



Community - Unity - Opportunity

From the Headteacher's Desk

This is now likely to be my last contribution to the Oaklands News in my current capacity; I will shortly step down from Headship to focus on the role of CEO for Edith Stein Multi Academy Trust, the organisation responsible for Oaklands. I find myself reflecting on my time here with a blend of gratitude, pride, and a hint of sadness. This decision to leave Headship was not made lightly, as Oaklands has been part of my life since September 2007. It is a unique Catholic school, enriched by a vibrant and resilient community that has profoundly shaped both my professional and personal journey.

Throughout my tenure, I have had the honour of witnessing the remarkable growth and evolution of our school. Our recent Catholic School Inspection is a testament to our collective efforts, as very few schools achieve outstanding results across the board. While leading a school comes with its challenges, the triumphs have been numerous. I take great pride in the spiritual culture we have cultivated, one that is deeply rooted in the teachings of the Gospels.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to every member of our school and wider community. It has been a privilege to collaborate with my fellow Catholic Headteachers, many of whom have worked alongside me throughout this journey, their professionalism has been invaluable. I also appreciate the support from our clergy, who play a vital role in the sacramental life of the school. Together with our governors, their guidance and commitment to our shared values have strengthened Oaklands and inspired us to aim high.

Most importantly, to our students, they are the reason we all strive for excellence. Their energy, curiosity, humour, and courage have continually inspired me. Watching them grow not only academically, but as kind, thoughtful young people is often the antidote when considering the latest Department for Education missive.

I have had the privilege of appointing hundreds of dedicated teachers and support staff whose expertise and commitment have continually inspired me. I have been blessed by a troupe of outstanding colleagues. The true strength of this school lies in the collective spirit and unwavering support that colleagues extend to one another and to the students they nurture.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to parents for entrusting your children to the school under my leadership. The partnership between school and home is critical in any successful school. Your prayers, support, and faith in the vision have played a crucial role in shaping Oaklands into what it is today. Our achievements would not have been possible without your love and encouragement.

Leaving any position is not easy, but you have to accept the inevitability of it, when you start something at some point it has to finish; transitions are a natural part of any journey. I am comforted by the knowledge that the school is in a strong position, supported by a passionate staff, a dedicated governing body and clergy, and a caring community of students and families.

I am confident that the future holds continued growth and success. I will forever carry with me the lessons, the memories, and the relationships I have formed here. This school has shaped me as much as I have shaped it, and I leave with a full heart and a deep sense of gratitude.

Thank you once again for your trust, your kindness, and your support over the years. It has been the honour of my career.

Mr Quinn

From the Governors

As another academic year moves towards a conclusion, it is a time for looking backwards and forwards. Firstly, thank you to the Governors for all the work they have done that contributes to governance of Oaklands. In particular, a big thank you to Father Jeremy who supported Oaklands as a Governor as well as supporting the work of the whole Governing Body. At the same time, we welcomed Father Andrew as a Governor, who will link with the RE department and help us ensure that the Catholic ethos is at the heart of Oaklands and all Governor activity.



It has been a busy year; Governors have been impressed and entertained by the amazing Culture Show, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, and the Christmas and Summer music concerts. We have seen school and parishes come together at the Pentecost Mass on Sunday 8th June as well as seeing and participating in the Catholic life of the school in community masses, assemblies, and acts of worship. Every year Governors are impressed by the achievements of the pupils, such as the Year 8 Science projects and the Design Showcase. Governors have visited every department within the school, to discuss how each one is performing and how we (as Governors) can help. This is all part of the Governors' responsibility to set the strategic aims, core values and ethos of the school, in line with Government, Diocesan and Trust expectations. We are then able to hold the school leadership to account for delivery of the strategy, supporting and challenging where necessary. We have analysed teaching and learning outcomes, looked at implementation of policies such as the updated behaviour policy and curriculum, and looked at the financial and business management probity of the school.



Oaklands has successfully gained a grant of £1.4m for urgent structural repairs to the White House and roof replacement to the Sports Hall, to ensure both are safe and appropriate spaces for education in the coming decades. Despite the size of the grant, the school has to make a contribution to the project and we are looking to raise £50,000.

