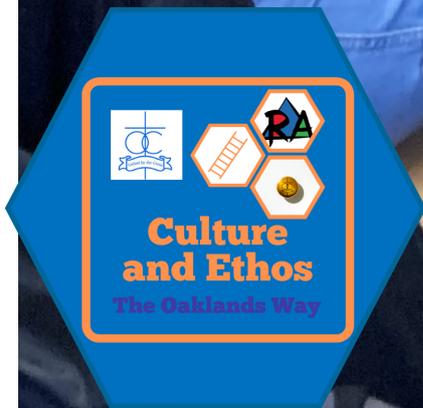


Oaklands News

No 452

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A publication for
**Oaklands Catholic School
and Sixth Form College**



Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

From the Headteacher's Desk

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You'd have to be made of stone not to shed a tear when Spider-Man told Tony Stark, "*I don't feel so good*", before fading away. Or, what about that iconic line, "*I am Iron Man*", said by Tony as he gave his life to bring life back to half of the universe with a snap of the Infinity Gauntlet?

The pattern of death and resurrection is common in superhero movies. This is because at their core, they are all trying to copy the most heroic act in history – Jesus Christ's birth, death and resurrection.

One of my favourite TV heroes is Dr Who. Over the years, the Doctor's character has developed from that of a mad scientist to an eternal hero whose legend is whispered throughout the universe. Over time and space the writers have explored a number of very Christian themes. One of my favourites occurred back in 2007. In a story over two episodes the Doctor is on the run from the Family of Blood. He masks his time-traveling DNA to become fully human to hide in 1913, believing himself to be the schoolteacher John Smith. As Smith, the Doctor falls in love with nurse Joan Redfern, but when his alien adversaries track him down, the Doctor is faced with an agonising choice: he must give up the human life that he longs for, with human love, family and mortality, to become the Doctor again. He must die to save others, but he will be reborn as the Doctor. The episode also contains a revealing description of the Doctor by one of Smith's students. He says of the Doctor, "*I've seen him. He's like fire and ice and rage. He's like the night and the storm in the heart of the sun. He's ancient and forever. He burns at the centre of time and he can see the turn of the universe. And he's wonderful.*"

This narrative echoes the description of Jesus found early in the book of Revelation: "*The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.*"

If you hunt down on YouTube the trailer for the 2005 Dr Who reboot, the Doctor's words of invitation echo Jesus' call to follow him: "*Do you wanna come with me? Because if you do, I have to warn you – it won't be quiet, it won't be calm, it won't be safe. But I'll tell you what it will be – the trip of a lifetime!*"

In the Doctor, we have an echo of the true and better Time Lord: Jesus Christ. The world is crying out for a hero, and while I love our on-screen heroes as much as any other, those stories are fantasies. However, in Jesus Christ we have a true hero, to be born a hero is a rare breed. Christmas is the time we celebrate His coming to earth on the greatest rescue mission ever. And this rescue mission brings the greatest gift any human being could ever receive - forgiveness of sin and thus reconciliation with God.

Busy term

On behalf of you all, I would like to thank all the staff, teachers and support staff for their commitment and hard work this term. Year 11 have just completed their latest round of mock examinations, these tests bring into sharp focus the fact that for them, almost half of the academic year has now gone. For both GCSE and A Level, the DfE are suggesting business as usual. I am acutely aware that the pandemic still casts a shadow over the educational formation of these year groups. Nevertheless, we still set ourselves ambitious targets.

Pastoral Support and the Cost of living

Issues related to the cost of living appear to have disappeared as front page headlines. Schools being one of the front line services can testify that significant issues remain. A lot of children are carrying the struggles that families have to deal with at home, to the point where it impacts their day-to-day life, the way they act towards their peers and teachers, and the way they go about their learning.

Food is probably one of the most common challenges, we are aware that many families are having to rely on donations or access to foodbanks. Unfortunately, very little money comes directly into school to help families with the cost of living. We continue to do what we can with the resources available, for example, this term our pastoral team have sent out food parcels to families experiencing difficulties.

Extra-Curricular

Many students have participated in the extra curricular life of the school. There have been many sporting fixtures, trips and visits. This term we welcomed students from Spain as part of our Spanish exchange programme. Other activities included trips to the Houses of Parliament, Ypres in Belgium, Kew Gardens, Theatre trip to see Macbeth, Berlin and dry slope skiing. My thanks to all the staff who have gone over and above to make these visits occur.

Finally, may I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and I look forward to welcoming students back at the normal time on Wednesday 3rd January 2024.



Mr M Quinn
Headteacher

We were delighted to be able to hold three Christmas lunches for our students this year.

Everyone enjoyed the festive food and atmosphere and thanks go to our fantastic Catering Team !



Praying in School

You might have heard your young person talking (with enthusiasm!) about a Liturgy they have recently been involved in. I just wanted to spend a few minutes explaining what has been happening and how Liturgy is playing an ever more high-profile role in daily life here in school.

Prayer (sometimes described as the raising of the heart and mind to God) can be undertaken in as many different ways, as there are people. We believe that what matters is the experience of those present. So, to help students find their own unique connection to God and make prayer a purposeful and active undertaking, student-led Tutor time Liturgies are taking place each week.

During Tutor time, students take turns to prepare a moment of prayer and reflection which they then present to their Tutor Group. Many are enjoying using online resources and videos to bring alive the Gospel message and help their classmates reflect on what they see going on around them. Our young people have been hugely creative in developing their own themes – from current affairs, to school concerns to ideas like “Your Actions Have Consequences.”

In the Chaplaincy, we have supported these prayers with our student-led Tutor Time Liturgy planner and our booklet of Oaklands Prayers. We often have the privilege of sitting alongside groups as they think through their plans. As Catholics we enjoy a treasure trove of prayers passed to us by our ancestors which we offer up for inclusion, alongside a rich resource of biblical passages. Students have also enjoyed using “Praise and Worship” our Oaklands Hymnal created by our very own Mrs Palfreyman! Tutors ask that every Liturgy is built around a piece of scripture, allowing students to make links between their own experiences and the Word of God.

We continue to enjoy Class Liturgies in the Chapel led by ourselves in the Chaplaincy team as well as Liturgical Assemblies, offering students a variety of ways to build prayer into their everyday lives. As faith leaders we believe that all our young people, from those with an active faith to those who are committed to another faith or no faith at all, can gain something from the experiences we share which they can take away into their lives.

As parents we invite you to keep on talking about prayer with your children and indeed pray for us – that we help our them pray from the heart and fuel their conversations with God. Who knows, this work may also be helping form our future Clergy, Catechists and Chaplains!

Year 9 Mission Day

Year 9 had a day out of their usual timetable to experience a variety of faith-based activities, talks and games. The topic of the day was that we are all beautifully and wonderfully made in the image of God.

The day began with Mass celebrated by Father James Lewis along with music led by our school worship group. We were also very blessed to have One Church join us for our mission day who led a youth panel and a final testimony with Pastor Ben Knight.



I wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas.

Mrs J Semple



Culture Week

Late Autumn saw the second annual school Culture Week. Originally started here at Oaklands by the previous Year 11 student leaders (current Year 12s) this year saw an even bigger and more impressive celebration put together for students by students.

