



Community - Unity - Opportunity

From the Headteacher's Desk

Last Friday we celebrated our school feast day Triumph of the Cross. It is also known as the feast of the Exultation of the cross. It is a privilege to be able to start the year in such a way. Our thanks to Fathers Gerrard and James who celebrated Mass. The celebration also provides a tangible link to the Sisters of Christ who founded the school. We marked the week with a series of special assemblies. Each student was also given a commemorative pen.

I have always considered the name given to this feast day as an irony of sorts. Who in there right mind would want to celebrate the triumph of the cross, an instrument of death for the Roman Empire? Our modern world, surely does not celebrate seeming defeats.

There are many reasons to recognise this feast including the victory of love as a choice made by Jesus. There is something though that is very relevant to us all; we all look to find victory in the daily crosses that we encounter in life. You will be familiar with the term 'a cross to bear', the triumph of the cross invites us to find a path through when the going is tough.

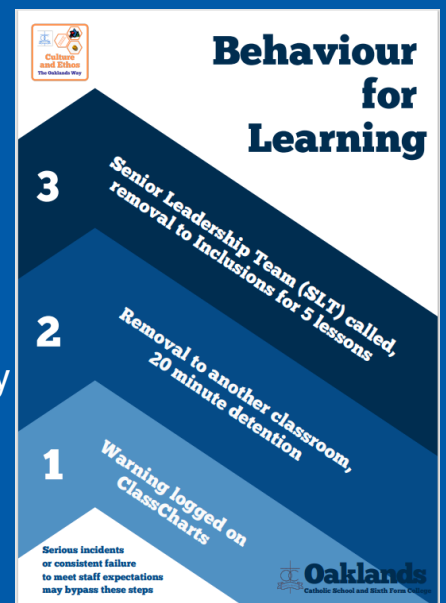
We must not lose sight of the fact that on the cross there hung a Saviour. The cross becomes meaningful only when we find Jesus hanging there. Without Jesus, the cross remains merely a symbol of pain and suffering. With Jesus, it acquires a new meaning of hope, love and life.

Mr Quinn, Headteacher

Expectations, Behaviour & Standards

Expectations

At the start of every academic year, students have an Expectations Assembly during which we tell students what is required of them to keep everyone in our school community safe and happy. This assembly covers general conduct reminders but it also includes very clear Health and Safety instructions - our non-negotiables - and the school's response should these non-negotiables be challenged.



When a student joins Oaklands, we ask parents to sign a Home School Agreement, implying support of our policies and procedures, which are designed for the benefit of all in the community, not least when it comes to keeping our students safe. We therefore look to all parents and carers to support us in maintaining the highest of standards for our students with regard to their good conduct in school and in particular supporting any action the school deems necessary if their child puts the health, safety or wellbeing of any member of the school community at risk.

Behaviour & Standards

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

ClassCharts is the main vehicle through which staff can reward students and this year we will be focusing in particular on recognising the effort students put into their work or activities in school, especially where they have showed determination and perseverance.

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

At Oaklands we use 'Additional Learning Opportunities' (ALO's). These are entirely supportive and they are set by subject teachers, to ensure that a student really understands the work and what they have been asked to do. They can be set when a child has not completed homework or not finished work which they could reasonably have been expected to in the lesson. They can also help remove some of the barriers which prevent a student from not completing work to a level commensurate with their ability.

An ALO will only be given where it is clear a student has tried to complete the work but perhaps needs support; where a student has failed to complete the work due to poor learning behaviours a formal sanction will be issued and logged. There is an expectation at Oaklands that parents / carers will ensure their child attends an ALO as they would want to support their child in overcoming any barriers to learning.

There is a clear distinction between ALO's which are supportive and NOT recorded on the school system and detentions, which are a sanction. If a student fails to take up an ALO or their behaviour necessitates a sanction, again our system ensures an incremental progression. Detentions move swiftly up the scale if there is non-compliance on the part of a student to ensure the matter is resolved within a two-week timeframe at the most.

Behaviour is very good at Oaklands and standards remain high. This means that overall, we spend more time praising and affirming students than we do sanctioning them. Thank you for the support you give in making the Home School agreement a working document in support of the standards we strive to maintain at Oaklands.

Mrs Bonnington, Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead

OFPA News

On behalf of the Oaklands' Friends and Parents Association (OFPA), I would like to welcome all new parents and carers whose children have joined Oaklands this year. Please see our link on the school website for updates and information [Oaklands Friends' and Parents' Association](#)

Key Dates:

27th September, 25th October & 29th November: Pre-Loved Uniform Sales

26th October: Prom Attire Sale

7th October: AGM

16th October: Social Evening



From the Chaplain

Our school feast day is the Triumph of the Holy Cross; this is celebrated universally in the Church on 14th September. On this day, the Church celebrates both the discovery and the recovery of the True Cross of Jesus Christ.

The Roman Emperor Constantine's mother, St. Helena, a convert to Christianity, went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land to locate where the important events in the life of Jesus Christ occurred, and to preserve the relics of the Christian faith that remained there. One of her goals was to find the place of Jesus' crucifixion and the very Cross on which he was hung.

The date of the discovery of the Cross of Christ was May 3rd, 326 A.D. St. Helena had a church built on the original site of Jesus' crucifixion, burial, and resurrection, known as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Her son, Constantine, dedicated this church on September 13-14 in the year 335 A.D. Even today, the Stations of the Cross in Jerusalem end at this very spot.