Whilst this seems like a lot of money, divided by 700 families making a small contribution each year, the funds will accumulate quickly. Every contribution to the Governors' Development fund will go towards this vital project. The easiest way of donating is via the QR code above.

As you are all aware, there are changes in the coming year, with Mr Quinn retiring after successfully leading the school for eighteen years. I know everyone will send their sincere thanks to him for all he has done for the Oaklands Community. The Governors have been working to secure excellent leadership for the coming year, with Mr Cunningham as Interim Executive Headteacher and Mrs Bonnington as Interim Head of School. The Governors will continue to work closely with the Trust, the Governors of St Peter's, and the senior leadership of Oaklands to ensure the school continues to provide high quality, Christ centred education, making sure every young person has the opportunity to develop to their full potential, in body, mind and spirit.

Finally, Governors are very aware of all the work of both teachers and support staff at Oaklands put into all the events that take place, on top of their daily education and pupil support activities. So, the biggest thank you goes to each and every member of the Oaklands Community who work so hard to make the school what it is. We wish them a very relaxing and refreshing summer and look forward to seeing them, the pupils and parents in the next academic year.

L Cluett, Chair of Governors



OFPA News

Thank you for all your support during the last academic year.

Summer Raffle

Thank you to all who purchased tickets or donated items for our Summer Raffle and congratulations to the three hamper winners.



Our next online raffle will be at Christmas, so please look out for further details in the Autumn Term.

Uniform Donations & Sales

Please continue to bring any uniform in good, clean condition to our White House Reception. Year 11 Parents can drop any last remaining uniform items off at the Sixth Form or Hall on Thursday 21st August (GCSE Results Collection Day) from 9.00-12.00 noon. Please note that we no longer take donations of shirts and blouses.

Our next pre-owned uniform sale will be on Thursday 21st August from 1.00-3.30pm. Pre-ordering will not be required, so please feel free to turn up at the Hall during the afternoon.

As usual payment for items can be made using card or cash.

Prom Attire Sale

We are again planning to hold a sale for Prom attire, including dresses, suits and accessories next term. Further details will be published closer to the event, but parents will also have the opportunity to sell suitable items, setting their own reserve price, with a small percentage fee for the OFPA.

If you would like to receive more information about this event, please email us at opa@oaklandscatholicschool.org

Next Meeting

Our next meeting and first of next academic year will be on Monday 8th September 7.30pm in the Sixth Form Block. All are welcome to attend – we look forward to seeing you there!

M Howell, Chair The OFPA

Note from Careers

Year 10 Mock Interviews

Congratulations to all Year 10 students who participated in mock interviews over the last few days of the summer term. We were thoroughly impressed by the professionalism, preparation, and confidence each student displayed throughout.



These sessions allowed students to gain valuable experience with the interview process, fostering crucial skills for their future academic and professional endeavours.

Work Experience

Our Year 10 students recently undertook work experience placements across a diverse range of industries and sectors. Our students embraced opportunities spanning from hands-on mechanical work and healthcare settings to exciting placements with the Royal Navy and cutting-edge renewable energy companies. This breadth of experience has provided invaluable insights into potential career paths and the realities of working life.

The feedback from employers has been overwhelmingly positive, with many commenting on our students' professionalism, enthusiasm, and willingness to learn. Work experience remains a cornerstone of our careers programme, helping students develop confidence, workplace skills, and clarity about their futures. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the local businesses and organisations who welcomed our students so warmly.

Anyone who is interested in supporting work experience placements or careers events can contact Mrs McQuiston via email on A.McQuiston@oaklandscatholicschool.org.

Mrs McQuiston





Staff Farewells

At the end of term, we will say farewell to a number of colleagues:

Mr Pratt

Mr Pratt has only been with us since January but during that time he has taken on the challenge of being a keyworker to one of our students. He has a fantastic way of building a relationship with the students and his acting skills have certainly helped him to adapt to the ever changing duties that form part of his role. We wish him all the best as he heads off to University to study acting.

