which will allow all Year 8 students to apply for a Bronze CREST award for completion of their projects. Thanks to Miss Schofield who secured this and to The British Science Association who provided the funding.

### Y8 STEM Winners 2023

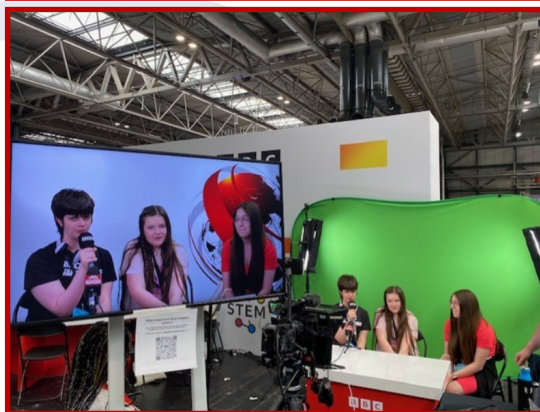
|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 8 St Catherine | Abigail Cheung, Anita Famuditi   |
| 8 St Clare     | Daisy Skuse, Kaitlin Mitchell, Kaelin Fudge, Isla Farrugia-Balfour       |
| 8 St Dominic   | Isla Prothero, Sage Saul, Eva Hirmiz                                     |
| 8 St Margaret  | Monette Sophie, Aaron Buah-Mensa, Isabel Thomas                          |
| 8 St Martin    | Erin Arstall, Milly Watts, Anna Manuel, Maria Mier (and overall winners) |
| 8 St Stephen   | Ciara Stainsby, Elizabeth George   |
| 8 St Teresa    | Maja Philpott, Lucy Coles, Katya Harmon                                  |
| 8 St Vincent   | Ava Brown, Jenny Nithya Kuma, Amelia Parham, Artemis Tudorache           |

### Big Bang Fair Trip, NEC, Birmingham

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, Mr Horn and Mr Semple took twelve lucky Year 8 students up to Birmingham for the Big Bang Fair at the NEC. The Year 8 students had all been invited as they had been STEM project winners during the Year 8 project week before Easter, and they had all produced some superb Scientific research.

After a long bus drive up to Birmingham, the students had three hours at the NEC exploring different Science fair stalls, speaking to a range of employers that included the National Grid, Network Rail, the RAF, the BBC and many more. They also had the opportunity to watch different Scientific demonstrations and experiments that included cannons and humungous amounts of dry ice! It was a highly interactive experience, and the students really enjoyed the hands-on activities and getting involved in a range of tasks. Some were involved in looking at aircraft design, while others explored the technology and machinery behind robotics. Some even had a go at being a news reader, and reading the news live from the BBC News studio!

We returned to Oaklands later that evening with the students really enthused and excited about the Science on show, and the opportunities they had explored that really showed the range of disciplines that Science has an impact on. There were discussions about what kind of jobs students would like to do in the future, and it was evident to the students that a career in Science can lead to work in areas that you might not expect. The students were really happy with the day, and were quick to say that they would definitely recommend it to future students. From our point of view, it was great to hear that the long drive was worth it!



### Eddie Henbury Visit (7<sup>th</sup> July)



Once again, Eddie from Exxon Mobil enthralled some lucky Year 7 and Year 8 classes with his fire, electricity, magnets, laser, special effects and fun filled STEM show. Eddie explained the importance of resources and the impact that we can have on the environment and our health if we do not use them responsibly. There were lots of interactive experiments that brave volunteers helped Eddie with and as a reward they could release his super flame at the touch of a button. Here are some quotes from students who attended:

'We saw floating stuff, flames changing colours, dancing flames and more. I got so scared at some, I screamed very loud and Eddie said that my voice was an example of ultrasound!' **Sharon, 7 St Vincent**

'I had the pleasure of watching a STEM show with Eddie Henbury. The experiments he did, I have never seen and were breath taking.' **Holly, 7 St Vincent**

'If you joined in with experiments, you got to press a button that blows fire. We were expecting a theory lesson, but this was amazing!' **Jack, 7 St Vincent**



