



Community - Unity - Opportunity

Welcome Back from Mrs Bonnington

It is with great joy and gratitude that we have welcomed everyone back to a new academic year at Oaklands. The beginning of each school year is a chance to embrace new opportunities, deepen our faith, and grow together as a community of learning and service. Whether you are returning after a restful summer or joining us for the first time, we are delighted that you are part of our community.

Our Catholic tradition reminds us that education is not only about developing our minds but also about nurturing our hearts and spirits. At Oaklands, we strive to follow Christ's example by fostering an environment rooted in respect, compassion, and the pursuit of excellence. Our school mission statement Community, Unity and Opportunity helps to guide us and our daily choices and truly ensures that no-one is left behind and all have the potential for greatness.

I would like to acknowledge the success of last year's Year 11 and Year 13 who celebrated an outstanding set of results in the summer and have gone on to the next step in their lives with our love and blessings. It is also lovely to see so many of our Year 11 cohort return to the Sixth Form. I am sure they would want me to thank their families and all the staff here at Oaklands for their support and hard work in helping them through their secondary and sixth form education.

A very warm welcome to our new students and families, as well as to new members of staff who bring fresh gifts and talents to enrich our community. We encourage every student to approach this year with curiosity, resilience, and a willingness to share their unique abilities for the good of all.

I hope you all have a fruitful and enjoyable year.

Mrs Bonnington, Head of School

Year 7: First Days

The start of September has brought great energy to our school as we welcomed our new Year 7 students. Their first days in senior school have been filled with excitement, smiles, and a real sense of community as they begin their journey with us.



On their very first morning, students arrived looking incredibly smart in their new uniforms – a wonderful sight that showed how proud they are to be joining our school. They quickly settled into their tutor groups and began getting to know both their new classmates and staff.



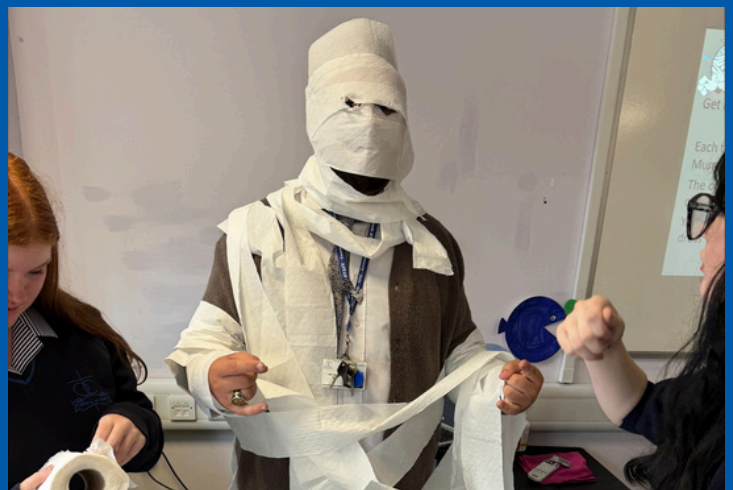
As part of our transition programme, Year 7 took part in a range of team-building activities designed to help them form friendships, work together, and build confidence.

Highlights included the ever-popular “mummy challenge,” where teams competed to wrap their classmates in toilet rolls as quickly and neatly as possible!

In lessons, teachers have already been impressed by how polite, respectful, and enthusiastic the year group have been. It has been wonderful to see Year 7 students embracing every opportunity with enthusiasm – from finding their way around the school to settling into routines.

We are very proud of the confident and positive start they have made – well done, Year 7!

Mrs Bunt, Head of Year 7



Student Supervision & Pastoral Care

Student Supervision

We would like to inform you about the procedures in place to ensure the safety and well-being of your children on our school site.



Before School

The school site is open for parents to drop off and collect their children.

Please note that there is no active supervision of students until 8:30am. Students should arrive at school between 8:30am and 8:50am and proceed to their designated muster areas.

Tutors will collect students from their muster areas at 8:50am.

Students may also go to the canteen before school.

In case of inclement weather, the site staff will consult with senior leadership to determine appropriate alternative arrangements.

After School

Active supervision is provided on the drive until the last bus departs.

We have a staggered finish time to allow Key Stage 3 students to leave earlier than Key Stage 4 and 5 students.

