



Community - Unity - Opportunity

From the Headteacher's Desk

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

Over the summer many of you, like me, would have been glued to the Paris Olympics. Many of the sports pundits talk about legacy or impact. "What will the impact be on 19 year old Toby Roberts winning a Gold for climbing". Well, only time will tell. Maybe the next Toby Roberts is in our new Year 7 cohort.

Sport and faith both have the power to conjure up emotion over the years the name of Jesus Christ has conjured up more emotion in people than any other name and whilst the names of sports personalities may come and go, Jesus's name has endured. To understand the legacy of Jesus we must return to the Gospels. His legacy is to be found in how He redefined how we should live our lives. For Jesus had His sights on more than one generation. He made it plain for all humanity that life was not about what we possessed; life was not about what we achieve; life is only about how we treat those around us, this is his legacy and the training routine for a gold winning performance. Yet again, students have excelled at A level, and GCSE. The detail at each level can be found further within this newsletter. At A level I was particularly encouraged by the number of students who have gone on to study medicine or veterinary science.

For some time the school has been preparing for its Section 48 inspection. The next inspection could come at any time. In line with the new Catholic Inspection Framework we will only receive a few hours notice. There is plenty of news on our website that details the unique nature of our school please feel free to browse. Please ensure that you have continued communication with the school via the normal means. Teachers for subject specific academic issues, Form Tutors and Heads of Year for pastoral issues.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Mr Quinn, Headteacher

Year 7: First Days at School

The transition to secondary school can be a big step for new students. To ensure a smooth start, we held two induction days filled with exciting activities to help Year 7 students feel welcome and confident. From icebreakers and team-building exercises to subject-specific introductions, these days were designed to make the school environment familiar and friendly.

Many of our new Year 7s had already attended our 'Summer School programme, which allowed them to explore the school grounds, meet staff, make new friends, and get a taste of secondary school life.

This gave them a head start and helped them feel more prepared for the beginning of the term, and they made a wonderful contribution to our school site by helping to plant trees in the school orchard.



Here's what some of our newer students had to say about their first few days in the Oaklands Community:

'I've enjoyed meeting my tutor because she is really lovely and welcomed us very well. I've also made new friends to keep me going throughout the year'

K Chapman, 7CA

'I've really enjoyed how we've been made to feel so welcome and supported during this nerve-wracking time. It's really helpful'

P Ng, 7CA

We are delighted to see how well our Year 7 students are settling into the Oaklands Community.

Mrs Bunt, Head of Year 7



Student Supervision

We would like to inform you about the procedures in place to ensure the safety and well-being of your children on our school site.

Before School

The school site is open for parents to drop off and collect their children.

Please note that there is no active supervision of students until 8:30 AM.

Students should arrive at school between 8:30 AM and 8:50 AM and proceed to their designated muster areas.

Tutors will collect students from their muster areas at 8:50 AM.

Students may also go to the canteen before school, starting at 8:30 AM.

In case of inclement weather, the site staff will consult with senior leadership to determine appropriate alternative arrangements.

After School

Active supervision is provided on the drive until the last bus departs.

We have a staggered finish time to allow Key Stage 3 students to leave earlier than Key Stage 4 and 5 students.

If your child is staying behind for after-school activities (e.g., homework club, detentions), please ensure that you have agreed on a collection time and location with them.

Homework club operates a sign-in, sign-out procedure as the duration varies depending on the amount of homework.

Detention finish times will be communicated to parents via Classcharts.

Staff running after-school activities maintain a register of attendance.

Important Note

At the end of the school day, students should either be on-site participating in a designated activity or off-site.

Please avoid having students wait on the school site for extended periods while awaiting collection.

If your child is concerned about not being picked up on time, they can report to the main Reception up to 4:00 PM or seek assistance from a member of the site staff or senior leadership team.

We appreciate your cooperation in following these procedures to ensure the safety of your child on our school site.

Mrs Bonnington, Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead

Iceland Escapades

Forty students from Years 10 and 11, accompanied by five members of staff, visited Iceland in July.

