



Oxley Christian College

Senior School Curriculum Overview

Vision Statement

To delight in God's love through inspired learning.

Mission Statement

To provide an education for excellence within a Biblical Christian worldview.

Senior School Curriculum Overview



Principal
Douglas Peck

Teaching and learning at Oxley Christian College is dynamic and seeks to inspire young people to actively pursue opportunities in diverse areas of curriculum. The content of this booklet changes regularly as our dedicated staff review the breadth and depth of our subject offerings.

Good schools have in mind a variety of goals when they determine their curriculum. A key focus at Oxley is on the development of student skills, abilities and understandings. A second focus is on maximising student outcomes in measurable ways. Some of the most valuable aspects of education are however, not easily measured. At Oxley we are interested in educating mind, body and soul. We believe that many fields of academic endeavour and recreation have intrinsic worth and it is our desire to share this insight with our students.

Our spacious campus continues to develop as a wonderful environment for learning. We enjoy excellent specialist facilities supporting the Sciences, Music and the Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Food Studies, Physical Education and Sport. Our students appreciate their learning environment and enjoy a peaceful atmosphere in beautiful, carefully maintained grounds.

This booklet is intended to provide a brief overview of the curriculum in the Senior School. Detailed subject descriptions are provided on our website at www.oxley.vic.edu.au. To access these, under the 'About' tab, follow the 'Senior School' link and then choose the appropriate year level to find descriptions for all our studies.

I commend an Oxley education to prospective families. The College is small enough for us to know every student, yet large enough to offer the diverse range of subjects represented in this booklet. Our teachers are dedicated and supportive and our community is marked by warm and life-affirming relationships. We look forward to your interest in joining the College and a potential enrolment offer.



Beginning with the end in mind



Deputy Principal
Head of Senior School
Greg Barker

Most students who finish Year 12 in Victoria complete the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE). An ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) score is awarded, based on academic results of the final examinations and coursework, which provides a criteria for University entrance.

We know that University or other tertiary education is not for everyone, but our focus as a College is to ensure that all students can maximise their academic potential. Our success in this venture means that our academic results are worth celebrating.

We are pleased with our academic performance when measured against state or national benchmarks. Our NAPLAN results (representing the Literacy and Numeracy abilities of our students at Years 7 and 9) are always strong and every year at least 85% of our graduating students head off to tertiary education (in 2017 93% plus a further 5% taking a gap year). Our ATAR scores at the end of Year 12 mean that on average, one fifth of our students rank in the top 10% of the state and approximately half of our students rank in the top 25% of the state.

To achieve these results we focus on understanding and rigour, as well as engagement and enjoyment, from Year 7 to Year 12. Year level camps, excursions and a couple of annual international tours for specific students compliment the curriculum, giving students and teachers alike a chance to engage on a different level with each other and their world.

We develop positive habits for learning from the start of Year 7, encouraging students to do their best, solve problems, engage in reflective thinking, and complete homework in a timely and thorough way. These goals assist in ensuring that students are able to maximise their options for the future.

Great results lead to great opportunities...

Year 7 & 8

Taste and See

We want our students in Years 7 and 8 to experience a new world of challenges and ideas. For example, how will students know if they have musical talent until they study an instrument? How will they know ceramics is of interest unless they produce artworks in clay? We provide opportunities to discover a range of new interests and hidden talents in an ideal environment with supportive encouragement. These years offer a wealth of diverse experiences for students to explore new horizons.

The Year 7 Program

Core Subjects

studied in Home Group classes for the entire year

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Christian Studies
- Music – both classroom and instrumental
- Physical Education
- Sport - Please refer to pages 11 and 12

Humanities Subjects

semester-long subjects, one per semester

- History
- Geography

Other Subjects

- Art
- Health and Personal Development
- Drama
- Food Studies
- Information Technology

Languages

students choose which language they study from Year 7 through to the end of Year 9

- Chinese (Mandarin)
- German
- Links

Students requiring strategic educational support, particularly in the area of literacy, are offered an educational support program, Links, as an alternative to studying a language.

