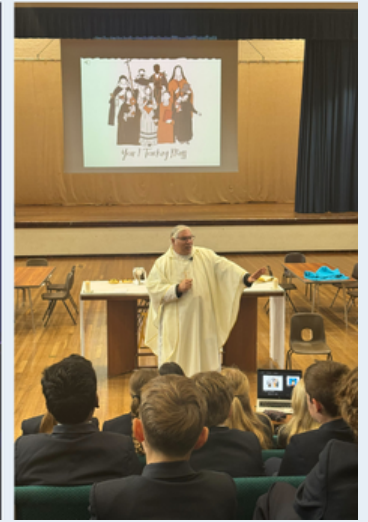




Community - Unity - Opportunity

From the Headteacher's Desk

As we come to the end of our first half term, it is a wonderful moment to pause and give thanks for the many blessings we have shared as a school community. The past weeks have been filled with learning, growth, and opportunities to live out our Gospel values together.

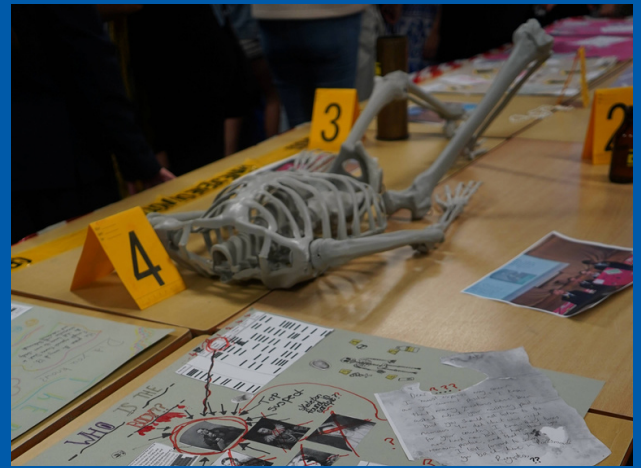
Our new students have settled in beautifully. Year 7 have made a positive start to their time at Oaklands and recently had their History STEM day where they put their scientific and investigative skills to the test.

From academic achievements to acts of kindness, this half term has reminded us of the strength of our community when we work together in faith. This has culminated with St John's and Culture Week where we celebrated our rich and diverse community and put our faith into action.

As we look ahead to the rest of the term, let us continue to support one another, striving to follow Christ's example in all we do. Thank you to our staff, students, and families for your dedication and partnership in making this such a wonderful start to the year.

Mrs Bonnington, Head of School

Year 7: History/STEM Day



The Y7 History/Science STEM Day, titled "The Body in the Library", provided our newest cohort with the opportunity to spend time away from their busy timetables to conduct investigation work. It targeted their understanding of how both Science and History must come together to support a CSI-style investigation.

Students took on the role of a detective, looking at potential victims and their profiles. This allowed them to decipher situational evidence to create a hypothesis from which to conduct experiments. They acted as crime scene investigators by assessing the evidence found at the scene and considering how it might link to the experiments and individuals.

In the Science labs, students had the opportunity to explore forensic science methods, including DNA profiling, fingerprinting and studying bone density. These experiments enabled them to further link suspects and start to eliminate suspects.

They brought everything together in the form of an operations board, displaying their work to their peers before discovering the identity of the victim. This gave them the chance to showcase everything they had done throughout the day and prove that they could work as a team to succeed.

Mr Leath



Operation Christmas Child

Earlier this month we launched our Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal.

Each tutor group was given an empty shoebox to fill with goodies for a child in need at Christmas.

The tutor group had to decide if they would pack a shoe box for a boy or a girl and selected an age group (2-4 years, 5-9 years or 10-14 years). They have then been collecting items for the shoebox and fundraising £5 postage for each shoe box. Donations for postage can be paid on ScoPay or cash can be brought into the Finance Office. Please see a list of suitable and unsuitable items below.



Last year we managed to send over 60 shoeboxes and we are hoping for an even bigger response this year. Any questions please contact Mr or Mrs Whelan.

Suitable gifts include:

Soft toys	Socks
Plastic figures, toys, Lego	Hair ties, brush or comb
Dolls	Playing cards, dominos
Play doh	Fidget toy
Stationery	A small game
Toothbrush	Ball, frisbee, kite, skipping rope
Flannel or sponge	Puzzle, mini-board game
Mirror	Small musical instrument
Lip balm	Jewellery
Gloves, hat, scarf	Water bottle

The deadline for receiving donations for postage and full shoeboxes in Friday 14 November.

