

PINOAK

Junior School Award

Miss Champion

SPEECH
NIGHT

END OF
TERM

PIPS

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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.

P & F THANK YOU DRINKS



Thank you to all who attended the P&F AGM and Thank You drinks. Dr Mulford, shared his deep appreciation for all that this dedicated group do for the College. The AGM saw the 2023 Executive elected and we are delighted to announce the P & F team:

President: Megan Moore

Vice President Junior School: Lauren Blom

Vice President Senior School: Sooz Heinrich

Secretary: Rebecca Morse

Treasurer: Sam Spring

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Rep Coordinator Senior School: Ann Maree Greenop

HEAD OF COLLEGE'S REPORT



"Everything flows" said Heraclitus (c. 540-480 BC), a philosopher from the Greek colony of Elea in southern Italy. Everything is a constant flux and movement, nothing is abiding. Therefore we "cannot step twice into the same river". When you step into the river for the second time, neither you nor the river is the same.

So, it is with a school year. They come and go yet are never the same. A year group, a class, a team, a cast, a band can take on a life of its own with seemingly the same variables and inputs and this makes the educational process exciting, challenging and enriching.

Oxley concludes its 39th year of operations and will have wonderful 40th Anniversary celebrations next year.

I thank the College Board for the opportunity to be part of the leadership team of Oxley College in 2022. Oxley is a wonderful school and community.

By Dr David Mulford, Interim Head of College

THANK YOU DR MULFORD

Dr David Mulford has been in the role of Interim Head of College since March this year. With 27 years experience as a principal, Dr Mulford's depth of experience and wisdom has provided vital stability and consistency to the College this year. His leadership has led to significant progress in key areas, including the finalising of the facilities masterplan, the development of the new Strategic Plan to be launched in 2023 and the recruitment of a new Head of College. In leaving Oxley at the end of this year and handing over the leadership of the College to Mr Scott Bedingfield, Dr Mulford will re-enter a much deserved retirement. After a career spanning 48 years, his contribution to education in Australia is immense and he leaves a substantial legacy, not only in those schools in which he has worked, but also through the many school leaders across the country who have benefited from his mentorship. From the moment Dr Mulford started at Oxley it was very clear that he holds a deep and genuine affection for the College, extending back many years to his connection with the College's founding Headmaster, Dr David Wright. Despite his brief tenure, Dr Mulford will greatly missed at Oxley for his strength of leadership and vision, as well as his care for all in our community and unfailingly good humour. As he finally gets to spend more time with his grandchildren, along with the occasional game of golf, we wish Dr Mulford all the very best for the future. By Mark Case, Head of Senior School



GALLERY



HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL



Year 12 2022 Graduation Ceremony Speech, Tuesday 6 December

It takes a village to raise a child. In that spirit I would like to pay tribute to the parents, carers, other family members and Oxley staff past and present – leaders, teachers, tutors, mentors, coaches - all of whom have contributed in myriad ways to the lives on each of the 85 Year 12s of 2022 graduating today. I particularly want to pay tribute to the leadership of Hal, Peggy, Dom and Liv for their contribution as leaders of the Year 12 class of 2022 and the legacy they leave at Oxley, and I look forward to them speaking to us this evening.

The acknowledgement of country – with which Dr Mulford started this Graduation Ceremony is an important Australian ritual.

Ritual is a hallmark of human culture; it is defined as a prescribed series of words or actions, that carries a greater significance. Ritual is the opposite of routine. A routine is ordinary and mundane – it is an action that is thought-less, mind-less and meaning-less. But a ritual takes the ordinary and makes it extraordinary – it takes the mundane and makes it thought-full, mind-full and meaning-full. It is a moment in time that we as a community, invest with significance. Today's ritual on Elvo Lawn – when your name is read out, you cross the stage, you shake hands – is a rite of passage. These otherwise mundane words and actions are invested with meaning. They signify your transition from one stage of life to another; from Oxley student to Old Oxleyan. And nowhere more appropriate than Elvo Lawn, where you started as an Oxley student all those years ago.

