

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust
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Headteacher: Matthew Quinn B.Ed (Hons), M.A., NPQH

Our Ref: MQ/SM

23rd May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the half-way point in the summer term, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Year 11 and Year 13 students on the fantastic start they have made with their exams. They have behaved responsibly in accordance with the exam regulations and are dedicating large amounts of time to revision, even attending breakfast sessions.

The exam season continues for another few weeks after the Whitsun break, all our exam students need to take time to rest over half term but keep up the hard work – it will be worth it! As Year 11 move towards the end of their exams, it is time for Year 10 to step-up and become the role models for the other year groups. They too will have end of year exams in the Hall later in the term. Year 7 also have their Assessment Week starting Monday 9th June. Following the exams, my team will analyse the outcomes; this may result in us inviting some Year 10 students and their parents to meet with us to explore additional support measures if these are felt necessary.

I apologise for the length of this letter, however there are several important reminders and new information I must share with you.

Outstanding Items

I am aware that some students in Year 11 and Year 13 may not yet have handed back their textbooks or library books. Please can you ensure your children return these to school as soon as possible. I would also be most grateful if you could also ensure that catering fobs are returned, and all outstanding debts settled. Thank you.

KS3 into KS4 Induction (Year 9), Thursday 12th June at 6.00pm

The KS4 Transition Evening is an important event that all Year 9 parents are strongly advised to attend. In addition to the important curriculum information about the GCSEs, we will be talking to you all about work experience for students in the summer of 2026. We have written to Year 9 parents with more detail via separate letter, a copy of which can be found on the school website via this link, [Key-Stage-4-Induction-Evening-Letter](#).

Uniform

I wrote to all parents on 4th April about uniform, including the length of student skirts, a copy of which can be found via this link, [Headteachers-Letter-to-Parents-End-of-Spring-Term](#).

Whilst there have been some improvements there are still too many students arriving to school wearing uniform in an inappropriate manner. Whilst we appreciate that all students wish to develop their own identity and character, we are concerned that some students' modesty, self-esteem and pride is being undermined by the uniform choices they are making. Short or rolled up skirts are not considered appropriate for school and could potentially lead to safeguarding issues outside of school. Therefore, can I please urge all parents and carers to ensure students are wearing skirts that accord with the Governors School Uniform Policy, which reads: '*Navy stitched down pleated skirt (**knee length**)*'. After half term we will be writing to parents and sanctioning students who continually flout the Governors' uniform regulations.

Over the year we have already accumulated a significant volume of lost property, all of it unnamed with a significant replacement value. Please can you ensure all your child's belongings are named. If they have lost an item this term, please encourage them to go to Student Services to search through lost property before items are disposed of.

Curriculum After Half Term

After half-term, the timetable will change to allow Year 9 to begin their GCSE option courses. As such, their finish time will now match Year 10 and will be at 3.30pm. All students will be issued with a new lesson timetable in readiness for these changes. New homework timetables will be issued after half term, if necessary.

Year 10 Events in the Final Half Term

The final half-term will be very busy for Year 10 with their Professional Day occurring on the Monday 16th June and then moving into internal examinations. A separate letter has been sent to parents with full details, a copy of which can be found via [this link](#).

From Monday 30th June to Friday 4th July, Year 10 will be out of school for their Work Experience week.

Art Exhibition, Tuesday 10th June

Work created by our GCSE and A Level Art, Photography and Textiles students will be on display at the Art Exhibition on Tuesday 10th June from 4.30-6.30pm in the Gym. All parents and students are invited to come along and view the amazing items that our talented students have produced.

Summer Music Concert, Thursday 19th June

Our talented musicians and singers from all year groups will be performing at the Summer Music Concert on Thursday 19th June at 7.00pm in the Hall. All parents and students are invited to come along and enjoy an evening of wonderful entertainment!

Challenge Week, 23rd – 26th June

Mr Bamford sent out information about Challenge Week for Year 7-9 students on ClassCharts and on year group Teams pages. The information booklets that were sent out can be found on the school website by following [this link](#). Please ensure that you have made the requisite payment by Friday 13th June.

Year 12 Enrichment Week, 23rd – 26th June

Running in tandem with the school's Challenge Week, Year 12 will have their Enrichment Week. During this time, Year 12 students undertake work related learning and research post-18 pathways. The Sixth Form will have already outlined arrangements with students and parents via letter.

Inset Day, Friday 27th June

A reminder that Friday 27th June is an Inset Day, and the school is closed for students.

Oaklands Friends and Parents' Association (OFPA)

Can you spare a few hours a month to help the OFPA support the school community?

If your answer is yes, potentially, or even maybe, then you have three options – you could join the OFPA, join the A-Team or even be part of both!

The A-Team help on an ad hoc basis at key school events such as Parents' Evenings, School Concerts, the School Show etc, serving refreshments from the kitchenette, and holding 50:50 raffles. Volunteers are needed to join this important team - you can help as much or as little at any event you can.

The OFPA are also a group of volunteers who commit to meet once a month during term time, to support the school community in a more formalised way. They plan and host events for the community, run fundraising events, and are also responsible for the second-hand school uniform store.

If you would like to find out more or would like to join either of the group of volunteers, please email opa@oaklandscatholicschool.org and they will be back in touch with you.

Thank you in advance for any support you can give.

End of Summer Term

The final day for students in school will be Thursday 17th July. Staff will be in school the following day undertaking training.

Term Dates for 2025-2026

Dates for next academic year can be found on our website following this link, [Term Dates 2025-26](#).

Have a good Whitsun holiday when it arrives and thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Yours sincerely,



Mr M Quinn
Headteacher