

# PINOAK



FAREWELL  
YEAR 12

OUTBACK

TRIVIA  
NIGHT



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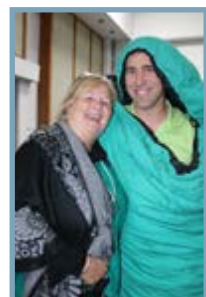
Photography: Ashley Mackevicius



## Acknowledgement of Country

The writers, editors, and designers of Oxley's Pin Oak begin today by acknowledging the Gundungurra people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we learn and work and pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within the Oxley community.

## JUNIOR SCHOOL TRIVIA NIGHT



# HEAD OF COLLEGE'S REPORT



Oxley continues to be a great school with great young people and staff. The quality of our staff and students do make the difference.

This week we have farewelled our Year 12 cohort. They will have their formal graduation after the HSC Exams. The Year group has been wonderful, lively (good), talented and engaged. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know them this year. So many have already received early entry offers to universities.

I thank the Year 12 leaders, in so many fields of endeavours, for their fine contributions and influence. I thank all Year 12 for their efforts, engagement and support of the Oxley traditions.

Oxley is a human institution which deals with the most amazing, the most complex, the most unpredictable, the most responsive, the most rewarding, the most frustrating, the most robust, the most fragile stuff in all creation – this human material of ours. The human spirit continues to inspire us, motivate us, and lift us to new heights.

We continue to promote the positive actions of imagine, listen, and respect in all that we do. We need to further promote appropriate risk, strong resilience and good relationships, both face-to-face and online. We need to promote responsibilities and a sense of service and duty to others. We need to continue to nurture and encourage our Oxley values to life and we must start to take far greater care of our fragile planet.

In an assembly I used a quote from Ash Barty after she had just won Wimbledon last year:

"I was lucky that I was able to have the opportunity to learn how to play tennis, but I think being a good human being is absolutely my priority every single day."

What a noble goal for all of us. By Dr David Mulford, Interim Head of College

## P & F NEWS

Wow - Our Oxley Junior School parents clearly love to dress up! There was an amazing array of costumes on show last Friday evening at our Junior School Trivia Night. Dressing up in the theme of 'Bookweek', we had tables representing The Great Gatsby, The Very Hungry Caterpillar and The Day the Crayons Quit. There were Pirates, beautiful Unicorns, Super Heroes and even an entire Book Shop, with each person on the table representing a book genre! Thank you to Chris Ahern for taking on the MC role for the night and thanks to Jane Campion, Peter Ayling and Emma Calver for setting up, supporting the event and locking the doors when the last book character had left for the night. This event was organised to be a social event – more of a 'friend-raiser' than a fund-raiser and I think we certainly achieved that. Parents and all members of the Senior School community are invited to attend the 'Spring Fling' to be held on Thursday 27 October in the Marquee at The Briars. This will be a great way to kick start Term 4 and an opportunity for us to say goodbye to those parents leaving our school community at the end of this the term. Tickets are available through trybooking: <https://www.trybooking.com/CCZPU>

On behalf of the Oxley College P&F, we wish our Year 12 cohort all the best for their upcoming exams. By Megan Moore, P & F President





## Staff Reflections - Year 12 2022

An eclectic bunch of human beings who all carry unique and varied personalities. Some of whom in any other circumstance would not find each other except in the small pocket of the world that is Oxley College. Confident in themselves while respectful of difference and the need to find each other's strengths to achieve something good. I look forward to seeing what they will accomplish in the future. By Thomas Kindred, Head of Sport and PDHPE K-12

Year 12 have been one of my favourite classes to teach this year. They brought their curiosity about the world to every lesson, along with a sense of fun and a lot of laughter. Historical memes, outrageous Italian accents, and Horrible History songs will always remind me of our classes. By Fiona Radford, Head of History

Within this group of wonderful individuals there is so much variation! They are unique individuals – the result of millions of years of natural selection and selective breeding. In the face of environmental pressures, both abiotic and biotic, this group has indeed not perished, but survived as the fittest of 2022. In truth, we'd love to clone every one of them.

They have maintained their equilibrium by adjusting to any disturbances they faced. They turned vinegar and alcohol into perfume and took an organic approach to saturate their learning. Analysis has been instrumental in their progress and as a cohort they will not be substituted. Amongst them there are some precious and heavy metals, life giving gases and catalysts for change.

They came as Newton's corpuscular particles and they leave as De Broglie's matter waves, proving they have momentum and at the same time can penetrate whatever obstacles come their way.

Year 12 is a group of down to "earth" students, they leave no stone unturned and are not afraid to get their hands dirty. Despite being put under lots of pressure, they have proved to be diamonds in the rough. Rock on! From the Science Department

## Year 12 Visual Art

Congratulations to Year 12 Visual Artist's who displayed a breadth of wonderful talent during their Visual Art showcase on Tuesday 13 September in the new Art Studios.