Mrs Whelan



National School Meals Week

During National School Meals Week (10th - 14th November) all main meals purchased in the canteen will come with a raffle ticket to win some great prizes. The canteen will also be offering a special menu as below:

Monday - Tex Mex Chicken and cheese quesadillas or vegetarian chilli tacos

Dessert: apple enchilada

Tuesday - Caribbean Jerk chicken thigh with peas and rice or sweet potato Caribbean curry

Dessert: Caribbean bread pudding (pudin de pan)

Wednesday - American Dirty Burger or Dirty plant based burger served with a selection of toppings and fries

Dessert: New York cheesecake

Thursday - Italian Antipasto meat selection or vegetarian pizzas with garlic and parmesan bread sticks and coleslaw

Dessert: Italian chocolate mousse

Friday - Battered fish, bubble salmon , tuna pasta bake or fishless fingers in a bun

Dessert: chocolate chip cookie.

St John's Korogocho, Update



The final week of Autumn Term 1 marks our inaugural celebration and partnership of our wider community with St John's School in Korogocho. During this week, we fundraise to support our brothers and sisters in Kenya, supporting and sponsoring children to attend school.

The week was due to begin with a Staff vs Sixth Form netball match to pay homage to the success of St John's who were crowned Nairobi Basketball Champions and Kenyan National Champions. Unfortunately, due to adverse weather conditions, we had to postpone the match until the end of the week (you will have to wait for the next edition to discover who emerged victorious). The rest of the week consisted of a tombola in the library, a colossal cake sale, creating a St John's mural, nail painting and ended in a non-uniform day for all the students and staff. The week has been a roaring success and one which has reinvigorated our shared love and unity with St John's, who ended their week with their class graduation – celebrating the achievements of all their students and passing through the next grade/year group before the summer break (over Christmas).

Thank you for your continued support of St John's and we look forward to strengthening our wider community further. I will leave you with this piece of scripture from Colossians 3:14: *'Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.'*

Mr Osbourne



Culture Week

This week we are celebrating the one thing that is unique about our community – we are one of the most culturally and ethnically diverse schools in Hampshire. Culture is one of the things that defines us as human beings, and we express it in many ways like language, music, dance and food.



At Oaklands we have over 60 languages spoken by members of our school community. This week, our Modern Foreign Languages Department in collaboration with Sixth Form students have put on lessons where some of our KS3 students were given a glimpse into another language. Language is a window into another person's life, and we are grateful that many of our students are happy to share their language with their peers.

Another key feature of human community is food, as it is one thing that brings people together – there are not many celebrations that happen without food. This week, students brought in food from their cultures and shared these with their peers. We had snacks and tasty dishes from Poland, Brazil, Philippines, Zimbabwe, Iran and India.

We have also experienced dance and music. This again is a way that a people express who they are, and we have been lucky to have music and dance from England, South Africa, Philippines, India, Romania and Pakistan, among others.

Finally, dress. This is one of the most important ways that people identify their culture and this year again we had students showcase their cultural dresses during the catwalks in the show. Many students and staff also came to school in their cultural dresses as part of our non-school uniform day.

Culture Week and the Shows continue to be one of the most educative events in our school as it helps us to have a glimpse into the worlds of members of our community which we would otherwise not be aware of; and we as a community are richer for it!

Mr Sumba



Trips and Visits



GCSE & A Level English - 'Lord of the Flies' Theatre Trip

On Wednesday 1st October, Year 11 and Year 12 students went on a trip to Chichester Festival Theatre to see a production of Lord of the Flies. The Year 11 set text, raises questions about power, identity, belonging and morality. Seeing the story brought to life on stage offered a unique opportunity to experience its energy, conflict and raw humanity in ways that extend far beyond the page. The students had a fantastic time, seeing the production enabled them to engage with the text, both intellectually and emotionally. Lord of the Flies is a story about young people and the choices they face; it asks difficult questions but it also creates space for imagination, creativity and empathy.

Mrs Kyrillou

GCSE Art - Trip to Kew Gardens

On Wednesday 15th October we took 53 Year 10 Art, Textiles, and Photography students on a trip to Kew Gardens. The students' behaviour was fantastic!

Students explored the gardens and had the opportunity to see an incredible variety of plants from around the world and fascinating textile artwork. They spent the day capturing images, textures, and patterns to support their ongoing projects, showing excellent creativity and focus. The trip provided valuable primary research and inspiration, helping students to develop their visual recording and observational skills in a rich, creative environment.

Miss Czoch



A Note from the Parish of the Sacred Heart

Alpha Course 2025-26

It is very exciting to have Alpha Courses running at Sacred Heart, Waterloooville and St Michael's, Leigh Park this autumn.

Alpha is wonderful for anyone who has questions, is seeking to grow in their faith or wants to experience a greater sense of belonging in our community.

The Alpha course sessions will take place for ten weeks. Each evening will start with a hot meal, followed by a presentation on the Christian faith and the opportunity to discuss and question the key points raised, in a supporting and non-judgemental environment.

