

Details for Christmas Craft Fayre

No 382 Nov 2011

Oaklands News

Progress on Science refurbishment

Count Read Succeed - Literacy & Numeracy

School Support for
CAFOD continues

Just one world

Latest from
Comenius Project

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

Up until recently I would have classed myself as an uneducated stargazer; one white speck in the night sky looked very similar to another. All this was to change when I was given a telescope; this is not something I would have gone out and bought, however, it was a very kind gift. My interest gathered momentum when I downloaded an App called Pocket Universe. It aligns the phone's location with the sky that you see. Point the phone at the sky and it identifies the stars and constellations. Point it at the ground and you can see an impression of the sky on the other side of the world. To complement my new interest, I was then given a book authored by the very earnest Sir Patrick Moore. The book very quickly revealed my limited celestial knowledge; I thought a parsec was a fictional quantity found only in the Star Wars narrative, but I was wrong - it is a unit of length used in astronomy. I have also discovered the perceived wisdom that space is circular; if you drive out in one direction to the furthest distance and keep going for long enough you will return to where you started. This makes no sense whatsoever as it implies that space has a boundary. If this is so, what is on the other side? There is a lesson here when it comes to the question and gift of faith. Whilst I would not for a moment dissuade Catholics from grappling with the thorny issues of faith, I would equally advise vigilance in rejecting truths simply because we do not yet understand them or they have no reference point. Jesus said to his followers "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed". There comes a point where we have to admit the limitations of our humanity, in this life at least, and trust in the Lord. This can prove difficult particularly when confronted with the baffling questions of life. That is why it is important in our schools to place Christ at the centre of our curriculum and find opportunities for students to express the mystery of faith through words and actions. In this edition you will read about the work the school has been undertaking with CAFOD, much of this has been curriculum driven in

addition to our fundraising efforts.

Now that the clocks have gone back and the first half term is behind us, students in Years 11, 12 and 13 have started to realise the pressure is now on; there are only 3 half terms until they will be

immersed in their final public examinations. Working in partnership with parents is a key component to student success, I would like to thank all parents who have attended Parents' Evenings, consultations and induction sessions this half term. Parental engagement with these is a visible sign to students that all parties are 'on the same page.'

The school continues to believe in a balanced curriculum, at the heart of which are English, Maths, Science and RE. All parents would subscribe to the view that the core subjects of English and Maths are vitally important for children to access the curriculum. This year we are starting a whole school initiative called Count Read Succeed. In addition to specific work in English and Maths, we are adopting a whole school approach to literacy and numeracy, more information can be found on page 13.

The work on the new Science Labs is progressing well. The design drawings provide an impression of the finished rooms. The first fix electrical work is now complete, the new ceiling grids are in place and the flooring is going down. The laboratory furniture will be arriving shortly. **This project would not have been possible without the financial contribution made to the Governors' Fund by parents. Thank you.**

At the end of last half term all parents who have siblings at Oaklands and St Peter's will have experienced changes to the end of the day routine. As with any change, opinions have been quite varied, I would continue to encourage productive comments from parents as we look for a solution that is in both schools' interests. For some time St Peter's have been concerned about the safety of their students, particularly during the end of the day pickup. All schools have a duty of care for anyone who walks on their site, however; at Oaklands we are not able to provide direct supervision for Key Stage 1 and 2 students who are on our site waiting with siblings at the end of the day. All Oaklands students who go on to St Peter's site at the beginning and end of the day must have a pass. Oaklands students must not take their friends with them onto the St Peter's site. Thank you for your continued cooperation with this.

We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor on the school Local Governing Body. The appointed person will also become a Director of the School Academy Trust Company. A letter will be issued to all parents this half term.

Finally, your prayerful support is always a great boon to the school community, thank you for this and the practical support you provide for your children and the school.

Matthew Quinn



Over the last twelve months Oaklands has linked up with schools in Germany, the Netherlands and Italy as part of an EU scheme to create partnerships across Europe and improve education standards.

Students and teachers from Oaklands will visit their partner schools and work on a joint project entitled "Global Warning". This October our students went to Germany. The project is organised through the Comenius programme, which is funded by the European Commission and managed in the UK by the British Council.

Germany
11th -15th October 2011

Day 1, Tuesday

"I arrived outside the White House at 7:13 am and already nearly everybody was there.