Each year Mission Australia conducts the largest Youth Survey in the country. In 2022 they asked 18 000 Australians aged 15-19 to share their experiences, concerns and, aspirations. This year the single leading issue amongst young Australians is the environment. Not only did over half say it is the most important issue, one-quarter stated they were extremely or very concerned about climate change.

A hallmark of the Year 12 class of 2022 is the power of collective action and working together. In their Unity with Ukraine Fundraiser and Pride Week celebrations earlier in the year, they came together to show solidarity and make a public strong stand on two important global issues.

It is these two things – the existential threat posed by the climate crisis – and the way that our Year 12s have united in support of others - that have inspired our choice of book as our Graduation gift for the departing Year 12 class: *Together We Can*, by Claire O'Rourke.

As it says on the back cover, the book "is an invitation to anyone worried about what climate change means for our

future and a challenge to reconnect with our communities. You can start small and simple and, before you know it, climate action is transformative, empowering and hopeful".

I hope that you can similarly be inspired by its message of hope and belief in the power of collective action.

It has been my privilege to have shared in the journey of our Year 12 class of 2022, and to get to know many of them so well. We are proud of every single one of you. Go into the world and be kind, show courage, and seek wisdom.

As I hand over to Hal and Peggy to deliver their address, I will conclude with a quotation from *Together We Can*, that particularly resonated with me:

"Love this country in all its pain and history and complexity. Be proud of what we have managed to create, inspire and change for the better, despite the damage. Grit your teeth to get to work to heal what's pained and dying in our people, our culture, our natural world. Honour your ancestors, and your children's children through your contribution. Connect with your community and remember to always, always, dance." (p296)

Together We Can by Claire O'Rourke (Allen & Unwin, 2022)

By Mark Case, Head of Senior School





Weekly Awards

Learning Journey

Matilda Wolstencroft	K
Magnus Rasheed	1S
Harry Adams	2B
Harriett Trenchard-Smith	3B
Stella Bacon	3R
Lucas Sicari	4W
Robbie Clothier	5M
Oscar Choo	5N
Eddie Boot	6H
Coen Bertollo	6S

Oxley Values

Georgia Hurst	K
Hugo Tait	1S
Veryan Black	2B
Amalia Mouatt	3B
Zac Chalak	3R
Louisa Wright	4W
Rhodes Feller	5M
Ivey Bacon	5N
Xavier Druey	6S
Phoebe Keith	6H

Japanese: David White 5N & Archie Taggart 2



2023 Junior School Leadership Team

School Captains:

Teddy Blom, Pixie Hanson

Vice Captains:

Oscar Choo, Sapphire Spark

House Captains

Chisholm: Thomas Berry

Ivy Bacon

Flynn: Andy Clothier, Madi Chamley

Walton: Levi Olsen, Charlotte Holme

HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL



It has been another successful year for Junior school, with a return to onsite learning and the resumption of a wide range of activities. From fund raisers to sporting events, incursions, and culminating assessments, students have taken all challenges in their stride, approaching life at school with courage, care, and wisdom. Students have thrived on the benefits of the swimming programme which was a day of water safety, swimming skills and fun. The classrooms have been buzzing with collaborative learning and inquiry-based projects. OLE week was a wonderful event in our calendar – the various camps, incursions and excursions were amazing, and we are still talking about our memories to this day! The Talent Show was a huge hit as students showcased their performances to represent their houses in the Inter House Competition. Over the last two weeks, an impressive number of Year 5 students were involved in the leadership programme. The calibre of students has been outstanding, and it is clear they are ready to lead our school in 2023.

During, what is their last term of the Junior School, our wonderful Year 6 students are enjoying their final weeks and are now starting to look forward to the next chapter of their learning journey in the Senior School. The Year 6 dinner was a highlight being a special event shared by parents. A day at Jamberoo was unforgettable as some students stepped out of their comfort zone and went on rides that tested them. We are also very excited about the Year 6 gift to the school – a beautiful old style school bell which will be housed in its own tower and rung each day by students and staff.

