

PINOAK

ISSUE 64: FEBRUARY 16, 2018
OXLEY COLLEGE

IGNITE YEAR 11

SKOOLBAG

YEAR 7
ORIENTATION
CAMP

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WELCOME DRINKS



DEAR YEAR 7,

I gathered a collection of thoughts from some friends about their experience at High School to pass on to my younger sister who has just started Year 7. High School plays a huge part in our lives and can have a big influence on our character and our interests. All up, I wrote about 5,000 words and covered a wide range of topics to pass on! I know that personally, I found it really therapeutic to think about what I would have changed and what I would have kept the same, and it's an exercise I think everyone should give a go. Here are a variety of selected quotes from the book...

High school is supposed to be a time where you get to work out who you are and where you fit in this big scary world. But honestly, there is no true way of knowing exactly who we are and why we are here. Spend time thinking about this, but don't over analyse it or stress about it - you've got the rest of your life to begin to work all that out. So, experiment with versions of yourself, take every opportunity that you can and don't block anything off.

Find friends who you bring out what you like most about yourself. Find friends who can not only make you laugh but know what to do when you're upset. Find friends who need you and then bring out the best in them. Love them unconditionally and completely, give them second chances, accept that nobody's perfect and forgive quickly.

At the same time, know when to move on. If you find yourself repeatedly forgiving friends or if you feel overlooked know when to move on. Don't hold on for too long. People change. Once strong friendships break down. And that's okay.

"Get involved in things you love that the school has to offer. Put your name down, 'cause it's not every day after high school you get to be part of a house play, a musical, a band or a choir, a debating team, or the Pin Oak. Not all of these things are everyone's cup of tea, but it's always worthwhile giving it a shot. Pretty much, just make the most of what the school has to offer."

Look at the high school experience as a bigger picture. You have your ups and downs, but try to keep it all in perspective and have a clear view from above. Don't wish that it speeds up or that it goes on forever - know that everything will eventually come to an end and make the most of every moment."

"I was so scared coming into Year 7 that the work would be too hard and I wouldn't have time and it would all be too much, but really it all comes down to easy time management! Everything becomes SO much less stressful if you're organised and have planned out when you're going to do assignments, homework and study. I found it helpful to stick to a designated time and space where I do my school work, without my phone and other distractions! Also, don't stress about what your friends have or haven't done in assignments or study because it's so much easier just to ask your teacher if you're worried and have questions. It's extremely hard but just try not to focus on comparing your marks to everyone else's because it's not a competition against anyone but yourself. Honestly, just have fun and try not to stress too much because you're only learning and making mistakes is part of that!!"

"Always try to be the best person you can be - as kind as you can, as accepting as you can, as hardworking as you can and as open-minded as you can. Be forgiving, but most forgiving to yourself. Mistakes are really just lessons in disguise. High school really can be a special time if you're not too hard on yourself and are open to learning new things. It is in this time of your life that you can best learn, and shape, not only who you are but who you want to be."

"I guess it's different for everyone - personally, I have different compartments to my 16 year old life, including social, me, school, school work, my job, family. These are all the main things I have to find time for in my regular school week, so test out the balance, see what works for you, the only thing that helps is time."

"Don't let other people's stress wear off on you, around exams especially there is a lot of hype and craziness - it almost becomes cool to be stressed. There are these unspoken competitions of who is least prepared and who will fail. Everything seems heightened. Stay as calm as possible, and don't let all the hype rub off on you."

HEADMASTER'S REPORT



It is really terrific to have all of our students back with us this year. Most of them seemed to spend the summer in the water, whether it was up the coast, down the coast, at Jervis Bay or in Bowral pool. I have heard a few stories too of skiing in Japan, visiting family in the US and travelling through Italy. Indeed, there is one student who was in Rome two days before my family were there and ate at the same gelato shop.

The new students have started well - the new Year 7s, Year 5s and Kindergartens have all been enthusiastically coming through the gates every day. For one or two of the Kindergarten children it was a bit of a shock for them to find out that they were coming back for a second day - they thought it was a one day excursion, much like going to Australia's Wonderland. (We might hold off giving them their 'Class of 2030' jumpers for a few months). The Year 7 camp was a highlight for me - they strike me as a group of friendly, inclusive and open young men and women. They immersed themselves in the archery, the raft building and the bushwalking. We also have two dozen new students in Years 8 to 11, so we are actually growing in year groups where there had once been a rate of attrition.



