

No 451

September 2023

Oaklands News



**Culture
and Ethos**
The Oaklands Way

**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

Welcome back, I hope you all had a good and restful summer. A warm welcome to all our new readers of Oaklands News.

Starting the term with some sad news does not set the tenor any of us would want. Sadly, one of our caretakers, Alan Hammond, died in service at the start of the summer holiday, he was 58 years of age. He served Catholic schools for over 35 years, 27 of those at Oaklands. Both the Mass we held in school and his funeral service were well attended by family friend and staff. We continue to remember all affected by this sad loss in our prayers.

We all have the capacity to day dream, I certainly can be guilty of this. We can all conjure up scenarios that are fanciful and completely unrealistic; what if I won the lottery? There is a danger that we as Catholics and Christians can make the mistake of being too heavenly minded to be any use on earth. We have all met people who appear to be unbelievably pious that they come across as being detached from the real world. I have certainly read articles, or listened to someone preaching (YouTube is full of this) that cry out for some down-to-earth application that can focus the point in daily experience. Jesus' message has to find its place into everyday life and be able to make a difference.

During His life on earth Jesus got this, He taught using short stories, populated with people, animals, and daily occurrences thoroughly familiar to his audiences. Not only was this good teaching, His methods tell us that we cannot wash our hands of this world in the hope of another kingdom to come; neither can we sit back and leave it all in the hands of God.

We all have a role to play here in bringing God's kingdom to fulfilment, it is for this reason that in school we put so much emphasis on Catholic Social Teaching. This provides students with the reality of the world they live in and a sense of the work we have to do.



Examination Success (see page 5)

Yet again, students have excelled at A Level, and GCSE. The detail at each level can be found further within this newsletter. No doubt you will be aware that the DfE have gone for a reset with national outcomes pegged back to 2019. Whilst there may be some logic in this, the experience in education for the 2019 cohort was not interrupted in the same manner by the pandemic as the 2023 cohort.

Outstanding Pastoral Care

These achievements are the result of the hard work of students and our very talented and committed teachers. My thanks to the staff who came in over the holiday to administer the examination results. It is always a delight to speak to parents who are full of praise for the school and the teachers when the results are published. Whilst the comments about results are gratifying it has been the flood of comments about the outstanding quality of pastoral care and the superb support for the most vulnerable students from parents that creates the greatest resonance with our ethos. Thank you to parents for this endorsement.

Busy Year Ahead

A busy year lies ahead of us, we have started this year focusing on behaviour and expectations, no doubt you will have seen this in my letter last week. Thursday 14th September was our school feast day, the Triumph of the Cross. Students were given a commemorative pen. Please keep up to date with the variety of activities and opportunities the school provides. Dates and time can be found in the Oaklands News and on the school website.

RACC

I am sure many of you have been following the issues related to RAAC, the moment it hit the headlines, students and parents were left thinking, would my school be affected? Thankfully at Oaklands, following a survey over the summer, we have been declared RAAC free. The problem with this concrete is not new, over 30 years ago I worked as a surveyor for a large construction firm. I remember the topic of crumbling concrete being discussed then. When the truth is out I suspect the number of public buildings containing the concrete equivalent of aero, a material with a life of about 30 years, will stretch into the thousands. That is before you go anywhere near veteran public buildings that have been sold into the private sector.

Whilst RAAC is the issue of the day, there is an underlying problem. How do public services fund critical maintenance of their building stock? Since before I can remember the rebuilding and maintenance of schools has not had the traction it deserves. Currently, 50 schools a year are targeted for a rebuild, the education estate has in excess of 22,000 schools of which about 3,500 are secondary. All schools receive devolved formula capital for repairs, our slice of the cake is around £30,000. Whilst this might sound like a sizable sum, if anyone has just had a modest kitchen or bathroom fitted you will realise it does not stretch very far. This summer we have had to replace the slope by the hall and carry out some basic refurbishment in the Canteen, in addition to a number of other small essential projects we have spent over £50,000.

It is for this reason that we must continue to try and raise additional money through the Governors' Funds (please visit our website for more information [Governors Fund - Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College](#)). Schools can also bid for money from the DfE and we have been fortunate over the years; we recently won a bid to replace our prehistoric heating system, this project starts later in the year. Without this successful bid there would have been areas of the school without heat this winter.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Mr M Quinn

Extra-Curricular Activities

We are pleased to be able to offer a wide variety of clubs including sports, creative writing, STEM, languages, crafting, knitting, debate club, Christin Union, code club, Rock Band, Sing Squad, environmental club, revision help and many more.

Details of all the activities on offer - before school, at lunchtime and after school can be found on our website, via this link:

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

Thank you to all the staff who are running these and we hope that every student will find something to join.

As well as welcoming our new Year 7s and other students new to Oaklands, we also have plenty of new staff who have joined our school community. We would like to wish them a long and happy association with Oaklands.

Teaching Staff:

Miss M Czoch	(Art)
Miss L Miles	(English)
Mrs A Rucińska	(Geography)
Mrs G Robinson	(Psychology, Health and Social Care) (maternity cover)

Support Staff:

Mrs L Creamer	(ESCAT Finance Manager) (joined Oaklands last academic year)
Mrs J Gilmore	(Deputy Finance Manager)
Mrs S Lawrence	(Finance Team Leader) (joined Oaklands last academic year)
Mrs L Austin	(HR/Finance Assistant) (joined Oaklands last academic year)
Ms S Cray	(Finance Assistant)

Learning Support Assistants:

Mrs D Barfoot
Mrs N Radeva
Mrs C Warwick

Prefects and Buddies

Year 11 Buddies and Prefects were commissioned during our school Feast Day Mass last week.

The students are already taking their responsibilities very seriously and are proving themselves to be fantastic ambassadors at Oaklands.

The Buddies have already supported the Year 7 team with their induction days and have been a huge support to our new students as they settle into Oaklands.

The Prefects will be formally inducted into the Student Leadership team shortly. They have so many fantastic ideas as to how they can help make our school community thrive whilst also ensuring we are helping serve the wider community. They will work closely with the Year 13 Leadership team to enact change on behalf of the student body.



Year 11 Buddies



Year 11 Prefects

Another high set of examination results is being celebrated by students and staff at Oaklands, both at GCSE and A Level. For Year 13, it was the first set of public examinations that they had sat due to the pandemic.

This year was always going to be different as the Government had made it clear that results would return to pre-COVID levels following teacher assessment.

The school is delighted to report a very successful year's results for GCSEs. 84% of students at the school achieved Grade 4 or above in both English and Maths, with 54% achieving Grade 5 and above by the same measure. This was a fantastic result from a comprehensive intake of students. Many individual subjects performed particularly well this year. A large number of students from the year group have now started to study A Levels within the school Sixth Form College.



At A Level, 100% of students achieved passes, with 72% at A*-C. The majority of students have gone on to Russell Group universities to study taxing subjects in all of the four home nations.

Mr Quinn said, "Oaklands School is a mixed ability Comprehensive school, so these are a very pleasing set of results. I am delighted that so many students of all abilities have achieved their full potential. Each of our students have demonstrated the will to succeed as they have worked to complete their GCSE and A Level studies, discovering and developing unique talents, nurturing passions, and flourishing into impressive individuals along the way. Whilst for many students achieving the top grades was a significant achievement, for others, the grades they achieved represented a mountain to climb. We are proud of all our students, many having made excellent progress from different starting points."

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College - Alumni

**Were you a student here ... ?
Stay in touch with us and help ...**

It doesn't matter when you left school, whether you're in further education or employment or where you live - Oaklands still needs your help! If you would like to see our exceptional school continue to thrive, please let us have your details by signing up to the Future First database.

Go to www.futurefirst.org.uk

Go to the 'Sign Up' tab

Click 'Former Student'

Type in **Oaklands Catholic School**

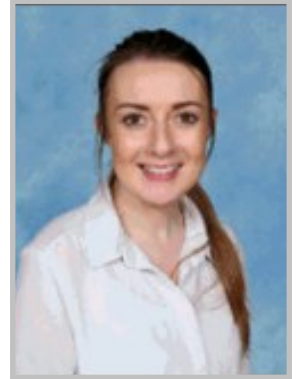


First Days at School

The two induction days for our new Year 7 students were filled with different activities to help them settle into their new life at Oaklands. These included welcome and expectations assemblies, ice breaker and team building activities, visits to the Chapel and some Reading, Maths and Spelling tests.

Many of the students had also attended our transition summer school during the holidays, so by the start of term when all pupils returned, they were familiar with the school site, had made some new friends and were ready to learn.

Mrs Riddle and Miss Campbell



"My first day at Oaklands was fun; people were nice to me and I seriously enjoyed it. The staff and teachers are also very nice and I will definitely recommend whoever I can to come to this school too."