We delivered our hampers to the Women's Centre and Animal shelter, and these were warmly and gratefully received – well done Oxley Junior School on your generosity for those less fortunate.

I wanted to celebrate the Junior school staff, the wonderfully talented, amazingly professionals that I work with each and every day – thank you for always going above and beyond and for connecting with your students in such a personal and caring way. A huge thankyou to our families who have welcomed me so warmly and continued to work alongside our teachers to support students in their learning journey. An amazing 2022 in so many ways. I want to leave the last word to the children – so over to you Oxley Junior School students. By Jane Campion, Head of Junior School

Student Reflections

My favourite subject this semester was Maths. I really like learning about money. I learnt that on the 50-cent coin, the picture is the coat of arms. I've also enjoyed Poetry and saying my poem in front of Chisholm. Clementine Blom – Year 1.

My biggest improvement has been in writing because I can write more now. I liked writing my acrostic poem on my home. Next year I want to get good at playing the double bass. Year 1 is good because we become grown up and I've become grown up because my tooth has started to grow. Ronnie Fragar Year 1.

My favourite subject this semester was Maths because I loved learning about money, there's only 2 gold coins and the dollar sign is an s with a line through it, and the rest are silver coins which are cents, and I learnt that you get to cheat in Maths, like $2+5=7$ and then you straight away know that $7-2=5$. My biggest improvement has been in reading because my fluency and expression are so much better. Charlotte Keats Year 1.

My favourite thing I do at school is writing because I love using the cat lines. The cat lines help with tail letters, body letters and head letters. I am so much better now at reading my sight words. When I am in Year 1, I want to keep working on my reading so I can read lots of different types of stories. Saskia Aston Kindergarten.

My favourite thing I do at school is sounding out letters to read words and I also like skip-counting by 10s. I am now much better at knowing the sounds and actions for single letters and digraphs in InitialLit. Georgia Hurst Kindergarten.

I love reading at school. This is my favourite thing to do. I love also looking at all the pictures in different books. My reading has improved a lot this year. I can now read big words like 'wheelchair.' The dances we are learning for our Year 6 buddies has been lots of fun. I can't wait to dance for our buddies at their final Year 6 assembly. Polly Pemberton Kindergarten.

My favourite thing this semester was OLE week because we got to do loads of fun things. I liked going on the bouncy castle and seeing reptiles. Grace Byrne Year 2.

My favourite thing this semester has been poetry. I liked reading my poem 'Planet Roll Call' at assembly. I think I have improved most in Strings because I got into Stringalings. In Year 3, I want to get better at telling the time because when I'm older, if I get kids, they might ask the time and I won't know it. Naomi Robertson Year 2.

My favourite thing this semester has been narrative writing and writing an information report about skinks because I got to research and write it on the computer. I have improved at playing the cello this year. Mr Lindsey wants us to play at the K-2 concert! In Year 3, I hope to get better at maths, especially division. Tom Pierce Year 2.

JUNIOR GALLERY





Rebel Wilson:

How not to treat a celebrity

Rebel Wilson: How not to treat a celebrity.

As a general moral standard, I refused to watch 'Pitch Perfect'. I'll admit, I was a bit of a movie elitist, and by that I mean I was subjected to watching the "classics" from a very young age. It was the Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers movies when I was seven, Gilligan's Island, Hogan's Heroes, The Brady Bunch, The Partridge Family, Mash and – I would go on, but you can ascertain the names of all the movies and TV shows I've watched by asking your parents "Name a TV show I've never heard of".

You have no idea what a dead room is until you attempt to say "I know nothing" in a German accent in a Year 7 tech class. Anyway, Pitch Perfect wasn't exactly on my radar. I was more of a Rosebud type of girl. This, of course, all changed when I was forced to watch Pitch Perfect 1 at a sleepover (as anyone who has ever attended a sleepover will know, a 12-year-old with a DVD box set and a chocolate high is not someone you should mess with). In my mind, I had envisioned cheesy chaos. Acapella singing, college parties and general mayhem.

