



Community - Unity - Opportunity

From the Headteacher's Desk

One aspect I will truly miss from next September is engaging in conversations with students. Whether I'm on duty in the canteen or walking around the playground during break and lunchtime, students frequently approach me with their questions or to share something interesting. Their insights and observations are often remarkably thought-provoking. It is important to remember that learning from children is not just possible, it is a rich and rewarding experience that can offer valuable perspectives on your life and theirs. It is not typical for most children to show much interest in current events, but there's been a noticeable shift lately. But since the start of the new year, I've had numerous conversations with students about the ongoing situation in Ukraine. A surprising number of them have brought up the shenanigans in the White House, indicating they are more aware of the world than expected.

All schools should take a reasonable and proportionate approach to political impartiality. However, teaching about political issues and different views is essential to a broad and balanced curriculum. It is also a meaningful way schools help youngsters become active citizens, prepared for life in modern Britain. A problem arises when a political viewpoint, action or policy, jars against our views as a Catholic school.

How influential adults behave matters to our youngsters. Comments made by these adults are not just harmless remarks, they carry weight and can shape perceptions, particularly in young people, in a big way. If we do not implement some protective measures, the information youngsters consume could shape their understanding of international relations, government, civic engagement, and personal relationships in a skewed way. This could create a fog of misinformation that impacts how youngsters interact with each other and how they perceive themselves in the world.

It is crucial now, more than ever, for us to stand up against any views that clash with our Christian values and beliefs, especially when those views negatively impact the poor and marginalised. We need to be the ones who advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves and show youngsters how to live out these values in their everyday lives.

Mr Quinn, Headteacher



Performing Arts @ Oaklands



A Technicolor Triumph

From Wednesday 12th to Friday 14th February, students put on three fabulous evenings of entertainment performing the musical 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'. They sang, danced, and told the story with such energy and passion, which was enjoyed by all, as seen by the nightly standing ovations.

This vibrant and energetic show took us through time, colour and reminded that dreams really can come true.

From light-up gold shoes, to Pharaoh resembling Elvis, we had it all. Joseph's coat was and is so special to us. It was handmade by Mrs Colley, with wonderful details like our school logo, which really makes it one of a kind.



Watching the students grow in confidence and to see their knowledge of the theatre develop was truly magical. Every year we say they could not work harder, however, the students continue to surprise us and this year was no exception.

'The school production gives me the opportunity to explore and expand my love for performing and the performing arts. It is amazing to be surrounded by like-minded people who all share the love too.' Lily, Year 11

'I really enjoyed being a member of the Joseph cast, it was a blast and I had so much fun at rehearsals. I was able to make new friends and connect with students in the older years, who I look up to as role models as they were kind and supportive.' Abbey, Year 8

Our cast, band and crew all featured students and every year group in our community was represented. Their dedication, talent and unwavering commitment really did make our jobs so much easier and more enjoyable.

Thank you all for your hard work and congratulations again for a fantastic show!

Mrs Blackburn and Mr Marshall



Half Term Trips

Round-Up

Ski Trip

Sixty-five Year 9 students and ten staff travelled to Andalo, Italy during the half term break to attend the ski trip.



Students arrived in Italy on Sunday, spent the afternoon and early evening getting their ski equipment fitted, and attended Mass in the local church. The skiing started on Monday with 4-5 hours of lessons each day for the next five days.

Groups 1 and 2 had skied before and were given the opportunity to go night skiing on the Tuesday evening, but all students went up the mountain that night to experience the floodlit ski slopes. By the end of the week, most groups had managed to reach the top of the mountain as the progress by all students was remarkable – thanks to the expert tuition from the ski instructors, but also due to the stoic attitude of the students. Students returned late on Saturday evening after a tiring, but brilliant week.

Trips such as these can't take place without the support of my colleagues – my thanks to these staff: Mr Wade (who also attended the Calshot dry slope skiing trips), Mr Smith, Mr Osbourne, Mrs Over, Mrs Sykes, Mrs Hardaker, Mrs Bunt, Miss Woods and Mrs Kyrillou. I have started to get quotes for the 2026 trip, which will be open to current Year 8, 11 and 12 students, and I hope to have letters out in early March. After ten years of going to Andalo, we are looking to change venue for next year, which will be exciting.

Mr Bamford



Maths Disneyland Trip

For the second year running, we set off for Paris for two days in Disneyland, although this year we had to be at school much earlier with the coach leaving at 4:45. But the early start was definitely worth it because we had a fantastic start to half term.

After twelve hours travelling, we arrived at our hotel just outside of Disneyland, excited for our first day in the parks.

Day 1 started with our Maths seminar at the Gaumont Cinema. Our presenter told us all about the physics of roller coasters, explaining how designers consider potential and kinetic energy. When chains pull a track coaster uphill, it gains potential energy. At the top of the hill, the car is then released and all that potential turns into kinetic energy, and kinetic energy equals speed, which equals fun! After this, it was time to enter the parks. It was a beautiful sunny day, perfect for exploring and experiencing the Disney magic. Most students headed for the biggest rides, keen I am sure, to further research the energy theorised in our seminar!