Feeling late I said goodbye to my Mum who refused to leave the car because she said if she did she would cry. We all just about got onto the mini bus and headed to Southampton airport. On the mini bus journey Siobhan, Jade and I discussed the fun time in we had before us in Germany. On arrival we hurried through the maze of corridors and went through security without a hitch. We boarded the plane, swapping allocated seats. I sat with Mrs Shepherd. We discussed newspa-

per articles and spoke about her amazing foreign experiences. The flight was over in a flash and we arrived at a rather windy Hannover airport. I looked out the window of the bus as we stopped outside the school. I knew exactly who my partner was for she has red hair. I was extremely nervous, so nervous I was shaking. I collected my case and went to meet Hannah. Hannah seemed so excited! I was obviously out of my comfort zone (a good old English tradition). I greeted Hannah with a hand shake. When I think back I must have seemed very strange at first. At the school we were greeted by a 'Welcome to Germany' banner and lots of cake nobody touched! After a tour of the school I was taken to see Hannah's sister do a ballet class over the road from the school. I was surprised by: number one - how much English Hannah and her Mother could speak, number two - how

welcoming Hannah and her family were and three - how little German I knew. I obviously consider myself practically fluent in a language when I can say 'please', 'thank you', 'yes' and 'no'. The language barrier really hit home watching the German version of 'The X-Factor'."

Hollie

Day 2, Wednesday

"Dear journal, today I got up at 6 am. I was very tired and school in Germany starts at 7:30 am."

Siobhan

"Wednesday was the trip to the 'Klimahaus' (which is possibly the best word to say ever). 'Klimahaus' means 'climate house' and it is an incredible place with an entire room made of ice, a starry night sky room, a dessert room and even a boiling hot jungle."

Jade

"Afterwards, we went shopping - I bought gifts for my family and looked around some German shops. Then we all met up





went back to our host family's house."

Rubi

"Today has been a really good day and I don't want it to end."

Gill

Day 4, Friday

"Today was our last day and in the morning we went to visit a castle in the local area. The owners of the castle were very interested in helping the environment and had an eco-friendly farm and a solar panel field. They were also selling land to build houses on so they can be energy efficient by using the solar

and got onto the coach back to our host family houses. On the way there, the view was really different from England - there were lots of wind turbines."

Chloe

"... I can't wait because it's a really good chance to get to know the Italians and the Dutch as well."

Helen

Day 3, Thursday

"Today I got up at 7 am; it wasn't as early as yesterday. We took the bus - it was great. We were early so we wandered around school. Then, we went to Forum, afterwards the German teachers assigned us work in groups of 4. I was with Nata-

sha, Marvin and Tish. We did research about the consequences of the climate change

in the Netherlands. At lunchtime, Katharina took me to her grandmother's house. It was very nice; the food was delicious and they taught me a bit of their family

history. They showed me photographs - one of them was over 100 years old! At 4 pm we were back at school and we had to organise our project work and present to the parents and other students. We had refreshments and food. The presentation was in English and most people put effort into it. I enjoyed this project day. At the end we just chatted and finally, we



power."

Jade

"After the farm, we had free time, so Leonie, Sarah, Auran, Mazen, Marrie, Helen and I got the train to Bielefeld. There were so many shops - it was like Portsmouth, Southampton, Waterlooville, Havant, Leigh Park and Gosport put together."

Tish

"Overall, going to Lemgo has been a great experience; I have made new friends and even learned a little German."



Future Champion

For the last three years Daniel Gilbert has been training hard reaching for his dream.

“One day I want to be an Olympic swimming champion, this is my ambition. My training regime involves me taking part in 7 sessions a week, 14 hours in total. I do this at Waterlooville Swimming Pool. Most mornings I have to get up at 4:45 am, so that I can be at the pool by 5:30am. I work with my coach, sometimes we have to swim in T shirts, this creates more drag and therefore increase the physical nature of the training. During the week I train mornings and evenings; at the weekend I train afternoons. A healthy diet is important for me; I regulate this by eating the correct carbohydrates and proteins. During an average day I consume about 3000 calories. To keep up with my training and school work I have to go to bed early, most evenings I am in bed by 8:00pm. I have to manage my school work and social life around my training. So far I have been successful at county level winning a number of gold medals, I am now starting to compete at regional level.”



Despite Daniel’s punishing schedule he has managed 100% attendance so far this year. Well done and good luck.

Ski Trip 2012

During February half term 121 students and 16 staff will be taking the trip to Austria next year. As in previous years, we will be staying at the Hotel Ebner near Villach and skiing at the nearby Gerlitzen mountain.

50 Year 9 and 12 students will be learning to ski at Calshot Activities Centre in December to give them experience of skiing before they go to Austria. The students find this experience extremely useful as it helps them build confidence before they reach the Austrian slopes. In fact, the students are pleasantly surprised to find how much easier it is to ski on snow when they arrive.