The parent drinks was a highlight last Friday night. Everybody was in good form and the Oxley spirit of inclusiveness meant that many new parents were made to feel very welcome. Our new pavilion looked wonderful. When you think that seven weeks earlier it was merely the covered picnic area, it is a real testament to the builders who had to demolish the old structure before starting again. It is now a stylish, even gracious space. As I said on the night, we actually hired the indoor palms for a week from parents, Michael and Kylie Magill of Berry Wholesale Nursery. As Michael was unloading them I asked him what it might set us back to take the palms permanently. On the spot he agreed to donate them, which was very kind. I am now planning to hire a performing arts centre for a week later in the year and see what comes of it.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT continued

A number of new permanent or long-term staff have started with us. It is great to have them on board - they bring a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to our already very strong Common Room. In addition, we congratulate current staff members, Ms Annik Schaefer, who has been appointed new Curriculum Leader, Science and Mrs Bronwyn Trengenza who is the K - 12 Gifted and Talented Leader and Accreditation Leader.

Mr Mark Case

Mr Case is our new Deputy Pastoral. He comes to us from Newington College where he was a very successful Housemaster for six years. Before this he was the Deputy Head of Middle School and Head of Sixth form Trinity College, a selective boys' school in London. He gained his Masters in Theology from Oxford University, where he was in the First XV and was also the Under 21s Player of the Year. Of course, we sent a separate letter about Mark last September, but it good to be able to welcome him fully now that he is here.



Ms Bernadette Norton

Ms Norton is a Biology specialist. She comes to us from Abbotsleigh, where she was highly regarded as an enthusiastic and passionate teacher. Before teaching she had a career as a scientific officer where she specialised in Haematology and Infectious Diseases at Westmead Institute of Clinical Pathology and University College Hospital, London. She and her husband have moved to the Southern Highlands.



Ms Monita Singh

Ms Singh is a Physics specialist who was previously the Head of Science at both Clarence Valley Anglican College and Hamilton School in New Zealand (which was a school predominantly for Maori children) for a total of fifteen years. She also worked in a military school in Fiji. We do not anticipate that our students will give her undue disciplinary trouble.



Mr Bill Braddock

Mr Braddock actually started with us in Term 4 last year, replacing Ms McGregor in History for six months, but he is now staying with us for the entire year. He was previously a very strong Housemaster at Cranbrook for fifteen years. Before this he was at Knox and ran 'Camp Knox' - a small campus in the bush for Knox boys who may have needed a different environment. He has been a Southern Highlands resident for ten years and is very pleased not to be on the M5 twelve times a week.



Ms Belinda McBride

Belinda will be teaching a half load of Music. She comes to us from Frensham. Before this Belinda has been involved in developing School Band and Instrumental Programmes in numerous Sydney schools such as Claremont College and SCECGS Redlands. Belinda taught K-8 Classroom music for the Sydney Catholic Education Office.



Ms Kathryn Lonze

Kathryn is teaching Year 6. She comes to us highly recommended from Trinity College in Strathfield (and indeed joins Brett Bacon our Year 4 teacher who came to us from the same campus in 2017). Kathryn is an experienced primary teacher across many year levels and a wide variety of schools. As we head towards our IB (International Baccalaureate) accreditation in the PYP, it is good to know that she is an expert in this programme. Indeed, she has been employed by IB to support other schools implementing this programme.



Mr Michael Winkler

Michael is a new teaching graduate and is teaching Year 1 this year. He actually was a student teacher here last year and everyone was impressed with his level of diligence and care. To gain this position he prevailed over a suite of highly accomplished and experienced candidates. He also won an independent education scholarship last year and taught at Shore for a term. His wife grew up in Mittagong, so the Southern Highlands is in his family.



Ms Alice Planting

Ms Alice Planting is a part time Art specialist for the Junior School. She is a talented artist herself. She has taught at a number of local schools over the last ten years, but primarily at Gib Gate and Frensham. She works with the students on a range of techniques and with a wide variety of art materials.



Ms Belinda Dyson

Ms Belinda Dyson is the new Personal Assistant to Justine Lind, Head of Junior School. Ms Dyson has worked in the finance and hospitality industry for thirty years. She is extremely excited to be part of the Junior school staff and is looking forward to meeting all parents and students.



K-6 NEWS

Head of K-6: Justine Lind

The start of the year is always an exciting time in a school. Everyone is full of energy, refreshed from the holidays and optimistic about the year ahead. Our "old" students are conscientious in their efforts to show Oxley as a place of welcome for all and especially our new students. Our Kindergarten students have settled in extremely well, supported by their valued and enthusiastic buddies in Year 6. Our new students in Years 1 to 5 also appear to be adjusting to their new Oxley family and are ready to dive into learning. We have also keenly welcomed new teachers into our community and are already appreciating the contributions they bring to our collective sense of purpose.

