

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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15th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of another busy and successful school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank every member of our school community for the hard work, commitment and dedication that have contributed to making this year such a positive one.

Throughout the year, our students have demonstrated resilience, determination and enthusiasm in their learning, while our staff have continued to go above and beyond in supporting young people both academically and personally. I am also incredibly grateful to our parents and carers for the encouragement and partnership you provide, which plays such a vital role in our students' success.

The recent heat wave certainly tested us all, and I would like to thank students and staff for the mature and sensible way they responded to the challenges presented by the exceptionally warm weather.

We have also enjoyed a number of fantastic events and achievements over recent weeks. Sports Day was a wonderful celebration of participation, teamwork and healthy competition, while Oakfest once again brought our Sixth Form community together in the spirit of fun and celebration. We were also delighted to celebrate with Year 11 students at their Prom, marking an important milestone in their educational journey.

A special welcome has been extended to our incoming families through our Year 7 Transition programme. It has been a pleasure to meet so many eager and enthusiastic young people as they prepare to join our school community in September.

I would like to thank the OFPA for their continued support, including the uniform sale this week and recent online Summer raffle, both of which have helped many families while raising valuable funds for the school.

Our talented students have also shone through the arts. The Summer Concert and Drama Showcase highlighted the remarkable creativity, confidence and talent that exists across the school, while participation in the Waterlooville Music Festival provided further opportunities for students to perform and represent the school with pride.

Meanwhile, our Year 10 students have gained valuable experience through their Work Experience placements and Mock Interviews. These opportunities play an important role in preparing students for the world beyond school, helping them develop confidence, professionalism and employability skills.



Community Unity Opportunity



Phone Pouches

A reminder that from September we will become a phone free school. All students will be required to put their phone in a pouch during the school day, which the school will provide on the first day back in the Autumn Term. Please follow [this link](#) to my original letter and the subsequent FAQ's [here](#).

Bus Stops

We have been asked by FirstBus to remind all students of the importance of good behaviour at the bus stops outside of school. While waiting for the bus, students must not stand on the edge of the kerb and must wait for others to board the bus in a calm and respectful manner so that all students and members of the public are safe.

Uniform Reminders

Students are expected to return to school in full school uniform in September; please remember that we do not allow black trainers. If your child is getting a piercing in the Summer please do this at the start so that it can be removed for school. Students are allowed one pair of plain stud earrings that can be removed for PE. Please find a link to our school uniform policy [here](#).

In previous years as the weather gets warmer, we have allowed students to wear their PE kits to school if they choose. If this decision is taken again next half term, I will write to you separately, but until then, all students must return in full school uniform.

Staff leaving

At the end of this academic year, we say goodbye and good luck to the following members of staff. They leave having made a significant contribution to school life and with many achievements to celebrate. We wish them every success and happiness in the next stage of their journey and look forward to hearing about all they accomplish in the future.

Miss Jones

Miss Jones started as an ECT in September in the History Department as maternity cover. We wish her all the best for the future.

Mrs Ellis

Mrs Ellis returned for one more year to teach A Level English. We thank her for everything she has brought to the English Department.

Mrs Saunders

Since joining us in 2024, Miss Saunders quickly became a valued member of the Maths team. Her positive attitude and commitment will be greatly missed. As she steps away from teaching to begin an exciting new career as a financial advisor, we would like to thank her for everything she has contributed and wish her every success and happiness in this next chapter.

Miss Leader

Miss Leader joined Oaklands in January 2010 as a Cover Assistant working in different classrooms, for different subjects with different students - no small task! She then became our Receptionist in June 2015 and has been the first face people see when they walk through our doors. We want to thank her for being the voice that re-assures anxious parents/carers and the welcoming face of Oaklands. Miss Leader has been more than a Receptionist, she has set the tone for our culture of warmth, respect, dedication and care. We wish her all the best in her retirement, spending time with family and friends and enjoying a cup of tea in the garden without the phone ringing!