Year 7 Camp

Mount Evelyn Recreation camp, with its comfy dorm accommodation and great food, is the perfect setting to build friendships and community spirit. Physical challenges, run by qualified instructors, include the Eco Warriors, the Team Initiatives Course and the famous Giant Swing. Evening activities include a visit from Year 12 leaders, 'Oxley's Got Talent' and a night hike with a devotion under the stars. Typical comments include "I wish the camp lasted longer!" and "I made so many new friends!".

Year 7 Instrumental Music

In a unique Year 7 program, every student is presented with a brass, woodwind, stringed or percussion instrument to keep for the year. Students learn in small groups with specialist teachers and have an opportunity to perform to a parent audience later in the year. Many choose to continue with their instrument throughout Senior School.





The Year 8 Program

This is a time to discover an incredible variety of new concepts and interests, building on the foundations of Year 7. We offer a variety of studies forming a rich program, both on and off campus.

Core Subjects

studied in Home Group classes for the whole year

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Christian Studies
- Physical Education
- Sport - Please refer to pages 11 and 12

Humanities Subjects

semester-long subjects, one per semester

- History
- Geography

Languages

students continue with their chosen language

- Chinese (Mandarin)
- German
- Links

Students requiring strategic educational support, particularly in the area of literacy, are offered an educational support program, Links, as an alternative to studying a language.

Other Subjects

over the course of the year all Year 8s complete:

- Art
- Health and Personal Development
- Music
- Information Technology

Electives

Year 8 students choose to complete two of the following three subjects:

- Ceramics
- Drama
- Food Studies

Year 8 Camp

Wilson's Promontory National Park is the terrific setting for exciting challenges and team building. Qualified instructors lead abseiling and a range of water-based activities such as body boarding and water craft. Navigating the Iconic Walk is a highlight.



Responding to challenges, developing expertise

A wide range of electives accompanies a year packed with highlights. There is an abundance of elective subjects to choose from (every student completes 6), which allows students to explore areas of interest by diversifying electives or develop real expertise by complementing interests. The other key features of Year 9 are the tremendous learning experiences in the 'real world'. The City Cite program, where for three weeks students attend school in the CBD, is a life-long highlight for many students.

Core Subjects

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Christian Studies
- Physical Education
- Sport - Please refer to pages 11 and 12

Languages

- Chinese (Mandarin)
- German
- Links

Students requiring strategic educational support, particularly in the area of literacy, are offered an educational support program, Links, as an alternative to studying a language.

Humanities Subjects

semester-long subjects, one per semester

- History
- Geography

Elective Subjects

Music

- Music Multimedia
- Music Performance

Visual Arts

- Art (a compulsory subject)
- Ceramics
- Drawing and Painting
- Photography
- Textile Artworks
- Visual Communication Design

Food Studies

- Celebrations
- High Energy

Drama

Information Technology

- Coding
- Robotics
- Introduction to Web Design
- Responsive Web Design

English Extension

- Creative Writing
- Debating

Duke of Edinburgh Award

- Bronze Award





Features of Year 9

City Cite

Three weeks of learning in the city is an amazing experience. Our Year 9s quickly become expert public transport users as they navigate their way to many of Melbourne's features and exhibits. The program is much more than an extended excursion. Students observe the city in new ways and think deeply, as they complete their reflections and answer a 'Big Social Question' about the city of Melbourne.

The Challenge Camp / Duke of Edinburgh Award

Thoughtfulness comes in many different forms. The Year 9 camp provides lots of opportunities to bring out the best in each other. This camp forms a central component of our Outdoor Education program, where the endurance and patience of all students is tested as they extend their own boundaries and are led out of their comfort zones. The reward is an exhilarating sense of accomplishment. Students in Year 9 are offered an opportunity to undertake the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award as an elective and their Adventurous Journey on camp is an integral aspect of their Award.

Mock Election

At the conclusion of Semester One, our Humanities faculty facilitate a Mock Election amongst our Year 9 students. Home Groups are assigned Federal political parties and the students elect leaders and ministers for portfolios. Speeches are made and debates are held as the students research and emulate their assigned party. The program includes a formal process of secret and preferential voting amongst staff and students from both Years 9 and 6. The Oxley Mock Election experience is both educational and practical as it prepares students to become responsible and informed voters.

