



# Oaklands News

Issue 457, June 2024



**Community - Unity - Opportunity**

## From the Headteacher's Desk

It's that time of the year again when we mark the final day for Year 11 and Year 13. I always believe that the end of their time at school should be marked by celebration, this includes the celebration of the Eucharist; what better way to bookend a youngster's time at Oaklands?

Schools can be drawn into a narrative that is about grades and numbers. Moments like the last day teach youngsters that whilst grades are important, life isn't about numbers, it's about stories, these are what help define the Oaklands community. Most of us can remember our last day at school. Our students are going to achieve amazing results with many at a personal best. We must not forget we don't just teach the curriculum, for the sake of the qualifications we teach it because youngsters have the right to know and because we want them to be the very best they can be.

# Sixth Form: Marvellous Mentors



As part of our Oaklands + Programme, where we develop leadership skills in our students and give them opportunities to make a difference in our community and beyond, we initiated our Sixth Form mentoring scheme. The scheme offers Year 12 students a chance to support pupils at St Peter's Catholic Primary School every Wednesday afternoon. It is one of the ways that we live out our charism of love and service, reaching out to others to support them and enable them to experience 'good' in life. Sixth Formers were paired with younger pupils for activities designed to build confidence and develop essential skills, thus showing these younger pupils that they are important. The Sixth Formers have been excellent ambassadors for the school and they were all sad to see the programme come to a close for the year.

Mr Sumba

"I enjoyed being a mentor at St Peter's as I feel like I have made an impact on Ella. I enjoyed watching Ella grow and become more confident in herself. Since starting the mentoring scheme I have witnessed all the children involved grow and become better individuals."

Tori Parker, 12DMK

"I have really enjoyed being a mentor at St Peter's and so have many of my friends who also took part in the programme. It felt very satisfying to help someone with similar problems that I had experienced at that age. I enjoyed getting to know Brayia better and learning how to make someone younger than me feel comfortable around me."

Natalia Kurczuk. 12CLW





# Farewell Year 11



Just before half term, our Year 11 students joined together for their traditional Leavers' Assembly, the students have enjoyed writing messages to each other in their Year Books, this has allowed them to reflect on their time at Oaklands. On their last day, we celebrated Mass one last time and students were able to sign their leaver's t-shirt on the lawn.

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

I want to thank all the staff at Oaklands, in particular the Tutors and Year 11 teachers for all of their hard work. I'd also like to thank the parents for their continued support of the school.

Lastly, I want to thank Year 11 students; you have been a fantastic group of young people and I am very proud of you. I wish you good luck for the future and hope that your hard work is rewarded with success. Mrs Mitchell



# CAFOD Young Leaders

The CAFOD Young Leaders programme is an opportunity for Year 12 students who are passionate about making a difference in the world. The program is designed to provide students with a deeper understanding of global poverty issues and empower and equip them with the tools to successfully run their own social action projects for global justice.



This year, eleven Sixth Form students have participated in the programme and raised over £300 for CAFOD throughout school fundraising events such as cake sales, Christmas gift sales and the Saint Valentine's Day flower sale, where the students organised their own 'secret admirer' delivery service. The CAFOD Young Leaders programme has been an excellent opportunity for students to develop their leadership skills while positively impacting the world.

On Friday 14th June, Sixth Form students attended the CAFOD celebration day where they received their certificates recognising all the hard work that they have done this year. The Young Leaders were anointed to mark their intentions to carry on the work that they had begun. We wish them the best of luck in their future endeavours.

Mrs Semple



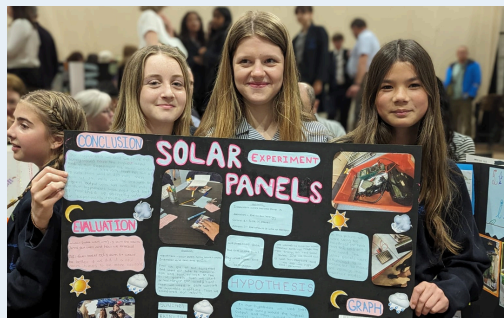


# STEM @ Oaklands

## Chemistry Olympiad

Our Year 13 Chemistry Olympiad participants, were presented with their certificates by Science Governor, Nick Parker, last week.

The Olympiad pushes students to truly excel in Chemistry and this year Oaklands students received a total of six Bronze Awards and a Silver.



## Year 8 STEM Showcase

Over the past six weeks, Year 8 students have been carrying out their own Science projects. Students have researched their chosen topics, proposed hypotheses and completed practical testing to collect data and present their findings. These were then showcased on Thursday 6th June to parents, teachers and governors, who heard two talks from Sixth Form students about their CREST awards. The winners, Braydan, Amelia and Athena from 8 St Teresa were then announced at the end of the evening.

## Primary Science Outreach

On Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th June, the Science Department welcomed Year 5 classes from St Peter's Catholic Primary School and St Thomas More's Catholic Primary School for an afternoon of Secondary School chemistry! Students completed an experiment using filtration and evaporation to get salt crystals in their pure form from a mixture of sand and salt.

The results from both classes were fantastic, and Mrs Hardaker, Miss Lenihan and I were hugely impressed! We look forward to welcoming further classes in a few weeks, and it is fantastic to hear that many of these brilliant Scientists will be joining us in a year or so!

Mr Semple



# The Oaklands Way

## Catholic Social Teaching Principles: Option for the Poor

Option for the Poor: This principle is central to the Christian teaching of 'love your neighbour'. It is about helping those who are most in need - 'lacking something important' to be able to live life well.



- Helping others should be at the heart of what we do here at Oaklands because we are a Catholic school.
- How do you help other students?
- Are you a student who notices when another student is not comfortable about something and reaches out to help them?
- Are you kind to others, especially those who do not have as much as you do?
- How do you think other students view you, as a helpful student or as one who does not care?

We are part of a community at Oaklands and so should always aim to help others at school, but we also work together to help people outside our community through fundraising and volunteering.



Father,

We pray as a Christian Community, to be open to the gospel message of Jesus.

We value the uniqueness of each other and, in respecting and supporting one another, celebrate the gifts we bring.

In unity and love, we will reach out to those in need. Guide us as we work to make prayer, love, healing, peace and justice a reality within our school.

Amen.





# Year 5 Open Morning

Tuesday 2nd July 2024, 11:50am - 1:45pm  
Stakes Hill Road, Waterlooville, PO7 7BW





OAKLANDS PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS  
**SOUNDS OF SUMMER**

An exciting evening of groups and soloists  
showcasing the summer sounds of the  
Performing Arts Department

THURSDAY 20TH JUNE, 7PM  
ROMERO HALL



FREE

**Oaklands**  
Catholic School and Sixth Form College

**Summer Holiday HAF Activities**  
**29th July - 24th August**

Supervised activities and healthy meals  
Year 4 and 5 children who receive Free School Meals

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