## Year 8 IET Faraday Challenge

On 27<sup>th</sup> March, four groups of Year 8 students competed against two other schools from the local area in the Institution of Engineering and Technology Faraday challenge. Students had the opportunity to develop and build a working prototype model of an attachment for a drone, their brief was that the drone was to be used to deliver items, medicines or even aid people in natural disasters. The students had to exchange 'Faradays' for various materials to build their prototype, keep account of their spending and then produce a presentation to the judges at the end of the session. This day allowed students to go through the same process an engineer would when designing and making new products, they had to overcome hurdles when their model did not function as they intended and work really closely as a team. A great day was had by all students and they really valued the opportunity to gain an insight into the world of an engineer.



## Biology Olympiad



Thirty-two pupils across the Sixth Form took part in the nationwide, advanced problem-solving competition for A Level students. Designed to challenge those with an interest in Biology to expand their talents via two multiple choice papers sat online under exam conditions, the British Biology Olympiad requires students to use their biological intuition, logic and imagination to answer a series of questions. With more than 13,000 students from 800 schools across Great Britain taking part this year, we are hugely proud of all our students who took part, and particular congratulations to Blessing Sibanda and Joseph Agathangelou who achieved bronze medals, and to Isaac Grech, Libby Hardwick and Alexandra Iacob who were Highly Commended.

Mrs Gamble, Biology teacher, explains, *"The British Biology Olympiad (BBO) challenges and stimulates students with an interest in Biology to expand and extend their talents. Students are presented with topics and ideas which they are not familiar with, so compete with their problem solving skills and understanding of core principles. In addition to encouraging and rewarding pupils in their studies, the BBO is the first stage in selecting a team to represent the UK at the International Biology Olympiad (IBO). The IBO seeks to challenge by both theory and practical tests some of the top pre-university biology students in the world, with over sixty countries taking part."*

## Chemistry Olympiad

Twenty-five Year 12 Chemistry students entered the challenging Chemistry Olympiad Exam in March.

Congratulations to all of them who received certificates of participation, but particularly to the eight students who reached Bronze level in the exam.



## Excellence in STEM (cont)

### Year 12 Biology Field Trip

**Y**ear 12 students recently travelled to West Wittering Beach for a field-based Ecology investigation. Under the tuition of the Chichester Conservancy Educational Centre officers, the students learnt about species sampling, statistical testing and carried out an independent investigation that linked into their core practical accreditation needed for A Level.

The weather was amazing and the tide was low, so we had the beach to ourselves.



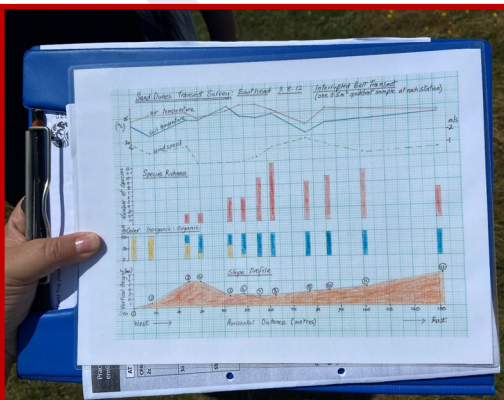
They gained a huge amount of knowledge and confidence in their practical skills; working together as a team that tested their resilience. All of the students showed great spirit and took a great deal away from the experience.

The students learnt about sampling techniques for measuring abundance and distribution of living organisms and methods of measuring abiotic factors, such as soil temperature, inclination of the slope and wind speeds.

Our first activity was an investigation into the abundance of species on sand dunes, linking this to succession and pioneer species as the dunes develop, which has an impact on where species can grow and survive.

After a picnic lunch in the sunshine, we then completed a random survey of the saltmarshes to investigate brackish water Ecology. We studied the differences in abiotic factors between species covered daily by seawater and areas only covered a few times a season and how they influence the distribution and abundance of coastal plants.

It was a very worthwhile trip; the students enjoyed themselves, they worked hard, learnt and practised new skills and improved their knowledge and understanding of Ecology.



We will now be able to statistically analyse all the data we collected to determine the significance of any differences in distribution of organisms or correlations between abiotic and biotic variables.

