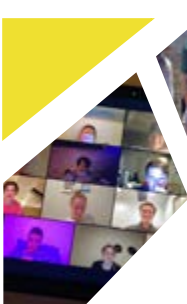


PIN OAK

Grace Ayling - Rose Barnett - Zach Bamber - Pearl Bendle - Arlo Berry - James Blisset - Ollie Bragg - Arabella Brown - Jack Butcher - Jordan Butcher - Lily Carman - Lucy Cavanough Quince - Sophia Cheaib - Georgia Cheaib - Will Clark - Andy Cornick - Jack Crowley - Max Curry - Will David

Liv Pride - Archie Pulbrook - Tom Rapp - Millie Rea - Cameron Regan - Alex Reichenfeld - Luca Ritchie - Jimmy Rogers - Mia Sandilands - Maddie Sargeant - Madi Shields - Bella Smith - Jarrod Smith

CLASSES OF 2021



Max Davis - Rice - Logan Dobler - Tom Dunn - Ainsley Everett - James Feetham - Havi Francis - Codi Gibbeson - Bianca Gibson-Brown - Mia Gillis - Charlottle Greenop - Asher Hagan - Ivy Hayes - Ingrid Heinrich - Abbey Henderson - Conor Hendry - Ella Jackson



Jonny Jansz - Tom Jennings - Lachie Jowett - Nethmi Kariyawasam - Lochie Kennedy - Ava Lambie - Lily Magill - Caitlin McCarthy - Sam McLane - May McRobbie - Sophie Moore - Jade Neath - Jessie Noad - Molly O'Meagher - Toby O'Sullivan - Peta Oxley



Laura Smith - Emma Sommerville - Claudia Thompson - Rosie Thompson - Cody Thorpe - Liz Stewart - Anneliese Wansey - Ruby Zupp



Legacy, A retrospective

When I heard about the opportunity to write in the Year 12 Pin Oak: Legacy Edition, I questioned myself about what it means to have 'a legacy'. And so I thought of the traditional custodians of this land, the Gundungurra people, whose country includes Burradoo – 'a place of many brigalow trees' and the land upon which we have been privileged to receive our education.

In acknowledging this as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land, I cast my mind back to a 'Big History' lesson in Year 10 where my then teacher, Mr Braddock, tried to help us perceive the age of the universe by imagining it as a timeline the width of the classroom. On that scale, we understand the human timeline to be a paper-thin sliver in the vast expanse of time the universe has existed. Similarly, to grasp the perpetuity of continuous cultural connection between our First Nations peoples and this entire continent, I'll try converting something massive into a more manageable scale for the purposes of clarity.

So here we go. Oxley College will celebrate its 40th anniversary in two years. That's two generations. Australia has recognised itself as a nation for around six generations. The historical figure of Jesus Christ, whose teachings have shaped the ethics and morality of millions of Australians, walked the Earth about 100 generations ago. The First Nations people of Australia have been traditional custodians of this continent for over 3,000 continuous generations, as I understand it. A minimum 60,000 year history of unbroken relationship with country. And Aboriginal nations did so with such skill, knowledge and understanding on the driest inhabited continent on the planet that their harmonious relationship with nature now offers a guide to a more sustainable future. This is a legacy for humanity.

On a generational scale then, Oxley College itself represents the paper-thin, knife-edge sliver of time. Put another way, if Oxley College were included in a 3,000 page book, 'Australian History', we would appear on the last page. Federation would be five pages earlier. As the oldest living culture on Earth, the First Nations people of Australia are considered the first amongst First Nations peoples globally. It is only right that we pay our respects to Elders past and present.

On behalf of the Class of 2021, I am honoured to have shared my learning experiences on the ancestral lands of the traditional custodians, the Gundungurra people, and I pay respect to Elders past and present. I recognise that First Australians never ceded sovereignty. This continent always was and always will be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.

By Alexander Reichenfeld

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HEAD OF COLLEGE'S REPORT

Jenny Ethell's speech at our special Assembly on the 'normal' traditional last day for Year 12.

Welcome parents and families to our Year 12 Assembly which before Covid-19 would have marked your final day of formal schooling in Year 12. Now- 'during Covid times' things have changed and we are all being agile and creative to manage new situations and timelines. However as we often say - Rituals and ceremonies are an incredibly important part of peoples lives and so we felt that it was important to acknowledge this day and to celebrate the unique journey you have all been on- one that will be defining for the future.

Today you will have received some special things, a mask to recognise the different times we are in, a book which is my favourite and you have heard me speak about before which is full of wisdom and hope and a pin which symbolises your journey at Oxley and you can wear with pride.

Today marks what would have been the last day of your formal secondary schooling.

I think it is important to reflect on what you have learned over the last thirteen years, including at Oxley College. As students, You've been taught an extensive curriculum. You have worked hard to perform well in examinations that measure your academic knowledge and understanding.

Another set of these examinations is still ahead of you.

But the value of your education, in the truest sense of that word, cannot be judged in terms of a syllabus document or assessed by a series of short answer questions or essays. Certainly, this has been part of your school experience but the true meaning of education also captures the skills, many acquired subconsciously, which will propel you into your lives beyond school.

You have succeeded in your education because of the guidance of your parents, your teachers at Oxley and the more informal lessons that life teaches us all. You have been supported in your journey thus far by the love of all of us.

But you have succeeded mostly because you and you alone chose to do so.

You started school in the olden days "before COVID" and this pandemic will eventually be a footnote you add to stories to help younger people understand. You will say, "of course, that was before COVID" or that was before the pandemic.

A part of your lives will remain forever rooted in the "before" and your generation, graduating "during" the pandemic, will forever measure time in terms of "before and after", like I now qualify many of my own stories with "that was before the internet". Other generations remember a time "before the war" or "after the Depression" or "or before mobile phones existed".

This pandemic will become a touchstone via which you come to understand your own history.

And throughout human history, at certain pivotal moments, we have been challenged by crises of such scale and significance that it has taken a special, courageous generation of people to carry society forwards to a brighter future, to the "after" if you like.

Octavia Butler, one of the first African American female science fiction writers, referred to these special cohorts as "column people", a reference to the strength, support and critical stability that they provide to society as a whole.

These great generations throughout human history emerge in crisis. They are forged in crisis. They are not simply born at the right time. They thrive under pressure and triumph over adversity. These people are real leaders, real heroes.

Year 12, you are the chosen ones. You are the next great generation to lead us into a future informed by those things you know to be true, and important. You have immense power to shape all of our futures.

My parents grew up "during" the Great Depression, a time of extraordinary economic uncertainty. Every day of her whole life, most of it lived "after" the depression, my mother turned all our appliances off at the wall to avoid wasting electricity and could live well with very little - or off the smell of an oily rag. She had learned her childhood's lesson well and continued to live in accordance of her desire to avoid wastefulness, even as she saw the rise of mass production and consumerism. You are the chosen ones and you have learned, during

this crisis, that you are capable of forging ahead despite uncertainty and restrictions. You have learned to be resilient, flexible, adaptive and agile. All of these skills will be critical to you as you shape your futures and already universities and employers are recognising these qualities.

But more than this, you have lived through a dark time when school did not mean togetherness, at least not in an uncomplicated way. A time with 18th birthday gatherings over Zoom and a "drive through" celebration of your final day of school.

This was unthinkable two years ago. This pandemic has taught you how precious human contact and connection are, precisely because you have been denied them at this important moment in your lives.

But you have learned this important lesson at exactly the right moment, just as your life beyond Oxley College begins.

Your "after" is going to be different to your "before" and "during". You have not been sent back to the starting blocks by COVID as the generations before you have been. You are just approaching the starting line now, for the first time.

The world in which your futures, indeed all of our futures, will unfold is evolving rapidly. You are the chosen generation, the "column people", who have been chosen to lead society in its response to not just COVID-19, but to the myriad of challenges it has presented to the way of life we had all taken for granted. Challenges, but also opportunities to rethink, rebuild, reprioritise. Reimagine.

Before, during, after COVID. Before, during, after.

**"You're important
and you are loved
and
you bring to this
world things
no one
else can.
Charles Mackesy"**

My parents' generation never forgot the lessons they learned in the adversity of the Great Depression and they held that collective memory for society as a whole. You will move into your futures holding a collective memory for our society too.

You have learned that nothing is more important than community, connection and kindness. Year 12, you are destined to never forget that, to carry that knowledge into your futures, on behalf of all of us. To keep the lesson you have learned at the forefront of all that you do in life.

Within this community, there are some students for whom there is no "before", our Kindergarteners who started their schooling during COVID. These are the inheritors of the future you will build, so I thought it fitting to share some sage advice from them about the

things you will need to pack in your survival kits as you embrace life beyond Oxley College.

Leo puts "a good pair of shoes" on the top of his list, so your feet don't get too dirty.

Magnus recommends putting a camera in your survival kit so you can take photos of everyone you love and look at them if you get lonely.

Arthur suggests "love" for your kids and has a rather complex system involving balloons, plasticine and cards to ensure that you know and communicate that love effectively.

Clementine wisely notes that scissors are a necessity for both craft and cutting your hair if it grows too long.

And Eden advises that you should all get used to carrying around a port-a-loo, just in case your new house does not have a toilet.

Year 12, your resilience, critical thinking, leadership, courage and humanity are needed more than ever as we face the challenges of an evolving future.

At Oxley College, we thank you and honour you for all you have brought to this community. And we proudly and confidently acknowledge and congratulate you, knowing our world is in excellent hands.

So while today is not how we imagined, I give you our promise that we will farewell you on Wednesday 1 December in a more formal and celebratory way. But in the words of Charles Mackesy in the book received today, *The Boy, The Fox and The Horse* - "Always remember you matter. You're important and you are loved and you bring to this world things no-one else can."

By Jenny Ethell, Head of College



Head of Academic and Innovation

Every Year 12 is special, however the 2021 cohort is particularly special as their journey has not only been unique, but is one of the longest student journeys had at Oxley!

Some students started with us in Year 3, 2012 – the inaugural year of the Junior School. It was a glorious time – picnics amidst the new buildings, balloons of welcome, cakes of celebration. For those of us involved in the vision of a K – 12 school, this was the real coming true of dreams – Oxley indeed put its statement “to dare, to think, to dream” into action!

To these students and their parents, we need to say a sincere thank you – you placed your trust in us, as pioneers, as adventurers and believers. Little did we know then that you all would continue that journey – pioneering now the most unique Year 11 and Year 12 journey that has ever been had at any time in history!

I personally share a special joy with some of these students – I was their teacher on Wednesday afternoons in the Year 3 classroom! I remember reading stories, drawing drawings, listening carefully and most of all, just loving being with the warm, funny and curious group that these students were. To Arabella, Bella, Bianca, Georgia, Ivy, James, Logan, Luca, Madison, Olivia, Rose, Sophia, Ella and Tom..... thank you so much for staying on the long journey with us.

This issue of Pin Oak is an attempt to capture so many things – experiences, friendships, projects, achievements within and outside the classroom. To these brave, strong and true students, we cannot begin to imagine the bumps of the last months – we empathise, support and send our love. But most of all – as you

look and read all that is here – remember that you are you, each of you is unique, all of you are special, and together you are stronger than ever.

Go well 2021 Year 12 – pioneers, future makers and architects of great things. On behalf of your teachers:

In your time with us here at Oxley we have watched over you as you have grown, not only in stature, but in spirit and understanding. We celebrate the young people that you have become: you have challenged us, you have prompted us to do things better and most of all, you have gained the skills that will lead to a fulfilling life beyond these doors.

We look forward to following your stories as you move beyond formal schooling. We know that many of you will do outstanding things for our society, some of you will change the world, all of you will make a difference. You have developed your heart, mind and soul while with us and now it is time for you to make your mark beyond Oxley's gates. Remember to keep studying, to keep striving, to keep believing in yourself:

On behalf of the students and teachers of Oxley, we challenge you to use your words for good, and to not waste any opportunity.....we wish you the very best.

Be brave and strong and true....

By Kate Cunich, Head of Academic and Innovation

Head of Senior School



What an extraordinary journey for an extraordinary group of young people! It is a cliché that leads to plenty of eye-rolls for every Year 12 cohort, that the HSC 'is a marathon not a sprint'. Every marathon runner knows that they must run for 26.2 miles – not a mile more, not a mile less. However, the Year 12s of 2021, with the finish line in sight, were told to stop, take a breath, and then go an extra mile. No other year group has had to experience this as they approach their HSC and the pinnacle of their school career.

Our Year 12s were in Year 9 when I started at Oxley. Being the U15 rugby coach in 2018 was one of my most enjoyable experiences in that year and I got to know many of them well; a connection that I have valued in the years since. In the following year I taught them in Cornerstone, when they pioneered a re-vamped Year 10 Cornerstone course and in 2020, we introduced a Year 11 Philosophy course for the first time; again, it was this year group that were the pioneers. So rather than marathon runners, in the spirit of John Oxley, perhaps we should characterise them as pioneers. We will have challenging years ahead, but none will be like 2020 and 2021. The Year 12 of 2021 will be able to draw upon their experience and wisdom from these times to help steer us all through the uncertain and volatile world we will face in the coming decades.