Miss Carpenter

Miss Carpenter joined Oaklands in 2022 to teach A Level and GCSE as part of her role within the Social Science department. She has taught Psychology, Health and Social Care, Child Development at GCSE and been a link tutor in the Sixth Form. She has taught a range of topics from forensics, research methods and memory to developmental milestones. In addition, she also taught KS3 ICT, where she delivered sessions on coding. We would like to thank her for all her efforts across the department and wish her every success for the future.

Miss Richardson

Miss Richardson joined Oaklands in 2022 off-the-back of her teacher training during COVID. But her journey at Oaklands began even earlier when she came to visit as part of a Sixth Form experience week for her ITT placement. During this week, Miss Richardson's eyes were opened to the academic fervour of the English department and the endless opportunities presented through A level teaching. She has grown exponentially throughout her time with us and imparted her academic genius to several students. She has been a marvellous colleague and a brilliant asset to the department. We wish her the best of luck for the future, and we will miss her dearly.

Mrs Brown

Mrs Brown has been part of the Learning Support Team since 2019 and is also very much part of the exam invigilator squad. As a PSP, she has focused mostly on developing a positive relationship with our vulnerable Year 10 and 11s - often working in her own time to support key students to keep up with project work or prepare for exams. Mrs Brown has now decided that it is a good time for her to enjoy her retirement and spend more time at home with her family enjoying long, leisurely dog walks. Her 'can do' attitude will be missed by all in the department.



Mrs Atkins

Mrs Atkins has worked in the Learning Support Department since 2017 and during that time has seen her role develop from supporting mostly Year 7 students to running study support sessions for a Year 13 student. She has also been the link to the RE department and they really value her input and subject knowledge. Mrs Atkins is now going to focus on spending more time with her family and new grandchildren as well as continuing to enjoy travelling and exploring more of the world.

Mr Whitlock

Mr Whitlock joined Oaklands in January 2017 to take on responsibility for the teaching of Law in the Sixth Form. He has proved to be a real 'jack of all trades' and has also taught A Level Psychology, Government and Politics, PDC, RE, Computing and EPQ.

As well as being a Sixth Form tutor, Mr Whitlock has also contributed greatly to whole school extra-curricular activities, going on residential trips to New York, Oxford University and skiing in Italy. He has led student visits to the Bar Mock Trial, the Magistrate Court and organised LNAT lessons and invited legal professionals to speak to Sixth Form. Most noticeably, Mr Whitlock has consistently taught beyond the constraints of the school timetable, regularly holding morning lessons before school starts and one-to-one sessions with his Law students throughout the school holidays. He will be sorely missed by students and colleagues alike who wish him a well-deserved retirement.

Mrs Cook

Mrs Cook started life at Oaklands as a Cover Assistant in 2004 and then moved into Learning Support to help our most vulnerable students. She has seen a lot of changes in her 20+ years here and has been able to apply her love of English Literature and baking effectively to support students with their GCSE studies - we know Food Tech and English are going to miss her just as much as the department. Mrs Cook is now going to spend more time with her husband and family and is looking forward to an extended trip back to the USA this autumn. We hope to see her again if we can persuade her to return as an exam scribe in the summer! Happy retirement Mrs Cook.



Mrs Broadway

Mrs Broadway joined us in 2009 as a Geography teacher. She soon became Second in Department, and has now been Head of Department since 2017. She has been a fantastic teacher and it was fitting that she was voted 'most inspirational teacher' in the 2025 Year 11 Yearbook - an accolade that those who work with her in the Geography Department would endorse without hesitation. Mrs Broadway has led the team with passion and determination, guided by her strong faith and the desire to provide students with the best possible learning experiences in class, but also beyond the classroom - including numerous curriculum trips to places such as Dorset, London, West Wittering, Hayling Island, Iceland and Sicily.

Mrs Broadway was instrumental in developing greater international links through her work with the Comenius and Erasmus projects, aided by EU funding. Large numbers of colleagues and students have hosted/visited partner schools in various locations including Germany, Poland, Finland, Azores (Portugal), Gran Canaria (Spain), Italy and Hungary. It is this appetite for travel and co-operation that sees her move to an international school in Montenegro. We wish her all the best and she will be missed deeply.