Edgar

"I found the induction days really helpful because there were no other year groups and we had time by ourselves to learn about all the different blocks and get to know the school layout better. We also took part in fun activities and made new friends."

Spike

"Oaklands is great because you can have more experience at doing different lessons with different teachers, like art, woodwork, laser cutting and sketching."

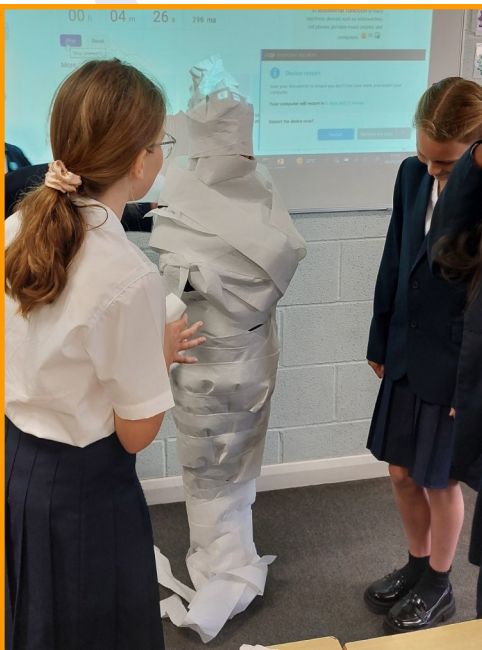
Ethan

"If I am honest, I was nervous about starting Year 7, but after doing some ice breakers like 'who can make the best toilet paper mummy' and the Scavenger Hunt, I was soon having lots of fun. I am now really enjoying being at Oaklands."

Lily

"My first days at Oaklands were very different to Primary School. It was an incredible experience with all the new teachers and the massive school! I am really looking forward to the rest of my time here."

Mason

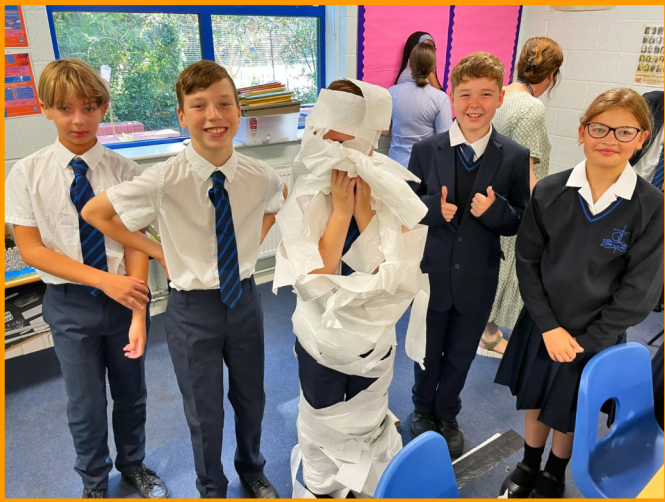


"On Monday I was extremely nervous. I was afraid that I would get lost, or I wouldn't make friends, but the second I walked into Oaklands I saw how nervous other students were and I realised everyone was feeling the same. My friends helped me so I would not get lost, and I made new friends in the first week. I loved my first week at Oaklands and I can't wait to see what will happen next."

Mia

"My first day at Oaklands was a bit nerve wracking at first, but it was very fun and the teachers were nice. I found the induction days helpful because you get to know a little bit about the things you are going to learn. Oaklands is a great school because the students are well behaved and the teachers are nice."

Isla



"I found my first day at Oaklands very surprising. I got to tour the school and I also got respect from all teachers. I found the induction days wonderful because the students were very kind and informative. Oaklands is great because it has a fantastic range of subjects and everyone is very polite and respectful. Oaklands is also very unique because the schools holds Masses and prayers."

Oscar

"Oaklands is great because I always know if I am struggling that I can ask a teacher and know that they will help me. All the teachers are very kind and make things fun. You can make friends and always be able to speak to someone if you have any problems. Everyone is very kind and able to give support. My first day was very good fun. We got to learn about the school and our teachers. We had guided tours and were able to make new friends. I love Oaklands and think it's an amazing school."

Laia

"Oaklands is great and one of my first lessons was Science where we learnt about fires and safety. I am really looking forward to more fun and enjoyable lessons."

Eva

"Oaklands is great because there is a room called J12 where I can talk to a teacher when I'm sad. My tutor is also really good and really nice."

Caitlin

"Oaklands is an amazing school because when you join you are not just part of a wonderful school, but a family of caring adults and children. There are many opportunities and thrilling clubs such as badminton, netball, basketball and some music clubs. My first days were very welcoming and they allow us to make friends and familiarise ourselves with the grounds. Within two weeks I already feel like I have been here for years. This is a great school and I can't wait for the rest of my education here. The teachers are always making sure that you are doing your best and they help you to do so. Amongst all the fun, there are many places to relax, such as the Chapel, which is a safe space to learn and talk to God. Oaklands is an amazing place!"

Ellie

"My first day at Oaklands was great because I learned new things. The Induction Day was great and we had loads of activities to do."

Joshua



World Youth Day, Lisbon 2023

"Let's all repeat this phrase in our hearts: 'Don't be afraid,'" Pope Francis told the hushed crowd. "Jesus knows the hearts of each one of you, the successes and the failures, he knows your hearts," he said. "And today he tells you, here in Lisbon for this World Youth Day: 'Don't be afraid.'"

World Youth day was celebrated this year in Lisbon. Two students from Oaklands, Ruthie and Myleena, attended the event with the Diocese. The group was made up of 50 pilgrims, including Bishop Philip.

The group embraced every part of the World Youth Day programme, as well as Portugal's vibrant capital city. The main events, which were attended by over 1 million Catholics, included an opening Mass, a welcome ceremony for Pope Francis and Stations of the Cross. The Portsmouth group also enjoyed a day-trip to Fatima, catechesis and Mass with Bishop Robert Barron, and an ecumenical event, which took place in Lisbon's Benfica Stadium. Pope Francis even drove past the group, giving them a wave from his car, when they were on the way to their catechesis session.

The week ended with an evening vigil of prayer, and the closing Mass with the Holy Father. It was an honour to have an Oaklands student reading at the final Papal Mass in front of a live audience of 1.5 million people and an estimated global TV audience of 500 million.

Ruthie Quinn shares her experience of WYD, including how she read one of the prayers of intercession during the final Mass, which was celebrated by the Holy Father... along with 30 cardinals, 700 bishops, 10,000 priests and 1.5 million pilgrims!

"Word Youth day, Lisbon, 2023 - the first World Youth Day I attended, and a life changing one. Arriving in the city we were surrounded immediately by thousands of young Catholics, clergy, and others from all corners of the world. I quickly lost count of how many different people I talked to, seeing the sights of Lisbon, taking numerous selfies, swapping anecdotes, and sharing our faith.

One memorable evening, my group went to a concert at the Benfica Stadium. There, multiple young people from different countries, many different languages joined in singing together. It was amazing to sit in a football stadium with over 65,000 people and join in this unforgettable experience.

Having never been to Lisbon before it was lovely to explore it with my friends and visit many of the holy sites. The day we spent in Fatima was especially moving as we were able to attend Mass there as well as viewing the interesting artefacts – most notably the original crown of Our Lady of Fatima!

The pinnacle of the week was the final Mass. We camped out overnight in a field by the water, attended an evening vigil, and were up with the sun. I also was fortunate to participate in the Mass as I was chosen to read one of the Prayers of the Faithful. I sat on the main stage among the other readers and important clergy – and the Pope himself! It was such an honour to represent my country and my diocese in front of all those gathered in Lisbon, and all those watching at home. Despite only having two hours sleep the previous night, and being quite nervous, the reading went off without a hitch.

The one thing I will definitely take away from this incredible experience was the kindness of all the people I met. Everybody was so welcoming and excited to discuss our faith. The priests were happy to answer our questions, and some told us about different ways of supporting the youth in the church – one did DJ-ing and another wrote rock style praise and worship songs!

It was also lovely to attend World Youth Day with our Bishop who talked to us about Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati whose relics we were venerating. It was different to hear about a recent Blessed – someone we could relate and connect to.

It sounds cliché, but this WYD truly has been one of the best experiences of my life. Celebrating World Youth Day has deepened my connection with my beliefs and what my faith means to me."