This year I have quoted the Prayer of Serenity a couple of times in Year 12 meetings. I do so again here, as I believe it is of great relevance to all of us in these times, for those of all faiths and none:

God grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change,

Courage to change the things I can

And the Wisdom to know the difference.

There is much to look forward to at the end of this term. We will hold a Graduation Evening on Wednesday 1 December for Year 12 2021 students and parents – another first, this will be a wonderful celebration of and with our Year 12s with a Graduation Ceremony, Dinner and Dance, held on campus. This will be followed by Speech Day on Friday 3 December, when we will all be able to come together as a College community and include our long-awaited 'tunnel'; a fitting way to end the school year and farewell our Year 12 pioneers.

By Mark Case, Head of Senior School



Junior School

Where it began...

For some of us graduating Year 12s, we were lucky enough to begin our journey at Oxley College early. The primary school opened when our cohort was entering Year 3. Moving schools halfway through our primary school journey was bound to be somewhat difficult, as we prepared to leave what had become familiar to our eight-year-old selves. Yet in the chaos of moving schools (to an entirely new school nonetheless), it is fair to say we all found ourselves extremely welcomed by both the wonderful staff and each other. The next three years entailed great adventures for our small cohort. From our group swimming lessons, to achieving the all-great 'pen license' in Year 4, to Mrs Mulray's fabulous 'Gold Rush Day' activities, and everything in between, it's fair to say that Oxley's primary school taught us much beyond classroom curriculum. We have evolved from children to young adults together, supported by the comfort and familiarity we bring to one another through friendships formed over the past 10 years, which will likely continue beyond our last days at school. It has been an honour to watch the primary school grow and change over the past couple of years. We will always be grateful for the sense of community, experiences, and friendships that Oxley's primary has granted us!

By Liv Pride

Myself and twenty three other Year 3 students walked into Mrs Marsh's classroom for the first time when Oxley's Junior School opened, the 2012 'foundation students'. Although this wasn't the start of our schooling journey, it was the start of our Oxley experience. Something that will stay with many of us for a long time to come. No matter the year we were in, the teachers would give us the reminder – "one day that will be you". One day some of us would be the Junior School House Captains, one day we would have our own Kindergarten Buddies. As we made our way through the 'ranks' of the Primary School, this admiration of the big Year 6 students turned into that of the even bigger high school students. The concept that we would one day be in their position was frightening and hard to comprehend but, before we knew it, we were in Year 12, had gone on Outback and were doing the HSC ourselves. The memories made in Oxley's Junior School are distant, but some have stuck with me more than others; the House sports carnivals, lunchtime horse games which involved lots of jumping over tables, watching Behind The News on a Friday afternoon and our Year 6 graduation dinner.

By Madi Shields



YEAR 7

Year 7 camp will always be a memorable experience and funny to look back on. Being at a new school with new friends allowed me to make a new start and to try new things. I loved becoming more independent and feeling all 'grown up'. – Mia G



Year 7 was the year of expectations. I was incredibly excited for the future ahead. I loved learning the social hierarchy and rules of the high school from all the older students. I have a lot of special memories from 2016 but the most cherished has to be our year's undefeated Rugby Season with Mr Simpson, and English with Mr Hayman. – James F

Monash Orientation: Mr Bevan's science experiment where he almost got hit in the face with the lid of a milo tin. – Sophia

Accidentally accusing of someone stealing a doorknob, letting someone swear at them and them becoming my best friend - Emma



I remember the Grammar Olympics and winning my race for the verbs on the playground. I was so determined to win that I jumped down the slide and half missed, got a big bruise but it was worth it for the chocolate medal - Ainsley



I remember being absolutely petrified my first day of Year 7, I had no clue if you had to do up the top button of your dress, if you had to wear your blazer all day, or how to properly wear your socks. I learned incredibly quickly once I got to tutor group though. – Ruby

I remember during the Grammar Olympics chanting around the school "we love cox" with Ms Cox in tears! – Mia S



One memory that vividly stands out from Year 7, was during our end of year music exam. On a Friday afternoon before going into the PCC to sit our last compulsory exam, the word spread that at 3:00 everyone was going to start humming. Surely enough, 3:00pm came around during the exam and everyone started humming quietly. With our luck, at this time, Mr Parker happened to be standing at the back of the PCC and heard it all. The following Monday came around and in tutor group, our year group got a message to go to the PCC in period 1. We were all seated at exam tables and were reminded about our behaviour on Friday afternoon. We then spent the whole period writing an essay on "Why exams are important". I'm sure we learnt our lesson then! – Grace

Tudor boys running amuck. Being hunted by year 12s for failing to attend house singing and drama. Fruit cup – Will

I remember being terrified of the year 12s, especially as the terrors of a bottom locker were even more notable when such lockers were made of metal. Despite this, I remember year 7 as an exciting time, completely different to the primary school routine I had been dying to leave behind. I loved the independence that came with highschool, alongside the constant, unwavering support of my teachers in allusive subjects such as cornerstone. – Rose

It being nerve racking but also exciting at the same time. Meeting all these new people, being sorted into houses and new teachers as well as a maze (of so it seemed) of a school to navigate. I am also still disappointed that Florey house were not able to jump of a giant pole due to thunderstorms. – Bianca



On Year 7 camp, we made the most awful cous cous and I actually got sick from it, and was sick for the rest of the camp! – Luca



Trying to find Anneliese on the first day because I had no other friends. Then calling Mia Gillis a 'stalker'. – Jesse

On Year 7 camp we were talking late at night outside our tents and when we saw a flashing light slowly walk towards us. We had thought our teacher and the camp leader were asleep so seeing a flashing light coming from a distance was rather scary. After we bolted to our tents and held onto you whistles tight the light came to our tent and starting shaking the outer layer. Jesse and I were so so scared as this light hovered outside our camp. The next morning everyone said the same thing happened to them. Was it a teacher or a stranger? We will never know – Ingrid



Breaking hearts - Jonny

At Year 7 camp, I pulled off the doorknob of the cabin and someone swore at me :) – Laura

My first memories of Year 7 is our orientation and first days. I remember everyone being so welcoming and helpful to the new year 7s. I remember meeting my Tutor Group and loving that I had a 'family' at school to come to everyday. – Lily



The raft building on the orientation camp and how deceivingly difficult it was – Cody

Mainly the fierce table tennis matches behind the PCC. – Arlo

What I remember most was the sense of uncertainty and discovery in the face of an entirely new experience. The greatest contributor to this was the prospect of meeting new people and making new friends in a new environment. This factor was made far more significant by the contrast of moving from a small primary school to a bigger high school - my year size had more than quadrupled! – James B

YEAR 8

Finding a kangaroo in the place of Bianca in my tent on year 8 camp. - Laura

The year eight camp I loved, walking along beaches and through the forests. - Alex



Bringing a whole bbq chicken for medieval day and eating with our hands - Georgia

Moving to a new school in the middle of the year and feeling so welcome and meeting many friendly people - Andy

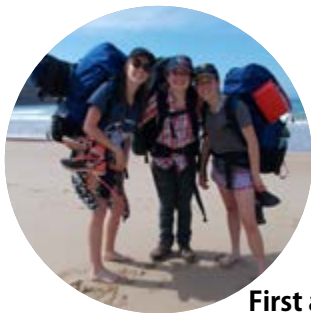


Year 8 camp was so fun, I loved my group. Finally feeling a bit older at the school and figuring out myself a bit more. I got my first boyfriend in year eight! lol. - Mia G



I don't remember much apart from living out my 14 years old dreams of dressing up as an assassin for the medieval feast while discovering my distaste for ginger bear. Bianca

Year 8 camp was an amazing week- we hiked through the beautiful bushland and trekked across beaches with our buddies; this experience was not one to forget! - Maddie S



First and last girlfriend - Jonny

In year 8 History Sophie and I broke the cabinet in the Egyptian room. Every lesson we would try to fix it with our pencil cases as hammers, that never worked. - Ingrid

I remember Medieval day I dressed as a peasant in a potato sack - Will



I vaguely remember the geography excursion where everyone made cigarette jokes - Jack

My memories from medieval day, was the boys dressing up in potato sacks - Charlotte

Finally, actually getting to know everyone. - Arlo

Year 8 camp was awesome. That hike was the best thing ever, one of the highlights of high school for me I think. We played tip or spotlight or something on the beach one night. - Ella

I remember year 8 hiking camp and the ticks!! There were so many, at one point when we were staying at the ANU campsite we swore the ticks were flying in the wind. There was no escape, it was such an amazing trip with so many silly moments and mess ups that made it more enjoyable. - Ainsley

Year 8 for me was pretty low-key. Another good year spent with friends. I remember dressing up as an archer for the Medieval day fondly, along with getting my first C in a report (no love loss between me and 'French' as a subject) - James F

Bringing a toastie machine to school and cooking toasties at lunch with materials hidden in a drain including minute steaks in the bathrooms. - Will

On Medieval day, I won the award for best dressed Jester. I thought that was pretty funny as several people had spent ages sewing together detailed and accurate costumes whilst I had an old Halloween costume with a literal skull for a face. Also, I remember Jack Garcia bringing a bottle of mountain dew that day as his historically accurate dish. - Logan



Year 8 has faded into the blur of high school slightly. However, the most salient images that come to mind are of camping along beaches on Year 8 camp and jousting on Medieval day. - James B

The memories of Year 8 was I wasn't a little Year 7 anymore so I stepped up and being with good friends at Oxley and enjoying the excursions and events at Oxley - Zach

YEAR 9

Year 9 was the beginning of electives. The first topic for drama was 'Improvisation', which is probably the most terrifying topic they could've begun with. Being stupid in front of people - yikes. Fair to say those feelings have subsided now and I would give anything to play one more game of Mafia with that group :- Ruby

ROP: top tip never wander away from the group otherwise you end up getting left behind at the shopping centre and have to call a teacher to come get you. Nepal Trip: It was one of the most memorable birthdays I have ever had. - Molly

The time I got lost on Cockatoo Island and called the teachers on the lanyard given to us and all of them went to voicemail (thanks Mrs Tregenza) - Georgia

If you do Rites of Passage or overseas, remember to bring a pillow. - Cameron

Year 9 was one of the best years for me at school. I loved rites of passage and gaining my own sense of independence and still being with friends. Botswana was absolutely amazing as well, I would do anything to go back! - Luca

During the first few minutes of arriving in Nepal, I remember stepping out of the plane and looking in amazement at the giant mountains which stood tall in front of me. - Rosie

In Botswana, canoeing through the Okavango Delta. I will remember that for the rest of my life. - Laura

I loved trekking in the Himalayas on the Nepal trip - Alex

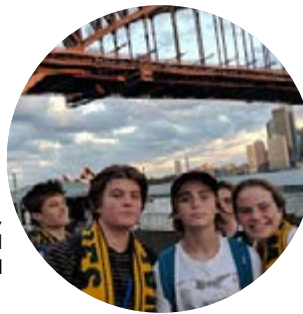
I really loved Rites of Passage because it helped me to break out of my comfort zone and be more like an adult - Andy

Rites of Passage: Watching Love Island with the guys over the phone. - Sophia

Almost getting run over countless times in Sydney on ROP. Everything else from that year has been erased to make room for the entire script of The Cars 2 movie - Emma

Year 9 had to have been one of my favourite years. I remember having so much fun with my friends. Whether this was watching Love Island during ROP or bartering on the streets of Kathmandu. 2019 was also the first year in which we got to choose our electives. I still fondly remember performing my duologue with Mia, with the kiss scene at the end. - James F

Rites of Passage, so much fun!! - Claudia



I will always treasure the experience of Nepal, getting on the plane with my year group and eating new foods whilst hiking and seeing a new culture. - Mia S

YEAR 10

My biggest Year 10 memory was absolutely failing business week, but having SO much fun with my group. We financially failed but ended up winning the 'public vote' after we all got dressed up and felt like adults to the business dinner. Film week was definitely one of the highlights at Oxley. It was such a new thing to all of us but such a rewarding experience. From writing a crappy script to filming at Gloria Jean's in Bowral, my group worked really well together and we all had so much fun dressing up for Film night and watching everyone else's films. - May



Making films with a professional was great, playing music with others, as well as Big History with Mr Braddock - Alex



Having a break of school and creating films was exciting, getting creative with lights editing script writing was super cool. - Mia S



LOVED not doing English for a term aha for film week, still think my group got ripped off. Being able to dress up and feel fancy for the business dinner was also super fun. On the scuba OLE trip i got my open water divers license which was pretty cool. - Mia G

Business Week and film week both introduced me into the scene of working as a team and helped me work better with others - Will

I absolutely loved drought relief! I had so much fun working at the farms and travelling throughout NSW with my best friends! - Luca

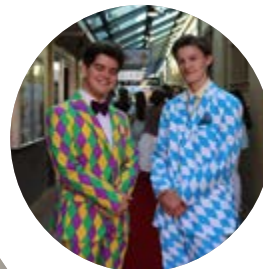
There is a time and place for complaining to others, one of these is not on the set of a high school movie. - Cameron