This week as part of our Parent Information Evenings I have taken the opportunity to share with our families our plans to implement the Primary Years Programme (PYP) as part of the International Baccalaureate (IB). The appropriateness of this initiative for Oxley College is broad. The IB mission echoes the ideals of the Founders of our College in its drive for a high quality, enlightened and values based educational offering. The IB provides a pathway towards a fully realised Wisdom Era for our society by the way in which it prepares students to be effective and ethical change makers in a globally minded world.

"The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organisation works with schools, governments and international organisations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right." (IBO, 1968)

The two key messages I outlined are:

1. There is significant alignment with the IB's philosophy and pedagogy with our approach at Oxley to the point that our students and families will discern very little change as we move to implementation, and
2. The timeline we have set is modest and manageable and will start to filter into classrooms in 2019 with the piloting of two new units each year.

Finally, the IB aims to have their programmes fully appreciated and supported by the community members in which they run. To this end we are interested to hear from parents of K-6 students who would be interested to join a Friends of the PYP support group to advise us as to the level and timing of information that would be most helpful to parents in understanding the rationale and nature of their child's learning at Oxley.

Weekly Awards:

Students of the Week

Learning Journey

KL: Ian Phillips

Yr 1S: Sapphire Sparke

Yr 1W: Eli Winn

Yr 2: Charlotte Bissett

Yr 3: Ivy Halstead

Yr 4: Georgie Marks

Yr 5C: Sasha Privalova-Pratt

Yr 5H: Madison Walters

Yr 6A: Duke Richardson

Yr 6L: Evelyn Crowley

Oxley Values

KL: Sophie Hutchison

Yr 1S: Charlotte Stirling

Yr 1W: Oscar Le Guay

Yr 2: Anna Clark

Yr 3: Javier Poole

Yr 4: Bryce Rodger

Yr 5C: Zane Todorovski

Yr 5H: Elke á Campo

Yr 6A: Yolande Gair

Yr 6L: Benjamin Davis



Learning Journey

KL: Charlie Hammond

Yr 1S: Hamish Aston

Yr 1W: Andrew Clothier

Yr 2: Brayden Anstee

Yr 3: Matthew Morschel

Yr 4: Sofia Perin

Yr 5C: Anouk Walker-Levy

Yr 5H: Thomas Clark

Yr 6A: Gloria Waters

Yr 6L: Dom Verity

Oxley Values

KL: Leo Le Guay

Yr 1S: Teddy Blom

Yr 1W: Ivy Bacon

Yr 2: Eddie Hunt

Yr 3: Kallan Rendell

Yr 4: Mimi Legge

Yr 5C: Dylan Brennan-Collins

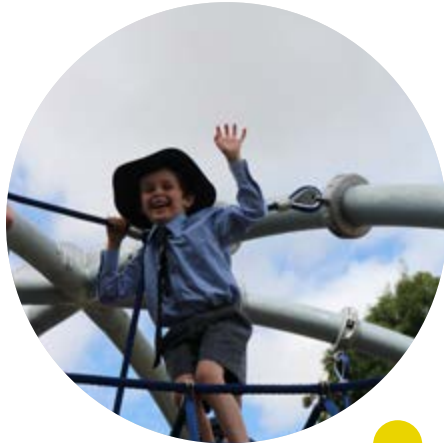
Yr 5H: Evie Bissett

Yr 6A: Dylan Davis

Yr 6L: Luke Suttie



In 2017 we launched the Oxley College Facebook page and we encourage you to join this if you are a friend of Facebook. Here we will post updates from the IB as well as other happenings from the wider world of education, peppered with the regular posts of learning and living at Oxley.



TAKE INSPIRATION



BOOKS

★★★★★

Mirror, Mirror

International supermodel and actress, Cara Delevingne, has recently published, *Mirror, Mirror*, an extraordinarily bold, brave and powerful first novel to say the least. Sixteen-year-olds Red, Leo, Rose and Naomi are all facing their own problems; alone against the world until their passionate music teacher, Mr Smith, encourages them to form a band. For once, these four teenagers feel a sense of belonging and acceptance. All is well, until Naomi is found half dead in the Thames, and her friends frantically begin to uncover a dark secret. From here on, all teen-fiction-cliché is lost, as Delevingne and her co-writer Rowan Coleman begin to explore and tackle issues such as child abuse, exploitation, identity and sexuality.

