



Community - Unity - Opportunity

From the Headteacher's Desk

Despite the cold weather, the start of term has been very positive. We have been very impressed by the attitude that your children have been displaying since returning from the Christmas break. The school feels calm, purposeful, and it is an absolute pleasure to see students engaged in their learning during lesson times.

This term is marked by several significant events. Recently, we held the Year 11 parents' evening, and Year 9 students will officially commence their options process at the Options Evening on 30th January. Your engagement in your child's decision-making is vital, and we appreciate your readiness to collaborate with us during this important phase. Additionally, later in the term, we will host the school show, which consistently stands out as a highlight of the academic year.

A new year is a great time to hit the 'reset' button. One important topic to discuss with your child is the value of courtesy and good manners. While these qualities are primarily instilled at home, students often need clear examples of how to practice them in the bustling school setting. We believe that it is essential for students to show politeness towards both their peers and staff, using appropriate language.

We are confident that every child, regardless of their background or needs, can learn to be polite and courteous. When a student falls short, we address it - often with a touch of humour - and guide them on how to improve their language, tone, or behaviour. Although it may seem like a small focus for the start of the year, these little improvements are crucial for fostering positive relationships within the school community, ultimately contributing to a strong and effective school culture.

Mr Quinn, Headteacher

Presentation of Certificates



It was a delight to welcome so many of our class of 2024 and their families back to Oaklands for our annual Presentation of Certificates evening on Thursday 9th January. It is always a joyous occasion, where our students are presented with the A Level and GCSE certificates they worked so hard for by their Heads of Year and Form Tutors. Those who have moved on to other colleges, university or training are always pleased to return and catch up with staff and peers they may not have seen since the summer.



After a welcome from Mr Quinn, the assembled students, parents and staff were treated to an inspirational talk from Emily Day (alumna of 2013), who spoke about how Oaklands had nurtured her to pursue her dream of a career in performing arts.

Emily also shared with us her partner Alistair's journey into a career in medicine and how he was supported to fulfil his potential after some challenging times at school.

Ali had also been invited to join us, but his vital role as a junior doctor in the NHS meant he could not be with us on the evening.



Emily and Ali are warmly remembered by many staff, and it was fantastic to hear about their separate career successes, and the new business they have launched together. Emily also sang one of her favourite numbers from her extensive repertoire: 'Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend'.

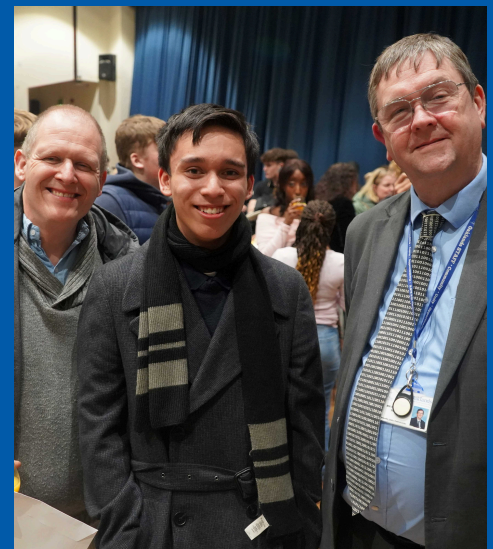


We also presented some of our whole school awards. Citations for the students were read by Ms Whyte and it was great to see Nadia, (Student Vice President 2023/24) and Dondavid (Year 11, 2024) receive the Damian Whitfield awards for Outstanding Contribution to School Life and Cecilia and George (Year 12) receive the Clare Hopkins award for English.

The evening concluded with a delicious buffet provided by our catering team, and the hall was alive with conversation and laughter as students, staff and parents caught up with leavers and heard where their lives after Oaklands have taken them.

We wish the Year 11 and Year 13 Class of 2024 all the very best for the future. Stay in touch!

Ms Whyte



From the Chaplain

On Christmas Eve, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica, thus officially opening the Year of Jubilee 2025.



In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into a right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

A Jubilee Year is celebrated by the Church every 25 years. This has been the case since 1470, when Pope Paul II changed it from every 50 years. And 2025 is a Jubilee year; a year of celebration and joy.

The theme is Pilgrims of Hope. Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world. In this year of Jubilee, Pope Francis is asking all of us to be signs of hope in the world.

