



Community - Unity - Opportunity

From the Headteacher's Desk

This half term is particularly intense, especially this year, as it spans just five weeks from Easter to the May half term. For students, the transition from viewing these exams as a distant event to facing them head-on can be quite jarring. The pressure mounts as they realise that the time for preparation is rapidly dwindling, and the reality of the exams is now imminent.

These last few days are dedicated to perfecting exam techniques, which involve understanding precisely what examiners expect in responses to specific question types. This meticulous attention to detail can make a significant difference in performance, as students learn to navigate the nuances of exam expectations.

The outcomes of these exams provide students with choice and opportunity; they open doors for young people. While exam results have long been viewed as a key indicator of academic success, they do not encapsulate a child's entire worth. Children are multifaceted individuals with distinct strengths and weaknesses, and reducing them to mere numbers or letter grades fails to acknowledge their full potential. Qualities such as intelligence, creativity, and emotional intelligence are vital attributes that exams cannot adequately measure, Oaklands students often demonstrate these qualities in spades.

So the very best of luck to all our students taking examinations over the next month or so.

Mr Quinn, Headteacher

D of E Award Update

At the start of the Easter holiday, the expedition season got underway when three groups set out on three day Practice Expeditions. For the first time in many years we were blessed with sunny and clear days although the nights remained very cold.



The two Gold groups ventured to a new expedition area on the Isle of Wight. They set off early from Carisbrooke Castle to walk to the campsite on the coast above Brighstone Bay. The second day saw the groups navigate a circular route out to the west of the island and finally on the final day a route north took them up to Parkhurst Forest.



Meanwhile the Silver group started their expedition at Harting Down and navigated to camp at Cocking.

On Day 2 they too undertook a circular route around East Dean and finally on the last day a route south to finish near Goodwood Racecourse.

Both expeditions provided a good navigational challenge for the groups and helped them to prepare for their assessed expeditions later in the year which take place for the Gold groups on the Isle of Purbeck and for the Silver group out towards Winchester. With thanks to all our supervisors and minibus driver who gave up their time to enable these expeditions to take place.

We are now looking forward to our Bronze expeditions which take place over weekends in May and June on the South Downs.

Mrs Hoar



STEM @ Oaklands

Havant Rotary Technology Tournament

On 26th March, two Oaklands teams, 'The Mighty Oaks' and 'The Slightly Lesser Oaks' took part in the First Technology Tournament organised by The Havant Rotary. Students were required to work in teams of four to design, test and present a working prototype of a Space Capsule Launcher.



Students had to design the launcher to enable the space capsule to land as closely as possible to the launch pad, the space capsule to reach a height of at least 3 metres, and the space capsule to be fired after a ten-second countdown from a distance of 1 metre. Both of our teams rose to the challenge using ingenuity, resilience and teamwork to engineer incredibly effective launchers.

Mrs C Gorman

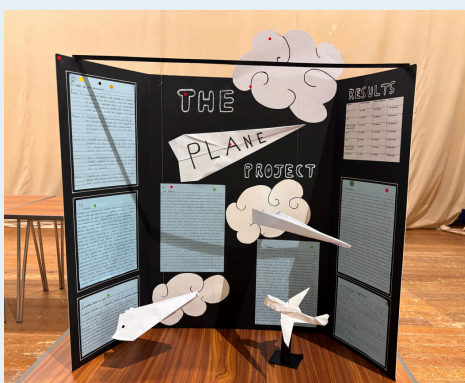
Year 8 STEM Fair

Over the past six weeks, Year 8 students have been carrying out their own Science projects, researching chosen topics, proposing hypotheses and completing practical testing to collect data and present their findings. These projects were showcased on 28th April to parents, teachers and Governors.

The evening featured presentations from our Year 12 CREST Award students who shared insights into their impressive glider design project. Attendees also heard from our Year 11 students, who will be designing and building working models of habitable bases for Mars as part of their CREST Award projects when they join the Sixth Form in September.

The winners of the Year 8 Science Project competition, Matisse, Ethan, Aaron and Spike, were announced at the end of the evening, recognising their exceptional work and scientific inquiry.

Miss Lenton



Year 10 Residential

At the end of last term, a group of Year 10 students were lucky enough to go on a CYE (Christian Youth Enterprises) outdoor pursuits residential trip.

