



Community - Unity - Opportunity

From the Headteacher's Desk

Last week, my daughter shared a striking image of herself proudly holding the Rugby Six Nations trophy. Admittedly, I didn't recognise it at first, which is a testament to my ignorance. She represents the first XI ladies' team at Queen's University Belfast. Through her coach's close ties with the Irish national team, they were fortunate enough to "borrow" the trophy as part of an inspirational talk. For my daughter, this was not just a moment of pride; it was truly inspirational. This week also brought two other experiences that highlighted the power of inspiration. On Tuesday, during the 'Meet the Sixth Form' event for Year 11, I couldn't help but overhear some conversations among our sixth formers and Year 11 that were genuinely uplifting. Then, on Wednesday, we welcomed a postgraduate PhD student from Exeter University who spoke to our Year 12 and Year 13 students studying Further Maths about her academic journey and ambitions — a conversation that undoubtedly inspired those young minds.

The Gospels convey that what captivated the crowds was Jesus' ability to teach "with authority," a quality that truly inspired those who heard it. Discovering additional voices beyond traditional educators that resonate with this sense of authority can be incredibly beneficial. In the Gospel of John, it is stated, "I have come that you may have life and have it to the full." By guiding young people to uncover their passions, we empower them to embrace life in its entirety and experience it to the fullest.

Mr Quinn, Headteacher

CST Ambassadors Launch Event

On Monday 14th October, we were delighted to run our first Catholic Social Teachings Ambassador event. Year 5 and 6 students were invited from our feeder schools, being selected for their strength of faith and abilities to lead. These students were supported by a number of incredible Oaklands student leaders (from multiple-year groups). These small groups learned over the course of the day about what Catholic Social Teachings are, who Oscar Romero is, and how to create and lead their own worship.



All the students involved were keen to share what their schools are already doing – and they were able to discover new ideas that they are keen to take back to their schools and try to implement. We were delighted to share this time with such role models from our feeder schools.

Our students, Chloe, Isla, Fern, Katherine, Sarah, Francesca, Henry, Rodrigo and Spike, were superb role models for the younger students, taking the lead where necessary and guiding them to create their own amazing ideas.

Staff and students from the event were incredibly positive and thankful for the opportunity and are proudly wearing their new CST Ambassador badges. We hope to meet again once a term to continue to share great ideas, celebrate our community successes, and work united as a Catholic community.

Mrs Newbiggin, Romero Award Facilitator



Duke of Edinburgh

Autumn Report 2024

This term has seen new groups starting their D of E awards at all levels. We have 8 Gold, 7 Silver and 37 Bronze participants who are all currently getting on with their Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections and additionally for the Gold group planning or undertaking their Residential. Both Bronze and Silver groups will begin their expedition training in the next month in particular with navigation practice and a walk on Stoughton Down. The Gold groups have already completed a navigation challenge on Iping & Stedham Common to hone their skills of using a compass.



Over the summer a number of last year's Silver and Bronze groups completed their awards. Congratulations to:

Silver Award: Alex Aquino, Rebecca Boichot, Oliver Burroughs, Matthew Hordell, Jeffrey Mamman Mathew, Jack Perkins and Codrin Stan.

Bronze Award: Ana Teodora Baldain, Amelie Furlong, Andrew Soy, Alec Stanley and Annie Woodings.

At the end of August two Gold groups completed a successful assessed expedition to Exmoor. Over four days they walked with full packs for about 75km. It was almost perfect walking weather not too hot and just the occasional shower. Despite finding the ups and downs of Exmoor a challenge both groups showed resilience and determination to complete, they certainly enjoyed reaching the campsite each evening although they were surprised at the cold nights.



OFPA News

Prom Attire Sale

We are holding a sale for Prom attire, including dresses, suits and accessories, on Saturday 26th October. We hope will attract and help next year's Year 11 students and parents.

Parents will have the opportunity to sell suitable items, setting their own reserve price, with a small percentage fee for the OFPA.

**Oaklands Catholic School
Friends' and Parents' Association**


**Pre-Loved
PROM ATTIRE
SALE**


**Saturday 26th October
9.30am-12.00noon**

**Oaklands Sixth Form Block
Stakes Hill Road, PO7 7BW**

Do you have any items to sell or donate? Scan the QR code below by Monday 21st October and we will contact you with further details.