I remember for business week, having the hotel stimulation, our group initially had no idea what was going on, but eventually we worked out what worked and what didn't. By the end of the week, we won the award for the most successful business which was crazy. - Ainsley



Loved listening to the stories Mr Simpson would tell us about his past cases in legal and getting side tracked constantly making class a lot of fun!!! - Molly

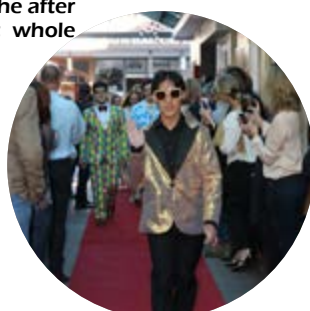
Being able to make a fake business go bankrupt with new friends and people I hardly talked to. Oh yeah I think I won a film award at some point not sure though - Emma



Sharp Short was probably one of the highlights of my high school career. My group made it so incredibly fun and making it to the finals made it just that bit more exciting. - Ruby

Both business week and film week was such a fun experience as it was out last year before everything got serious. We had the whole year to prepare for our film, yet we were still rushing to get it done for its due date. I remember having to fall in love with Archie Pulbrook for our film, which was the best experience ever. I also loved dressing up for the business dinner, as well as the after party, which was the first whole year celebration. - Charlotte

During film week, I remember using dry shampoo to make my hair look white to appear as an older character!!! - Rosie



Year 10 was also very special. Whether this was watching our films at Bowral cinema (best Assignment I ever did) or my group and I (15 Minutes) winning our division at Sharp Short, but fuming about final result. I also fondly remembering struggling to Build my Cardboard Chair In D.T, (It broke as soon as I sat on it). Nevertheless, it was still a fun process to which I cherish, as did my Tutor-group, who took bets on it breaking. — James F

YEAR 11

A small group of us went on our Gold Duke of Ed, this was a memory that will never leave me hiking up never ending mountains and driving with Mr Dibdin was a new experience. When times were tough we would have Mr Dibdin keeping us going with lollies and memories. – Mia S

Being with such wonderful and amazing friends – Andy



Year 11 at Oxley was tricky as we were beginning new subjects while COVID-19 was slowly corrupting the world. As a year group, we had to navigate how to work zoom and how to fake doing school work. Our prelim exams were the first of many daunting exams to come, but were good practice for year 12. – May

I really found my feet in year 11! I was in a friend group that I loved and I made some of my best friends during that time. I became so motivated for school as the end was so near! – Luca

Studying – Jarrod

During the 2020 lockdown period, I remember accidentally packing my lunch for the day in my lunchbox and placing it in my bag. Only to realise I'm not even leaving home to go to school!!! – Rosie

Stealing into Ms McVean's tutor group to talk to Jen and laughing hysterically when we couldn't work out who we were in celebrity heads. – Molly

Covid became a thing so we had to resort to online, which was a new territory. – Charlotte



Being "Soapy Jack" in Mrs Norton's bio. Saying goodbye to Mr Hetherington. – Jack

Year 11 was a good year for me and just being connected with different people and I really enjoyed it – Zach

Finally having a good friend group and making way too many fun memories. The first lockdown being easier and warm weather when saying goodbye to friends leaving school/graduating – Emma



Being with such wonderful and amazing friends – Andy

Music in year 11 was so amazing. Our music class was such a family, we were able to make music together and perform at Assemblies and Jam sessions. – Lily

Finally being able to drive on my own is pretty cool, and doing the subjects I actually wanted to do. Having studies is pretty cool too. – Mia G

Art class with Mr Heatherington was always a favourite time of the day – Alex

Forming strong connections with my teachers – Jordan



Being with such wonderful friends – Andy

Lockdown. I struggle to remember this year – Will

I'll be completely honest, year 11 flew past so quickly it's hard to remember much – Cody

Some memories which stick with me the most are the two gold Duke of Ed Hikes to the Snowy Mountains, each almost a year apart from each other. These were so challenging but amazing experiences for both the scenery and the friendships which were made. The sense of accomplishment felt at the end of these hikes is always something I will remember. Madi S

Year 11 brought a change of uniform and a customised timetable; all the things I had heard the giants that were the senior students talk about since year 7 was finally to be happening to me! Being the first year of my schooling altered by COVID-19 lockdowns, unique memories such as watching the 'Maths with Mr Brett' YouTube videos or sitting in my back yard reading Catcher in the Rye during English stand out to me upon reflection. In addition, getting proximate access was quite memorable, though perhaps in a slightly egocentric way. – James B

Firsts Football Team – Lochie

Remote schooling for the first time was certainly a struggle, making me realise how grateful I am for the immense amount of support from the school and teachers. – Anneliese

I remember this was our first year of covid, it was the first time doing online school which was such a new experience and it helped me to understand better how learning works and how much work I need to put in myself to get anything out. I definitely improved my work ethic in year 11, I know a lot of people talk about the negatives of covid but I learnt a lot and I look forward to using these skills for the rest of my life to overcome unexpected curveballs. – Ainsley

Year 11 for me was a wake-up call. In year 11 I was really required to step it up. It honestly felt like the first year that mattered. I remember staying up late on various nights finishing assignments on the phone to my friends, to see what they had written. It was in year 11 that I learnt to really apply myself. – James F

Surprisingly I remember very little, year 11 and 12 sort of merged together. I do however remember having a few mental breakdowns, one over my art teacher leaving, anyway I best not ramble on, it's getting late and I'm "worried about the time" – Bianca



YEAR 12

Having that feeling of seniority in the school as well as camaraderie with my year group. Although we didn't have the year we expected we have all stayed really strong. I won't forget the unforgettable outback bus chats, year group evening zooms, lunch table banter and the feeling of us all happily being together. - Ingrid

Chips parties with Bernadette and the gang :) - Nethmi

Crying my eyes out at the graduation drive through - love it - Georgia

Although Outback was meant to take place in year 11 I am so glad it happened in Year 12. We bonded so much as a year group, all the excitement took place on the buses, going from one place to another, the bus is where we spent most of our time, learning new things about each other and playing mindless games was definitely the most rewarding. This definitely was not the Year 12 we were expecting, ending the last 13 years of school at home was honestly deflating, but the teachers put so much effort into our drive thru graduation which will be a very memorable graduation. - May

The start of Year 12 was a relief we were nearly there and then things got a bit off track with covid however our year stayed together as a sort of family. We started the year with yoga meditations and talks and then had outback excursions, drama plays etc. nothing stopped us. - Mia S

Outback! Outback was one of the best school trips I've been on. Every moment was so much fun. My favourite memories from the trip were sitting on the hot buses, chatting and playing games with fellow class mates. - Madi S

zoom, fun, and a great year group to finish school with - Claudia

Growing a stronger friendship with the entire year group that I didn't even know was possible!!! The joy of Outback. The Year 12 drive through!!! - Rosie

There's too many to mention. Thinking about Outback makes me wish for simpler times. My best memories are probably just being able to socialise in class and see everyone in person. - Ruby

Year 12 has to have been the best year for me. There have been so many special moments for me this year. Whether it was playing paranoia on the Bus during Outback, watching movies in Modern History (with Mr Verco's puns), fun times spent in the study centre or emerging in the collective determination to make everything count. Every mark and every moment. It truly was the best year. - James F

Getting to sit on the famous year 12 table at lunch, intimidating year 7's with just a look, getting to use the year 12 study for the first time and sitting on the balcony when it was warm, being able to get along with more people and getting closer to new people just through having the same study. - Emma

Finally being able to see the end of the road - Sam

Definitely outback. That trip was such an amazing experience for me. I loved travelling all around outback Australia and visiting some really amazing places. I loved getting to know people in my year that I didn't really have much to do with before, and making new friends was the highlight of the overall trip. - Luca

Definitely the outback experience and completing major works. - Alex

Hell and cats - Jonny

Outback!! - Jesse

Outback!! - Millie

Outback - Jordan

HandBall - Arlo

Outback - helped me bond with people - Ivy

Covid and study smh - Will

Basketball Bus Trips - Jack

Friends - Archie

Getting away with my jersey nickname - Cody

All of the lasts... each carnival, singing etc and being able to connect as a group for a final year. And not to Outback being one of the most fun experiences at school, back when we thought COVID wouldn't affect us anymore and there were no worries. - Mia G

Outback was an exhausting yet refreshing experience. Everyone enjoyed simply talking to people on the bus that you wouldn't normally talk to. Most nights I would be woken around 2am by a sleepwalking tent-mate who would always tell me in his sleep that we needed to pack up before the teachers got mad. I suppose he had some kind of reputation to uphold... I was also Tennis captain which was fun. Logan

Definitely outback! This experience shifted my perspective about myself and life and definitely was a big learning curve, not to mention it definitely helped me to create a deeper bond with so many amazing people in this year group who I will hopefully keep in touch with for years to come. - Ainsley



Sitting outside the pavilion and soaking up the sun from hot slabs of cement. Sarcastic jokes with Mr Lee and Mr Chambers outside off the shelf, and hot cups of tea made frantically between classes on winter's coldest days. Comfortable silences and ear-splitting sing-alongs as we travelled the outbacks roughest roads. The year group-chat being muted as the HSC approaches, with our daily conversations becoming even more beautifully stupid. Unexpected friendships with people who I never thought I'd talk to three years ago. The end-of-lunchtime screams, as the beautiful lunch-ladies bless us with cheese and bacon rolls and watermelon pots. 'Long' walks from the year 12 carpark forcing appreciation of sunny weather, and conversations with different people each day. And most of all, the nostalgic, grateful, smiling faces of the year-group, photographed and frozen in time at all of the 'lasts'. How lucky we are to have had the company that we've had. - Rose

An Ode to Gymnastics, School Hats and Teal Notebooks

On my first day of Year 7, a girl in my science class whispered to me that her mum was going to let her sign up for the Oxley Gymnastics team Mrs Cunich ran. Instantaneously I was enthralled at the prospect, picturing myself standing proud atop an Olympic podium after dazzling an adoring crowd with my impeccable beam routine. For the next few weeks, every afternoon I'd rush home to practice doing cartwheels on the trampoline and during every assembly I'd pay close attention to be sure I wouldn't miss the announcement of the supposed team tryouts. The dialogue in my head constantly planning my eventual autobiography detailing how I owed my Olympic glory to my humble beginnings on my beloved school's team. As months passed it soon became clear that there was indeed no Oxley gymnastics team. My brewing Olympic aspirations dashed within a single momentary realisation.



Five months prior to Gymnastics-gate I stood with my mum in the school uniform shop in an oversized school dress that hung to my ankles. This was a very special day indeed; I got the whole day off school! And spent the afternoon instead of wasting away in my year six classroom reciting timetables, watching the height of nineties straight to video cinema: Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen in "Two of a Kind". From the corner of my eye, I spotted the pinnacle of private school fashion. For context, I had always been obsessed with Enid Blyton's "Mallory Towers" book series and nothing said "midnight feasts and jolly hockey sticks" like a slightly faded white school hat that sat in the second-hand school uniform section. I begged and begged my mum to buy it, professing it would be pivotal in inspiring a Mallory Towers esque high school experience. In reality, as my first day arrived I let my mum take one picture of me in the hat (Which I have later learnt through my copious research is referred to as the polybraid hat in the hat branding industry) before I threw it beneath my bed where the hat probably still sits until this day.

In Year 8, I set my sights on becoming a world-renowned scientist. My science notebook I had coveted from typo the same light teal as "Physics" was highlighted in the HSC timetable stuck to the doors of Hoskin's Hall the year prior. I dubbed this colour my favourite using the same superfluous thirteen-year-old logic; Teal was a science colour, I wanted to be a scientist. For Christmas that year

my family brought me a lab coat and my dad helped me hang a periodic table on the wall previously occupied by a Barbie dreamhouse only a few years prior. However the further I attempted to engage in my new life's passion, I was horrified to learn that science was not just a mere affair of colour coordination. When the time came to select our senior subjects I dropped science faster than I could recite the periodic table of elements. I have never used a teal notebook since.

The saga of the most disappointing hat, Gymnastics-gate or my failed attempts at becoming a world-famous scientist were not the first nor the last times this happened. In year nine, I selected Visual Arts as an elective solely because I had pressed my face against the glass of the art studio windows to see the same assortment of expensive graphic markers I had seen online and was absolutely desperate to try. (After four additional years of art, I can safely say I think I must of dreamt this happened because I have never seen nor heard of these since). And in Year 10 I pleaded to try figure skating, before spectacularly quitting after thirty minutes as I was too intimidated by a group of primary school kids on an excursion.

I don't know what the future holds, and from my previous track record it's safe to say I'm not super great at guessing. But whatever happens, I'm sure it'll all be okay.

