

Term
Dates 10/11

No 373 July 2010

Oaklands News

Challenge Week
2010 an
Outstanding
Success

Farewell
To
Staff

Uniform Details
For Next
Year

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

If you asked me which football club I supported I would have to say Watford FC. As a boy my father used to take me to the match. Those were the days when you stood on freezing terraces. The memory of the hostile conditions and walking off with a piece of the hallowed turf at the end of the season is more vivid than the matches. (The exception being the occasion in 1980 where we beat Southampton 7-1 to go forward to the next round of the then League Cup.) For some reason, probably the cost, as I moved through my teens I stopped going. Years on I moved away, however, I still follow the team's fortunes from the armchair. Sadly, apart from the occasional game, I have not watched the team play for years. Now that Watford and Portsmouth are in the Championship, the events of the 16th October 2010 will test my loyalty. The truth is, I am interested in, rather than a supporter of Watford, for support needs to show itself in action. Unless I am there on the terraces, cheering the players on or contributing through paying at the turnstiles, my so called support has very little impact.

The similarity between this and discipleship is not hard to spot, this strikes at the core of what it is to be Catholic and Christian. We are called not just to be interested in Christ but to belong to Christ, and it is this belonging that moves us from nominal to active discipleship.

"Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does. James 1: 23-25.

Part of our role as a school is to encourage active discipleship. Helen Floyd, in her role as Chaplain in the school, has been instrumental in engaging our young people in active discipleship, this has helped in renewing the spiritual energy to the school over the last twelve months. I am also very grateful to Father Kevin from Sacred Heart, Waterloo-ville who has been in school on a regular basis working with the chaplaincy team, visiting lessons, helping with liturgy and the sacramental life of the school and taking elements of various lessons.

Active discipleship weaves its way through the distinctive characteristics of the Catholic school. Outside the U.N. building in New York there is a wall bearing the inscrip-

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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.

This September we will see all our students in Years 7 – 10 wearing our new school colours of navy and white. This year's Year 7 students look smart in the new navy blue uniform. We know that some parents may find themselves in a dilemma about how and when to buy uniform for their sons and daughters.

We hope the following information will be useful:

From September 2010, all students in Years 7 – 10 will be required to wear the new navy, white and royal blue uniform. Students in Year 11 (2010 – 11) will be the final year group permitted to wear the grey and pale blue. They may purchase the new colours at any time.

Students are not permitted to wear a mix of both uniforms so for example, you will not be allowed to wear the eco-blazer over the blue and grey, or wear a grey jumper with navy trousers and a white shirt. THE BLAZER IS COMPULSORY.

You can purchase all items online or parents now have the option of shopping around for the boys' white shirts, boys and girls navy trousers or the girls' navy stitched down pleated skirt. The knitwear and blazer which are customised must be bought from School Colours via our website link. PE Kit is available from the Havant Schoolwear shop in Market Parade, Havant.

The new uniform is available to order online; there is a link from the school website and parents can select sizes, pay securely and students will pick it up from Student Services when it is delivered. You will need your login code and password (these were mailed to all parents earlier this year). If you have misplaced yours, please contact Mrs Barrowclough to arrange a copy.

If you did not attend the fitting sessions at Parent Teacher Consultation Evenings, please be aware that Mrs Barrowclough keeps a small stock of sample blazers which you may try on your child prior to ordering (as it is a mail order service, parents are liable to pay postage costs on returned items due to missizings). We recommend that you order your new uniform as soon as possible so that it can be collected before the end of term. Mrs Barrowclough will be available during the holidays on the following dates from 8am – 12pm in Student Services, in the White House: **Mon 26th July – Fri 30th July; Mon 2nd August – Fri**



The new Year 7 trying on their uniform.

6th August; Tues 31st August – Fri 3rd September.

We do ask parents/carers to monitor the length of your daughter's skirt and ensure that you purchase one of an appropriate hem length. It should be knee length.

On 23rd June this year the new Year 7 students visited Oaklands in another stage of their Transition – the Uniform Fitting evening. The main Hall was transformed from a performance venue to a well-stocked shop selling blazers, knitwear, blouses, trousers, skirts and jumpers! Despite the soaring temperatures and England playing in the World Cup, a high percentage of the new students attended, were fitted and able to take their new uniform home. No doubt there were lots of modelling sessions that night in homes across the city! The School Colours team and Mrs Barrowclough were ably assisted by the new Year 10 Prefects and Buddies who did a fantastic job processing the order forms. We are also very grateful for the team of volunteers from the OPA who expertly manned the tills and kept the queues in order so that the evening was a success.

If you have any queries about uniform (new or old) please contact **Mrs McConn-Finch** (Assistant Headteacher).

tion, "They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks". The quotation from Isaiah 2:4 is often read in the context of war and the search for peace. I believe this has much to say about the future role of Catholic schools as we work with young people through active discipleship to develop the tools of tolerance, concern and harmony. These are not 'fluffy' ideals, but are some of the fundamental characteristics of successful community, whether family, church, school or a wider society.

Busy Year

Throughout the year a large number of students have been involved in the extra curricular life of the school. I would like to express my thanks to the staff, who work tirelessly to provide the extras that enrich the experience of students at the school. If you have followed Oaklands News over the year you will have read about the numerous and varied range of activities and events. A number of events were particularly memorable, these include the school play "Pirates of Penzance", the Music Extravaganza at the end of the year and Challenge Week. This year has also been our first in the Havant Federation of Schools. A number of events and activities have resulted from this partnership. This will grow over the coming year.

Student Success

It has been a pleasure this year to receive students who have made exceptional progress in the classroom, overcome adversity or represented the school. It has been a delight to write home to over 144 families offering

congratulations and recognising their child's endeavours at school.

Large Sixth Form

I am delighted at the large number of applications to Year 12. This suggests we will have a Sixth Form next year of approximately 200 students. This is approximately a 25% increase over the last three years. These numbers help secure the viability of our Sixth Form, equally the cohort size has allowed us to increase the range of courses on offer. Well done to all colleagues involved in the recruitment process. This year the school also had the largest number of appeals on record for places into Year 7 for September 2010. This confirms the increasing popularity of the school. We now have waiting lists for all year groups.