Samaritans Purse

Oxley have a long and proud partnership with Samaritans Purse. Our Year 9s are given the opportunity to spend a day volunteering in the distribution warehouse for the Operation Christmas Child project. Throughout the day the students are handling Christmas presents and gifts that will be received by a child overseas, possibly as that child's first ever Christmas present. The time at Samaritans Purse offers the students a time of reflection and space to empathise.



Year 10

Preparing pathways for Years 11 & 12

In Year 10, some students have a clear idea of the tertiary courses and career path they would like to pursue. Others will want to keep their options open with several pathways. At Oxley, students receive individual guidance from our qualified Careers Teacher, to assist in making the best choices for work and life in the future.

Core Subjects

for the whole year

- English
- Mathematics - three streams ultimately preparing students for the Year 12 subjects of Further Mathematics, Mathematical Methods and Specialist Mathematics.
- Physical Education
- Christian Studies
- Careers
- Sport - Please refer to pages 11 and 12
- EAL (English as an Additional Language)

Elective Subjects

Humanities Subjects

semester-long subjects

- History 1 - The 20th Century
- History 2 - Extreme Events
- Geography
- Global Awareness
- Money, Markets and the Law
- Foundation English (selected local students additional support)
- Foundation Accounting (EAL students only)

Science Subjects

semester-long subjects

- General Science
- Foundation Biology
- Foundation Chemistry
- Foundation Physics

Languages and Music

year-long subjects

- Chinese 2nd Language
- German
- Music

Arts, Technology and Sport Subjects

semester-long subjects

- Art (can be studied for two semesters)
- Photography
- Visual Communication Design
- Drama
- Information Technology:
 - IT Game and App Development
 - IT Computer Science Discoveries
- Food Studies
- Sports Analysis
- Coaching And Advanced Fitness

VCE Subjects

'fast tracking' into VCE

Students who performed well in Year 9 may begin to study one VCE subject for the whole of Year 10. A range of subjects will be offered based on class availability.

If students take up a VCE subject this will be a year-long commitment.





Features of Year 10

Aquatic Camp

Long after graduating from Oxley, students enthusiastically talk about the now legendary Aqua Camp! Activities include boat handling and yachting, body boarding and surfing, snorkeling and the ultimate achievement of the camp; scuba diving! All the action takes place on Western Port and Port Phillip Bays. Students say it's hard to pick a highlight, but scuba diving under the Portsea Pier or swimming with the seals at Pope's Eye, is hard to beat!

Careers and Work Experience

The Careers program is a highly valued part of Year 10. Students complete a range of tasks, including completion of Career Interest Inventories, investigating potential careers, writing resumes and participating in a mock interview program. This helps guide their career choices and subject selections.

Beyond this, a key part of the program is Work Experience. Our Year 10 students are supported to find a work placement for one week in the area of their career interest.

Formal Dinner Dance

This is a glamorous event. Students enjoy an elegant dinner and a chance to take to the dance floor to demonstrate the ballroom dancing skills they have been practising with a professional instructor. We are always amazed at the level of musical talent from the students who provide entertainment during the evening. This is a great event where students have no trouble having fun while they remain thoroughly sophisticated!

Melba

During Term 3 our Year 10 students connect with members of the Melba community - people with intellectual and physical disabilities. This is real-world learning - challenging, rewarding, eye-opening. Our students are changed by the experience and become more compassionate and thoughtful. Oxley has a long and happy association with the Melba community.



Years 11 & 12

Final Years

In their final two years students have the expertise and experience to be great assets to the College community. Students in these senior years have formed close friendships with one another and have a strong identity as Senior School leaders. By now these students are becoming effective independent learners. Completion of Year 12 looms as a major challenge and life beyond school is an enticing prospect.

Our VCE program

All of the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) subjects listed are offered at Year 11 and Year 12 (with the exception of Texts and Traditions, which is normally only offered as a Year 12 subject). Very occasionally, some of these subjects are not offered in a given year (minimum class sizes apply).