An early start at Oaklands on Wednesday, 17th 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 a geothermal area where the immense heat generated by the magma at relatively shallow depths is harnessed to generate electricity and provide hot water. This was also the case at the Blue Lagoon, where we enjoyed bathing in the 37°C water - discharge from the nearby power station. The changes to the landscape since 2023 were remarkable. The recent eruptions in the area have resulted in lava flows moving inexorably towards the Blue Lagoon; the determination of the authorities to defend it at all costs was clear to see, with huge embankments built to divert any future potential lava flows.

Our first full day was spent journeying around the 'Golden Circle'. We visited the Kerid volcano - a circular depression formed by an eruption 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 most spectacular. The heat, which is the cause of the rifting, was evident as we watched the Strokkur geyser erupt at Geysir. We had our lunch there and sat watching the eruptions every five minutes or so. A short drive from there was Gullfoss: a two-stage waterfall cascading some 40 metres into a steep gorge carved out by the River Olfusa as the waterfall retreated. The Faxifoss waterfall, often called Iceland's Niagara, was the final waterfall we visited.



A significant number of the students on the trip had been selected for end-of-year Governor subject awards, and the recipients of both the Helen Shipman and Heads of Year Awards were on the trip. So, we had an award ceremony at the Ljosfoss HEP education centre, and the main event took place concurrently at Oaklands.

On Friday, we visited the Eldfell volcano on the island of Heimaey, which erupted in 1973. It marked one of the few occasions when people actively combated a volcanic eruption by attempting to divert the lava that was flowing towards the town and harbour. 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 was 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 returning 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.

On Saturday, we travelled along the south coast towards Vik – the most southerly point of Iceland. This coastline on the route is characterised by towering cliffs, waterfalls and vast expanses of outwash plain, which emanate from the Eyjafjallajokull (the volcano that was 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, which we visited later in the day.

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 melt water 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 was the highlight of the trip for many of our students and staff.



Our final day in Iceland, on Sunday, the 21st of July was spent in the capital, Reykjavik. While there, we visited the concert hall, City Hall, and the famous Hallgrímskirkja church and walked through the main shopping area and harbour. We returned home to Oaklands late that evening.

Such a trip can't be a success without the support of my colleagues. I would like to thank Mrs Broadway, Mrs Over, Mrs Rucinska and Mr Horn for all of their efforts. Moreover, I would like to extend my thanks to the students, as they were a pleasure to spend time with. Hopefully, they will remember the content when learning about hazards this term!

Mr Bamford



St John's Korogocho Update

The summer provides an opportunity for staff and students alike to reflect on their time at school and breathe a sigh of relief – all in the knowledge that the hard work, grit and determination will begin again in September. Whilst we have had an opportunity to relax and recuperate, St John's have been busy throughout the course of their second term.

Students have been engaging with their studies and the many cross-curricular activities now on offer at St John's. Many of the students involve themselves in sport – especially that of football and basketball, with the latter providing huge success in the local community. Most recently, St John's took part in a 3-on-3 basketball tournament across Korogocho and were victorious – beating competition from other schools with far more experience. The Headteacher, Mr Mwangi, said “the school is happy because from your support we were able to stay in school, compete in tournaments such as this and enable students to take part in sports.” This now means that St John's have qualified for the Kenyan National 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament and we wish them the best of luck in their quest for further sporting glory!

Looking forward, our annual St John's and Cultural Week is approaching (w/c 21st October). This is a week of solidifying our communal connection, our partnership and our shared love for God. As a community, the aim for the week is to expose students to how and why our partnership is meaningful and what we can do as a collective to help provide the necessary support for our friends in Kenya. A number of activities take place over the course of the week – including a Staff vs Sixth Form sports event, baking, crafts, origami, nail painting, a raffle, a cultural food market and a non-uniform day – all to help raise money and continue our worthwhile support of both communities. It is a true testament to the commitment and dedication of all the staff and students, and a fantastic way to celebrate our love for one another.

Clearly, the strength of our partnership with St John's could not be any more uplifting, joyous and fruitful. It is evident that the power of community and sport is awe-inspiring and brings people together in a number of ways. I will leave you with this piece of scripture from Ephesians 2:10: “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

We wish you a peaceful start to the new academic year and thank you for your continued support.