From textiles and fibre bodies of work, to animation, the students displayed significant resolve and fortitude to complete such meaningful and ambitious Bodies of Work. We appreciated the support of Greg Harris from Eckersley Art Supplies who sponsored three awards this year. The recipients are:

People's Choice Award - Alexandra Cavanagh

Technical Accomplishment Award - Brianna Grice

Insight Prize - Jennifer Allan

By Matthew Bentham, Year 12 Art Teacher



# HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL

## Extract from Head of Senior School Speech at the Year 12 Final Assembly, Friday 21 September.

For each of our 85 Year 12 students in the Class of 2022, there are 85 different journeys. For some, their Oxley journey began 10 years ago when in Year 2, when then Junior School was born. Most started at Oxley in the years since, many in Year 7 in 2017. Whether born and raised in Bowral, or they moved here from Sydney, or from around Australia, or from overseas, all of them have had to overcome adversity. Make no mistake – for some, completing their Oxley journey is an achievement in itself. As a group, they came through the disruption of COVID in Year 10, being in lockdown in Year 11 and having to complete their Prelim Exams online, missing almost whole seasons of sport, not being able to sing or to perform, and having Outback postponed. Each one has their own personal story to tell – all have faced challenges, failed tests, made poor choices, experienced loss, disappointment, and self-doubt. In overcoming adversity, they have become young people of character.

For students in Years 7 -11 and the staff, we all have our own memories of your individual contributions over the years you have been here - in sport, in music, in drama and in spoken word, in Duke of Edinburgh, in sustainability, in assemblies, in service to the school and wider community.

As we emerged from the fog of COVID at the start of this year, our Year 12s led the way. In Term 4, they lived out their theme of Unity - the Unity with Ukraine event brought us together as a school in support of a people continuing to suffer a grave injustice thousands of kilometres away. In Term 2, you showed courage and kindness in celebrating unity through the acceptance of diversity in gender and sexuality. The way that you came together as a cohort, and brought the school together, is part of the legacy that you leave.

You started your HSC Trial Exams just as the latest COVID wave was peaking. In the way you approached this, as you have before and since – you have shown in the words of the Oxley hymn, that you are “dauntless in the face of challenge”. As you turn in the days ahead to your final exams – look beyond the HSC – I urge you to “keep the high goal in view”.

Now you would expect me to drop a bit of philosophical wisdom in my speech today. In the Buddhist tradition, the most important of the three marks of existence is annica, a Pali word that translates as impermanence. Annica is the truth that everything changes - nothing ever stays the same.

Although change is an inevitable feature of our lives, it is something that we all struggle to truly accept, let alone embrace. It is this truth that is reflected in the song that Year 12 will now sing, and then in the School Song that we will all sing together. It is through singing that we can express our shared human experience – and our unity. So I now invite Year 12 to come forward to sing Forever Young.



Rituals are a response to impermanence and change - through rituals we express shared beliefs, values and experiences that hold true in spite of change. The tunnel for Year 12s is a ritual – or rite – that marks the passage from one stage of life to another. It is our way of saying goodbye, of showing our appreciation for you, Year 12, of showing that whilst one chapter of your life is closing and another is about to open, you remain part of our Oxley family. Whatever the course of the 85 Oxley journeys you have had to this point, you complete this together. It is a ritual that connects you with the hundreds of Oxleyans who have completed Year 12 before you.

A philosophical text, known as Ecclesiastes, explores the quest for the meaning of life in the face of change and adversity. At around 2500 years old, it dates from the same time as the Buddha, but from Israel. It, too, accepts change as a mark of our existence and the full range of experiences that we all share. Reciting it each year in the final assembly for Year 12 has itself become a ritual.

For everything there is a season;

A time to be born and a time to die.

A time to plant and a time to harvest.

A time to kill and a time to heal.

A time to tear down and a time to build up.

A time to cry and a time to laugh.

A time to grieve and a time to dance.

A time to embrace and a time to turn away.

A time to keep and a time to throw away.

A time to tear and a time to mend.

A time to be quiet and a time to speak.

A time to love and a time to hate.

A time for war and a time for peace.

So Year 12, as the title of the song goes, now it is time to say goodbye.

By Mark Case, Head of Senior School







## Weekly Awards

### Learning Journey

Learning Journey  
K: Elsie Herrmann  
Yr 1: Eddie Sheer  
Yr 2: Harrison Peebles  
Yr 3B: Amalia Mouatt  
Yr 3R: Hannah Cochran  
Yr 4A: Max Guilly  
Yr 4W: Archie Adams  
Yr 5M: Ella Reilly  
Yr 5N: David White  
Yr 6H: Hugo Adams  
Yr 6S: Theo Evans

### Oxley Values

K: Grace Barnett  
Yr 1: Maddie Cochran  
Yr 2: Edison Feller  
Yr 3B: Xavier Burrows  
Yr 3R: Hudson Ahern  
Yr 4A: Lulu Evans  
Yr 4W: William Palmer  
Yr 5M: Lexi Mendes da Costa  
Yr 5N: Eli Winn  
Yr 6H: Sterling Bryant  
Yr 6S: Clancy O'Mahoney

### Snowsports Awards

Brayden Anstee  
Harper Anstee  
Henry Burton  
Phoebe Burton  
Oliver Johnson  
Oscar Johnson  
Sapphire Sparke  
Rosie Vild



## HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL

There are so many benefits for students attending a K-12 College and as our Year 12 students left us yesterday, these benefits became obvious to all in attendance. Our Year 12 students shared how special school was and how fast the time had gone but they had so many wonderful memories and a lot of those involved their interactions with younger students. As they passed through our 'tunnel' formed by staff and students, their tear-stained faces displayed the realisation that they were part of a very large family, and the younger students were proud of them as individuals.



As a Head of Junior School, I get to see our younger students and senior students interact in spontaneous moments but also structured ones such as our buddy time. These are the moments that I see the students gain valuable social, emotional, and academic skills. For our younger students, the older students can give them advice and prepare them for the future. The young students will learn social skills, as well as make a new, older friend. It might be easier for a student to learn from one of his/her peers rather than an adult or teacher. Both the younger and the older students learn how to communicate with others. They also both learn how to teach and learn from others, which will help them in the future. They speak the same language, laugh at the same funny things and there is a common ground of experience that is shared.