St Catherine of Siena (1347-1380)

Feast Day: April 29th

Joined the third order of St Dominic. She worked among the poor of Siena and converted many people. She believed in the unity of the Church and persuaded Gregory XI to remain in Rome. She continued to work to heal divisions and died in 1380 still fighting the cause of the true Pope. Patron Saint of Italy. *"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire"*

St Clare of Assisi (c 1194-1253)

Feast Day: August 11th

At the age of 18, she was drawn to the ideal of Christian poverty as practised by St Francis. She established the first convent of the Poor Clares in San Damiano. She governed the convent for 40 years, during which time Popes, Cardinals and Bishops consulted her. She was instrumental in spreading the Franciscan movement, and defended her convent from attack on a number of occasions. She lived a life of extreme poverty and is renowned for serving her community with great joy and devotion. *"We become what we love and who we love shapes what we become. This means we are to become vessels of God's compassionate love for others"*



St Dominic de Guzman (1170-1221)

Feast Day: August 8th

Dominic spent his life carrying out an apostolate among heretics. He sent his friars to preach and teach and once his order was approved in 1216 it spread through Europe. He won the affection of his followers, known as the Order of Friar Preachers. His plan was to provide communities which were centres of sacred learning; members would be devoted to study, teaching, preaching and prayer. These communities still exist today. *"I am not capable of doing big things, but I want to do everything, even the smallest things, for the greater glory of God"*

St Margaret Clitherow (died 1586)

Feast Day: March 26th

Margaret Clitherow lived in York during the reign of Elizabeth I. Her husband was not a Catholic, but he paid the fines for her when she didn't attend the Church of England on Sundays. Margaret hid priests and told other Catholics when Mass was being said in her house. Her own son Henry secretly went abroad to train to be a priest. Her house was searched by authorities and things needed for Mass were found and she was taken to court. She was put to death in a cruel way and her last words were 'Jesus, Jesus, have mercy on me'. *"I ground my faith upon Jesus Christ and by Him I steadfastly believe to be saved"*



St Martin de Porres (1569-1639)

Feast Day: November 3rd

Born at Lima, in Peru, Martin became a barber and studied surgery before entering the Dominican Friary of Lima. He nursed the sick, the destitute, ill-treated slaves and all other unfortunates in the City. He became a much sought counsellor. He is invoked as the patron of all who work for harmonious race-relations. *"Everything, even sweeping, scraping vegetables, weeding a garden and waiting on the sick could be a prayer, if it were offered to God"*

St Stephen (died c35)

Feast Day: December 26th

He was the disciple chosen by the apostles 'full of faith and the Holy Spirit' as the first of the seven deacons. He was stoned to death by the Jews and became the first Christian martyr actively witnessed by St Paul. He was involved in looking after the distribution of alms to widows and to help in the ministry of preaching. *A man full of God's Grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people (Acts 6:8)*



St Teresa of Avila (1525-1582)

Feast Day: October 15th

She entered the Carmelite Convent aged 18 and founded her own reformed Carmelite Convent. She spent her life opening new houses and smoothing away difficulties for her nuns. She was favoured with remarkable mystical experiences. She is a saint of common sense, good humour, generous ideals and has had an influence on the spiritual lives of many Christians. She returned to the principles of poverty and manual work and was the first woman saint to be declared a Doctor of the Church. *"Let nothing worry you, let nothing frighten you. All things pass away but God does not change. Patience achieves everything"*

St Vincent de Paul (1581-1660)

Feast Day: September 27th

Born in South West France, he studied with distinction before being ordained at the age of 20. He went to Paris and began a life of active charity caring for abandoned orphans, sick children, prostitutes, the poor, destitute, blind and mentally ill. A number of priests joined him, known as Vincentians. He organised one of the best known orders, the Sisters of Charity and is patron saint of all societies devoted to works of charity. *"If God is the centre of your life, no words are necessary. Your mere presence will touch hearts"*



“The pastoral care given to students is exemplary. Systems and policies are in place to ensure that students are safe, happy and can prosper at the school. All staff are aware of their professional responsibilities and go ‘above and beyond’ in their care of the students, seeing the value and worth of each individual.”

Section 48 Diocesan Validation Report 2019

The quality of pastoral care at Oaklands is often cited as a reason why students are happy and successful in school. In keeping with our distinctive Catholic ethos, we make a significant investment in the provision of quality pastoral care, recognising that our mission statement of ‘no-one gets left behind’ must be a lived reality. Over the years we have continued to develop a model which is fit for purpose and which meets the many and complex needs of our students.



Heads of Year and Pastoral Staff for 2023-2024:

Mrs Riddle	Head of Year 7
Miss Campbell	Assistant Head of Year 7
Mrs Cope	Head of Year 8
Mrs Cunningham	Head of Year 9
Mrs Over	Head of Year 10
Mrs Mitchell	Head of Year 11

In addition, we have a Pastoral Team comprising of Mrs Standen, Welfare and Safeguarding Manager, Mr Miller, Pastoral Officer and Mrs McCann, Attendance and Alternative Provision Manager.

Mrs Nicholls is our Behaviour and Inclusions Manager.

Mrs Bonnington, the Pastoral Deputy Head, is the Designated Safeguarding Lead and fully trained in Child Protection & Safeguarding along with the fifteen Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. We work with external agencies to support families and children.

At Oaklands, we have a thriving SEN Department, led by our SENCo, Mrs Rowsell. There is a range of support offered to assist our young people who have additional needs in the school environment.

We have a dedicated Student Health and Wellbeing team, Mrs Bayliss and Mrs Welch.

All decisions regarding students being referred for any additional behaviour, social or emotional support are made by Mrs Bonnington and the pastoral team in school.

We also have good working relationships with external agencies such as the Havant Early Help Hub, Supporting Troubled Families, SDAS, PARCS and Catch 22 and we are very well supported by our local police; PC Terence Burke and PCSO Carl Boxall. We also work with Lee Hayward at Online Safety UK which supports parents, students and the school to monitor online behaviour and ensure that students are staying safe online. These all help to ensure that we have access to specialist help when it is needed. We also advise parents when we think a referral to Motiv8, Off the Record, the school nurse or CAMHS is appropriate and support with these.

We know many parents and students have struggled as a result of the rise in the cost of living. We are working hard to ensure that all students and parents who request our support at this time are contacted as quickly as possible to ensure the right help is put in place.

Often, parents find it challenging to know where to turn when problems occur. We would encourage parents and carers to refer to the parent section of the website, [Useful Articles/Links](#), which has articles posted on topical issues.

Home school communication for pastoral issues

Parents should always use the Form Tutor as the first port of call when there are any concerns about their child or if there is personal information that needs to be shared with school, eg. a family bereavement. Form Tutors, where possible, stay with their tutor groups from Year 7 to 11; they see the children every morning and build up relationships with them over time so should be contacted with any pastoral issues.

We would politely request that parents do not discuss concerns related to students with Reception or other staff; they are not in a position to help as they do not know the individual children. All pastoral issues should go directly to the Form Tutor and / or the Head of Year.

To continue to promote good home–school communication, there are dedicated email addresses for each Form Tutor and Head of Year. These are on the Parents' section of the website [Pastoral Contacts](#) with the links for ease of use.

Heads of Year / Form Tutors will check this email address once a day during the working week and parents can expect a response within two working days.

We recognise that emails can be an effective and convenient way to communicate when used appropriately.

Please note that an email to your child's Form Tutor is not a suitable way to communicate if it is an emergency or if it is a matter better discussed on the phone or in a meeting. If it is an emergency, please phone Reception. We are working within the current guidance and will determine, once we know the nature of the issue, whether an email, phone call, virtual meeting or face to face meeting is required.

Supervision of Students

The school site is open for parents to drop off and collect their children. Parents and carers need to be aware that there is no active supervision of the students until 8.30am. Students are to be in school between 8.30am and 8.50am and once on site, they must move to their designated muster areas where Tutors will collect them at 8.50am. Students may also go the canteen before school from 8.30am. Should there be inclement weather, the site staff will advise the senior leader on site who will make alternative and appropriate arrangements as to where students should go, as required.



At the end of the day there is active supervision on the drive until the last bus has gone. We operate a staggered finish time to enable Key Stage 3 students to move from the end of lesson 5 ahead of Key Stage 4 and 5 students. If students are staying behind for after school activities (eg. homework club, detentions) the parent will need to have agreed with their child the place / time for collection.. Homework club operates a sign in, sign out procedure as the start and finish times are entirely dependent on the amount of homework a child has to complete. Detention finish times will be communicated to parents via Classcharts. Staff running after school activities maintain a register of attendance.

At the end of the school day students should be either onsite in a designated or chosen activity, with parental knowledge or they should be off site. It is not permissible for students to be waiting on our school site for significant periods of time awaiting collection by parents. If a student is concerned at the end of the school day or after an activity because a parent has not turned up, then they can report to main Reception up to 4.00pm or find a member of the site staff/ senior leadership team to obtain help.

Please help us to keep your child safe on site by reading these arrangements and co-operating with them.