The pupils said, 'When we first arrived at the Christian Youth Enterprises centre in Chidham we were greeted by many volunteers.

We were put into three groups and we had a rotation of three activities. The first activity I did was sailing. In this activity we went on a sailing boat and learned how to manoeuvre the boat. The next activity we did was kayaking; personally, this was my favourite. We first learned how to use a kayak then played many games. Some of the games included: princesses and pirates, an animal game and a ball game. After, we had dinner and went for a night walk, it was very calming. Also we had time to play football or just relax for a few hours.

The next day we had breakfast and had an assembly, which was so nice. Then we had our final activity - tunneling. There was pitch black tunnels which we had to crawl through them. There was a ball pit and we played games. This was so fun!! After this we had lunch, packed up our things and left.

This was a really good experience, all of the people were lovely, the food was amazing and I would definitely go again.



Francesca and Lily, Year 10





THE SIXTH FORM

Oaklands Catholic School

News from the Sixth Form

Year 13 Leavers Breakfast, Mass and Dinner

Our Year 13 students are soon to start their final exams and then leave to embark on their lives beyond Sixth Form. It is a strange time and one filled with equal parts of joy, sadness and excitement. Joy and excitement at seeing our wonderful and well-rounded young people on the cusp of new lives; sadness that their journey with us is coming to an end.



To mark the occasion the Sixth Form recently hosted a very special Leavers' Breakfast where we came together to celebrate and take a Year 13 photo on the lawn. Thank you to all those teachers and tutors who also came along. A special thanks also to the catering team for providing the delicious food and drink.

We then made final preparations for the one of the most memorable events in the Sixth Form calendar, the Year 13 Leavers Mass and Dinner on 8th May. On this evening we joined for a final Mass which included some beautiful speeches and music. It is a truly moving occasion followed by great food and dancing late into the night at the Queen's Head Hotel in Portsmouth. A fitting end to a brilliant two years in the Sixth Form and a great way to banish the pre-exam nerves!



UCAS Fair

Our Year 12 have recently returned from a series of post-18 careers and UCAS Fairs in Brighton and Winchester. These gave them an opportunity to meet with universities and other course providers from across the country. This will be another great way for our Sixth Formers to find out about their future options and courses. Well done to all those who came along and a big thanks to Mrs Chinorwadza in Sixth Form for organising these fantastic opportunities.

Year 12 Mock Exams

Our brilliant Year 12 are shortly to finish 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.

Good Luck to Year 11

Finally, all of us here in the Sixth Form wish the Year 11 the very best of luck as they also approach the final exams. We have had a record number of applications and are really looking forward to welcoming many of you to Sixth Form in September. I do hope those who have applied can join us for the final Sixth Form experience day on 9th July.

Mr Godwin, Head of Sixth Form

The Oaklands Way

Gospel Reflection

Jesus sees you, knows you, and invites you to follow Him. you're not just another face in the crowd - you matter to Him. At Easter, we remember how Jesus died and rose again to give us eternal life. That's not just about heaven someday - it's hope for right now. Because He beat death, we don't have to live in fear. Nothing - no mistake, no hard day, no doubt - can take us out of His hands.



So listen for His voice. Trust His care. And remember: because of Easter, you are safe, known and never alone.

What is Unity, and Why is it Important?

Unity with God refers to a deep spiritual relationship characterised by belonging, security, and oneness of purpose between believers, Jesus, and God the Father.

Unity is important because it leads to peace and understanding. Here at Oaklands, although we come from diverse backgrounds, we believe that we are united by the love and care that each person is accorded because they are made in the image of God.



CST - The Common Good

From this week onwards, our Year 13s and Year 11s (as well as a few other students) will be taking their Public Exams.

Putting the common good into practise means 'allowing the students taking exams to do so in the best possible conditions and environment'.

How can you ensure that this happens? What will you do/avoid doing?



O God,

Who in your wondrous love watches over your Church, fill the cardinal-electors with your Holy Spirit to strengthen and inspire them as they choose a new Holy Father to lead us.

May they choose a shepherd for your Church who will please you in his holiness and guide his flock with love and watchful care, especially for the sick, the poor and the vulnerable.

We pray that your Holy Spirit will hover over the one who is chosen to strengthen him to be a messenger of love, peace and unity in our world.

We offer our prayer through Christ our Lord,
Amen.



Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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