The students and staff were grateful for the opportunity to take part in a school trip, the first since lockdown in June 2019, and to spend time outside in the beautiful surroundings of our very own Chichester Harbour.

We look forward to taking Year 12 Biologists next June.  
<https://www.conservancy.co.uk/the-conservancy/>

**Mrs A Gamble and Miss V Lenihan**



## From the Chaplain

### The Church doesn't take a holiday.

A few weeks ago, on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June, our priests went back into green vestments for the first time (on a Sunday) since 19<sup>th</sup> February! The Church goes through an intense period through the spring, from the observance of Lent, to the triumphant joy of Easter, right through to the joyful celebration of Pentecost. The end of the Easter season then sees two more huge feasts in the life of the Church: Trinity Sunday and Corpus Christi.

The return of the green vestments, ushers in the return to Ordinary Time; a shift in our focus, a return to "normal". This gear change in the life of the Church, always ties in with a shift in the seasons for all of us. We have reached the end of the school year and the beginning of the glorious summer holidays. The temperatures are hotter, pools are open (or inflated in the garden), and schedules swing into a more relaxed mode, as our diaries fill up with travel, holidays, BBQs and family gatherings.

It would be easy for us to think that Ordinary Time in the Church, means less important, especially given how busy we all are over the summer. But just like the disciples after Jesus ascended into Heaven, we cannot just return to "normal" after what we have experienced at Easter and received at Pentecost. After Christ ascended and the Holy Spirit descended, the Apostles did not rest nor retreat back into the Upper Room. "Ordinary" life became working tirelessly to spread the Gospel. Filled with the Holy Spirit, we too are sent out into the world to share the Good News, to bring joy to those around us, and peace in the places we are called. Ordinary Time is the season in which we *order* our life towards God. Ordinary Time is not inferior or common, but our usual pattern of life. And it is certainly not a holiday!

Perhaps the summer, especially the holidays, are an opportunity for us to make Ordinary Time extra-ordinary. Maybe the change in pace is the ideal chance to reconnect and recharge those spiritual batteries. **The Church does not take a holiday.** When the busyness of term-time, sports fixtures, clubs and commitments keep us from Christ and His Church, and particularly separate us from the Eucharist, the summer is the ideal time to return. If you've not been for a while, go to Mass on Sunday or pop into your local church during the week. Start your day with a prayer, say grace as a family, pick up Bible (or an app) and dive into God's Word, that He may revive you with His love. Reach out to those in need, use this time for works of charity, take time to help the poor and vulnerable.

May we fill our summer days with a tireless pursuit of the Gospel, and share its joy with others; not in big, expressive ways, but in quiet, simple humility and trust. May this period of Ordinary Time, be transformative in our own lives and those around us. Let us not settle for mediocre, but strive for holiness in all its glorious messiness. May your summer be ordinary, in the most extra-ordinary way.

*Mrs S Farrell, School Chaplain*

### Prayer for the Summer

Heavenly Father, Creator of all, thank You for summer! Thank you for the warmth of the sun and the increased daylight. Thank You for the beauty I see all around me and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation. Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family, and for the more casual pace of the summer season. Draw me closer to You this summer. Teach me how I can pray no matter where I am or what I am doing. Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence and light my path with Your Word and Counsel. As I enjoy Your creation, create in me a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## Year 7 Pilgrimage

**A**t the start of the day, we registered in our tutor groups and waited in the playground for Mrs Palfreyman and the RE staff to finish explaining the schedule for the day. Tutors were divided into two groups with a teacher in each. Then, after thorough registration, we made our way towards the drive where we began our journey!

The children had to be in groups of two so they had someone to talk to throughout the journey. We walked past forests so that we could also not only enjoy our walk there, but also enjoy the nature surrounding us. We walked through a tunnel, past modern houses, met many people living in the area and waved at upcoming vehicles driving past. The walk itself was very fun for me as I had my friend to accompany me. We then reached the Sacred Heart Church, where we completed many activities and Mass took place. We went inside the church where we sat down and listened to our Priest, Father Jeremy, talk about how glad he was about us visiting him that day. He also explained the history of the church. We then started our activities, we had mini quizzes and creative tasks in a booklet that we received. Our job was to explore the church and answer as much as possible, those whose booklets appealed to the RE department the most won a special prize!

