

Community - Unity - Opportunity

From the Headteacher's Desk

This year, the Catholic Church celebrates a Jubilee Year, when the Church invites its communities to a period of forgiveness, reconciliation and being in right relationship with the world. The title of this Jubilee Year is 'Pilgrims of Hope'; we are called to be people who work for hope through our own relationships and desire for social justice. Our chaplains will talk about this further in our newsletters, and we look forward to sharing in several awareness and fundraising opportunities over the year.

Last week, our Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) students in Year 13 showcased their projects, highlighting the rigorous nature of this qualification, which is pursued alongside A Levels. The EPQ allows students to delve into subjects that genuinely captivate their interest or align with their future academic and career aspirations. Universities highly regard this qualification as it reflects a student's ability to think independently and demonstrate a genuine enthusiasm for learning. The outcomes of these projects are consistently impressive, showcasing the hard work and dedication of the students involved. My thanks to Dr Colvin and her team for leading on this area of our extended Sixth Form Offer.

This year, the diversity of topics explored by the students was remarkable, ranging from sustainable water systems to advancements in Artificial Intelligence. It was a pleasure to talk to students as they passionately presented their research and findings. Their ability to articulate their ideas and depth of knowledge underscored their commitment to their projects and provided valuable insights into contemporary issues. I am sure that the outcome this year will be as good, if not better, than previous years.

Mr Quinn, Headteacher

From the Chaplain

Faith Unity Week

Every January, churches around the world come together to celebrate Christian Unity Week, a time dedicated to prayer and reflection on Jesus' call for His followers to be one. This special week serves as a reminder of the unity that should be a part of the Christian faith.

Christian Unity Week is rooted in the prayer of Jesus in the Gospel of John: "That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you" (John 17:21).



This heartfelt plea reminds us that unity is not just a nice idea—it is at the heart of Jesus' mission. Unity among Christians demonstrates God's love for the wider world. When believers come together in love and mutual respect, despite their differences, it is a powerful testimony to the hope, peace, and reconciliation that Jesus brings. Unity calls Christians to collaborate in spreading the Gospel and serving those in need. When denominations join forces to care for the poor, promote justice, and share God's Word, they reflect the heart of Christ to the world.

Christian Unity Week is a vital reminder that, despite our differences, we are called to be one in Christ. It is a time to renew our commitment to love, respect, and collaborate with our brothers and sisters in faith. As we seek unity, we become a living witness to the transforming power of God's love, drawing the world closer to the peace and hope found in Jesus.

Mrs Semple



Holocaust Memorial Day

On Monday 27th January 2025, a small number of students attended the Holocaust Memorial Service in Havant. Attendees listened to readings and poems of the tragic life of the Jews under the Nazi regime. We also heard about the lives of Walter and Herta Kammerling (Holocaust survivors) through their son recalling their traumatic events as children. We shared a minute of silence to pay our respect to the thousands who died during this time.

Melina, 7 St Clare

Year 10: Professional Day

On Friday 24th January Year 10 students were involved in an off-timetable event which gave them the opportunity to find out more about their Post-16 options. Local colleges, apprenticeship providers and our own Sixth Form who covered sessions on apprenticeships, A levels and T levels.



Throughout the day, students had the opportunity to engage with experienced career advisors from Hampshire Futures, who helped them to research different post-16 options, and employment opportunities. Students were encouraged to reflect on their interests, skills, and values to identify potential career paths that align with their personal goals.

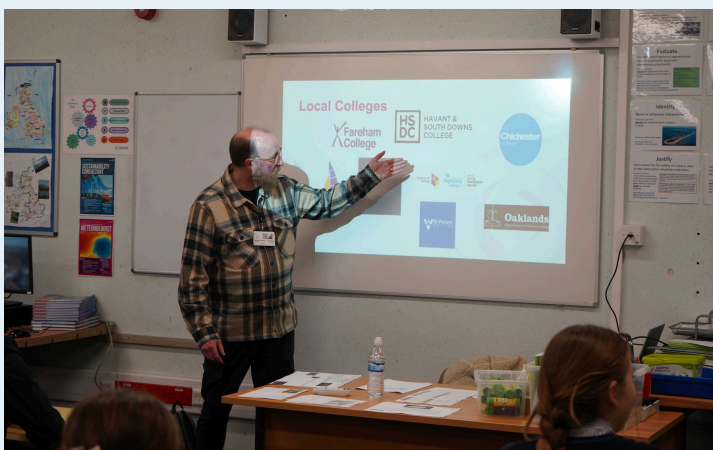
When asked about their take-aways from the days, a student said:

'Year 10 Professional Day was helpful for me as I didn't know much about T Levels and A Levels and now I have a better idea of what I can do to help my future. I learnt a lot from the Professional Day'

Amelie, 10 St Stephen

This dedicated day gave our Year 10 students an invaluable foundation for their post-16 journey. By exploring their options, understanding the available pathways, and receiving expert guidance, our students are now better equipped to make informed decisions about their future and embark on a successful and fulfilling path.

Mrs McQuiston



Year 9:

Languages Day

On January 17th, the MFL department held a Y languages day for Year 9 students to make them aware of how languages can enhance their career prospects and open doors to great personal experiences. Students listened to external speakers and took part in a range of practical workshops including a video call with our partner school in Spain. Students also explored language origins and word families in etymology sessions and learned basic Japanese greetings and numbers from a specialist Japanese teacher. They also practised interpreting in French and Spanish, simulating real-world scenarios like shopping or ordering food.



During the video conference, students took turns to ask and answer questions in both languages. It was a lively and exciting session, and we were very impressed with our students' confidence and enthusiasm.

We were then able to hear a first-hand account of a Google employee who uses her languages at work. Miss Stones showed us how languages have enabled her to obtain jobs where she travels to many countries using her skills to connect people as well as all the friendships and experiences that she has been able to gain.

We were also very fortunate to have a speaker from Portsmouth University. Mr Paul Joyce spoke about the types of jobs where languages are required or beneficial, including earnings linked to language skills and explained the different ways to continue developing language skills in Further Education.

Once again, our Year 9 students impressed us with their confidence and language skills. Thank you to our students and staff for a great day!

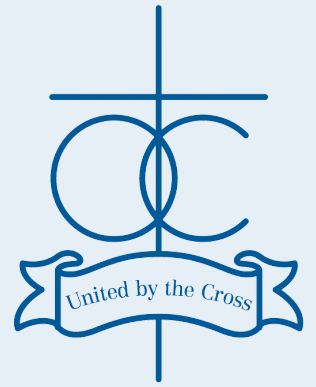
Mrs Garcia de Veas



The Oaklands Way

Gospel Reflection

Yesterday, we celebrated the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, when Mary and Joseph took the Baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. Even though Jesus was the Son of God and didn't need consecrating to the Lord and Mary was already purified, this was a very important Jewish tradition, which Mary and Joseph followed with humble and obedient hearts. For us, this is a chance to reflect on how we can give our lives back to God through our choices, actions and love for others. It's about living with purpose and offering ourselves to God, just as Jesus was presented to the Father.

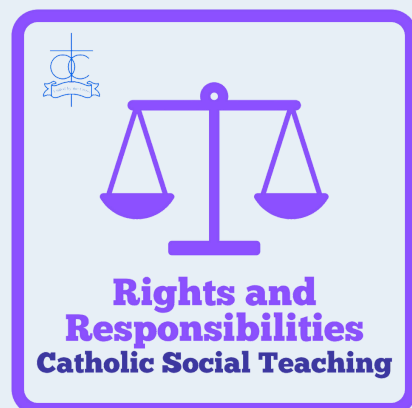


Awareness

Awareness is the state or quality of being conscious of something. It involves recognising and being aware of events, emotions, or conditions.

Christian awareness refers to a spiritual understanding and consciousness based in Christian teachings and beliefs. It involves being aware of God's presence, living in accordance with Christian principles, and recognising our relationship with God, others, and the world.

The International Day of Human Fraternity is observed annually on February 4th to promote cultural and religious tolerance, understanding, and peaceful coexistence among people from diverse backgrounds. It emphasises the importance of mutual respect, dialogue, and cooperation to foster a more inclusive and compassionate global community.



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.

Think about the subjects that you have here at school.

Where do you learn about this principle?

Can you name the topics and lessons where you have covered this principle?



JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOP DREAMCOAT

Wednesday 12th
Thursday 13th
Friday 14th
February 2025



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