By Pearl Bendle





My Time as a Visual Arts Student

Throughout high-school, Visual Arts was one of my favourite subjects to be a part of. This was for a lot of reasons, but most of all because of the fantastic teachers I've had teaching the subject over the years. These being Mrs Pugh through Years 7 and 8, Mrs Forbes in Year 9, Mr Hetherington through Years 10 and 11, and finally Mr Bentham in Year 12. All four of these people have made Visual Arts, and just art as a hobby by association, an absolute joy. These were some of the best teachers I've had the pleasure of being taught by across my entire school life and they each did justice to a subject that I had high hopes in from the beginning. And though I may not have been a fan of much of the theory work, I was always thrilled to get into the studio for practical lessons, which were the only periods where I felt I was truly able to chill out and express myself fully. This means I have a lot of wonderful memories associated with VA prac lessons, making Visual Arts a subject I will truly never forget. By Jack Crowley

ART

Visual Art wasn't my first choice as an elective in Year 9. But to this day, that was the best academic decision I have made at Oxley. However, the rumour of art being easy is greatly false. Who knew that paintings could contain so much analysis and that lines and shapes could have hidden meaning and in-depth coding just because of how they decided to place colour on a canvas. Art has always been full of love and laughter especially when it came to experimentation of techniques. From clay to acrylic, there was never a dull moment. For me, there were two people who made art that little more special- Vanessa Forbes and Mark Hetherington. Although their characters are completely different their love for art and teaching was more prominent than ever. Ms Forbes taught me techniques and VA theory with passion and the desire for everyone of all capabilities to succeed in art. Mr Hetherington was a man who made art feel like home, never critical about anyone and gave the art room a sense of freedom for personal expression, a certain haven from the rest of the school. Becoming an art student was something that I will hold dearly after my time at Oxley. Art taught me more than painting and drawing, it taught me patience, persistence and gratitude through the constant challenges faced in both practical art and theory. I will miss the paint staining my fingers and the satisfaction of completing an artwork.

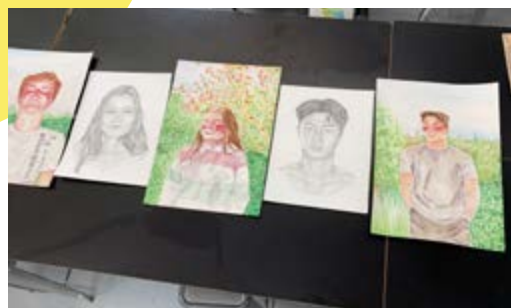
By Georgia Cheailb

For my Visual Arts Major Work, I have produced a series of graphite drawings that depict my brother in different stages throughout his childhood, as well as smaller drawings depicting objects that resonate with the time period to him.

My intentions in my body of work were to capture the transformation and journey of childhood to adulthood, focusing on my brother's story, as he grows older and moves out of home, and in essence, out of my own childhood. I wished to show this journey is a physical scene, as you can visually see my brothers' facial characteristics shifting over time. I also wished to show it in an emotional sense, as objects my brother cherishes and holds dearly to him change over time and eventually become forgotten and left behind in childhood.

I have always loved to draw realistically, specifically, faces, so I really wanted to centre my body of work around that. However, this time, I wished to make it more personal to myself, and thus chose my brother as the subject.

My brother and I have always had a strong relationship throughout our childhood and our memories together from this time period will forever be cherished in my heart. I guess I also wanted to convey these emotions I was feeling due to brothers' departure from my life as he moves to university on paper, but in juxtaposition, show how he is still here in this home for me through these array of objects he left behind from his childhood here with me. By Bianca Gibson-Brown



MUSIC



Almost all of my time at Oxley has been spent alongside my involvement in Oxley's music programme, which I joined all the way back in 2013. From playing in front of my class to performing in eisteddfods as a member of the junior band, my first few years at Oxley were littered with various musical opportunities. As I entered High School, the opportunity for performance and musical development expanded dramatically, and before I knew it, I was involved in bands and events both in and out of school. Alongside my involvement in Oxley's events and ensembles, I have been a member of the Southern Highlands Concert Band for the last few years, and have been to music camps and other events outside of school.

From the early days of my experience with music, I have always felt that Oxley has provided boundless opportunities to perform and develop skills as a player, from the fortnightly jam sessions to the large variety of ensembles and external support provided by the music department. My advice to anyone wanting to develop their skills as a musician in the Oxley music programme is to participate in everything, and to be proactive when seeking performance opportunities.

I would like to personally thank the entire Music department for continually extending and supporting me, and for making my high school life that much more enjoyable. By Tom Dunn

Music at Oxley for me was less about the actual playing of the music, and more about the people I was lucky enough to enjoy it with. Countless music nights and rehearsals blend into one as I look back, but some things never changed. The lollies we snuck into performances, the shared looks of excitement as we walked on stage to perform, excursions which allowed skipping of 5th period, the endless hours of speech night performances forgotten as we rejoiced in our success. Unlikely groups of people from all year groups, backgrounds, and stages of life, brought together by a love for music. And even more importantly, I will never forget the persistence, care and talent of Mr Young, Mr and Mrs Van Reyk and Ms Bunyan, pushing all students to be the very best they can be. Especially through the ups and downs of COVID during the past two years, the genuine dedication and care for music and all of its students shines so brightly in this department and is something I will forever be grateful to have had experienced.

By Rose Barnett

Music at Oxley has been a huge part of my high school journey. From early morning band and choir practices to long weeks of speech night rehearsals, music plays host to some of my favourite memories at school. The experiences and knowledge that I have gained from being a part of the Oxley music family is unparalleled, none of which would have been possible without the support and dedication of all the music teachers who have shaped us all into the musicians that we are today. The family atmosphere of the music centre is the highlight of my day and for many of us it has become like a second home – which will be greatly missed by us all. The six years of music at Oxley has left us with a love and appreciation for music that goes beyond HSC, and for that we will cherish these memories.

To our amazing teachers,

Thank you endlessly for inspiring us with your love and passion for music. Your dedication and support have shaped us into the musicians we are today, and for that we are forever grateful.

To Year 12 Music,

I am so proud of each and every one of you, it has been amazing to watch you flourish into the incredible performers, composers, and musicians that you are today. This year has been a rollercoaster, however, your perseverance and tenacity are truly amazing. So much love for all of you – I hope we can jam again soon xx By Millie Rea



The DT Experience

Over the course of my many years in DT, I have always considered the subject my creative outlet where I can produce real-life practical products to improve lives. I've admired how the course was so adaptable to my personality.

My major work was a Surfboard, like how cool is that! I could incorporate skills I already had outside of school and develop them through having opportunities to access new equipment and facilities such as CAD and CAM. You're taught to think like a successful designer and how to nurture all steps of the design process to ensure a commercially viable design. Making the product is a small part of the picture as we learn successful designs are not judged based on the quality of production, rather how it meets or creates the demand. When making my surfboard for example, I couldn't simply replicate a product already in the marketplace as they're issues of intellectual property and the fact the producer would have a significant cost advantage over me. I had to establish a niche through real-life market research and other forms of primary and secondary research.

My product then followed the path of an eco-design where innovative materials and design was used to differentiate my product from what is already available. For my experience with DT the long days working on the portfolio and product is all worth it because when you push yourself what you can design will make you proud.

By Archie Pulbrook

For me Design and Technology was an interactive subject that allowed us students to experiment, fail, get back up, fail again and when we had almost given up, discover a solution. Year 12 majors was a different experience to anything, allowing me to reconsider my design ideas, and even take risks to create an overall innovative product. My major work consisted of three upcycled unisex garments, that enabled the individual to feel confident in what they wore. Furthermore, my work allowed the individual to raise awareness for the loss of biodiversity occurring in the planet, using prints and recycled fabrics and materials. The portfolio, as a requirement of the course, consisted of an eighty-page book, outlining our journey. Although these books were a pain, I look back at them now and think of how proud I am that the design cohort of 2021, were able to produce such impressive product, systems and environments.

Overall, the work and commitment that we put in to support one another, definitely contributed to our success and achievements throughout the year, and we could have not done it without each other.

By Charlotte Greenop



DT

Drama

JESSE NOAD

What was the hardest part of doing a monologue?

I'd say the hardest part of doing a monologue is starting it. I think choosing the monologue and that's the one you are going to do for the whole year is quite stressful, because you don't know if another one will be better or if its good. You kinda just need to get on you enjoy and test it out. But definitely the hardest part was starting it and finding on you really like.

How has the journey of doing monologues in high school gone for you?

I have actually loved doing monologues. I think the whole journey with the HSC monologues has been quite fun, there has been times where I have be stuck or not known how to make it better but overall it has been really fun. Since I've loved the monologue that I'm doing I've worked quite hard at making it the best it can be, and incorporating props like glasses and smoke machines enhances the monologue and the themes behind it.

What was going through your head whilst doing your hsc monologue?

During my monologue I was thinking just get through it, just get through it. Then I'd start thinking oh actually im doing ok, then I would have to tell my self, no no no stop focus on the words. But also your minds just blank. Your not really thinking about the lines, your not really thinking about anything else your kind of just in the moment. I kept on thinking to myself just don't stuff up, don't stuff up and I would have to catch myself out of thinking like that. I was trying to relax mostly and push as hard as I could



CLAUDIA THOMPSON

How did you find the HSC monologue process ?

The HSC monologue process for me was well a bit of a rollercoaster to begin with. I started off doing theatre criticism and then I switched to doing a monologue and it was the best decision I made. Mr Cunich was there the whole way through and we really just made the script come to life through my character of Abigale. The whole process was really good it was easy fun and it was so exciting to see the finale product. After all that work you had put in, so I had a really good experience with it.

What was your favourite part about being on stage?

My favourite part about being on stage was finally being able to see the finished product. The lights, the sound, the costume, feeling it with everything put together and being more in character than ever. When all the elements of production came together and you felt proud and happy to be performing that piece as it is, was amazing.

What's some advice you would give to younger years doing a monologued?

Choose something your really interested in. It is normal to loose interest in your monologue as you go along with it but, from the get go start learning your monologue. Also have fun with it, its not meant to be draining and tiring like some other subjects can be, its meant to be a really fun process. So choose a monologue that your interested in, will be fun to do and give it a go ! Give it everything you have got because it will all be worth it in the end.

JORDAN BUTCHER

What is the biggest take away from performing a monologue ?

My biggest takeaway from my monologue experience is having to work diligently by myself, as well as keeping my self accountable. I knew that of I wanted to be successful in my HSC monologue performance, I would have to work hard, implement feedback given to me adapt to the changing circumstance of the process and most importantly enjoy myself whilst doing it.

Do you have any funny memories about the journey of you monologue ?

I enjoyed Mr Cunich's sponsorship with Krispy Kreme as after we performed we were able to treat ourselves to a donut as reward.

Describe performing alone in three words ?

Procrastination, nerves, satisfaction.



MIA SANDILANDS - Productions

How did your Oxley drama production journey start and end ?

My Oxley drama production journey started when I was in Year 6 and I came to watch Oxley put on Pippin. I remember seeing all the costumes, lights, staging and being so amazed with everything brought together on stage. This made me so inspired to come to Oxley and get involved in their theatre world.

My journey has ended with finishing my monologue and group performance with my Year 12 drama cohort. As well as having a lead roll in the school musical Oklahoma which I enjoyed so much.

What is something you'll take away from your Oxley drama production experience ?

I think Oxley Drama was kind of a family. Every production you'd get closer with people from Year 7 to Year 12 showing off everyone's talent in the school. It was also an outlet to take time away from schoolwork that can become overwhelming sometimes, and replace it with something fun. It was such an amazing experience that I will hold onto forever more than anything else at Oxley.

What's the funniest thing you can remember when performing?

The funniest thing whilst I was performing was seeing Mr Cunich thrive. Watching him do his little monologue he would put on for us and he's way of acting things out was always done in a way to make us laugh.

Describe being in productions in three words?

In three words it's a family, it's exiting and it's magical

Yearbook Quotes



Rolling with the homies



We are beings of light, and creatures of fear, once fear is recognised as illusion, we are free to love eternally.



Thinking of this was harder than the HSCI



Proud to be me.



It's actually strawberry blonde!



Do you have a plan? I don't even have a pla..." Phoebe Buffay



Where's my shovel?



1. Time in the market beats timing the market. 2. Patience. 3. Stop loss/Don't be greedy.



Probably at a meeting or something!



Still waiting for an owl to crash through my window with that acceptance letter.



1. Leverage. 2. Buy low. 3. Sell High.



The best thing about highschool was watching everyone cry about Maths, but not me!



Talk about a rough day at work.



They say that money doesn't buy happiness. But is can buy Louis Vuitton.



I promise its not derived of anything.





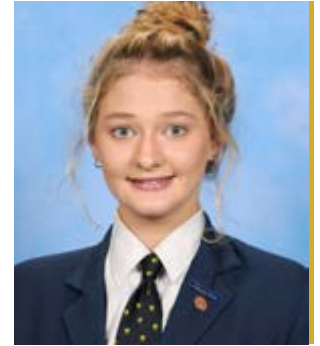
I took two dogs already, they are in the back of my van.



Rose Barnett fan club.



Plenty of cowabunga and a little bit of ka-chow.



Goodbye everyone I'll remember Oxley in therapy.



Are we lining up alphabetically or in height order? Either way you'll find me up the front!