A reminder to parents with children on the trip – the **Ski Trip Information Evening** will take place on **Wednesday 2nd November in the Hall at 6:30pm** and the final payment of £160 is due on the 21st November.

Tennis Success

Our congratulations to Ellen Unitt who was crowned Champion at the Hampshire Under 14 Girls’ Road to Wimbledon event in Southsea at the end of the summer term. Ellen who belongs to the Denmead Tennis Club, went on to play in the week long finals on the grass courts of Wimbledon. Well done Ellen!



French Exchange 2011 Students

On Wednesday 12th October, 19 students from Years 9 and 10, accompanied by Miss Caspall and Ms Osborne, started their weeklong trip to Lyon. Arriving at the school in Lyon, nerves were high, but we were also excited. We left with our French families for the first night. Meeting up the following day, we had an enjoyable time, making crepes and chatting with our partners. On the weekend, lots of us met up with each other and did activities such as laser gaming, bowling and meals out. Monday, we spent the day in Lyon and had a fantastic time sight-seeing and doing shopping. Tuesday was sunny and we went to a birds of prey park and some students had the enjoyable experience of having a bird of prey on their head! Unfortunately, Wednesday came too quickly and we had to say goodbye to our French correspondents that we had stayed with. We promised to keep in touch and we look forward to seeing them in March when they come to Oaklands. The trip is great and I would recommend it to anyone who is thinking about going.



By Zoe Manley

Year 11 Prom Fayre Mrs Cozens

This year's Year 11 Prom Fayre will take place in the Hall on Tuesday 29th November at 6pm. The evening will start in the hall foyer with a range of stalls offering make-up, nail technicians and jewellery all at substantial discounts. In addition, on the forecourt, there will be a number of limousines offering their services for Prom Night. This will be followed at 6.45pm by a catwalk show featuring evening wear for both ladies and gentlemen. To round the evening off there will also be a raffle. Refreshments will be available throughout the evening. All Year 11 students and their parents are warmly invited to attend.

Parents who offer any of the above services are welcome to attend and are asked to contact either Mrs Cozens or Mrs Brettell via Reception at the school for further details.

Russian Revolution at Oaklands Mr Wyatt

On Wednesday, 12th of October, fifteen Oaklands students took their first ever Russian lesson. The Modern Foreign Languages Department, in conjunction with the organisation Language Leaders, is offering the exotic eastern-European language as part of an enrichment program aimed at Year 9 upwards. The opening presentation and lesson were well received, and when asked for their thoughts on the this new undertaking, students responded very positively:

"I chose to do Russian because of the history and culture."

"I have always been interested in languages and I am really glad to have taken this opportunity."

"I really enjoyed the first lesson, Russian sounds like a cool language."

I was very pleased to see that all places on the course were taken so quickly, and even more pleased to see how committed, enthusiastic and talented the students involved are. I look forward to enjoying great successes with the group this year.

CAFOD

Just one world

October 17th—21st was a week that we designated "CAFOD Week" because a different Year Group was allocated an individual day of the week to do some fundraising. Following our visit to Kenya in June, we have committed ourselves to raising £17,000 for our project at St John's Sports Society. The project is to rebuild their gym. While at St John's in June we asked Fr John and the young people that we met, "What can we do to help you?". Their response was simple, "Help us rebuild our gym". They explained that such a facility would give more children in the slum a chance to be part of their society and enjoy the advantages that this 'oasis' offers. The gym will give each individual athlete the resources to improve their sport. Although we all know that 'practice makes perfect', this can't be accomplished without the necessary resources.

The fundraising activities ranged from the standard non-school uniform contribution, cake sales and nail painting. Year 7 collected silver coins; they hoped to line these up between the Hall and Mr Quinn's office (see front cover). The Sixth Form contributed with the outlandish Pyjama Day. The highlight of the Pyjama Day was one of the Sixth Form tutors, Mr P Smith; he donned an adult-sized baby grow accessorised with a dummy and bonnet. Paul Phillips, a Year 13 student, spent all week sporting a blown up horse costume!

