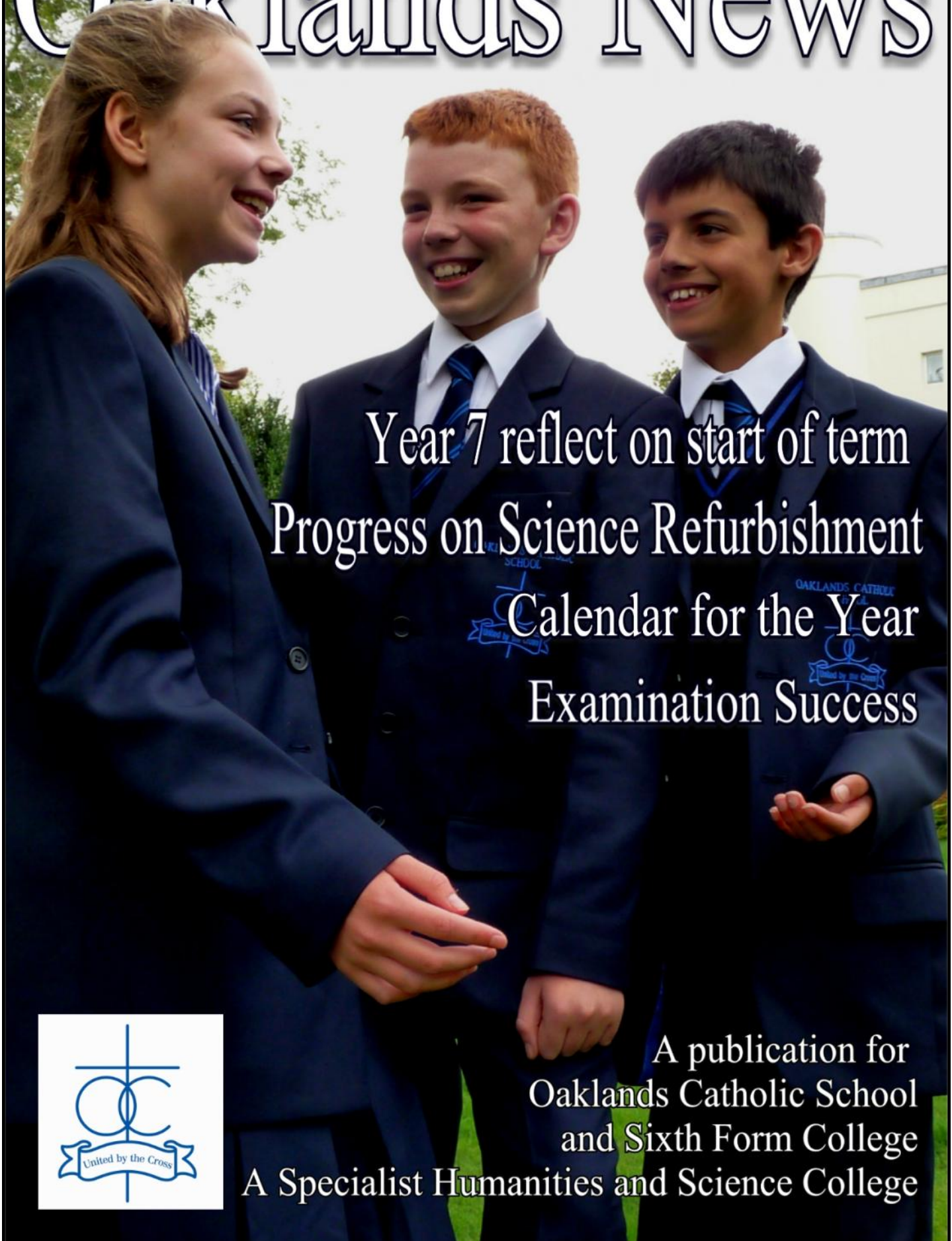


Latin Expands

Sports Day Results

No 381 Sept 2011

Oaklands News



Year 7 reflect on start of term
Progress on Science Refurbishment
Calendar for the Year
Examination Success



A publication for
Oaklands Catholic School
and Sixth Form College
A Specialist Humanities and Science College

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Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

A Specialist Humanities and Science College

From the Headteacher's desk

Welcome back, I hope you all had a good summer. A warm welcome to all our new readers of the Oaklands News.

Towards the end of the summer term I was invited to a Mass to celebrate the life of the Daley family who made a significant contribution to Catholic Education in Portsmouth. (See Page 10) The story of the Daley family is one of faith, dogged determination and tenacity as they furthered their vision for Catholic education in this part of Hampshire.

Similar qualities are demonstrated by blind Bartimaeus in Mark's gospel; not only was he blind but he was classed as a beggar. When Bartimaeus heard Jesus was passing by he began yelling, "Son of David, have mercy on me". The crowds tried to quieten him but Bartimaeus was desperate, such was his determination, he was not going to let this opportunity slip by. Bartimaeus knew this might well be his only hope of rising above his circumstances. He kept yelling, "Son of David, have mercy on me"! Jesus turned and asked "What do you want me to do for you?" Bartimaeus had his sight restored.

At the beginning of an academic year the story of Bartimaeus is particularly pertinent for students. First, seize the opportunity when it presents itself as it may not come around again. Jesus may never have passed by Bartimaeus again, he knew it may be his only chance. The other is about tenacity; Bartimaeus was persistent, he was determined to experience Jesus. If there is something you want, if you have a dream, a vision, go after it with your whole heart.

Examination Success

The determination demonstrated by Bartimaeus was evident again this August, students have excelled at 'A' level and GCSE. The detail at each level can be found further within this newsletter. At GCSE **75%** of students achieved the gold standard of 5 or more grades A*-C including English and Maths, **86%** higher in all subjects. 'A' level results were at **99.6%**. In addition, to outstanding levels of attainment, many students exceeded expectation at all levels. It is a time to celebrate.

This outstanding set of results is a product of the commitment of hard working students, teachers and support staff alike. Whilst

the overall performance is impressive, behind each set of grades there is a personal story. My thanks to the staff who came in over the holiday to administer the examination results. In addition to our examination success we have also just been awarded the ICT Mark and received a small grant from the Roman Society to deliver Latin as an enrichment programme.