Friends' and Parents' Association

On behalf of the **Oaklands' Friends and Parents Association (OFPA)**, I would like to welcome all new parents and carers whose children have joined Oaklands this year. We were very pleased to meet some of you at the Induction Evening back in July and hope that we can all work together to support the children and staff within the Oaklands community.

We raise additional funds for the school for those extras that make a difference to our children; recent purchases have included the new sound and lighting equipment in the Hall, display boards in the Hall foyer celebrating the history of the school, new table tennis tables and cricket astro, rucksacks and tents for our Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions and a picnic bench in memory of a much-loved student. We also manage the pre-loved uniform store.



Please see our link on the school website for updates and information, including the price list for our uniform, [**Oaklands Friends' and Parents' Association**](#)

Pre-Loved Uniform Shop

This is currently managed by online orders – please email opa@oaklandscatholicschool.org. Donations are much appreciated, particularly the PE kit and blazers. Parents can either send their children into Student Services with clean, nearly new uniform or come on site between 4.00-4.30pm to drop items off.

Next Uniform Sales:

Friday 6th October - with last orders taken until Wednesday 4th October

Friday 24th November - with last orders taken until Wednesday 22nd November

Children can collect orders from the OFPA Shop (next to the Chapel) from 3.25pm.

Payment can be made via Scopay, cash or using our card reader.

50:50 Club

Parents, staff and friends of Oaklands can purchase numbers in a monthly draw for a chance to win 50% of the monthly takings. To join, please complete the application form on the website and payment can be made via Standing Order or Scopay.

Prom Attire Sale

We are holding a sale for Prom attire, including dresses, suits and accessories on Saturday 21st October, which we hope will attract and help next year's Year 11 students and parents.

Parents will have the opportunity to sell suitable items, setting their own reserve price, with a small percentage fee for the OFPA.

If you would like to receive more information about selling or donating items please complete the form via the link below and we will contact you.

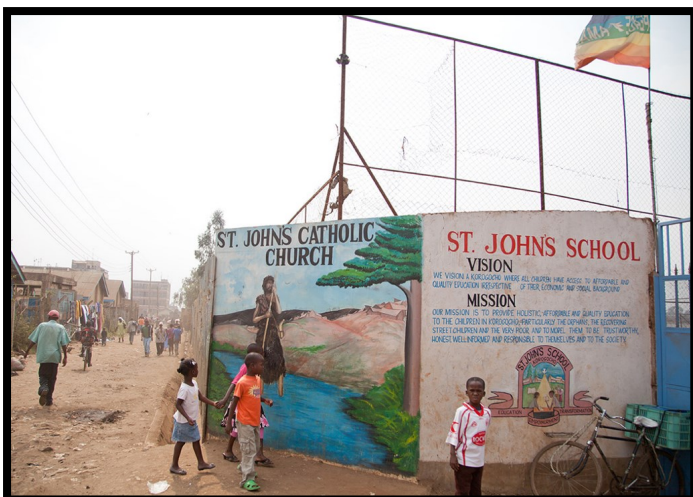
[**Prom Sale Interest Form**](#)

Social Evening

We will be holding an evening social event for parents and carers on Wednesday 15th November in the Sixth Form. This is open to all year groups and will be an informal event for parents to 'drop in' between 6.00pm and 8.00pm, have a drink and a chat, meet new people and find out more about the OFPA. We particularly look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 parents.

Next Meeting and AGM

Our next meeting will be on Monday 2nd October at 7.30pm in the Sixth Form block and our AGM is planned for Monday 6th November at 7.30pm in the Sixth Form block. Please come along to find out more about us or join the Committee. It would be great to meet new parents!

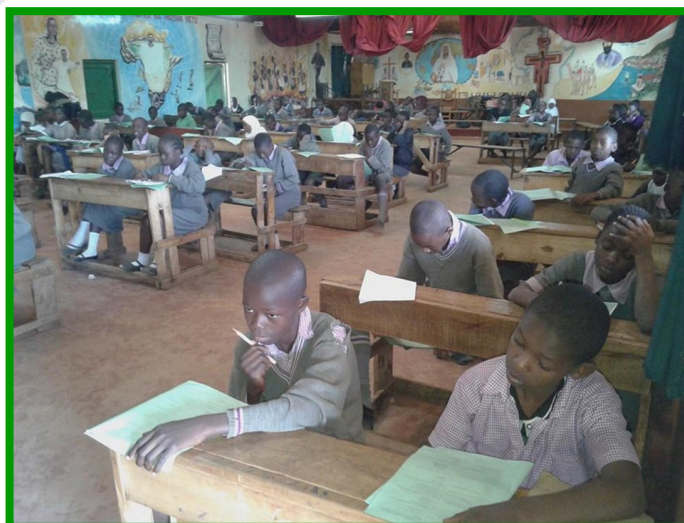


This year, we will continue to support the students at St John's in Korogocho, and we hope to be able to carry on with our fundraising to raise more money for our wider community, all the way to Kenya.

Our annual St John's Week will take place alongside Culture Week from 16th-20th October and there will plenty of activities for your child to join in and help raise funds, including a non-uniform day on Friday 20th October.

We also hope to be in touch with Mr Stephen Mwangi, the Headteacher at St John's over the next few weeks and will report back again in the next edition of Oaklands News.

For more information, please visit our website: [Oaklands St John's Partnership Programme](#)



Attendance Matters

We have been delighted to welcome our students back this September and are heartened by the excellent attendance across all year groups so far this term.

Please do take the time to read the guidance on our website [Attendance Guidance](#), which is from Hampshire County Council's Guidance for Parents and on which our Attendance and Registration Policy is based.

95% attendance is the **minimum** we expect at Oaklands (except in the case of genuine medical cases or significant personal issues which will be known to Heads of Year). We aspire to attendance excellence at Oaklands and will continue to recognise and reward high attendance as well as follow the DfE and Local Authority guidance in the case of poor attendance. Equally, we are being sensitive to individual circumstances for students and families which may necessitate an absence from school.

Please can I ask that you ensure all the contact details we hold for you are up to date so that we can contact you without delay if a lateness or absence needs to be clarified with you. This is particularly important, should we need to contact you to collect your child from school.

The guidance for schools is that we hold at least two emergency contacts for your child (both of whom should be local); if that is currently not the case, please do let us have a second contact and Business Support will be in contact asking for this information.

Procedure for Reporting your Child's Absence from School (for students in Year 7 to 11 only)

1. Parents must telephone the school using the Attendance number 02392 248053 to report the first day of your child's absence by 8.30am. Please leave a voicemail with your child's name, tutor group, reason for absence and their expected date of return. Please note that the Attendance line is busy at this time in the morning, so please do not expect your call to be answered.
2. Alternatively parents can email the absence to absence@oaklandscatholicschool.org (leaving a contact number on the email for verification purposes).

Leave of absence forms (for the purpose of exceptional circumstances only) are available from the Attendance Window. Please ask your child to collect one if you need to request a Leave of Absence.

Please be aware that holidays in term time are only authorised in the most exceptional of circumstances, and holidays that cause a child to miss five days of school are likely to result in a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Many thanks for your support in these matters.



This half term we are focussing on our school's rich culture and ethos.

Last week the students learnt about the rich history of the school and how it was formed by the Sisters of Christ. We pride ourselves on our commitment to honouring the strong ethos that was created by the Sisters and we will be working with the students to ensure that our current school community remains committed to that mission and ethos.

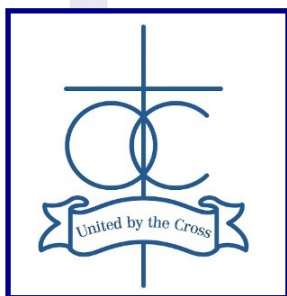


We want our school community to be inclusive and for all students to feel safe and happy at Oaklands. Our Mission Statement is clear: **Community, Unity and Opportunity** are values that run through everything that takes place in our school. We will be rewarding students who exemplify this mission. We are focussing on how all members of our community have a part to play in ensuring that this is the case by being courteous and respectful.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Bonnington
Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead

Expectations at Oaklands



At the start of every academic year, Years 7-11 have an Expectations Assembly during which we tell students what is required of them to keep everyone in our school community safe and happy. This assembly covers general conduct reminders but it also includes very clear Health and Safety instructions - our non-negotiables - so that all students get a clear and consistent message, equally, the school's response should these non-negotiables be challenged. These expectations will be continually enforced through the half-term focus and through tutor time.

When a student joins Oaklands we ask parents to sign a Home School Agreement, implicit in this is parental support of our policies and procedures which are designed for the benefit of all in the community, not least when it comes to keeping our students safe. Our Home School Agreement sets out the high expectations we have, and this is for a very good reason, as we believe a well-ordered school is conducive to personal and academic success.