Public Finances

The state of the public finances will undoubtedly impact on school budgets, resulting in very difficult decisions for all schools and governing bodies. Announcements by central government in the Autumn will provide further detail. The cancellation of the BSF programme, which should have resulted in the replacement of the Maths and Science Block has now been firmly 'kicked into the long grass'. The Governors have already started to consider the steps we can now take. On a positive note we have won an award of €22,000 from the British Council to develop international links. Well done to the staff involved.

Academies

The 'eagle eyed' amongst you will have spotted Oaklands on the Academies list. At present

the school has registered an interest. This does not mean we will become an academy in the near future. You may also have read the Catholic Education Services reservations about the Academies programme. The Governors Strategic Committee are currently analysing the legislation. More information will be available in the Autumn term.

Ofsted

Next year we can expect an Ofsted inspection. If the service keeps to its three year timetable we will be inspected after Christmas. However, we need to be ready from early in the Autumn term.

The Governors approved a substantial development plan for the school earlier this term. A number of key features include:

- *Ensuring all students make the required level of progress in line with their potential.*
- *Improving quality of teaching and learning in the Sixth Form*
- *Developing alternative curriculum models following the removal of KS3 SATS*
- *Achieving the Investors in People Award*

A Big Thank You.

Finally on behalf of the staff, I would like to thank all parents for their prayers, support and encouragement over the last year. Please take time to read this bumper edition of the Oaklands News. It contains significant information about the year ahead. Please note the start dates for next term. On behalf of the Governors and staff I hope you will all have a good holiday and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Matthew Quinn
Headteacher

Charity Fundraising



The school's 'Good Shepherd' appeal on behalf of the **Cabrini Children's Society** raised **£370**. They have been in touch to ask us to pass on their appreciation for your continued support of their work providing wide ranging services to children, young people, families and to adults with learning disabilities. If you would like to find out more about their work or get involved in any fundraising you can contact Ann Hogan on 020 8668 2181 or email her at ann.hoggan@cabrini.org.uk. You can visit them online at www.cabrini.org.uk

Penny Fayre

On Thursday 15th July students from the Sixth Form had a great day

hosting Oaklands' 'famous' Penny Fayre for Years 7-9. Due to the typical British weather the 23 stalls were held inside the hall and the gym. The stalls had something for everyone: penalty shootouts, golf putting, mind puzzling dingbats and 'don't forget the lyrics' to the classics of 'hook the duck', 'penny roll' and 'pin the tail on the donkey' and for those who appreciate food: sweet stall, donuts and chocolate covered fruit. Many of the Year 7s enjoyed the new experience, telling us 'It's awesome, loads of different stalls with a range of prices!'. Where else could you find 12 people squeezing onto a 10x10m square in between stuffing 14 marshmallows into their

mouths and hooking a yellow plastic duck? Only at Oaklands Penny Fayre. A record was set of 3.09 seconds for drinking a pint of water, perhaps hinting at why there is a shortage at Southern Water. The stalls were crowded all morning by eager students: The apple bobbing caused a splash - quite literally and the sweet stall went down a treat. Although we had lots of fun let's remember the important reason for the Fayre. Thanks to you all we raised **£447.56** for the Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust in memory of an ex-Oaklands student, Christie Butler aged 19, who was suffering from a brain tumour and sadly passed away last week.

By Chloe Oliver 12RJS Sixth Form reporter

Music Extravaganza

The school has a long tradition of supporting Naomi House which is a hospice for children with life limiting conditions. On 13th and 14th July the school held a Music Extravaganza. Students from Oaklands got together with students from Yr 6 from St Thomas More's, St Alban's and St Peter's Primary Schools. They sang songs from Oliver. In addition, the Oaklands Big Band entertained the audience with a number of 'swinging' hits. The event raised over **£720** for Naomi House.

Our thanks to all the students who took part and in particular to Miss Estelle Flood, Head of Music, who masterminded the event. Well done.



Foreign Language Leaders Award

On Friday 11th June 2010, 32 of our Year 9 and 10 students welcomed 45 Year 6 pupils from three of our feeder primary schools: St Peter's, St Thomas More's and St Alban's as part of their Foreign Language Leader Award in conjunction with Sports UK. Our students had created an all day activity involving French, Portuguese and Spanish, where they learned to create interviews in French and a fashion show in Portuguese.

*'I loved making costumes for the Portuguese fashion show'.
Year 6 student*

Over the past few months we had all been preparing for the Portuguese language day and when the day finally arrived we were all nervous but really excited.

We decorated the room with Portuguese flags and we made sure the classroom looked like a fun place to learn in. In less than two hours we were able to teach the Year 6 students through play and a selection of games to help their vocabulary. The students even got to dress us up and some of the boys even ended up wearing dresses and high heels!



After a short break we split up the group and each of us had two students each. They dressed up and we helped them prepare a few sentences about what they were wearing. After they had dressed up we put on a fashion show for them to 'strut their stuff' down the runway, even the leaders had a go!

'All the leaders were a help and now I am not scared about going to Oaklands at all.'

Our visitors had 'passports' to collect reward points and they had many opportunities to play games and improve their confidence through language activities.

Before lunch, the primary school students all made their own salsa and grilled nachos, which proved to be a huge success. We were all then treated to a gorgeous lasagne in the school dining hall and our Year 6 visitors were given a tour of the school.



Finally, at 3pm, our visitors went home and, as the final part of our Award, we've put together a film of their visit. I feel that the Foreign Language Leader Award really benefited us as we got to learn a new language and use the qualities we learned over the last few months to benefit others. I think the Foreign Language Leader Award was a great project to take part in and I would recommend it to others. Many thanks to Mrs Corker who organised us all so well.

Libby Nicholls 9VP

Portsmouth University Able Linguists



Sixteen students were chosen to take part in an Able Linguist Day at Portsmouth University on 15th June. When we arrived we were greeted by a group of people who took us to a lecture theatre where they told us about languages and why they are important. Then each school was split into groups and directed to different rooms. One of the groups from Oaklands was designing a theme park and advertising it. The other group was advertising English food for French people. The first group had to design their own theme park and write their ad-

vertisement poster in French, some posters they did were horror park posters and another group did an 'Edible Park'. The second group was advertising English food to show French people. First they had to translate some words around the room about food and then they had to present a short presentation about an English food.

Overall we found this day a fun experience and we learnt a lot more about languages.