If your child is staying behind for after-school activities (eg, Homework Club, detentions), please ensure that you have agreed on a collection time and location with them.

Homework Club operates a sign-in, sign-out procedure as the duration varies depending on the amount of homework.

Detention finish times will be communicated to parents via ClassCharts.

Staff running after-school activities maintain a register of attendance.

Important Note

At the end of the school day, students should either be on-site participating in a designated activity or off-site.

Please avoid leaving your children on the school site for extended periods while awaiting collection.

If your child is concerned about not being picked up on time, they can report to the main Reception until 4:15pm Monday-Thursday and until 4:00pm on Fridays or seek assistance from a member of the site staff or Senior Leadership Team.

Pastoral care, together with special educational needs and disability support is both a matter of pride to the school and is excellent. Students can accurately articulate the nature and importance of Catholic social teaching, which they really value. 'I am not a Catholic but I really believe in things like care, dignity and solidarity', said one."

Section 48 Inspection 2024



Pastoral Care

The quality of pastoral care at Oaklands is often cited as a reason why students are happy and successful in school. In keeping with our distinctive Catholic ethos, we make a significant investment in the provision of quality pastoral care, recognising that our mission statement of 'no-one gets left behind' must be a lived reality. Over the years we have continued to develop a model which is fit for purpose and which meets the many and complex needs of our students.

Heads of Year and Pastoral Staff for 2025-2026:

Mrs Bunt	Head of Year 7
Mr Semple	Head of Year 8
Mrs Campbell	Assistant Head of Year 8
Mrs Mitchell	Head of Year 9
Mrs Cope	Head of Year 10
Mrs Cunningham	Head of Year 11

In addition, we have a Pastoral Team comprising of Mrs Standen, Welfare and Safeguarding Manager, Mr Miller, Pastoral Officer, Mrs Grant, Attendance and Alternative Provision Officer and Mrs Nicholls our Behaviour and Inclusions Manager.

Mrs Bonnington, the Head of School, is the Designated Safeguarding Lead and fully trained in Child Protection & Safeguarding along with the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. We work with external agencies to support families and children.

At Oaklands, we have a thriving SEN Department, led by our SENCo, Mrs Rowsell. There is a range of support offered to assist our young people who have additional needs in the school environment.

We have a dedicated Student Health and Wellbeing team, Mrs Bayliss and Mrs Welch. All decisions regarding students being referred for any additional behaviour, social or emotional support are made by the Associate Senior Leaders Mrs Rowsell, Mrs Cunningham and Mrs Cope and the pastoral team in school.

We also have good working relationships with external agencies such as the Havant Early Help Hub, Supporting Troubled Families, SDAS, PARCS and Catch 22 and we are very well supported by our local police; PCSO Carl Boxall. We work with Lee Hayward at Online Safety UK which supports parents, students and the school to monitor online behaviour and ensure that students are staying safe online. These all help to ensure that we have access to specialist help when it is needed. We will advise parents when we think a referral to Motiv8, Off the Record, the school nurse or CAMHS is appropriate and support with these.

We know many parents and students have struggled as a result of the rise in the cost of living. We are working hard to ensure that all students and parents who request our support at this time are contacted as quickly as possible to ensure the right help is put in place. Often, parents find it challenging to know where to turn when problems occur. We would encourage parents and carers to refer to the parent section of the website, Useful Articles/Links, which has articles posted on topical issues.

Home school communication for pastoral issues

Parents should always use the Form Tutor as the first port of call when there are any concerns about their child or if there is personal information that needs to be shared with school, eg. a family bereavement. Form Tutors, where possible, stay with their tutor groups from Year 7 to 11; they see the children every morning and build up relationships with them over time so should be contacted with any pastoral issues.

We would politely request that parents do not discuss concerns related to students with Reception or other staff; they are not in a position to help as they do not know the individual children. All pastoral issues should go directly to the Form Tutor and/or the Head of Year. To continue to promote good home–school communication, there are dedicated email addresses for each Form Tutor and Head of Year. These are on the Parents' section of the website Pastoral Contacts with the links for ease of use.

Heads of Year and Form Tutors will check this email address once a day during the working week and parents can expect a response within two working days.

We recognise that emails can be an effective and convenient way to communicate when used appropriately.