THE SIXTH FORM

Oaklands Catholic School



Meet the Sixth Form Event

This week, the Sixth Formers were out in force for the 'Meet the Sixth Form' event. During periods 1-2 on Tuesday, all Year 11 students came down to the Main Hall to meet our students, who were acting as subject ambassadors. Our ambassadors gave the Year 11s a first-hand insight into studying at A level and what life in the Sixth Form is like. It was wonderful to see so many of our GCSE and A level students being really enthused about their subjects and studying in the Sixth Form.

Well done to all those who took part, and a big thanks to all those teachers who helped support this event.

Sixth Form Open Evening

At the time of writing, we are adding the last lick of paint as we prepare to host the annual Sixth Form Open Evening. This is an exciting highlight of the Sixth Form calendar and is always a busy and joyous occasion. We will be throwing open the doors and inviting both internal and external potential applicants to see the Sixth Form in action. As our reputation spreads, we are experiencing a record number of external enquiries, and this added to interest from our own Year 11 students, means this will hopefully be one of our busiest Sixth Form Open Evenings to date. Thanks as ever to all the teachers and students who work so hard and freely give their time to make these events successful.

Magistrate visit

Last week our A level Law students visited Portsmouth Magistrates Court for the morning and were able to meet with magistrates and sit in on a range of court proceedings. This visit gave our students a unique insight into the everyday workings of the legal system and are an invaluable first step a future career in law. The feedback was really positive, and the magistrates were so impressed by our Sixth Formers that they suggested this be a regular event. Well done to all involved, and thanks to Mr Whitlock for organising these visits.

Sixth Form mentoring and hospice visit

As part of the Sixth Form's Love and Service commitment, we have had over twenty of our Sixth Form students volunteer as mentors to Year 11 and Year 7. This is in addition to our mentors helping with Year 6 students in local primary schools. This mentoring plays an important role in helping support young people both academically and pastorally across our community.

Our Sixth Formers have also continued with their volunteering on Rowans Hospice and it was fantastic to see how much love, joy and laughter our Sixth Formers brought with them during their recent visit to the hospice. It speaks volumes that the hospice residents have asked that we make this a weekly event. This willingness of our Sixth Formers to volunteer and help others is a practical example of what it means to be united by the Cross and makes our Oaklands community very proud.

Mr Godwin, Director of Sixth Form



The Oaklands Way

Culture Week

Culture is a broad term that refers to the shared beliefs, values, customs, behaviours, and artefacts that define a group or society.



Culture Week comes from an idea that Year 11 students had a few years ago. They wanted to have the opportunity to be able to celebrate and share their background, language, costumes, music and food. Last year it was also used as an opportunity to raise money for charity. Students were able to watch or join in with a variety of activities including 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.

St John's Week

Oaklands and St John's have had a link since 2011 when students from Oaklands first visited Korogocho in Kenya with CAFOD.

The aim of the Oaklands St John's Scholarship Programme is to help the less fortunate in Korogocho community acquire education by paying school fees, exam fees and other basic needs for the learners. Last year, 194 pupils benefitted from this programme. 91 pupils benefitted from full sponsorship while 103 pupils benefitted from partial sponsorship. Since 2014 we have raised over £24,000. See how many activities you can support this week to help us raise even more.

How does the work we are doing in St John's an example of us being in solidarity with the poor?

How is our celebration of Culture Week an example of us recognising that our diversity is a strength, and not a weakness, and thus a demonstration of solidarity?



Almighty God,

Through your Holy Spirit you created unity in the midst of diversity. We acknowledge that human diversity is an expression of your manifold love for your creation. We confess that in our brokenness as human beings we turn diversity into a source of alienation, injustice, oppression, and wounding.

Empower us to recognise and celebrate differences as your great gift to the human family.

Enable us to be the architects of understanding, of respect and love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Uniform Expectations

The school has a good supply of second-hand uniforms. This can be a useful supply replacements are needed for any reason. However, brand-new pair of trainers, or logoed hoodies are not suitable substitutions for shoes and blazers.



Please use the below QR code to access the school website page which provides further details on how to purchase our second-hand uniform.

Behaviour Policy

Please use the QR code to access the school website and ensure you are familiar with our behaviour expectations.



Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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