What I discovered was that Pitch Perfect is a fabulous film.

Genuinely, 10/10 would recommend it to a friend. Now I could go on, but I think the review writers of the Pin Oak might attempt to throttle me, so for both of our sakes let's just say it exceeded expectations. And for once, we had a bit of Aussie representation.

Rebel Wilson.

The joke-cracking, blond-hair-having, plus-sized and proud Aussie actress who is the type of hysterically funny that makes you happy to choke on your ice cream whilst crying with laughter. Whilst some critics may like the view of their noses in front of their eyes, it's clear to see that Rebel is talented and funny and she is very much not the norm of Hollywood actresses.

She's got a law degree from Melbourne University - the top law school in Australia. She was a comedy writer for years, then a character actress and suddenly she was on the world's biggest screens. She had no qualms with making people uncomfortable, least of all herself. She was so ardently abnormal in terms of what we expect from women that she rose above the feminine

archetype that ensnares most celebrities. She was uniquely untouchable.

With the impenetrable shield of "not giving a damn" Rebel stormed through Hollywood, doing what she wanted and doing it well. Then, of course, a chink was found in this almighty shield.

After soaring so far above Hollywood's expectations for women, Rebel, if you'll allow me the metaphor, nose-dived into a tree. Or, to be more specific, the Sydney Morning Herald grabbed her wings, roughed her up a bit and flung her into a tree while cackling maniacally.

She was seen by a reporter with her girlfriend. In public. There were photos.

Rebel had a weakness now: she was more than a caricature, she was a living breathing human who no longer had the upper hand. The paper could now out her to the public, they were going to out her to the public. Unless of course, she relented and was forced to out herself.

What a fun set of options, huh?

It's absolutely ridiculous that Rebel's achilles heel to her public image was such a small part of her identity. At the time it was dramatic and scandalous, Rebel Wilson being forced to out herself - who would have thought? But upon reflection, it's ludicrous anyone even cared. She had a romantic partner - her and literally every other adult human in the world.

It seems almost infantile to obsess over her love life to this extent. Rebel has a girlfriend, big whoop. Move on with your life - it in no way affects you, and it doesn't hurt anyone: the only difference is, she's happy! *cue the screaming and shocked gasps*

But in case you hadn't noticed, almost everything about societal expectations is rooted in childish ignorance and lack of boundaries. It's as if, with celebrities, a switch is flicked in our brains and we revert to the ill-thought-through social tendencies of a three-year-old.

Empathy and social-nuance? Never heard of it. Instead, we bumble around like toddlers, the cereal falling from our high

chairs as we shout out:

"For how long?"

"I don't like it!"

"So when you getting marrrrreeeddd?"

And so, in outing herself, an adult woman was met with an onslaught of childish questions, insults and extremely presumptuous, intrusive remarks. No matter how much you love or hate or her work, or the woman herself: this phenomenon of reverting to childish behaviour when discussing celebrities is disturbing, to say the least.

Wilson may embody childish, or inappropriate characters on screen: but to see this behaviour un-ironically transferred to the global stage is a spectacle to behold. We often see the debate of "did they sign up for this" flying through our newspapers - the constant question of whodunnit?

Was this constant attention self-inflected by the public figure?

Or,

Was it us?

Well, no matter whose to blame there's no mystery when it comes to the impact of this behaviour. The constant scrutiny of celebrities, and often times, the desperation to "out them" so they can be "honest" with us, is inhumane to say the least.

Wilson isn't the only celebrity to of experienced this, most recently Kit Conner was forced to come out after he was accused of "queer-bating" whilst acting in Heartstopper. Kit played a Bi boy in the show, and soon fans were accusing the young man of leading audience members to believe that he too was gay.

Either that or he was good at acting.

But who cares, right? We know now. After almost constant abuse online, Kit came out with the statement:

"I'm bi. Congrats for forcing an 18-year-old to out himself. I think you missed the point of the show. Bye. "

Impressive work. Two talented individuals, trying to do their job in the public eye, were forced to out themselves for our entertainment. Again, this child-like way of thinking has allowed us to overlook the true impact and severity of our actions as a society.