The last day of the week, Friday 21st, was CAFOD Day. Every lesson for students in Years 7-9 was based around a CAFOD theme. Students explored the issues of justice and equality and the work that CAFOD does around the world. Some departments were even able to link in a CAFOD theme to some of their lessons in Years 10 - 13. The day began with all students in Years 9 - 13 reflecting on a film showing the work of CAFOD during morning registration, while Holly and myself led Years 7 and 8 Assembly. We talked about the inspirational individuals we had met at St John's. We also had Lynda Mussell, Manager of CAFOD Portsmouth, giving talks to all Year 10s and half of Year 11. She helped the students reflect on the importance of campaigning and lobbying by looking at some high profile case studies that CAFOD has been involved with. Her message was that while fundraising makes a difference, campaigning can have a greater impact. This week has been well supported by everyone at Oaklands. Although we are still far from our target of £17,000, the enthusiasm the whole Oaklands community has shown towards this project is a clear indication that we will reach it. A massive thank you and well done to all participants in CAFOD week and for everyone who has raised some money for this very worthwhile cause. We share and believe in the motto of St John's, 'Pamoja Tunaweza' 'Together We Can.' Lara Woodgate—Year 12



CAFOD Fundraising

7 St. Martin ran a stall on 13th October for the school's charity, CAFOD Kenya. It was great fun! Our Form Tutor came up with the idea of 'Guess the Weight of the Pumpkin'. We were all quite amazed by the amount of money we raised. It was only 5p per go, but altogether we raised £31.90. We thought we would only raise about £10. It was a great experience and 7 St. Martin would gladly do it again. The prize was a large chocolate cake decorated with a pumpkin theme. It was made by Pheobe Hill's mum (Pheobe is in our Form). The winner of the competition was James Graham of 7 St. Margaret – his guess was exactly right, at 8.3kg!



By Tayah Fradley-Robinson, 7 St. Martin member and St Martin House Captain

CAFOD Fast Day

CAFOD Fast Day is an important day in the school year. The whole of Year 7 was asked to give some money to support the work for very poor



people all around the world. You did not need to fast for a whole day, you just needed to eat less or more simple food so you realised how they all feel.

Every five seconds a child dies of hunger but with our help we can stop this. In 2005, 96 million children died before they reached their fifth birthday but we can help.

In preparation for the day the Chaplaincy Team made many posters to decorate the school. Overall on the Fast Day itself we raised £80.60.

Olivia Powell, Mileine Ward
7St.Stephen and Rachael Butler
7 St. Margaret.

Genocide Project

We would like to say thank you to everybody who has sent in buttons for this very important project. Although we are still very far from our target of 1 million buttons, we believe that we are on our way there. We have received many buttons since we came back from the holidays and we are still counting them. We think that if we count them all, we might have about 180,000 buttons! Please continue sending in the buttons so that we can reach our target within this academic year.

We have received many buttons that have come with a story – a lady from Southsea sent us buttons with a letter saying that she remembered watching the liberations of camps in Germany after the Second World War with horror. Another person sent us two buttons, one for herself and the other for her husband. He was in the Royal Air Force in the Second World War. We have also received letters commending our effort in fighting prejudice and discrimination around the world. We are really touched by the response our project has received.

As we continue with our button collection, we would like to turn our attention to raising funds to be able to build this Memorial. We are looking for companies or individuals who would like to sponsor the building of this worthy monument.

If you can support us in any way, please contact Mr Sumba through the school contact details.



Off By Heart Poetry Competition Students

'Off By Heart' is a poetry recital competition which takes place at this very school, Oaklands. It is run by and hosted by Miss Sharma. We follow Thomas's Journey in preparation and at the competition.

Thomas writes.....

Every year, students in Year 7 and 8 work tirelessly over a number of English lessons, challenging themselves to recite a poem of their choice. Many students, myself included, found this is a time to discover new abilities and talents.

My particular poem was called "To Utopia," by Adi Cox. Some thought went into choosing this poem, simply because there were certain criteria I believed I had to match to have any chance of getting through to the final. For me, the poem had to have a balance between being long and therefore challenging, and impressive and give me enough thinking time to be

It was a really good experience not only to listen to others performing but to be given the chance to perform and be appreciated for it.

Jack Silvester 8TE

able to add expression. In the end, I chose it because it contained sixteen reasonably long lines, which I thought was enough to impress the judges and, probably more importantly, it gave me room to act. For example, one line is "We arrive in the country of no time at all," which set thoughts alight about throwing my watch away, thereby using props and giving another dimension to my piece.

The day of the final

Possibly through acting rather than perfect enunciation, I managed to achieve entry to the final, along with the other chosen entries from our class. I write this just minutes before the event, so I do not know anything about the final result. I am starting to feel the nerves...!

