

Community - Unity - Opportunity

From the Headteacher's Desk

The curriculum at Oaklands includes all the experiences planned and offered both in the classroom and outside of it. We believe that all students should be able to have life and live it to the full, and the extra-curricular offer plays a fundamental role in this. Activities provide a platform for students to pursue their passions, talents and interests outside the regular academic curriculum. Whether playing rugby or being part of a chess team, these activities allow students to explore new areas and develop skills. They build positive relationships with each other and staff, fostering camaraderie and teamwork among peers and across year groups, promoting social interaction and building lasting friendships.

Challenge Week removes all barriers, allowing all students to get involved, be it on-site, visiting local attractions, camping, or going abroad. At Oaklands, the Challenge Week experience works so well, not only because students enter into the spirit of it but also because staff members give up their time without counting the cost. If you take a group of students away on a residential, you are, in effect, on duty 24-7. So, a massive thank you to all who took part and the staff for making the week so enjoyable and memorable.

Mr Quinn, Headteacher

Year 7: Conservation & Culture

During Challenge Week, Year 7 took part in an array of activities surrounding creativity, culture and conservation. The week began with a trip to Marwell Zoo, exploring biodiversity, environmental conservation and the protection of various endangered species.



All of the students observed each of the animals basking in the sunshine and explored the habitats and environments these animals normally live in. Our focus on conservation provided us with the perfect opportunity to consider what we as a society can do in order to protect our ecosystem and these majestic animals from going extinct.

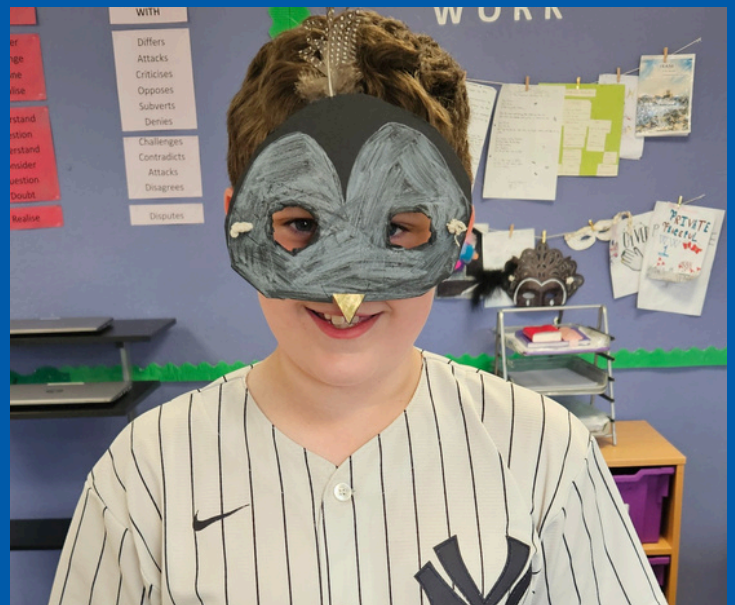
Here are some comments from Year 7 students:

We had a great time when we went to Marwell Zoo during Challenge Week, as we saw loads of interesting animals such as giraffes, rhinos and even wild flamingos prancing around! Apart from the Marwell Zoo trip, our week was full of activities based around culture, conservation and creativity. This included focusing on the importance of what we should do to save endangered animals, African dancing and drumming, making masks, poems – all sorts of fun things to do! Overall, we had an amazing time during Year 7 Challenge Week!

Student, 7VP

It truly was an enthralling week and the energy, enthusiasm and zeal that Year 7 offered throughout made for a memorable and cultured Challenge Week. Bring on next year!

Mr Osbourne



Year 8: STEM, Murder

Mysteries & Thorpe Park Fun

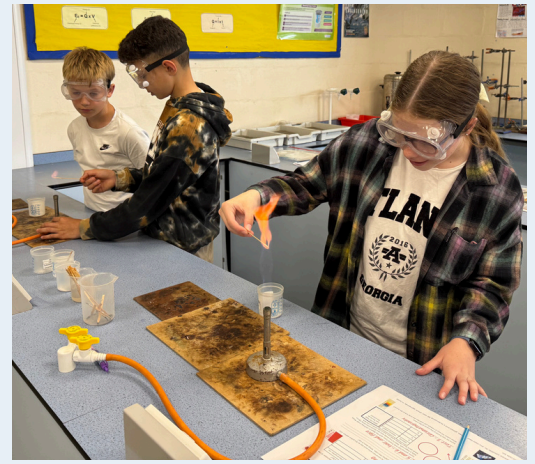
Challenge Week for Year 8 provided an engaging and comprehensive exploration into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and Design.

In the Design workshops, students collaborated in groups to create a variety of roller coasters and theme park attractions using recycled materials. Students were then asked to price their souvenirs, and some prices rivalled the dizzying height of Thorpe Park's roller coasters!

The Maths sessions had Year 8 students deciphering coded diary entries, employing orienteering skills and using trundle wheels to measure distances. With this data they were able calculate times and verify the alibis of suspects. In Science, students experienced forensic science first hand by dissecting a heart, even though its origins (human or otherwise) were left ambiguous.