Finally, after all our activities and food breaks took place, it was time for the Holy Mass. The Mass started with our beloved Father Jeremy and his two altar servers arriving towards the altar. The Mass then continued with a variety of readings, songs, blessings and a homily.



## Annual Schools Mass



**O**n 15<sup>th</sup> June, the Bishop held the Annual Diocesan Schools Mass at Saint John's Cathedral. Ten students attended to represent Oaklands.

The Cathedral was filled with beautiful pieces of artwork created by each school which were displayed behind the altar for everyone to see. It was such a wonderful atmosphere filled with music, celebration and worship. After Mass everyone joined together for a picnic in Victoria Park where we were all treated to ice creams very kindly provided to us by Bishop Phillip. The weather was also on our side as sun cream and hats were needed!

It was so refreshing to have every school in the Diocese come together without the worry of social distancing or restrictions. Thank you, Bishop Phillip, for holding such a wonderful celebration for our schools.

*'It was so lovely to see so many Catholic schools from far away. It felt like we were part of one big community. My favourite part of the day was the beautiful Choir who sang during Mass and ice creams in the park afterwards!'*

**Josephine, Year 8**



## Mission Days

On our return from the Easter holidays, Year 9 and Year 8 had their annual Mission Days on the theme of the Beatitudes, as found in St Matthew's Gospel. The students explored what it means to be happy: the Beatitudes are an attitude for happiness; a blessed attitude. A way of living for Christians; Jesus gives us a roadmap of how to be happy.

Pope Francis says: "The Beatitudes are in some sense the Christian's identity card. They identify us as followers of Jesus. We are called to be blessed, to be followers of Jesus, to confront the troubles and anxieties of our age with the spirit and love of Jesus." The world's idea of happiness is quite different to Jesus' beatitudes. "The Beatitudes of Jesus are new and revolutionary..."

Jesus challenges us to take seriously his approach to life and to decide which path is right for us and leads to true joy. This is the great challenge of faith."

We were very fortunate to have visitors from Harbour Church, in Portsmouth, join us for the Year 9 day, and a mission team from One Church, in Emsworth, join us for the Year 8 day. The students participated in lots of different workshops and activities throughout the day; a real highlight of the day was the students writing their own beatitudes and sharing their ideas of how to be happy with others. Both days ended with a joyful celebration of Mass.



## RE Cross-Phase Liaison with St Peter's Primary School

This Oaklands P4C (Philosophy for Children) journey has been a very fun experience – it's been fun and interesting to learn about God. It wasn't like our normal lessons as it was mixed with P4C as we have learnt all about God and his decisions: we have learnt about Atheists, Theists and Agnostics, which basically means if someone believes in God, if someone doesn't believe in God, and if someone isn't sure if they believe in God or not.

Going to Oaklands these past few weeks has been a good experience to learn and think around questions that we get asked. It's been great!

This has also given us a nice taster at Oaklands School for those of us who are going there in September. These lessons were more advanced lessons that you wouldn't normally get in a primary school environment, like we are used to, so this got us all really thinking and debating.

Thank you for the opportunity.



*Jonah, Pheobe, Ellen and Max  
Year 6 pupils at St Peter's Catholic Primary School*

**M**y Name is Nadia Norman, and I am the Deputy Student President here at Oaklands. In this feature, I am going to share with you some insights into my role as well as the projects the Student Leadership Team has been involved in this year.

Firstly, what is my role and what exactly do I do? My primary job is to be a key support as well as an overseer of the whole leadership team alongside Leona Newman (the current Student President).

My typical day includes checking duties in the Canteen, corridors of Newman Block and Thomas More Block and Music Rooms. We do this to ensure visibility as a team around the school and also to pick up on any issues in these important areas of the school. We wear purple lanyards that have 'Student Leadership Team' on them so if you see anyone from the team, you are welcome to say hello and put forward any concerns that you may have.



