

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Registered in England and Wales, Company No 07721932

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

Our Ref: MQ/SM

24 October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

The summer break seems all but a distant memory now and youngsters have been at school for eight weeks. Within this letter there are a number of links to important documents that can be found on our school website. I would encourage all parents to read these.

So much has already been accomplished this year, highlighted by the numerous enriching experiences we have enjoyed during our Culture Week activities this week. Looking back at the previous week, it is noteworthy that students participated in the Restart a Heart workshop, a Year 7 Teaching Mass, the Year 7 Disco, Sixth Form Law students had the opportunity to visit the Magistrates' Courts, while our Year 10 rugby team achieved a commendable victory against PGS. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the staff for their invaluable contributions to the extracurricular life of the school.

Attendance

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

Sixth Form College Open Event

Thank you to all families of Year 11 students who attended the Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 17th October. More information about the Sixth form can be found by following [this link](#).

If any families were unable to attend and would like to come and have a meeting with Sixth Form staff about subject combinations or application concerns, please do contact us in Sixth Form via email, oaklandssixthform@oaklandscatholicschool.org or telephone, 023 9225 9214.

Year 11 Mocks

The mock examinations for Year 11 will take place towards the end of the term, details will be issued by separate letter. Students should already be preparing for these. Next half term, Year 11 students will meet with a member of our Senior Leadership Team to discuss revision and plans for next year.

Homework

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

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

Expectations

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

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

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

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

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

Cycling to School

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

End of the Day Routines

An increasing number of parents are driving on to the school site before the end of the day. This is not permitted. Please follow the guidance provided to parents in my letter of 29th August ([Headteachers-Letter-to-Parents-Start-of-Term-29.8.24.pdf](#)).

Halloween

All schools in the Havant area work closely with local partnership groups, these include representatives from the police and local community organisations. Concerns have been raised about the behaviour of youngsters whilst out in the local community over the Halloween period. This year particularly so as 31st October falls in the half term, which means that all students will not be at school.

As we approach Halloween, we normally remind students about keeping safe and behaving appropriately and so we wanted to take this opportunity to remind both you and your children about the importance of safety and responsible behaviour during this time, as well as showing consideration for others in the community. The following websites provide good advice for parents and children about keeping safe over Halloween.

[Child Accident Prevent Trust](#)
[First Aid for Life](#)

As always, we expect our students to represent the school in a positive manner, whether in or out of uniform. We would appreciate your support in encouraging your child to make thoughtful choices and show kindness and maturity during the Halloween period. To this end please can you have a conversation with your child about behaving respectfully towards others in the community. This includes avoiding any inappropriate or disruptive behaviour, such as causing unnecessary noise or engaging in pranks that may distress or inconvenience others, particularly the elderly or vulnerable.

By following these guidelines, we can all ensure that Halloween remains a safe time for everyone.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Communication

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

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

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn
Headteacher