The Cross was kept by the Church in Jerusalem, but was stolen by Chosroas, King of the Persians, in the year 614 A.D. In the year 629 A.D. the Cross was recovered and brought back to Jerusalem by Emperor Heraclius of Constantinople. The relic of the True Cross was then restored to its place in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The date the True Cross was brought back to Jerusalem was September 14th! The anniversary of the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the date on which Jerusalem celebrated the feast of the Triumph of the Holy Cross. Tradition has it that Emperor Heraclius carried the Cross on his back in order to restore it to its rightful place; but, he was only able to move it after he had removed his royal garments and put on the humble garments of repentance instead.

The Church has a long tradition of venerating the Cross, that's why Catholic churches always have large crucifixes in prominent places. In the Catholic Church venerating the Cross is a liturgical tradition during Holy Week. It's also why Catholics keep crosses and crucifixes in their homes, usually on their wall or above their doorway. If you don't have a cross or a crucifix in your home, consider choosing one, have it blessed, and place it in a prominent place in your home where it will be honoured and venerated.



Mrs Farrell, Chaplain

Parent Information

Visiting School

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

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

The Governors are responsible for protecting the health and safety of their staff and pupils. Behaviour which includes abusive or threatening language, inappropriate demeanour or invasion of personal space against school staff or other members of the school community will not be tolerated. Everyone has a right to expect that the school is a safe place in which to work and learn. There is no place for inappropriate threatening behaviour or abuse in schools. Where such an incident does occur, the Governors will play a proactive role in taking all possible action to deal with it. Day to day access to a school is within the control of the Headteacher.

Free School Meal Declaration

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

School Reports

If you are a parent who requires a duplicate copy of school reports please can you contact your child's Head of Year. Our SIMS system does not allow us to have two 'priority 1' contact details so we hold a register of any family when such a request is made to ensure all parents and carers can obtain their child's report in a timely manner.

Medicines in School

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

Restorative Justice

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

RESPECT: for everyone by listening to other opinions and learning to value them

RESPONSIBILITY: taking responsibility for your own actions

REPAIR: developing the skills within our school community so that its individual members have the necessary skills to identify solutions that repair harm and ensure behaviours are not repeated

RE-INTEGRATION: working through a structured, supportive process that aims to solve the problem and be happy and safe in school

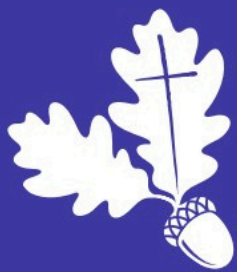
The purpose of Restorative Justice is to ensure all our young people participate actively in their learning and in school life. We acknowledge that sometimes we make mistakes, we get it wrong, but we want to move away from being quick to sanction, but instead try and work with our young people to evaluate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

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

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



**Mrs Bonnington, Deputy Head
and Designated Safeguarding Lead**



THE SIXTH FORM

Oaklands Catholic School

It has been a wonderful start to the 2024-2025 academic year at the Sixth Form College.

Welcome back, Year 13 & Year 12 Induction

We began the term by welcoming back our brilliant Year 13 and the induction of our new

Year 12. It was It is good to see so many of our Oaklands students return as the Year 12 cohort despite the strong competition for places in our Sixth Form. We are also blessed to have the highest-ever number of students join us from a range of schools across our local area and beyond. We wish all our students every success as they embark on their Sixth Form journeys.



Exam success

We began the year by celebrating an excellent set of results, bucking the national trend, increasing our A*-A tally and securing nearly 50% at the top grades A*-B with an overall 95% A-level pass rate. Again, we also beat the national average, with 76% of our students successfully securing their first-choice university place. This year also saw the highest-ever number of students secure places on some of the most competitive university courses. This is a wonderful testament to all our students' and teachers' hard work and commitment.

Sixth Form Laser Tag

The Year 12 have also just returned from the induction event. We all travelled to Queen Elizabeth Country Park for a morning of group games and Laser Tag. It was a brilliant day and a great way to bond as a community. We are planning more events in the coming months, which may even include go-carting!

Mr Godwin, Director of Sixth Form



The Oaklands Way

St Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul was born to a poor peasant family in France in 1581. He did well at school and went on to be hired to tutor the children of a nearby wealthy family. He used the money he earned

from his teaching to continue his education at the University of Toulouse where he studied theology.



He was ordained in 1600 then in 1605, while on a ship travelling from Marseilles to Narbonne, he was captured, brought to Tunis and sold as a slave. Two years later he and his master managed to escape and both returned to France. St. Vincent went to Avignon and later to Rome to continue his studies where he became a chaplain and was placed in charge of distributing money to the poor. He spent his life preaching missions, providing relief to the poor and establishing hospitals for them.

The work of SVP

SVP is a charity which aims to serve the poor in the local community. It was founded in 1833 by a group of students in Paris who were inspired by the example of St Vincent de Paul. In 1844 a group of men came together in London and started the first group in Britain.

Catholic Social Teaching - Common Good

The belief that we must ensure that each person has access to what they need to have a good life.

This is the idea that we all belong to one community and therefore we need to look out for each other and links in well with the 'Community' part of our school's mission statement. This week, we also remember St Vincent De Paul, a person who dedicated his life to helping those in need and the poor to make the community better for everyone.

Lord Jesus,

May the example of St. Vincent de Paul inspire us to be generous of hearts and hand to the needy. May our generosity flow from humble gratitude for your many gifts to us, rather than from false pride in our own abilities. We are all needy in our own ways, and so are dependent on your generosity and that of others. Help us to respond willingly to the Gospel call to self-giving love, to look for ways to serve rather than expecting to be served.

Amen.



JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOOLOR DREAMCOAT

Wednesday 12th

Thursday 13th

Friday 14th

February

Romero Hall

7pm

Open Evening

Monday 30th September 2024, 5-8pm
Stakes Hill Road, Waterloooville, PO7 7BW

Community Unity Opportunity



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Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Community - Unity - Opportunity



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