Next is meetings. Who do we have these meetings with and what do we discuss in them? Here are some of the meetings I attend;

### **Mr Sumba**

There are meetings with Mr Sumba as he oversees the whole student leadership programme. Leona and I have weekly catchups with him every Thursday break or lunch, when needed, where he will ask us how we think things are going so far as a team as well as individually. We may also suggest how projects could be improved and then he will also comment on everything we have mentioned from his own observations. Mr Sumba will ensure that we are treating our team fairly. For example, if we have given someone a strike for misconduct as a team member or for neglecting their duties- he will want to check that we have dealt with this properly through effective communication with the individual. If this hasn't been done well, he will advise us on how to better communicate next time. Feedback given to us outside ourselves is important in order for us to become better leaders. This job also serves as a learning curve, and we are also consistently learning to improve our current skills which will equip us for the future in any field we go into.

### **The Student Council**

We also have meetings with the student council, which is made up of representatives from each year group. This role is highly significant because it serves as a formal link between the Leadership Team and the students where concerns can be raised and dealt with efficiently. Each member provides a unique insight into life at the school and their contribution is greatly appreciated. If you get the chance to, please make sure to involve yourself in this because it allows for student voice to come through within your year group so you can start to see the changes you want as students. In the objectives I set out during my campaign, I wanted an improved sense of student voice and I think with the progress that has been made within the student council, we have ensured this to the best of our ability.

### **Mr Quinn**

After every student council meeting, Leona and I usually meet with Mr Quinn alongside our Secretary Delia, who takes notes in all of our meetings. The purpose of the meeting is to address concerns raised within the student council. We normally have an agenda (and for all our other meetings too) to ensure that all necessary points are covered in the hour we have with Mr Quinn and it also provides a structure to our meetings so that we stay on track. We will then have another meeting with the student council on Mr Quinn's responses and then allow for another opportunity to raise more concerns.

### **The Individual Teams**

The Student Leadership Team is made up of four key sub- teams: The Charism Team, The Pastoral Team, The Curriculum Team and The Co-Curricular Team. Subsequent meetings happen between these groups. Leona and I will try to attend these as regularly as we can. In the meetings they will discuss how to carry out current projects which will be promoted to the school as soon as possible.



Here are some of the things each Team has been involved in or are planning to do:

- **The Charism team is concerned with promoting the Catholic culture and ethos of the school and college.** They organised the first Culture Week celebrations at Oaklands in February 2023 and have already started planning the next one (it will be in October 2023). They are also working on an outreach programme which has three key components:
  - ⇒ It includes the Backpack project where we fill backpacks with essentials and distribute them to the homeless on the streets or in homeless shelters
  - ⇒ The Orphanage project which involves organising a fun sports event for a children's home in Portsmouth as well as making small gift bags to send over at Christmas time
  - ⇒ The Care Home project where we will take volunteers to Latham lodge to spend time with the residents and help out in the Lodge
- **The Pastoral Team is concerned with improving the students' overall experience in our school community.** They are currently working on a Mentorship system for students from Year 12 and year 10. They have recently made the decision to be based in the 'quiet area' within the school as suggested by Mr Sumba. They spend time talking to and getting to know the students.
- **The Curriculum Team is concerned with improving the students' experience of the curriculum on offer for them.** They are creating a presentation for Year 10 and 11 students to give them information on their post 16 education. This is important so students can become more familiar with these ideas before actually having to decide this for themselves.
- **The Co-Curricular Team is concerned with the school's provision of events and programmes that support the curriculum and leads to personal development.** This Team is working on how to get new clubs in our school.
- **Students 4 Oaklands Students (S4OS)** - This team consists of students from Years 7 to 10 who aim to tackle bullying and other pastoral issues. I'm looking to open communication with this team more so that we can include them in Leadership activities. As the students involved are slightly younger, this means that there will be continuation of the group for years to come, which is of utmost importance for the school as we try to become more proactive in supporting our students.

To conclude, my job is to ensure these groups all work to their best and for the benefit of Oaklands Community, and we hope you will see the impact of these teams next year. This has been a successful year for us and we look forward to next year with hope.