This pulsing novel is filled to the top with so much energy, emotion and shock, it's almost overwhelming. It is so gut-wrenchingly moving and all too real; a book that will stay with you for quite some time, with a plot twist you won't ever be able to come to terms with. *Mirror Mirror* is a definite must read; an all-round utterly perfect novel.

By Jade Gillis (Year 11)



MUSIC

★★★★★

Top Five Hip Hop albums of 2017

I'm well aware that 2017 is long gone now, however I feel that it is still important to acknowledge the best rap albums of the year, because 2017 was a really great year for Hip-Hop. Here they are, in order:

5. Good For You by Aminé

This was an album that went under the radar upon its initial release, but then became a well known and frankly a really great album, it falls more on the pop side, but it's still good.

4. Everybody by Logic

This was a fantastic album, with some amazing songs in it, the only reason it isn't higher is because of the lack of actual rapping, even one of the best songs, *Take it Back*, consists of a lot of talking. Oh, also the album cover is amazing.

3. Pretty Girls Like Trap Music by 2chainz

2chainz definitely isn't in the mainstream but his latest release is absolutely amazing. The album just sounds so different from everything else that came out this year, 2chainz' voice, combined with the beats make it just so nice to listen to.

2. Revival by Eminem

After a short break, Eminem made his comeback into the rap game. I haven't heard many people talking about it and I honestly don't know why, I think it was fantastic and a lot of the songs have quickly become some of my favourites of the year

1. DAMN by Kendrick Lamar

I'm sure everyone expected this, and you've have probably all heard enough about this album to know how great it is.

By Sam Crowley (Year 11)



FILM

★★★★★

The Greatest Showman

The show that everyone has been raving on about.

The *Greatest Showman* based on a true story of P.T. Barnum a man who came from nothing who rose to success to create the start of show business.

This movie is about fitting in and loving your self for who you really are. P.T. brought people from different sizes, looks, heights, colours and talents into his circus to show the world who these people are. He wanted to create a place for people to be themselves and that's how it become the circus

Many fans have commented that they think this is the 'best musical made' and some say its 'better than *La La Land*.' What do you think?

Others state that they think Zac Efron is becoming a 'mini' Hugh Jackman and thinks he will walk in Hugh's shoes.

The *Greatest Showman* sound track has spent a total of two weeks on number 1 on Billboard's 200 charts and has received awards from the Golden Globes.

Starring Hugh Jackman, Zendaya, Zac Efron and Michaelle Williams.

This really is 'The Greatest Show!'

By Lily Magill (Year 9)

DEPUTY HEAD REPORTS

Deputy Head Pastoral: Mark Case

The school year is now in full swing and it has been wonderful meeting so many students in these first weeks. In the Assembly at the start of term I spoke about one of the Oxley College Values and, specifically, Courage. I challenged students to consider how they might demonstrate this attribute in the year ahead, whether it is the courage to try something new, to ask a question in class, to speak out when seeing something wrong, or the courage to keep trying, despite setbacks or obstacles.

There was certainly a great deal of courage on display at the Year 7 Camp last week. It was great to see students conquering their fear of heights, working in a team to build a raft and testing their archery skills, amongst many other activities. It was inspiring to see students forming new friendships and encouraging and supporting each other. Making the transition to Year 7 is a significant rite of passage for all students and this was certainly made easier by the contribution of our Year 12 leaders who helped the Year 7s to integrate in to the Senior School during the camp.

Students in Years 8-10 attended 'Suitcase Stories' last week - a theatre production that enables young refugees to share their experiences and tell their own personal stories through drama. Whilst the production was powerful and moving, it was also uplifting in its final message - 'Our families are all over the world. We are in Australia. We are safe. And we have a future'. The production was deeply thought-provoking and prompted many questions and discussions amongst the students.

I have been impressed by the friendliness, kindness and respect of the students I have met, as well as the pride they justifiably have in their College. I look forward to getting to know many more students and their families in the coming weeks.

Kayaking at Oxley

The Oxley Kayaking programme recently began with 18 students attending under the instruction of Mr Ian Royds (Level 3 Advanced Whitewater Instructor). Students went straight into the competence testing with a 50 meter swim, introduction to boat handling and a capsize and escape test. The students are all very excited about this wonderful initiative by the Sport Department and hopefully we have future Olympians in the making...