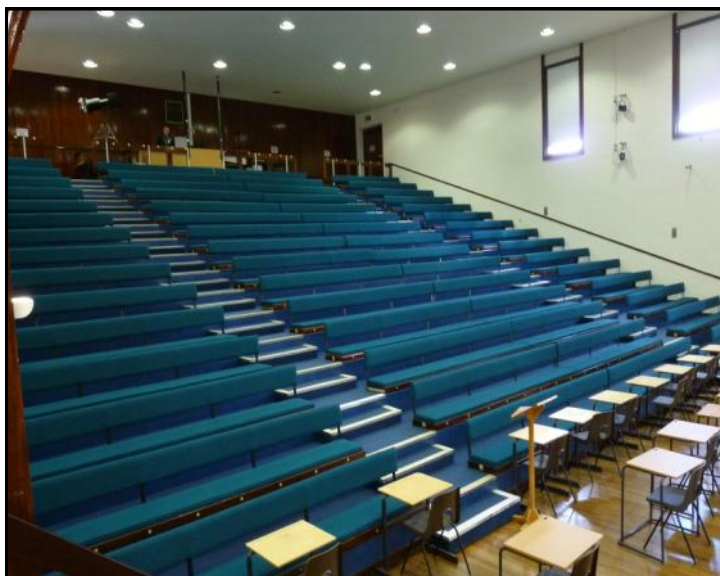
As you are aware from the recent letter sent by Paul Quinn, Chair of Governors, the school has become a Converter Academy. Although this changes our status, it is very much 'business as usual'. During August we received news from the DfE of a grant to improve Science facilities in school. The MS block will also be re-roofed, this alone is a blessing. A few years ago I met Sister Catherine who taught at the school when the block was built, she said to me, "Matthew, it has leaked since the day it was built". The roofing solution will cure a long running defect.

Continued Page 5....

Summer Improvements

Over the summer holiday a significant capital investment has been made to improve the site and facilities. Some of this has been financed by the Governors. This would not have been possible without parental contributions, so a big thank you!

After 15 years the hall seating had come to the end of its life, so this has been replaced. Huge thanks to the Oaklands Parents' Association (OPA) for donating over £10,000 to the school to pay for this project.



Work undertaken over the summer includes:

1. *Repairing of leaks to underground heating pipes*
2. *Decoration of Hall Foyer*
3. *Decoration of Hall*
4. *Replacement of Hall seats*
5. *Installation of fire doors in A Block*
6. *Installation of fire doors in B Block*
7. *Replacement of exit door in B Block*
8. *Replacement of PCs in JP Block*
9. *Decoration of vestibule outside White House Music Room*
10. *Additional external seating*
11. *Basketball posts in the Muga*
12. *Football posts fixed to lower playground area*
13. *Fencing to pond*
14. *Decoration of A Block Language Classrooms*

Maths/Science Refurbishment

For a number of years the Governors' priority has been for the refurbishment of Maths and Science. The school is now in a position to move ahead with this project. Money secured from the DfE, along with a contribution from the Governors, has allowed the commencement of the first part of a phased project to improve the facilities. Eventually we wish to have all of the Science department in new laboratories in the existing Maths/Science (MS) block.

The first phase, for which we have gained approval, will see four new Science laboratories in MS block within the space vacated by the Maths department. Maths will then move into refurbished facilities in A Block. To allow this work to occur the Maths department will be displaced for a few months. The school considered re-rooming the Maths department around the school during the alterations. This would have had a negative impact on teaching and learning as many of the teachers would find themselves nomadic; in addition, students prefer the stability of being in the same place for the same lesson. Four mobile classrooms have therefore been installed. We hope that the project is completed by the end of



Examination Success

Another high set of A level examination results was celebrated by students and staff on 25th August, with a phenomenal 99.6% of grades at 'A*-E', up on last year. The number of grades at 'A*' to 'C' continued its upward trajectory to 80%, with a 54% return at 'A*' to 'B' grades. As last year, 100% of students achieved at least 1 A level pass.

The results are a fitting tribute to the hard work of a truly wonderful group of students. It is very rewarding to see the progress made by many of our students from entry into Year 7 through to Year 13. The national picture for university candidates presented a gloomy view this year. The high grade profile achieved at Oaklands resulted in the overwhelming majority of students gaining entry to their UCAS university places.

9 of the 84 students achieved straight 'As or A*s' in three or four subjects, two of these were Emily Hopkins and David Hodges. 100% pass rate was achieved in many subjects including History, Geography, English, Biology, Physics and Chemistry. 'A*s' were awarded in many subjects including Physics, Maths RE and English. Many other subjects were equally successful.

The school continues to justify its strong reputation at Advanced Level.



Advanced Level



GCSE

Again this year the school demolished the 80% barrier at 5+ A*-C, achieving over 86% GCSE grades in all subjects. 75% of students achieved 5+ A*- C grades including English and Maths, this was in line with the tough target set by the Local Authority. Against the new Government EBAC measure, the school scored 41%. These results need to be seen in the context of a traditional curriculum.

A number of students were star performers; Callum Stirling achieved 9A*, Catherine Hodges 10A*, Emily Schonhut 9A* and Michael Weekes 8A*. The hard work, effort and reward of all students who achieved in line or better than their potential must be acknowledged.

All departments performed well with R.E achieving 54% A*-A, Chemistry 74% A*-A, Physics 68% A*-A. Nationally, this year students took a different type of examination at GCSE compared with previous years; for most GCSE subjects coursework has been removed and replaced with controlled assessment, it therefore makes it difficult to make a year on year comparison. We are regularly reminded how difficult it is for young people in the current economic climate, but Oaklands students are secure in the knowledge

that they will be able to go onto College, Sixth Form or apprenticeships because Oaklands has provided them with a firm foundation.

A busy year lies ahead of us; at the heart of a Catholic school's continual improvement must be the maintenance and development of its ethos, out of this flows our educational intent. It would be difficult for a Catholic school to call itself Catholic without this being the key priority. The Governors approved a substantial development plan for the school earlier this year. A number of key features include:

- Build on the experience of our school Mission, improve school prayer life and improve sacramental literacy
- Ensure all students make the required level of progress in line with their potential
- Improve literacy and numeracy through all subjects
- Increase resources within our pastoral support framework
- Improve student management during semi and unstructured times
- Differentiation in home learning
- Further improvement in provision for Gifted and Talented students
- Develop new monitoring systems for the new Ofsted framework

Difficult times ahead.

The predominant issue facing any publicly funded organisation is the implication of the national deficit reduction. Moving to an Academy has provided us with some 'elbow room'. However, for all schools whether Academy or not, there will be unavoidable challenges that we cannot duck. For example, the LA has reduced the careers service provided through Connexions to all secondary schools. Schools will have to consider how to finance the resource to meet statutory responsibility.

Despite the current climate I remain optimistic; we are an oversubscribed school with a growing Sixth Form, with outstanding parental support; these factors coupled with our outstanding staff will, I am sure, provide us with the resilience to see us through the tough times ahead.

