

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Stakes Hill Road
Waterlooville
Hampshire
PO7 7BW

☎ 023 9225 9214

☎ 023 9223 0317

🌐 www.oaklandscatholicschool.org

✉ oaklands@oaklandscatholicschool.org



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

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

Our Ref: MQ/SM

8 September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back! I hope that you are well and that you have all had the opportunity to relax and have a break during the Summer.

No doubt you will have been following the story in the media about the issues related to RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) found in schools. Our school estate was surveyed over the holiday and as far as we are aware, we are RAAC free. I will cover this issue in more detail in the next edition of the Oaklands News which will be published shortly.

I am sure you will all be aware of the devastating news of the death of one of our caretaking team during the summer. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with his family, friends and colleagues at this difficult time.

We have been busy here at school during the holidays with our ongoing programme of maintenance works, which includes improvements to the slope by the sunken lawn and canteen refurbishment. I would also, once again, like to congratulate our GCSE and A Level cohort this year; more information can be found on the school website. Both sets of results were extremely pleasing considering the journey that the nation's students have been on over the last few years. As parents, your day-to-day support of everything we are doing here at Oaklands has played, and continues to play, a crucial role in securing great outcomes for our students.

At the end of this letter I have included a FAQ section related to transport. If you or a member of your family collects a student by car, regularly or occasionally, it is important that you read this information.

Open Evening, Monday 25th September - Early Close

Our Open Evening occurs this year on Monday 25th September. **There will be an early close and finish for the students at 2.45pm so that the school site can be prepared.** We do hope, however, that as many students as possible will stay to be tour guides. Students who volunteer to be guides will receive a free evening meal and we are considering other ways to reward students who help during this important event. Unfortunately, we are unable to rearrange the buses, so for students who need to stay on site provision will be made.

Year 7 Information Evening, Thursday 14th September 2023, 7.00pm

If you are a Year 7 parent, you will already have received information about this event. It is important that every child is represented at this evening. This event is for parents only and your child is not expected to attend.

Uniform

I have been extremely impressed with the way that the vast majority of students have presented themselves over the first few days, this needs to continue. I am a great believer that uniform should be worn with pride and dignity. Your child will be rewarded for the correct uniform, equally they will be challenged if it is incorrect, particularly if it compromises their own dignity.

The correct wearing of uniform and adherence to the policy of jewellery, hair and piercings starts in the home. Uniform infringements will be recorded through ClassCharts so that parents are aware.

Facial piercings: facial and body piercings are not permitted for students. Whilst this list is not exhaustive, the main point is that only one pair of plain stud earrings are allowed; nose studs, lip piercings, eyebrow bars and studs are not allowed. Again, your support in this matter is greatly appreciated. Some students have taken to wearing clear piercings, these are also not permitted, and students will be asked to remove them.

Hair: there will be some students who seek to experiment with hair dyes and cuts over the summer holiday. Again, I would ask that students do not dye their hair or have extreme haircuts now they have returned to school. With both hair and piercings, students will not be allowed to attend normal lessons if they do not comply with our expectations, they will work in isolation until the matter is resolved.

School shoes: another reminder that students must be wearing black leather school shoes. Leather trainers are not part of our school uniform and if a student is wearing these to school, they will be asked to work in isolation until they have appropriate footwear. I realise that some companies are marketing leather trainers in the 'back to school' section which is not helpful, but they are not appropriate and breach our health and safety expectations.

Make Up: Students should not wear make-up to school, this includes false eyelashes. Please do not allow your child to have false eyelashes professionally done as these are not easy to remove and your child will have to work in isolation until they are.

Mobile Phones

If your child is in Key Stages 3 and 4, please can you remind them that mobile phones must be turned off, out of sight and not used during the school day. The policy is framed in this way to avoid situations where young people spend yet more time on electronic devices which do not encourage face to face social interaction, which is so important for learning social skills as a child grows up. The second concern we should all have is about the appropriate use of mobile telephones. Please monitor the usage of your child's phone in order to ensure that both they and others are safe.

Calendar of Events

As usual, we will publish the term's key dates and events in our next edition of Oaklands News. However, the following events are taking place over the next two weeks:

Monday 11 th September	OFPA Meeting	7.30pm
Wednesday 13 th September	Meeting for Spanish Exchange Host Families	6.30pm
Thursday 14 th September	Year 7 Parent Information Session	7.00pm
Tuesday 19 th September	Info Evening for Belgium Trip	6.00pm
Thursday 21 st September	Year 12 Welcome Evening	6.00pm
Monday 25 th September	Open Evening	
Friday 29 th September	INSET Day	

Expectations

Good attendance and punctuality are vital in school. It stands to reason that if students are not in school, they cannot be learning. Students who are not in school clearly miss out on vital learning opportunities and this affects outcomes in an adverse way. Therefore, you should not make appointments during the school day or take holidays during this academic year. Furthermore, resilience should be developed and students with minor illness, should be in school.

The vast majority of students behave very well in school, they are a credit to you and the school. To ensure the best possible learning environment and therefore outcomes for our students, we naturally expect outstanding behaviour in lessons, any behaviour that disrupts the learning, be that through disruption in the classroom, or attending lessons late will not be tolerated. Students involved in such behaviour can expect to be removed from their normal classroom. The school has set aside increased provision for after school and Saturday morning detentions. We also have reciprocal arrangements where we can place students in other Havant Federation schools. If your child is placed in our inclusions area and still cannot behave you will be contacted.

Lastly, central to the school's values is the promotion of positive relationships and reconciliation when things go wrong. Should your child fall out with another student, please tell them to talk to staff. The school has staff who are well trained in restorative justice and this makes a real difference to the quality of relationships. In this way we are showing respect to others and as a Catholic educational community we seek to resolve any underlying tensions in a peaceful manner.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we look forward to another successful year at Oaklands.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn
Headteacher

Transport Related FAQs

Where do I drop my child off in the morning?

Children should be dropped off on the school drive by the bus shelters. Please note that this is a 'drop off' area only as access is required by buses and other parents. Please only use the visitors' car parks if you have an appointment or need to visit Reception. No parking is permitted in other areas of the school.

What time do students finish?

At the end of the day, the dismissal of Key Stages will be staggered (KS3 at 3.25pm, KS4 and KS5 at 3.30pm). Students will be escorted down the drive by their class teachers. Students will need to leave the school site as soon as their day ends in order to clear the buildings. Students should go straight home. Key Stage 3 students will be permitted to board buses as soon as they arrive. In the event of bad weather and a known delay to buses, students will be given the option of waiting in the Hall.

What time are the school gates open?

The school gates will not open until 3.50pm, as the buses need to vacate the drive. Please do not try to park in front of the school gate before 3.50pm as you could obstruct buses that are trying to enter the site.

What time do the buses arrive?

The buses should be on site by 3.20pm ready for the first students. If a bus is late, the school will contact the bus company.

If I am collecting my child by car where do I pick them up from?

You will drive on to the school site at 3.50pm (no earlier), around the roundabout then back down the drive. The pick-up point is on the playing field side of the drive. Parents must not stop on the bus shelter side of the driveway or on the roundabout.

Where can I park locally to wait for my child?

Parking approximately 10 minutes walk away from the school site is the best option if you are picking up your child by car. Please park with consideration for local residents. If you park in roughly the same area each time your child will become familiar with this. You will then be on your way by approximately 3.40pm rather than waiting until 3.50pm for the gates to open.

Am I permitted to collect my child from the school site on foot?

No: from next week, the school drive is very busy and parents will need to wait outside of the gates.