



Community - Unity - Opportunity

From the Headteacher's Desk

Last week, Year 11 completed their final GCSE exams, and by the time you read this, A Levels will have finished as well. This moment is significant for everyone involved; students, teachers, and parents alike. The end of exams brings a unique blend of relief, exhaustion, pride, and a touch of uncertainty. It is a time when the weight of expectations lifts, but the emotional and physical toll of the exam season lingers. In this shared experience, everyone can finally take a deep breath and relax a little.

However, this relief often comes hand in hand with exhaustion. One student confided in me last week, saying, 'Mr. Quinn, I'm spent'. It is not just the physical fatigue that weighs heavily; it is the mental drain from being constantly on high alert for an extended period. Student burnout can sneak up quietly, masked by the adrenaline of exam day, only to reveal itself once the pressure eases.

Alongside this fatigue is a sense of pride - sometimes subtle, sometimes overwhelming. Regardless of how the exam season unfolded, reaching the finish line is a significant achievement.

As the dust settles, a new feeling tends to creep in. For some youngsters, the future may suddenly seem more real and daunting. For others, there may be a brief limbo - time off before the cycle begins again in September. Whether our students are now collapsing into bed, throwing a party, or just staring at the ceiling in silence, they have earned the moment. Let it be what it is: messy, emotional, and very human.

Mr Quinn, Headteacher

Year 7 Pilgrimage

Each year, our Year 7 students embark on a meaningful pilgrimage to Sacred Heart Church as part of their religious education journey. This special visit provides our youngest students with an opportunity to deepen their faith, explore local religious heritage, and work collaboratively outside the classroom environment.

We are delighted to share this student reflection on their recent experience:

Year 7 Pilgrimage was a fantastic opportunity for us to see the Sacred Heart Church. We had the opportunity to complete a detailed activity booklet as well as celebrate Mass and sing hymns.

When we arrived at the church, we met Father Jeremy who talked to us about the history of the Sacred Heart Church and the founding Sisters. The first two tasks consisted of going around the church, identifying the different features and their meaning. The booklets also contained tasks like writing your own prayer, making a quiz for a friend and drawing your favourite part of the church and explaining why you chose it.

The activities were very fun and encouraged students to work as a team. It is great for Year 7s at Oaklands to go on this pilgrimage every year, we had a great time and enjoyed our day.

Zeila, 7 Dominic



Annual Schools' Mass

On a bright and joyful day, five of our students had the unique opportunity to attend a special Diocesan Schools Mass at St John's Catholic Cathedral in Portsmouth. They joined pupils and staff from across the Diocese of Portsmouth in a beautiful celebration of faith, unity, and community.

The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Philip Egan, who warmly welcomed everyone and reminded the young people of the importance of staying rooted in their relationship with Christ as they journey through life. His message encouraged students to grow in faith, hope, and love as they witness God's presence in their schools.



The liturgy was enriched by reverent hymns and a moving, reflective dance that invited everyone into a deeper moment of prayer and connection with God. The sense of togetherness was palpable, as voices from many different schools united in praise and worship, showing the vibrant life of our Catholic family.

Following the Mass, the celebration continued in the park opposite the cathedral, where students enjoyed time to relax, play, and share ice cream under the sun. Laughter and conversation filled the air as friendships were formed and memories made—truly a reflection of the joy and community found in Christ.

This day was not only a celebration of our shared faith but a reminder that we are all part of something greater—a diocesan family walking together with Jesus at the centre. Our students returned uplifted and inspired, grateful for the experience and the chance to connect with others who share the same mission of living out their faith with joy.

Mrs Semple



Performing Arts @ Oaklands



Waterlooville Music Festival

The Waterlooville Music Festival was a fantastic experience for our students. Their hard work shone through in a truly commendable performance, receiving enthusiastic applause.

The festival's vibrant atmosphere and supportive audience created a memorable opportunity for our young musicians, some of whom performed for the first time.



Sounds of Summer Music

The Performing Arts Summer Music Concert was an absolute delight! The diverse programme showcased remarkable talent, from the stirring concert band pieces to captivating solo vocal performances and monologues. The overall atmosphere was one of joyful appreciation for the arts. A truly inspiring display by all involved!