Please note that an email to your child's Form Tutor is not a suitable way to communicate if it is an emergency or if it is a matter better discussed on the phone or in a meeting. If it is an emergency, please phone Reception. We are working within the current guidance and will determine, once we know the nature of the issue, whether an email, phone call, virtual meeting or face to face meeting is required.

Mrs Bonnington, Head of School

Expectations & Behaviour

Expectations

At the start of every academic year, Years 7-11 have an Expectations Assembly during which we tell students what is required of them to keep everyone in our school community safe and happy. This assembly covers general conduct reminders but it also includes very clear Health and Safety instructions - our non-negotiables - so that all students get a clear and consistent message, equally, the school's response should these non-negotiables be challenged. These expectations will be continually enforced through the Oaklands Way and in tutor time.

When a student joins Oaklands we ask parents to sign a Home-School Agreement, implicit in this is parental support of our policies and procedures which are designed for the benefit of all in the community, not least when it comes to keeping our students safe. Our Home-School Agreement sets out the high expectations we have, and this is for a very good reason, as we believe a well-ordered school is conducive to personal and academic success.

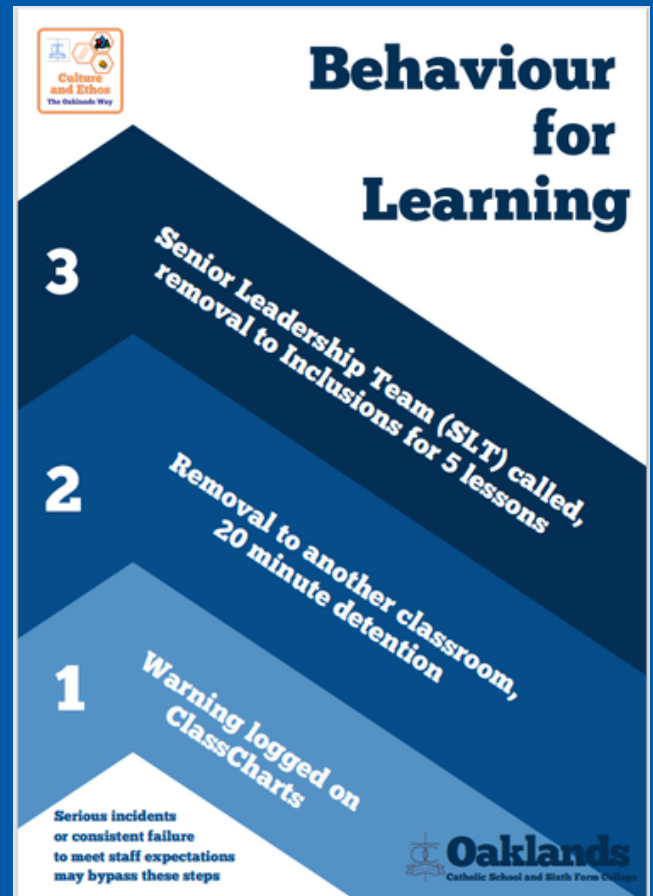
We therefore look to all parents and carers to support us in maintaining the highest of standards for our students with regard to their good conduct in school and in particular supporting any action the school deems necessary if their child puts the health, safety or wellbeing of any member of the school community at risk.

Behaviour and Standards

At Oaklands, there are two main ways we encourage our students to move towards self-regulating their behaviour to a high standard; one is through the use of praise and reward, the other is through the use of restorative justice and appropriate sanctions.

ClassCharts is the main vehicle through which staff can reward students and this year we will be focusing in particular on recognising the effort students put into their work or activities in school, especially where they have showed determination and perseverance. We will award positive behaviour points in line with our teaching and learning initiative 'The Oaklands Way' so staff will use ClassCharts praise points as a way of commending students who exemplify this.

When it comes to sanctions, there are many reasons why a student may receive one but failure to complete homework is a common reason.



Students in Year 7 have a phased introduction to homework to ease the transition between primary and secondary school. This ensures students are given the support they need to develop good habits around the completion of homework. You will be notified of any sanctions via ClassCharts, for after school detentions we would ask that you sign your child's planner on the day of the detention to indicate your consent. If a child arrives for detention without consent, all efforts will be made to contact the parent/carer for verbal consent as failure to attend a detention will result in an escalation in sanctions. Again, the expectation is that as parents/carers have signed the Home-School Agreement, they will support the school's behaviour policy in this regard.