The week was peppered with different activities for the students to take part in, each raising money for charity. These included a Staff vs Sixth Form netball match, a Day of the Dead celebration and a food market with different meals brought in from across the schools' diverse student body.

However, the events earlier in the week were just a precursor to the finale, the Culture Day show. The audience was made up of students dressed in clothes representing their culture and the show was performed by members from every part of the school. With successful musical acts featuring hugely talented singers, multiple rousing dance acts and a Sixth Form band. In between acts there was a catwalk for proud students to share their cultural dress. In the evening parents were invited to see an equally vibrant and impressive performance offering an insight into the students' hard work and sharing the celebrations with the wider Oaklands family.

As a student in the Sixth Form, my personal contributions to the Culture Week obviously give me a bit of a bias towards its success. But from the netball game we nearly won, to the world's best band performance (I might be the guitarist!) the entire week was packed with excitement and good fun. The school's community helped create an atmosphere of warmth and friendliness. And aside from all the contributions to a good cause, (the money we raised through non-uniform day went to supporting education in St John's School, Korogocho, Kenya), it also offered a new, fresh way of engaging us as students in the important conversation surrounding celebrating each other's culture. For the new year 7s the week was just a taste of the sort of events our school offers its students. Equally the tremendous efforts of my peers in organising the entire week were incredible to see.

Hopefully next year ushers in another triumphant show and fingers crossed maybe even taking it further. The sort of freedom offered to students at Oaklands places it amongst the few schools in the county that offer these sorts of student-led initiatives and makes the school a brilliant place to be.

Sam Frost, Year 12



Tasty Treats

During Culture Week, Miss Fan held a dumpling workshop with some Year 9 and Year 8 classes and Patricia, Pricilla and Nicole helped in demonstrating and supporting students on how to make Chinese dumplings.

"This was my second time joining Culture Week at this school. As a new UK joiner, this is a very interesting event that I never had in Hong Kong. This year, I was invited to help teach my schoolmates how to make Chinese cabbage pork dumplings and how to use chopsticks, from food preparation, to demonstration, to sharing the food. I am very appreciative that other students learned how to make the dumplings with hearts full of love, they really worked out the purpose of Culture Week, which is an event to give a chance for us all to learn more about different cultures from different countries. Besides, it lets them learn how to be in communion with different people. Just like they can keep high patience with my demonstration with limited English. They let me feel love in the world. I was delighted when they said the dumplings were delicious and it really enhanced my confidence."

Patricia Kong , Year 11



Mrs Colley together with students and staff from Learning Support Department have once again been busy in our school garden.

On 2nd November our school community took part in the RHS Big Food Share Day. Vegetables from our allotment were used to make tasty soups and these were served, along with freshly made breads, butters, cheese scones and cakes.



Trips and Visits Roundup

Year 12 A Level Geographers visit West Wittering and Medmerry

The exam board specification states that students must study an example of a stretch of coastline where 'hard' and 'soft' engineering are employed to manage the coast. Rather than using materials in the core textbooks, the Geography Department decided to take the 24 Year 12 students to West Wittering in December.

Coastlines are dynamic environments; frequent visitors to West Wittering beach will have witnessed the changes that have occurred over the years. Since 2008, the coastal management policy employed there is one of 'Adaptive Management', which means that managers will not 'hold the line', but will intervene if they think it is necessary. The sea wall and the groyne are being allowed to deteriorate: the idea being that this will produce a wider, shallower beach, which will be more effective at dissipating wave energy (in theory!). The students had mixed views on this, but it is clear that they all appreciated that there is a finite pot of money available and decisions relating to coastal protection are invariably challenging.

Once we had finished at West Wittering, we drove towards Selsey and managed to gain access to the private Seal Bay holiday resort. At the western end of their premises is the Medmerry coastal realignment scheme. Finished in 2013, this £30 million project involved building a 7km earth embankment inland. Once completed, a breach was made in the existing beach, which resulted in the sea flooding in creating a new salt marsh environment on the flat land behind – the theory is that allowing the sea to flood here will relieve pressure on other parts of the coast.

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

Mr M Bamford



Young Carers

The Young Carers group at Oaklands was first established 13 years ago and ran successfully with many trips and weekly lunchtime sessions. When students returned from lockdown, due to restrictions in school, we were unable to run sessions and numbers ran low.

However, this September the group restarted. Assemblies were delivered to promote the group and numbers are starting to rise. Part of our school mission is that nobody gets left behind, and it is so important that the young carers within our community have a place they can get together to share experiences with other young people who may be in a similar situation to them.

We meet weekly on a Wednesday lunchtime in the Sports Hall and students have been enjoying using the sports equipment and challenging staff to shoot out on the basketball hoops. We have also just had our first trip to Fort Purbrook to have a go at some archery. The trip, organised by Mrs Kelly, one of the Young Carers staff members, was fantastic and students excelled with their archery skills. A bit of friendly competition between boys and girls allowed for a fun time to be had by all. We hope to run more trips this year.

If you feel that your child would benefit from being part of this group, please encourage them to come on a Wednesday lunchtime or email me on l.jones@oaklandscatholicschool.org.

Mrs L Jones



Year 10 Visit to Kew Gardens

On 11th October Year 10 students from Art, Textiles and Photography visited Kew Gardens.

All students benefitted from this opportunity to document, through taking photographs, and draw from observation, which they have then been able to take forward for their projects in their chosen subject.

The trip was a huge success as we have a wealth of images that the students can use to develop their artworks. We look forward to returning next year.



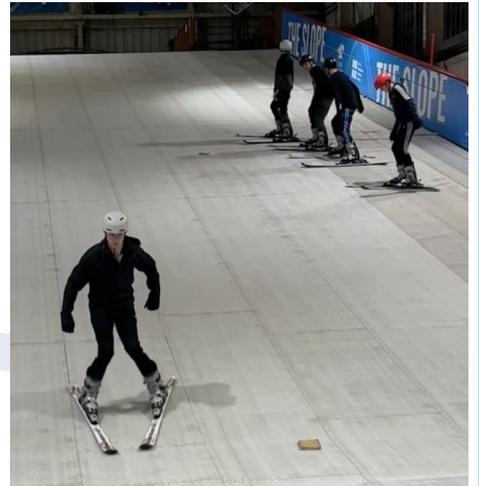
Mr R Forster

Year 9 and Sixth Form Dry Slope Ski Trips

Thirty students attempted skiing for the first time at Calshot Activities Centre on Monday 11th December and a further 29 will go on the INSET day on Monday 18th December.

The trips to Calshot provide the students with the opportunity to wear the equipment for the first time and learn the basics; this means that more rapid progress can be made when the students arrive at the resort in February. These trips would not have been possible without the help of a number of staff including Mr Bamford, Mr Smith, Mr Wade, Mrs Over and Mrs Sykes.

The trip during February half term is fast approaching. 88 students from Year 9 and the Sixth Form will travel to Andalo; the students will ski for five days in the Italian resort. Early snowfall bodes well for the 2023-24 ski season in the Alps and no doubt conditions will be good for us in February.



Mr M Bamford

Year 11 Visit to the Globe

On 17th October, 80 Year 11 students went to London to see a performance of Macbeth at The Globe.

The performance took a modern twist on Shakespeare's Jacobean tragedy, with 21st century clothing and weapons. Seeing this fresh take on the play being performed live helped students to understand this key English Literature text more deeply ahead of their exams.

