



### Community - Unity - Opportunity

## From the Headteacher's Desk

This week in school students performed Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Our school shows are a mammoth undertaking and are always something very special. Congratulations to all those involved both on stage, in the band or beavering away backstage; School productions are a team event. Over the last 18 years, I have seen many exceptional performances; some of our past students have gone on to appear in the West End others are on tour with world-class orchestras, and it all started at Oaklands.

The benefits for youngsters participating in the performing arts are extensive and multifaceted. Taking part in these activities fosters the development of social, emotional, physical, and academic competencies, leading to improvements in cognitive abilities, motor skills, and interpersonal interactions. Involvement in music, dance and performance encourages collaboration and the formation of meaningful connections with teachers and peers, thereby strengthening their sense of community within the school environment. Moreover, studies in the field of mental health indicate that approximately one in ten children are diagnosed with mental health disorders; thus, active participation in the performing arts significantly mitigates this risk.

Considering the benefits and the fact that our creative industries are world-beating I fail to understand why school performance measures were allowed to drive the Arts to the margins of the curriculum in many schools. Over the past ten years, there has been a significant decline in the number of students enrolling in Music, Drama, and other creative disciplines at GCSE, largely due to the national focus on achieving EBacc targets. Despite this, at Oaklands, we have consistently prioritised the visibility of Performing Arts within our curriculum, ensuring that Music and Drama remain accessible options for all students at the GCSE level.

Well done to all once again and roll on next year's performance.

**Mr Quinn, Headteacher**

# GCSE & A Level Art:

## Trip to the Tate

On 5th February, a group of students studying GCSE and A Level Photography, Textiles, and Art, accompanied by Mr Forster, Miss Hagikalfa, Miss Czoch, Miss Griffin, Mrs Wearn, and Mrs Brettell, embarked on an inspirational trip to the Tate Modern art gallery in London. The visit was designed to provide students with valuable resources and ideas to inform their upcoming final exams.



The students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in world-class contemporary and modern art, exploring a diverse range of exhibitions showcasing various artistic movements and styles. This exposure to such a breadth of artistic expression aimed to broaden their understanding and stimulate their own creative thinking.

Photography students focused their attention on capturing the unique architecture of the Tate Modern building itself, as well as the surrounding urban landscape. This practical exercise allowed them to develop their architectural and environmental photography skills whilst also exploring the interplay of light, shadow, and form.

The Textiles students concentrated on finding inspiration in the works of contemporary textile artists featured in the gallery. They examined the artists' techniques, use of materials, and conceptual approaches, seeking insights that could inform their textile designs and projects. The Art students, meanwhile, explored a broad spectrum of artistic styles, expressive techniques, and materials used by different artists.

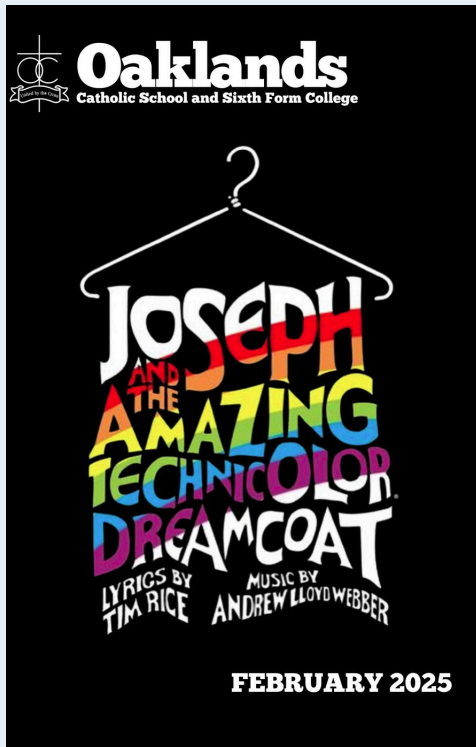
The trip proved to be highly successful, generating considerable enthusiasm and sparking creativity amongst the students as they gathered ideas and impressions for their coursework. The Department now eagerly anticipates seeing how these experiences at the Tate Modern will influence and enrich the students' final projects and how the visit will translate into their creative work.

**Miss Czoch**





# A Technicolor Triumph



Congratulations to the entire cast and crew of this year's spectacular school production, 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'!

From the vibrant costumes to the energy on stage, the show was a resounding success. The singing, dancing, and acting were truly outstanding, showcasing the incredible talent we have here at Oaklands.

A huge well done to our incredibly talented students, and the Performing Arts department who brought the story to life with such enthusiasm and professionalism. Special thanks also to the to Mrs Colley for creating the spectacular 'coat of many colours' and to the wonderful group of teachers and support staff whose hard work behind the scenes made the production possible.