Deputy Head Learning: Kate Cunich

Like everyone at Oxley, I welcome students and families to the new academic year. Can we really believe that it is 2018? It is wonderful to see new faces, refreshed and invigorated returning students, inspired and passionate teachers ...all that makes Oxley the extraordinary place that it is.

We have spent time this week with parents at our introductory information sessions, rolling out some of our key themes for the year. Foremost in our mind is creating the best conditions that we can for learning in our classrooms. That involves a partnership with students, teachers and parents, working toward a common goal, so it has been a very encouraging start to hear such positive feedback already.

We talk often at Oxley about our desire to be distinctive – not just a school that offers the usual suite of curriculum courses, but a school that makes explicit choices about strategies that will enhance progress and provide the way to preparing our students in a way that is equal to the best schools in the world. Part of that is our celebration of Cornerstone, of IGSCCE Global Perspectives and this year, the introduction of Writing in Context for students in Year 7 - 10. As we continue to straddle the challenge of helping our students gain content whilst delving for understanding (or as we say at Oxley, surface-to-deep-transfer) we are excited at the possibilities that can be provided by our excellent team of teaching staff. We will have opportunity to hear more detail about our distinctives in upcoming issues of Pin Oak, so in the meantime, be assured that we are as ever dedicated to the care, nurture and education of your children – may we all flourish in 2018!

Link to information night presentations: <https://www.oxley.nsw.edu.au/learning/parentteacher>

If you would like further information about the information evenings please contact your child's Year Coordinator or Tutor: <https://www.oxley.nsw.edu.au/about/staff/>



IT SUPPORT

IT Support

Mr Zahid will be available in the library at the specified times, listed below, on normal school days. This time is set aside to resolve any student related IT access issues.

8.10am to 8.30am

10.30am to 11.00am

1.00pm to 1.30pm

SKOOLBAG



DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD HIKE



Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Silver & Gold Expedition Report – December 2017

At the beginning of the summer holiday, 20 Year 9-11 students set off for Kosciuszko National Park, to spend four days trekking through the Snowy Mountains, as part of their Adventurous Journeys. There was much excitement on the road out of Cooma, with glimpses ahead of unseasonably large patches of snow!

Having spent four hours in an unairconditioned mini-bus, it was a relief to escape into the mountain air at Dead Horse Gap to begin the expedition. Yet, it was a steep incline which greeted us on the first afternoon and the going was tough among the snow gums and flies. Several hours later, we finally broke out from the trees and found ourselves at our campsite. Cooking in the twilight, we enjoyed a dramatic sunset, before retiring to bed for a well-earned night's rest.

The next day a drift on the path provided the first opportunity for a snow fight, before we left the crowds and bush-bashed across sub-alpine scrub, meandering streams and rocky outcrops, towards Seaman's Hut. Lunch was enjoyed on the Snowy River before heading along the track to Charlotte's Pass. The weather was hot, dry and sapped our strength, but more so for the quadruple amputee and his support team who we happened across, slowly ascending mainland Australia's highest peak. He turned out to be 31 year old American Kyle Maynard, a martial arts expert whose feats had included climbing the

highest mountains in Africa and South America without prosthetics! We were humbled and inspired.

We rose before dawn on the final morning. Dismantling our tents, we discovered a number of large, black funnel web spiders which had taken refuge under the groundsheets during the night! Unperturbed, we climbed back to the ridge and up towards Kosciuszko as the sun rose before us. It was blowing a gale on the top, but this did not deter us from climbing on the trig pillar to pose for photos.

We descended to the main track, emptied the dreaded poo tubes at Rawson's pass (!) and split the groups. The 'Silvers' followed the track back to Dead Horse Gap, while the 'Golds' went off track along the Ramshead to further test their navigation skills. The going was tough and the afternoon took some endurance, as the qualifiers negotiated us through the alpine landscape of bogs and granite tors. There was much relief at the sighting of a first ski pylon and the familiarity of the path we had ascended three days before. We even found the missing poo tube! So it was with renewed vigour that we wound our way back down the hill to rendezvous with the other group and the bus.

Many thanks are extended to Jenni Rees for her valuable support, TLC and expertise and to our Land's Edge instructors Annie and Josh for their thoroughness, professionalism and good humour throughout the hike.