Mrs Bunt

Mrs Bunt joined Oaklands in 2003 as a Casual Cover Assistant bringing with her a wealth of commercial experience gained through working many years in industry. This experience held her in good stead when in 2008, she gained a permanent position in the Business Department teaching GCSE and A level where she proved herself to be an exceptional and innovative practitioner. In addition, Mrs Bunt has contributed significantly to the pastoral care at Oaklands. As a Head of Year in every year group in KS3 and 4, Mrs Bunt soon became a model practitioner and benchmark for pastoral leadership and management at Oaklands. This is reflected in her most recent role which involved the crafting of more effective pastoral transition from Year 6 into Year 7. Her professionalism allied with her strong interpersonal skills has led to stronger relationships being created between the school, parents and pupils, consequently a more successful transition into Year 7. Mrs Bunt will be sorely missed by all of us at Oaklands, but we wish her all the very best in her well-deserved retirement.

Ms Whyte

Ms Whyte started at Oaklands in 2004 and over the course of her career has inspired generations of students through her teaching across a wide range of subjects, including English, Drama, Media and Film Studies. Her passion for learning, creativity and student success has left a lasting impact on countless young people. As Head of Drama, she transformed the performing arts and created unforgettable opportunities for students both on and off the stage. Her dedication, vision and enthusiasm brought productions to life, with school shows ranging from Oklahoma! to Les Misérables, providing memories that will stay with students, staff and families for years to come. Ms Whyte has always been a passionate advocate for the Arts, consistently promoting the importance of creativity within education and ensuring that the arts remain at the heart of the Oaklands experience. Her commitment to enriching students' lives through culture, performance and artistic expression has been a defining feature of her career. In recent years, Ms Whyte has served as a member of the Senior Leadership Team and as Deputy Headteacher for the last four years. Throughout this time, she has led with integrity, compassion and an unwavering commitment to the values of Oaklands. Her influence has extended far beyond her own departments, helping to shape the strategic direction of the school and strengthen our community. Alongside these leadership responsibilities, she has carried out the vital role of Designated Teacher for Looked After Children, tirelessly championing the needs of some of our most vulnerable students. She has been a powerful advocate, ensuring that young people facing the greatest challenges have received the support, care and opportunities they deserve. Her compassion, determination and steadfast belief in every child have made a profound difference to many lives. Central to all of this has been her deep commitment to Catholic education. Throughout her time at Oaklands, she has embodied the Gospel values that sit at the heart of our school community, placing the dignity of every individual at the centre of her work. While we will greatly miss her sense of humour, wisdom, warmth, leadership and friendship, we are enormously grateful for everything she has given to Oaklands over the years. We wish her all the best as she takes on her new role as Headteacher at St Joan of Arc Secondary school in Rickmansworth.

Mr Smith

After a quarter of a century at Oaklands, it is hard to imagine the school and Sixth Form without Mr Smith. Since joining us in 2001, he has been a constant source of wisdom, enthusiasm and energy. As Head of Business and Economics, he has led the department from success to success, inspiring generations of students with his passion, expertise. He has also made an immense contribution to the Sixth Form, supporting students in countless ways and helping to shape the warm, caring community that it is today. He has been an exceptional tutor, a tireless champion of young people and someone who has never hesitated to step forward, whether that meant helping with school trips, university visits, giving up weekends for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, or simply volunteering whenever an extra pair of hands was needed. His generosity has always been given quietly and selflessly, and throughout his career he has lived out our Catholic ethos through his compassion, humility and unwavering commitment to others. Thank you for everything you have given to this school. We wish you every happiness in the next chapter. So, vale Mr Smith, and God bless!

Second Hand Uniform

The OFPA (Oaklands Friends' and Parents' Association) would welcome any good quality, clean uniform which can be donated for re-sale. This can be dropped into our Reception at the White House, or can be brought into school on Results Collection Days, Thursday 13th and Thursday 20th August and left in the Sixth Form Reception. Thank you in advance for supporting this.

Term Dates for 2026-2027

Full term dates, including Inset Days can be found on our website via [this link](#).

Tuesday 1 September	Inset Day
Wednesday 2 September	Year 7 and Year 12 to return
Thursday 2 September	All remaining students to return
Monday 28 September	Open Evening
Tuesday 29 September	Inset Day
Thursday 15 October	Sixth Form Open Evening

More key assessment and reporting dates and other main events will be published in September.

Finally, a huge thank you to all members of the Oaklands Community for your support, kindness and prayers this year. I wish you all a restful summer and very much look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Bonnington
Head of School