



Oaklands Friends' and Parents' Association

Chair's Annual Report 2025

I am pleased to present the Annual General Meeting (AGM) report for the Oaklands Friends and Parents Association for the year 2025. I would first like to thank all the OFPA members for their support and commitment during my first year as Chair. I would also like to thank the Oakland's staff and governors who continue to support us.

The role of the OFPA is not only to raise funds for educational facilities and equipment, but to develop effective relationships between parents and staff to support students and their families. I am especially proud of our work in providing preloved uniforms to students, and of our contributions to the hardship fund. These are exemplars of what it is to be a Catholic charity within the education sector. I would like to thank those in our school community who support these causes by donating uniform and raffle prizes.

Funds raised this year have made it possible for us to continue to support school initiatives. Since our last AGM we have financed a Culture Week cooking workshop; a visit from a Holocaust speaker; Handball goals for the PE department; a Shakespeare walking tour for A-Level English Literature students; the Sixth Form visit to Oxford University; and we are in the process of implementing a Forest School on site.

At the start of the last academic year, we experienced a lot of transition within the committee, with several long-standing members stepping down as their children went on to higher education. We also welcomed Stephane Brossier to the charity as our new Treasurer.

Despite the smaller size of our committee, the devotion of our members' time has led to a very successful year. Our Christmas raffle prizes comprised an impressive 5 hampers, due to the volume of donations we received. Our 50:50 raffles during events, especially during the school show days, have been very well received.

We have also revolutionised our funding payment methods to reduce workload on the finance department and we have developed our relationship with the school's marketing department to better promote the charity. We have purchased biscuits for teachers for parents' evenings to support their wellbeing during extended working days.

We recently held our social for new Year 7 parents, which is always beneficial in introducing the charity to them, and in boosting our community involvement.

Next week will be our Preloved Prom Attire Sale which we endeavour to continue growing. This event gives students opportunities to try a variety of dresses, encourages recycling, and allows students to benefit from a low-cost alternative to buying new. In our efforts to promote this and other events, we are now regularly posting content to social media. We hope that this will increase engagement with the charity moving forward.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we are considering changing the format of the uniform sales to reduce administrative demands on members and improve payment failures by holding half term sales.

We are also planning to start doing an Easter raffle due to the success of our Christmas and Summer raffles.

Thank you to all the current committee members: Astrid and Stephane Brossier, Antoinette Cyriaano, Hazel Duffy, Caroline Rose, and Nicky Tricker for all the work you have dedicated this year. I think we have all had at one time or other, losses, health concerns, and family commitments, through which we have supported and prayed for each other, and continue to do so.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank Sarah Mann and Dawn Brettell whose support is an invaluable link with the school; Elizabeth Cluett, Chair of Governors, for collaborating with us this past year; our A-team and the site team who often assist during our events; and the catering team who keep us going with coffee and treats at each meeting.

It has been an honour to take on this role and serve as your Chair this year and I am deeply grateful for all those who have contributed to the OFPA.

As we move forward, I hope we continue to create a welcoming and supportive environment for all, develop charitable initiatives, and gain new members with fresh perspectives to better support the school community.

Thank you and God Bless.

Maria Howell
Chair