Tim Dibdin (DOE Award Leader)





KIARA ROCHAIX

What are your most current sporting achievements? I was recently selected into the Australian U-19 Schoolgirls Football Team, to tour America in March. **How are you feeling about this achievement?** I feel very honoured to be called up to represent my country. I'm nervous yet excited for the challenge ahead. I'm also relieved after being out due to injury for so long and to be able to return to football at this level. **How did you think your injury would set you back and how does it feel to have overcome it?** Injuries at this age can set you back because this stage of your career is vital for your development. It was tough mentally and physically, and if anything it humbled me because I realised how lucky I was with the opportunities I had. But now I think it has made me mentally stronger and more resilient. The problem with my foot is chronic, so I have to do specific exercises for it. But I am determined for it to not let it set me back any further. **How do you feel about the development of the Oxley College Girls Football programme?** I think it's brilliant. To see so many girls playing Football, enjoying it and working hard to get better is amazing. And it's great to see how far the teams at Oxley have come since it became an option in 2015. We have great talent in the Juniors, and by the time they are in the Seniors the first team will be really strong. I think it can only get better in the future. **What do you want to do after graduating from school?** I would like to study sports journalism in the UK. That way I can play Football at the highest level possible whilst I study. The dream would be to play football in the Women's Super league, which is the female equivalent of the premier league. But I just want to keep playing, and I'll see where it takes me.

By Mya Bertolini (Year 10)



HUGH CALLAGHAN

Joshua Mazurkiewicz (Year 10) recently interviewed Hugh Callaghan (Year 10) on his invitation to represent Australia in the Youth Futsal (Indoor Football) Team, touring Spain in late November and early December.

Joshua: How did you feel when you were first approached to represent Australia?

Hugh: I didn't believe it. I was very surprised.

Joshua: How hard have you been training to be recognised in this way?

Hugh: I've been training hard. Doing runs in my own time. Finding space to go down to the football fields to get better.

Joshua: How hard was the competition?

Hugh: Pretty hard. There were plenty of good quality players - especially the Queenslanders. It's hard to perform when your opposition is so good and they have been together for years.

Joshua: What do you want to achieve when you are over in Madrid and Seville with the youth team?

Hugh: I'm looking to have fun and enjoy myself playing for Australia. I'm looking forward to wearing the Australian jersey.

Joshua: How does Futsal help you with regular Football?

Hugh: It's helped me heaps. My main strengths used to be physical. Playing Futsal helped me with the technical side and this comes through in my game.

MUSIC ENSEMBLES

Senior Concert Band

This band is most suitable for experienced players who have been learning their instrument for approximately two or more years. Instruments in this ensemble include; Saxophone, Clarinet, Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Bass Guitar, drums/percussion. Rehearsals are on Thursday mornings from 7.45am – 8.30am in the Orchestra Room with Mrs McBride.

Junior Concert Band

Not quite ready for the Senior Concert Band? Junior Concert Band may be the home for you. This band is most suitable for the beginner or progressing band students who have been learning their instrument for under two years. We would love to have you come and join us. Rehearsals are Friday mornings from 7.45am – 8.30am in the Orchestra Room with Mr Jones.

Senior String Ensemble

String Players Unite! If your tastes run more to the finesse and grace of bowing, then come along to the Senior String Ensemble. Senior Strings meet to rehearse every Tuesday morning with Mrs Bunyan from 7.45am – 8.30am in the Orchestra Room and we look forward to welcoming back old players and new.

Oxley Chorale

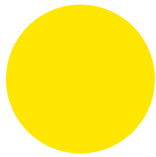
Or maybe it's SINGING that is more your style! Oxley Chorale meet every Monday morning before school from 7.45am – 8.40am. We learn and perform a range of singing styles, taking from the old masters and the new (think: Pentatonix!), covering contemporary and classical. Don't be shy! Come along and be warmly welcomed into the choir. If your music reading skills are non-existent, sketchy or great we encourage you to join – you will learn more each week about reading sheet music and you will find a lot of support from our existing choir members.

Bagpipes

Yes that's right – bagpipes! Over the last couple of years Oxley has been developing a very strong and in demand bagpiping corp. The bagpiping corp is made up of an impressive, dedicated group of piping and drumming musicians who wear their own Oxley tartan when performing for formal occasions at the College and out in our community. If bagpiping is something you think you might be interested in, please speak with the music department and they can put you in touch with our dedicated bagpiping tutor.

If you have any questions about any of our range of music opportunities at Oxley, please pop in and see Mrs McBride in Music 2, The Music Centre, second half of lunch, Thursdays, or seek out Mr Hughes or Mrs Bunyan.

WHAT'S HAPPENING? IN THE WORLD...