You like a celebrity. They've entered the public eye. You deserve to know everything about them. To comment on everything about them. You deserve your toy gosh dang it, so they had better hand it over otherwise you're going to throw a fit.

I'm wary of beating you with the guilty stick here, so let me emphasise, you haven't done anything wrong. But the actions that we, as a society, deem acceptable simply aren't. The Oxley community may not be throwing the stones, but our watching as they soar by is just as bad.

So maybe, the next time someone asks you, "So do think Harry Styles is gay?" or, "That Billie Eilish girl, I think there's something more going on there." Don't engage. Change the subject. Run away if necessary whilst screaming loudly if necessary.

Whatever you do, don't allow yourself to be cruel.

Don't allow yourself to fall into that childlike pattern, or to accept it.

Put your big kid hat on, and chat about something that's your business. Because if the phenomenon that is Rebel Wilson has taught us anything, its this:

This isn't how we should treat celebrities.

This isn't how we should treat humans.

By Violet FitzSimons, Year 9

GALLERY



INSPIRATION



FILM

Enola Holmes 2

The perfect balance of science, history, romance, excitement, horror, action, mystery, crime, the list goes on...

The Netflix original film starting Millie Bobby Brown, Henry Cavill, and Louis Partridge follows the young detective Enola Holmes who seeks to find her own place in the great Victorian Detectives out of her brother Sherlock Holmes' shadow. She finds herself engulfed in the case of a missing Match Girl in the late 1800's to early 1900's, but her case seems to be more than just a missing girl.

Enola finds herself working in a match factory, dancing at a society ball, and being accused of murder, finding herself on death row. Until finally seeking help despite her solid independence, as Enola and Sherlock discover that their cases are intertwined with one another.

Enola is successful in locating the missing match girl who was working against the factory to prove with scientific evidence that the profitable phosphorus was killing hundreds of young match girls. As Enola comes to her conclusion, Sherlock unlocks the details of his criminal mastermind, uncovering an unexpected but logical perpetrator.

The movie is based around true events, the Match Girl uprisings, which under a modern lens is seen as one of the first actions taken for equal women's rights and working conditions.

This movie is inspiring to many young girls today and a fun family film for movie night, though with a deeper meaning, which one can only unlock by looking beneath the surface and pulling on every loose thread. After all it only takes one flame to start a fire.

By Leah Halstead, Year 12



DESTINATION

Hawks Nest

Ok, I'm going to sound a little biased on this one... but Hawks Nest has got to be one of the best places on EARTH. If you are looking for that relaxed vibe, the great outdoors and beautiful weather, definitely go to Hawks Nest. Roughly 4 hours away from Oxley College, situated on the north side of Nelson Bay, Hawks Nest is renowned for its beautiful Bennett's Beach, Dark Point (a sacred Aboriginal site) and the Singing Bridge that spans over the Myall River as it meanders out into the bay. Hawks Nest is well known for its awesome fishing locations and its eclectic collection of houseboats moored along the Myall River.

With a local IGA, a surf shop, kayak rentals, an 18 hole golf course and the nearby town of Tea Gardens providing cafes and boutique shops, Hawks Nest has something for everyone. The beautiful stretch of golden sand that is Bennett's Beach is lifeguard patrolled and the nearby Yacaaba Headland has amazing views at the summit with breaching whales always a common sight.

Bike riding amongst the native trees and appreciating the local wildlife (including an impressive array of birds, dingoes, goannas and the occasional koala) is another classic Hawks Nest activity as well as floating about in the calmer waters of Jimmy's Beach that spans along the north side of Nelson Bay.

There's nothing like waking up to the sound of the ocean, heading to the Hawks Nest Bakery for breakfast (their lamingtons are delicious!) and spending all day relaxing, swimming and watching dolphins as they chase the wake of the boats. A fresh flat head fish for dinner with a squeeze of lemon is also a Hawks Nest delight!