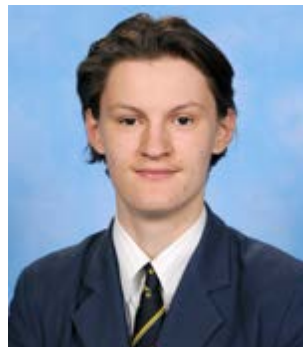
High school really wasn't a musical.



A thesaurus is the only thing that got me through high school.



Better late than never.



Your're not you when you're hungry.



Woohoo!!!!



Opportunity is a fire in the night holding back the darkness of regret. Only you can collect the wood to keep it alive. Make it grow.



Hakuna Matata - the problem free philosophy.



High tides float all boats.



Thank God that's over.



If your going to fight, fight like you are a third monkey on the ramp to Noah's Ark and brother it's starting to rain.



Tough times never last, only tough people last.



I know that I know nothing. The Socratic Paradox.



Oy with the poodles already - Lorelai Gilmore.



So long and thanks for all the fish.



You can't just give up. Is that what a dinosaur would do? Joey Tribbiani.



Football is life.



Not going to the gym is a form of resistance training.



Mamma Mia: Outback edition.



Typing this was as easy as getting out of trials seemed (joking) xoxox



So long, partner. Woody.



Everything stinks till it's finished. Dr Suess.



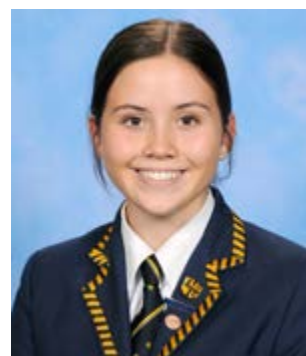
It was ok, I guess.



You haven't experienced life until you have ridden a KTM 250.



All of this and I still don't know what a verb is?



The things that make you different are the things that make you you!



I came, I saw, I graduated.



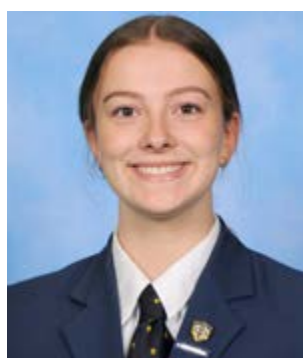
The worst fake tan.



Sometimes its time to go.



Step into the daylight and let it go.



Tell em I'm doing peetswa.



Ella Jackson fan club.



If you try and fail, try again.



I hate alphabetical order.



Don't talk much at Oxley but why would I ?



Live, Love, Laugh.



Ya like Jazz?



Be good to the world and the world will be good to you.



I'm too busy writing history to read it.



Just nut it out.



Slow burner.



Never give up in any situation cause you will get there.



Most likely to... *By Ruby Zupp and James Feetham*

Grace Ayling	Most likely to have the best laugh	Tom Jennings	Most likely to park in the wrong spot
Zachary Bamber	Most likely to play Fifa	Lachlan Jowett	Most likely to do the best voice impressions
Rose Barnett	Most likely to have an identity crisis	Nethmi Kariyawasam	Most likely to quietly take over the world
Pearl Bendle	Most likely to be caught daydreaming	Lochie Kennedy	Most likely to be age Champion
Arlo Berry	Most likely to marry Aziz	Ava Lambie	Most likely to win the Nobel Prize
James Blissett	Most likely to know how to fix the teachers computer	Lily Magill	Most likely to work with kids
Oliver Bragg	Most likely to be the biggest heart breaker	Caitlin McCarthy	Most likely to have country clothes sponsorships
Arabella Brown	Most likely to become Tik Tok famous	Sam McErlane	Most likely to become the next Frank Sinatra
Jack Butcher	Most likely to always have long hair out of school	May McRobbie	Most likely to be a stay at home mum
Jordan Butcher	Most likely to be a gentleman	Sophie Moore	Most likely to fall off their chair
Lily Carman	Most likely to need a snack	Jade Neath	Most likely to complete their Gold Duke of Ed
Lucy Cavanough Quince	Most likely become a mountain bike model	Jesse Noad	Most likely to burn rice
Georgia Cheaib	Most likely to need a ride	Molly O'Meagher	Most likely to become a big time lawyer
Sophia Cheaib	Most likely to have their name pronounced incorrectly	Toby O'Sullivan	Most likely to go through different hair stages
Will Clark	Most likely to have the hottest dad	Peta Oxley	Most likely to dance on Broadway
Andy Cornick	Most likely to rock a Gucci getup	Liv Pride	Most likely to fall in love with a teacher
Jack Crowley	Most likely to shout food	Archie Pulbrook	Most likely to be voted funniest in the year
Max Currie	Most likely to supply all the lollies	Tom Rapp	Most likely to be a triple threat
Will David	Most likely to eat anything they see	Millie Rea	Most likely to thrive on a gap year
Max Davis-Rice	Most likely to get the all-round good bloke award	Cameron Regan	Most likely to spend all their money on food
Logan Dobler	Most likely to become an entrepreneur	Alex Reichenfeld	Most likely to disappear for a year
Tom Dunn	Most likely to be the host	Luca Ritchie	Most likely to have the best hair
Ainsley Everett	Most likely to use humour as a coping mechanism	Jimmy Rogers	Most likely to be the reincarnation of Jimmy Hendrix
James Feetham	Most likely to make a spelling mistake	Mia Sandilands	Most likely to have the most kids
Havi Francis	Most likely to get Maccas	Maddie Sargeant	Most likely to be a school sports captain
Codi Gibbeson	Most likely to only drink bottled water	Madi Shields	Most likely to travel the world
Bianca Gibson-Brown	Most likely to become a famous artist	Bella Smith	Most likely to miss speech night
Mia Gillis	Most likely to have a 10 year gap year	Jarrold Smith	Most likely to have not change since Year 7
Charlotte Greenop	Most likely to have main character moments	Laura Smith	Most likely to have the kindest heart
Asher Hagan	Most likely to become wolf of wall street	Emma Sommerville	Most likely to have the best comeback
Ivy Hayes	Most likely to get people lost on Duke of Ed	Liz Stewart	Most likely to marry her dog
Ingrid Heinrich	Most likely to be the MVP of the year group	Claudia Thompson	Most likely to star in a reality show
Abbey Henderson	Most likely to get ID'd until she's 30	Rosie Thompson	Most likely to become a nature photographer
Conor Hendry	Most likely to be late because they over-slept	Cody Thorpe	Most likely to always carry a can of energy drink
Ella Jackson	Most likely to become an activist	Anneliese Wansey	Most likely to be the most organised in the class
Jonny Jansz	Most likely to walk cross country, but be in the champion race in athletics	Ruby Zupp	Most likely to become a famous actress

James Feetham

What have you learned during your time at Oxley?

My time at Oxley has been educational to say the least. I've learned more about myself in past few years than I'd care to admit. I've learnt a few key fundamentals, such as making things unnecessarily hard is great for your ego, not so much marks. I've also learnt that BBQ sauce on a cheese and bacon roll is delicious and essential.

However, the most important thing, that I have learnt is perspective. Over time I've come to learn that examination marks are not defining factors. To be honest the only assessments I can remember are the ones I truly enjoyed doing. Everything bad and upsetting eventually drifted away from memory and was replaced by something new.

I have also learnt to identify the '3-minute effect'. For every good exam mark, there was roughly only 3 minutes of happiness. Therefore, I think it vital (especially in Years 7-10) to prioritise social connections that can last a life time, over academic glory (there will be plenty of time for that in years 11 & 12).

What is your proudest accomplishment from school?

School has provided me with many achievements. Whilst all minute in the grand scheme of life, each one holds personal significance to my schooling journey. Whether this was learning to tie my shoelaces in year 2, getting my pen licence in year 4, the undefeated rugby season of year 7, competing in the finals of sharp and short in Year 10 or finally getting a much-desired academic tab in Year 12.

However, my proudest achievement must be, being head boy for 2021. This was in many ways a correlation of all these achievements when making me the person I am today.

What do you want to do in the future? How has school prepared you for this?

As of next year, I am very excited for Uni and College. School was amazing but after 14 years, It's time for something new. I plan to go straight to UNI (either ANU or USYD) and keep studying, as it has become so accustomed to me. However, I would like to do a year aboard eventually, whether this is in Amsterdam or New York.

Following my discovered passion of Modern History, Business Studies and drama I plan to do a degree which enables me to be involved in marketing (so keep your eyes open for the next big add). School has got me this far, but I'm keen to lose the safety net and see just well-prepared I am.

What will you miss when you leave school?

I'll miss a lot about school. I'll miss playing rugby with my teammates, and 'Flappy Golf' with my mates. I'll miss all the drama, whether it was involvement in a productions, or issues between friends. I'll miss all my beloved teachers and classrooms that have created so many wonderful memories. But above all I'll miss my classmates. It's my classmates that have made school such a truly wonderful experience, and as such I am so grateful to have been a member of, and finish with the Year 12 class of 2021. These next few days mark incredible significance as it is likely to be the last time, we're all together.

"Above all I will miss my classmates"

How have you changed during your time at Oxley?

I believe I have changed significantly throughout my schooling career in both visible and non-visible ways. I started school as an overly excited 4-year-old with a disproportionate backpack to size ratio. Over the years I have grown not only in size but in maturity. I believe I have outgrown the overly (some might say too) confident boy who started in year 7. Through a series of successes and regrets I've become the person that I am today.

School has sought to teach me that I have more potential than ever previously thought. In the years prior to Year 11, I never saw myself as someone who was particularly academic. However, through persistence and effort I believe I really have proven to myself that I am more than capable.

However, in many ways I have held true to that small boy who started Kindergarten in 2007. School continues to excite me. I still love playing handball with my friends during lunch. And I still can't spell to save my own life. Some things just never change I guess.

"Appreciation, in particular for my teachers"

Alexander Reichenfeld

What have you learned during your time at Oxley?

I think it's almost impossible to answer this question without anything short of a novel, for a graduating high-schooler, most of their life has been a series of lessons learnt (or ignored) and I think one of the lessons that I found was of most value at Oxley is that of appreciation, in particular for my teachers, of which I don't think there is a single one who I didn't frustrate at some point (sorry!). The earlier someone can learn to appreciate their teachers, the easier their journey will be.

What is your proudest accomplishment from school?

I had been warned as far back as Year 10 of my possibly naïve ambition to attempt three major works, thankfully this past September I was proud to have completed them all, a series of paintings in Visual arts, a jacket in Design and tech and performances on drums with a viva voce in Music.

What do you want to do in the future? How has school prepared you for this?

What I think it means to be a young adult with little experience of "the real world" is to be not much but pure potential, and so the hardest decision I've yet to be brave enough to tackle is to choose something to funnel that potential into that I feel is meaningful, so I guess only time will tell.

What will you miss when you leave school?

Having a set time each day dedicated to creating art, studying and creating things in design and technology, and playing music with friends, is definitely something I've missed in the past month already. When it boils down to what it means to me to go to Oxley, I think the day to day and in class experience with the teachers is what I will miss most when I leave School, other than that it's hard to say as we haven't quite left yet.

How have you changed during your time at Oxley?

The teenage years are usually considered to be the most formative, and the most changing for every individual, in particular personally in the past 12 months I believe I've become a more compassionate person, although I'm probably still just as likely to finish everything at the last minute than I was on the first day I walked in, five years ago.

What was your standout moment from your time at Oxley?

In year nine, witnessing Nepal's beauty from a window over a 6 hour bus ride into the mountains, I was in bliss. (also playing drums at an occasional jam sesh).

OUTBACK

Coming off the back of a really unusual and tiring year of COVID-19 lockdowns, Outback provided us newly promoted year 12's with a chance to forget about what had been and what will be.

In hindsight, Outback was one big lesson – particularly on what happens when you squeeze 49 tired year 12s onto buses and drive for 12 days. And I'll be honest, not all of it was happy sailing – or driving. The best way to sum up our trip into remote Australia is by boiling every experience down to different types of moments.

First of all, you had the loud, emotional and intensely chaotic moments.

When you sit next to someone new for hours and hours, it's impossible not to learn something new about them. And once you'd finished with each other's life story, you would ease into each other's company and eventually end up laughing way too hard. Or you stupidly decided to play Paranoia (something I don't recommend for the light-hearted), and soon the questions turn more embarrassing or tread lightly towards the line of 'friendship breaking quality'. But thankfully, we all recovered from those anxious moments. The house vs house treasure hunt fit this category as well. In each house group, you had those addicted to winning who'd sprint around the campsite, leaving no rock unturned. And then you had the strategists who would meander around finding the next letters before we had the clues. Finally, you had the support crew who would scream motivation.

The next type of moment is known to bring people together. This was a warm and uplifting moment that brought giggles and our year together.

The haircuts, for instance. Our whole group would crowd around those lucky (or unlucky) few opting for mullets, eyebrow slits and red food dye. Alternating between barely working clippers and scissors, we seriously transformed some people – for the better? I'm still not too sure. Cooking and serving meals was another. We'd each take turns whipping up a tasty meal for the group, and I don't think I am the only one surprised at how nice it all was. Our pitstop at Oodnadatta was a nice break from those intense bus moments. In the air-conditioned hall, we sat and chatted, or slept or played touch footy, and those bold enough to brave the mozzies and heat swam and played outside. Or sleeping under the stars one night with the rest of the group beside you.