Siobhan Strange, Hannah Homer-Ward, Alice Windbank and Aoife Ward-Farrell – Year 8

Aidan Rowsell, Jake Peach, Declan Broderick and Alex Merenghi, Lily Sivyver, Megan Chapman, Lucy Sheldon and Hannah Sivyver have all successfully completed their Level 2 award from "Sportsleaders UK". Throughout the year long course the students have grown in confidence, organisation and knowledge and have proved to be a credit to both themselves and Oaklands. Well done to them all!

Leadership Academy News

The Havant and Waterlooville School Sports Partnership has now held its final two sessions for the candidates put forward from all the secondary schools and further education establishments in the area. At the final session the leaders were able to take part in a "geo-caching" exercise at Staunton Country Park followed by a presentation ceremony and barbeque at The Park Centre.

Oaklands students, Joel Knight and Hayley Clarke, both received awards for "Most Committed FE Leaders", having attended all the sessions and worked within both schools and local clubs in a voluntary capacity. They received a "goody bag" and certificate. Alex Nixon and Hollie Phillips from Year 10 also attended the Academy and enjoyed their experiences and activities offered.

The Academy will be running again next academic year and Oaklands two Young Ambassadors, Lara Woodgate and Jacob Knight, will be representing the school for the under 16 age group.

HWSSP Presentation Evening

On Wednesday 30th June the HWSSP held its annual Presentation Evening at Park Community School. All schools in the Havant and Waterlooville Sports Partnership are invited to nominate both students and staff in a number of categories. Mrs Knight, SSCo for Oaklands, nominated the Year 9/10 boys athletics team in the "Team of the Year" category for their outstanding achievements this year and they were chosen as the winners in the secondary category! The team members who were present, Alistair Olive, Shane Grobler and Jacob Knight collected their medals and certificates from the Havant Mayoress. Many congratulations to all the members of that team.

Young Sports Ambassadors

Mrs Knight would like to see any current Year 9 students who might be interested in representing Oaklands as a future Young Sports Ambassador. You do not necessarily have to be really good at sports but you will need to be reliable and obviously keen to promote sports and activities both at Oaklands and in the wider community.

A meeting will be arranged and any students who wish to find out more are most welcome to attend. Letters of application will be given out at the meeting for all those who wish to apply. Please keep an eye on the Student Bulletin for a date and time. You can also speak with either Lara Woodgate or Jacob Knight in Year 10 who are the current ambassadors and with whom you will work in September for more information.

HWSSP Superstars Event 2010

Congratulations to James Wise

in Year 8 and Ella Knight in Year 9 who were selected from the local trials to be part of the HWSSP team that went to Hamble Sports College on Friday 2nd July to compete against teams from the rest of the County Sports Partnerships.

Having successfully competed in the trials doing timed events that included swimming, running and cycling, those selected took part in other events including archery, duathlon and swimming. The team was placed 5th overall and this year the competition was particularly tough.

Well done to James and Ella for achieving the standards required for being a part of the Partnership team.

Also many thanks to Eddie Lewis in Year 8 who stepped into the team at very short notice to enable a full team to attend.

HWSSP Presentation Evening

On Wednesday 30th June the Year 9/10 boys athletics team won the category of "Team of the Year" beating off stiff competition from eight other nominations in the secondary team category. Shane Grobler, Alistair Olive and Jacob Knight attended the evening and went up to receive medals and certificates on behalf of the team.

Jacob also interviewed an Olympic 2012 /2016 "hopeful" – former Oaklands student Panuga Rua – who is a local badminton celebrity, in his capacity as a Young Ambassador, asking her about her training and build up to the Olympic Games.

Congratulations to the team on their award.

On 16th June 2010 Mrs Masson and ten pupils from Oaklands along with students from other local schools, went on a mission to Little Woodham. Our mission was to find out how life was different in the 1600s and how it has changed throughout the years.

Firstly, we met a rat catcher who would catch mice and rats for a living and earn money from them. He told us to watch out for any mice or rats that could be about which was very common in that time.

Next, we met a carpenter and a peddler. The carpenter told us about apprenticeships and that you had to have your father's permission to become a carpenter's apprentice. A peddler was someone who bought, sold and traded items for money. Some common items bought and sold were: games like spinning tops and cup and ball, leather for shoelaces, rabbit's fur and pouches.

We also had a chat with Mistress Eve who told us all about life for a housewife in the 1600s. She told us about having to pay for school and that only boys could attend. Latin was taught at schools and girls were apparently only fit for sewing, cooking and cleaning.



Some more people we met were a scribe (someone who could read and write) a surgeon's wife who told us all the gruesome things her husband did and a farmer's wife who told us all about a farmer's favour, which was a piece of wheat plaited together. Men would use this to ask women to dance with them.

We all thoroughly enjoyed our school trip and want to thank Mrs Masson for taking us and all the people who made it so exciting and special.

By Phoebe Rivers, Ruth Skilton and Phoebe Meades

Oaklands reaches out to Havant



On Saturday 19th June, Matt, Sophie, Gill, Isabelle, Helen and Liam together with Mr Zotos and Mr Sumba ran a Fairtrade Stall at Havant Market. We sold Fairtrade products like bracelets, scarves, jigsaw puzzles for children, shopping bags, necklaces and snacks – different types of chocolates, geobars, flapjacks and drinks. Matt and Liam came up with the very good idea of having special deals on the snacks. Apart from selling

Fairtrade products, we also gave out leaflets to the shoppers about Fairtrade and why it was important to buy Fairtrade products. We received very good responses from both shop and café owners as well as members of the public. Many told us that they were already using Fairtrade products while others said that they will definitely consider introducing Fairtrade items in their trolleys. Some of our leaflets were about where people can find out information about Fairtrade.

One of the most rewarding experiences for us at this event was when people come over to our stall to tell us that they had a son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter at Oaklands and that they were so proud that we as a school, and us in particular, had taken on this very noble venture of raising awareness in the local community about this very important issue. By the time we left, at about 11am, we had sold goods worth £50.25. But we realised that we were leaving at the time when the market was just getting busy! So next time, we will probably start at about 10am and finish at 1pm.