As in most VCE programs in Victoria, our Year 11 students normally complete six subjects, and our Year 12 students normally complete five subjects. Often, our Year 12 students will have been 'fast-tracking' which means that they will have completed a sixth Year 12 subject while they were in Year 11, which can boost their overall score.

The terminology in VCE can be confusing. The following may assist:

Units 1 & 2 - essentially a Year 11 subject, where Unit 1 is studied in Semester 1. Unit 2 is studied in Semester 2.

Units 3 & 4 - essentially a Year 12 subject, where Unit 3 is studied in Semester 1. Unit 4 is studied in Semester 2.

The Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority (VCAA) approves the Study Designs (which specify the content of each subject) and sets the guidelines for the VCE.

Subjects at Oxley

- Accounting
- Art
- Biology
- Business Management
- Chemistry
- Chinese 1st Language
- Chinese 2nd Language
- Chinese 2nd Language Advanced
- Drama
- English
- English as an Additional Language (EAL)
- Food Studies
- Further Mathematics (General Mathematics is the Year 11 precursor to this subject)
- Geography
- German
- Health and Human Development
- History
- Legal Studies
- Literature
- Mathematical Methods (CAS)
- Music Performance
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Psychology
- Software Development (Computing is the Year 11 precursor to this subject)
- Specialist Mathematics
- Texts & Traditions
- Visual Communication Design

Sport - Please refer to pages 11 and 12.





Features of the VCE Years

Student Leadership

Student leadership opportunities are provided throughout all levels of Senior School. Towards the end of Year 11, students participate in the process to select a team of senior student leaders, including:

- College Captains and Vice Captains
- Senior Student Leaders
- House Captains and Vice Captains
- International Captains and Chapel Captain

Many other leadership roles are offered, including Faculty Captains and Vice Captains as well as opportunities in sporting teams, music ensembles, Home Groups, Christian groups and other community service activities.

Careers

The Careers program involves multiple individual interviews with our Careers Advisor based on interests, abilities and career aspirations. In Year 10 the focus is VCE subject selection. In Year 11 subject choices are reassessed. In Year 12 interviews take place in Semester 1 and 2 to provide focus on tertiary pathways and the application processes.

Every year speakers from a wide variety of tertiary institutions visit Oxley, complementing the extensive knowledge provided by our Careers Advisor.

Camps and Motivational Programs

The focus of Year 11 camp is on team building and ensuring that each student has a series of inspiring, meaningful and challenging experiences.

In Year 12, the College runs a day-long retreat to start the year and regular seminars to help with motivation, wellbeing and improving study skills.

Dinners

Students in Years 11 and 12 each enjoy a celebratory dinner. The Year 11 Dinner has an international theme, associated with International Week, which celebrates the many cultures represented in the Oxley student body. The Year 12 Valedictory Dinner is a great occasion, with parents and staff celebrating the graduation of students from their final year of Senior School.



Sport at Oxley

Sports Facilities

The well-known Sports Stadium is the centre of the College's outstanding sports facilities. It includes five competition sized basketball courts, a fully equipped fitness centre, multi-purpose mezzanine, teaching rooms and sports café. It is surrounded by tennis courts, cricket facilities and a top grade oval which is the scene of many great sports events. Students in Years 5 – 12 are permitted to use the Stadium at lunchtimes on a rostered system. Students may also use the Stadium after school on Monday, Thursday and Friday and the fitness room after school every day, except Tuesdays.

Inter-School Sport

Oxley is a member of the Eastern Independent Schools of Melbourne (EISM) sporting competition. Selected students compete in a set number of rounds of matches against other schools in the association. Sport generally takes place during school hours.

	Afternoon	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Year 7	Monday	Oxley Sport	Winter EISM	Winter EISM	Summer EISM
Years 8-9	Thursday	Oxley Sport	Winter EISM	Winter EISM	Summer EISM
Years 10-12	Wednesday	Summer EISM	Winter EISM	Winter EISM	Oxley Sport

The following sports are played by students in Years 8 – 12. The Year 7 students play a similar range of sports, although the mix in each season varies.