Finally

As I am sure you are aware, Bishop Crispian has recently undergone surgery, please remember him in your prayers. Please keep in touch with the school via the normal means; teachers for subject specific academic issues, Form Tutors and Heads of Year for pastoral issues. Other 'housekeeping' information relevant to the year will be issued through the normal channels.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Matthew Quinn
Headteacher

Home School Communication

We value the feedback parents provide on home school communication. This year we are piloting the Student Learning Gateway (SLG) which will give parents access to student data on line 'in real time'. The pilot of SLG starts with Year 7. If successful it will be rolled out for other families over the academic year. We will continue to use electronic means of communication, including texts and emails. Parental feedback tells us that the texting system is very popular although some have mentioned that they would like the texts to be more formal. The texts are limited to a number of characters and to avoid sending out multiple messages per family we do aim to make them as economic as possible, preferring to save that unnecessary expense and invest in other areas of the curriculum.

Last year a number of parents commented on the slow response of the school website. A new supplier has been found so we hope this issue is resolved.

Parents' Evenings

In addition to electronic communication, the traditional Parents' Evenings continue. At the last count across all years there were twenty evenings scheduled or planned for this year involving various groups of parents. All students will receive progress and summative reports during the year.

Student Book Sharing Weeks

To encourage students and their families to engage in shared discussion about learning and progress in school, book sharing weeks continue this academic year in advance of Parents' Evenings. Over the course of the coming year, we will dedicate a week per year group for students to show their work to their parents instead of completing written homework tasks. In that way families will have the chance to engage effectively in the work done by students in school and will have a better idea of their child's performance and progress in advance of a Parents' Evening. This in turn will hopefully create more meaningful and productive consultation meetings.

Book sharing will take place *where practical for subjects*; some subjects may find other ways for students to share their school based learning at home in readiness for consultation evenings.

Yr	Book sharing week, no written homework set	Parents' Evening
8	31 st October – 4 th November 2011	10 th November 2011
9	14 th – 18 th November 2011	24 th November 2011
11	23 rd – 27 th January 2012	2 nd February 2012
7	30 th April – 4 th May 2012	10 th May 2012
10	11 th – 15 th June 2012	21 st June 2012

A Mark of Success



On Tuesday 12th of July Oaklands went through a rigorous assessment of how we use ICT to aid learning in every subject area.

We were assessed on how we use ICT in Admin to communicate with parents and students, to how the students feel about ICT and how it helps in their learning.

Applying for the ICT Mark assessment and achieving accreditation has provided Oaklands with the following opportunities to celebrate success:

- Verifies our own self-review judgments
- Recognises whole school improvement
- Provides an opportunity to be seen as a centre of excellence
- Tells suppliers that Oaklands is an informed customer
- Provides Oaklands with credibility for hosting visits and providing services
- Provides an opportunity for learners to celebrate their use of ICT
- Gives parents confidence that technology is being used effectively
- Informs parents that Oaklands offers better communication to families and homes
- Informs other schools and organisations that Oaklands is a potential partner for extending opportunities for learning through technology
- Raises public recognition of good practice in the use of ICT
- Strengthens Oaklands bids for involvement in new initiatives
- Recognises Oaklands commitment to self-review and evaluation
- Recognises Oaklands commitment and hard work

The ICT Mark is a quality award designed to develop and recognise schools with a successful approach to ICT. It has been developed by NAACE, NCSL and Becta and is intended to promote a strategy for the use of ICT which enhances teaching and learning and which provides opportunities for the school community to develop ICT capability. It is a nationally recognised standard that includes DfE and OfSTED criteria. Schools with an ICT Mark can be confident that their approach to ICT is sound and will be able to face an OfSTED inspection knowing that they meet current ICT requirements, and provides an opportunity to be seen as a centre of excellence.

Latin Update Mrs Quinn As you may remember from a previous edition of Oaklands News,

last year saw the launch of the study of Latin at Oaklands as an after school club. A group of Year 9 students took up the challenge and started to follow the fictional antics and adventures of Caecilius and his family in Pompeii through the Cambridge Latin Course.

We are delighted that a core group of these students will pursue Latin into Year 10 and we are in the process of looking at a new Year 9 cohort.

Due to the success of last year's sessions, we are keen to expand this extracurricular activity and have been fortunate in securing a generous grant for resources from The Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies, otherwise known as The Roman Society. This has assisted in enabling the Year 10 students to continue and has helped in the setting up of a group in Year 12. We are very grateful to the society for their support and encouragement. The following is taken from the front page of the society's website:

The Roman Society is the leading organisation in the United Kingdom for those interested in the study of Rome and the Roman Empire. Its scope is wide, covering Roman history, archaeology, literature and art down to about A.D. 700. It has a broadly based membership, drawn from over forty countries and from all ages and walks of life. To find out more go to <http://www.romansociety.org/>

Sailing Success

Worlds as part of a five strong GBR team in San Francisco. The entry was restricted to 110 boys and 70 girls who came from 30 different countries. Anthony came 19th overall and was the top GBR boat. In addition, he also gained the podium in Silver position as the second highest Under 16 in the world.

For Anthony Park, 11 St Clare, sailing success continues. At the end of July he competed in the 4.7 Laser



Sports Day Report July 2011 PE Department

Yr	Girls Winners	Boys Winners	Overall Winners
7	Martin	Clare	Catherine
8	Clare	Teresa	Teresa
9	Vincent	Teresa	Teresa
10	Vincent	Vincent	Vincent



This year's Sports Day was a great success with many students performing at a high level. The

weather was great, boosting ice cream sales. The morning started with some students having competed already in the 1500m, Discus and Triple Jump which left the rest of the tutor group to build on the start they had made. The overall Tutor Group winners were St. Teresa by only 16pts which, over four year groups and eleven events, was a narrow margin. All the trophies were given to Team Captains during the end of term Awards Celebration. Well done to all those who took part, not just competing but also helping run the events. Also a big thank to the PE department for organising such a fantastic day.



**Overall Winners
2011
St Teresa**

Sponsored Walk Students

On July 10th a group of students going on the Borneo expedition took part in the Chichester Challenge; a twenty six mile walk starting in Lavant around the South Downs. The weather was good, however, some areas of the route were a little muddy! We took between 8 and 10 hours to finish the course and some were a little foot sore at the end.

Many thanks to Miss Caspall who accompanied us and to the Rotary Club of Chichester who organised the event and gave us reduced entry charges.