Fairtrade Team



Improved Communication (Mrs McConn-Finch)



This year we have expanded our use of the texting and email service to inform parents/carers quickly about attendance and other important school communications. Often important letters or notifications can end up at the bottom of a school bag and are not seen again for weeks! This service was particularly invaluable during the snowy weather in January. Using this method of communication advances our sharing of information with you and ensures that you are kept up to date with some of the most important school announcements. We are pleased to note that this service has improved communication and co-operation with families; the alerts have also reduced unauthorised absence and improved punctuality as we can now make a rapid response to registration data. It is a very useful way to connect with parents quickly and effectively and increases parental involvement in education.

In order to keep costs to a minimum we occasionally use texting language to reduce the total number of SMS's sent, and we hope that in this drive for cost efficiency parents/carers will continue to support us. In order for the project to work smoothly and successfully, we need up to date contact details, especially an **email address** and a current **mobile telephone number**. You can email this information to Mrs Vacher (absence@oaklands.hants.sch.uk) or telephone her in Student Services. We are always looking to improve our communications and would welcome parental feedback and comments.

Attendance Every Day Matters (Mrs McConn-Finch)

As ever, attendance continues to be a crucial factor in the measurement of a students wellbeing and the potential for positive achievement. In recent years the Government has promoted the "Every Child Matters" initiative and this has 5 key indicators:

- Be Healthy**
- Stay safe**
- Enjoy and achieve**
- Make a positive contribution**
- Achieve economic wellbeing**



Group	Authorised Absence %	Unauthorised Absence %
Whole School	5.8	0.1
Year 7	5.0	0.2
Year 8	6.0	0.4
Year 9	6.4	0.1
Year 10	6.2	0.1
Year 11	5.4	0.8

This strategy highlights the undeniable link between regular attendance and attainment; as a school we have the challenge of driving down absence and promoting the teaching and learning of all students in a positive atmosphere. Here at Oaklands we are fortunate to have a tradition of excellent partnership between home and school and we work together closely to overcome any problems or external factors which might affect a students ability to attend school. We would like to thank parents/carers for this special relationship and also our Pastoral Team who work and care for our students.

To help us continue this fantastic work, we ask that you try, where possible, to follow these guidelines to ensure your child has optimum opportunities and development:

- Do not book holidays in term time – the school will no longer authorise this absence (unless there are very exceptional circumstances as defined by the Department of Education). Try to make medical/dental appointments out of school hours. Phone or email school (absence@oaklands.hants.sch.uk) on the first day of an absence.
- Please respond quickly to text messages requesting confirmation of an absence.
- Send a note in with your child on their first day back after an absence, outlining the reason.
- Watch out for "patterns" of absence which might indicate a problem with a certain lesson and contact the Tutor right away to discuss further.
- Attend the meetings requested by the Head of Year if your child is identified as a Persistent Absentee

Finally, be aware that research shows that an attendance rate of 90% is linked to a whole GCSE grade of underachievement.

Year 9 Camp

Although Year 9 Camp was highly oversubscribed, 72 lucky students had the opportunity to visit and camp at Tile Barn campsite situated in the New Forest. We were ecstatic when we found out we were the lucky ones.

When we got to the campsite we could not wait to do all the fun filled activities which included mountain biking, kayaking, rock climbing, archery, low ropes and the challenging hikes. But before we could participate in any of the activities we had to go through the rules, expectations and how and where to cook.

We all knew that the five day week was going to be full of challenges and new experiences that would be enjoyable, we were not disappointed.

Our thanks to Mrs Bradley and her team for running the camp and Mrs McConn-Finch and Mrs Sayner for the catering as well as the Sixth Form leaders.



Year 9 Challenge Week

This year Year 9 Challenge Week focused on team work which, by the end of the week, was a skill that we would all rely upon to complete a significant task.

On day one we had a football tournament to build up our team skills. We had two people from Portsmouth Football Club training us. We also had someone in from a Martial Arts Centre who taught us some self defence moves. This covered the physical aspect of surviving an apocalypse, this was very

*....it was a fantastic week.
I learnt a lot about working with other people*

exciting and important for our task.

One day two we went to the Weald and Downland Museum and found out some interesting techniques about how to survive with basic materials, like whittle and daub. We learnt a lot from this trip and were able to apply this knowledge to the task at the end of the week.

The third day was a lot of fun! Again, the important skill was team building, learning how to communicate, working with others that we do not normally go around with and seeing others' points of view. As a team we learnt how to make ovens using only cardboard boxes and tinfoil. We then cooked pizzas which were delicious. After this we visited new eco houses near the school site to see how a modern eco house looked.

On Thursday we began to plan our new eco city. Our team got going and our new model and plan began to form quickly. It was hard work but very rewarding.

On day five, it was 'Judgement Day' and we had to present our ideas to an architect from outside of school. It was a fantastic week.

Daniel Marengi and Joseph Rubio

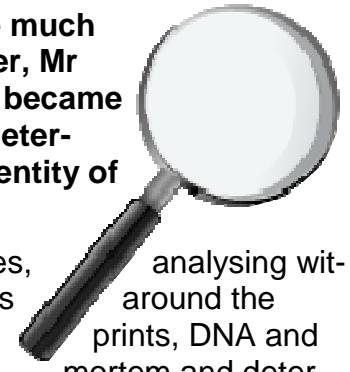


Tales from Challenge Week 2010.....

Year 8 Oaklands CSI



On Monday 5th July the body of the much loved (and fictional) science teacher, Mr Burnlee, was discovered in MS4. It became the task of the Year 8 students to determine the cause of death and the identity of the killer.



Tasked with breaking coded messages, analysing witness statements, measuring distances around the school, analysing fingerprints, footprints, DNA and blood drops, carrying out a post-mortem and determining the murder weapon, the Year 8s set to work.



As evidence was examined, suspects eliminated and the cause of death established, the Year 8s began to compete to present the best set of evidence and correctly identify the killer.

...“the best bit was when we dissected the heart”

After two days of hard work the waiting was over and the murderer revealed. Many thanks go to the Sixth Form students for their hard work in filming the



“.....I especially liked the science experiments and working out what the murder weapon was”

‘Poirot’ style solution to the mystery.

Congratulations to Michael Cox-Smith, Conway Parke, Betty Seymour and Elizabeth Smith for winning the prize, correctly identifying the killer and providing the best set of evidence.