Miss M Woods



History Trips

Year 9 Belgium Trip

Recently, 34 Year 9 students ventured to Belgium for a one-night stay in Ypres. A location that was plagued by the devastation of the German invasion in 1914, it now stands as a living memorial to all those whose lives were lost in war.

The trip allowed students to visit such locations as the In Flanders Field Museum, Menin Gate (and witness the Last Post), Tyne Cot Cemetery, Sanctuary Wood Museum and the Langemark Memorial. It was truly a trip where students were able to visualise the battlefields and realise the scale of the landscape that was demolished. Malcolm, our tour guide, showed the students through the eyes of a soldier what the experience might have been like, while our History teachers were able to interject and highlight areas where students can link to their WW1 studies, which they were doing at the time. In fact, many commented on how the trip directly linked to their classroom learnings, which was fantastic for us as History teachers to see.

For some students, going on a ferry and travelling on foreign soil was an adventure enough, but all were able to gauge the impact of war and see how Europe was changed forever once the Schlieffen Plan was enacted. A brilliant trip all round and one we look forward to running it again in the future.

Mr E Leath



Year 11 Berlin Trip

This October half term, the History Department took 32 Year 11 students to the fantastic city of Berlin. For us as historians, this city is a fascinating place that helps us understand so much about German and European history. We started with a super early coach departure to London Gatwick and flew to the new Berlin airport (Brandenburg).

Our first excursion was the 2 hour walking tour of Berlin and we really enjoyed finding out about the city's past from our tour guide. Then we were able to take a visit to the Berlin parliament building, the Reichstag, and walk up its amazing glass dome (designed by British architect Richard Rogers).

The next day we headed back into the city on the overground and underground trains and experienced a tour of the museum, Topography of Terror. This told us the story of life in Nazi Germany and would prepare us for one of the most important elements of the trip, a visit to Sachsenhausen concentration camp. At the Berlin Wall museum we got to understand how the city was divided during the Cold War. Other highlights were the TV Tower, visiting the location of the Potsdam Conference and the Berlin Olympic Stadium. We were able to enjoy a currywurst at the Christmas market after visiting the only building still left with its WWII war damage, the Kaiser Wilhelm memorial church on Ku'damm.

The Year 11s loved it and we teachers also had an amazing time! Thanks again to everyone that came along. We are hoping to run the trip again in October 2024 so if you are in Year 10, please make sure you get a letter from Ms Wilkinson or Mr Leath.

Ms C Wilkinson



Spanish Exchange

The languages department are delighted to have been able to organise a student exchange with the IES Guadalpeña school in the south of Spain.

Our exchange partners spent a week with us in November and despite the typical British weather, had a marvellous time. They attended lessons and special workshops, had a delicious “bring and share” dinner with host families and joined in the Year 7 disco. I want to thank the Oaklands host families, teachers and students for making them feel so welcome and ensuring they had such memorable and positive experiences. In their feedback, the Spanish youngsters all described their stay as “amazing”.

This is some of what they said:

“The students and teachers were so nice at school. They were always trying to help you and asking you questions about yourself because they really wanted to know us.”

“My host family was the best host family ever.”

Our students might be surprised to learn that the Spanish youngster loved the lessons and the Oaklands uniform!

Lily Austin (10TE) writes: “The Spanish students came to some of our lessons in school and on other days went to London, Brighton and the Historic Dockyard in Portsmouth. My student and I went to Gunwharf and the seafront with other friends. I am looking forward to seeing my student in Arcos de La Frontera. I am excited to see their school and live in Spain for a week. I hope the weather is better!”

We cannot wait for our return visit to Arcos de la Frontera during February half-term.

Mrs A Garcia



Oaklands Friends' and Parents' Association

The Oaklands Friends and Parents' Association (OFPA) would like to thank you for your support this year.

In November, we held our Annual General Meeting and welcomed new members to our team.

A copy of the Chair's Annual Report can be found on the school website: [OFPA-Chairs-Report-2023.pdf \(oaklandscatholicsschool.org\)](https://www.oaklandscatholicsschool.org/OFPA-Chairs-Report-2023.pdf)

Our nearly-new uniform sales will continue every month from January 2024. Orders should be submitted by the last Wednesday of the month during term time and collections will be available on the last Friday of the month at 3.20pm. Our shop is situated at the end of the Chapel building, adjacent to St Peter's School. Orders should be sent to opa@oaklandscatholicsschool.org.

A price list and more information can be found on the school website:

[Second Hand Uniform - Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College](https://www.oaklandscatholicsschool.org/Second-Hand-Uniform-Oaklands-Catholic-School-and-Sixth-Form-College)

Thank you to all parents who purchased tickets for our online Christmas raffle and thank you to everyone who kindly donated towards the prizes, including festive food and drink, festive goods and pamper items. Congratulations to the winners of our three hampers!

Our next meeting is on Monday 8th January at 7.30pm in the Sixth Form block.

We wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas.

Nicky Woolhead



Crest Awards

Last academic year, all Year 8 students completed investigations in small teams which they presented to parents during the Science Project Fair. Miss Schofield managed to secure funding from the British Science Association which enabled all of the students who are now in Year 9 to receive a Bronze CREST award for their investigations. Congratulations to the students who spent six weeks planning, investigating and presenting their data.



Some students from 9 St Clare with their certificates

Sixth Form Crest

Some Year 13 students are completing GOLD CREST awards and are submitting for external assessment currently.



Congratulations to Joe Agathangelou who has achieved a Gold CREST award for his project which involved analysis of water from a river to assess the impact of dry spillage on aquatic species. This was completed in collaboration with Portsmouth University and gave a very clear insight into the way research takes place at that level.

Another investigation assessed how different drinks impact on the uptake of minerals such as iron. Students mimicked a body system using Visking tubing and initially had problems as the sugar in the juices interfered with the REDOX titration analysis. Using research and problem-solving skills, with support from Mr Davis (Lab technician), they found a better titration method, using a complex and discovered that apple juice had a negative effect and orange juice had a positive effect.

Year 12 students are embarking on CREST awards and hope to investigate use of UV light for sterilising air, the effectiveness of different suncreams and how changing the acid catalyst impacts on the purity and yield of Aspirin. All of these projects help students to develop lab skills beyond the curriculum and also provide excellent discussion points during university interviews or even job interviews!!

If any students are interested in doing a CREST award they should speak to their Science teacher.

St Peter's Outreach Events

On 9th October and 27th November, we had the pleasure of welcoming two Year 6 classes from St Peter's Catholic Primary School for an afternoon of Secondary School chemistry.

The Year 6 students spent the time completing a separation technique practical, which involved them separating rock salt to get salt crystals in their pure form. They had the chance to use a range of lab equipment, including Bunsen burners, evaporating basins and conical flasks, and they developed their understanding of both the particle model of matter, and how two key separation techniques worked. The two techniques focussed on were filtration, which saw students mixing their rock salt into water and then filtering out the excess sand; and evaporation, which saw students use their Bunsen burners and evaporating basins to heat their salt solutions to obtain pure salt crystals.