NATIONAL

An Inclusive Commonwealth



This year's Commonwealth Games is about more than just sport. The excitement of a \$105 million ceremony venue and the arrival of 6600 athletes from 70 Commonwealth nations and territories aside, the integration of para-competition into the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games is a profound step towards equality and inclusion in the Games. Perhaps as a result of their popularity at Glasgow in 2014, the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games will host the largest para-sporting programme in history, with up to 300 para-sport athletes and 38 medal events across seven sports.

Similarly, an equal number of men's and women's events across all seven para-sports highlights this year's commitment to equality and inclusion. This ambitious decision to make the Games more accessible for everybody will hopefully become an engrained tradition of the Commonwealth games.

By Maya Chance (Year 11)



THE WINTER OLYMPICS 2018

First steps toward peace?

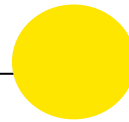
The Winter Olympics is one of the greatest sporting events of this year and during the opening ceremony, South Korea and North Korea walked out as a unified team for the first time since the Korean War. The opening ceremony was about peace and harmony, and the South Koreans played it beautifully to the world. Kim Jong Un's sister, Kim Yo-Jong was also present to represent North Korea.

However, when countries were shaking hands it was widely noticed that neither the Vice President of the USA or the President of Japan shook Kim Yo-Jong's hand.

Russia left out in the cold!

Russia was banned from the Olympics this year as punishment for their state-backed doping programme at the last Olympics, although some of their athletes (that were cleared for drugs) competed individually under the Olympic flag. It was a chilly - 2 degrees Celsius. Only days before this it was -18 degrees Celsius!

By Toby McErlane (Year 8)



INTERNATIONAL

Elon Musk and his flamethrower

Surprisingly few people know Elon Musk has recently designed and sold 20,000 flamethrowers. Now I feel like some backstory is in order. A few years ago Elon Musk realised after he was stuck in traffic for a while that traffic sucks and so he designed a tunnel to transport cars through traffic super quickly. The next step was to fund it, and to do that he made a company called The Boring Company and sold hats. He then promised that if he sold 50,000 hats, he would design and build a flamethrower. 50,000 hats later, he is a man of his word and The Boring Company began pre-orders for a flamethrower. And he sold them all. The flamethrower is completely legal in all states in the USA except California, where it was banned. Met with mixed reactions, some people thought it was stupid and dangerous and some people thought it was hilarious. All 20,000 units sold anyway, and it seems an unusual direction for someone like Elon, what if it starts a dangerous trend, and we have Dyson long swords soon.

By Sam Crowley (Year 11)



GALLERY



FEBRUARY & MARCH CALENDAR

ART CLUB Attention all Year 7 to 12 students! Art Club is going to be running again and we need you to come and have some fun creating on Wednesday afternoons - 3.30pm until 5.00pm. If you would like to make pots, paint, draw, doing some print making, sculpt, create watercolours, or any other thing you can think of then this is for you! Please see Ms Forbes in the staffroom or down in room 20 to register your interest.	Mon 19 Year 12 to Encore (Opera House)	Mon 26 Year 12 Student/Parent/Teacher Night, Music School	Mon 05
	Tue 20 Year 7- 9 Elevate Study Skills	Tue 27	Tue 06
	Wed 21 K-6 House Swimming 2018 7-12 Twilight Swimming (Part 1) Year 10 Morrisby Testing	Wed 28 SHSS Swim Carnival, Frensham	Wed 07 K-6 HICES Swimming Carnival
	Thu 22 7-12 Swimming (Part 2) Carnival 2018	Thu 01 K-6 SHIPS Swimming Carnival	Thu 08 Year 8 Medieval Feast Day Year 12 Drama - Lecoq Workshop Parramatta Theatre
Fri 16	Fri 23 Open Morning for prospective families, 11.00am	Fri 02 Year 7 Immunisations	Fri 09 School Photo Day
Sat 17	Sat 24 ISA Round 10	Sat 03 ISA Semi Finals	Sat 10 ISA Summer Finals
Sun 18	Sun 25	Sun 04	Sun 11

P & F NEWS

Thank you to everyone who attended the annual Welcome Drinks last Friday night. It was another wonderful evening with over 300 parents and staff attending.

We have had a large number of parents put their hands up for Year Rep roles this year. These roles are critical, as they bring the school community together. The role involves organising year group functions and getting volunteers into the canteen a couple of times a year. We have almost filled these roles now, however if you are interested in being involved this year, please contact Rachel Harman (K-6) rharman@stacklaw.com.au or Sooz Heinrich (7-12) craigsoozh@bigpond.com asap.