.....I especially liked the science experiments and working out what the murder weapon was”

St. Aignan

What can I say? The whole experience was fun! Well, maybe not so much the waking up at four in the morning on the outward journey .. but

even the ferry and the coach ride were – and I get travel sick! Forty people, including myself, went on a trip to St. Aignan sur Cher in the Loire Valley for a week where we did something new every day and new friendships were formed along the way. The activities included various quizzes around town, visits to a local market (where our French was tested), a Troglodyte museum, a couple of sparkling wine factories, a Chateau in Valençay and last, but definitely not least, a picnic lunch in gay Paris! We also got to do lots of swimming. Everything we did was either fun, interesting or educational ... sometimes all three! Merci beaucoup à Monsieur Shaw d’avoir organisé ce voyage ainsi qu’aux autres professeurs de nous avons accompagnés!* (Thanks very much to Mr Shaw for organising the trip and to the other teachers who took us there).



Roxanne O’Doherty – Year 8

Year 8 Innovation & Enquiry

Year 8's Challenge Week kicked off with a day trip to Thorpe Park where students attended an educational talk and then were set free to enjoy the thrills and spills of the park and conduct research to support their work for the Innovation part of Challenge Week on their return to school.

The Innovation Challenge took place over 3 days in school. Each day students used the skills they had gained in Design and Technology lessons throughout the year, the knowledge gained at the talk and their day at the theme park to design and make/model a huge variety of imaginative products. The products were spectacular and included items such as an electronic gadget to help you navigate round the park, a wide variety of specially designed food products themed to match the rides, a Thorpe Park themed board game, model rides, jigsaws and collectibles. Each day students 'pitched' their ideas to the staff who had the extremely difficult task of selecting two finalists to face the 'Dragons' in the Dragons' Den style final on the Friday. Details of the all the finalists are given below.

....."I enjoyed Challenge Week because I had a good day at Thorpe Park and liked producing an item that could be sold at Thorpe Park. I was with my friends for the Murder Mystery and I thought it was a great new experience that included great tasks."

Nerves were high and hearts were pounding, as group by group the students pitched their ideas to the lovely Dragons (Mr Ivan Shepherd, Mrs Aparna Sharma and Mr David Stretton).

The concepts which were presented were so good that judges struggled to make their final decision; eventually they did and the overall winners and runners up are given below. The overall Runners up were Tom Allan, Dan Wallage, Harry Hick and Andrew Tickell with their extremely tasty Calzone Pasties which clearly filled a gap in the market in terms of the food sold in the park. The overall winners were Anna Philpot and Jade Anthony with the Thorpe Park Photo Coaster and innovative photo frame cleverly designed to store and display visitors' ride photos as a keepsake of their day.

Finalists: Nicole Crosbourne, Hollie Marriott-Veck, Bradley Williams, Rubi Hussey and Hannah Homer –Ward with Thorpe Park Monopoly

Oscar Chase, Lewis Rollins, Michael Dobson and Henry Newing – with Electronic Map/SOS Device

Lois Bell, Lily Hopkins, Sophia Molloy and Olivia Jaggard-Hawkins with Thorpe Park Pancakes

Anna Philpot and Jade Anthony with the Thorpe Park Photo Coaster

Tom Allan, Dan Wallage, Harry Hick and Andrew Tickell with Calzone Pasties

Ellie Dommerson, Hermione Green, Victoria Yung- Hok and Isobel Johnson with Thorper Muffins



Tales from Challenge Week 2010.....

Year 7 Challenge Week

Challenge Week has been a great experience for me I have never actually acted out 'A Midsummer Nights Dream' before so it was very exciting to see what we were going to produce during the week.

.....(I can't wait until next year's Challenge Week). I'm so glad our school has made our first ever Challenge Week so brilliant and the most educational for Year 7's.

We had a choice whether we wanted to do Drama (acting out the play), Art (making costumes and even making wigs for some of the main characters, Titania Queen of the Fairies, Oberon King of the Fairies) and also making

bright beautiful fairy wings and masks for the fairies or Music (where you could put music to fit in with the acting) or Dance. A professional dancer helped us learn some dance movements and helped us choreograph our own dances for the play. She also showed us how to freeze position which helped us a lot. At first all was pretty easy (the rehearsals and making the

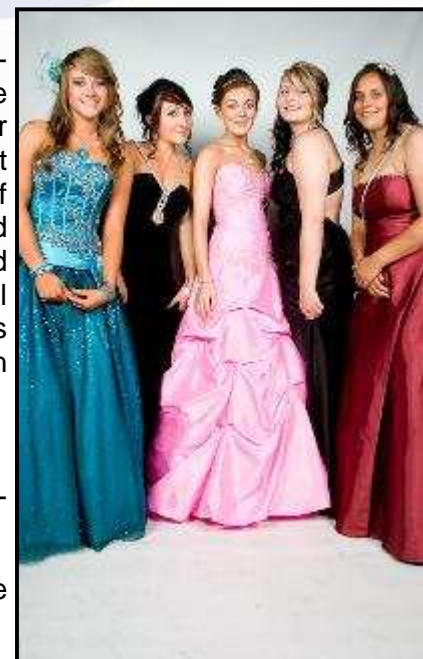
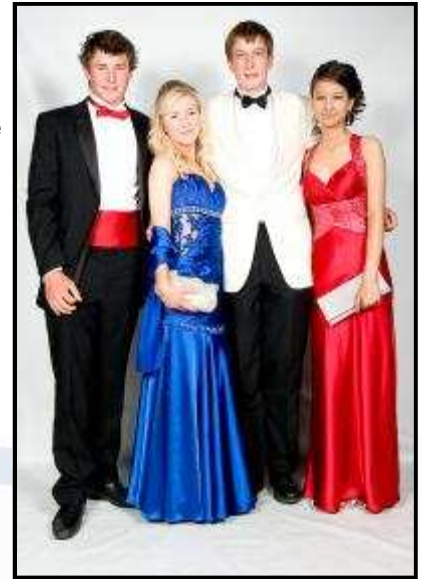


wings) but then we got nearer and nearer to Friday which was our date to perform 'A Midsummer Nights Dream' in front of parents and students from Year 8.

We got very nervous and stressed about our performance. For example, when my group decided to do a dance we thought it was going to be a piece of cake but we were wrong. At first we couldn't even think of a routine but then one of supportive teachers helped us out with the music and then we all started to get into the spirit. The Year 7s have produced bright, colourful big and beautiful wigs, fairy wings and lovely glittery masks. We only had one week to put this all together but we did it and we did it successfully. Thanks to all of our teachers, we couldn't have done it without you.