What a wonderful experience I witnessed this week as our youngest students gave our Year 12's a painted rock and card wishing them well. As our older students bent down to receive their gifts, it was a moment in time, that they will not forget. Our little Kindergartners nervous and excited as they looked up at these 'big people' with both admiration and awe! Such a special time and recognition again of the Year 12 students and the role they play in our Oxley family!

The Junior school wishes our 2022 Year 12 students a bright and happy future where they follow their dreams and enjoy a smooth transition into adulthood.

We had a big week in the world of athletics. We were lucky enough to have a visit from Susan Hobson – triple Olympian (Barcelona, Atlanta and Sydney). She has been the manager of the Australian track team at later Olympics and Commonwealth Games and Susan has just retired as a teacher of PE and Mathematics. Susan spoke to some of our athletes who were about to compete in the CIS competition and then to the Year 6 cohort. She spoke about drive and dedication to your passion and encouraged the students to enjoy each moment rather than overthink and become anxious about the unknown. Students enjoyed asking questions and sharing some of their own stories with Susan.

She must have had an impact because on Tuesday at NSW CIS at Sydney Olympic Park our students did exceedingly well: Jnr Boys Relay – 2nd in NSW CIS; Lucas Hill U10 3rd in the 200m and 1st in 100m; Pixie Hanson U11 2nd in 1500m and 4th in 800m and Sebastian Rahme 8th in U9 100m Final. A special mention to Harry Keats who came 1st in U12 800m, 200m, 1500m and broke the record in the 800m with a time of 2.09.

Congratulations also to Amelia May, Alex Psarakis, Jnr Girls relay, Olivia Hill, Blake Ramear, Chilli Sparke, Chiara Shannon, Xanthe McDonald, Archie Cosgriff, Ben Hogan, Claudia Carpenter and Harry Kirsch in the secondary school all whom competed as part of the ISA team admirably and achieved several Personal bests.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our families for the constant support throughout this term. The students are tired and in need of some rest and relaxation. Happy holidays everyone and we look forward to seeing you all in Term 4!

By Jane Campion, Head of Junior School





# *JUNIOR GALLERY*





# YEAR 12 QUOTES



Jennifer Allan "Just Because You're Trash Doesn't Mean You Can't Do Great Things. It's Called Garbage Can, Not Garbage Cannot"



Nicholas Anderson "Sir was this first principles?"



James Arnot



Sebastian Bamber



Darby Barker "Survived two genesis floods and I'm still standing"



Aiofe Barrett-Lennard "I already have the A I O and E now all I need is U"



Harry Black "Few Britney Spears and everything will sort itself"



Oliva Bow "Can can I please stay another year?" - said no one!



Claudia Brady "Missing in action"



Meg Callaghan "To all my teachers, sorry I cried xo"



Hal Canute "Hipness is not a state of mind, it's a fact of life of life"



Alexandra Cavanagh



Gen Chapman "12 units is overrated"



Charlie Clark



Mia Coelho "Was released from a 6 year sentence"



Henry Connell



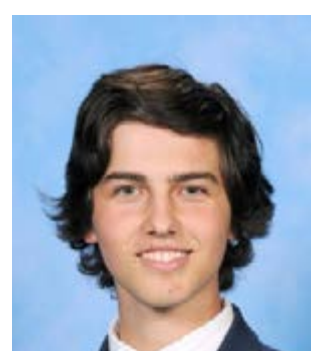
Hugh Corbett "I'm not inappropriate, I'm just verbally promiscuous."



Georgia Day-Caldecott



Bridget De Montemas



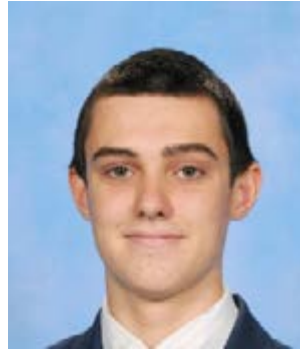
Joshua D'Iorio "I still don't know what it is."



# YEAR 12 QUOTES



William Dowe



Patrick Duffy  
"Hi my name is Patrick D-D-D-Duffy"



Molly Eagan



Camille Falshaw  
"Eat, sleep drive to campbelltown, repeat."



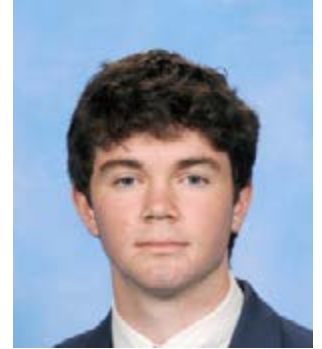
Isabel Feetham



Charlotte Gallagher  
"Finally got my tab"



Christian Gallina



Ethan Gough



William Gray  
"Picking her up from preschool"



Baxter Gregory  
"If its not a hell yeah- it's a no"



Brianna Grice  
"Short and sweet"



Archie Hancock



Kade Hanrahan  
"Tough time never last, Only tough peo-



James Hart



Amelia Hescott  
"Looks good for uni" a better school motto



Saxon Hilkemeijer



Alister Hill  
"Merrick Hanna fan club"



Hannah Hliscocks



Lily Hogan  
"life moves pretty fast, if you don't stop and



Peggy Holmwood  
"Together we can change the world" SJW

# YEAR 12 QUOTES



Jake Houghton



Avery Howes  
"DEVILTOWN IS COLDER IN THE SUMMER-



Mack Kane  
"I tried"



Scarlett Kiklovich  
"I crave release"