Eventually, each of us found another type of moment, a moment of pure, unadulterated contentedness – whether we admit it or not. These were the special times when everything around you stopped, and we could ignore the looming year ahead.

That may have been watching the Breakaways at sunset, where, in front of you, was this huge expanse of orange, green and white, two ridges protruding either side. And as the sun lowered on the horizon behind us, the sky changed from blue to a pinky-orange hue. Or it could've been the moments when you were the only one awake on a bus full of people, left to yourself. Perhaps it was looking around the museum in Oodnadatta and seeing photos of the first townspeople in this area, getting lost in the fantasy of a different time.

Of course, with any trip, there were difficult moments as well.

Whether that was missing home or sick of the constant company. Whether it was the early morning starts or going to bed on those thin, uncomfortable camp mattresses. Maybe sitting in dirty clothes for days wasn't your cup of tea or those stressful occasions got too much. Eventually, though, someone put aside their own difficult moments to offer up some sympathy. Everyone both received and offered an olive branch over the course of the trip, and that was what truly brought us closer together. We helped each get through this, and we would again when we finally decided to face the HSC.

By Jade Neath



DUKE OF EDINBURGH

In 1956 the Duke of Edinburgh Award was announced by Prince Phillip, an idea that had been seeded in his imagination since at boarding school in the Scottish Highlands. Following 65 years of evolution, it has come to lead many of Year 12 2021 through perspective-altering experiences unimaginable in our daily lives. However, out of the hundreds of hours completing the award, which of these has remained with me most vividly? Which has had the greatest impact? Maybe the time spent talking with aged care residents about their life experiences, or even jumping out of a plane with military veterans?

In comparison to the magnitude of Gold, my bronze journey served as an introduction to the diversity that is Duke of Ed, a concept best explained through example. The bell rings as I head for Stage Band practice after school to practice 'Night in Tunisia', a piece we will play in front of the whole school and parents on Speech night. Following practice, I head to pack Father's Day presents at an Aged Care Facility. That next weekend, I went on a hike through Meryla State Forest. Despite seeming like random extra-curricular activities, the Duke of Ed program is somehow able to unite these under the one banner of getting young Australians #WorldReady.

The Silver Award became a natural progression of the Bronze; more hours, more arduous adventurous journeys, but the same overall tone that you are working towards something greater. The Adventurous journeys for Silver diverged from the typical hikes, instead featuring two three-day canoe expeditions. Rarely are you presented with the opportunity of waking up to rays from a rising sun piercing low hanging mist, rolling across the water. By this time Pipe Band had become an 'instrumental' part of my drumming skill, which led me down avenues such as playing at the Royal Edinburgh Tattoo in Sydney. Indeed, I could very well make this the answer to my original question, but as alluded to above there is still Gold to come.

156 hours of skill, service, and physical recreation, 10 days of hiking, and a 5-day residential project are the mammoth requirements of the Gold Award, of which brought equally sized opportunities. Hiking in the Snowy Mountains for 10 days I summited Mount Kosciuszko, negotiated snowdrifts, and witnessed the wild, raw beauty of wind hewn rock formations and rivers. Through the skill, physical recreation, and service components I improved my skills in drumming, astronomically improved my physical fitness, and gained critical life advice from elders. I learned from a man who helped discover Quasars, and the realities of business from those who had run their own for decades. On my Residential Project, I assisted at a Veteran Mentors program for troubled teenagers, watching their mental and physical journeys towards a better life path (yes, this is when I jumped out of a plane with them). The reality is, I could write a whole essay on the experiences I had. But, returning to our original question, what did I actually gain? Throughout the journey I was challenged, confronted, and amazed. By pushing through what I thought were my limits I have become a more diverse and capable person with an enhanced awareness of parts of the world I would never have thought to explore. Awareness of how the sun sets perfectly between Mt Morgan and Half-Moon Peak in the Snowy Mountains. Awareness of the hardship felt by others my age who were not as fortunate as myself. An awareness that can only be found through the Duke of Edinburgh Award. By James Blisset



Ruby Zupp

What have you learned during your time at Oxley?

Over my years at Oxley I have learnt a range of things – some things will prove to be useful in the future, and some...less so. I have learned how to disguise a PETAL paragraph as an intellectually crafted essay. I learned that the best item from the canteen is the baguette – great bang for your buck. Joining choir is not only fun but it's the best way to get out of class during the last week of term. You MUST add a constant when integrating indefinite integrals. Always have a back-up dinner plan on DoE in the case that you become subject to a fire ban, again. Exam technique is just as important as knowing the content. Doing practice questions is 10x more effective than using flashcards in PDHPE. If you get picked as Mafia enough times (in the drama game), you surprisingly become the last suspect on everyone's minds. I know how to pack up a tent completely silently. I have learned that from unprecedented times arises a newfound sense of comradery, and truly brings a cohort together. And above all else, I've learnt to be brave, strong, and true.

What is your proudest accomplishment from school?

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to present my speech at Foundation Night, as all of the other public speakers presented such eloquent and inspiring speeches. I am so proud of Monash and feel honoured that they trusted me to lead them this year. It wasn't always easy but hey – we won something!! My proudest accomplishment, however, is probably making it this far. This year has provided me with plenty of opportunities where I could have simply given up. But I am so glad I didn't.

What do you want to do in the future? How has school prepared you for this?

In the future I am hoping to pursue a career in the performing arts or teaching secondary education. The countless opportunities that this school has provided for me fostered my love for both fields. Seeing my own writing brought to life on stage at the Sharp Short competition, gaining ensemble experience in the school productions, and most recently collaborating with my brilliant peers in devising an HSC group piece that I am extremely proud of has provided a holistic approach to my education that will be invaluable to me, no matter what profession I find myself in down the road. In terms of becoming a high school teacher I have been inspired by the pure determination and understanding nature of my teachers, and the adaptability that they have demonstrated throughout this turbulent year is something that I would hope to emulate in the future.

What will you miss when you leave school?

Routine. 100%. At times I lack the motivation to adhere to my own schedule, and has school definitely ensured that I haven't just wandered around aimlessly the past six years. I will miss being 'forced' to socialise. Forced probably isn't the right word, but what I mean is that I will miss the casual interactions that occur between classes, something that unfortunately has been removed with lockdown. I will miss my tutor group, the chats, the afternoons lying on Elvo and even the trash talk at the lockers. I already miss the class of 2021. I miss crying over shared struggles, laughing over inside jokes and sitting at the Year 12 table in the pavilion.

How have you changed during your time at Oxley?

Considering I was 4'10" in Year 7 I think I've grown a bit. I'd like to think that I have become a calmer person, but anyone who witnessed this year's House Singing rehearsals would beg to differ. I hope I am more tolerant, and I'm certainly more grateful for my education, particularly though this pandemic. In all seriousness though, I don't think that I could accurately describe how I've changed over the past six years. Maybe a few years down the road I will be able to retrospectively look at my time at Oxley and see the difference in my personality. But at the moment, the only changes that I can conclusively state have occurred is that I began wearing glasses, my teeth are now straight, I have had a few bad haircuts and a whole lot of knowledge is now in my brain that wasn't there before (I think).

"I can say that I am a more resilient person for it, and that to me is what will stand out the most boldly from my time at Oxley."

What was your standout moment from your time at Oxley?

I don't think I can pinpoint a specific standout moment from my time at Oxley and do justice to the entire experience. A compilation of numerous little snippets of my time here could more accurately depict the rollercoaster that the past six years have been. Gossiping by a half broken heater in tutor group. Crying in the maths bathrooms about a bad mark. Silently singing and dancing backstage during the musicals. I cannot come out and declare a deeply profound standout moment that encapsulates an entirely positive and magical journey. That wouldn't be truthful to the high school experience that so many students live through. I can say that I am a more resilient person for it, and that to me is what will stand out the most boldly from my time at Oxley.

"Oxley especially has been a great space to grow up in, I'm going to miss the familiar routines of school life, and the people who are a part of them."

Ella Jackson

What have you learned during your time at Oxley?

The only time I'll know what Oxley has taught me will be once I have left Oxley. Right now, everything is too familiar and 'normal', so I'll have to wait and see.

What is your proudest accomplishment from school?

Finishing my major works was such a trek. A month before hand in they both felt so underdeveloped – my English Ext 2 was like a really lame sitcom about mothers and daughters and my Art was a series of average still lives that all looked like they had been painted by different people. I finished my art the night before it was due, but when I handed it in, I felt like it was in its exact form – partially unfinished of course, but perfect. Ext 2 was different in that it had taken me six months to finish my first draft, but by hand in I had rewritten the same sentences so many times that all 6000 words felt like a sculpture that I had been hammering at for far too long. Both of the majors were a labour of love and, by August, needed to be laid to rest.

What do you want to do in the future? How has school prepared you for this?

I don't really know what I want to do yet, I'm going to uni next year, so I guess school has prepared me for the conventional academic environment. Right now – next year especially – feels like a time when I'll be making actual decisions about what I want to do for the next decade at least. School has prepared me for the conventions of society in that I know the importance of meeting deadlines and getting involved.

What will you miss when you leave school?

We started with Mr Chambers, who graciously shared his football teams gummy worms with us as we discussed, among other things, English and life. Dragging ourselves up the steps to the tennis courts, we listened to Mr Lee give his group of prodigies a pep talk for the weekend, before ambushing him with a series of questions and anecdotes totally unrelated to his previous sentiments. I'm gonna miss being in such a safe and protected environment. Obviously, the idea of going to uni and starting 'life' is really exciting but I am really going to miss this childhood that I think the end of high school, for me at least, marks the end of. Oxley especially has been a great space to grow up in, I'm going to miss the familiar routines of school life, and the people who are a part of them.

How have you changed during your time at Oxley?

I've been at Oxley since year 3 so obviously there has been a lot of natural change – I'm not 8 years old anymore. From an insular perspective I can't see how I've changed; I think I've just become more comfortable with showing my true self instead of hiding behind a glaze of surface level personality traits that don't really mean anything. The passing of time and the process of growing up has just meant I'm not a self-conscious pre-teen anymore – I actually feel like I have an identity, which I think is the case for most people.

What was your standout moment from your time at Oxley?

My VA class last year as a whole was a standout moment. Every lesson felt so productive, and it was so refreshing to be able to be totally artistically expressive in a school environment. Mr Hetherington cultivated this sense of family between us in the class which was honestly life changing – or at the very least had a massively positive impact on how I see art and expression. Even though we worked on separate paintings or drawings, etc. there was a genuine feeling of love and community between us which I think drove us all to strive to reach our full potential. When Mr Hetherington left, we cried together, mourned the loss of our Jesus-esque figure. Changed my life forever.



OVERSEAS TRIPS

NEPAL

Our Year 9 trip to Nepal was one of the most amazing trips that I will forever be grateful for!

This trip started out in the city of Kathmandu where we got to explore the streets and shop for souvenirs. While in the city we visited the Monkey Temple, which was one of my favourite places we went to. The temple was full of traditional Nepalese architecture, small market stalls and of course lots of monkeys.

Once saying goodbye to the city, we went to a small town called Jibjibe where we camped and visited the local schools. Every day we would venture down to either the private or public school and learnt more about their culture while also teaching them about ours. I remember playing duck, duck goose with the younger kids and singing gave me a home amongst the gum trees with the senior students. We then said goodbye to the schools and headed off on a 4-day hike, where we witnessed some of the most amazing views. Overall Nepal was one of the most memorable trips I have ever been on and I am so glad I got to share that with my friends.

By Sophie Moore

Deciding to travel to Nepal, was one of the best decisions I have ever made. From seeing Mount Everest out of the plane window, to having the privilege of understanding and viewing the culture of this beautiful place, and of course the beautiful people, was just amazing. And I can't tell you how much I'd love to go back there.

One of the highlights of the trip which I can't go without saying, is how much I enjoyed meeting and spending time with the children from the Nepalese schools in which we visited. And despite language being a barrier, we still found ways of communicating without words.

And apart from the beautiful people in which we met, we definitely kept up our fitness! As we travelled daily, climbing further and further above sea level, I remember looking down past the mountain and realising that we could no longer see the ground. But instead, clouds. The feeling of being above the clouds and sometimes even walking through them, was like nothing I've ever felt before.

The time I spent there is something I will never forget, and if the decision arose again, there would be no second thoughts! By Rosie Thompson



BOTSWANA

Botswana, a landlocked country in Southern Africa, a landscape defined by the Kalahari Desert and the Okavango Delta became home to a group of restless and excited 15-year-old Oxley teens for three long weeks. We embarked on our journey on the 28th of September, leaving the comforting gates of the college to venture out into the big wide world, daunting yet thrilling. From traditional dinners, and sweaty truck rides to drinking out of 4L water bottles and 5am wake up calls, we learnt so much about the beautiful country and the wildlife surrounding us. The early morning safaris illuminated the beauty of Africa's wildlife and just how electrifying the safari trucks really are, while the sunset river safari truly showcased nature's gifts, no sunset will ever compare.