Ah-Mei Ho Knit Chong – Year 7

This year the school broke with tradition moving the Year 11 Prom to after the GCSE examinations. However, the students' final day was charged with the usual emotion. Year 11 had their final mass, which was led by Father Kevin Bidgood before moving onto the sunken lawn for the traditional 'T' shirt signing and cake eating.



Glitz and Glamour

The Prom then took place four weeks later once the GCSE examinations were over; this was a fitting end to the hard work undertaken by all the students. Moving the prom prevented it being a distraction to students taking GCSEs early in the examination season.

This year the school returned to the Historic Dockyard in Portsmouth. Double decker buses and stretch limousines were just some of the vehicles used by students to attend the occasion.

Celebrity style photo shoot

More than 200 Year 11 students, were dressed to kill, with perfectly coiffured hair, flowing evening gowns and smart dinner jackets. Many of the students looked resplendent and at times unrecognisable. As a year group they truly were a sight to behold; it was a delight to be amongst smart, intelligent, well rounded young people. They dazzled crowds of parents, friends and onlookers. Once the students had graced the red carpet and posed for a celebrity style photo shoot they were whisked away to a sit down dinner. The tables were decorated to a beautiful standard emphasising the importance of the evening. Once the food was over the year team presented a number of awards to students in each form. The evening finished with a disco.

Fitting tribute

It was a fitting tribute to the Class of 2010. Their behaviour was impeccable and they were an absolute credit to the school and parents.

The event was organised by the Year 11 Prom Committee under the watchful eye of Mrs Eyre.

Goodbye to Year 13 Mr Quinn

On 19th May Year 13 celebrated finishing at Oaklands with mass in the chapel followed by a special meal at the Brookfield Hotel. This year was a very special occasion, as it was the last Year 13 leaving celebration for Mrs Judith Hoar, Head of Sixth Form, after a 37 year career at Oaklands.

Fantastic celebration

The year group honoured the tradition of completing the year with mass in the chapel celebrated with Father Kevin. Students took part in the celebration through the liturgy and music. The mass brought together the year group and staff in an emotional celebration.

Dinner at the Brookfield

A convoy of Sixth Formers and staff then made their way to the Brookfield Hotel in Emsworth for the end of year dinner. The setting was perfect and the food served during the evening was suitably impressive, meeting the high standard the school has come to expect from the Brookfield. The dinner concluded with presentations by Sixth Formers to a number of staff including Mrs Judith Hoar.

**Exam Results** Mr Cunningham

The following arrangements have been made for the collection of public examination results in August

Year 13 A2 Results will be available for collection on the ground floor of the Sixth Form Block (reception foyer) between 10.00am and 11.00am on Thursday 19 August 2010.

Year 12 AS Results will be available for collection on the first floor of the Sixth Form Block (Conference Room) between 10.00am and 11.00am on Thursday 19 August 2010.

Year 11 GCSE Results will be available for collection on the first floor of the Sixth Form Block (Conference Room) between 10.00am and 11.00am on Tuesday 24 August 2010.

Any results not collected by 11.00am on the day will be posted to the home address as stored by the school by midday. Students wishing for their results to be posted to an alternative address are asked to e-mail that address to the school exams officer Mrs Julie Kendrick at juliek@oaklands.hants.sch.uk, marking the e-mail subject EXAM RESULTS POSTING ADDRESS.

Year 10 students who sat unitary or modular exams in the summer season will receive their results on the first day back to school in Year 11, Tuesday 7 September 2010, and so should not turn up to school to on the full GCSE results day.

The presentation of certificates evening to celebrate these achievements will take place on Thursday 6 January 2011, for which invitations will follow.

On 21st June, Year 10 Business Studies classes took part in the Young Enterprise task 2010. We were able to set up our own "Mini-Business" and had to run it the way we like. Each group had to come up with their own idea and the money to start up the business. There was a lot of competition! Lots of people decided to sell food but there were other ideas such as a football tournament and an x-box tournament. My group's business sold ice-cream and milkshakes. We were very successful as the weather was on our side and we sold out everyday! Once all the money was taken by Friday 25th June, each group counted up how much money they took. The first £200 was charged a 25% tax

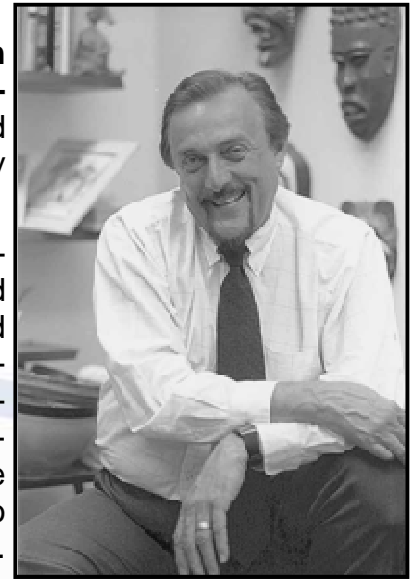


and anything over £200 was then charged at a 50% tax rate! This "tax" revenue was then given to Fairtrade (the week raised £262.67 for Fairtrade). The winners of the week were the group that made the most profit. This group was: James Stone, Liz Yung-Hok, Ashleigh Dommerson and Richard Balchin. They made a lot of money from selling ice lollies!

By Laura Adams 10St Catherine

Internationally renowned psychologist Professor Philip Zimbardo had his Sixth Form audience, including the Oaklands contingent, spellbound at their "full house" psychology conference in London.

Zimbardo Conference



Zimbardo gave the full story behind the famous 1971 Stanford Prison Experiment. He recalled using a basement at the American university for his study; normal college students were randomly assigned to play the role of guard or inmate for two weeks in a simulated prison. But after only six days the experiment was halted because the "guards" quickly became so brutal.

Also speaking at the conference was Christina Maslach who, shocked by the behaviour of the "guards", stopped the experiment by telling Zimbardo that he had to choose between her and the experiment. He chose her and they have now been married for over 30 years! Maslach went on to discuss her own research into workplace stress and burnout.

This was a wonderful opportunity to hear about and be inspired by psychological research at the highest level.

Sixth Form Students

Congratulations

We were delighted to hear that James Turner (Year 10) who is a member of Southampton FC Football Academy, had received a call up to the England U17 squad to take part in the Nordics tournament in Finland later this month. Good luck James!