Look out for the full show report after half term!

## Chess Tournament

In recent weeks, Oaklands library has been hosting the annual Freddie Fincham Chess Tournament. Fifty-four students from across the school signed up, playing against each other in rounds.

Each break and lunchtime there were at least three matches going on, Year 7s against Year 9s and Year 8s against Year 10s, each student with 5 minutes on their clock for each game.

There were three rounds before we found ourselves in the quarter finals with only eight students remaining and by the lunchtime, we were down to just four! By Friday we had found our top two players, Aiden in Year 7 and Ryan in Year 9. The game was tense, the room was silent and the pressure was on... in a close and well fought game, Ryan was crowned the winner!



Chess has become a very important game within the library at Oaklands, so we are starting a chess club, with Mondays as a specific day for students to come and practice their skills. It has proven to be such a lovely way for students to make friends, even with others in different year groups. The chess tournament here has an even deeper importance though, as it is in honour of Freddie Fincham, a student who very sadly passed away a few years ago. Chess was very important to him, and to host such a special event in his memory is a very beautiful thing for both staff and students.

The Freddie Fincham Chess Tournament shows that chess within the school encompasses the qualities that make Oaklands a special place for learning and is a fitting tribute to a former student to whom the school meant so much.

**Miss Jeffery**



# THE SIXTH FORM

## Oaklands Catholic School

It has been a busy but exciting start to 2025 in the Sixth Form. Here are just some of the selected highlights.

### **UCAS success**

Year 13 have done a brilliant job in successfully completing their UCAS applications and preparing for their next steps beyond Sixth Form. As we approach half-term over 95% have been offered places across a range of prestigious universities, including two who have been offered places to study at the University of Cambridge. The trend for degree level apprenticeships also continues to grow apace and a number of our Year 13 are also securing highly competitive apprenticeships with leading companies. We wish our fantastic Year 13 every success as they now prepare for their mocks after half-term and the final exams in a few months' time.

### **Sixth Form - 'To Love and Serve'**

Central to our Catholic ethos is the Sixth Form 'Love and Service' initiatives and these have continued this term. As well as the big events such as the forthcoming school show and concerts, this ethos of community service has been apparent in everyday activities such as our sixth formers volunteering for canteen duties and providing mentoring for younger students. The Sixth Form has also continued its voluntary work with the Rowans Hospice and it has been wonderful to see how they have sought to fundraise via cake sales and other events.



### **Sixth Form Events**

The HE Plus also programme has also continued to flourish with our Year 12 attending a series range of university style lectures provided by the University of Cambridge. These lectures help take A Level learning beyond the classroom and provide an invaluable insight into university study.

This half term also saw the annual EPQ presentation evening in which our Sixth Formers presented the independent research they had undertaken for their various projects. As ever the range of topics on display was remarkable as was the sophisticated presentations from our students.

Congratulations to all those who took part and thank you to all those who came along in support. As ever, a particular thank you to Dr Colvin for organising this special event.

We will also shortly take all of Year 12 to a Post-18 Pathways Fair in Brighton where there will an opportunity to meet with universities and other course providers from across the country. This a great way to find out about future options and courses.

Have a good half term break.

Mr Godwin



# The Oaklands Way

## CST at Oaklands in Spring Term

This half term, we have been focusing on the Catholic Social Teaching principle of rights and responsibilities. This principle is important for any community to flourish as it reminds everyone that just as they have things they can demand from the community (rights), the community also has demands it places on them (responsibilities). We started the term with the student leaders reminding us why it is important to look after our school environment.



Throughout the term, we looked at some practical ways we can do this. Next half term, our focus will be on the principle of solidarity. We have chosen this principle as it fits in well with the key events of the liturgical calendar at this time: Lent, CAFOD Fast Day, the feast of St Oscar Romero, International Women's Day to name but a few. We will therefore explore the meaning of this principle and ways in which we can put it into practice, both in and out of school. During Lent, we will ask ourselves how we can show solidarity with the poor in our community as well as beyond in more practical ways. We hope that you will support your child or children to take part in any activities or events that we will have.



Glory be to the Father

And to the Son

And to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end.

Amen



# Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

## Prom Attire

Please scan  
the QR Code







# Hampshire HAF Schemes

**Good news: funding for the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme has been announced for 2025!**

Children from Reception to Year 11 receiving benefits-related free school meals can access schemes across Hampshire during the Easter school holidays at no cost.

Schemes will be open for bookings in early March - visit the [connect4communities](https://connect4communities.org.uk) website via the link below for guidance on how to register your child(ren) for their unique HAF booking code:

[HAF Programme Registration Guidance](https://connect4communities.org.uk)  
([connect4communities](https://connect4communities.org.uk))



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