The results from both classes were absolutely fantastic, and Miss Lenihan and I were hugely impressed with the young Scientists we had working in Lab 4. We are looking forward to welcoming further classes from St Peter's over for future events, and it is fantastic to hear that a huge number of these brilliant Scientists will be joining us next September!

Mr G Semple



Top of the Bench

On Wednesday 15th November a team of four students from Years 9-11 took part in the annual RSC Top of the Bench competition at Portsmouth Grammar School. They competed against fourteen other schools in a variety of Chemistry based challenges, finishing off their day with a demonstration-based lecture linked to Science and the Environment. Students saw how carbon dioxide can affect the acidity of the oceans, modelled using dry ice and a pH indicator, and also looked at some of the properties of liquid nitrogen. They carried out a number of practical tasks, including identifying what gas a balloon had been filled with, by timing its decent from a flight of stairs. All four students had a fantastic day and found the practical element of the day really engaging, they developed their team work skills by working with students from other year groups whom they were unfamiliar with as well as their communication and practical skills. Oaklands were awarded the best teamwork award and managed to complete all of the tasks despite there being “too much” work to complete in one day! A big congratulations to the team involved.



Mr J Horn

Science and Nature Club

This year Science and Nature Club have been preparing to update our Science Garden area. Students have created new information posters about Ecological concerns regarding global warming, to refresh and update the area. They have also made bird feeders out of recycled materials, made plans to build new planters and benches out of upcycled materials, and when warm enough, will also plant bee friendly plants which can be used by local wildlife. Watch this space as we continue to develop this area as the weather improves!

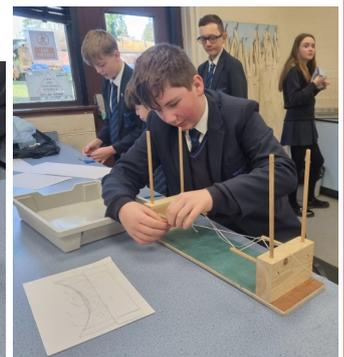
Year 9 STEM Day

As a school we value the importance of having a day off-timetable every now and then to take a deep-dive into a different field and ignite a passion for learning. This is exactly what Year 9s did last week when they explored the theme of Water for their STEM Day. They spent the day looking at various elements of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. For two of the tasks, they learnt about how huge shipping containers are able to float through the magic of density and balancing forces, and then they experimented with shape and material to see how to make the fastest foil boat.



For the second set of activities, they masqueraded as lobster farmers as they discussed ethical fishing practices and experienced some scenarios often put in place by governments to prevent overfishing (much to the dismay of many Year 9 lobster farmers that day!). They put their engineering knowledge and resource management to work when they were tasked with building the strongest bridge, a favourite of the day I think!

As always, the day was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by the students. So a huge thank you to the teams in Science and Maths that helped make it happen! Your hard work was appreciated by all and facilitated a wonderful experience for Year 9.



Mrs J Beauvoisin

Christmas Maths

The Maths department have been looking to break a World Record for a while now and turned to paper chains for inspiration.

Unfortunately, the World Record was 1,000,000 links long. So, we thought we would incorporate Pi (3.1415...) and write a digit on each chain, the World Record for this was 80,000 links.

We then thought of implementing our work on Catholic Social Teaching and have students write a prayer on each link, but we soon found out the World Record for this was 57,000 links long.

As a last resort, we thought a Christmas themed paper chain would win us a framed certificate, but that World Record was 45,000 links long.

Therefore, we decided to invent our own World Record and include all of the above elements! We aimed to create a paper chain that contained a digit of Pi, a prayer written by the student and be Christmas themed. Our Paper Pi Prayer Christmas Chain achieved 881 links and the final chain was 64m long. It took pride of place around Romero Block for the end of term festivities.

Guinness have not got back to my many emails yet, but I am certain the record is in the bag. If not, we will see if we can add more than 881 links next year. Regardless of records, our students have created something truly wonderful, incorporating Maths, prayer and a little bit of Christmas spirit.

Mr A Gorman



Festive Dingbats

1.	2.	3.
<p>+</p> <p>OUTLET</p>	<p>Grrrr</p> <p>+</p> <p>2.54cms</p>	<p>Sn</p>

Answers on Page 19

A new report from leading UK charity, Women in Sport, has found that gender stereotyping limits girls' enjoyment of and participation in sport (Physical Education matters, 2023). The report 'Sport, stereotypes and stolen dreams: why girls feel they don't belong in sport' has found that girls are internalising gender stereotypes and negative messaging. Furthermore, from a young age, girls are assigned personality traits that are not aligned with being sporty.

The long-term consequence of this can be difficult to reverse. By the time girls reach 17-18, just 28% describe themselves as 'sporty' (Physical Education matters, 2023). The charity has found that many girls are steered towards individual sports like Dance and Gymnastics – just 23% of parents say they'd prefer their daughters to take part in team sports. On this basis, I have a duty to ensure that the PE curriculum does not limit, but rather provide opportunities for girls to participate in a range of sports. For this reason, the activities and sports within the PE curriculum aims to provide the same opportunities for both boys and girls.

Therefore, there is an expectation on all students in Year 7 and 8 to participate in Rugby, as there is for boys to participate in Netball. Boys will continue with Rugby at the start of Year 9 with extra-curricular opportunities provided for all students up to Year 9 and beyond. Our aim is to reinforce the expectation that girls can be courageous, powerful and fearless.

Equally I have a responsibility to ensure that our students can access a contact sport with safety at the forefront. With this in mind, the same expectations regarding PE kit must be applied. Amendments to the requirements have been made in an attempt to lower the cost. Our uniform policy states:



- 5.7.4 All students in Years 7-11 require the following items:**
 Oaklands Catholic School logo PE polo shirt *** (compulsory).
Rugby Socks (royal blue with white stripe) (boys in Key Stage 3 / Girls in Year 7 and 8)
Rugby Shorts (boys in Key Stage 3 / Girls in Year 7 and 8) ****
Rugby Top (students who play rugby /all boys in Key Stage 3 / Girls in Year 7 and 8) ***
 Navy Shorts (girls) or Navy skort (girls) ****
 Plain white sports socks
 Predominantly white trainers (non-marking soles)
Rugby boots or football boots + rugby safety studs (boys in Key Stage 3 / Girls in Year 7 and 8 and all who play rugby in Key Stage 4)
- 5.7.5 Optional unisex items (for all students) *****
 Navy mid layer training top
 Navy training trousers
 Leggings

*** Available to purchase from Skoolkit and must have the Oaklands Logo
 **** Can be purchased at Skoolkit with logo or can be plain navy blue sports shorts

Earlier this term I was made aware that Skoolkit were experiencing stock issues and I have asked that they contact me directly if this happens again in the future. A behaviour log will only be applied if no sufficient reason is provided for incorrect or no PE kit. A written note from a person with parental responsibility is requested. I expect all students to participate in PE lessons. For this reason, students are still expected to wear PE kit when a request has been made. A sanction will be applied after three discrete logs of either incorrect or no PE kit.

If you have any questions regarding the expectations around PE kit, please do not hesitate to contact me via email: c.wade@oaklandscatholicool.org

Mr C Wade

Performing Arts at Oaklands

It has been another busy term for the Performing Arts Department.

