

# Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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

Our Ref: MQ/SM

20 October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

The summer break seems all but a distant memory now and youngsters have been at school for seven weeks. I don't normally produce a newsletter at this time of year; however, I want to keep the communication stream alive. Within this letter there are a number of links to important documents that can be found on our school website. I would encourage all parents to read these.

I would like to say how humbled and proud I am of the Oaklands staff team and our students who have, once again done everything that has been asked of them and much more. My staff and the students have continued to go the extra mile. This is abundantly evident in the commitment to the extra-curricular life of the school and the pastoral care offered. Staff and pupils should be proud of their efforts and reflect positively on their work this term, which has resulted in the school continuing to go from strength to strength.

## Attendance

A key reason for success at school is very strong attendance. I encourage you to ensure that your child attends school every day. If your child is genuinely ill, please ensure that you follow the school procedure and contact the absence line.

## Achievements over the Autumn Term

The achievements of the pupils this term have been substantial in both an academic sense and through service to the community. Our cultural week started on Monday and finishes with cultural week performances on Friday.

## Sixth Form College Open Event

Thank you to all families of Year 11 students who attended the Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October. Admission information can be found on the school website by following [this link](#).

If any families were unable to attend and would like to come and have a meeting with Sixth Form staff about subject combinations or application concerns, please do contact us in Sixth Form [oaklandssixthform@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto:oaklandssixthform@oaklandscatholicschool.org) or 023 9225 9214. Deadline for application to Sixth Form is 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023, though students will be sent their offer soon after completing their online applications.

## Year 11 Mocks

The mock examinations for Year 11 will take place towards the end of the term, details will be issued by separate letter. Students should already be preparing for these. Almost all Year 11 students have met with a member of our Senior Leadership Team and have analysed their end of Year 10 test results and discussed revision strategies needed to help them achieve their full potential.

## Homework

It has been encouraging to see our Year 7 students make such a positive start to their time at Oaklands. The phased introduction of homework to this year group continues after half term with the addition of Geography, History and Modern Foreign Languages (French and Spanish). The homework timetable can be found on the school website by following link.

Over the years, homework has featured as a regular topic in my mail bag, parents talk of too much or too little in equal measure. This year we have altered the frequency of homework for all students in Key Stage 3. Additional homework task to stretch and challenge students can be found on the school website by following [this link](#).

## Expectations

Our expectations, as you would want them to be, are high. Our teachers are continuously improving the quality of their teaching and the standard of feedback, together with target setting to ensure that your child knows what to do to in order to succeed. The atmosphere that is created within a classroom by staff and students alike is crucial with regard to maximising progress. Students must arrive ready to learn; this includes having the correct equipment and a reading book. I would ask that over half term you check your child's school equipment and replace anything that is missing or broken. If any family is struggling with the cost of these items, please contact your child's Head of Year and we can provide preloved or subsidised equipment.

We are delighted with how many praise points have been awarded across the year groups already. Parents can access these through the ClassCharts App. Details can be found by following [this link](#). If you have any issues logging into Class Charts or would like your login details, please email [classcharts@oaklandscatholicschool.org](mailto:classcharts@oaklandscatholicschool.org). It is crucial that you have access to this, as valuable information about your child's education, including important announcements are placed on there.

Positive behaviour is a fundamental part of the school's ethos as it impacts on the daily life of everyone in the school and the wider community. The Havant Federation of Schools, of which Oaklands is a part, has issued several joint statements regarding a collective approach to reinforcing high standards across a range of school issues which we support. The statements can be found on our website, [Havant Federation Joint Statements](#), and focus on:

- Relational Conflict and Bullying
- Mobile Phones and Social Media
- Standards, Expectations and Attendance

I would ask that you take time to read them again as they form the basis of the approach taken by all schools in the Havant area.

This term a number of parents have attended school, or rang in demanding to talk to staff. This is not appropriate. Staff are always happy to speak with parents when convenient. Please follow our parental engagement guidance via [this link](#).

### **Pre-Loved Prom Attire Sale**

A final reminder about the OFPA Pre-Loved Prom Attire Sale, which takes place tomorrow, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October from 9.30-12.00noon in our Sixth Form Block. No booking is required, just come along, browse, try and buy.

### **Cycling to School**

When the clocks go back and the nights draw in, the British weather invariably gets worse which leads to a loss of visibility on the roads, and pedestrians and cyclists are particularly vulnerable. Whilst I would want to encourage students to cycle, they must wear an appropriate safety helmet. I know from personal experience that a cycle helmet can be a life saver.

### **End of the Day Routines**

An increasing number of parents are driving on to the school site before the end of the day. This is not permitted. Please follow the guidance provided to parents in my letter published at the start of term. A copy can be found by following [this link](#).

### **Communication**

If you change address, e-mail address or mobile phone number then please let us know. It is now a requirement for schools to have at least two emergency contacts for each child, so if we do not already have this information, you will be contacted and asked to provide it.

Thank you for your prayers and continued support for the school.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn  
**Headteacher**