We therefore look to all parents and carers to support us in maintaining the highest of standards for our students with regard to their good conduct in school and in particular supporting any action the school deems necessary if their child puts the health, safety or wellbeing of any member of the school community at risk.

The final STEM event of the 2022-23 academic year was a fascinating talk provided by Chris Barratt, a security specialist from a company called Draken, who spoke to our Sixth Form students and Year 7s about his interesting career. Chris' career includes time in the Royal Navy as an Aircraft Engineer, working for the Police and British Airports as a counter-terrorism officer and finally for Draken, who work closely with NATO the MOD and other international agencies, developing electronic warfare simulations.



Anjana Shaju, Delia Jose, Leona Newman, Gwenan Hsia and Aditya Joseph

We have previously mentioned a group of A Level students (current Year 13) who embarked on a GOLD Crest Award which was quite unusual. The four students carried out a small clinical study, looking at the effects of probiotic tablets/drinks on the gut microbiome and people's health. Although it was a small study, there were some very interesting findings and it allowed the students to carry out research into an area that is up and coming. They had opportunities to speak to experts in the field and also learned about the legal implications of collecting personal data.

The students gained insights into the problems with analysing data from questionnaires that was subjective and also realised that the gut microbiome was impacted on by many factors making it difficult to draw conclusions.

We are pleased to say that they were awarded GOLD Crest Awards and have helped raise awareness of a healthy gut microbiome amongst staff and students at Oaklands and the wider community. Overall, they found that the Ayurvedic Spiced Buttermilk probiotic drink had a more positive impact than the probiotic tablets. It is clear that more research is required on this topic as a person's gut microbiome is as personal as their DNA and can be affected by stress, water intake, medication, diet and many other factors, including the way a baby is delivered.

Congratulations also to the Year 12 students (now Year 13) who achieved SILVER Crest Awards for their research into sun cream and its effectiveness, using UV beads and a team of Year 13 students who achieved GOLD Crest awards with their project that extracted Aspirin from expired batches of tablets and then reworked it into a new product to see if they could reduce the amount of drug product that is disposed of.

Further **congratulations** to the 28 Year 11 Triple Science students who achieved a Level 2 vocational STEM Leaders qualification alongside their GCSE grades.

Well done also to the four students who earned Learning to Lead certificates.



UPCOMING EVENTS

For the 2023-24 academic year, as part of our Café Scientifique sessions, we hope to welcome back Chris Barratt and also arrange a visit to Draken for Sixth Form students to experience the Drone defence programme.

We plan to include many other external speakers from a range of Careers, including various NHS roles to help inform students and support them in understanding how to access these roles post-18.

We will also welcome feeder primary schools in for STEM outreach activities to give them a taste of Science lessons at secondary school.

Other events to look forward to this year include the Year 7 History-STEM days, a Year 7 visit to the Clanfield Observatory in March, Year 12 Olympiad events, National Science week, the Year 8 Science project fair as well as dedicated STEM days for Years 7-10 and of course Challenge week towards the end of the Academic year. We are very excited to see how students this year step up to the challenges these days set for them and endeavour to inspire the next generation of Scientists, through our various activities and events.

Extra-curricular clubs continue in Science this year, with our Science and Nature club for Years 7-9, which will have a focus on conservation and being more environmentally friendly. We hope to develop the seating area outside Labs 1 and 2 into a more welcoming and bee-friendly space. We will also continue to offer the Silver and Gold CREST Award to Years 12 and 13 and enter our Year 8 students for their Bronze award by submitting their Science fair projects again this year. We are pleased to announce that all Year 8 students entered last academic year, achieved their Bronze Award and their certificates should be coming home with them in the next few weeks. We are very grateful to the British Science Association who provided a grant to sponsor the CREST award applications for our students last year.



Year 10 STEM leaders hope to complete their Level 2 qualification this year and continue to support events at school as volunteer leaders.

Mrs Hardaker

Maths Dingbats

Try to find the Maths words or sayings within the following picture clues.
It really is as easy as saying what you see!

1.  +  +  + 
2.  + 
3.  +  +  + 

Answers can be found on Page 26

At Oaklands, there are two main ways we encourage our students to move towards self-regulating their behaviour to a high standard; one is through the use of praise and reward, the other is through the use of restorative justice and appropriate sanctions.

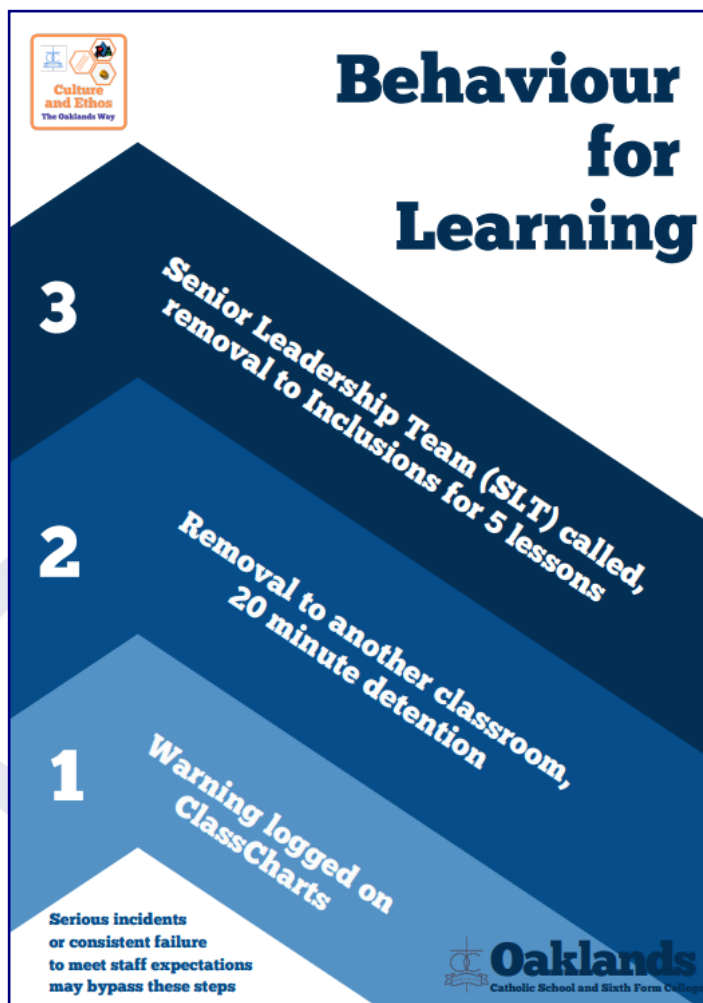
ClassCharts is the main vehicle through which staff can reward students and this year we will be focusing in particular on recognising the effort students put into their work or activities in school, especially where they have showed determination and perseverance. We will award positive behaviour points in line with our teaching and learning initiative 'The Oaklands Way' and this half term focus is 'Back to Basics' so staff will use ClassCharts praise points as a way of commending students who exemplify this.

When it comes to sanctions, there are many reasons why a student may receive one but failure to complete homework is a common reason. Students in Year 7 have a phased introduction to homework to ease the transition between primary and secondary school. This ensures students are given the support they need to develop good habits around the completion of homework. You will be notified of any sanctions via ClassCharts, for afterschool detentions we would ask that you sign your child's planner on the day of the detention to indicate your consent. If a child arrives for detention without consent, all efforts will be made to contact the parent / carer for verbal consent as failure to attend a detention will result in an escalation in sanctions. Again, the expectation is that as parents / carers have signed the Home School Agreement, they will support the school's behaviour policy in this regard.

At Oaklands we use 'Additional Learning Opportunities' (ALO's). These are entirely **supportive** and they are set by subject teachers, to be used incrementally to ensure that a student really understands the work and what they have been asked to do. They can be set when a child has not completed homework or not finished work which they could reasonably have been expected to in the lesson.

They can also help remove some of the barriers which prevent a student from not completing work to a level commensurate with their ability. An ALO will only be given where it is clear a student has tried to complete the work but perhaps needs support; where a student has failed to complete the work due to poor learning behaviours a formal sanction will be issued and logged. There is an expectation at Oaklands that parents / carers will ensure their child attends an ALO as they would want to support their child in overcoming any barriers to learning. There is a clear distinction between ALO's which are supportive and NOT recorded on the school system and detentions, which are a sanction.

If a student fails to take up an ALO or their behaviour necessitates a sanction, again our system ensures an incremental progression.



Detentions move swiftly up the scale if there is non-compliance on the part of a student to ensure the matter is resolved within a two-week timeframe at the most.

Behaviour is very good at Oaklands and standards remain high. This means that overall, we spend more time praising and affirming students than we do sanctioning them. However, this does not happen by chance and we continue to be proactive in maintaining those high standards and seeking ways to work in conjunction with parents and carers to ensure that is the case. Our systems are regularly reviewed to ensure we are maintaining the correct balance with reward and sanction.