The Jubilee Year is an opportunity to respond to God's call to turn to him and to pursue justice. In the Jubilee Year of 2000 many Christians joined together to call for cancellation of debt owed by the world's poorest countries.

Often people will go on pilgrimage during a Jubilee year, to Rome or another holy site. Pope Francis writes:

"Pilgrimage is of course a fundamental element of every Jubilee event. Setting out on a journey is traditionally associated with our human quest for meaning in life. A pilgrimage on foot is a great aid for rediscovering the value of silence, effort and simplicity of life."
(*Spes non confundit* #5)

From this moment on, you are now a pilgrim of hope, and we are all on this journey together.

Jubilee Pledge 2025:

We are pilgrims of hope. We walk in solidarity with our sisters and brothers worldwide, sharing challenges and celebrating joys. We promise to be agents of change, working together for justice, love and peace, locally and globally. We want to build a fairer world, where every person, and the earth, can flourish.

Mrs Farrell

St John's, Korogocho Update



St John's have now returned to school (Monday 6th January) for the new academic year - with students moving up a grade (year group) and beginning their studies with fresh enthusiasm and anticipation. The new academic year in Korogocho started however, with the sad news of the passing of Father Mario Porto. Father Porto gave 43 years' worth of service to the local community in Korogocho and throughout the entirety of Kenya, offering words of wisdom, guidance and love in his time. St John's held a requiem mass in his honour to celebrate his accomplishments and pay tribute to his memory and contributions to St John's.

In other news, due to the success of the St John's Week and various other fundraising, we have increased our full-time sponsorship numbers to 95 children (previously 90). This means we are supporting 95 children for at least three terms and many others as part of part-time sponsorship. This is a huge achievement and testament to the fruitful partnership we have built.

Thank you for your continued support for our wider community and on behalf of the Headteacher of St John's, Mr Stephen Mwangi, Asante Sana.

Mr Osbourne



Oaklands+ Programme: Student Leadership

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'.



In December we had elections for our student president and deputy. All members of our school community were invited to vote for their preferred candidates having seen the campaign videos from each team. Each team also had the opportunity to present their ideas to students and staff during an assembly. Following the election of student president and deputy, the Year 12 student leaders also elected those who are going to lead each of the four key areas of our school. These are the new student leaders at Oaklands for this year:

President – Gabriel Jeffrey

Deputy President – Aaron Phillips

Charism Team Leaders – Sigciniwe Dlamini and Alicia Richards

Curriculum Team Leaders – Daria Jordan and Olivia Twine

Pastoral Team Leaders – Barney Hayes and Honey-Rose Hartnett

Sixth Form Team Leader – Ella Hutton

Secretaries – Johanna Mariya Jolly and Zoe Leslie

These students are now going to start organising the many different events and activities for their fellow students. For example, one of the things the Pastoral team is working on is setting up a mentoring programme where older students in the school support younger ones.

During our end of term Mass in December, all these students, together with the 40 Year 10 student leaders, were commissioned by Mr Quinn to undertake their new responsibilities. Having Year 10s take on responsibilities in the school is a new thing this year. We wish all our new student leaders every success in their new roles.

Mr Sumba

OFPA News

Firstly, Happy New Year from the Oaklands Friends' and Parents' Association!

Christmas Thanks

Thank you very much to all those who bought raffle tickets or donated prizes for our Christmas hamper raffle. We raised over £500 and were able to put together five hampers. Congratulations to the lucky winners.



Prom Attire

Following the Prom Attire Sale in October, we have a number of dresses and suits which were kindly donated to the OFPA.

We have therefore created an online shop which can be accessed via this QR code.

Please scan the code to view the dresses and suits and if any items are of interest, you can either buy them online and collect from school, or if you would like to try an item before you pay, please email the OFPA opa@oaklandscatholicschool.org. They will then contact you with a suitable time to pick the item up from school, you can then try on at home and either pay or return it.

Uniform Sale

Our next pre-loved uniform sale date is Friday 31st January. Orders must be emailed to opa@oaklandscatholicschool.org by Wednesday 29th January and will be ready to collect on the Friday afternoon.

School Projects

We continue to be able to help many departments in school, thanks to your continued support. Earlier this academic year we assisted the Chapel in buying a statue of Our Lady for the Sunken Lawn and a new Crucifix for the external door to the Chapel. More recently we have been able to contribute to an upcoming A Level English Literature Trip for students to take part in a Shakespeare Walking Tour.



Coming Soon ...