OAKLANDS BAND

"Today, Oaklands Band went to Purbrook Infant School and performed to Year 1. They were so excited to hear us play. We asked them questions and then gave them a gift. They loved us and were very happy. We performed *Happy* from *Despicable Me 2*, *Final Countdown*, *Crocodile Rock* and *I'm a Believer*. Several students also performed solos on their instruments and demonstrated some musical techniques.



We were invited there as the students in Year 1 have been studying the book 'The Bear and the Piano' by David Litchfield for their literacy focus. Our performance enabled them to experience a concert and make links to the musical bear in the story. Year 1 dressed up in formal wear to watch the concert, lots of glittery dresses and bow ties!

Thank you Mr Marshall and Mrs Richardson for taking us."

CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERT

"We both did solos in the Christmas Concert 2023. It was lots of fun and although we were nervous it was a great way to build confidence and skill. The audience were very supportive and it was great to see other people's talents. The teachers were incredible organising everything and we are really grateful! They gave up their own time to help us all prepare and accompany us, Mr Marshall was very nervous to accompany me but he did an amazing job!! Mrs Richardson was amazing helping out in Oaklands Band."

Daisy Felstead and Josie Dixon 8CL



HAVANT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

We have developed a good friendship with Havant Symphony Orchestra in the last few years. We had several families who took advantage of the fantastic discounted ticket offer on Saturday 9th December – we hope you enjoyed it. Several families really look forward to these events and book every time. Thank you to the Havant Symphony Orchestra for creating the Family Special Offer.



CAROL SERVICE

We were delighted to be able to hold our Carol Service again on Wednesday 13th December and our Year 7 students had been preparing for the event in their Music Lessons this half term.

The evening included traditional carols, music and readings and it was wonderful to see the Hall full of families, visitors and staff. After the service, a collection was taken for the Rowans, and mulled wine and mince pies were enjoyed in the canteen.

A festive end to an extremely busy half term of music making!



SCHOOL SHOW

Our show for 2024 is Boublil and Schönberg's "**Les Misérables**" based on the classic novel of the same name by Victor Hugo. We're excited to bring this epic show to Oaklands. The magnificent score of Les Misérables includes the songs, "I Dreamed a Dream", "On My Own", "Bring Him Home", "One Day More", "Master of the House" and many more.

The Performing Arts Team and students have already been working hard on rehearsals at break, lunch and after school with students from every year group taking part. The process began in July with a round of auditions for KS4 and KS5 and later auditions for KS3 in October. The audition process was open to all students and we were overwhelmed with amazing talent, so casting decisions were tough. We are delighted to have nearly 80 students involved, as this will really make for an amazing stage event.

Les Misérables is the story of Jean Valjean, a prisoner who breaks parole, and the police inspector, Javert, who tries to hunt him down for breaking parole. Valjean tries to help a poor factory worker, Fantine, by saving her child, Cosette, from the gaudy and unscrupulous innkeepers who show her no care. Marius, a war veteran during the battles of post-French Revolution, falls for Cosette, but their lives change forever when the war turns more gruesome than expected.



Student Success

Franchesca Kotruchova, Year 9, recently competed in the world ballroom dancing championships and won.

Well done to Francesca who represented England in the dance World Championships in Assen, Netherlands.

Francesca received two gold medals in the Ballroom section. She won the Under 14 Ballroom category and the Under 19 Ballroom section, as well as becoming a vice champion in the Under 16 Ballroom section.

What an amazing performance!



From the Chair of Governors

There have been some changes in the Governing Body this year, and I would like to introduce myself as the new Chair of Governors.

My background includes a career in nursing, midwifery, lecturing and leading health care education and most recently quality assurance across England for midwifery education. I have been part of the local parishes of Sacred Heart, Waterloo and St Edmund's, Horndean for 35 years. So, when Marc Evans stepped away from chairing the Governors' meetings, I was happy to take on the role, bringing my education knowledge to support all at Oaklands Catholic Secondary School and Sixth Form College.



A couple of other Governors have also retired. While we thank them for their service to Oaklands and wish them well, we are delighted to welcome a new Parent Governor, Community Governor and two new Foundation Governors. A full list and the backgrounds of all the Governing Body is on the school website. The role of Governors is to work with the Senior Leadership Team to ensure a clear vision and ethos across the school and a strategic plan for ongoing development. Governors are critical friends who holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the of the school and its pupils. If anyone is interested in becoming a Governor, please do get in contact with me via email, chairofgovernors@oaklandscatholicsschool.org.

So far this year, Governors have visited most departments asking about and gathering evidence on the educational activity and the progress of all pupils. This includes analysing exam results overall, and for all the subgroups of pupils and subjects, and how this can be improved. Assessing the Catholic life of the school is part of every visit as this underpins all activity at Oaklands. This year the school is expecting an inspection from the national Catholic Inspectorate assessing the Catholic life and mission of the school, religious education and collective worship from the perspectives of pupil outcome, education provision and leadership and management. So the school and Governors are preparing for this. On a similar theme, the Governors have been hearing about the Romero Award and the school's plan to move to Innovator Level. I am sure your will hear more about this in the coming months. As both the Catholic inspection and the Romero Award are of importance to Oaklands, link Governors have been identified to support, monitor and report back to the whole Governing Body on progress. The aim being to make these successful for all.

Finally, I have to congratulate all those involved in the Open Evening back in September, which show-cased the whole school and pupils, and the Culture Show, which celebrated the diversity of community of Oaklands and where the enthusiasm of the audience mirrored the joy of the participants. Well done to all. At the end of a busy term, I also enjoyed the Christmas Carol Service and was pleased to meet some of you there.

On behalf of the whole Governing Body, happy Christmas!

Dr Elizabeth Cluett

Nick Parker is one of our Governors, he writes:

I like to think of our school like a team, any sport or pastime, mine are usually rugby, cricket or football, but just as easily a musical band or a group of chefs in a restaurant kitchen; but a team that works together nonetheless. We don't need to know everything about everyone else who supports the same team, but it is a warm feeling belonging to that team.

One of my Teams is Oaklands.

Oaklands needs money. We get some money from the Government but in order to do all the cool things that make your education better, we need more to turn opportunities into success stories.

Sometimes, the money that Oaklands gets from the Government (public finance income) isn't enough to cover everything. That's where the Governors' Development Fund can step in and donate additional funds to help out. These funds can act like a deposit when we make Grant Applications for major projects, much like the multi-million pound project in the next few years to renew our heating systems in a modern and more renewable way.

Additionally, it can be used to provide more resources and opportunities for students. For example, to help buy new sports equipment, upgrade technology in the classrooms, or even fund trips to amazing places, making them more available to all.

These extra funds can make the learning experience we provide for this blooming generation, even better and more exciting.

By donating to the Governors' Development Fund, parents are showing how much they care about their child's education and want to make sure they have the best opportunities possible. It's kind of like supporting a team and wanting to do everything you can to help the team succeed and it is a way for parents to contribute to the Oaklands community and make a positive impact on their child's education.



You can make your donation via the school's online payment system, ScoPay, by following this link or using the QR code.



[Login \(scopay.com\)](https://scopay.com)

If you want to know more about this fund or help further improve the long term life of the school for our children, please feel free to contact us via the Chair of Governors or the Clerk to Governors, Mrs Claire Colley, c.colley@oaklandscatholicschool.org.

Thank you for your support.