Alan Monk 11 St. Martin

Tennis Results 2011

	Singles Winner	Singles Runner up	Doubles Winner	Doubles Runner up
Yr 7 Boys	Charlie Bartolo	Luke Benfield	Matt McGlinchley/ Charlie Peach	Luke Benfield/ Jake Grant
Yr 7 Girls	Nadia Unitt	Liesal Taylor		
Yr 8 Boys	James Rosenthal	Lewis Sampson	Rhys Jacobs/ James Rosenthal	Matt Lee/ Lewis Sampson
Yr 8 Girls	Olivia Ponsford	Molly McMasters		
Yr 9 Boys	Jack Oldroyd	Eddie Lewis	Eddie Lewis/ Ben Holt	Jack Oldroyd/ Ciaran Baird
Yr10 Boys	Barney Walsh	Colm Read	Lloyd Sampson/ Charlie Seale	Colm Read/ James McDermott

Celebrating Success Mrs McConn-Finch



Hard work deserves recognition and at the end of the last academic year many students' talents and gifts were celebrated. The first successes were applauded in July with a week of assemblies focused on rewarding outstanding sporting achievements and the presentation of Progress Certificates. Mr Tindal (Head of PE) presented cups and medals to our fabulous sportsmen and women who have represented our school or indeed our County at competitive level. At the same assembly we presented the Progress Certificates: these are very spe-

cial awards as the recipients are chosen by Form Tutors and the certificates are awarded to students who have made outstanding progress during the year. This progress can take different forms – academic, social, attendance, confidence, cooperation, contribution to school. It was encouraging to see so many students recognised by their Tutors and it was a proud day for many.

On the final day of term we presented the final sporting honours (with Sports Day results!), the Governors End of Year Awards and the Sixth Form Awards. These prestigious awards

are nominated by the academic departments and only one student per subject per year group will receive the coveted engraved glass plaque. The recipients of these awards are

nominated by a variety of criteria – outstanding performance; outstanding commitment or clear passion for the subject. These awards are subject to Governors' approval. We are grateful to our Chair of Governors, Capt Paul Quinn, for taking time out of his busy schedule to present the prizes. Indeed we are fortunate to have a Governing Body who spon-



sor this recognition of contribution to curricular life.

We hope that these various awards will motivate our young people to "aspire not to have more but to be more".

Musical Notes

Over the summer term Oaklands Music Department worked with feeder schools, St. Peter's and St. Thomas More's on the production of a Music Extravaganza. Parents and friends enjoyed an evening which included songs from Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat and performances by Oaklands Big

Our thanks to the staff from St. Peter's and St. Thomas More's for assisting our Music Department in the organisation of the event. The evening concluded with a collection in aid of Naomi House which raised £220.



Behaviour in School Mrs Oldroyd

Last year saw a significant decrease in the number of students withdrawn to the Inclusions Room for poor or disruptive behaviour in class. This is a positive consequence of the new Code of Conduct, Rewards and Sanctions procedures which were implemented last September and which resulted in unprecedented numbers of reward points being awarded in 2010-2011.

This academic year we are going to focus our efforts on reducing the number of students referred for poor behaviour during unstructured times. Following consultation

with students and staff, we have created new 'zones' around the school site to allow students to choose where they go at break and lunchtimes. There will be ball game zones, active games zones and an increased number of quiet zones with new seating. We will continue to offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities and hope that these changes result in more appropriate behaviour from those students who sometimes find it difficult to manage free time that does not involve an i-pod, mobile phone or computer!

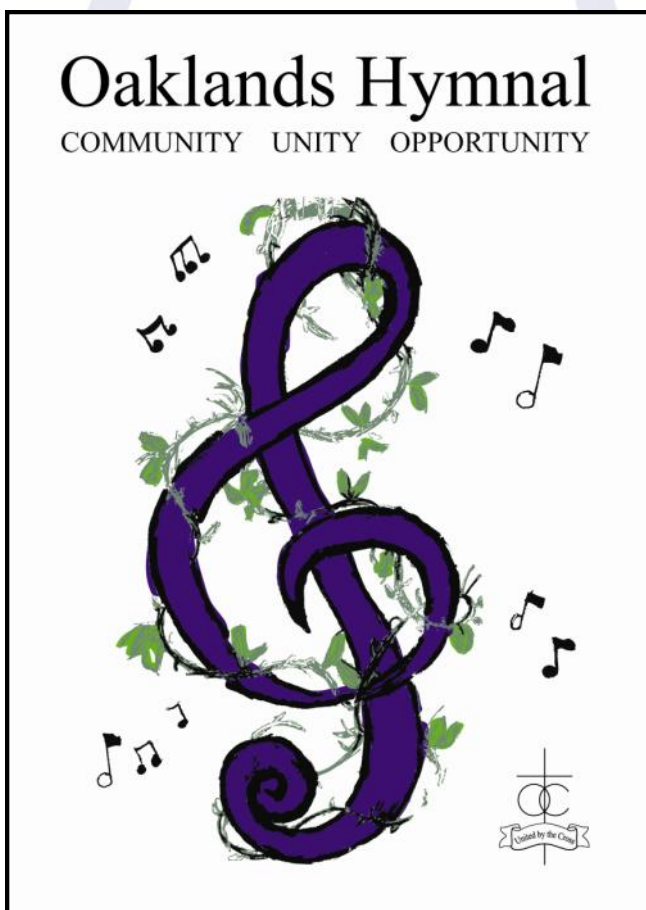
Finally, the Behaviour Working Party has been looking at how

we can effectively communicate our expectations to all in the Oaklands community. Doctors are always telling us we need our '5 a day' and so we have devised a '5 a day' for our school, which if we all follow will keep our community healthy and happy:

Speak nicely
Act kindly
Take pride
Be responsible
Work hard

Students - watch out for information on a competition coming up to design a poster for our '5 a day'!

School Hymnal



The tradition of singing at Oaklands is one that goes back many years. Our hymns are printed in our own school Hymnal and the current edition has now come to the end of its life.

As I am sure you are aware, words for the Catholic Mass have changed this year. So we decided to give the Hymnal a dust down, find a few new hymns and include the new Mass setting. The school held a competition to design a new front cover. The winner was Sabrina Trigg, now in Year 8. Sabrina's design has been printed on the 1200 copies of our new Hymnal. Well done Sabrina!

It's in the school DNA Mr Quinn

I am sure many of you have watched a show on the BBC called "Who do you think you are?" It explores the ancestry of a celebrity and climbs into their family tree. If there were something similar for schools, (here is an idea for the BBC, you heard it here first) the lineage of Oaklands School finds its way back to the Daley family and Daley's Commercial School and its very humble beginnings in Portsmouth in 1917. The Daley family, made up of Dennis, Kathleen, Hilda, Frank and Tom, set up the small school to educate local girls.