Dr Dixon

Dr Dixon joined Oaklands in 2009 bringing with him a wealth of Science and Chemistry experience as well as some impressive keepie-uppie skills! No surprise, given the latter, that he helped with football training for the girls' teams after school. Dr Dixon is hugely respected by staff and students alike and has shown support in his many roles going from Science teacher, Teaching and Learning Lead, Head of Department and now Assistant Head.

He has inspired numerous students, many of whom have gone on to study Chemistry at university. He has a large collection of Lego as testament to this, one of the regular gifts he receives as gestures of appreciation. Dr Dixon has driven many initiatives at Oaklands and was instrumental in designing the new labs in Kolbe Block; he also designed the Year 10 STEM activity. Dr Dixon is a people's person with a smile for everyone and his sharp humour has cheered us up when times were tough. He will be very much missed by the Oaklands Community, but we wish him every success in his new role as Deputy Head at St Philip Howard Catholic School.



Mr Quinn

We will not be saying goodbye, but instead giving thanks for Mr Quinn's leadership and service to our school community. Mr Quinn has been Headteacher since September 2007 and during this time he has overseen many changes, OFSTED inspections (don't get him started on these!) and Section 48 inspections. His passion for authentic Catholic education is unwavering and his dedication to service is unrivalled. Mr Quinn has guided Oaklands through times of great challenge, changes in government, COVID and the loss of our colleagues and friends. His guidance in these situations has been calm, steadfast and at all times has held the wellbeing of the wider school community at heart.

Under Mr Quinn's Leadership we have seen students flourish personally and academically, their spiritual life deepen in a community that is built on a clear mission to ensure no-one is left behind and all have the potential for greatness. He recently spoke about how humbling it is to hear what students do when they have long left school and how rewarding it is to know that our school was a part of that journey and formation. We know that there are so many students whose lives have been enriched because of their time here at Oaklands and this is in no small way thanks to Mr Quinn's service and dedication to upholding the Catholic values we share. We cannot thank Mr Quinn enough for his service. We wish him all the best as he continues to work with us as CEO of ESCAT.

Duke of Edinburgh Summer Report

During the Summer Term Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver groups have been busy completing sections including their assessed expeditions. The Bronze Assessed expedition took place in June and over the weekend the groups experienced every type of weather from cloud and sun to extremely heavy rain with thunder and lightning.



All the groups coped remarkably well and despite the soaking weather remained positive and cheerful, completing the expedition successfully.

Out of the 37 participants 32 have completed their Bronze Award. Well done to Kieron, Isaac, Filip, Erin, Eva, Faith, Marta, Scarlett, Maria, Belle, Chloe, Iannis, Amelie, Ellie, Alice, Josephine, Binil, Roberta, Henry Zachary, Freya, Abigail, Lily, Anna, Sarah, Fern, Daisy, Dejoie, Emily, Daniel, Esosa and Daniel.



The Silver group completed their assessed expedition over three days at the end of their public examinations. The weather was near perfect walking weather and the group navigated very well to ensure they too completed their expedition successfully. Many congratulations to the following who have now completed their Silver Award: Katie, Olivia, Joshua, Eva and Annie. Our thanks to all the supervisors and assessors who have supported the groups over the year – T. Brinnen, N. Bunt, S. Johnson, L. Jones, R. Jones, D. Quinn, F. Quinn, R. Quinn, P. Smith, T. Sullivan, J. Turner, C. Wade.

Mrs Hoar



Sports Day

This year's Sports Day proceeded with great enthusiasm and wonderful sunshine. Students from all year groups participated in a wide range of athletic activities, including running, jumping, and throwing events.



A highlight of the day was the showcasing of exceptional talent and dedication from our students. The competitive spirit was high as students gave their best in every event.

One of the most thrilling moments was the relay race between the Sixth Form students and the staff. Of course, no Sports Day would be complete without the traditional Staff vs Sixth Form relay... and yes, we'll add another loss to the staff's record. A special mention goes to Mr Miller, who heroically took on the 200 metres despite thinking it was only 100.

The results for the winning tutor group in each year and the overall winners of Sports Day will be announced on the last day of term, building anticipation and excitement among the students.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the staff members who played a crucial role in organising and running the events. Their support and effort were instrumental in making Sports Day a memorable and successful event for everyone involved.