On Thursday students ventured to Thorpe Park to experience the UK's tallest and fastest roller coaster, Hyperia, along with the thrills of Stealth, Colossus the 120-foot-tall Detonator. Despite enthusiastic encouragement, the more cautious thrill-seekers like Mr Gough and Mrs Kelly found that the Teacups provided just the right amount of excitement.

It was a joy to see such happy (and tired) faces after Thorpe Park and will remain a highlight of my school year, with many expressing a renewed interest in further exploring STEM.



Mr Gorman



Year 9 Camp

During Challenge week, some of our Year 9 students travelled to The New Forest for a residential trip to Tile Barn, Brockenhurst. The trip began at Oaklands on Monday morning with coaches departing at 7:30 am.

Here is a report from a Year 9 student on the trip: The Year 9 camp was an unforgettable adventure filled with laughter, learning, and lasting memories. From the moment we arrived, we were surrounded by nature, waking up each morning to the sound of birds chirping and the refreshing scent of pine trees.

Each day was packed with exciting outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, and other group games that encouraged teamwork and exploration. Evenings were spent enjoying delicious meals together, followed by restful nights in comfortable tents under the stars.

One of the most rewarding aspects of camp was the opportunity to build new friendships. Students from different classes connected, shared stories, and supported each other through various challenges. We learned practical skills like riding bikes on ramps, using a compass for navigation, and even got to showcase our talents during a fun-filled talent show.

The camp was a break from screens and structured routines — a week full of freedom, fun, and personal growth. It was a chance to step outside our comfort zones, build confidence, and enjoy the simplicity of nature.

Ollie, 9CL

Thank you to all the staff who supported the organisation and running of the trip: Mr Wade, Mr Smith, Mr Whelan, Mr Neil, Mr Semple, Mr Bernard, Mrs Jones, Mrs Beauvoisin, Miss Clayton, Mrs Mitchell and Miss Smith.

Mr Wade



Year 9: Field Trips, Treasure Hunts & Survival Skills

Those Year 9 students who didn't attend Camp undertook an exciting programme of activities at school designed by the Geography, History, Religious Education (RE), and Languages departments.

The week started with a variety of workshops including a "Multilingual Quest", designing team flags, and a session on conflict resolution.



Tuesday saw Geographers embark on a trip to Hayling Island, where they engaged in a practical groyne survey, followed by an orienteering course at Staunton Park. History students, meanwhile, delved into the rich past of our local area by exploring Portchester Castle and Fort Nelson.

Wednesday focused on analysis and presentation. Returning from their field trips brimming with data, students meticulously examined their findings, transforming them into informative posters.

On Thursday students ventured outdoors to construct shelters on the cricket field. The day culminated in a celebratory barbecue, with hot dogs and marshmallows.

Throughout the week, Year 9 developed valuable skills that will serve them well in their academic journeys and beyond. As the week drew to a close, it was evident that the memories and lessons learned would leave a lasting impact on these young learners.

Mrs Short



Year 8: French Fantasy

Forty Year 8 students travelled to Château Du Baffy, France, for Challenge Week, beginning their journey at 5.30am on Sunday 22nd June.

The trip started with a visit to Arromanches, where Mrs Cunningham taught students about the area's importance following the D-Day Anniversary commemorations. They visited the 360 cinema to watch films and hear stories from the D-Day landings. Students then travelled to Les Vergers de Ducy cider farm, learning about traditional Normandy cider production.



Tuesday brought a wonderful visit to Mont-St-Michel. With beautiful weather, students enjoyed the slow climb through the picturesque streets of this medieval town. The views from the top were stunning! On day three, students used their French skills to order items at the market, followed by snacks outside Bayeux Cathedral. The group then visited Juno Beach, where Canadians stormed during D-Day, returning for dinner and snail and frog legs tasting, followed by musical chairs.

Thursday saw students visit the British World War II D-Day memorial in Vers sur Mer. They spent time exploring the moving installation for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day, including stone tablets telling the story. The students were incredibly respectful and gained a great deal from the visit. The final day began with a visit to Les Escargots De L'don, where students discovered snail farming and tried snails, with mostly positive reviews.

Thank you to Mrs Over, Mrs Cunningham and Mr Forster for making this trip safe and happy.

Miss Mousdale



The Oaklands Way

Gospel Reflection

Jesus sends out seventy-two disciples to go ahead of Him and share His message. He tells them the harvest is great, but the workers are few in the Kingdom of God. He also warns them that not everyone will welcome them - but to go anyway.



This reminds us that being a disciple is not always easy.

You do not have to be perfect or have all the answers to be a witness, Just be willing to go, to live with love, and to trust that God will work through you.

What does being Generous mean?

Generosity is the willing and joyful sharing of your time, resources, talents, and love with others -without expecting anything in return.

In Christianity, generosity is more than just giving things away—it's a heart attitude of selfless love that reflects the nature of God Himself.



Generosity reflects God's love and opens our hearts to others. It breaks selfishness and builds community and trust. It brings joy and freedom to both giver and receiver.

CST - Option for the Poor

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

Because we live in an unjust and unequal world, it is important to consider the needs of those who live in poverty, what causes poverty and how we work to eliminate poverty. Pope Francis told us that 'the measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need'.



Come, Holy Spirit,

Fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you will renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of your faithful, grant that by that same Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise, and ever rejoice in your consolation, Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



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