BOOK & FILM

Bridget Jones

All too often we become fixated on the idea that reading must be highbrow to be valid. Many a literary buff pride themselves on their collections of Byron and Wodehouse, however my taste has never been that sophisticated. Enter, Bridget Jones. By no means is she sophisticated, nor elegant. But relatable? Far more so than any Brontean protagonist. Whether you read any number of the books, or binge all the movies over the holiday season, Bridget Jones has always been and will forever continue to be a Christmas iconic, with giggles, faux pas, and a Céline Dion soundtrack to please one and all. This post-feminist, hilariously cringeworthy yet somehow intrinsically relatable tale is one to have on the "Must" list this holidays, for Movie Buffs and Bookworms alike.

By Anouk Hakewill, Year 9

BIG ISSUE

The Ultimate Holiday Gifting Guide

Everyone knows how difficult Christmas shopping is, particularly for that one person in your life who seems to have everything. And don't even get me started on Hannukah, with eight rounds of gifts for every member of the family. Considering that gift shopping has been a personal strong suit this year, I thought I would share my personal shopping hacks to get you through the holiday season.

FOR THE PERSON WHO HAS EVERYTHING: Go with an experience, or something intangible. For example, purchase them a star, a massage, or a year's subscription to a streaming service. This kind of thing works well for the adventurer type too.

FOR YOUR YOUNGER SIBLING: Get them the thing that they are always stealing from you. If they steal your claw clips, get them some, if they love a jumper of yours, get them a different colour, so on and so forth.

FOR YOUR OLDER SIBLING: Get them a book. Simple as that. Get them a few, actually. Figure out what they like reading and ask someone at the bookstore to recommend things similar to it.

FOR YOUR DAD: Is he a "fix-up-the-barn" type of guy? Or a "read-on-the-couch" kind of guy? Dads are tricky to read, and often you must go case by case. Film merchandise for the movie buff, antique poetry for the gentle type, cooking accoutrement for the amateur chef.

FOR YOUR MUM: Is she a "fix-up-the-barn" type of gal? Or a "read-on-the-couch" kind of gal? Like I said, parents are mostly case by case. Maybe she wants to be pampered, or she really needs a new toolbelt. Whatever you get, don't give her a robe, a candle, or a face mask, and call it quits. She deserves more than that.

FOR THE LITTLE KID: My general go-to is a super gross... something. I have been known to gift copies of the game "Pimple Pete", and slime or putty is a good stocking-stuffer. Just make sure to check with parents first. No parent wants Play-doh-adjacent substances mashed into their carpet.

FOR A SLIGHTLY BIGGER KID: From 9-12, it is important to consult with the adults around them. They probably have an extremely niche interest which you can use to your advantage in this situation. First and only rule, never get them clothes. That is something that they will find fatally boring until they get a bit older.

FOR THE FOODIE: I love shopping for foodies. Given that I am one myself, I find this easier than usual. Things like at-home cheese and butter making kits, or if you are willing to splurge, a good set of knives always goes down well.

FOR THE SPORTS FAN: Merchandise. Always. It never goes wrong. Just make sure that you know who they support, and which players are their favourites. Getting this wrong may be seen as a Declaration of War.

FOR THE MUSIC LOVER: Again, merchandise from their favourite artists is always a good bet, but one thing that works even better requires a bit more coordination. Organise with members of their family to gift them a record player (if they don't already have one) and BOOM! The shopping is made

easier for you and all their friends & family, as you can simply give records to them all season long.

FOR THE DANCER (PARTICULARLY A BALLERINA): Dance shoes are very expensive, and chances are, they need a new pair. Grab their shoe size and get them some pretty ones!

FOR THE BILINGUAL: Get them a voucher to Abbey's Books. They are a small language bookstore in Sydney CBD (Don't worry, they're online), and it's important to support them, because very few bookstores have a multilingual section anymore.

FOR THE VEGAN: Get them a vegan cookbook, because finding vegan recipes is a legitimate nightmare. As someone with vegan siblings (and uncles), cooking Christmas dinner is set to be far easier with the help of "Deliciously Ella" by Ella Woodward.