If you have not done Alpha before, and have any questions, please feel free to email: alpha@waterlooville-catholic.org.uk

Youth Alpha and the Sacrament of Confirmation

Those who are considering receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation next summer have started the journey with an exciting new Alpha course for those in Year 8 and above. There will be an opportunity to enrol in early January for further faith-based sessions to help them prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

We are delighted that Bishop Philip will be Confirming our young people with the Holy Spirit at the Sacred Head Church, Waterloooville on Tuesday 2nd June at 7pm.

If you would like more information about this opportunity, please send your details, including name, age and parent's email address and contact number to: confirmation@jesusprinceofpeace.org.uk

From the Chaplain



Year 7 Teaching Masses

The Eucharist is a deeply significant sacrament for Catholics, representing a gift from God that enables us to strengthen our relationship with Him. At Oaklands, the celebration of Mass unites the entire school community in reverence and contemplation. However, for our new Year 7 students, participating in these whole school Masses with over 1,300 students may be an entirely new experience.

To help with this, Year 7 have the opportunity to partake in a Tutor Group Mass in the Chapel during their first term at Oaklands. We are fortunate to have clergy members who lead and guide us through the Mass, providing a comprehensive explanation of each part and its significance, offering our new students a profound understanding of this sacred sacrament.

Before the Mass, each Tutor Group will receive a lesson from our Chaplains in the Chapel, who will explore each component of the Mass and address any queries. Furthermore, students are encouraged to actively engage in the celebration by participating in activities such as reading the liturgy of the word, or learning the duties of altar serving.





THE SIXTH FORM

Oaklands Catholic School

News from the Sixth Form

'Meet the Sixth Form' event

The Sixth Formers were out in force to host the 'Meet the Sixth Form' event last week. During periods 1-2 on Tuesday, Year 11 came down to the Main Hall to meet our fantastic Year 12 and Year 13 students who had volunteered to act as subject ambassadors. Our ambassadors gave Year 11 a first-hand insight into studying at A Level and what life in the Sixth Form is like.



It was wonderful to see so many of our GCSE and A Level students being really enthused about their subjects and studying in the Sixth Form. Well done to all those who took part and a big thanks to all those teachers who helped support this event.

Sixth Form Open EveningWe recently hosted the annual Sixth Form Open Evening.

This was a huge success, and we welcomed a record number of both internal and external potential applicants to see the Sixth Form in action. Word has clearly spread, and it is a joy to see the Sixth Form continue to flourish. A huge thanks to all the teachers, support staff and students who did such a brilliant job in promoting the Sixth Form.

A digital copy of the Sixth Form prospectus outlining courses and entry requirements can also be found on our website.

A reminder that applications are now open to start in September 2026. The application form can be found via the QR code opposite.

Please note the deadline for applications is Friday 5th December 2025.



UCAS – A record number of Oxbridge applications

We have just submitted the first early entry applications for UCAS and our Year 13 are already receiving great news. This has included a range of offers to study medicine, dentistry and veterinary science at top UK universities. We have also had a record number of Oxbridge applications. The rest of our Year 13 are also busy finalising their UCAS applications ready for the internal deadline of 7th November. Well done to those students who have worked so hard on their applications, and thank you to all those teachers, form tutors and to Kelly in the Sixth Form for all their hard work. I am sure you will join me in wishing everyone the very best of luck.

Sixth Form 'Love and Service'

As part of the Sixth Form's Love and Service commitment, we have had over twenty students volunteer as mentors to Year 11 and Year 7. This is in addition to our mentors helping with Year 6 students in local primary schools. This mentoring plays an important role in helping support young people both academically and pastorally across our community.

This willingness of our Sixth Formers to give so freely on their time and talents is a wonderful example of our Catholic ethos which makes our Oaklands community so very special.

Have a good half-term.

Mr Godwin, Director of Sixth Form



The Oaklands Way

Gospel Reflection: John 3: 13-17

In this passage, Jesus encounters a funeral procession - a widow mourning the loss of her only son.

Moved by deep compassion, He tells her, 'Do not weep' and then restores her son to life

This moment reveals not only Jesus' divine power but also His tender heart. He sees our pain and steps into it with love that restores hope where there seems to be none.



All Souls Day

All Souls (celebrated on 2nd November) is a Christian day of remembrance dedicated to praying for the souls of the dead, especially those believed to be in purgatory - a state of purification before entering heaven. It follows All Saints' Day (1st November) and reflects the belief in the communion of saints, connecting the living and the deceased through prayer and remembrance.



All Souls' Day is important to Christians because it expresses love, hope, and faith in God's mercy and the promise of eternal life. It reminds believers that death does not end relationships - the faithful on earth can still help the souls of the departed through prayer, Mass, and good works.

Catholic Social Teaching - Human Dignity

The belief that 'Each person deserves respect because they are created in the image of God.'

We remind ourselves why we treat others with respect. Regardless of the many ways we are different, we are all fundamentally UNITED because we are all made in the image of ONE God.

As a Christian community, we believe that we are called to be generous and complimentary because God has given us freely - so we too give freely.



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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