I was delighted to represent the school and speak during Mass. The celebration was organised by Julie Scarborough who attended the Daley school.

The window was designed and made by a local Portsmouth artist, Jude Tarrant. She has designed a number of windows at St Colman's. In addition to the strong imagery of St. Therese the window depicts the story of Catholic education during the Blitz and the Daley Motto "Live in such a way that you may live hereafter".

The Daley family narrative is a story of tenacity, overcoming physical, practical and financial constraints for the benefit of Catholic education in Portsmouth.

The Daley family had the vision to see that education was vital to the formation and development of the whole person, something that remains as true today at Oaklands as it was then.

The family believed in divine providence, or simply God's activity, through the Holy Spirit, in the world. Religious orders might view this as their charism. In a Catholic school charism is found in the genetic make-up, handed on from one generation to the next, this is the Daley legacy.

That is why teachers and Governors of Catholic schools must always realise that, it is never 'their school'. On appointment they are handed something, to mould, shape and grow. At some appointed time they move on and the creation is handed on to another.

The Daley family recognised this. The family tree (that is Catholic education in Portsmouth) describes how the Daleys joined forces with the religious order 'The Ladies of Mary' Portsmouth and from this partnership St Teresa's Grammar School in Portsmouth grew. In time, St. Teresa's combined with the Convent of the Cross to become Oaklands Catholic School.

The celebration was attended by many past students of the Daley School, St Teresa's and Oaklands.

St Paul in his letters to the People of Corinth talked about a body having many parts. Well, I believe that a school is a combination of many parts, both past and present and at Oaklands the Daley family is part of the school DNA.

On 31st August at St. Colman's Church, Cosham, Father Sean Tobin dedicated a stained glass window, to St. Therese of Lisieux in recognition of the work of the Daley family.



A new group of Buddies have just started their new role and have already been doing excellent work supporting the new Year 7 students. They have received Buddy training and attended weekly supervision and support sessions to ensure they are fulfilling the role in a professional and caring way. They are supervised by our Chaplain, Helen Floyd.

Personal Reflections

When I got the opportunity to apply to become a Buddy in Year 10 I decided to do so for a number of reasons. Firstly, I wanted to have the chance to help the new Year 7s as they made the big jump from primary to secondary school and I remembered all the worries I had starting secondary school and how I was helped by older students. I also hoped that it would give me a feel for a position of responsibility within the school.

Becoming a Buddy involved a training day towards the end of Year 10 to learn what being a Buddy involves and how to deal with certain situations. Then some new Year 10 Buddies helped to welcome the new Year 7s and their parents to the induction evening in July. Then, we came in a day early on Tuesday (which was a little difficult for some of us!) to get to know our Year 7 tutor groups and help them with any problems they had. We will work with our Year 7s through the year during tutor time. I have really enjoyed being a Buddy and I would recommend it to Year 10s who are considering it.

Matthew Kingswell 11CA

For some students Year 7 will be a completely different experience, especially those who came from a small junior or primary school. I came from a small junior school so I can understand just how daunting it is to start at a large secondary school. It really made a difference to me and my parents to have somebody further up the school to answer any questions we had. I really wanted to become a Buddy so I could make the new Year 7's time at Oaklands easier.

Now that I am a Buddy, I really like it. It is great working with the Year 7 form tutors and also being able to answer any questions the new Year 7s have about the school. It has also given me a chance to repay the favour to the Buddies that I had.

Sophie Negus 11CA

Starting Oaklands

My first few days at Oaklands have been exciting and challenging but also very tiring. At first we all felt very nervous, the school is very large and we wondered if we would get lost. After the first few days we settled in, places and things were easy to find. Even if we did get lost, there were lots of people on hand to help. All the staff and the older students are very nice

Robert Meades 7 St. Martin

Each day at Oaklands is jam packed; there are new subjects and new teachers and loads of text books. The form tutors are very friendly and helpful, it is good to have our form in the brilliant John Paul block. It is important to get to your lessons on time. My tip to Year 7 next year will be to pay attention to your map.

David Vahey 7 St. Martin

It has been a fun first week at Oaklands. When we arrived everyone was kind and helpful, they made us feel especially welcome. Early on the first day we went to our form room. Our form tutor taught us a fun game. On the second day we were given our planners and timetables. Later in the week we started going to lessons. Science was fun and so was English. We were given homework to cover our books and make a safety poster.

Kira Mulcahy 7 St. Martin

Attendance Mrs McConn-Finch



Attendance update and news

Attendance is one of the high profile key performance indicators of any school (and the single most influential factor in a student's success) and here at Oaklands we are delighted to inform you that, thanks to your support and the hard work of the pastoral team, our attendance statistics have been improving steadily for the last three years.

2010 – 2011	95.3%
2009 – 2010	94.4%
2008 – 2009	93.5%
2007 – 2008	91.7%

We hope to improve even further in 2011 – 2012 and become **OUTSTANDING** in this category.

Reporting absence:

Don't forget that you can authorise an absence by sending an email to Mrs Vacher on absence@oaklands.hants.sch.uk instead of sending in a note.

Persistent Absence:

If your child is persistently absent (ie: falls below the 85% minimum Government attendance level) you will receive a letter or telephone call from Mrs McConn-Finch or the Head of Year. We categorise our attendance in a "traffic light" system – green, yellow and red. There are varying degrees of support available and this will be discussed in a parental meeting with a member of the Leadership Team/Head of Year.

Punctuality

Punctuality to school and to individual lessons is now an area of focus for the new Ofsted framework. All students are registered electronically for morning and afternoon registration and also by their class teachers. Teaching staff will now input additional information into those registers – minutes late on arrival to school and minutes late on arrival to lessons. We will monitor this data and certain individuals may be highlighted for closer inspection. If this is the case with your son/daughter, you will receive notification either from the Head of Year or by letter from Mrs McConn-Finch of the number of learning minutes missed and you will be invited in for a meeting to discuss improvement strategies.

Leave of Absence

Please remember that Oaklands does not authorise holidays taken

during term-time, unless there are extenuating circumstances (as outlined in the Governors Registration and Attendance Policy). It is the decision of the Headteacher as to what might constitute exceptional circumstances and each request for term-time leave will be considered on an individual basis. The Headteacher will not generally accept as an exceptional circumstance the fact that a holiday is cheaper during term-time. An exceptional circumstance is much more likely to be a one-off, unique situation eg a parent or grandparent is seriously ill and the holiday proposed is likely to be the last such holiday; or there may have been a significant trauma in the family recently and the Headteacher might consider that an immediate holiday might enable the child concerned to better deal with the situation; Forces personnel whose duties and leave is inflexible; sudden loss of housing.