James Kim



Molly Knowles



Charlotte Little  
"Overthought this just like everything else"



Oscar Lobban



Matilda Longworth  
"Personally I'd be happy with AAB"



Lachlan Malcom  
"Boomerangs come back, and so do I"



Jessica Marshall



Tobias Mcierlane



Darcy McKenzie-Slaven



Sophie Nash-Smith  
"I wish there was a way to know you're in



Hannah Neath  
"Double Donut McGee – Dave"



Edward Nethersole



India O'Brien  
"I love you all"



Jillian O'Connell



Liam O'Connell



Oliver O'Riordan



# YEAR 12 QUOTES



Sarah Pietsch Liddell "Never worry about bad press: All that matters is if they spell your



Thomas Pike



Yannis Psarakis



Gaia Rickels



Hamilton Saeck



Olivia Scott



Lachlan Sell



Raina Singh  
"UwU"



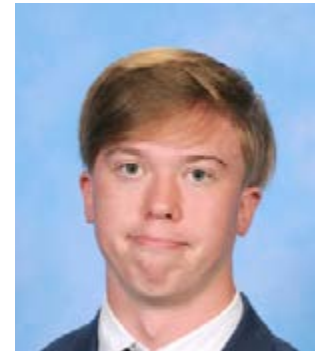
Sienna Spagno  
"This was nothing like high school musical"



Rex Sparke "Goats are like mushrooms. If you shoot a duck, I'm scared of toasters"



Lilly Spring "When someone tells you to 'break a leg' it doesn't mean actually do it"



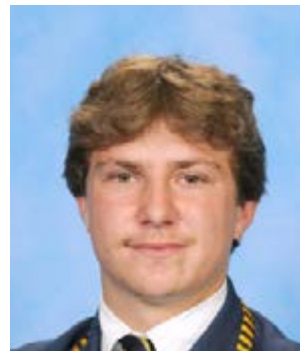
James Tansey



Julia Tansey "If I wasn't there I was probably broken down somewhere"



Hamish Tregenza



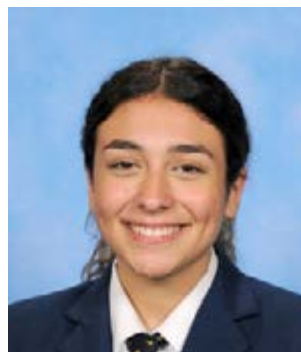
Dominic Uliana  
"What's this?"



Victor Van Der Schalk



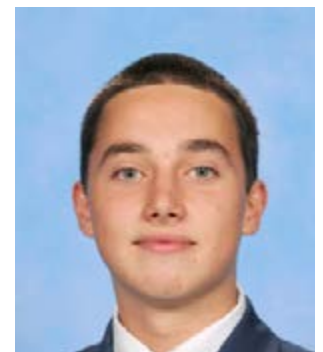
Liam Verity  
"You're still here? It's over. Go home. Go!"



Anika Vlahakis "Lets hope the next two Vlahakis' make my parents proud"



Gracie Walker "13 years of school and I still don't know what a verb is"



Toby Walker Levy

# YEAR 12 QUOTES



Ellen Watkin



Emile-Rose Westlake-O'Dwyer  
"Parking's not for everyone"



Archie Wilkinson  
"Couldn't think of a quote so here we are"



James Wilson



Jacqueline Worthington

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## OUTBACK 2022

In 1988 the first Outback trip set out with 30+ Year 11 students in two buses. It was an 11-day trip that travelled into South Australia to explore the Flinders Ranges, the Oodnadatta Track and the vastness of the country in between. Since that trip there have been 34 similar adventures with Senior Oxley students serving as a transition into their final year of school to build both collegial and individual strengths and resilience.

Routes have varied and been altered nearly every year due to floods, fires, mechanical breakdowns, and most recently Covid-19. What has always remained and been consistent is the intention and implementation of the journey described very aptly by two students from the 2018 trip, Maya Chance and Isabella Moore:

*As humans, we adapt to our circumstances and environment as a means of survival. This is exactly what you have to do on Outback. You're forced to become a different person – one who is probably homesick, hungry, sleep-deprived and done with the complexities of others but still perseveres through it all. You surrender to the power of NOW on outback. Here you are, in a less than ideal state of comfortability, but you have no choice. It's that sense of slight discomfort that makes the Australian Outback and all its wonders even more spectacular.*



Outback 2022 will be exploring new territory into the furthest corner of New South Wales and visiting some extraordinary cultural and ecological sites from Mutawintji to the Macquarie Marshes and much in between. We are fortunate to have the company this year of a student who ventured out on the very first trip in 1988, participating as a volunteer staff member, Anabelle Johnson's Dad, Roger. We look forward to his perspectives of how the trip has changed, yet hopefully a lot that is the same.

Year 11 and their accompanying team of dedicated staff have a lot to look forward to in the next two weeks!

By Annik Schaefer, Head of Science. Editor's note: This is Annik's 20th Outback trip!



