

Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Registered in England and Wales, Company No 07721932

Headteacher: Matthew Quinn B.Ed (Hons), M.A., NPQH

Our Ref: MQ/SM

9 September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back! I hope that you are well and that you have all had the opportunity to relax and have a break during the Summer.

I would also, once again, like to congratulate our GCSE and A Level cohort this year; more information can be found on the school website and in the Oaklands News. As parents, your day-to-day support of everything we are doing here at Oaklands has played, and continues to play, a crucial role in securing great outcomes for our students.

We have been busy here at school during the holidays with our ongoing programme of maintenance works, which includes updating our ancient heating system.

Open Evening, Monday 30th September - Early Close

Our Open Evening occurs this year on Monday 30 September. **There will be an early close and finish for the students at 2.45pm so that the school site can be prepared.** We do hope, however, that as many students as possible will stay to be tour guides. Students who volunteer to be guides will receive a free evening meal and we are considering other ways to reward students who help during this important event. Unfortunately, we are unable to rearrange the buses, so for students who need to stay on site provision will be made.

Friday 4 October is an INSET day, the school will be closed to students.

Uniform

I have been extremely impressed with the way that the vast majority of students have presented themselves over the first few days, this needs to continue. I am a great believer that uniform should be worn with pride and dignity. Your child will be rewarded for the correct uniform, equally they will be challenged if it is incorrect, particularly if it compromises their own dignity.

The correct wearing of uniform and adherence to the policy of jewellery, hair and piercings starts in the home. Uniform infringements will be recorded through ClassCharts so that parents are aware. Please refer to the [website](#) for more information about uniform

Mobile Phones

You may remember last year there was a significant debate about banning mobile phones from school. I suspect this still has some distance to run. Only this week I read an article on banning smartphones for youngsters under 16.

Our current policy can be found on the [website](#). The policy is framed in this way to avoid situations where young people spend yet more time on electronic devices; this does not encourage face to face social interaction, which, I am sure you will agree, is so important for learning social skills as a child grows up.

If your child is in Key Stages 3 and 4, please can you remind them that mobile phones must be turned off, out of sight and not used during the school day. Please monitor the usage of your child's phone in order to ensure that both they and others are safe.

Calendar of Events

This year the calendar will be published on the [school website](#). The dates are correct at the time of publication, so please be aware that there may be occasions where events have to be moved, so it is worth returning to the calendar occasionally.

Expectations

Good attendance and punctuality are vital in school. It stands to reason that if students are not in school, they cannot be learning. Students who are not in school clearly miss out on vital learning opportunities and this affects outcomes in an adverse way. Therefore, you should not make appointments during the school day or take holidays during this academic year. Furthermore, resilience should be developed and students with minor illness, should be in school.

The vast majority of students behave very well in school, they are a credit to you and the school. To ensure the best possible learning environment and therefore outcomes for our students, we naturally expect outstanding behaviour in lessons, any behaviour that disrupts the learning, be that through disruption in the classroom, or attending lessons late will not be tolerated. Students involved in such behaviour can expect to be removed from their normal classroom. The school has set aside increased provision for after school and Saturday morning detentions. We also have reciprocal arrangements where we can place students in other Havant Federation schools. If your child is placed in our Inclusions area and still cannot behave you will be contacted.

Lastly, central to the school's values is the promotion of positive relationships and reconciliation when things go wrong. Should your child fall out with another student, please tell them to talk to staff. The school has staff who are well trained in restorative justice and this makes a real difference to the quality of relationships. In this way we are showing respect to others and as a Catholic educational community we seek to resolve any underlying tensions in a peaceful manner.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we look forward to another successful year at Oaklands.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn
Headteacher