At Oaklands we use 'Additional Learning Opportunities' (ALO's). These are entirely supportive and they are set by subject teachers, to be used incrementally to ensure that a student really understands the work and what they have been asked to do. They can be set when a child has not completed homework or not finished work which they could reasonably have been expected to in the lesson.

They can also help remove some of the barriers which prevent a student from not completing work to a level commensurate with their ability. An ALO will only be given where it is clear a student has tried to complete the work but perhaps needs support; where a student has failed to complete the work due to poor learning behaviours a formal sanction will be issued and logged. There is an expectation at Oaklands that parents/carers will ensure their child attends an ALO as they would want to support their child in overcoming any barriers to learning. There is a clear distinction between ALO's which are supportive and NOT recorded on the school system and detentions, which are a sanction.

If a student fails to take up an ALO or their behaviour necessitates a sanction, again our system ensures an incremental progression.

Detentions move swiftly up the scale if there is non-compliance on the part of a student to ensure the matter is resolved within a two-week timeframe at the most.

Behaviour is very good at Oaklands and standards remain high. This means that overall, we spend more time praising and affirming students than we do sanctioning them. However, this does not happen by chance and we continue to be proactive in maintaining those high standards and seeking ways to work in conjunction with parents and carers to ensure that is the case. Our systems are regularly reviewed to ensure we are maintaining the correct balance with reward and sanction.

Thank you for the support you give in making the Home-School Agreement a working document in support of the standards we strive to maintain at Oaklands.

Restorative Justice

Restorative Justice continues to be the main strategy used by staff and pupils to resolve conflict and improve self-regulation and relationships in and out of the classroom. Restorative Justice is based on four key features:

RESPECT: for everyone by listening to other opinions and learning to value them.

RESPONSIBILITY: taking responsibility for your own actions.

REPAIR: developing the skills within our school community so that its individual members have the necessary skills to identify solutions that repair harm and ensure behaviours are not repeated.

RE-INTEGRATION: working through a structured, supportive process that aims to solve the problem and be happy and safe in school



The purpose of Restorative Justice is to ensure all our young people participate actively in their learning and in school life. We acknowledge that sometimes we make mistakes, we get it wrong, but we want to move away from being quick to sanction, but instead try and work with our young people to evaluate and reflect on what went wrong and what needs to happen in order to put it right through a Restorative Justice process.

This has formed an integral part of our classroom procedures to help us ensure that all students are engaged in the learning environment. Disruptive behaviour has an impact on all members of the class and by encouraging students to have the restorative justice conversation with their teacher during their sanction, we can get them to see this; this also gives students an opportunity to be heard and to ask for help and support.

Every sanction that is set is designed to be restorative, not punitive, students are being encouraged to self-regulate and adapt their own behavior to create a positive and productive school environment.

Mrs Cunningham, ASL - Behaviour and Consistency

Exam Success



On 14th August, Year 13 achieved another high set of A Level examination results. This year's results reflect the dedication of students and staff, with over 70% of students achieving A*-C grades.

Most students have gained places at top universities, including Durham, Exeter, Cardiff and University College London, others have secured places on apprenticeships and training programmes. This year, twelve students were successful in obtaining places to study Medicine or Veterinary Science, underlining the strength of STEM subjects at the school. Students have also been successful in achieving higher level apprenticeship, where they will earn and gain a degree.

A week later on 21st August students received their GCSE results. 87% of students at the school achieved Grade 4 or above in both English and 72% in Maths. There were many exceptional performances with a significant number of students achieving the top grades of 7, 8 and 9 across all subjects. These excellent results demonstrate the effectiveness of high quality teaching coupled with strong management systems, teamwork and significant numbers of students have chosen to stay on in the school's Sixth Form.

Well done, class of 2025!



Attendance

At Oaklands Catholic School, we believe regular attendance is vital for academic success and personal development. We have been delighted to welcome our students back this September and are heartened by the excellent attendance across all year groups so far this term.

Please do take the time to read the Attendance Guidance on our website, which is from Hampshire County Council's Guidance for Parents and on which our Attendance and Registration Policy is based.