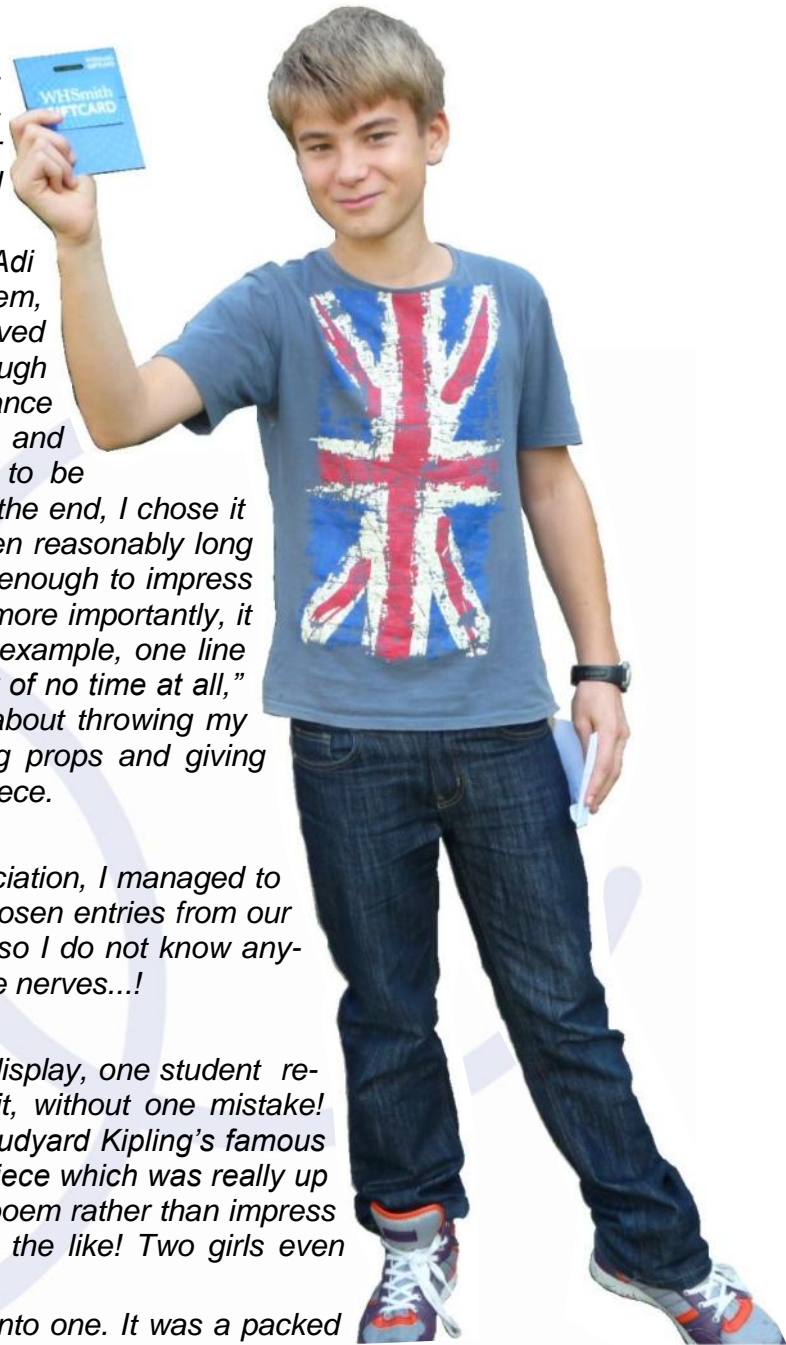
The day after the final

The final was competitive with a lot of talent on display, one student recited *The Highwayman*; yes, all four pages of it, without one mistake! Surely a favourite? Also, another remembered Rudyard Kipling's famous poem, 'If', which was a fantastically enunciated piece which was really up there again. Some students decided to act their poem rather than impress with huge length, excessive hand gestures and the like! Two girls even sung their poem!

There was variety, talent and humour all mixed into one. It was a packed hour, showcasing all students' different strengths. There was so much to choose from; the poor Sixth Form judges (some of Miss Sharma's English A' Level students) had their work cut out! No one could possibly guess who would win the W H Smith vouchers.

The day the winners were announced

The winners have been announced! Of course, there was a worthy winner; Ryan Standen, with the Cucumber Poem, detailing his unfortunate week with a cucumber, this was fantastic and deservedly claimed the £10 prize. I came runner up, for expression and great interpretation, and third place was Jack Silvester, for an excellent and well spoken rendition of 'If'. Many thanks to Miss Sharma, the organiser, and the Sixth



As a Year 7 in the 'Off by Heart' final it felt great to be there. Every poem was great! You felt as if you were at the Oscars, because we all sat on round tables. It was a great experience to hear other peoples poems. There was tension in the library when a new performance came up. We were all excited to hear what others would say. Everyone was nice and all had a high level of sportsmanship. Igor Klimkowski 7ST.