Although playing tourist for two weeks was an absolute blast, going to the local schools was by far the most rewarding experience from the whole trip. The excitement of the children at the primary school matched out excitement to teach and be amongst their world. From playing funny games and 5-minute-long hugs to teaching them about Australian animals, we all experienced total happiness interacting with these beautiful kids.

It was the trip of a lifetime and something none of us will ever be able to forget. Botswana taught me so much about the world, the people around me and most importantly myself.

By May McRobbie





The One Where We Graduate

A lot of people don't know that I was enrolled to go to Frensham in Year 7. I had a tour of Oxley in Year 6, a tour that would change my life. Coming out of the tour I realised something.

Oxley had snugness, a word I partially made up a word that was perfect for Oxley. Snugness – a state of warm, snug comfort. All what Oxley had and from the day forward the decision was made. I was going to Oxley. Welcomed into a family like community with endless opportunities, it was here where I made some of my favourite memories, memories which will stay with me forever.

There is something special about Oxley, you feel like you're home and home is where your family is. My family is my Tutor Group with Mr Lee. They have been my family since day 1. And still to this very day, my favourite part of the day is Tutor Group. I loved being able to experience my 6 years of high school with our growing family. Always knowing that I had support and hoping I could always give that support back. Now that I am finishing year 12, I cannot imagine moving on without my Tutor Group. Its going to be one of the major things I am going to miss about Oxley. So big shout out to MOAL for being the best family for six years!

Oxley sport is all inclusive where students can come together from different ages and houses and play the sport they love. For me my chosen sport was Netball which I have been playing since year 7. Being able to learn new skills and make new friends. My favourite season would probably be my last. My year 12 Netball team, where laughter and fun were the heart of our team. I'm so grateful I was able to finish playing my favourite sport with my favourite girls. It was here where I have met some of my closest friends, shout out to Jess Marshall.

Opportunities at Oxley are truly endless. Going to Fiji was the best thing I have ever done in my life. Being able to experience the Fijian culture and way of life was a real eye opener for me. Helping out in the local kindergarten classroom was my favourite part of the trip. I have always had a close bond with children. And it was here in Fiji where I discovered my love of teaching. Now next year going to ACU to do a Bachelor of Early Childhood and Primary Education I hope that one day I have the opportunity to go back to Fiji to that very classroom and teach the beautiful children.

I was given the opportunity to run and be a part of the R U OK day assemblies. Talking at assemblies, sharing stories and educating the school about how important it is to check in with your friends has been a memory I will never forget. I hope that now I am gone future Oxley students will carry on the message every year and every day.

Music at Oxley has been so incredibly special. I have been doing music since Year 4 and 9 years later my Music HSC is done. Now I have to say goodbye not to the music but to the people who made it unforgettable: Mr Young, Mr V, Mrs Bunyan and Mrs V as well

as my music coaches. The people who made my music dreams come true. I will never forget all the performances I have sung at, from studio concerts in Year 7 to assemblies and Foundation night. Huge milestones in my music life that I will carry on into the future.

Pin Oak. The place where it all begun where I wrote my very first article and now hear I am writing my very last. I have always loved writing in the Pin Oak being able to write reviews or express myself with new pieces. Thank you, Ms Calver and Ms Lanser, for giving me the opportunity to be apart of this team I have loved every bit of it.

Arduous, a word to describe Outback, but also memorable, adventurous, interesting, exciting, hilarious, eventful trip just a few words that come to mind. The trip which involved climbing over mountains, looking for Opal with the 'Opal Hunters', learning to cook and pack up a tent silently, crazy haircuts, two 18th birthdays, sleeping underground at Coober Pedy, multiple flat tyres, Royal Flying doctors, playing basketball with the Aboriginal children, cultural significance of the Outback, long bus rides, bonding experiences, incredible sunsets and sunrises, new landscapes and just exploring Australia. Outback was truly an amazing trip one that we will take into the future with such great memories and life lessons. This trip was such a fantastic highlight of my Year 12 cohort. A time where Year 12 was really able to bond together and become a family.

To future and current Oxley students. My advice to you is to take hold with both hands everything Oxley has to offer. Join the choir, join the Pin Oak, audition for school productions, if you want to do house debating than do it! Do everything Oxley has to offer because everything at Oxley is so, so special and you will miss it when its all over. Have no regrets step out of your comfort zone. Embark on the challenges of camp or Duke of Ed. Try anything and everything. Here where I am now looking back at all my years at Oxley, I have no regrets. I did all the things I wanted to do, I stepped out of my comfort zone and tried new things. I made memories that will stay with me forever. And I hope that you will too!

To my Year 12 family, here we are about to graduate!!! Our very last days of school are coming to an end and the next chapter of our lives are about to start. We did it. We finished our last year of school. Not to mention our last two years during a pandemic. If someone told Year 7 me, I would be doing my HSC in the middle of a pandemic I wouldn't have believed them. But here we are living through it right now. As our lasts come to an end, I just wanted to say thank you for everything. Thank you for all the laughs and all the memories. I'm so proud of the year group that we are. With all our unique quirks that make us so special. I wish every single one of you the best of luck in the future I know you all will go very far. Thank you for making my high school journey so special. Now let's smash the HSC and begin the very next chapter of our lives! By Lily Magill

**"You're off to Great Places! Today
is your day! Your mountain is
waiting, So... get on your way!"
Dr Suess**



Pearl Bendle

Star (noun)

self-luminous gaseous spheroidal celestial body of great mass which is held together by its gravity.

We are seventeen; it's the summer of butterfly clips and Jell-O shots. The universe is made up of stars and planets. Elodie is a star: enchantingly luminous, essential to the running of the universe. I, on the other hand, am a planet; a desolate space rock aimlessly meandering through an inconsequential existence. Planets are drawn to stars, captivated by their incandescent glow. I guess it was that way with Elodie and me too. From the moment I first saw her standing in the doorway of her grey weatherboard home with a bright red sold sign perched in the lawn, not ten minutes have passed in which I haven't thought about Elodie.

We sit, with our legs crossed. I giggle as I watch Elodie's hair blow in the wind, a lit cigarette dancing upon her lips.

"You really shouldn't do that," I say.

"I guess I'm a statistical anomaly; ironically, it makes me feel more alive," she says, I sigh.

I never talked a whole lot, but it was okay because Elodie did. She told me that she thought that pink ladies are the only apples worth eating, that her dad called her a disappointment. I told her that I collected words and longed to be something other than ordinary. That sometimes I don't think I'll ever equate to do anything, that every night I pray that I'll do something, be a somebody. I told her that it never worked. But none of that really mattered, because at the end of the day, here we are. Just two kids with a sub-par vocabulary sitting kerbside with Slim Aarons.

Liv Pride

Extract

Out of fear for her poorly father, Beauty begged to mirror to take her home "Please O magic mirror, take me home to my family!"

Beauty disappeared in a cloud of smoke, leaving a lonesome Beast in her absence

The house was filled with ugly. Rain bucketed down, threatening to spill in. Cold seeped through under doors and windows, creeping in, captivating its guests. Ugly words, ugly comments still rang in the air from minutes ago, thickening the air.

Tension grasped its calloused hands around my neck, squeezing, suffocating as I packed a bag. His contorted animalistic snarl as he spat insults hadn't left my mind. He had lost his temper, his control. But this had happened before. He was always quick to apologise, to come back to me begging like a dog for a bone. He would move on. It wasn't his fault, the anxiety of not having me around haunted him, I knew that. But I need to see Pa. Bag was packed. Room cleaned. Flight booked.

Lucy Cavanogh-Quince

Peach Cobbler

Coat the raw Peaches in sugar and lemons... say the bells of St Clements. Only joking! Let's not get too Orwellian, please. Once the Peaches are thickly coated, add water and let the mixture simmer slowly, for about 19 minutes and 84 seconds. Eventually, the Peach will break down into a soft mush. This is exactly what we want.

- 50 Ways To Cook a Peach, by Jen Macintosh.

And so soon, it was time to move. To find a place for them to exist. Outside of the city mist. Into a safe pocket of pavement and bricks that motherly instinct could not resist...

[...]

...Bubble bubble toil and trouble. Oh what a nice place to live! Apart from the fact that the concept of independent thought does not exist. Small towns are the most sanguine things in the world! Weekends spent netting the fruit trees and kneeling at the veggie patch... then stirring the pot to make the perfect batch... oh By Jove did those other mums love to cook! Her belly button marks the spot. They do not listen when she screams "STOP". Take a knife. Stab it in. Twist it around. Then do it again. Take out the knife, sub the spatula in. Mix and fold her guts until they blend in. Then do it again. Again. Again. Again. Until she is all blended beneath the skin. Until she fits in.



Ava Lambie

Extract from 'Dream state'

From E2 Major Work 'Canvassing the Dark'

a dark hour of the morning offers forward five gloved fingers.

hesitant, palms interlock. there is no music. the room does not exist.

the veneered floor, lacquered with the click of patent, dispelled when eyelids closed

hours? days? years? ago

the air is thick. velvet-rough, it parches a throat.

a conversation commences. immersed in a viscous voice, he paints you a scene.

molasses drips from his tongue, pools in sticky mounds. hot, bare feet tangle and trip as canyons rise and mountains tumble.

the dream state is devious. he shifts, he stalls. with a flushed groan, a tangled tussle,

he can realise your greatest fears: those bitter, dead stems that prod the soft flesh of milky sleep,

then,

he will catch the whimpering mass he thrust, break your freefall. cradle flailing arms, quieten silent screams.

you want to escape. unsettlement mutes the implicit oblivion of your sacred sleep, but the molasses is concrete: hard and cold. you reach down but you cannot...

your arms, your fingers, your fingertips... indiscernible through a sudden heady fog. there are fingers in your hair, on your shoulders, brushing your arms.

dark shapes shift and slide.

embryotic, this detached being

swims, suspended in the amniotic fluid of dawn.

Netball

In any sport you play, all that matters are the people. These are the peers that you train, play and even share a bus trip every week. It's about developing memories and making further connections with people. 2016 was the start of our netball journey with a team full of eager, young year 7 girls. We had a blast playing with each other, regardless of the results. As we headed towards our seniors' years, winning and being competitive became more exciting as everyone's skill levels improved. 2020 was a tough year. When COVID hit for the first time, it delayed the season and unfortunately all the hard work resulted in a loss in the semi-final.

Coming back to netball for our last season was surreal. After many long trainings and weekend trips, this was our last season. We started the season in division two and fought and trained hard to sit on top of the ladder. As now of now, we're still undefeated (thanks COVID)! We were incredibly lucky to get part of the season in, and I'm so grateful to have played with such a fantastic, supportive group of girls. I will definitely miss the all the loud bus trips, many games of over a third and all the memories that were made.

By Grace Ayling



Tennis

Tennis has always been a massive part of my life. I must have collectively spent months of my childhood just hitting a ball against the garage walls in preparation for what could be. Like pretty much every kid in the southern highlands with any interest at all in tennis, I did the Bowral Hotshots for a few years. I enjoyed tennis and was looking forward to playing as part of ISA.

If I had to define my experience of Oxley Year 7 Tennis in 3 words, I'd say, "interesting, fun, and a tad chaotic." These three words carried through many years of Oxley tennis. By far some of the best, and probably the most unique memories I have of my school life take place either on the courts or on a bus ride to the courts. This includes the 20-minute conversation that everyone had on the bus about how good Chobani was, having a stranger run up and kick a player's burger at a post-game lunch, and almost accidentally knocking out a teacher with lob.

Whilst Oxley Tennis has massively increased in numbers over the past couple of years, it used to consist of much fewer players. Because of this, I've always viewed Oxley Tennis as a tightknit community, where everyone knows everyone and can have conversations with other students who are years older or younger. In this way, it's kind of like one big mentor group.

I was fortunate enough to captain Oxley Tennis for two seasons. I'll miss the opportunities to assist those who needed guidance, as will Sam McErlane, Cameron Regan, and Jack Crowley, my fellow 2021 year 12 peers and players. I'd also like to thank the coaches who helped me develop during my tennis journey. I'd like to particularly thank Susie, who's been always there for everyone, and Mr Lee, who was our coach and friend during our final years.

By doing Oxley Tennis, you'll get to make the memories that no one else will, so I encourage everyone to give it a try. If you enjoy it, you'll watch yourself progress through the teams, building friendships and sharing everlasting experiences.

By Logan Dobler

Equestrian

Equestrian at Oxley college has been a sport that has grown from having a small team of 15 members when I started in year 7 to having over 30 members this year. I have been able to observe the growth in number, but also in ability of both rider and horse as the sport has become more competitive. The range of disciplines in the team have expanded as more riders have joined now including sporting, dressage, show riding, show jumping and eventing. However, as many sportsmen would say about their sport, the dedication and love that Oxley's equestrian team members put towards this sport and their horse is something incredibly special. Over the years memories were created at school training days, interschools competition days and even the everyday moments spent with our horses. This sport helped me immensely on my journey through Oxley College, it was tense, relaxing, competitive but mostly it was rewarding. After being a part of the Oxley College equestrian team for the past 6 years and competing and helping run the College's own equestrian day I believe that Oxley's equestrian team will continue to thrive in the coming years.