Mr Wade



STEM @ Oaklands

RSC Analyst Challenge

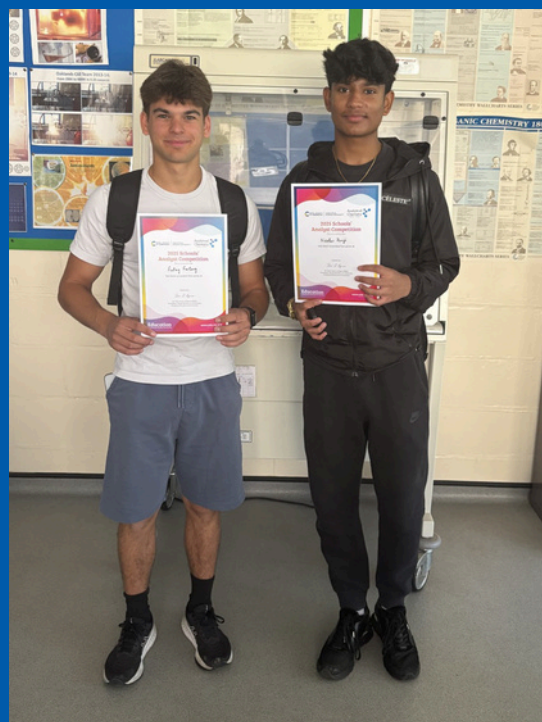
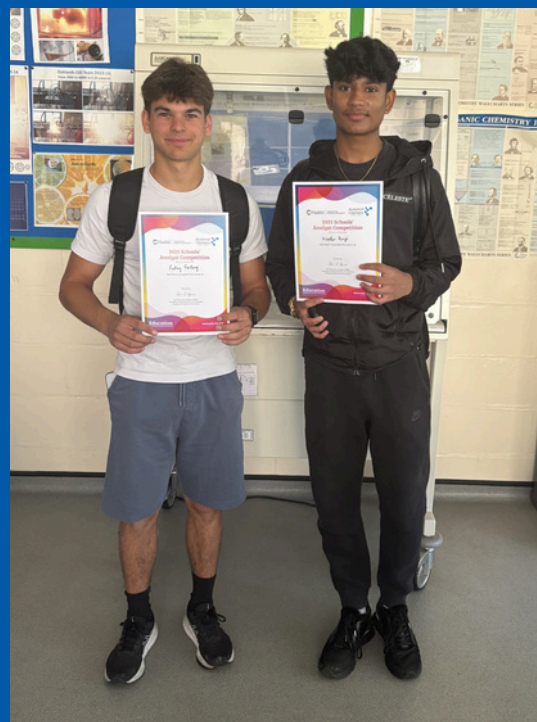
We are proud to announce that two of our Sixth Form students, Finlay and Nicholas in Year 12, have won the Oaklands School heat of the Analyst Challenge, a respected national competition organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

The competition challenges A Level Chemistry students to complete a range of demanding analytical tasks, including titration, spectroscopy, and data analysis - mirroring real-world applications of chemistry in industry.

Finlay and Nicholas impressed with their precision, teamwork, and thoughtful approach, earning them first place in the school heat. Their success is a testament to their hard work and enthusiasm for science.

We are delighted to celebrate this achievement and look forward to seeing what they accomplish next.

Mrs Lenton



Cambridge Chemistry Challenge

Fifteen Chemistry students sat the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge exam in June.

Set by an experienced team of teachers and university chemists, it is designed to be accessible to Year 12 students, taking them significantly beyond the syllabus and encouraging them to think about science in the way they would at university.

The written exam aims to stretch and inspire Year 12 Chemistry students and includes questions that are mainly problem solving in nature. A total of 14,830 students sat the exam globally.

Congratulations, Barney and Asti Hayes for achieving the Gold award in this exam; less than 10% of students who entered reached this level. Thank you to staff in Oaklands Chemistry department for facilitating and marking this exam.

Mrs Hardaker

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Mr Wade





THE SIXTH FORM

Oaklands Catholic School

News from the Sixth Form

As we come towards the end of another successful academic year, I would like to share with you some of the highlights.