Form judges, for giving up their lunch break to watch and listen; I hope everyone was entertained!
Thomas Ellis, 8 St. Catherine

The poem I performed was called 'Wot a Pair'. I chose this poem because it was not too hard but not too easy. I thought this was the right poem for me. During one of our English lessons, Miss Sharma allowed us to hear this poem and got us to recite it together as a class. I also enjoyed performing my poem because it was great fun but most importantly I was able to act.
Joel Matthew



On September 11th a group of students travelled up to the Globe Theatre in London to see Dr. Faustus, a play we will be studying as part of our A-level course. The protagonist Faustus abandons religion and instead sells his soul to the devil in exchange for extraordinary power for 24 years. The tragically tormented Mephistopheles was played by Arthur Darvill, most famous for his role as Rory in Doctor Who. The interactions between Faustus and Mephistopheles was the most memorable part of the play, as they provided an insight into two of the most fascinating characters we have studied so far. Another highlight was the scene portraying the 'Seven Deadly Sins' - not only was it a creative performance, but the costumes were fantastically designed and accurately represented the sins in an imaginative way. Best of all, the performance took place in the Globe Theatre, which is true to the style of theatre that Marlowe would have used to perform his tragedy of damnation – complete with trapdoors and groundlings! Thank you to Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Hopkins and Mr. Adam for arranging this theatrical treat.

Emily James and Lucy-Ann Catterall

The winners: Year 7

- 1- Ella Rose Gover - Jabberwocky
- 2-Grace Lown – Life Doesn't Frighten Me at All
- 3- Ewan Eldar – Cecil

The winners: Year 8

- 1- Ryan Standen- A Week of Difficulties Involving Cucumbers
- 2- Thomas Ellis- To Utopia
- 3 Jack Silvester- If

More information about prize winners can be found on the school website.

English Theatre Trips Students

On Tuesday 27th September our English class went on a trip to London to see the play: *The Woman in Black* at the Fortune Theatre.

On our arrival in London, we visited the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square; had lunch by Nelson's column and then took a short walk to Covent Garden to enjoy some exciting street theatre!

At 3 o' clock, we sat down to watch an excellent and, some say, very scary play! It was very well produced and it really helped us to understand the novel: ***The Woman in Black*** by Susan Hill as this is an important text for our GCSE.

Our thanks go to Mrs Harris, Mrs Cornwell and Mr Adam for a terrific trip!

Charlie Searle & Matthew Atherton – 11 Teresa



Fairtrade PE Polo Shirt



Oaklands Fairtrade Team have entered a partnership with Koolskools, the suppliers of PE Polo Shirts that are made from **Fairtrade Cotton**. As a Fairtrade School, we would like to promote this ethically produced PE Polo Shirt that has our school's logo on it. We now have some of these shirts in our shop here at school. Below is a table showing prices for the different sizes. The shop will be open during **lunchtime** at 2pm on Tuesdays and Fridays. You can also place an order through the School Finance Office and the Fairtrade Team will deliver the Polo Shirt to your daughter or son.

We hope that you will support Fairtrade by buying this Polo Shirt.

Size	Price
Ages 9 - 10 [30-32"]	£8.35
Ages 11 - 12 [32 - 34"]	£8.35
XSmall [34 - 36"]	£8.35
Small [36 - 38"]	£8.35
Medium [38 - 40"]	£9.99 [VAT inclusive]
Large [40 - 42"]	£9.99 [VAT inclusive]
XLarge [42 - 44"]	£9.99 [VAT inclusive]

In case you have any questions, please contact Mr Sumba at the school.

Safety News



Please find the latest firework safety guidance from the Health and Safety Executive and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service at the following addresses

www.hantsfire.gov.uk/fireworksafety or www.hse.gov.uk/explosives/fireworks/index.htm

HPV Vaccinations

HPV Vaccination Programme

Parents requiring further information about the HPV vaccination programme can go to the following websites: <http://intranet.hants.gov.uk/childrens-services/cs-healthandsafety.htm> where there is a section on HPV 'frequently asked questions' or www.immunisation.nhs.uk/hpv

Keeping Safe

A reminder to parents and carers to revisit with their children the importance of keeping themselves safe.

This could be while using the Internet and social networking sites, 'stranger danger' and taking extra care when crossing roads on dark mornings and evenings.

Shoe Box Appeal

What has happened to the Annual Shoe Box Appeal?