Medical Issues Mrs Noble

In order to ensure our records are up to date, parents are requested to ensure that they have informed the school about any medical conditions, change in diagnosis or medication which could affect their child whilst they are in school. Please notify any changes to Mrs Noble in Student Services julia.noble@oaklands.hants.sch.uk Thank you.

Contact Details

Contact Details

Parents are asked to ensure that any change of contact details are communicated to the school as soon as possible to enable us to keep our records up to date. Thank you.

A few gentle reminders Mr Quinn

Student Planners were distributed to all students last week. Parents are asked to familiarise themselves with this important aid to academic progress. In particular, parents are reminded to sign the homework section each week.

Parents are asked to remind their children that they should not be carrying around large numbers of books. One of the problems is that students seem to carry all their books for the day which is not necessary. The way to overcome the problem is for students to make sure they are well organised. All students should have been allocated a locker or a share of a locker to which they have access first thing in the morning, break and lunch times and the end of the day. During the day, no student needs to carry books for more than two lessons at any one time. At the end of the day, students should only take home the books that they need for homework on that particular night. Parents are asked to encourage their child to follow this important guidance.

Perimeter Fence/Flat Roof—Parents are asked to remind their children that it is **strictly forbidden** for any student to attempt to climb over the perimeter fence or, onto a flat roof anywhere on the school site for whatever reason. If, for example, a ball is kicked over the perimeter fence, then the Caretaker should be informed and students will have to wait until the Caretaker has time to retrieve it.

Disabled Parking Mrs McCall



The School has recently increased the number of disabled parking spaces around the school. There are now an additional 2 spaces at the front of the White House and Chapel. On occasions other drivers have used these spaces which can create a problem. We are fortunate to have ample parking space around our site. Thank you for parking with consideration.

Cycling to School



The school encourages students to **cycle to school**. However, it will not take responsibility for the roadworthiness of student bicycles, or bicycle security. Students should have a good quality cycle lock. All students cycling to and from school should wear a cycle helmet

We live in a technological age; over half the people in Britain use mobile phones in a wide variety of settings and for a variety of reasons: at work, at home, for convenience and security; they have become part of our way of life. The day will come where it is



fully integrated into the methods of communication for all people.

The school recognises that a total ban on mobile phones in school is both unrealistic and unreasonable. They are part of everyday technology and students need to be aware of how to use technology appropriately. They give some students a greater sense of safety and security particularly on a long journey to and from school. However, since our school site is generally a very safe place, we consider that in normal circumstances, the whole school day should be considered as phone and electronic device free. We continue to **strongly recommend** that students do not bring their mobile phones or other electronic devices to school. They are very expensive items and if they go missing the school will not take responsibility for them.

Mobile phones or other electronic devices are not to be used or seen during the school day (8:50-3:40) and must be switched off at all times including break and lunchtimes. The school's normal disciplinary sanctions will apply in cases where mobile phones or electronic devices are used inappropriately whilst on the school site. In most circumstances, this will include the temporary confiscation of devices by staff and appropriate arrangements being made for their return to parents.

Chaplaincy Work Mrs Floyd

The last academic year was extraordinarily busy for the school Chaplaincy Team. Below are just a few of the highlights. The year started with the



visit of Pope Benedict to the UK. The school held special assemblies each day, a Whole School Mass and Day of Celebration. The day is still clearly remembered by students and the theme of the Pope's Mass will be revisited at the end of term Mass.

Teaching Masses

This year the team, along with Mrs Field, started Teaching Masses for Year 7s. Separate preparation sessions were held in the chapel led by Mrs Helen Floyd and Mr Tom Rawlings to help students with their understanding of and participation in the Mass. Mass was celebrated for two tutor groups at a time with



full participation and involvement of students.

School Mission

During March 2011 the school welcomed a team of eight people from the Sion Community in Essex to run a series of activities for our Mission Week. This was successful and highly appreciated by students and staff. The week inspired students in their faith. Follow up plans include a Christian rock band, regular Prayer 4U sessions, a signing group and lunch-time faith based discussion groups in the chapel. The Mission Week was followed by a Mission Day in July. During Lent the team organised a programme of Lenten liturgies in the chapel on Fridays, Stations of the Cross for staff during staff prayer time and a Staff Mass. Reconciliation was offered to students during the Mission week

The Kintbury experience

The Kintbury Residentials for KS4 and KS5 continue to be popular. This year the experience was followed up with the celebration of Mass. Upon their return students were able to spend the afternoon in the Chapel reflecting on their trip.

Ongoing Work

Future plans include teaching students about the new translation of the Mass. The school would like visible signs of where it has put faith into action; a particular focus will be through the work of CAFOD following on from the visit to Kenya of Mr Mugeni Sumba with two Year 11 students - Holly Phillips and Lara Woodgate. This trip attracted extensive publicity from the BBC. The Chaplaincy Team is looking at how it can use the trip and coverage for maximum benefit for the whole school.

It is hoped that it will bring greater cultural awareness, understanding of poverty and justice issues and highlight implica-



tions for fund raising.

The Chaplaincy Team is working on wider community involvement. Initiatives are being developed with Mr Rob Smith on social justice, human rights issues and citizenship, working towards One World Week in October.

The 2012 Olympics will also provide the school with a focus: The Catholic Church has a strong emphasis on the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Initiatives are to be discussed with the PE Department which will hopefully include inviting the 'More than Gold' team and maybe some Olympic athletes into school.



On 24th March 2012, 'FLAME' will be held at Wembley Arena. This is a huge Christian Catholic event linked with the Olympic Games. It is hoped that a large group of Oaklands students will be able to take part.

None of this would have been possible this year with out the support of Father Kevin Bidgood

Foreign Language Leaders Awards

On Thursday 30th June, we held our annual Language Day for Year 6 pupils organised by our very capable students. This year, we offered workshops in Polish, German, Spanish and French. In total there were 53 of us from St Alban's, St Peter's and Oaklands! The quality of the lessons was outstanding, with the Leaders in costume delivering classes on French fashion, Polish animals and greetings, German interviews and a Spanish cookery lesson in salsa and nachos. We also enjoyed a fabulous meal in the canteen of Italian pizza!



Our Year 6 participants did not want to go home at 3pm and all said they had had a brilliant time. In a letter received from St Albans, Mrs Loh wrote, 'The day was extremely well organised; the students from Year 9 and Year 11 were a credit to the school and had obviously worked very hard to prepare the activities for the visiting schools'.