Mr Osbourne



Pastoral Care

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 2024-2025:

Mrs Bunt Head of Year 7

Mrs Mitchell Head of Year 8

Miss Campbell Assistant Head of Year 8

Mrs Cope Head of Year 9

Mrs Cunningham Head of Year 10

Mrs Over 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 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 Rowell**. 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; 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.

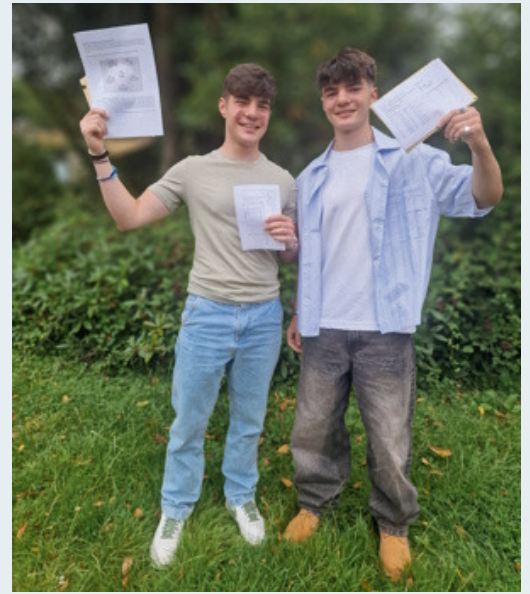
Please note that an email to your child's Form Tutor is not a suitable way to communicate if it is an emergency or if it is a matter better discussed on the phone or in a meeting. If it is an emergency, please phone Reception. We are working within the current guidance and will determine, once we know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

Mrs Bonnington, Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead

Exam Success

Year 13 achieved another high set of A level examination results. The number of grades at A and A* rose by 4% to 21% compared with last year. A similar picture occurred at grades A* to C, rising to 70%.

Once again students at Oaklands will be going to some of the best universities to study demanding courses including Oxbridge. This year, 12 students were successful in obtaining places to study Medicine or Veterinary Science underlining the strength of STEM subjects at the school. Students have also been successful in achieving higher level apprenticeship, where they will earn and gain a degree.



A week later on the 22nd August students received their GCSE results. 73% of students at the school achieved Grade 4 or above in both English and Maths, with 53% achieving Grade 5 and above by the same measure. A number of students attained Grade 9 in every subject and significant numbers of students have chosen to stay on in the school's Sixth Form.

Headteacher, Matthew Quinn said,

"The results achieved by Oaklands Sixth Form College Students were stunning – absolutely brilliant! Acknowledging the success of the highest attainers is important, however there are many other students who smashed their own personal best overcoming significant challenges along the way, we must not forget these youngsters either. The care and support students receive here is second to none, even if that means some tough love along the way."

Staff and students worked very hard. The school continues to justify its strong reputation at Advanced Level. It is fantastic to see the progress made by many of our students from entry into Year 7 through to Year 13. The high grade profile achieved by our students will mean that the majority should gain entry to the university of their choice or employment and training".



Attendance

At Oaklands Catholic School, we believe regular attendance is vital for academic success and personal development. We strive for 95% attendance for all students, except in genuine medical cases or significant personal issues that are communicated to your child's Head of Year.



Please do take the time to read the guidance on our website, 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)

If your child is absent from school, please contact us before 8.00am. You can leave a message using one of the following methods (All available 24/7):

- Class Charts – send a message via Class Charts
- Email – attendance@oaklandscatholicschool.org
- Text – 079 4310 4536
- Telephone Attendance Direct Line - Leave a voicemail on 023 9224 8053

Please also use these to inform us of any future medical appointments or planned absences from school. 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.

Mrs Bonnington, Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead

Education Sunday

Education Sunday is kept in England and Wales on the first Sunday after schools return for each academic year, so this year the designated Sunday is September 8th.

The purpose of Education Sunday is an initiative of Churches Together in England and Wales to pray for our schools as they begin their work anew after the summer holiday.

We pray especially for our pupils who are starting school for the first time or who are transitioning from one school to another; this is an anxious time for them, wondering whether they will fit in, whether they will be happy, whether they will find friends, etc. We also pray for those students starting for the first time on higher or further education environments and beginning to shape their lives for the future.