Congratulations to Matthew and Jonathan Everett who competed at the recent Bournemouth Music Festival. Matthew won through to the finals of the Minns Young Musician of the Year and although he did not win, he performed very well and, as a finalist, won £100 of vouchers for the school. Jonathan also did very well and achieved the award for the most promising brass player. Together Matthew and Jonathan won their family ensemble class for the third year running. Well done boys!

Engineering Education Scheme

The Engineering Education Scheme (EES) is a scheme where a group of students from colleges around the country take part in a 6-month engineering project. Four students from the Sixth Form (Stephanie Beaumont, Matthew Marinaccio, David Hodges and Niko Nicolasora) took part in the scheme this year and went to a launch day in October 2009. The team worked with EADS Astrium to design a solar tracking satellite. The group of four also built a working model for the presentation at the end of the six months. Throughout the project, the team stayed committed and dedicated to the project. The project also involved writing a report detailing everything about the project and the research we made. We went on a three day residential at the University of Southampton where the team learnt a lot. To conclude the project, the team attended a Celebration and Assessment Day just after the Easter holidays where they had to present their project to a panel of judges.

We had a few unforgettable experiences and definitely left with a greater knowledge and understanding of what 'real world' engineering involves. We would like to thank Mark Butler and Gary Barrow, the link engineers from Astrium, also Mrs Sharma and Mrs Arthurs for giving us this valuable opportunity that will definitely help us for the future.

Niko Nicolasora 12PS

Parents' Evenings Mr Quinn

Thank you to all parents who attended the Parents' Evenings across the course of the year. This year it has been particularly difficult to schedule the Parents' Evenings around the use of the hall for examinations and other events.

As a pilot this year we experimented with the use of the JP11 building. Thank you to all the parents that have commented on the move of venue. We value your feedback. The reaction has been mixed. Some parents have said that they like the intimacy of smaller rooms and it is far easier to hear staff talk. Other parents do not like having to walk around, the lack of seating or the cramped corridors.

Year Group	% Attendance
Yr7	90%
Yr8	94%
Yr9	91%
Yr10	94%
Yr11	95%

The figures this year again show consistently high attendance. Thank you to all parents who rang in unable to attend the evenings due to personal circumstances. As a result, the vast majority of parents/carers either attended parents evening or we were aware of non attendance in advance.

Work Experience 2010 Mr Quinn

There were mixed opinions about Work Experience this year but the general response from most was that 'it was amazing'. Year 10's worked in different working areas ranging from pre-schools to Naval Bases but they all gained more knowledge about working life.

We both worked in child care which we found could be very challenging but also enjoyable. It opened our eyes to how hard working life can be but from this we gained a good experience and insight into life at work.

We were given tasks including things such as cleaning the play area and preparing snacks. This was slightly difficult because we had to be knowledgeable about the children's allergies and the health and safety regulations.

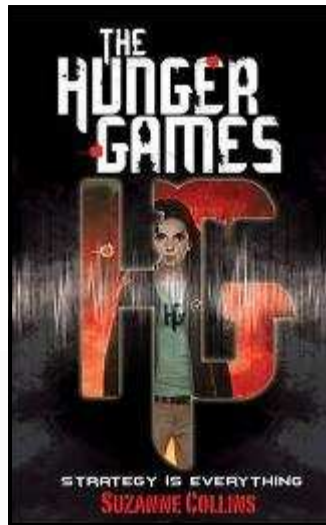
We were also given many other tasks such as helping the children when they needed it, dealing with falls and injuries and running tasks with the children such as Arts and Crafts.

Doing Work Experience helped us realise what we want to do when we are older. We discovered some natural talents and skills which we can now take with us into the future.

Samantha Drane and Kimberley Rogers – Year 10

Once a week, a group of Year 8 students met to discuss a group of books nominated for the Hampshire Book Award and were part of the judging panel. We had 6 books to read and could read at our own pace – which was speedy - while expressing our opinions. They were; Dot. Robot by Jason Bradbury, Bang, Bang You're Dead! By Narinder Dhama, The Medusa Project: The Set-Up by Sophie McKenzie, The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman, Devil's Kiss by Sarwat Chadda and The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins. These were all from a variety of authors and covered all sorts of subject matter from robots to depression. Death and violence seemed to feature in every story this year;

some of them were not for the faint-hearted!



We all had our favourites and the ones that we really hated, so we visited Warblington School to discuss it with other schools in Hampshire. We were mixed up into groups, where we expressed our opinions and the books we wanted to win. It was a unique experience, conversing with students from other schools. The jury is still out, but we think that Hunger Games won in a landslide victory. We would like to thank Mrs Harris, Mrs Curtis and the Hampshire Library Service for a wonderful reading experience.

Esme Scott, 8MG

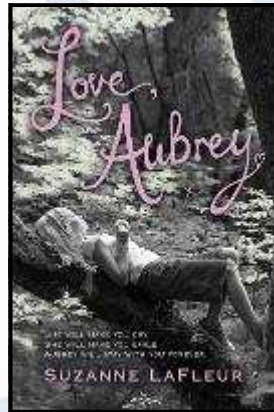
Learning Resources Centre Mrs Curtis

It is pleasing to note that Oaklands' students continue to be keen readers and the number of library loans issued over the past

year has exceeded 11,000. The most popular author was Robert Muchamore with 8 of his books in the top 20 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 the Oaklands Learning Resource Centre web pages.

11+ Students

"Chains" by Laurie Halse Anderson
 "The Hunger Games" by Suzanne Collins (2010 Hampshire Book Award winner)
 "The Graveyard Book" by Neil Gaiman (2010 Carnegie Medal winner)
 "Love, Aubrey" by Suzanne La Fleur
 "Frozen in Time" by Ali Sparkes (2010 Blue Peter Book Awards winner)

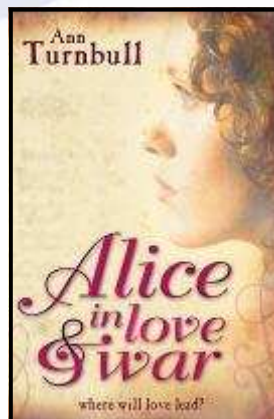


Historic Fiction Competition

Well done to all KS3 History students who submitted entries to the school-based Historical Fiction Competition. We were overwhelmed once again by our students' imagination and creative writing skills combined with their Historical knowledge. The winners were: Y7 1st Ella Mallinder 7CA, 2nd Beatrice Chan 7MG and 3rd Phoebe Meades 7MT, Y8 1st Roxanne O'Doherty 8CA, 2nd John Tsibouklis 8ST and 3rd Megan Dove 8DO. Y9 1st Michael Lewis 9VP, 2nd Bjork Aston 9CA and 3rd Patrick Lavery 9CA. We wish our winners well in the National Competition.