95% attendance is the minimum we expect at Oaklands (except in the case of genuine medical cases or significant personal issues which will be known to Heads of Year). We aspire to attendance excellence at Oaklands and will continue to recognise and reward high attendance as well as follow the DfE and Local Authority guidance in the case of poor attendance. Equally, we are being sensitive to individual circumstances for students and families which may necessitate an absence from school.

Please can I ask that you ensure all the contact details we hold for you are up to date so that we can contact you without delay if a lateness or absence needs to be clarified with you. This is particularly important, should we need to contact you to collect your child from school.

The guidance for schools is that we hold at least two emergency contacts for your child (both of whom should be local); if that is currently not the case, please do let us have a second contact. Our Business Support Team will be in touch asking for any missing information.

Procedure for Reporting your Child's Absence from School (for students in Year 7 to 11 only)

If your child is absent from school, please contact us before 8.00am. You can leave a message using one of the following methods (All available 24/7):

ClassCharts – send a message via ClassCharts

Email – attendance@oaklandscatholicschool.org

Telephone Attendance Direct Line – Leave a voicemail on 023 9224 8053

Text – 07943 104536

Please also use these to inform us of any future medical appointments or planned absences from school.

Leave of Absence forms (for the purpose of exceptional circumstances only) are available on the school website. Please be aware that holidays in term time that cause a child to miss five days of school are likely to result in a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Many thanks for your support in these matters.

Mrs Cope, ASL - Attendance and Alternative Provision

Education Sunday



The Church in England and Wales will keep this Sunday, 14th September, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, as Education Sunday: a day of prayer for our school communities, for students, staff, families, governors, and the wider communities which surround our schools. We pray also for our Catholic Education Service, for our educational chaplaincies in schools, colleges and universities, and for members of Catholic Societies in higher education, who have a particular mission to witness to the Gospel among their fellow students. We must not forget in our prayers the many Catholic families who take part in the home education movement.

With the election of Pope Leo XIV, and the significance of Catholic Social Teaching to which he pointed with his choice of name, it is a good opportunity to reflect on what the Church's social teaching reveals to us about Catholic Education. For the Catholic, education is an important social activity which, like all social activity, derives its meaning from the family, "the original cell of social life" (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2207). The Catholic vision of society is organic: society begins with the family, a naturally occurring society, and bigger political communities are secondary to the family. This is the principle of subsidiarity.

In terms of our vision of education, this means that the mission of the Catholic school is to free and empower families to take full responsibility for the rights and duties entrusted to them by God. The Catechism of the Catholic Church is clear and firm in its teaching: "Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children" (2223); "The right and duty of parents to educate their children are primordial and inalienable" (2221). "As far as possible parents have the duty of choosing schools that will best help them in their task as Christian educators" (2229).

So, unlike many secular and materialist accounts of education and of society more broadly, the Catholic vision of education serves, empowers and edifies the family. Catholic educators do not see ourselves as top-down indoctrinators, but as participants in an organic, grassroots, family-oriented society. As Jesus "came not to be served, but to serve" (Mark 10:45), the Catholic educator has a mission of service to parents, families and children. The Catholic school is a community aware that it extends beyond the school gates - aware that its mission begins and ends in the families who choose to join it.

Fr Andrew - St Colman's and St Paul's Church, Cosham

Oaklands+ Programme

As a Catholic school and college we offer education, but not just education for the sake of it or for acquiring knowledge. Rather, we offer education that is meant to enable young people to acquire skills necessary to live a life of service and love; care for others, know that they have a duty to make the world a better place. This means that here at Oaklands, we aim to motivate our students to become people of challenge, change and transformation.

Challenge: to be unafraid and unashamed to challenge anything which denigrates or belittles a person; to see every person as a brother or sister made in the image and likeness of God, and therefore deserving of respect and recognition.

Change: to be advocates for change where it is needed and make a difference.

Transformation: to be personally transformed, and through that transformation, work to create a world of justice and peace for all.

Our student leadership structure is designed to allow students to be actively involved in the everyday life of the college and school, thus allowing them to develop personally as well as making the college and school a good place for all of us. They are guided by the school motto:

UNITY - 'love more'

COMMUNITY – 'serve more'

OPPORTUNITY - 'be more'

Our student leadership team is headed by a president and deputy, assisted by four team leaders. Each team leader is responsible for one of the four key areas of our college and school; Charism, Curriculum, Pastoral and Co-curriculum. The Charism team ensures that we live and act according to the commandment of love your neighbour. The Curriculum team looks at how we can improve our teaching and learning. The Pastoral team considers how we look after our students' personal development needs. The Co-Curriculum team is tasked with finding ways we can offer students learning opportunities outside the classroom.