Isla who played the Piano in the concert, said 'I enjoyed playing at the school concert because it is a way of showing everyone that playing music is a fun experience and you get to socialise with other people playing different instruments'

School Show 2026 Announcement

Oliver! is coming to Oaklands Catholic School on 11th-13th February 2026. Watch this space for more information!



Careers Update

Year 10 Professional Day

On Monday 16th June, our Year 10 students participated in our annual Professional Day – a cornerstone event designed to bridge the gap between classroom learning and career readiness.

The day included a carousel of activities including interview techniques sessions where students learnt about interview styles, what to wear and how to succeed in an interview, and preparation for work experience, learning how to respond to different situations they may face, Health and Safety at Work and how to get the most out of their work experience.

A highlight of the day was the financial literacy workshops delivered by our valued partners at Citizens Advice Havant. These interactive sessions covered budgeting, understanding payslips, managing money, and avoiding debt – practical life skills that will serve our students well beyond their school years.

This comprehensive preparation ensures our Year 10 students approach their upcoming work experience placements with confidence, equipped with both professional skills and financial awareness.

HSDC Taster Day

Last week we took nearly 100 Year 10 students to HSDC's South Downs campus for a variety of taster sessions where they explored the wide array of vocational courses on offer at HSDC.

During recent careers lessons and appointments, students have chosen which courses they wanted to try. With so many exciting courses it was a very busy day, but some of the highlights included a baking session for those interested in Catering, an aeroplane simulator for future cabin crew and handling wildlife in the Animal Care taster.

Year 10 Professional Days and Post-16 tasters are key opportunities to develop well-rounded, career-ready young people prepared for future success, with pupils all behaving excellently and really applying themselves to the tasks and activities. Well done, Year 10!

Mrs McQuiston



THE SIXTH FORM

Oaklands Catholic School

News from the Sixth Form

'Sixth Form Taster Days and Masterclasses

We have just hosted our Year 10 Sixth Form Taster Day and the feedback from these days has been superb. These Taster Days are a great way of providing our prospective students with a better understanding of A Levels and life as a Sixth Former. On 8th July we will also have the Year 11 Sixth Form Applicant Day which will help prepare our new Year 12 with the best possible start in September. The impact of these various Sixth Form Taster Days and Masterclasses is apparent in the record number of internal and external applicants seeking to join the Sixth Form. As ever a huge thanks to all those that have made these events such a success.



University Visits

The Sixth Form is busy arranging a range of university visits for our Year 12. At the time of writing we are soon to depart for series of open days and lectures at the universities of Bath and Southampton. After Enrichment Week we will also have a residential visit to the University of Cambridge and another to the University of Oxford. These visits are a good way for our Sixth Formers to experience a university environment and provide important advice for those considering continuing their academic studies after Sixth Form.

'Get into Medicine' Programme

Our 'Get into Medicine' programme also continues to go from strength to strength and this year our medics will benefit from a three-day bespoke work experience programme in local hospitals. This will include having the unique opportunity of shadowing medical consultants and surgeons; invaluable when it comes to applications for highly competitive medical programmes. Thank you to Mrs Chinorwadza and all those involved in helping make these visits happen.

SF Summer Sports and Picnic

To celebrate the end of another successful year and a set of record mock exam grades, our Year 12 are busy organising a picnic and sports event towards the end of July. This will include a wide range of sporting events including rounders and 'capture the flag'. Mr Godwin is even considering firing up the BBQ! A big thanks in advance to all those who are working so hard to make this happen.

Chinese Visit to the Sixth Form

The Sixth Form is excited to be hosting year a delegation of twenty Chinese students and their teachers who will be arriving at the start of July. This visit is part of a wider cross-cultural exchange programme designed to provide students with an opportunity to meet with peers from different countries and to experience different educational contexts. Our brilliant Sixth Formers are already busy devising some great activities for our visitors during their stay and brushing up on their Mandarin.

我们期待欢迎我们的朋友!