Thank you for the support you give in making the Home School agreement a working document in support of the standards we strive to maintain at Oaklands

Mrs Bonnington
Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead

Restorative Justice

Restorative Justice continues to be the main strategy used by staff and pupils to resolve conflict and improve self-regulation and relationships in and out of the classroom. Restorative Justice is based on four key features:

RESPECT:	for everyone by listening to other opinions and learning to value them
RESPONSIBILITY:	taking responsibility for your own actions
REPAIR:	developing the skills within our school community so that its individual members have the necessary skills to identify solutions that repair harm and ensure behaviours are not repeated
RE-INTEGRATION:	working through a structured, supportive process that aims to solve the problem and be happy and safe in school

The purpose of Restorative Justice is to ensure all our young people participate actively in their learning and in school life. We acknowledge that sometimes we make mistakes, we get it wrong, but we want to move away from being quick to sanction, but instead try and work with our young people to evaluate and reflect on what went wrong and what needs to happen in order to put it right through a Restorative Justice process.

This has formed an integral part of our classroom procedures to help us ensure that all students are engaged in the learning environment. Disruptive behaviour has an impact on all members of the class and by encouraging students to have the restorative justice conversation with their teacher during their sanction, we can get them to see this; this also gives students an opportunity to be heard and to ask for help and support.

Every sanction that is set is designed to be restorative, not punitive, students are being encouraged to self-regulate and adapt their own behavior to create a positive and productive school environment.



Thirty students from Years 10 to 13 accompanied by five members of staff visited Iceland in July.

An early start at Oaklands on the Friday 21st July enabled us to reach Iceland by mid-afternoon where the students visited sites associated with the rifting tectonic plates. At Gunnuhver we were able to experience geothermal area, and there was a strange haze caused by the on-going volcanic eruption which was just a few kilometres away. Here, the immense heat generated by the magma at relatively shallow depths is harnessed to generate electricity and to provide hot water. This was also the case at the Blue Lagoon, where we enjoyed bathing in the 37°C water - essentially discharge from the nearby power station.



Our first full day was spent journeying around the 'Golden Circle'. We visited the Kerid volcano - a circular depression formed by an eruption some 5,000 years ago. The rifting theme from the first day was explored once more as we visited Thingvellir, where the divergence of the North American and Eurasian plates is at its most spectacular. The heat, which is the cause of the rifting, was evident as we watched the Strokkur geyser erupt at Geysir. In fact, we had our lunch there sat watching the eruptions every five minutes or so. A short drive from there was Gulfoss: a two-stage waterfall that cascades some 40 metres into a steep gorge carved out by the River Olfusa as the waterfall has retreated over the years. The Faxifoss waterfall, often referred to as Iceland's Niagara, was the final waterfall we visited.

On Sunday, we travelled along the south coast towards Vik – the most southerly point of Iceland.

This coastline en-route is characterised by towering cliffs, waterfalls and vast expanses of outwash plain, which emanate from the Eyjafjallajokull (the volcano that responsible for flight disruption in 2010) and the Myrdalsjokull ice sheets. Seljalandsfoss waterfall was our first stop, where students were able to walk behind the curtain of water which cascades from a forty-metre high cliff.





Although very attractive, Seljalandsfoss is perhaps surpassed by Skogafoss just to the east. Such an assertion is based on scale – Skogafoss is larger in every aspect. Those that got close got soaked at the base of the waterfall, but this was after a walk to the top of the waterfall and beyond. The coastal cliffs were at their most impressive near Vik. At Reynisfjara beach, the low tide allowed us to view the basalt columns. Just to the west was Dyrhóley – a huge coastal arch – which we were able to see from a neighbouring promontory.

The waterfalls are fed by meltwater from the glaciers that we got tantalising glimpses of as we travelled along the coast. Fortunately, the Solheimajokull glacier is an ‘outlet’ glacier, which descends from the Myrdalsjokull ice sheet towards the coastal plain. We had organised a guided tour on this and after being kitted out with crampons, helmets, harnesses and ice axes, we found ourselves ascending the glacier. This is always a highlight for me – a sentiment I think was shared by many members of the group – as the moulins, crevasses and ice caves are remarkable.



In 1973, the Eldfell volcano erupted on the island of Heimaey. It marked one of the few occasions when people have actively combatted a volcanic eruption by attempting to divert the lava flow that was moving inexorably towards the town and harbour. Given the geographical importance, we visited there on Monday. Following a forty-minute ferry journey, we arrived at the port and commenced our trek to the summit of the volcano, where the residual heat from the eruption is still present. In the afternoon, we enjoyed a coach trip around the islands where we visited historical sites, puffin colonies and dramatic coastal scenery. Before our return to the mainland, we spent an hour at the swimming pool on the island. Our final stop was at the Gluggafoss waterfall which was just a few minutes from our accommodation.



Our final day in Iceland on Tuesday 25th was spent in the capital, Reykjavik. During our time there we visited the concert hall, City Hall, the famous Hallgrímskirkja church and walked through the main shopping area and harbour. We returned home to Oaklands late that evening, but not before flying directly over the volcano that was erupting on the Reykjanes peninsula.

Such a trip can't be a success without the support of my colleagues. I would like to thank Mr Godwin, Mrs Over, Mrs Sykes and Mrs Urquhart for all of their efforts. Moreover, I would like to extend my thanks to students as they were a pleasure to spend time with.

Mr Bamford

Welcome Back Year 13 and Year 12 Induction

We started the new academic year with a warm welcome back to our fabulous Year 13 and the induction of our new Year 12.



It is wonderful to see so many of our Oaklands students in the new Year 12 cohort who despite strong competition have successfully managed to secure their place in the Sixth Form. We are also fortunate to have an unprecedented number of students join us from a range of other schools. This wonderful mix and diversity of students helps make us such a unique and special community. I am sure you will join me in wishing all our students every success this year.

Exam Success

The Sixth Form also celebrated exam success with another high set of A Level examination results, with a record number of passes including half of all grades being at the highest A*-B grade boundaries.

In words of Mr Quinn: *"The results achieved by Oaklands Sixth Form College Students were impressive. They are a credit to their hard work and that of our very talented and committed teachers. It has to be remembered that this cohort of students did not complete traditional GCSE exams because of the turmoil brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. The school continues to justify its strong reputation at Advanced Level. The high-grade profile achieved by our students will mean that the majority gained entry to the university of their choice or employment and training."*

These A Level results are tremendous and reflect the hard work and commitment of our students and all their teachers and support staff in the Sixth Form. We can be justifiably proud of all the dedication that has underpinned success and are immensely proud of them all and wish them every success in the future.

Sixth Form Speakers

To kick-off our exciting guest speaker programme we have already had a bespoke session delivered to Year 12 from an external study skills and motivational organisation called Maximise. Maximize work across hundreds of schools to promote evidence-based good study practice, and to help students such as ours to take ownership of their learning.

The feedback from Year 12 was very positive and this has helped give our students a real edge as they embark on their Sixth Form journey.



Catholic Ethos

We have had a very special start to the term with a blessing of the entire Sixth Form by Fr James who visited us from The Sacred Heart Church in Waterlooville.

It was a truly wonderful occasion and Fr James' liturgy was a powerful affirmation of how we are united by the Cross as a Sixth Form family. It was also fitting that we were honoured by being joined for this blessing by our Governor, Judith Hoar who during her many years as Director of the Sixth Form did so much to build the foundations of the success we enjoy today.

Sixth Form Improvements

The front of the Sixth Form wears its new logo proudly in the form of new signage. I am sure you will agree it looks great. Thank you to Ms Whyte for all her help in making this happen.

We have also had the Sixth Form Study Hub (formerly the SF library) redecorated and now furnished, this has helped further enhance the learning environment.

Finally, a thank you to all our students, support staff and teachers for all their hard work in ensuring the Sixth Form to continues to go from strength to strength.

Mr Godwin



PE Kit and Equipment

When taking part in any sport at Oaklands, either during the school day or as part of the school's extra-curricular activity programme, having the correct equipment, including PE kit and protective wear (eg mouthguards) is essential for a student's safety.

Please therefore ensure that your child has a full PE kit and brings this to each PE lesson.

Up to date guidance regarding protective equipment for rugby (including mouthguards and footwear) can be found on our website via the following link: [**Rugby Safety Guidelines**](#)

Thank you for your support.

Mr Wade

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT



U MOUTHGUARDS

The RFU strongly recommends that mouth guards (also referred to as gum shields) are worn for any contact rugby activity (both training and matches). The use of mouthguards can help to protect the teeth and face. However, there is currently no conclusive evidence that mouth guards can reduce the risk of concussion.