Dingbat Answers

1. Advent (Add - Vent)
2. Grinch (Grrrr - Inch)
3. Tinsel (Tin, periodic table - Sale)

As we approach the Christmas festivities and a well-earned break, allow me to share with you some of the highlights of another successful term at Oaklands Sixth Form College.

Exam success

We once again started the year celebrating an impressive set of A Level results; a record number of passes with half of all grades being at the highest A*-B grade boundaries. Once again, we bucked the national average with the vast majority of our students successfully securing their first-choice university place. These fabulous outcomes reflect the hard work and commitment of our students and all their teachers and support staff in the Sixth Form. As a school community we are immensely proud of them all. It is success like this that helps explain why, along with so many of our current Year 11, we are now being joined by a record number of external applicants seeking to join our growing Sixth Form family next year!

Catholic ethos

Our success is rooted in our Catholic ethos and faith and it is this which makes us so special and enables all to flourish. Our coming together this term in both whole-school and for a special Sixth Form Mass were particularly wonderful occasions. This ethos has also been evident in the wonderful work undertaken by the Student Leadership, especially those leaders in the Sixth Form. From organising great events like Culture Week and the Oaklands Talent Christmas Show, through to mentoring younger students and undertaking duties, the Sixth Form Student Leaders are wonderful ambassadors who epitomise our Catholic values of love and service.

We also 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. It was a truly wonderful occasion and Fr James' liturgy was a powerful affirmation of our central apostolic mission.

Sixth Form speakers

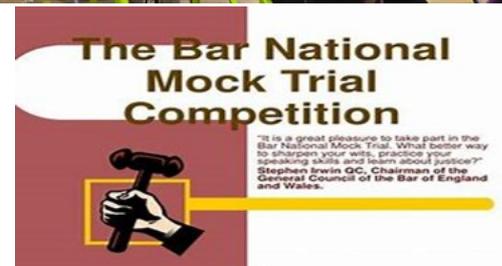
This term we have continued a proud tradition of having a wide range of guest speakers. This began early with a masterclass delivered to Year 12 from an external study skills and motivational organisation called Maximise. Maximize work across hundreds of schools to promote evidence-based good study practice, and to help students such as ours to take ownership of their learning. The feedback has been positive and the ideas and tips here have really helped give our students a real edge in their studies and early application research.



We have also been fortunate to have had a range of guest speakers from the world of medicine and veterinary science. These have included medical consultants and doctors who have come into to the Sixth Form to deliver bespoke sessions and careers guidance. Most recently our prospective medics attended a mock medical interview event in Portsmouth where they were able to hone their interview skills in one-to-one meetings in a carousel of over 20 doctors.



In November, those with an interest in Law, were visited by HHJ Michael Bowes KC, the Resident Judge at Portsmouth Combined Court. His Honour visited the Sixth Form and gave a brilliant talk which resulted in enthusiastic and intelligent discussion with both our Year 12 and Year 13. Again, this was a special opportunity and those involved were a real credit to us all. Indeed, so impressed was His Honour that we have been invited as a Sixth Form to have a guided visit and tour of the court. A huge thank you to Claudia Foster in Year 13 for making this happen.



In our final week our legal students took part in the Bar Mock Trial Competition where they went head to head with teams from a range of selective and intensely coached schools. Having never entered the competition before, I am delighted to report that Oaklands secured the runner-up spot - a truly amazing achievement!

Sixth Form events

Just as we work hard, so we play hard too! The wider enrichment and social programme of the Sixth Form has included the enormously successful Culture Week as well as exciting plans for the Sixth Form directed Christmas show and the 'Oaklands Got Talent' show in the Summer. We have also just enjoyed the Sixth Christmas Quiz which was great fun.

Building on the success of last year, we held an induction event based on a Laser Tag outing in which teachers and students were pitted against each other in teambuilding games of strategy and guile. Once again Mr Godwin's unexpected agility and speed saw him triumph over all those who sought to shoot him!



UCAS

At the time of writing we have 116 applications for UCAS which are currently being completed. With over 87 already sent off, and a final deadline of 31st January, our current Year 13 are already receiving offers. This has included a range of conditional and unconditional offers to top UK universities. In recent weeks, a number of our students have been involved in mock interviews and demanding online interviews for Cambridge, Oxford, medicine and law. Supported by our internal and external careers team, many of our students are also continuing to apply for a range of exciting apprenticeships and sponsored degrees across a range of industries. We wish all these students the very best of luck.

UCAS

Sixth Form Christmas lunch

This week we came together as our entire Sixth Form family to enjoy a special Christmas lunch and raffle. Each year there is a great atmosphere and the food is delicious! As ever thanks to the Catering Team and to all those colleagues for making such an effort to make this such a special event.

It remains for me to congratulate all the Sixth Form students, support staff and teachers for all their hard work this term.

I wish you and your families every joy and peace this Christmas!

Mr D Godwin



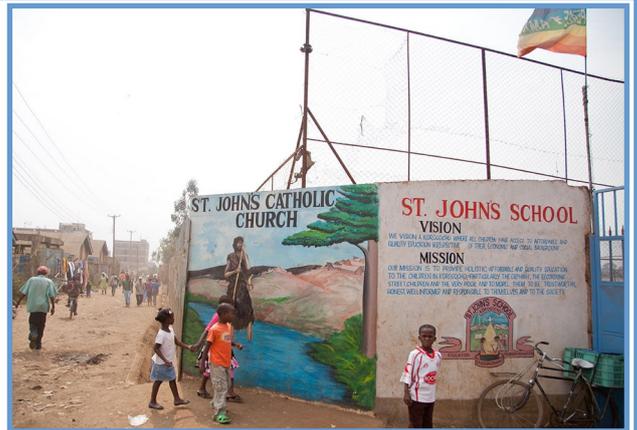
Presentation of Certificates Evening

Our Presentation of Certificates Evening will be held on **Thursday 4th January 2024**. This tradition is a formal presentation evening to celebrate the achievements of the students who took exams in the Summer of 2023.

The event starts at 6.00pm with a drinks reception and at 7.00pm the awards ceremony takes place in the Hall.

The date has been chosen to allow University students to attend before their Spring term starts and should also be convenient for those in our Sixth Form College at Oaklands, in other local colleges or in training and employment. There is an expectation that students in Year 12 at Oaklands, who sat their GCSEs at Oaklands, will attend.

Shakespeare famously wrote in one of his comedies, “there’s time for all things.” Often the whole concept of time alludes us. It can often be our default position to suggest “*I don’t have time for that*” or “*I need time to do this.*” Our support of St John’s has now gone beyond a full decade of devotion, shared vision and partnership – driven towards a common goal of providing education for those most in need. The power of education is something which evokes love and allows us to ‘take stock’ and reflect on what we are grateful for. For each other, for our education and our shared sense of community.



As per the educational calendar in Kenya, St John’s began their final term of learning on 2nd October 2023. Students have been engaging with the build-up of examinations as well as a key moment in our liturgical calendar: preparing for the celebration and birth of Christ – bringing with it the trials, challenges, rejoicing and the sacrament of confession. We experience this in our own community here at Oaklands – focusing on bringing people together in the hope for the forgiveness, renewal and preparing our hearts for the new year. It is a time to celebrate and rejoice with St John’s, and we hope that as a partnership, we can support St John’s throughout the process of examinations, and ensure our partnership continues to be fruitful, supportive and loving.