Year 12 Enrichment Week

We have just finished our Sixth Form Enrichment Week, which ran in tandem with the lower school Challenge Week. During this Enrichment Week, our students were provided with the opportunity to undertake work related learning placements and UCAS preparation. There was also the option of undertaking First Aid training and TEFL qualifications. Enrichment Week is an invaluable opportunity for our Year 12 to gather the necessary work experience and go beyond the classroom to ensure they make the right post-18 choices and to ensure their UCAS applications really stand out.

Mr Godwin, Director of Sixth Form



Year 12 Biology Field Trip

Year 12 Biology students recently set off on a field-based ecology investigation, beginning at Dell Quay and concluding at Fishbourne Marshes. Guided by officers from the Chichester Conservancy Educational Centre, they explored species sampling techniques, statistical testing, and carried out independent research that contributed to their core practical accreditation for A Level studies.



The day began with an exciting crab collection activity, where students measured the crustaceans' sizes relative to their proximity to the shore. The enthusiastic squeals revealed just how impressive some of them were!

After lunch, we explored the brackish water ecology at Dell Quay, where students conducted a random survey of the saltmarshes. They examined the impact of factors such as seawater coverage on the distribution and abundance of coastal plants, comparing areas submerged daily with those covered only a few times a season.

The trip concluded at Fishbourne Marshes, where students moved on to freshwater ecology investigations, measuring species abundance and distribution in both slow- and fast-flowing streams. Wet feet were inevitable, but the thriving wildlife made up for it! As a team, they demonstrated resilience, problem-solving, and strong spirit throughout the day.

The valuable data collected will now undergo statistical analysis to assess variations in species distribution and the correlation between abiotic and biotic factors. This hands-on experience provided students with invaluable skills and a deeper appreciation of their local harbour.

A huge thank you to Mrs Gorman and Miss Lenihan for their enthusiasm and expertise in making this trip such a success—as well as the wonderful weather we enjoyed. We eagerly anticipate another fantastic trip next June.

Mrs Gamble



The Oaklands Way

Gospel Reflection: John 21:15-19

Peter and Paul were very different - Peter was a simple fisherman who denied Jesus, and Paul was a well-educated man who once persecuted Christians. But both were transformed by God's love and became bold leaders of the Church.



Their lives remind us that God does not call the perfect; He calls those who are willing to follow Him. No matter your past, God can do great things through us when we say yes. Saints Peter and Paul, pray for us.

How can the example of Saints Peter & Paul Help Us?

The lives of Saints Peter and Paul offer powerful examples of trust and hope, not because they were perfect, but because they were deeply human and still responded to God's call with courage and faith.

Peter shows us how to trust God even after failure. Paul shows us how to hope in God's power to change lives and fulfil His mission.



What Trust and Hope Mean

Trust means confident reliance on God's character - believing that He is faithful, good and in control, even when we do not understand what is happening.

Hope means living with confident expectation that God will fulfil His promises - especially the ultimate hope of eternal life and renewal of all things.

CST - The Common Good

This principle is about helping those who are most in need - 'those lacking something important to be able to live life well'.

In the early 1970s, the Sisters of Christ started this school as a comprehensive school for girls and boys. They wanted to offer a good education to all children regardless of faith or sex.

How is this a way of putting 'option for the poor' in to action?

Today, what are the signs that we are still doing this as a school?



Father,

We pray as a Christian community, to be open to the gospel message of Jesus.

We value the uniqueness of each other and, in respecting and supporting one another, celebrate the gifts we bring.

In unity and love we reach out to those in need. Guide us as we work to make prayer, love, healing, peace and justice a reality within our school.

Amen



Drop-in for young people

- **Tuesday**
10-13 year olds (Year group: 6, 7, 8)
Session time: 4:30PM – 6:30pm
- **Wednesday**
13-16 year olds (Year group: 9, 10, 11)
Session time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm
- **Thursday**
16 & 17 year olds (College/6th form age)
Session time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm



**Motiv8, The Hub,
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We believe in respecting and maintaining your confidentiality. We will not share your personal information unless we have your permission or we have to because of our duty of care to protect your health, safety and wellbeing and that of others.



Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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