In no particular order, a huge thank you to Ollie Gardiner, Lauren Wilson, Nicole Crosbourne, Hollie Marriott-Veck, Lauren Brown, Kiera Quickfall, Olivia Rennie, Zoe Raymond, Esme Scott, Jessica Hawley, Oliver Huntington, Oliver Latta, Annabel Page, Jess McKeever, Michael Rennie, Hayley Butler, Daniel Mann, Rebecca Noble, Siobhan Strange, Tess Barrows, Alice Windebank, Mrs Corker, Mrs DeLuca, Mrs Becker, Mrs Sayner, Eva Blochl and the Catering team for such an amazing day – Merci beaucoup!

Learning Resource Centre Mrs Curtis

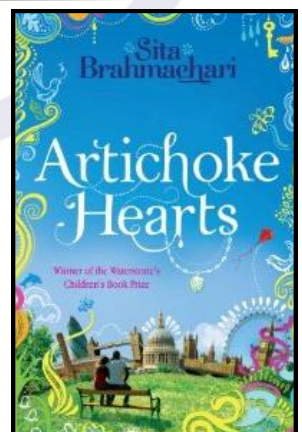
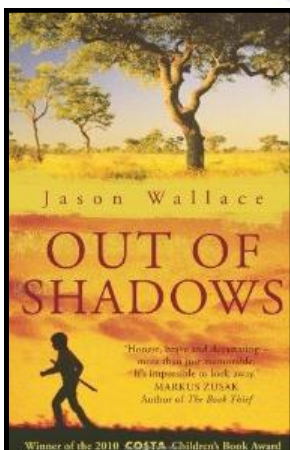
Oaklands' students are enthusiastic readers and the library loans issued have, once again, increased and this year have exceeded 12,000 loans. Jacqueline Wilson was the most popular author with four of her books in the top 10 most borrowed titles. Please continue to encourage your children to read. The following books are recommended reads for 11+ and 14+ students and the books are available in the LRC for students to borrow. Further recommended reads are listed on Studywiz.

11+ Students

- "Artichoke Hearts" by Sita Brahmachari
- "Tall Story" by Candy Gourlay
- "Time Riders" by Alex Scarrow (Hampshire Book Award winner 2011)
- "Edge of Nowhere" by John Smelcer
- "Leviathan" by Scott Westerfeld

14+ Students

- "Boys Don't Cry" by Malorie Blackman
- "Prisoner of the Inquisition" by Theresa Breslin
- "Glass Demon" by Helen Grant
- "Monsters of Men" by Patrick Ness (2011 Carnegie Medal winner)
- "Out of Shadows" by Jason Wallace.



Welcome to New Staff Mr Quinn

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members of staff and hope that they will have a long and happy association with us here at Oaklands: **Deborah Bayliss** (Catering) **Bridgette Burroughs** (Admin), **Victoria Davis** (Catering), **Kirsty Dodds** (Catering) **Dan Drummond** (LSA), **Anna Ferrari** (MFL), **Tonya Goldring** (Finance) **Rachel Helyer** (Geog/English), **Christian Janes** (Drama), **Liam Olford** (IT Technician) **Hannah Roberts** (LSA), **Daniel Southwell** (RE), **Jane Tyler** (Science) and **Nick Wyatt** (MFL).

TERM DATES 2011/2012

Autumn Term

Mon 5th September—Fri 16th December 2011

Half Term Mon 24th—Fri 28th October 2011

Christmas Mon 19th December—Tues 3rd January 2012

Spring Term

Wed 4th January* to Fri 30th March 2012

Half Term Mon 13th—Fri 17th February 2012

Easter Mon 2nd April—Fri 13th April 2012

Summer Term

Mon 16th April—Thurs 19th July 2012

Half Term Mon 4th—Fri 8th June 2012

Summer holiday Fri 20th July—Fri 31st August 2012

In addition, the school will be closed on the following days: Friday 30th September, Friday 25th November 2011 and Friday 20th July 2012.

***Please note revised start date to the Spring Term.**

Admissions September 2012 Mrs White

CATHOLIC CHILDREN –

*The process of applications for next year's **Year 7, September 2012** is already underway. If you are a Catholic family expecting to apply for a place for your son/daughter for September 2012 and you have not filled in an application form, please contact the Admissions Secretary, **Mrs Linda White**, immediately.*

CHILDREN FROM OTHER CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS –

*If you already have a child at Oaklands and you are expecting to apply for a place for a younger child for September 2012 and you have not already done so, you should also contact the Admissions Secretary, **Mrs Linda White** immediately.*

OTHER CHRISTIAN DENOMINATION FAMILIES

*Families applying to Oaklands for their first child to come to Oaklands in September 2012 should also write to the Admissions Secretary, **Mrs Linda White** immediately.*

It is essential, therefore, that all parents applying for a place for September 2012 should contact the Admissions Secretary immediately if they have not already done so. Any delay will prejudice the chances of a successful application.

In all cases, the closing date for applications is Monday 31st October 2011.

Guidelines for parents collecting their children by car.

- Please do not come onto the campus and park before the end of the school day unless you are collecting your child for an appointment and have made prior arrangements with the school. The **school gates are closed at 3 p.m.** each day.
 - Try to time your arrival to collect your child at **4.00 p.m.** when you will avoid queues outside the school gates.
 - If arriving early before the school gates are opened at 3.50 p.m., do not park on the zig-zag lines or in the bus bay on Stakes Hill Road.
 - Under no circumstances should parents park on the opposite side of Stakes Hill Road in the vicinity of the gates, as this can prevent traffic moving along the main road.
 - Only collect your child inside the school grounds, do not meet them on the road outside.
 - Drive slowly when on the school campus. The speed limit is 5 mph.
 - Do NOT attempt to pick up your child before going around the school roundabout and always park in the designated pick-up area.
 - Drive to the furthest point on the pick-up area to maximise the use of this section of roadway. Do NOT park near or on the roundabout.
 - Take particular care when pulling out from your parking space – there have been a number of minor bumps over the years.
 - Never call your child across the main drive – they must always cross at the designated point near the steps adjacent to the Maths/Science Block.
- Parents are asked to act with courtesy and consideration at all times in the interests of other road users and for the safety of the students when on the school campus.**