Sixth Form 'Oakfest'

We recently held the Sixth Form's first 'Oakfest' event which has been a great success and will now become an annual fixture. We had the BBQ out, music and a wide range of games including rounders, football and frisbee. There was even a water fight!



The great weather, good food and wonderful company made this an ideal way to celebrate a long and busy term.

A huge thanks to all those who worked so hard to make this happen.

Chinese Visit to the Sixth Form

We also bid farewell our delegation of twenty Chinese students and their teachers who joined us for a week in Sixth Form. The visit was a great success and provided an opportunity to learn about different cultures and make new friends. A huge thanks to our fantastic Sixth Formers who volunteered to escort our visitors for the week and who also showed great initiative in organising a fun programme of after college events. We all even learnt how to speak some Chinese...

我们都度过了一个非常愉快的时光，这就是为什么我们的六年级社区是最棒的！

Year 12 Enrichment Week

This year's Sixth Form Enrichment Week focused on work related learning. During this period our students undertook wide range of work experience placements and UCAS preparation sessions. For some of our students, these placements have been life changing and have allowed them to utilise their skills and creativity in ways they had not considered. The feedback from employers has been outstanding and our Sixth Formers have been superb ambassadors for our Oaklands community. We are all really proud. These experiences will also be invaluable in UCAS statements and other future applications.

Sixth Form Taster Days and Masterclasses

We have also just held our last Sixth Form Year 11 Applicant Day and Year 10 masterclass of the term. During these days we have been joined by a variety of potential Sixth Form students from Oaklands and beyond.

The feedback from these days has been excellent and they have given our prospective students an insight into the daily life of the Sixth Form. This year the Oaklands Sixth Form Masterclasses have invited over 120 GCSE students (from across six other local schools) to join us for a series of A Level style lessons. These taster days and masterclasses have once again been a great success and it is encouraging to hear so many are keen to join us as A Level students in the future.

A huge thanks to all those teaching and support staff that have made these possible.



Student Success

Congratulations to Ella Hutton in Year 12 who recently competed in the English Schools Athletics Association national field and track competition in Birmingham.

Ella competed in the 200m race and beat stiff competition to represent Hampshire.

Well done, Ella!

It might also be added that Ella competing in this national event meant she was not available to run for the Sixth Form students vs staff relay race on Sports Day much to the relief of the staff relay team (although they still lost!)

Finally, thank you to the Sixth Form students, support staff, teachers and governors for all their hard work and dedication this term.

Have a wonderful Summer holiday!

Mr Godwin, Director of Sixth Form

The Oaklands Way

Catholic Social Teaching and the Oaklands Mission

At the beginning this academic year, we celebrated our first whole school Mass school on 13 September. The Mass was for our school's patronal Feast of the Exultation of the Cross (14 September). In the lead up to the Mass, we had assemblies focusing on the history of our school, especially our motto, 'United by The Cross'. The Cross is literally and symbolically at the heart of everything we do here at Oaklands because it is a sign our Charism of love and service.



One practical way of doing this is our focus on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. We believe that these principles are key to what we do and what we are about. Each principle helps us to realise our Charism of love and service, as they all link together. For example, by teaching our students about Solidarity, we also help them see that the Rights and Responsibilities of each person are important. This in turn enables us to emphasise the centrality of respect for Human Dignity, a key ingredient for the realisation of the Common Good – a community where no one is left out or behind. We therefore pay close attention to the needs of the most vulnerable in our community (Option for the Poor) and uphold the Dignity of Work for each person by enabling all to Participate in the life of the school at the level most appropriate for them. In doing all this, we are fulfilling our call to Care for Creation and live in Peace with each other, following in the example of Jesus the Prince of Peace.

As a faith school, we chose these eight principles because they are a very practical way for us to fulfil our mission statement of Community Unity Opportunity.

Lord God,

When the Sisters of Christ started this school, they intended it to be a place where all experienced God's love.

We pray that You make our school a great place to form, inform, transform and reform our students so that they grow spiritually, physically, socially, and mentally. Make our school a place where they feel loved, where they love and learn to love.

As we come to the end of this academic year, give us the grace to keep this mission alive.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.





Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Community - Unity - Opportunity



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