14+ Students

"Auslander" by Paul Dowswell
 "The Vanishing of Katharina Linden" by Helen Grant
 "Gone" by Michael Grant
 "Nation" by Terry Pratchett
 "Alice in Love and War" by Ann Turnbull



The governors have recently released funds for a number of repairs and refurbishment projects, this includes the development of a dedicated media room in the Sixth Form block, improvements to the Sixth Form library and study area, development of a Student Services area in the

Sixth Form, refurbishment of the school library, improvement to meeting facilities, alterations to Art. In addition, the school has started a rolling programme of refurbishments to rooms in A and B block. This work would not have been possible without your contributions to the Governors funds. The Governors have to find 10% of any building project. Thank you to all the parents that have contributed to this.

Farewell to staff Mr Quinn

You may remember in the last edition of **Oaklands News** we said goodbye to a number of colleagues, sadly it is time to say goodbye to a few more.

Mr Sean Kennedy and **Mrs Eileen Weaver** joined our Learning Support department in a temporary capacity at the beginning of this academic year; during their time with us they have supported students in various areas of the curriculum. Both of them now move on to pastures new.

Mrs Ruth Parke joined Oaklands in 2007 as a Psychology teacher in our Sixth Form College. During her time at Oaklands she has been a Sixth Form Tutor, developed the AS level Critical Thinking course and organised university visits for our students. Ruth will be joining Havant College as a Head of Department in September.

Miss Rachel Seward has made a great contribution to our English department, she has taught across all key stages. In addition, she has been a valuable Form Tutor since she joined Oaklands in 2005. She leaves us at the end of this term and intends to retrain as a primary teacher, we wish her every success in this endeavour.

Mrs Aparna Sharma has been Head of Science here at Oaklands for the past five years. Over that time she has accomplished a great deal and has successfully led the Science department forward; introducing a wide variety of courses at KS4 including OCR Nationals and triple Science. Aparna has led a number of exciting cross curricular developments including the 'My Space' day. At whole school level she was instrumental in our achieving our second specialism of Science. She leaves a strong and flourishing

department to take up a Senior Leadership position at Bishop Luffa School, Chichester. We wish her every success.

Ms Jane Adams came to Oaklands from Norfolk in 2002 and during her time at Oaklands has taught Geography and Sociology. She has made an enormous contribution to both departments in that time and we are delighted that she has been promoted to become Head of Geography at Lavant House School near Chichester.

Finally, **Mrs Judith Hoar** retires from Oaklands after thirty seven years of outstanding and dedicated service to the school. Having completed her final teaching practice as a student teacher at Oaklands, Miss Slattery applied for and was successfully appointed as a newly qualified teacher to the P.E. department in 1973. Since that time she has progressed through the ranks becoming Head of Girl's P.E., Head of Year 7, Senior Teacher and Head of Lower School, Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form. Judith's contribution and dedication to the life of Oaklands and the thousands of students and staff who have passed through the school during her time with us is immeasurable.

She has given freely of her time to enhance the life chances of so many students, leading camping trips, skiing trips and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. Her knowledge and outstanding memory of family connections, former students and members of staff is astounding.



Continued on Page 20

At a special mass on 2nd July in thanksgiving for her service to the school, along with her extensive work in the parish of Sacred Heart, Waterlooville, Judith was recognised with the Papal Award of **Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice** “**For Church and Pope**” – **The Cross of Honour**. This is the highest award that can be given by the Pope to a member of the Laity and is a rare award for exceptional service.

Judith, we thank you wholeheartedly for the outstanding contribution you have made to the Oaklands community and wish you every happiness for the future.

We thank all these colleagues for all that they have done for Oaklands, we will continue to remember them in our prayers and wish them success and fulfilment in all that they do in the future.

Piercings Mr Quinn

At the beginning of each term a number of students always arrive back in school with piercings and hair styles that contravene the Governors’ policy. The Governors firmly believe that student appearance helps create a sense of identity. Smartly dressed young people give a good impression of themselves and the school.

The Governors policy is as follows:

- *Piercings are allowed but must be no more than a single piercing in each ear lobe. To cover a piercing with a plaster is not acceptable.*
- *Earrings must be plain studs.*
- *Other facial piercings are not permitted, this includes the upper ear.*
- *Body piercings are not allowed.*
- *Students should not attend school with unnatural or exaggerated hair colours or styles.*
- *Students should be cleanly shaven.*

The school will continue to reinforce a consistent message to students and take appropriate disciplinary action where necessary. Your cooperation in this is very much appreciated and it assists the school in supporting parents and managing students who contravene the Governors’ Uniform Policy.

Start of Next Term and Dates

Monday 6th September New Year 7 need to bring into school, tracksuits and trainers or PE kit to change into for some of the induction events. (Please remind brothers and sisters). This information is in a letter that was sent home. In addition the signed INTERNET and Network Useage policy needs to be brought back to school.

Tuesday 7th September New Years 8, 9 and 11 need to bring into school, tracksuits and trainers or PE kit to change into for some of the induction events. (Note **not** New Year 10).

Term Dates for 2010/2011

Monday 6th September — Phased start for **Years 7,10,12 & 13**

Tuesday 7th September — All Years in school.

End of Term: Thursday 16th December 2010.

Half Term: 25th—29th October 2010. **Inset Day:** Friday 24th September 2010.

Easter Term 2011

Tuesday 4th Jan.— Fri 8th April 2011. **Half Term:** 21st—25th February 2011.

Summer Term 2011

Tuesday 26th April—Thursday 21st July 2011. **Half Term:** 30th May—3rd June

Advanced Notice

**KS4 Induction Evening,
a must**

for all KS4 parents on

Tuesday 7th

September at 7:00pm

KS5 Induction Evening

Wednesday 15th

September at 7:00pm

Inset Days will be taken outside of published dates.

Dates correct at time of publication.

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