	Summer	Winter		Summer	Winter
Boys	Cricket	Basketball	Girls	Soccer	Basketball
	Hockey	Football		Softball	Hockey
	Tennis	Soccer		Tennis	Netball
	Volleyball	Table Tennis		Volleyball	Table Tennis
	Badminton			Badminton	

Teams are selected following trials. The opportunity to represent the School in EISM events is a privilege. High standards of sportsmanship and a commitment to the team are required. Those not selected for an EISM team participate in an alternative sports program. Year 12 students may elect to take study leave rather than participate in the alternate sport program.

Students also have the opportunity to represent the School in EISM competitions in athletics, swimming and cross country. Selection of students is based on performance at the School carnivals. At times, students may also have the chance to participate in other one day events such as a Year 7 cricket / softball day. Students will be informed of these opportunities as they arise.





Inter-House Sport

Students compete in swimming, athletics and cross country school carnival. They will represent their House: Gibeon Warriors (Red), Tabor Trojans (White) or Zion Crusaders (Blue). An additional competition day allows students to compete for House points in basketball, table tennis and soccer.

Oxley Institute of Sport

The Oxley Institute of Sport offers students a choice of four sports (subject to numbers), comprising Basketball, Tennis, Soccer and Netball. Each sport has an external coach and operates in Terms 2 and 3 on Wednesday and Thursday prior to the commencement of the normal School day.



Performing Arts at Oxley

Broadley Performing Arts Centre

Our Performing Arts Centre is a fabulous facility for hundreds of Oxley students who love to be involved in music and drama. This state-of-the-art centre comprises an intimate 250 seat auditorium, music rehearsal spaces, drama studios, music technology classrooms and provision for a recording studio. The Broadley Performing Arts Centre is 'home' to students from all year levels who come together to make music and rehearse for many different performances.

Classroom Curriculum

All students in Year 7 participate in both Music and Drama classes as part of their classroom curriculum. In addition to their classroom music, students in Year 7 study an instrument from the brass, woodwind, percussion or strings family. These students perform with their chosen instrument in a concert at the end of the year.

In Year 8 through to Year 12 students are able to select Music and Drama elective classes and may choose to study VCE Music or Drama in Year 12. Students have several performance opportunities associated with many of these classes.

Private Instrumental Music

Students also have the opportunity to privately study an instrument. We offer instrumental study in piano, woodwind, strings, brass, percussion, guitar and voice. Students attend their private instrumental lesson once a week on a rotating timetable, which ensures they do not miss the same class subject every week. Students participating in our private music program have an opportunity to perform on their instrument at our annual Soiree evenings, ensembles, concerts, musicals and other productions.

Music Ensembles

Students studying an instrument (including voice) are encouraged to join one of our many ensembles. The ensembles are also open to students learning an instrument outside the school. The following ensembles are usually available each year:

- Senior Choir (Years 7-12)
- Vocal Ensembles (auditions are held at the beginning of each year)
- Concert Bands
 - Senior Concert Band (Years 7-12)
- String Ensembles
 - Sinfonia (Years 7-12)
 - Camerata (selected string students)
- Orchestra (Years 7-12)

Additional ensembles are also available from year to year, depending on student numbers learning each instrument type in a particular year.

Ensemble performances are scheduled many times throughout the year, including a Senior Ensemble Evening. Most of our ensembles perform at Open Day, School at Work Information Mornings and Music Assemblies. Each year selected ensembles perform at our Presentation Evening held at Monash University's Robert Blackwood Hall.





Productions / Musicals

Students in the Senior School may have an opportunity to be part of a major production or musical. Past Oxley productions include 'Seussical', 'Broadway Stories', 'Fiddler on the Roof', 'Midsummer Night's Dream'. Oxley musicals are well known for their high standards of staging, costuming and performance. The production for 2018 is 'Singin' in the Rain'.

Music Camp

The annual Oxley Music Camp is a highlight of the music calendar. Music students enjoy the opportunity for intensive rehearsals and fun with musicians learning together from all year levels.





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