*Nadia Norman, Deputy Student President*

## Our New Peace Garden





## Athletics

Over the summer term, students have been competing in a range of competitions including the District Athletics competition at Mountbatten. Many of the students qualified to represent the district at the County Championships. Luke Cunningham, Esosa Urubusi, Elizabeth Cullimore, Darcee Caruana, Chloe Hunter and Jace Garmonsway were all qualifiers from the district competition. At the time of writing, the Year 7 and 8 Hampshire Championships has yet to take place. In the Year 9 and 10 competition Kitty Brydon came fifth overall in the 800m with a time of 2:26.3 whilst Emma Smart came first in Hampshire over 3000m with a time of 11:11.2. Emma also now holds the school and South East Hants record for 800m with a time of 2:23.0. Onjoro Sumba came third in the 1500m with a time of 4:24.2. In the Junior event, Rhys Banville came fifth in the Discus with a distance of 26.43. Both Emma and Onjoro went on to represent the county at the national championships.



Thank you to Mr Horn and Dr Madureira for their help with Athletics club this year and congratulations to all students who took part in Athletics for the school this year. For more information on how students can join Havant Athletics club, please contact Mr Wade [c.wade@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto:c.wade@oaklandscatholicschool.org)

## 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. This year, our school Basketball teams have continued to experience success within the local leagues. Having won the Hampshire Cup last year, members of the Year 8 team played up a year and helped the Year 9 team win the District League this year. Furthermore, the Year 10 team and the Year 11 team also won their District leagues. Congratulations to all students involved. Thank you to Mr Dawson for his support with Basketball this year.

## Rugby

During the 7's season, our Rugby teams have participated in a variety of tournaments both locally and within the County. Our Year 10 team won the bowl at the Boundary Oak competition to add to their impressive County Cup run. In addition to this, our Year 8 team went on to win the Cup in their competition. Congratulations to all players involved this year.



## Year 7 Boys Track Knockout Team



The Year 7 boys made the final of the Hampshire track knockout competition, after coming third the previous year. The team travelled to the New Forest to compete and were up against a number of strong teams. It became evident that the boys were in with a good shout of winning after the 600m and 80m races. Oaklands came in the top three in all of the races and it came down to the last race, with Oaklands and Porchester both needing a win to secure victory. Oaklands pulled round the final corner of the relay ahead after some brilliant team running, taking the victory and winning the Plate by three points.



## Year 9 Leaders

Each year, many of our Year 9 students choose to complete a Level 1 qualification in Sports Leadership. Oaklands hosted a local tag rugby festival in which a selection of local primary schools took part. For the first time ever, the Spirit of the Games trophy was awarded not to a team, but to the Sports Leaders from Oaklands. Here is a message from the School Games Organiser for Portsmouth, Havant & Waterlooville: *"I thought they were super! At the beginning, they worked with each team to give them a warm up, stretch and mini skills game. They officiated the matches with respectful authority and they were good touch judges too. I thought they were a real credit to their school. Well done Oaklands and thank you!"*



## Karuta Sportswear

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|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Basketball Jersey     | £25.00          |
| Match Shirt           | £24.00 - £35.00 |
| Alternate Match Shirt | £24.00 - £35.00 |

## PE Instagram

**Oaklands PE**

Have an Instagram Page  
Follow us to keep up to date with PE at  
Oaklands

[@oaklands\\_rc\\_school\\_pedept](https://www.instagram.com/oaklands_rc_school_pedept)

## Art Exhibition



Another great exhibition of the GCSE and A Level Art and Photographers' work. It was lovely to see so many students with their families as well as staff, admiring the work that our amazing pupils produce. A diverse mix of sculptures, prints and paintings, clearly showing off the students' passion for the subject.



**A**t the end of this year, we say goodbye to the following colleagues and thank them for all they have done for the Oaklands Community.

### Mr Ludlam

Mr Ludlam started at Oaklands ten years ago, initially running the Alpha Room. Since then, he has been teaching Science, History, PSHE and of course Geography - his favourite subject. Mr Ludlam is retiring and will be spending more time with his grandchildren, watching Pompey, metal detecting and playing piano ... and of course enjoying more time with Mrs Ludlam! We wish him every success in his future endeavours.