For a number of years we have supported Operation Christmas Child by collecting shoe boxes. In recent years many of our primary feeder schools have also started to support this worthwhile cause. So this year we have decided to focus our Pre-Christmas charity work with CAFOD so we will not be collecting shoe boxes this year.

If you have a shoe box of goodies please go to www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk for further information.

Count Read Succeed Mrs McConn-Finch

When our young people leave Oaklands we want them to be able to demonstrate their knowledge and skills through the achievement of relevant and robust qualifications. Those qualifications will be achieved by our students following a curriculum which is underpinned by their skills in Literacy and Numeracy. Literacy focuses on promoting and developing each student's ability to understand and use language as an integral part of the learning process across all areas of the curriculum – to interact with the world around them, to express themselves creatively and to communicate confidently using a variety of media. Developing Numeracy skills enables students to apply mathematics across the curriculum and in real life situations. Skills in Numeracy should help our young people to make informed and responsible choices and decisions throughout their lives. Developing Literacy and Numeracy therefore must be central elements of Oaklands' delivery of

the curriculum, and of the support and professional development for teachers in implementing the curriculum. Assessment also provides us with information that has a key role in helping us to improve outcomes. Knowing how students are performing allows us to undertake informed self-evaluation and set meaningful and challenging targets. Central to all of these strategies is the importance of good relationships and partnerships working between teachers, students and parents. Parents are the primary educators of their children. Parents have a significant influence on their child's achievement by encouraging them to do well, taking an interest in their work and co-operating with their school.

So what does the 'Count! Read! Succeed!' initiative look like at Oaklands?

A diverse team of staff from English, Maths and other departments have volunteered to lead this school priority.

There will be a number of key actions:

Literacy and Numeracy Focus Weeks – staff from all departments will introduce lessons with a particular Literacy or Numeracy starter

Staff will be offered specific Literacy or Numeracy training so that they feel confident to deliver the skills

The Cross-Phase Team will work with the Literacy and Numeracy Co-ordinators from our feeder primary schools to exchange best practice

Students in Years 7 and 8 who were admitted with a level 3 or below in English or Maths will be tracked and progress monitored

Interventions both in the classroom and in the Bartimaeus Centre will be activated

Students who received 1-to-1 tuition last year will also be monitored to see if the intervention was successful

Staff will undertake research on successful strategies on a nationwide level

Back By Popular Demand Mrs Dougherty

Due to the huge success three years ago of the Parent Gateway Drugs Information Evening, Karen Richardson will be back in school on Wednesday 16th November. Karen Richardson is a qualified counsellor whose has a particular interest in young people and their addictions after her own daughter spent many years battling and overcoming her drug addiction.

Karen gives parents an insightful look into the pressures of teenage life and the decisions and temptations our young people face. She uses her personal struggle as a parent of a drug user along with her professional experience to guide parents on how to recognise the paraphernalia of drug use and the effects and outward signs of drug and alcohol use. She also guides parents on how to intervene and support their child if they suspect substance abuse .

Her daughter, Georgie Calder, will be presenting to Year 10 students on the same day about her own personal battle and victory over her drug addiction.

The parents talk will be at 7pm in the Hall on Wednesday 16th November.

Please contact reception and leave your name if you wish to attend this informative and valuable evening.

Rosary Liturgy Students

On 18th of October we had a Rosary Liturgy in the Chapel. 7 St Martin led it and 7 St Catherine were our guests. We first had a few readings and then Fr Kevin came to talk to us about Mary and what rosaries are. We watched a video clip which showed us when Mary was told that she was going to give birth to the Son of God. Each member of 7 St Martin had made a rosary on the Induction Day at the start of the year. They are all different colours and we use them each Tuesday morning for our form time Rosary prayer. It was so much fun making them but it was a bit tricky with all of the string. Fr Kevin blessed



them with holy water and said some prayers. We then said the Hail Mary only five times but the thought still counts. We then finished the liturgy and Mrs Field said how wonderful it was. Mrs Floyd surprised us and came out with two cakes that had been made by Dr Smith. Each cake was decorated with two rosaries made out of icing. Catholic faith is not just about prayer and fasting, but cake too!!!

By Hannah Murphy, 7 St. Martin

Key Dates

Term Dates 2011/2012

Autumn Term

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 25th November 2011 and Friday 20th July 2012.