# YEAR 12



# Who is most likely to...

Return as an Oxley teacher <b>Sophie Nash-Smith</b>	Live the longest <b>Olivia Bow</b>	Get a tattoo as soon as they leave Oxley <b>Amelia Hescott &amp; Ethan Gough</b>	Own the most pets <b>Jill O'Connell</b>	Break a world record <b>Christian Gallina</b>
Appear on 'the bachelor' <b>Dom Uliana</b>	Write a best seller <b>Peggy Holmwood</b>	Become a comedian <b>Molly Eagan</b>	Die first in a horror film <b>Raina Singh</b>	Get married first <b>Lily Hogan</b>
Get a "Yes" from Simon Cowell <b>Lilly Spring</b>	Become a crazy cat lady <b>Julia Tansey</b>	Still say "lol", "slay", and "material girl" when they're 50 <b>Meg Callaghan</b>	Run for Prime Minister <b>Mackenzie Kane</b>	Still get ID'd in their 30s <b>Brianna Grice</b>
Save the planet <b>Liam O'Connell</b>	Leave and never come back <b>Hamilton Seack</b>	Be on Broadway <b>Liam Verity &amp; Hal Canute</b>	Be late to their own wedding <b>Ally Cavanagh</b>	Do anything for \$5 <b>Oscar Lobban</b>
Become a compulsive cross-dresser <b>Avery Howes</b>	Get stuck in a bathroom stall or elevator <b>Nick Anderson &amp; Charlotte Little</b>	Forget where their car is parked every time <b>Jamie Hart &amp; Sienna Spagnol</b>	Get stuck in a swing set <b>Matilda Longworth &amp; Josh D'Iorio</b>	Go on a blind date arranged by their mum <b>Toby Walker-Levy</b>
Start a TikTok famous small business <b>Georgia Day</b>	Fake their death <b>Alister Hill</b>	Have the most hair colours in their lifetime <b>Grace Walker &amp; Claudia Brady</b>	Have a borderline-inappropriate authority crush <b>Jacqui Worthington &amp; Scarlett Kiklovich</b>	Develop some unexpected supernatural abilities <b>Patrick Duffy</b>



# YEAR 12





Don't miss out. Try everything you can. High School is the best environment to try new things and have fun doing them. Mack

It goes without saying that High school is not the easiest challenge to face. Sometimes it can seem like traversing a steep, rocky slope. One slip-up, one wrong step and it's all over. But fear not, as we have all come to realize, failure is a part of success, not a barrier to success. As such, it's important to experience everything. Savour the good times, move past the bad ones, and learn to accept everything in-between. This way, you will look back on your high school journey – as we find ourselves doing now – with a sense of satisfaction and pride. Hugh

You have power over your mind, not outside events. Realise this and you will find strength. Darby

Do drama. Best choice you'll ever make.  
Hal

Don't let other people control your decisions. Don't pick subjects, sports or anything else just because your friends are doing them, or your parents want you to, or even because you think it'll give you a good ATAR.

Do activities and subjects that you enjoy, do the ones you find fun, interesting and uplifting.

Don't pick your subjects based on what you think it's what you 'ought to do'. Mack

## *Parting Advice: What We Wish We Knew!*

Join the Environment Group and the Bee Club! Liam

Six years might seem like a very long time – but it creeps up on you. As Queen Elizabeth said – “It is often the small steps not the giant leaps that bring about the most lasting change.”

Embrace every moment and live life with an open mind. Baxter

In all seriousness, the biggest advice I can give is to participate in school, whether it's in co-curricular, sport, or even raising your hand in class a bit more. Branching out is important and it's an easy way to talk to other years. It's similar to the advice you might hear 'talk to everyone in your year', which is also important too. Co-curricular help you learn new skills in an environment separate from classes and exams. It will also help you practice time management outside of school. Bri

My biggest regrets are the opportunities I missed. I could've- I should've- joined the productions, learnt an instrument and done more sport. Mack



# MAJOR WORK REFLECTIONS

## ENGLISH EXTENSION 2

We spend a lot of time in English speaking in confusing, polysyllabic words (oh no, I did it again!), so I'm going to put this reflection of English Extension 2 into as simple words as possible: English Extension 2 is weird. Fun, yes, but weird. I'll put the process into some simple steps: Think of something to write about. Write about it.

OK, it's not that simple. But in some ways, it is. There is so much freedom to do whatever your English-y heart desires. There is no real lesson plan for most lessons. Everyone does their own things. Everyone has their own schedule. Everyone writes, reads and researches their own stuff. This means that in order to passionately work on something, it has to be something you are passionate about. Ultimately, English Extension 2 was what you made it – and you can make it pretty #\$\$@%ing special. Liam Verity

## DRAMA

Drama: Picking drama as my Year 9 elective, I think, was one of the best decisions I have made throughout my high school career. Each class was one to look forward to, knowing you'd open those terribly squeaky double doors and always, without doubt, be welcomed with warm faces. That is not to say drama was all smooth sailing! Oh no, to the contrary. There were tumultuous games of space jump, mafia and the occasional change seats.

For my HSC Individual Project I worked closely with Ms Simpson to craft four reviews on contemporary theatre, all of which I had the pleasure to attend in person. In addition to this, was the second component – the group project. Who knew group work would, actually, in total sincerity, be so fun. Over the past couple of terms, my group grew stronger. Rehearsals saw the compromising of productivity for a good babble over tea and donuts, however, it all worked out in the end. For anyone slightly on the fence about taking drama, do it. You not only build confidence and learn so much about yourself and your ability's but you also make beautiful friends along the way. Peggy Holmwood

Drama: In the junior years, doing Drama as an elective was best known for its lack of writing and its cornerstone being all about the fun games! But it wasn't until I entered Year 11 and 12 that I realised the true privilege of having a subject which allowed for a creative outlet and an opportunity for expression in such a supportive and bubbly environment. Drama lessons on the timetable certainly didn't mean a shortage of hard work but they did mean guaranteed enjoyment with a class I grew very fond of due to the nature of the subject and its group work components. With the guidance of our gorgeous teachers Ms Pascoe and Mr Jones our Year 12 class was able to create group works we were super proud of and whilst some aspects were stressful along the way (as all subjects can be at times) we all had an overwhelming sense of accomplishment and satisfaction at the end of the experience, something which we are all extremely grateful for. Molly Knowles



## DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY, DRAMA AND HISTORY EXTENSION

Design & Technology, Drama and History Extension: If I had to describe what it was like doing multiple majors works, I would definitely say it was a journey full of ups and downs and a substantial amount of all nighters (top tip: don't leave your dt major work till the last minute). Although despite the hours lost of sleep, it was definitely worth it for the satisfaction and enjoyment that came from completing my DT and Drama major works, and history extension major project, and something that I definitely have no regrets in doing. it was definitely nothing short of a roller coaster for all of us involved but doing a major work offers so many different experiences to every other subject, it's fair to say that no other subjects provide the level of freedom to be creative and practical like the major works do (although this definitely comes coupled with a bit of extra stress and a few more mental breakdowns) and I definitely recommend them to all! Camille Falshaw

Design Technology : I think my peers can attest to the sleepless nights thinking about doing their MDP's rather than actually doing it. My major work was produced in stunted, short bursts of productivity and then sprinting a closing marathon. This isn't to say I didn't enjoy the process, because there is something truly special about creating something in service of finding a solution. My design tech project has been the most rewarding subject throughout Year 12 and I think that comes down to how Mr Madden tutored us over the last year. Thank you to my classmates and teacher. Victor Van Der Schalk





# MAJOR WORK REFLECTIONS

## MUSIC

You know, it always surprises me at how shocked my peers have been at the fact I had to perform four songs for my music major work. Like there are people making literal chairs, and artworks the size of my body, but each to their own.

However, I will not underscore the immense amount of effort that does go into those four pieces. For vocals: the breath control, the tone colour, not being sick on the day, the shaking voice from the nerves...the list goes on. Throw a broken leg like mine into the mix and there's a whole lot of other complications with diaphragm business that I quite honestly cannot explain. Who knew singing was so hard?

I must refrain from making this too negative, as music has truly been my favourite subject throughout Year 11 and 12. There is no other subject where you can walk into the 'classroom', pick up an instrument, and claim to be doing work – it's pretty cool. Aside from drama, music is really the only other subject where you get to meet your markers, and perform, rather than sitting in a silent room answering questions about George Orwell, or why Larry had 6L of orange juice. In a way it's an escape from the madness of textbooks and syllabus dot points that Year 12 crowds our heads with. It sure puts a spin on my childhood bedroom karaoke singing performances! Lilly Spring





# MAJOR WORK REFLECTIONS

## VISUAL ARTS AND MUSIC

Major works. It's called that for a reason, and with my lovely friend 'Thesaurus.com', I am very happy to spell it out for you. The word major is also a synonym of; big, dominant, extensive, large, large-scale and sizable. The word work is also a synonym of effort, struggle, grind, endeavour, job and task. Just to name a few. Basically, I am saying that it takes a lot of time and effort. I had the joy this year to complete three major works in the subject's Visual Arts, Music 2, and Music Extension, and for each, I would like to say some discoveries I have made and a couple of apologies.

Visual Arts: To my car, I owe you an apology. Throughout the year I have endured a couple of extra trips to and from school, shoving in boards of wood that barely fit into the boot even when the seats were down. I soon discovered that my car did not like this and planned its revenge each time I hauled in my work. The seatbelt would catch, the door would slam down on my head, and there was the constant beeping as I drove to school, telling me that I had an unbuckled passenger in my back seat (turns out major works can equate to the weight of a small child).

I would also like to apologise to my dining table, which did not see much sunlight this year. This is where my work was mainly situated at home and unfortunately, I had to sacrifice my previous ignorance to inspect my food before I ate. I remember my mum saying, 'don't worry if you eat charcoal, people actually use it if someone is poisoned'. Maybe it would make my teeth whiter too. Along with the dining table, I serve my apology to the chairs around it. I'm sure the black marks will come out one day. I would like to add... using powdered charcoal as a medium has been an excellent way to catch the culprits of unwanted sabotages in my work who would quickly become 'black-handed' (mainly my cat, whose white paws had become a new shade of grey as she created a new artwork with her prints around the house).

Music 2: I would like to apologise to my parents. You know when you have a favourite song, and you play it way too many times that you cannot bare to listen to it anymore, so you don't listen again? Well, my parents didn't have this choice whether they liked it or not. This was an endurance during both my composition and performances, with the frequent sentences of the year; "Will you be my audience for my piano piece?" and "If I put this note in does it sound right?". A discovery I made during this period of practising is that everything musical sounds so much better in the bathroom. Science explains it well: Sound reverbs better thanks to the unique acoustics of the ceramic tiling, absorbing next to no sound and becoming, you guessed it; louder (another reason for my apology at 7:00 am). As a result, I spent my mornings shrieking into my flute, and I would like to thank the shampoo and conditioner bottles for stepping in as the makeshift HSC markers.

In my music 2 composition, which had the criteria to write for Australian music of the last 25 years, I chose to write a piece called 'Avian Bush Chorus', or ABC for short. This involved dictations of bird calls in my backyard or recording them at school. Whilst I may have looked a little suspicious occasionally holding my phone up to various trees during my studies, I am glad that I persisted with my work. Overall, this major work helped me experience something I was not expecting this year, the great outdoors. I may not quite be an ornithologist, but I got to learn a few new things about Australian birds. Even if they were a little pitchy sometimes, I soon realised the versatility of each bird call, and now hear their calls as melodies. In the wise words of a Chinese proverb, I found; "A bird does not sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song".