### Mrs Bell

Mrs Bell has worked at Oaklands for nine years, joining the English Department in 2014 after a successful placement on her PGCE in 2013. Mrs Bell has taught numerous students across all year groups with such enthusiasm, vigour and charisma - ensuring that every student in her care receives the best possible opportunity for success in English. Mrs Bell's ability to work with all students, demonstrating such compassion and care in every aspect of their lives, is a true testament to her commitment as a person and a teacher. During her time at Oaklands, Mrs Bell worked as Deputy SENCo for three years before making the step to be Second in English for the past two years. She has also been an AQA examiner for many years and her literature examination expertise has been pivotal to enhancing students' success and outcomes in this area. Mrs Bell is moving to Suffolk to be closer to her family and will be joining Thurston Community College as an English Teacher. We wish her well as she embarks on her next adventure and every success in her new role.

### Mrs Besly

Mrs Besly joined Oaklands in June 2015 as our Finance Manager. She quickly settled in and used her wealth of financial experience in the private sector to ensure the Department delivered on their support for the school. In April 2021 when Corpus Christi Joined the Trust, Mrs Besly was instrumental in ensuring that the correct financial processes and procedures were followed across both schools. Mrs Besly has been successful in securing a role as the CFO and Finance Manager at Perrins School which is much closer to her home. We thank her for the huge amount of great work she has achieved for both the Trust and Oaklands and wish her all the very best for the future.

### Miss Andrews

Miss Andrews has been a member of the Learning Support team since 2019 and, as well as quickly having to adapt to support needs during the pandemic, she has supported students across the curriculum to achieve their potential. Miss Andrews is leaving Oaklands to become an LSA in a primary school and is looking forward to the challenge of working with much younger children.

### Mrs Pavlusova

Mrs Pavlusova joined Oaklands in September 2020 with many years of experience working in the school finance environment. She quickly settled in and proved to be a great asset to the Finance Department. In October 2020 Mrs Pavlusova became our Finance Team Leader. After Corpus Christi joined the Trust in April 2021, she was promoted to the ESCAT Deputy Finance Manager, working three days at Corpus Christi and two days at Oaklands. Mrs Pavlusova is now moving to a new role as Finance and Premises Manager, based wholly at Corpus Christi. We say thank you to her for all the work she has done to help the Oaklands Finance Team and we wish her all the very best for the future.

### Miss Sumner

Miss Sumner has been with us since early 2022 and, as an ex-student, has been a valuable member of the team supporting students across the curriculum. She has a 'can do' attitude to all tasks and has provided emotional as well as academic support to a number of vulnerable students by making them believe in themselves and understanding their concerns. Although sad to be leaving Oaklands, Miss Sumner has a wonderful opportunity to develop a role in a career outside of education. We wish her all the best with this new venture.



## Term Dates 2023-2024

**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 28 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      Friday 29 September  
Monday 18 December      Tuesday 2 January 2024  
Friday 19 July

**Student Return:**  
**(September 2023)**

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.**

## **\*\* REMINDER \*\***

### **Year 13 and Year 11 Collection of Examination Results**

|         |                    |                 |
|---------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Year 13 | Thursday 17 August | 8.00-12.00noon  |
| Year 11 | Thursday 24 August | 10.00-12.00noon |

**Further information can be found on our website via the following link:**  
[Exam Results Collection and Sixth Form Enrolment 2023](#)



## **Oaklands Friends' and Parents' Association**

### **Uniform Sale**

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

**1.00-3.30pm**

**Chapel, White House**

**No pre-ordering required**

**Payment with card or cash**

**(Year 11 ... don't forget to drop of your uniform on Results Collection morning!)**



## **Dingbats Answers ... (from Page 11)**

- |                            |                             |                           |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Triangle (tie-and-gull) | 2. Cylinder (sill-inn-deer) | 3. Multiple (mule-t-pull) |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|



# Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College



THE SIXTH FORM  
Oaklands Catholic School

# Open Evening 2023

Meet our fantastic  
students and staff  
see us in action!

SAVE THE DATE!  
Monday  
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2023



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