The highlight of the day was staying for the closing fireworks show. Some students thought they would be disappointed because we were so far back from the castle, but little did they know, amazing graphics light up all the main street buildings too! It was a mad dash back to meet our coach, but all our incredible students made it and agreed staying was worth the rush. We all had an absolutely magical time.

Mrs Beauvoisin

Year 12

Biology Olympiad

A group of 26 Sixth Form students recently participated in the British Biology Olympiad (BBO), a prestigious national problem-solving challenge for A Level students. The competition, which involves two multiple-choice papers taken online under exam conditions, encourages students with a strong interest in Biology to apply their knowledge, intuition, and logic.

This year, over 16,000 students from 800 schools across Great Britain took part. We are incredibly proud of all our participants, with special congratulations to Bethany and Nelly, who earned a Bronze medal and were placed in the top 15% of students nationwide! Dylan and Cecilia received Highly Commended honours, and Johanna, Angelika, Rima, Mimi, Reece, Eve, and Ethan were Commended. Well done to everyone who took part.

Mrs Gamble, said: *'The British Biology Olympiad challenges students to extend their talents by exploring unfamiliar topics and using problem-solving skills to understand core biological principles. The BBO not only encourages academic growth, but it is also the first step in selecting the UK team for the International Biology Olympiad (IBO), where the best Biology students from over 60 countries compete in both theoretical and practical tests.'*

Mrs Gamble





THE SIXTH FORM

Oaklands Catholic School

News from the Sixth Form

HE Plus Programme

Our Year 12 recently finished the HE Plus also programme which has been a real success. Over 40 students have attended over four evenings of university-style lectures provided by the University of Cambridge. This programme has clearly extended our students' knowledge beyond A Level, which will also give them a real head start as they begin their UCAS applications. Well done to all involved and thank you to Dr Colvin and all those teachers who have given so freely of their time to help make this happen.

Post-18 Pathways Evening

We recently delivered a Post-18 Pathways Information Evening to the parents and carers of our Year 12. It was wonderful to see so many parents come along and the feedback has been excellent. This event was able to give some vital information as to how best prepare for courses, apprenticeships and other opportunities after Sixth Form. It was great to be able to showcase just how successful our Year 13 have been in recent years. They have beaten stiff competition to successfully secure places to study or train in some top academic and commercial placements. Thank you to Mrs Chinorwadza for making this such a successful evening.

Final preparations are now in place to 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. Again, this will be another great way for our Sixth Formers to find out about their future options and courses.

Year 13 Mock Exams

Finally, our brilliant Year 13 are just finishing their mock examinations. These have gone really well and well done to all our students who have revised and studied so hard in recent weeks.

Enjoy the Spring sunshine!

Mr Godwin, Head of Sixth Form

The Oaklands Way

Gospel Reflection

Jesus faced intense temptation in the wilderness. Satan attempts to lure Jesus into using his divine power for personal gain - turning stones into bread. Yet, Jesus resists temptation, responding with Scripture, emphasising his unwavering trust in God's will and purpose. This passage reflects the universal struggle with temptation we all face: the temptation to take shortcuts to act out of fear or pride, or to seek immediate gratification.

Jesus' response teaches us the importance of relying on God's word and maintaining faith. True strength comes not from our own will, but from trusting in God's plan and resisting the pull of the world's false promises.

What is Renewal?

Renewal is the process of making something new, fresh, or revived. It can refer to physical, spiritual, emotional, or mental restoration.

In a spiritual sense, renewal often means a deepening of faith, a return to God, or a commitment to personal growth and transformation.



For example, in Christianity, renewal is associated with repentance, prayer, and strengthening one's relationship with God, especially during seasons like Lent.

It can also mean revitalisation in other areas of life, such as renewing one's commitments, relationships, or mindset, bringing a sense of hope, purpose, and strength for the future.

Jesus is tempted in the desert as part of his preparation for his mission. As human beings, we need to regularly 'clean out' our lives; check that we are still on course, that we have not veered off the path we set out on at the beginning.

To achieve our goals, we need to regularly examine how we are behaving towards others, and seek opportunities to ensure that we are praising and serving God correctly.

CST - Solidarity

The belief that we are brothers and sisters and belong to each other and must stand up for each other. Tomorrow is International Women's Day – a day set apart by the United Nations to celebrate women and their achievements.



Almighty God,

We lift our hands up high in praise and worship. We give you thanks for the women in our lives and communities. We thank you for women who have led the way when the path was uncertain.

Give us wisdom to see bias and the voice to speak up against it; equip us to take action to seek equality, and boldness to challenge where needed.

We ask this through Christ our Lord,
Amen



THE BIG LENT WALK

CAFOD

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WE ARE RAISING MONEY TO HELP
FIGHT GLOBAL POVERTY

We are
taking
part in the
**BIG LENT
WALK**





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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