FOR THE DREAMER: Yoga classes, a meditation app subscription, a trip to Thailand to learn to be a monk. This person is often off with the fairies and knows exactly what their moon and rising signs are. Do some research into the crystals you think they need the most right now, and they'll love you forever.

FOR THE SUGAR ADDICT: Waffle. Iron. Far superior to the typical breakfast, this "Pancake with Abs" maker is perfect for those with a sweet tooth. American cereal and Marshmallow Fluff tend to work too.

FOR THE ARTIST: Art supplies are so expensive, it should honestly be criminal. Figure out their favourite medium, whether it be sculpture or paint, and you are golden.

FOR THE DOG LOVER: This couldn't be easier, honestly. Jump onto Pablo and Co. (dog harness and leash store) and grab their furry friend something that will match their owner's every outfit.

FOR THE CAT LOVER: Catnip is the best way to go. Not only does the cat get to have a good time, you and the giftee get to giggle over its ridiculous behaviour for the rest of the afternoon.

FOR THE HOPELESS ROMANTIC: A polaroid camera is perfect for them to live out their rom-com dreams. That, and a cork message board to pin their pics to, and their present is all wrapped up (get it?).

FINALLY, SOME GENERAL ADVICE: Handmade is okay! So is second hand! (Unless your giftee has specifically requested otherwise) Just make sure, if you are making things handmade, and this may sound harsh, make sure it's not a cop out. "Hug coupons", I think we can all agree, are a prime example of this. At least go for the far better massage- or favour- coupons.

And thus, I pass on my knowledge as a fabulous gift giver (if I do say so myself) and wish you all something simple: Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night.

By Anouk Hakewill, Year 9

SENIOR GALLERY



ARTEXPRESS

We congratulate Brianna Grice for receiving selection to Art Express 2023 for her accomplished Body of Work for HSC Visual Arts.



Brianna explains her art practice for *A-Tissue A-Tissue*. Although there were some hiccups in my processes such as the buckling and waving of paper in the humidity, and transferring them regularly between my home and boards, I have enjoyed my major work in its different interpretations. I have referenced the nursery rhyme 'Ring-a Ring-a Rosie', in symbols intertwined chronologically throughout my major work.

This suggestion of the 'anachronistic black plague' in modern contexts of diseases such as covid-19 tells a story of the progression of illness, grief, surrendering, cleanliness, and healing. The representation of my grandmother's emotive experiences drives the tissues as a motif in an intuitive central aid of comfort, rather than a carrier of a disease. The reappropriation lead

me to choose my grandmother to represent these experiences as her name is Rose.

Examples of this reappropriation can also be seen in the ringing of the phone, demonstrating the importance of communication during sickness, or the ring of tissues as a mindless intuition to grab tissues which becomes a barrier of disease representing the restricting but crucial lockdowns and disconnection, as well as more symbolism intertwined throughout the work.

My primary method included applying charcoal dust with brushes and choosing a dark medium that represents the consuming nature of the disease in chiaroscuro with the purity of the tissues.

GOOD & OTHER NEWS

THE TEMPEST

As a part of our HSC English Advanced Module A, the Year 12 English classes had the opportunity to see a stage production of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* to gain a fundamental understanding of the plot and concepts explored. Starring as Prospero was Richard Roxburgh, he clearly portrayed the vengeful father figure, ensuring the audience knew where to laugh, after all it is a comedy. The production adopted an Australian perspective of the play, exploring the underlying themes of colonialism. To highlight such concepts, Caliban is played by Indigenous actor Guy Simon, to challenge the audience into considering the implications of the messages alluded to by Shakespeare. Throughout the entire performance, despite not understanding the Shakespearean language, our cohort was able to understand the comedic side of things, having many of us in a laughing fit. Though we did not get back until 12.30 am, with assessments due the next day, the journey was worth it as we all now have first-hand understandings of the play, having exposure to the atmosphere of the play.