Back in October, we held our annual St John’s week, where we learnt a little more about Korogocho (through videos links and clips from Mr Mwangi, the Headteacher and various students from the school) expressing how and why our partnership is meaningful and what we can do as a community in order to help provide the necessary support for our friends in Kenya. Over the course of the week, we held a number of activities to help raise money and continue our worthwhile support of both communities. We raised an incredible amount of money for St John’s; a true testament to the commitment and dedication of all the staff and students.

More poignantly, students in Year 7 (experiencing St John’s week for the first time) also wrote letters to some of the students in Korogocho and I thought I would share one which truly embodied our shared community spirit:

Dear St John’s,

I have recently joined the school and since I have started, I have loved hearing about the special community bond between Oaklands and St John’s.

Recently, we’ve had our annual St John’s Week and we have been taking part in lots of activities like watching the staff take on the Sixth Form in a sporting event, having a go at the tombola, non-uniform and various cake sales.

I really enjoyed the fundraising activities as there were so many opportunities to participate and celebrate our connection – as well as celebrating all cultures from around the world.

In particular, we got to watch the Staff vs Sixth Form Netball match to raise further sponsorship funds –

especially as I was really surprised by how good the staff were at netball!

In the future, we all hope we can support you further and I am inspired to promote change in our community, as well hoping to help more students for years to come!

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

It’s evident that the power of community is awe-inspiring and brings people together in a number of ways. I will leave you with this piece of scripture from [John 12:35](#): “*While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.*”

Have a very merry Christmas and thank you for all your support

Mr C Osbourne

Operation Christmas Child 2023



Thank you to all students, staff and families for their support for the this year's Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal. With your generosity and kindness, we managed to pack 63 shoeboxes. Moreover, we raised enough money to send all of them on their journey to children in need around the world in time for Christmas. Our donations were taken to St Wilfrid's Church where a total of 432 shoeboxes were collected from the local area.



We look forward to your support again next year!

Many thanks to Mr and Mrs Whelan for co-ordinating our donations.

Visit from Uzbekistan School Leaders



We work closely with the University of Portsmouth as a partner school delivering teacher training. Each year we have hosted trainees mainly in Science, Maths, English and the Language departments. Given our relationship with the University, Mr Bamford was more than happy to facilitate their request for us to host a delegation of teachers from Uzbekistan.

The visits occurred on two separate days and Mr Bamford was assisted by Eniola Akintunde, Tilly Groves and Islwyn Mainwaring from Year 10. The leaders wanted to experience the workings of an English school, but they were also interested in how the school operates in terms of finance and the structures and systems in place. They enjoyed their tour of the site and the complimented us on how well the three Year 10 student volunteers contributed to their visit.

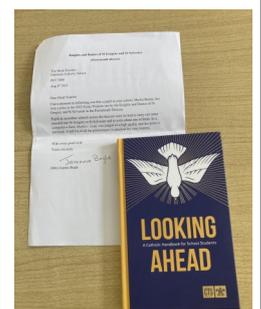
Competition Winner

Congratulations to Marta Banna who was one of the prize winners in a recent Portsmouth Diocesan essay writing competition run by the Knights and Dames of St Gregory and St Sylvester.

The competition required entrants to research and write about either St Gregory or St Sylvester. Marta made the effort to do this in her own time and should be very proud of her achievement.

The feedback from the judges wrote that it was a competitive field and that Marta's essay was "high quality".

Well done, Marta!



Since our report at the end of the Summer Term we have been busy completing outstanding Awards from last year and getting new groups started at all levels.

In late August the Gold group completed their Assessed Expedition on Exmoor. The group had improved weather conditions after their Dartmoor experience! They walked for four days covering an impressive 70+ kms, negotiating the hills and combes with 2400m of climbing.



Day 1 (left) - James, Emilie, Edward, Amy, Esther and Beth descending from Dunkery Beacon (Exmoor's highest point).

Day 3 (above) - enjoying lunch on a wet and windy coast path at Porlock Weir.

We are delighted that from this group four have now completed their **Gold Award** and will be receiving an invitation to the palace next year to receive their Award. Many congratulations to:

James Burroughs

Amy Robertson

Esther Tuttle

Beth Woolhead

Congratulations to Ben Cunningham who also completed his Gold Award during the year.

More of our Silver and Bronze groups from last year have now completed their Awards (in addition to those listed in the summer term report). They have received their badges and will be presented with their certificates at the local Presentation Evening in the presence of the Mayor and other dignitaries which will take place on Friday 15th March at 7pm at Oaklands (please take a note of this for your diary). Congratulations to:

Silver Award

Emily Bray
Jude Stanley

Sophie Cunningham

Matthew Hull

Max Lacy

Bronze Award

Laurence Barber
Elea de Vos
Anna-Louise Heathcote
Dominic Lethbridge
Daniel Pitt
Codrin Stan

Alice Beacon
Grace Fiagbetor
Gabriel Jeffery
Chloe Lymer
Aaron Phillips
Matthew Stewart

Oliver Burroughs
Eliza Grasu
Ethan Kelly
Samuel Mpario
Cynthia Riley

Lillie Churcher
Aoife Hatch
Sophie Kidd
Jack O'Brien
Emma Smart

Currently we have recruited two Gold groups who have started their sections and will begin expedition training this month; three Silver groups and two Bronze groups all of whom are underway with the Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections and both levels have started expedition training including a navigation exercise on Stoughton Down last month.

Mrs J Hoar



Silver Group – Dominic, Alex, Zoe, Kyle, Ava, Daniel and Matthew on return from East Marden



Bronze Group - Andrew, Matthew, Leon, Katie, Annie and Olivia

Local Parish Mass Times

Christmas in Havant Pastoral Area

Church	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day
Sacred Heart Waterlooville	4pm (Children's Mass) & 8pm	8.30am & 10.30am
St Edmund Horndean	Midnight	9.30am
St Patrick Hayling Island	6pm (Family Mass)	11.30am
St Michael & All Angels Leigh Park	4pm & 6pm	10am
St Joseph Havant	-	11am & 1pm (Polish Mass)
St Thomas Emsworth	5.30pm Vigil (Carols from 5pm)	9am
St Colman Cosham	Midnight	9.30am
St Paul Paulsgrove	6pm	11am



Student Leadership

From our Student President - Leona Newman

As I sign off from my role as Student President, I can't help but reflect on the incredible journey my team and I have had. We've navigated challenges, celebrated victories, and, most importantly, fostered a spirit of unity that defines the Oaklands community. It has been an honour to witness the strength that emerges when we stand together, supporting each other through thick and thin, and how we have strengthened the influence of the leaders in the school.

I would like to thank the Student Leadership Team, our Heads; Blessing, Gabby, Libby, and Claudia as well as our amazing Secretary, Delia. Thank you for the time, ideas, and energy you have all put in to make the school community even better. Your commitment and dedication have been the backbone of our successes.

I wish everyone going through the election process all the best, and to the new President and Vice President, get ready for a rollercoaster! Embrace the chaos, cherish the victories, and don't forget to laugh along the way. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation to the entire student body, teachers, staff, and administrators for your unwavering support and dedication. Our accomplishments, big and small, are a testament to the collective effort and passion that courses through the veins of Oaklands Catholic School.