The next OFPA Meeting is on Monday 3rd February at 7.30pm and all parents and friends of the Oaklands community are welcome to attend.

We also look forward to seeing many of you at the school show, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, 12th – 14th February, when we will be serving refreshments before the performance and during the interval.

For more information about us, please visit our page on the school website via the QR below:



The Oaklands Way

Gospel Reflection

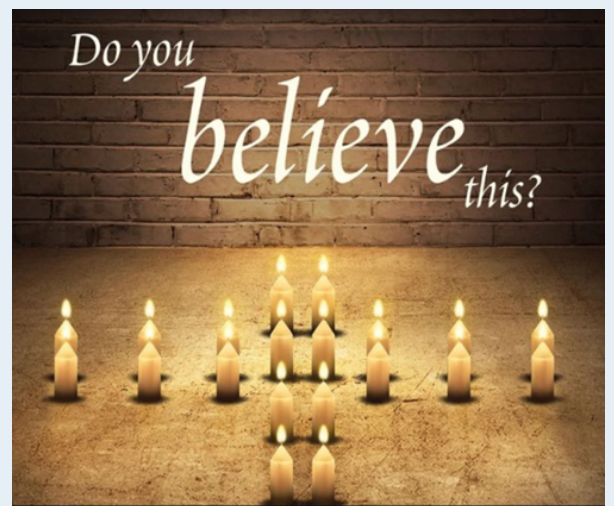
The wedding feast at Cana shows us how Jesus' very first miracle wasn't just about displaying His power, but revealing His love and care. When Mary noticed the couple's need, she brought it to Jesus, teaching us to trust Him with our problems. Jesus transformed the water into wine, symbolising how He can transform our ordinary lives into something extraordinary when we invite Him in. This miracle also reminds us of the importance of faith - Mary told the servants, 'Do whatever He tells you.' This story encourages trust in Jesus and openness to His presence in every moment, especially in life's challenges.



Faith Unity Week

Faith Unity Week is a period dedicated to promoting unity and understanding among people of various faiths, focusing on fostering dialogue, collaboration, and mutual respect.

It generally emphasises interfaith harmony rather than exclusively Christian unity. It's important because it promotes Peace and understanding, fosters respect and combats Prejudice.



CST - Rights and Responsibilities

This principle highlights the belief that the rights we have also place on us responsibilities towards others.

- It implies that while we have certain expectations, we are also expected to behave in a certain way.
- Discuss the responsibilities that our rights place on us as members of Oaklands Community.



God our Father,

We humbly ask you to help us recognise our duty for our school, Oaklands, for maintaining it as a welcoming place where everyone can feel respected. We pray that you guide us and aid us in keeping our school clean, so that every student and staff can feel comfortable in this shared environment.

Help us see that we are responsible for the good maintenance of the places we share as a community, and that we are responsible for taking care of them in order for everyone to have a good experience.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOP DREAMCOAT

Wednesday 12th
Thursday 13th
Friday 14th
February 2025



BOOK NOW

**Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College,
Stakes Hill Road, Waterloo PO7 7BW**



KidsClothesLine
Helping families dress their kids

JUST AS FOOD BANKS PROVIDE FOOD, WE SUPPLY QUALITY CLOTHING FOR CHILDREN AGED 2-16 YEARS.

We believe that decent, comfortable clothing is vital to children's health, well-being and development.

Our mission is to help local families who need a hand kitting out their children.

We collect quality garments and footwear for kids aged 2-16 years at our warehouse in Portsmouth. Clothing donations come from local people and commercial retailers. All the clothing we provide to families is in good, clean condition.

To be sure our clothing kits reach those who would benefit most and to protect anonymity, **we distribute them exclusively via local community organisations and schools already working with families.** They let us know what families need for their children and our team of volunteers make up bespoke clothing kits accordingly.

Every kit comes neatly packaged in a smart bag, labelled only with the child's age and gender. There is no judgement or stigma - this is a hand-up not a hand-out.



⊗ KidsClothesLine was set up in 2020 as a non-profit organisation and is run by a team of committed volunteers.

⊗ Generous support is provided by local engineering firm CTS Europe Ltd, our long-term sponsor



To Donate:

Please join our Facebook group
'Donations Only -
KidsClothesLine Hampshire'



Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Community - Unity - Opportunity



ocsofficialpage



OaklandsCSchool



oaklandscatholicschool