School Calendar Autumn Term

Mon	05/09/2011	INSET Day School Closed
Tue	06/09/2011	Phased start Years 7,12,13
Wed	07/09/2011	All Year 7-11 students in school
Thu	08/09/2011	School Photos Years 7,9,11 KS4 Induction Evening 7pm
Mon	12/09/2011	OPA Committee Meeting
Wed	14/09/2011	Full Governors Meeting
Thu	15/09/2011	KS5 Induction Evening
Tue	20/09/2011	Governor Chairs of Sub Committees Meeting
Wed	21/09/2011	HPV Vaccinations
Mon	26/09/2011	Governors' Finance Maintenance Committee Meeting
Thu	29/09/2011	OPEN EVENING 6-8pm
Fri	30/09/2011	INSET Day School Closed
Mon	03/10/2011	Governors' Curriculum Staffing Committee Meeting OPA Committee Meeting
Mon	10/10/2011	Comenius trip to Germany
Wed	12/10/2011	French Exchange Students depart
Thu	13/10/2011	Year 13 Parents' Evening 5—7pm
Wed	19/10/2011	French Exchange Students return. Full Governors Meeting
Fri	21/10/2011	CAFOD Fast Day - Non Uniform Day. Year 7 Transition Report Home
Mon — Fri 24/10/2011—28/10/2011 Half Term		
Mon	31/10/2011	Year 10 Assessment Week ; Year 8 Parent Book Share Week
Wed	02/11/2011	Ski Trip Parents' Evening
Fri	04/11/2011	Year 11 Progress Review Home
Mon	07/11/2011	Year 7 Academic Mentoring Week Governors' Finance Maintenance Committee Meeting OPA Committee Meeting
Thu	10/11/2011	Year 8 Parents' Evening 5—8pm
Mon	14/11/2011	Anti-Bullying Week; Year 9 Parent Book Share Week
Wed	16/11/2011	HPV Vaccinations. Drug Awareness Evening
Thu	17/11/2011	Sixth Form Open Evening
Sat	19/11/2011	OPA Craft Fayre
Mon	21/11/2011	Governors' Curriculum Staffing Committee Meeting
Wed	23/11/2011	New York Trip Information Evening
Thu	24/11/2011	Year 9 Parents' Evening 5—8pm
Fri	25/11/2011	SCHOOL CLOSED
Mon	28/11/2011	Years 12/13 Progress Review Home
Wed	30/11/2011	Peripatetic Music Concert
Thu	01/12/2011	Year 12 Progress Afternoon
Mon	05/12/2011	OPA Committee Meeting
Wed	07/12/2011	Full Governors Meeting, Christmas Musical Concert PM
Fri	09/12/2011	Year 10 Written Report Home— Sixth Form Ball
Tue	13/12/2011	Carol Concert
Fri	16/12/2011	Last Day of Term

Dates and times accurate at time of going to press the school reserves the right to make alterations.

Tue	03/01/2012	INSET DAY—School Closed
Wed	04/01/2012	First Day of Term
Thu	05/01/2012	Presentation of Certificates Evening
Mon	09/01/2012	Year 11 Practice Exams start OPA Committee Meeting
Tue	10/01/2012	Governor Chairs of Sub Committees Meeting
Mon	16/01/2012	Governors' Curriculum Staffing Committee Meeting
Mon	23/01/2012	Christian Unity Week celebrations in school Year 11 Parent Book Sharing Week Governors' Finance Maintenance Committee Meeting
Fri	27/01/2012	Year 11 Practice Grades issued
Thu	02/02/2012	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Fri	03/02/2012	Year Group Photographs
Mon	06/02/2012	Sixth Form Practice Exams start OPA Committee Meeting
Wed	08/02/2012	Full Governors Meeting
Fri	10/02/2012	Non Uniform Day Academic Mentoring Targets Years 7-11 Home Ski Trip Departs Year 9 progress Review Home New York Trip takes place during Half Term
Mon -	13/02/2012	Half Term
Fri	17/02/2012	
Wed	22/02/2012	Ash Wednesday
Thu	23/02/2012	Year 9 Courses Information Evening 7pm
Mon	27/02/2012	Year 8 Progress Review Home School Production
Tue	28/02/2012	School Production
Wed	29/02/2012	School Production
Mon	05/03/2012	OPA Committee Meeting
Mon	12/03/2012	Governors' Curriculum Staffing Committee Meeting
Fri	16/03/2012	Year 7 Progress Review Home
Mon	26/03/2012	Governors' Finance Maintenance Committee
Thu	29/03/2012	Years 12/13 Reports Home
Fri	30/03/2012	Last day of Term

Mon	16/04/2012	First Day of Term Year 10 Modular Mock Exams Week OPA Meeting
Wed	18/04/2012	HPV Vaccinations Full Governors Meeting
Thu	26/04/2012	Year 12/13 Parents' Evening 5pm Governor Chairs of Sub Committees Meeting
Mon	30/04/2012	Year 9 Assessment Week Year 7 Parent Book Share Week
Mon	07/05/2012	School Closed
Tue	08/05/2012	Governors' Curriculum Staffing Committee Meeting
Thu	10/05/2012	Year 7 Parents' Evening 5—8pm
Fri	11/05/2012	Year 12 Exam Leave Begins
Mon	14/05/2012	Governors' Finance Maintenance Committee Meeting
Mon	21/05/2012	Year 7 Assessment Week Year 11 Final Predictions Home
Thu	24/05/2012	Last Day for Years 11 and 13
Mon	28/05/2012	Year 8 Assessment Week Comenius visit to Italy
Tue	29/05/2012	Full Governors Meeting
Fri	01/06/2012	Year 10 Progress Review Home
Mon - Fri	04/06/2012 08/06/2012	Half Term
Mon	11/06/2012	Year 12 Students Return Year 10 Book Sharing Week OPA Committee Meeting
Thu	14/06/2012	GCSE Art & Technology Exhibition
Mon	18/06/2012	Governors' Curriculum Staffing Committee Meeting
Tue	19/06/2012	Peripatetic Music Concert
Thu	21/06/2012	Year 10 Parents' Evening 5-8pm
Fri	22/06/2012	Year 9 Reports Home
Mon	25/06/2012	Year 10 Work Experience for two weeks Governors' Finance Maintenance Committee Meeting
Thu	28/06/2012	Year 11 Prom
Fri	29/06/2012	Year 8 Reports Home
Mon	02/07/2012	Challenge Week OPA Committee Meeting
Wed	11/07/2012	Full Governors Meeting
Thu	12/07/2012	End of Year 7 Reports Home
Fri	13/07/2012	Induction Day for New Year 7 students
Mon	16/07/2012	Induction Evening for New Year 7 Parents and Students
Thu	19/07/2012	End of Term for Students

Dates and times accurate at time of going to press the school reserves the right to make alterations.

Oaklands

Catholic School and Sixth Form College

A Specialist Humanities and Science College

*Admission
Information
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**Open
Evening**

**Thursday 29th September 2011
6:00 - 8:00pm**

✉ **Stakes Hill Road Waterlooville P07 7BW**

📧 **Oaklandscatholic@oaklands.hants.sch.uk**

🌐 **www.oaklands.hants.sch.uk**

☎ **023 9225 9214**



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