On behalf of the cohort, thank you to Ms Hicks for organising the event, and thank you to all the teachers who were taking care of us.

By Leah Halstead, Year 12

STATE UN YOUTH VOICE PUBLIC SPEAKING

Congratulations to William Barnett, Year 10, who has progressed to the National Finals for the UN Youth Voice Public Speaking Competition, where students Year 7-10 work to solve issues that affect their community, nation, and the world.

Oxley had two students compete. Anouk Hakewill, Year 9, spoke about the gaps within the Australian sex education curriculum and commented that "It was such a privilege to compete at that level, particularly since it was my first public speaking competition."



HSC NOMINATIONS

Out of the 2500 students in NSW studying Music for the HSC this year, only a select few are nominated for ENCORE - a programme that features outstanding performances and compositions from HSC major works. Proudly, this year, Oxley College proudly had a student nominated in each category. Brianna Grice was nominated for her composition work and Hamish Tregenza for his performance exam. Bravo!

ONSTAGE celebrates the success of HSC Drama Exam submissions, Oxley had the following students nominated for their individual performances: Jennifer Allan, Hal Canute, Hamilton Saeck, Liam Verity.

In the group performance category two were nominated: "Mea Philosophia" performed by Jennifer Allan, Camille Falshaw, Peggy Holmwood, Molly Knowles, Sienna Spagnol and Liam Verity. "McDogs" with Hal Canute, Henry Connell, William Gray, Alister Hill, Hamilton Saeck also had nomination success. For her work in Theatre Criticism, Peggy Holmwood was also nominated.

Congratulations to all these students on their very fine results.



GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

Huge congratulations to the nine Oxley College Gold Duke of Edinburgh's International Award recipients: Aisling Ellis (2020), Aiofe Barrett-Lennard, Ava Howes, Olivia Bow, Hal Canute, Sarah Pietsch-Liddell, Tom Pike, India O'Brien and Ethan Gough. This was particularly remarkable given the impact of the pandemic. Those completing the Gold Award spent 52 hours each on physical, skills and service as well as two x four day expeditions and a five day residential. These are outstanding achievements.



NEWSFLASH

CRICKET SUCCESS

Congratulations to Sam Harwood, Year 8 and Will Torr, Year 9 who have both been selected to play in a 14 day International Cricket Academy U/17's tournament in India as part of the Elite Cricket Academy operating out of the Kings School in Sydney by former Australian Test player Jason Krejza.



This is an amazing Cricketing opportunity for these two boys to travel to India and play 10 x 50 over matches against teams representing Academies out of Australia, India, England, South Africa & Sri Lanka during the first two weeks of April 2023.

Sam and Will have also both been selected this year to play in the Oxley 1st cricket team and look forward to furthering their cricket skills in this international tournament.

ATHLETICS

We are so proud that two Oxley students represented NSW at the recent [@AthleticsAustralia](#) Australian All Schools National Championships, in Brisbane.

Harry Keats, Year 6, was the NSW Team Captain and came 2nd in the 12 year Boys 800m and 1500m races, while his team came 2nd in the 12 year Boys 800m sprint medley.

Lucas Hill, Year 4, placed 6th in the 10 year Boys 100m finals, and his relay team won their 10 year Boys 4x100m relay.

Last month, the boys were featured in a story on WIN TV news:

[Harry Keats has burst onto the track scene! \(leadstory.com\)](#)

Incredible achievements from both boys. Well done Harry and Lucas!



MOVEMBER



This is the 7th year in a row that Oxley College has staff and/or students raising money and awareness of men's health issues. Please join us in initiating discussions about health issues for men and feel free to donate to our page: <https://movember.com/t/oxley-mo-bros?mc=1>

Thanks very much, Oxley Mo Bros.

OUTBACK VIDEO

We hope you enjoy this wonderful Outback video created by Lara Fischer, Year 11: <https://youtu.be/mrKpdbhwvZE>

Yr 9 and Yr 10 PERSONAL INTEREST PROJECTS(PIPs)