These days our schools face many challenges and we pray for our Headteachers, Senior Leadership Teams and Governors or Directors who face an ever-heavier burden of responsibilities, compliances and big decisions as we move into the era of Academisation. All our teachers, too, face daily situations which take energy, test their adaptability and demand both skilful pastoral care and creative lesson preparation and delivery. Our maintenance and estate teams also manage the schools resources and equipment to a safe and suitable standard and some schools face particular challenges in the light of the discovery of major technical issues such as WRAC.

In our Catholic schools our Chaplaincy provision is a particular strength and contributes enormously to the caring and spiritual ethos which is so much a special and valued characteristic of our schools. We pray for the support of our chaplaincies and the work they do in enhancing and growing the faith of our pupils.

In our parish we have a special Schools Uniform Sunday on October 20th when we celebrate and pray for our schools in greater depth, but on September 8th we will have special prayers and a blessing for all teachers, staff and pupils who are entering on the next school year this week.

Fr Jeremy, Parish Priest, Sacred Heart Church



**2024
LEARNING
TOGETHER:
EDUCATION IN
OUR COMMUNITY**

cte.org.uk/educationsunday2024

Oaklands+ Programme

Education at Oaklands Catholic School is not just education for the sake of it; rather it is for enabling young people to acquire skills necessary to live life in a certain way. This means that here at Oaklands, we aim to motivate our students to become people of challenge, change and transformation;

Challenge: to be unafraid and unashamed to challenge anything which denigrates or belittles a person; to see every person as a brother or sister made in the image and likeness of God

Change: to be advocates for change where it is needed

Transformation: to be personally transformed, and through that transformation, work to create a world of justice and peace for all

Our student leadership structure is designed to allow students to be actively involved in the everyday life of the college and school, thus allowing them to develop personally as well as making the college and school a good place for all of us. They are guided by the school motto:

COMMUNITY – ‘serve more’

UNITY - ‘love more’

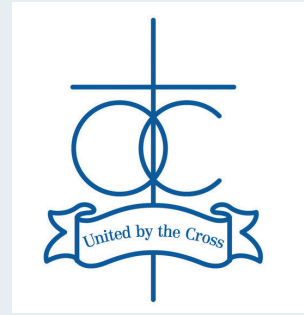
OPPORTUNITY - ‘be more’

Our student leadership team is headed by a president and senior deputy, assisted by four deputies. The four deputies lead other students’ leaders from Years 10 – 13 who are divided into four teams, each responsible for the four key areas of our college and school;charism, curriculum, pastoral and co-curriculum.

Mr Sumba



The Oaklands Way



The History of Oaklands

Next week we will celebrate our school feast day. The feast is called the Triumph of the Cross (or Exaltation of the Cross) and is celebrated on 14th September. It's a feast day in the whole of the Catholic Church, but we have adopted it as our school feast day and it helps us understand why our school motto is 'United By The Cross'.

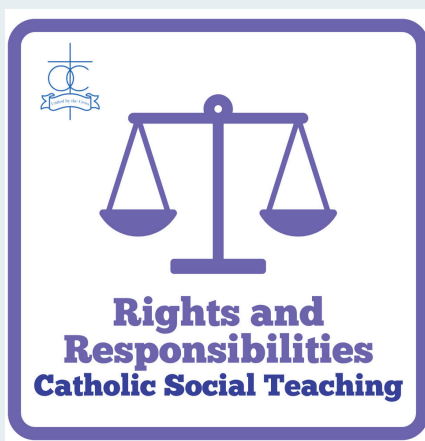
Next week students will learn about the Sisters of Christ who set up our school in Southsea in 1902, later moving it to Oaklands House.

Catholic Social Teaching - Rights and Responsibilities

The belief that the rights we have also place on us responsibilities towards others.

When the Sisters started this school, they were very clear that they wanted it to be an 11 - 18 education institution that taught young people how to be useful citizens of the world, to be good people who set out to make the world a better place for others because they had experienced love and care here at Oaklands. It means each person has rights that are respected and they too respect others.

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.

Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Community - Unity - Opportunity



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