Music extension: I would like to apologise to my laptop, it's worked much harder than I have. A MacBook Air is only supposed to hold so much memory and writing for a full orchestra in the music programme 'Sibelius' did not help. In the persistent crashes and force quits, I don't blame my laptop for being the reason I now have to bring a charger to school. To be honest, I pray that it will last one more day each time plug in its life support, patiently waiting to hear the battery level's weak "ping". Now every time I open my composition, it is outshined with its new accompaniment; the vociferous fan which becomes a polyphonic battle to bring the temperature down to a healthy level. At least my computer is still breathing.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my music Extension class this year. I would like to apologise to Mr Young though in each assessment I had. I'm pretty sure he got tired of me very quickly each time I jokingly pestered him about what the top mark, average mark, and bottom mark were. Surprise! It's the same, I am all three. I had the privilege to be in a class by myself, although I was told a couple of times that it felt like it wasn't just me (I'll take it as a compliment). Mr Young if you're reading this, I would like to thank you for your support and persistence in my lessons, I am so grateful to have you as a teacher that guides me through music to push me to my best, from the Year 12 extension music class.

Overall, I have realised that my apologies have extended into a mantra that echoed across the year 12 visual arts rooms and in the music centre, 'trust the process'. This process included a lot of time, and guiltily, the procrastination of my other subjects, but choosing to major works for my HSC was one of the best decisions I have made this year. After all, it's nice occasionally to have a material representation of your effort that deviates from a mark on a piece of paper. I wish the further years of HSC major work students good luck and highly encourage you to pick them up too.

By Brianna Grice

# Year 12 Reflections

## 1. What was your first memory coming to Oxley in high school?

My first memory of Oxley is Orientation Day when I was anxiously awaiting my house allocation. When I looked over to the Mawson flag underneath the Pin Oak I was initially daunted by a tall man with an awesome moustache, but then I realised that under that moustache was a smiling face. Mr Woff was one of three house masters I had over my years at Oxley, and I will forever remember his smile and the warmth he showed myself and the Mawson Year 7's of 2017.

Orientation camp at Canyonleigh is one of my core first memories at Oxley. We stayed one night, and I will never forget walking up to this lookout to watch the sunset with all of my fellow Year 7s and the Year 12 leaders; who I looked up to so much. We then made a little skit within our houses and we did something to do with Star Wars and then performed it in front of the other houses when we were back at camp.

Walking into 'SWYM' class and Monty Clark asking me if I road motorbikes



My first memory of Oxley was meeting the Year 12s for the first time. I just remember they all looked like they were about 30 years old. Despite this, they all were quite nice and really helpful. I remember smiling nervously during my family's traditional 'first day back at school' sister photo (or, rather photos) – devoid of a middle part with a tightly slicked back low pony. My older sister going into Year 10 and my younger Year 3. And I of course, Year 7! I recall getting to school and seeing the Florey yellow flag wave and under it my soon-to-be tutor and greatly admired teacher, Mr Simpson. Next to him were my sisters friends, hugging and welcoming me into the House.

## 2. If you had one piece of advice for future years, what would it be?

Get involved. The more you put into your time at Oxley, the more you get out. Co-curricular experiences have been a central part of my Oxley experience, so I implore everyone to get involved with sports, service-learning opportunities, and spoken word activities (like Pin Oak).

Do not wish your time away. Although some of you can't wait to leave school, you have to go out into the big wide world after it is over. Enjoy every moment you have while it lasts. You will make some great friends at Oxley, and those friendships you will cherish forever. If all you think about is leaving school the whole time you are here, time may go by faster than you want it to and you wouldn't have made the most of the opportunities you have been given.

Take all the opportunities you can get. Some of them might seem pretty bad at the time, but when you look back you'll definitely won't regret it.

Try to make the most of the opportunities that Oxley provides you with.





# Year 12 Reflections

I think it is so important to put yourself first. It sounds terribly arrogant and perhaps selfish but I promise you, it's not. At its core, it understands that you must be kind to yourself first in order to be kind to others. You need to be empathetic and compassionate to yourself before you can truly do the same for your friends, family and partners. Especially in later years when the assessments roll in and social groups become (at times) tumultuous, it is so crucial that you know your worth. Not as a number, but as a valued member of not only the Oxley community but the greater sphere we all call home.

### 3. Favourite thing about your time at Oxley?

The connections I have made with my peers and teachers. The building of trust, commitment and respect is what I reflect on most. In particular my incredible mentor group led by the fabulous Meaghan Stanton so count this as a shout out to my favourite 18 Mawsonites that gave me energy every morning and afternoon.



The opportunities you are given, time and time again, are uncountable and extremely memorable. Varying from house sporting carnivals and getting behind your house to Duke of Ed hikes, the opportunities that you are given at Oxley you will not find at many other places. In my early years (Year 7, 8 and 9) getting to experience OLE camps was amazing. Hiking up Mt Durras to Pretty Beach in Year 8, and then Rites of Passage and overseas trips to Botswana in Year 9, I will never forget the opportunities and memories I have made while being a member of the Oxley College community. And although we had a delayed and altered Outback, the ability to bond with our year group for 10 days in rural NSW was another experience I will not forget. I am forever grateful for all Oxley has offered me.

Spending time with mates at lunchtime and recess.