It is recommended that mouthguards are custom-fitted. There are alternatives available, such as boil in the bag or pre-moulded mouth guards, which generally provide a reduced level of fit and protection, so this should be a consideration when making a decision on which type to buy.

There is currently no recognised British Standard kite-mark for mouth guards but they are classed as items of personal protective equipment (PPE) and therefore should have a CE mark. This means the mouth guard is compliant with appropriate British and EU testing and standards.

Many dentists will offer a custom-fit mouth guard provision and there are also a number of companies who provide this service. Clubs/schools should ensure that these companies are reputable and provide an appropriate service. In any case, it is important that mouth guards have a CE mark.

Schools and clubs may choose to make the wearing of mouthguards by players compulsory. Where this is the case, they should have a clear policy around checking whether a player may participate if they don't have one available.

There are certain values that underpin education in a Catholic school. While each Catholic school, as a community of faith, will have Christ and his teachings at the centre of what they do, they will also have values that are core to their being. At Oaklands, we can say that the principles of Catholic Social Teaching summarise our core values. ([Watch this short video clip we made that explains how Catholic Social Teaching is at the heart of what we do at Oaklands](#)).

Catholic Social Teaching is a body of teachings from popes, bishops and theologians on what it means to be a Christian in today's world. In other words, it is looking at what the teachings in the Bible imply for society and community living. Catholic Social Teaching principles help Christians respond to what they say in the Lord's Prayer, '...Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven...'

At Oaklands, we have chosen to focus on these eight principles:

Human dignity	Solidarity	The common good
Care for creation	Peace	Dignity of work and participation
Option for the poor	Rights and responsibilities.	

Every week, we look at how we can put these Catholic Social Teaching principles into action in our classrooms as well as in our everyday life in the school. We want these principles to inform everything that we do in our school. For example, **solidarity** is the belief that we all belong to each other and must stand side by side, supporting each other. It means a recognition that to lead a fulfilling life, we all 'need' one another, no one has all the answers, we depend on each other. In practical terms, this means that staff will try to be consistent in their approach to classroom behaviour management, because they know that what each of them does in their classroom has a direct impact on what happens in another colleague's classroom. For students, an example of solidarity would be standing up for each other, especially in cases of bullying or reporting something that is not right. As a school community, we view all our charity work as an example of standing in solidarity with those in need, for example, we have continued to support the education of children at St John's school in Korogocho slums in Nairobi.

Another principle that we explore is the **common good**. This is the belief that all need to work for the benefit of all, we all belong to one community, the human race, and therefore we all need to work together so that each and every one can have a good life. The resources of the earth are for all people, not just some. In practical terms, following this principle means using the resources given to us well, avoiding wastage as well as well as looking after common resources like photocopiers, kitchens, classrooms and workrooms. For students, we found that we could use this principle to help them re-evaluate their use of common resources, like their toilets, responsibly.

Here at Oaklands, when we celebrate our Culture Week, we will be putting this principle into action.



Other steps taken to embed these principles include all departments mapping out how they can be included in their taught curriculum. We have a section in our weekly Staff Bulletin explaining how we can put into action one principle in that week. The principles are included in our weekly liturgical assemblies, where they are linked to our acts of worship and reflection. They are also included in our weekly pastoral The Oaklands Way and Sixth Form Bulletin to support our students to reflect and think how they can put that week's principle into action.

If you have the opportunity to come into school, you will see big posters on each of the principles in different buildings. This is to ensure that these principles are visible to all and that they become our point of reference. If you would like to know more on how we are embedding Catholic Social Teaching principles in our school, then please contact Mr Sumba.

We currently have vacancies for Parent Governors and Foundation Governors on our Governing Body and would like to fill these positions as soon as possible.

The Governors of a Catholic school work as a team, in close co-operation with the Headteacher and all the staff.

Parent and Foundation Governors share the responsibilities of all governors:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff;
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

We feel sure that there are members of our parent community prepared to take on this important role and give their time and commitment to helping us to continue to improve the school's performance. There are incidentally great benefits in terms of personal development and wider experience in an important and dynamic field.

In addition to the above, Foundation Governors are appointed specifically to ensure:

- That the religious character of the school is preserved
- That the school is conducted in accordance with its trust deed
- That the religious education curriculum is in accordance with the Bishop's policy for this Diocese

The Governing Body would benefit from people with current or recent professional experience in accountancy, finance, marketing, project management and logistics. We feel sure that there are members of the Catholic community prepared to take on this important role and give their time and commitment to helping us to continue to improve the school's performance.

There are great benefits in terms of personal development and wider experience in an important and dynamic field. As ever, we are keen to best reflect the rich diversity we have in our school community and encourage expressions of interest from all practising Catholics willing to give of their time.

If you feel you might be ready for the challenge please email our Clerk to Governors, Mrs Claire Colley, c.colley@oaklandscatholicschool.org for an application form by Friday 29th September.

ARE YOU LOOKING TO HIRE A GREAT VENUE?

Oaklands has a number of facilities available to hire.

**Theatre Style Hall Sports Hall & Gym ICT Suites Classrooms
Kitchen & Catering Facilities**

We can also facilitate

Meetings

Conferences

Training Days

Our extensive grounds and sunken lawn provide the perfect setting for Social Gatherings

If you would like more information regarding any of our facilities please contact Amy Simmons



*Tel: 02392 259214
Email : lettings@oaklandscatholicschool.org
Scan our lettings QR Code*

Visiting School

Oaklands is an orderly safe place, where relationships between staff and visitors, especially parents/carers, demonstrate mutual respect and recognition of shared responsibility for pupils' welfare and educational progress. Parental involvement is an important factor for a successful education and in dealing with emerging problems at an early stage.

We are still limiting visitors to the school to help keep our community safe, so we would ask that where possible, parents do not turn up to school without a prior appointment.

On occasion, the telephone manner of some parents has been inappropriate and the behaviour of a few parents/carers has caused severe disruption or worse, resulting in abusive or aggressive behaviour towards staff, pupils, or other members of the school community. Please remember that in a large school like Oaklands, specific concerns need to be addressed by the appropriate member of staff and our Reception staff will always seek to direct you to the right person. Equally, staff have full teaching timetables and will respond when they can.

The Governors are responsible for protecting the health and safety of their staff and pupils. Behaviour which includes abusive or threatening language, inappropriate demeanour or invasion of personal space against school staff or other members of the school community will not be tolerated. Everyone has a right to expect that the school is a safe place in which to work and learn. There is no place for inappropriate threatening behaviour or abuse in schools.

Where such an incident does occur, the Governors will play a proactive role in taking all possible action to deal with it. Day to day access to a school is within the control of the Headteacher.

And finally ...

Please remember to label all items of clothing so that if items are left in classrooms or found outside they can be returned to their owners.

Dingbats Answers

1. Compound Area (Comb-pound-hair-ear)
2. Pie Chart
3. Diameter (Die-am-e-tear)

Free School Meal Declaration

If any child is adopted from care, they may be eligible for additional support in school through the pupil premium+ funding. Parents can contact Mrs Bonnington in confidence to self-declare if this is the case, providing evidence of the court papers.

School Reports

If you are a parent who requires a duplicate copy of school reports please can you contact your child's Head of Year.

Our SIMS system does not allow us to have two 'priority 1' contact details so we hold a register of any family when such a request is made to ensure all parents and carers can obtain their child's report in a timely manner.

Medicines in School

If a student is prescribed regular medication, to include inhalers and epi-pens, please ensure that an Administration of Medicines form is completed and handed into Student Services with the medication in its original box, the student's name, dosage and frequency of administration. The form is available to download from our website or from Student Services.

Parking



A reminder to parents who are collecting and dropping off their children at school; please do not block driveways, park on the white lines or double yellow lines or grass verges in local residential areas. It is important that consideration is given to residents who live in these areas around the school.

Parking outside the school on the ZIG-ZAG lines is an endorsable offence. We have been told that this will be enforced.



St. Peter's Catholic Primary School

"A welcoming school for all families in the Waterlooville area"

Open Days 2023

Tuesday 3rd October 2023: 9.30 - 11.00am
 Tuesday 10th October 2023: 1.15 - 2.45pm
 Wednesday 18th October 2023: 1.15 - 2.45pm
 Wednesday 1st November 2023: 9.30 - 11.00am
 Monday 6th November 2023: 1.15 - 2.45pm
 Tuesday 14th November 2023: 6.00 - 7.30pm
 Thursday 16th November 2023: 9.30 - 11.00am



The Headteacher, Mr. Cunningham, warmly invites all families who have to make this decision in the near future to join us on one of our Open Days this Autumn. No appointment necessary, just arrive for the start time of any of the dates listed above.