Anneliese Wansey



Waterpolo

Water polo was a special sport for us. It started when we did in year 7, and was a different sport to be a part of. The word got around about it, and in minutes there were 4 year 7 water polo teams! It was a sport that most people stuck with throughout school. Differing from other sports, this one was about getting in the pool and having a go versing other people in the Southern Highlands late at night. It was a community game, with games played against people across years and with both boys and girls, waterpolo proved to be an amazing team sport - not only for some fitness but also a bit of a social night out. Over the years we experienced balmy daylight saving evenings at Mittagong pool, then coaches forcing us into the Bowral pool, and then to Frensham pool. Our team was full of people that hadn't played before and kids that had which made us the perfect team. We might not have won every game but we created memories whilst swallowing water in laughter. The most special games were when Oxley was versing Oxley teams. Although it was tense, it was the best atmosphere, with everyone on the side lines cheering and competitiveness between the teams rife. These game were fun, friendly rivalries that created memories that would stay with us forever.

By Mia Sandilands

Swimming

Our cohort has always been 100% about house spirit, which is why the swimming carnivals over the years have been so memorable and fun. For our year in particular, it provided friendly competition that made it just enough so that the nerves at the starting blocks could urge you on. The ISA carnivals were always the same. Our race numbers sprawled up our arm in permanent marker, that in year 7 and 8, we would wear to school the next day with a mark of pride. But the truth is that we had spent as much time racing as we had at the vending machines and canteens. Memories over 6 years of swimming meld together with the same consistent small talk and shivering in the marshalling area, as we sat on wet plastic chairs, our legs swinging over the cold, and even wetter tile at Sydney Olympic park, as each of us eyed up the competition, judging if we were in for a ribbon, and what colour it might be. There was a comfort in those ISA carnivals, in getting the day off school, wondering not IF you would get kicked in the face during warm up, but how many times, and walking up to the Oxley section of the seating after we'd raced, shrugging off our ribbons as if it was 'no big deal.' What stood out the most however, is that we no longer competed against each other, but alongside each other. Hopefully screaming at each other in the relays, clad in our newly introduced FINA approved school swimsuits, which changed the game in making us feel like we were actually professional! Being a part of swimming at Oxley provided those in our year with a sense of comradery, as we became proficient in knowing the races each of us swam best, yelling at each other across pools when someone had missed the marshalling call, and despite complaining at times, feeling grateful to be part of the team. Lucy CQ

Hockey

All of the hockey players in our year started out together in the Junior B's. For most of us, it was the first time we had ever played, and year 7 was our first introduction to a sport that many of us would go on to play for the rest of high school. Together, we learned the fundamentals, where we would spend Tuesday and Thursday afternoons doing air-swings and gawking at the 1sts team of 2016, hoping that one day we would be as good as them. As the years went by, we discovered the power of a team sport, as we began to share more and more. We shared the ball more, as we found that passing was a skill, not a favour, and that if we passed correctly, we could actually score a goal! We shared nerves and anticipation when the older girls would come to watch us, laughter as we played and trained, and tears, as we watched each other develop brutal bruises as our previously dismal hits and pushes had morphed to become far more forceful. In each team we respectively found ourselves in the coming years, we found comfort in knowing how each other played - where on the field they would be when you had the ball, which side they liked to pass to most, their preferred position or their signature tactic for goal scoring or getting around a player.

Hockey was a way for all of us to not only connect with those in our year group, but those above and below us, and eventually in 2021 the three of us who were left from that group of year 7's in 2016 became the oldest on the field, no longer having older people to look up to and tell us where to go or what to do. In our final games for the 1sts, we played in a way that our year 7 selves would look at and say "imagine being able to that one day." Although we did not realise at the time, on each occasion, from year 7, that we passed each other the ball, tackled one another or 'strategized' for the game (in the earlier years, a lot of this 'strategising' involved us reminding each other to keep our feet away from the ball, or if we were in a bind, that there was no harm in hitting it into the opponents foot to get a free hit), we developed a sense of confidence together that does not only arise from individual progression, but being able to adapt and grow as part of a team. Now, after numerous '321 Oxley' chants with our sticks clanking together, conversations whilst sitting on the sidelines next to one another as we shielded our already red and sweaty faces from the sun, 6am starts on busses, passing lollies around for 'essential energy' and blasting music from the early 2010's, we can look back now that we are done and say 'look how far we've come,' cherishing memories that we will be able to recite to our children when we force them to play! By Lucy Cavanough Quince



16 Blue Water Polo team 2017-2018



Rugby

I love Oxley Rugby.

I have played Rugby since I was 5 years old, and as such have been involved in various teams and clubs. None compare in comradery and fun when in contrast to Oxley Rugby. Whilst we at Oxley are not division champions, Rugby feels like the premier sport at the college. The support in which we are accustomed to receiving from both students current and past is unmatched and speaks to the culture in which is built around Oxley Rugby.

In many ways Oxley Rugby was the defining factor that ensured my stay at the college. I truly love this sport and all my teammates. Oxley Rugby has consistently sought to provide a heaven for those students whose potential is not always realised in the classroom.

There's been various highlights in the navy/gold rugby jersey for our year. Whether these consists of our undefeated season in year 7 with Mr Simpson, Hard fought matches against Chev, or, being presented with our 'first XV Jerseys' by Alexander Kanaar (Oxley's only Wallaby), just to name a few.

Oxley Rugby is special because of the dedication of the sports department and coaches. The sports department has been incredibly gracious to the colleges Rugby programme whether it be trainings with the Bowral Blacks first grade team, our own sporting logo, or interstate tours.

It is also imperative to acknowledge our beloved coaches. The coaches in whom are involved in the colleges Rugby programme are some of 'Oxley finest'. Over the years my fellow year 12's and I have been coached by the likes of Mr Simpson (year 7-10), Mr Bacon (year 8) Mr Case (year 9), Mr Pope (year 9) Mr Combes (year 11), Craig (year 12) and of course first XV Coach Mr Gauchet (year 12). Our coaches have not been only dedicated but exemplar role models of manhood for students and young men such as our selves.

Max, Archie, Tom, Toby, Johnny, Jarrod, and I will all thoroughly miss taking the field to the sound of the Navy/gold chant with the school crest above, but always in our hearts. Thank you, Oxley. I would encourage everyone to give Rugby a try, it has been a personnel highlight for a truly amazing experience and journey at Oxley.

By James Feetham



Mountainbiking

Despite being a newer sport, thanks to Ms Stanton, Mountain Biking soon became, in my opinion, one of Oxley's best sports, especially if races and medals won are any measure of success (which they defiantly are!). Memories of being covered in mud, rain, blood, and driving hours to inter school races, filled with adrenaline and nerves from the anticipation immediately spring to mind. Mountain biking not only provided everyone on the team with an exciting energy outlet, but also the opportunity to truly excel thanks to the best coaches in the business. Along the way we learned the value of being challenged physically and mentally, finding a sense of thrill and learning to trust ourselves whilst speeding downhill one minute, and then trying to focus (but not too hard to jinx yourself!) whilst fighting slight frustration through pedalling steep uphill, fighting to look ahead as to not let the bike wheels get caught in a rock. Although there were not as many people in our year involved in mountain biking as in other years, those of us who had the privilege to race, train, and have more fun than ever thought possible through the sport at Oxley, now carry with us, not only improved skill (which is evident thanks to the amazing coaches that Pete and Meaghan have been for so many years now!), but a sense of confidence and courage that can only be gained via a sport as multifaceted as mountain biking; in the determination, danger and enjoyment it encompasses.

There is, I believe, a certain absurdity to the 'untrained' eye, in the enjoyment of lugging oneself kilometres up hill, or throwing yourself and the bike that your parents begged you not to wreck, over a drop off for the first time. However, it is Ms Stanton who taught me, and everyone else to enjoy these small, but important challenges - to use setbacks and fear as an opportunity to show people of just how much you are capable of, and that sometimes, that capability may be more than others, or even you are aware of until it is forced to come to light. Personally, I cannot think of anything else that Oxley (and especially Ms Stanton) could have provided, that offered, and continues to offer students to develop a sense of tenacity aplomb, and the assurance that no matter where we are, or how old we become, as long we have a bike, we will always be able to find something genuinely fun to do. Mountain biking is a huge reason that many people (including myself) will be able to look back on their school days and say 'I'm glad I went to Oxley.'

By Lucy Cavanough Quince



Basketball

The first try-outs in year seven was memorable – mainly because I was scared shitless. I had never dribbled a basketball before, let alone touched one. The only rule I knew was that the ball needed to go into the hoop - not the other teams. And who knew that jarred fingers was going to be such a common occurrence in the first few years.

The older girls on the first team were so put together and got balls into hoops – and quite often as well! By that stage, the nerves had waned as I realised all the other girls in my year were in the same boat. So began our team.

Over the seasons, you could track our development. Initially, it went from losing by twenty to losing by five, to finally winning by ten! We also had our fair share of injuries. Countless jarred fingers, a few dislocated knees, some black eyes, and infinite scratches from St. Spyridon – but we are a tough group of girls. Not once did we give up - regardless of the scoreboard.

I recall one year, early on, we were at least twenty points down, and most of our team was injured. When I say most, I mean three girls were left on the court. But those on the bench and those still defending never threw in the towel. We fought (and shouted motivation) harder and we lost like true sports.

This year, however, was the toughest. When you take away the Covid interruptions, we had one of the biggest shocks. Halfway through our season, our coach, Rick, passed away. During that time, we held each other together. And every game after that was the best we'd ever played.

I may be biased, but we are the toughest, most resilient group of girls.

By far, the one thing I will take from this sport is the power of a team. We drove each other to our best. And when we reached that point, we encouraged each other to do better. And that was evident.

Thank you to all of the coaches that been on this journey with us – Michael, John John, Rick and Josh – you took a bunch of year sevens and turned them into a first team that has hopefully made you all proud.

And now the biggest thank you of all. Thank you to Ingrid, Sophia and Georgia – we are the last four standing and what a journey it's been. We finally got the hang of dribbling, the rules and catching the ball without our fingers in the way. Thank you for sticking it out when it was tough; we've done it, ladies! We have left behind some big shoes for the following years to fill. I am so proud of you all. By Jade Neath



PARTING ADVICE

When life gives you lemonade, make lemons.

Nothing is truly lost until your mum can't find it.

Don't forget to have fun!

It'll be annoying at some times but worth it in the end.

Marks don't define you.

Hard work really pays off!!!!

Take full advantage of all the opportunities given to you at Oxley College.

Be yourself and don't let anyone stop you from achieving your dreams.

Mistakes are part of life.

To accept a negative situation is a positive experience and to fight it is to suffer twice - Alan Watts.

Always prepare for change, plan for excellence, and hope for the best.

remember to not take absolutely everything seriously, it's easier to make things fun and simple.

My advice would be to enjoy the year as much as possible. Life will change a lot after high school and this is the time where you make the best memories with your friends. Put your head down when its time to hit the books but otherwise don't put too much pressure on yourself. I think it's very important to be honest with yourself in Year 12, set yourself some realistic goals and make sure your goals and intended outcomes hold meaning to you. Your final year will be less stressful if you stay true to what you want, and you'll also find you'll gain more momentum and motivation.

Try and get as involved as possible. Really apply yourself. Spread your name like wildfire.

Do everything you can! Relax and enjoy school as much as possible while you can, you never know when a pandemic will hit.

You don't need a large group of friends to have a good time, but stay close with your year.

To the future kids of Year 12: sometimes it feels a lot, and you will get overwhelmed, however you are in it together and school is just another part of your life. Keep going and see the bigger picture x

Don't stress yourself to exhaustion - it's not worth it. High school goes by pretty quickly so don't spend all of it worrying about the past. And don't take the canteen line for granted.

Run your own race, be true to yourself.

Make the most of absolutely everything!

Make the most of the time you have with your friends and year group!

Don't waste your days at school, they go by quickly.

Work hard but also keep balance.

Don't be afraid to ask anyone for help.

Don't leave everything till last minute.

Soak up every moment, it goes by in a flash so enjoy the time you have with your friends, go to that party and study and work hard for you and not your parents or teachers only for yourself.

Give everything a good go.

Slow and steady wins the race. In order to be mentally and socially healthy you must have a balance between school, friends, and family.

Spend time finding what you're passionate about, school should not take up your whole life.

Don't mess up the balance between social life and study. I went through a phase in the first and second term of Year 12 where I did no work and only socialised and justified it to myself by saying I'd start cracking down and get serious closer to the HSC but it totally threw me off my mojo and I lost all of my good study habits and spent two months in the middle of the year re-learning how to best organise my notes for revision.

Do everything Oxley has to offer. Grab hold of the full Oxley experience. Year 12, it goes by so incredibly fast, enjoy all your lasts and make it a year you won't forget!

Take it one day at a time.

Having good friends is more important than having lots of friends.

Learn to like your teachers more, it makes classes so much more enjoyable.

Be kind.

Work hard, sometimes.

Take every opportunity you get, because when you look back you'll regret the things you turned down.