We will hold an afternoon tea for all Year Reps, on Friday 23 February at 2.15pm, in the new canteen pavilion.

Hoping that everyone is settling in to Term 1, and please keep an eye out for P&F events in this column each fortnight.

Bec Biddle

Oxley College P&F

TODAY

I'M

GETTING

HELP

To ...

REVISE

ORGANISE

PREPARE

ENGAGE

WHEN: Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons

3.30 – 5.00pm

WHERE: Library

WHO: Aimed at Year 7-9, but anyone who needs some help is welcome

There will be Learning Support staff on hand to help you with computer issues, assessment tasks, homework, Canvas, diary, 'Learning Field' online texts, study notes, etc.



NEWSFLASH

SUITCASE STORIES

Last Friday February 9 Oxley Students from Years 8-10 were invited to Frensham College to watch the play "Suitcase Stories- Tug of War". The play told the stories of 13 Afghani, Iraqi and Syrian refugees from ages 14-18 years. The opening scene saw all 13 individual refugees holding a long red piece of material and fighting over whether or not they should leave their home country. Some of the short stories we witnessed were funny, such as Anabella's Haircut and Mariam's Little Brother Makes a Birthday Party. Others however were full of sorrow and despair. Through telling their individual stories our eyes were opened to the devastation and distress people in war-stricken countries experience daily. Such stories included walking down the street and hearing word of mouth that your father has been killed by ISIS. Or one day happily getting your hair cut in a busy mall when a bomb suddenly goes off in the building next to you. The stories of these young refugees and their hardships will live on in all our hearts forever. May all those stuck in war-zones find peace and to all those who have been forced to leave their homes one day hopefully return.

By Isabella Pether (Year 9)



YEAR 7 CAMP

On Monday and Tuesday of Week 2 the Year 7 students travelled to the Attunga Camp in Canyonleigh for their Orientation Camp. They stayed in cabin style accommodation with other students from their House. The idea of the camp was for students to make friends through fun and engaging activities and to build strong bonds within their Houses. The Year 12 Heads of House also came along to help, encourage and meet the newcomers of our Oxley community. The many activities included Swimming, Raft Building, Archery, Bush Walking and the popular Giant Fan. The Giant Fan is a 13 metre pole which the students are required to climb up using side rungs to reach a platform. Once at the top they had to trust their camp leader and jump off! In the evening the students went on a bush walk to a lookout where they viewed the sunset and took photos. Overall the Year 7 students had a wonderful time making new friends and memories that will stay for years to come.

By Isabella Pether (Year 9)

"Year 7 camp was a great bonding experience, it was a fantastic way of getting to know everyone. My favourite activity was the Giant Fan."

- Phoebe Pether (Year 7)

YEAR 11 IGNITE

On Monday 5 February, Year 11 headed down to Canberra for two days of motivational lectures combined with the opportunity to experience life as a university student at ANU.

Our days were filled with interesting lectures tailored to our own interests, such as Linguistics, Engineering, Physics, Chemistry, Music and Asian Studies as well as gym sessions. A number of us met with Professor Kenneth Lampl, the Head of ANU's School of Music. Professor Lampl is an inspiring film composer, who has worked with John Williams, an Oscar winner, best known for composing the music scores for many Hollywood hits including "Star Wars" and "Harry Potter".

A key speaker was Marnie Hughes-Warrington who is the Deputy Vice Chancellor of ANU.

During the two days we also listened to motivational talks encouraging us to assume a "growth mindset" and to have the courage to "bounce back when the going gets tough".

In order for us to have an authentic university experience, we stayed the night at John XXIII College, a fully catered residential college for ANU students. At dinner we were lucky enough to catch up with ex- Oxleyan Laura Farag who shared her university experience. Year 11 is now ignited! By Lucie Drysdale (Year 11)

ONSTAGE

If there is anyone who could somehow perfect a performance about a trip to Ikea, it would be Oxley Year 12 2017 and Mr Cunich. Last Friday Year 11 and 12 Drama were lucky enough to watch 2017's Year 12 Onstage; a showcase of the best monologues and group performances from across NSW. The performances ranged from comical to political and then historical, giving students a good taste of the range of styles and options for HSC drama. There was also a session showcasing films and scripts written for the HSC. The craziest of ideas seemed to somehow come together into evocative, comical and highly entertaining pieces. Oxley Year 12 performed brilliantly and we can't wait to see what future Year 12s come up with! By Jem Taylor (Year 11)