My favourite thing about my time at Oxley was probably just spending time with friends. All of the bigger stuff has sort of been phased out and it's the smaller moments with mates during the day that have actually stuck. Botswana! I will never forget my Year 9 overseas trip to Africa. The scenery, the people, the food - it was all brilliant. I am so grateful to Oxley (and my parents!) for the opportunity, it will truly stay with me forever.

*Interviewed by Amelia Dowe*



# NEWSFLASH

## GD CHAMPS

Last Sunday 11 September, the GD champs were held at Welby. This mountain bike race celebrates the life of Old Oxleyan, George Dummer, who is greatly missed by many. The event was hosted by the local mountain bike club, Highlands Trails, and run by Rocky Trail Academy and there were 108 entrants from 20 different schools. The race was an enduro format, with riders tackling three timed, mostly downhill sections of trail up to five times each with their fastest time on each trail counting towards the overall pointscore. Oxley College won the overall George Dummer Cup and there were standout performances from:

Phoenix Sparke (1st Y9/10 fastest overall)

Harry Greenfield (2nd Y9/10, 2nd fastest overall)

Aston McDonald (2nd Y7/8, 4th fastest overall)

Rex Sparke (2nd Y11/12)

Hugo Dyer (3rd Y11/12)

Lachie Blair (2nd Dummer family team)

Isla Terry (2nd Y9/10)

Xanthe MacDonald (3rd Y9/10)

Olivia Hill (2nd Y7/8)

Elsie Hanson (3rd Y7/8)



## CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Hamish Tregenza, Year 12, who has been nominated for his performance in Music 1. A huge achievement.

And to Violet FitzSimons, Year 9, on progressing to the State Final of the Legacy Public Speaking Awards. Violet will compete in the Final at the Art Gallery of NSW in October. We look forward to following her progress.



I am relatively new to the Oxley community and am not familiar with many of our Year 12s, but regardless of that I would like to share what I know about goodbyes. We call them steps, changes, and phases, but they stand as one and the same; a vessel by which we move through life. We rock and fall to the deck, are thrown through the air by the waves and soar on the bitter winds. But we come crashing down. Little by little, our life on deck becomes less hectic, and the rocky water below churns a little less, and life settles. But then, a few days, weeks, months later the turbulent sea slaps against the hull once again, and we find ourselves among tempests.

One may busy themselves by strapping everything down to the deck, huddling against walls and praying desperately for relief. Nothing moves when they are around, and not a thing lies out of place. Life as normal, with a few adjustments, goes on. But there is another, one who jumps high off the deck at the crest of a wave and comes tumbling back moments later. While their ship turns to disarray, furniture, and food sliding across the floor, this person chooses to jump up and crash down, again and again, as the boat rocks them to and fro. They whoop and cheer as their cot slides from side to side, and still they leap, soar, and fall harder each time, rising with glistening eyes and furrowed eyebrows, teeth bared to the wind.

At the end of the journey, the rigidness of the first leaves them exhausted, nothing but ill reflections on their tongue as they reunite with dry land, ship barely intact. The second, however, returns with reddened cheeks and dimples, freckles adorning their smile. A ripped sail trails off the front of the ship, and the deck is littered with broken things; clean up starts tomorrow, and then we go again.

A life taken too seriously is truly no life at all. It is easy, in this day and age, to get caught up in truly technical things: Where am I going? What am I doing? How does this make me appealing to others, or better yet, how does this make my resumé look? In our plight to look professional, to be taken seriously, we end up sacrificing the ability to laugh with ourselves. So, while it is important to make sure that everything is strapped down before a storm, there is no reason not to laugh and scream your way through it.

My advice to you may be unnecessary, or falling on deaf ears, but I thought I would wish the Class of 2022 well for the years to come. And for the more pragmatic, if you are moving out, don't forget a spatula, and don't mix cleaning solutions (can turn into mustard gas/chloroform, just saying).

Enjoy your first steps into adulthood, and never (ever) put petrol in a diesel car (or vice versa). By Anouk Hakewill, Year 9



## QUEEN ELIZABETH II

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"A death that stopped the nation" is a phrase that is not used lightly, but our late Queen's case it was true. The death of Queen Elizabeth II made not just

a nation, but the world bow their heads. After a lifetime of devoted service, at the age of 96, our beloved Queen passed away. It was in Balmoral Castle, one of the royal family's residences located in Aberdeenshire, Scotland where the Queen had her last minutes. Queen Victoria's husband purchased this architectural masterpiece in 1852 and was later passed down to Elizabeth II when she became Queen. Throughout her life, Balmoral Castle has had a significant emotional value. Each year, Elizabeth II spent her family summer holidays here. I think Granny is the most happy there," Princess Eugenie said in a documentary. Elizabeth II's whole family gathered at Balmoral to say goodbye to this inspiring granny, parent and leader. "I knew this day would come, but it will be some time before the reality of life without Grannie [sic] will truly feel real," Prince William said as he, the royal family and the nation overcomes the loss of Elizabeth II. Moving forward, to properly depart our late Queen, her State Service was on Wednesday 21 September, ironically a week before NSW has a public holiday to celebrate the Queen's birthday. As many as two million, faithful British and Northern Irish citizens will gather to see the Queen's coffin passing and the mourning royal family walking behind her resting body. Following this, the Queen will be buried in St George's Chapel, so she can lie in peace with her late father and husband. In England, a mere 10 days has been giving to commemorate and mourn Queen Elizabeth II's death, King Charles reported to a local magazine, "It is my duty to continue her legacy." He and his wife Camilla are the future King and Queen Consort, and I am sure, under their faithful guidance, we will get back on track and move forward as a country and a community.

Emilie Henderson, Year 7



## OPEN LETTER TO YEAR 12