It's been an honour to serve as Student President. This role has allowed to me grow so much as a person, whether it be my confidence, public speaking skills or even my leadership and teamwork skills. I got the opportunity to grow and learn with my team and leave with a sense of pride in what we've achieved together. As I bid farewell to this chapter, I carry with me the indelible memories and lessons learned during my time as President. Oaklands will always hold a special place in my heart.

From our Student Vice President – Nadia Norman

It has been an incredible honour to serve Oaklands as Vice President this year! This experience has afforded me the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of Oaklands' identity as a school through being increasingly involved and gaining an insight into the deeper processes that enable the school to run smoothly. Through this platform, I have become a key contributor in the suggestion and implementation of projects to further increase quality of life at the school. As a group of leaders, we are all in agreement that there is no 'I' in team and through continual work with each other we have learnt to improve our communication and team working skills for the betterment of our day-to-day work.

The role of a student leader is essential for the growing of the school and if done properly can provide to be an invaluable link between the teachers and the students. This communication is key to ensuring that every person within our school environment, whether a student or a teacher, has an opportunity to express their concerns. Furthermore, student leaders can empower the student voice and are able to pilot student-led movements which could change the course of existing processes within the school as well as some decision making within the school.

It has been a privilege to interact with other students at Oaklands in various ways in my capacity as a Vice President; for instance, through school councils, providing students with a direct opportunity to represent their year group in regular meetings surrounding key issues as well as school shows such as our Culture week. The showcase introduced a new angle to education within the school where the students were able to teach each other about the rich culture existing within parts of the world we live in. Throughout this year, I have continuously had my perspective opened through other inspirational members of this school. Moreover, I truly believe that these events help to create an increasingly more harmonious and cohesive school environment and I am proud of the progress we have made as a student leadership team so far.

Although, this process is new to the school, having only started in 2022. I believe that we have helped to build the foundations of something that will prove to be an important legacy for many years to come, even after we have left. Before I sign off, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Sumba who helps coordinate and manage our team for allowing us to freely build our vision for the school. Reflecting on this past year, I have experienced immense growth as a leader and as a person as I have been given the space to expand on and enhance my skills and for this, I will forever be grateful. Meanwhile, the process of electing the next Student President and Vice President is underway and I have high hopes for our next upcoming leaders. So, for the last time, thank you for reading Oaklands news!

From our Charism Team Leader – Blessing Sibanda

The Charism Team focuses on the school's ethos and who we are as a community. Our biggest project was Culture Week, where we celebrated our different cultures and backgrounds from all over the world. The highlight of the week was the Culture Show, which I hope you all enjoyed, because the performers and cat-walkers worked really hard to deliver a glimpse into their culture. A project that was not as known but equally effective was the Triad Project, a triple outreach programme designed to help three different groups - the homeless, the care home residents and the foster children.

I thank everyone who worked to bring these projects to success, because your hard work has not gone unnoticed. It has been amazing working with the Charism Team, and I hope the team have continued success!

From our Pastoral Team Leader – Gabby Nash

The Pastoral Team focus on the general wellbeing and happiness of students in school. Our main project has been sixth form mentoring, where both Year 12s and 13s have been paired up with students, not only within Oaklands but also St Peter's Primary School, to offer a friendly ear and helpful advice. This has proved extremely successful, with teachers receiving positive feedback from our students.

We have also made our presence visible through assemblies, working with senior members of staff to offer a student perspective into improving school life, and our involvement in student run activities, including both the summer and Christmas concerts.

Personally, the role has given me the opportunity to grow in confidence and I am so grateful for the amazing group of people I get to work with every day! I have no doubt that the new Year 12s will continue our legacy!

From our Student Secretary – Delia Jose

As Secretary for our Leadership Team, I have helped to ensure every voice is heard. In our meetings with the Student Council, Mr Quinn, Mr Sumba, and our Canteen staff, I take notes on what issues are most pressing, prioritise them and provide solutions to them. This can then be followed up in our meetings with teachers and our Student President and the rest of the student leadership team meetings and SLT.

Our impact in the school is visible, for example, in the canteen, Student Leadership presence has definitely been seen to ease the pressure for the canteen staff. For Culture Week, I was part of the team organising the schedule of events, the running of the show and creating posters for advertising the event.

I hope the notes that I take can help the incoming Student Leadership Team to learn from the feedback we have received and be inspired to take action in items that they are passionate in to help improve our school community.



Term Dates - Spring Term 2024

Tuesday	2 January	INSET DAY - school closed
Wednesday	3 January	Students return to school (Week 1) Year 11 Book Sharing Week
Thursday	4 January	Presentation of Certificates Evening
Monday	8 January	Year 11 Mock Grades (this week) Year 9 Option Subject Tests Week Oaklands Friends' & Parents' Association (OFPA) Committee Meeting (7.30pm)
Thursday	11 January	Year 11 English Exam Year 11 Parents' Evening (4.30-8.00pm) - Hall
Monday	15 January	Year 12 Assessment Week Governors' Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting
Monday	22 January	Faith Unity Week Governors' Business & Collaboration Committee Meeting
Wednesday	24 January	Year 10 English Exam Year 13 EPQ Presentation Evening
Thursday	25 January	Year 10 Maths Exam Year 9 Options Evening
Wednesday	31 January	Local Governing Body Meeting
Friday	2 February	Non Uniform Day
Monday	5 February	Deadline for Return of Year 9 Option Forms Oaklands Friends' & Parents' Association (OFPA) Committee Meeting (7.30pm)
Wednesday	7 February	Year 9 Teenage Booster Vaccinations (+ Thursday 8 February) Year 7 Grades / Year 12 Written Reports and Grades
Wed-Fri	7-9 February	School Show
Saturday	10 February	Ski Trip Departs / Year 10 Exchange Visit to Spain Departs
Mon-Fri	12-16 February	Half Term Break Maths Disney Trip
Monday	19 February	Year 13 Mocks (to Friday 1 March)
Tuesday	20 February	ESCAT Trustees Meeting
Thursday	22 February	Year 12 Parents' Evening - Hall
Monday	26 February	Governors' Ethos & Strategy Committee Meeting
Tuesday	27 February	Year 12 Post-18 Information Evening
Monday	4 March	Careers Week Year 7 Book Sharing Week Governors' Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting Oaklands Friends' & Parents' Association (OFPA) Committee Meeting (7.30pm)
Wednesday	6 March	SEN Parents' Evening
Friday	8 March	World Book Day at Oaklands
Monday	11 March	Science Week Governors' Business & Collaboration Committee Meeting Year 11 Maths / English / Science Exams (all week)
Thursday	14 March	Year 7 Parents' Evening (in the Hall)
Friday	15 March	Duke of Edinburgh Award Presentation Evening
Wednesday	20 March	Local Governing Body Meeting
Thursday	21 March	Design Showcase
Monday	25 March	Year 13 Mock Grades & Predictions
Tuesday	26 March	ESCAT Trustees Meeting
Wednesday	27 March	Year 8 Grades / Year 11 Final Predictions and Tutor Reports Year 13 Parents' Evening - Hall
Thursday	28 March	Passion Services Last Day of Term

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