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

Events

02/11/11	Ski Trip Parents' Evening
07/11/11	Year 7 Academic Mentoring Week
10/11/11	Year 8 Parents' Evening
17/11/11	Sixth Form Open Evening
19/11/11	OPA Craft Fayre
23/11/11	New York Trip Information Evening
24/11/11	Year 9 Parents' Evening
25/11/11	School Closed
30/11/11	Peripatetic Music Concert
01/12/11	Year 12 Progress Afternoon
09/12/11	Oaklands Christmas Ball
13/12/11	Carol Concert
16/12/11	Last day of Term for Students
03/01/12	Inset Day—School Closed
04/01/12	First day of term
05/01/12	Presentation of Certificates Eve.
02/02/12	Year 11 Parents' Evening
13.02.12-	
17.02.12	Half Term
23/02/12	Year 9 Courses Information Eve.
27/02/12	School Production 'Grease'
28/02/12	School Production 'Grease'
29/02/12	School Production 'Grease'
30/03/12	Last day of Term

Oaklands Parents' Association

We aim to foster relationships between staff and parents, and others associated with the school, and fully support the school in all that they do. We are always present at Parent Consultation evenings serving refreshments with a smile. Please do come and see us when you are there with your child. We have been extremely busy over the past year with fundraising activities. We have raised over £8000 in the last school year, using this money to contribute heavily towards the refurbishment of the hall foyer and hall seating.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE – Saturday 19th November 2011, 12:00 to 3:00pm

This is our biggest fundraiser and will soon be upon us. The Craft Fayre is a popular event and has gained a reputation within the community as an excellent place for buying that special item and is an ideal place to get that unique Christmas present. We will have a games area so that the children can enjoy the day too, as well as a winter barbecue and a range of refreshments on sale. If you are interested in booking a table for this event, please contact Amanda Peach on **02392 256083**. Please come along and support us; bring all your friends and family to for a great day out.

Can you donate items for the Craft Fayre? We need donations of bottles, alcoholic or non-alcoholic (alcoholic donations should be brought to Reception by parents only). We also need donations of chocolates and toiletries and any other items that you think would make suitable raffle prizes. All donations, big or small will be gratefully re-

ceived.

Raffle tickets have been sent home for the Grand Draw for you to purchase or sell to family and friends. Please purchase these if you can. Any unsold tickets should be returned to the school intact.

KOJAK'S REVENGE – Saturday 24th March 2012

Last year, the school hall was host to a spectacular music event and was full to bursting as we danced to popular local covers band 'Kojak's Revenge'. They delighted with their usual renditions of rock, pop and modern music from the 1960s to today. We are pleased to announce that due to popular demand, they will return to our school next spring. Tickets will be on sale soon, so watch this space. Other ways you can help are:

The 'A-Team' – As well as our elected committee members, we rely on a good network of parent helpers who help us at various functions throughout the year. If you wish be involved in events without the commitment of having to attend regular meetings, then please leave your details at the school Reception. Our 'A-Team' coor-

inator, Deborah Creasy, will get back to you as soon as possible.

50/50 Club – Why not join our 50/50 Club? This is a fun way you can help the school and win some money along the way. The idea is simple; you pay £1 a month for a number, which is yours for however long you want it. Every month a number is drawn and depending on how many entrants there are for that month, you will receive 50% of funds received for that month. The other 50% will go to the school. Currently, the cash payout each month is around £100. The more people that take part, the more prizes! Amanda Peach is the coordinator of this and can be contacted through the main school office 02392 259214 or in person.

Remember, every pound we raise helps! Any support you as parents can give will make a real difference!

Would you like to know more about Oaklands Parents' Association? Would you like to join the Committee? Could you help in any way to raise important funds for the school? Contact the school reception to leave your details or e-mail the Oaklands Parents' Association at opa@oaklands.hants.sch.uk.

Oaklands Christmas Ball

Friday December 9th between 8 pm and midnight.

The theme has been chosen for the 2011 Oaklands Christmas Ball: we will be holding a Venetian Ball - masks optional!

Tickets, priced £22, will be on sale after half term and will include a gourmet two course meal, live band and DJ. All Staff, Parents and Sixth Formers are warmly invited to attend

Oaklands Parents Association

Christmas Craft Fayre



Saturday 19th November

Lots



12.00 until 3.00

of Fun and Games

Grand Draw



Oaklands School Band and Choir

Christmas Crafts

Nearly New Clothes

Chutneys and Preserves

Winter BBQ

Refreshments

Craft tables available £10 call 02392 256083

Oakland Catholic School Stakes Hill Rd Waterlooville free entrance

✉ Stakes Hill Road Waterlooville P07 7BW

📧 Oaklandscatholic@oaklands.hants.sch.uk

🌐 www.oaklands.hants.sch.uk

☎ 023 9225 9214



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