Mr Sumba

Duke of Edinburgh Award



Over the summer five more Bronze participants completed their awards. Congratulations to:

Belle Banville

Arielle Ginever

Francesca Kotruchova

Faith Martin

Isla Prothero

Our two Gold groups completed their Assessed Expedition over four days at the end of August on the Isle of Purbeck. They experienced all types of navigation along footpaths, bridleways, over heathland, through the town of Corfe and along the beach, as well as some hill climbs and avoiding bulls! The weather was dry and sunny on Day 1 but after this was mixed including on the final night and day, heavy squalls. The groups enjoyed the campsites and prepared and cooked some very creative meals worthy of a restaurant. Now the challenge for these two groups is to complete the remaining sections of their award so that they can receive their invitation to the palace to be presented with their well-deserved Gold Award.

In the first week of this school year we have recruited up to 50 new Bronze participants and 25 Silver participants. We wish them all well as they begin their awards.

Mrs Hoar



The Oaklands Friends' and Parents Association (OFPA)

On behalf of the Oaklands' Friends and Parents Association (OFPA), we would like to welcome all new parents and carers whose children have joined Oaklands this year.



We raise additional funds for the school for those extras that make a difference to our children; recent purchases have included the display boards in the Hall foyer celebrating the history of the school, a new crucifix and gospel for the Chapel; a visit from a Holocaust speaker for the History department; a cultural week food workshop, specialist saws for the Design Department, support for Sixth Form students to visit Oxford University, and a picnic bench in memory of a much-loved student. We also manage the pre-loved uniform store.

Pre-Loved Uniform Shop

This is currently managed by online orders – please email opa@oaklandscatholicschool.org.

Orders should be submitted by the last Wednesday of the month during term time and collection will be available on the last Friday of the month.

Next Uniform Sales

Friday 26th September - with last orders taken until Wednesday 24th September

Friday 24th October – with last orders take until Wednesday 22nd October

Friday 28th November - with last orders taken until Wednesday 26th November

Children can collect orders from the OFPA Shop (in the Romero Hall foyer) from 3.25pm. Payment can be made via Scopay, cash or using our card reader. Thank you to everyone who donated uniform last year. Donations are very much appreciated, particularly the PE kit and blazers. Parents can send their children into Student Services or Reception with clean, nearly new uniform.

Social Evening

We will be holding an evening social event for parents and carers on Wednesday 15th October in the Sixth Form. This is open to all year groups and will be an informal event for parents to 'drop in' between 6.00pm and 8.00pm, have a drink and a chat, meet new people and find out more about the OFPA.

Next Meeting: Monday 6th October at 7.30pm in the Sixth Form block.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

Our school feast is called the Triumph of the Cross (or Exaltation of the Cross) and is celebrated on 14th September.

It is a feast day in the whole of the Catholic Church, but we have adopted it as our school feast day and it helps us understand why our school motto is 'United By The Cross'.

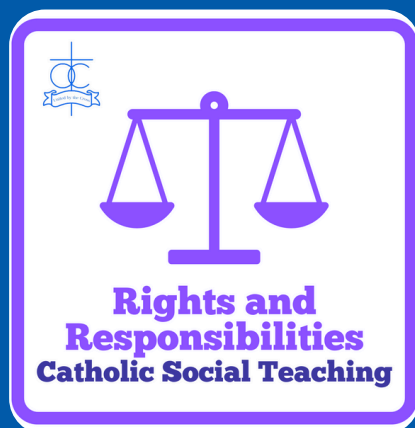


Students also learnt about the Sisters of Christ who set up our school in Southsea in 1902, later moving it to Oaklands House.

Catholic Social Teaching - Rights and Responsibilities

The belief that the rights we have also place on us responsibilities towards others.

When the Sisters started this school, they were very clear that they wanted it to be an 11 - 18 education institution that taught young people how to be useful citizens of the world, to be good people who set out to make the world a better place for others, because they had experienced love and care here at Oaklands. It means each person has rights that are respected and they too respect others.



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 will 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.



Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Community - Unity - Opportunity



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