St. Peter's Catholic Primary School, Stakes Hill Road, Waterlooville, PO7 7BP
adminoffice@stpeterswaterlooville.hants.sch.uk
 Telephone: 023 9226 2599



Hampshire SENDIASS has produced a new information video for parents and professionals to showcase what the service offers and what those accessing the service can expect. The video can be viewed below, or on their social media: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/279830244732587>

SENDIASS stands for Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Information Advice & Support Service. Hampshire SENDIASS offers accurate, up to date and impartial resources and information about the law on special educational needs and disability.

They provide information in many ways, including on **their website**, through publications or at training events and conferences. Sometimes information is not enough. Parents may want help to gather information, make sense of it and apply it to their own situation. In these cases advice may be offered this service by email, on the telephone and through work with groups.

If parents have checked the information and had advice but are unable to advocate for themselves without further support e.g. if your case is very complex or if they find it hard to communicate, Hampshire SENDIASS may be able to provide one-to-one support until they reach a stage where they feel able to proceed without help.

Hampshire County Council Family Information and Services Hub

Hampshire County Council's new look Family Information and Services Hub (FISH) is **now live!**

Please take a look at all the information and support available for families:

<https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/home.page>

A number of parents and young people have been worked with HCC to make the pages more engaging and accessible. The pages have been made easier to navigate, and there are new accessibility features, mobile compatibility and even translation functionality.

As a reminder, FISH has information and advice under the following categories:

- Hampshire Local Offer
- Childcare and Early Years Education
- Family Support
- Activities Leisure and Play
- Young People
- Employment Training and Learning
- Connect4Communities
- Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

Users are able to choose to view the above topics where they will be provided with relevant information.

Parent Prayer Group

One way to help our students through their journey at Oaklands is to pray for them and ask for the Holy Spirit to guide them throughout life.

We are very pleased to be able to hold a parents' Prayer Group that meet every Friday morning in the Chapel for a cup of tea and to pray the Rosary.

If you are an Oaklands parent or carer and want to be involved in our community, please join us in the Chapel every Friday morning (term time) at 9.00am for prayer, a cuppa and a catch up.

God bless you.

Mrs J Semple, Chaplain

Admissions 2024

The process of applications for next year's Year 7, September 2024 is already underway.

In addition to the online Local Authority Common Application Form (CAF), we request that all parents/carers complete our **Supplementary Form (SIF)** and return this to the school. This Form provides additional information for the Governors in placing applications in the correct oversubscription category.

The Supplementary Information Form can be collected from the school or downloaded from our website, [School Admissions - Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College](#)

Completed Supplementary Forms should be returned to our Admissions Secretary, Mrs C Pasterfield, in advance of the closing date of Monday 31st October 2023.

If you have any queries regarding our admissions process, please contact Mrs C Pasterfield, Admissions Secretary via email admissions@oaklandscatholicschool.org or by telephone, 02393 234034.

Please remember, the closing date for applications is Monday 31st October 2023.

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:

Fri 1 September 2023
Mon 18 December
Fri 19 July

Fri 29 September
Tues 2 January 2024

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

Term Dates - Autumn Term 2023

Friday	1 September	INSET Day - School Closed
Mon-Tues	4-5 September	Phased return for Year 7, Year 12 and Year 13
Wednesday	6 September	All Students Return
Monday	11 September	Year 7 CAT Tests (to 16 September) OFPA Committee Meeting (7.30pm)
Thursday	14 September	Year 7 Parent Information Session (7.00pm)
Wednesday	20 September	Full Governors' Meeting
Thursday	21 September	Year 12 Welcome Evening (6.00pm)
Monday	25 September	Open Evening (5.00-8.00pm) (Early finish for students at 2.45pm)
Friday	29 September	INSET Day—School Closed
Monday	2 October	Year 10 Assessment Week Governors' Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting OFPA Committee Meeting (7.30pm)
Tuesday	3 October	Open Morning (by appointment)
Thursday	5 October	ESCAT Directors' Meeting
Monday	9 October	Year 8 Book Sharing Week Governors' Business & Collaboration Committee Meeting
Thursday	12 October	Open Morning (by appointment) Sixth Form Open Evening (5.45pm and 6.45pm)
Monday	16 October	Culture Week (including St John's Week)
Wednesday	18 October	Year 8 Parents' Evening (in the Hall) (4.30-8.00pm)
Friday	20 October	Non-Uniform Day Culture Week Shows
Saturday	21 October	OFPA Prom Attire Sale
Mon-Fri	23 - 27 October	Half Term
Monday	30 October	Year 9 Core Tests Week
Monday	6 November	Governors' Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting OFPA Committee Meeting and AGM (7.30pm)
Wednesday	8 November	SEN Parents' Consultation
Monday	13 November	Anti-Bullying Week Governors' Ethos & Strategy Committee Meeting
Wednesday	15 November	Year 7 Disco (6.00-8.00pm) OFPA Social Event for Parents/Carers (6.00-8.00pm)
Monday	20 November	Year 9 Book Sharing Week Governors' Business & Collaboration Committee Meeting
Wed-Thurs	22-23 November	Year 11 English and Maths Practice Exams
Monday	27 November	Year 11 Mock Exams commence (to 8 December)
Wednesday	29 November	Full Governors' Meeting
Thursday	30 November	Year 9 Parents' Evening (in the Hall) (4.30-8.00pm)
Monday	4 December	Governors' Admissions Committee Meeting OFPA Committee Meeting (7.30pm)
Tuesday	5 December	Christmas Music Concert (7.00pm)
Wednesday	6 December	Nasal Flu Vaccinations (Years 7-11)
Thursday	7 December	ESCAT Directors' Meeting
Wednesday	13 December	Christmas Carol Service (7.00pm)
Friday	15 December	Last Day of Term for Students
Monday	18 December	INSET Day - School Closed

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

Assessment and Parents' Evenings

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 7	11-15 Sept Y7 CATs in JP rooms			14 March Y7 Parents' Evening		3-7 June Y7 Tests Week
Year 8	18 Oct (Wed) Y8 Parents' Evening				20-24 May Y8 Tests Week	
Year 9		30 Oct-3 Nov Y9 Core Tests 30 Nov Y9 Parents' Evening	8-12 Jan Y9 Option Subject Tests		7-10 May Y9 Tests Week	1-5 July Y9 Speaking & Listening / Oral Assessments
Year 10	2-6 Oct Y10 Assessment Week		24-25 Jan Y10 Eng / Ma Exam		23 May Y10 Parents' Evening	17-27 June Y10 Tests Week (between these dates)
Year 11		22-23 Nov Y11 Eng / Ma Exam 27 Nov - 8 Dec Y11 Mocks	11 Jan Y11 Eng Exam 11 Jan Y11 Parents' Evening (Mock Grades Home 8/1)	11-14 Mar Ma/Eng/Sci/RE Exams	Dates tbc MFL Speaking Exams Main Exam Season	
Year 12			15-19 Jan Y12 Assessment Week	22 Feb Y12 Parents' Evening	22 April-3 May Year 12 Mocks (Study Leave)	
Year 13				19 Feb-1 March Y13 Mocks 27 March (Wed) Parents' Evening	Dates tbc Main Exam Season	

All Parents' Evenings will be held in the Hall or Sixth Form

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

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 7	19 Oct LBV for all subjects HW for Eng/Ma/ Sci/RE		8 Feb LBV for all subjects Att/HW for Eng/Ma/ Sci/RE/MFL/Geog/Hist			12 July Written reports with Att/LBV/HW grades for all subjects
Year 8		14 Dec Att/LBV/HW for all subjects		27 March Att/LBV/HW for all subjects		12 July Written reports with Att/LBV/HW grades for all subjects
Year 9		14 Dec Att/LBV/HW for all subjects	2 Feb Written Reports with Option subject tests and Att/LBV/HW grades for all subjects			12 July First GCSE grades and Att/LBV/HW grades for all subjects
Year 10	19 Oct Assessment Grades Home Att/LBV/HW for all subjects	14 Dec Att/LBV/HW for all subjects			2 May Written Reports and Att/LBV/HW grades for all subjects	12 July Exam grades and summer work
Year 11		9 Nov Written Reports and Att/LBV/HW grades for all subjects	8 Jan Mock Grades + LBV/HW	27 March Final predictions and Tutor Reports		
Year 12		17 Nov Att/Attitude for all subjects	8 Feb Written Reports and Att/Attitude grades for all subjects		22 May Exam Grades/ Attitude/UCAS Predicted Grades	
Year 13		28 Nov Written Reports Att/Attitude for all subjects		25 March Mock grades/ Attitude and final predictions		

All dates are when grades/reports will be sent to parents

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



Oaklands
Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Open Evening

**Monday
25th September
2023
5-8pm**

**oaklandscatholicschool.org
Stakes Hill Road, Waterloo, Wiltshire,
P07 7BW
02392 259214**

