



**OXLEY**  
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE



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# SENIOR SCHOOL

## Curriculum Overview

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## Vision Statement

To delight in God's love through inspired learning

## Mission Statement

To provide an education for excellence within  
a Biblical Christian worldview

## From the Principal

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Principal  
Dr 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](http://www.oxley.vic.edu.au). To access these, under the 'Our College' 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.

# Experiencing Education

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Head of Senior School  
Greg Barker

Our aim is to equip students with knowledge and life skills, spiritual development, the formation of healthy habits and character traits, the establishment of life-long friendships, combined with academic progress, are all important components in the development of our students.

We offer around 30 Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) subjects at Year 12. ATAR results demonstrate that one fifth of students rank in the top 10% and approximately half our students rank in the top 25% of Victoria. More than 85% of graduating students enter tertiary education. NAPLAN results (representing the Literacy and Numeracy abilities of students at Years 7 and 9) are always strong.

The breadth of the academic program is apparent from Year 7. After completion of a well-established Transition Program, many students enjoy cooking for the first time in Food Studies, mastering an instrument in Music, learning a different sport in the robust Sport and PE programs, acquiring skills in Chinese or German, and engaging in core subjects that include English, Mathematics, Science and Humanities. Preference ranges increase in each year level to broaden opportunities accessible to students.

Many challenges exist for keen young minds, including 'Soaring High' catering for students who are excelling in their studies, and national competitions for English, Mathematics and Science. Students needing additional literacy and numeracy support have access to an innovative 'Links' programs. Australian cultural understanding is promoted through initiatives such as the Election Program and City Cite, while an international perspective is fostered through our involvement with Samaritan's Purse, an annual mission trip to Cambodia, cultural tours to China and engagement with students who come from overseas to study at the College.

All our teachers have a Christian faith, evidenced in the gentle and loving manner in which they value each student. Opportunities to encounter God arise via conversations in the yard, personal Year 12 Mentoring sessions, daily Home Group pastoral time, weekly Chapel services, or when issues are raised with teachers or Coordinators.

We focus intently on the development of positive character traits and lifelong skills. Strong work ethics and respect for the rights and individuality of others are reinforced in all College activities, in the classroom, at sporting events or year level camps. We encourage our students to ethically consider issues, value respect and individuality, and celebrate their own unique God-given life.

# Years 7 & 8

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## 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 page 13)

### Humanities Subjects

Semester-long subjects, one per semester

- History
- Geography

### Other Subjects

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

Students are immersed in the beautiful surrounds of the Wilsons' Promontory National Park. Utilising the Tidal River Camping Grounds as their base, students enjoy scenic walks to various locations around the national park, such as Sealer's Cove. They gain paddling and body boarding skills through a range of water activities and develop their ability to work as a team as they complete group initiatives. All activities are run by AusCamp and supported by Oxley staff. Students revel in the opportunity to be out in nature and return from camp having developed confidence to try new things and having made 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 entire year

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Christian Studies
- Physical Education
- Sport (Please refer to page 13)

### Humanities Subjects

Semester-long subjects, one per semester

- Geography
- History

### 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
- Information Technology
- Music

### Electives

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

- Ceramics
- Drama
- Food Studies

### Year 8 Events

**Camp:** Our unique camping experience includes water, bush and mountains with an Alpine theme. The base camp is at Lake Nillahcootie with one night at Mt Buller ski lodge. Students learn how to ski, experience snow and participate in a variety of fun of bush craft activities offered such as orienteering and mapwork. Cooking on camp stoves with friends proves an unforgettable experience.

**Yarra Ranges Tech School:** Students work in small groups to complete one challenge, focussing on establishing STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics) foundations, design thinking and real world transformative skills.

**URBN Surf Excursion:** Students safely encounter some new challenges as they undertake surf lessons indoors utilising manmade waves.



# Year 9

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## Responding to challenges, developing expertise

A wide range of electives accompanies a year packed with highlights. The year 9 curriculum includes an abundance of elective subjects to choose from, allowing students to explore areas of interest through diversifying electives, and developing real experience in complementing interests. Other key features of Year 9 are the tremendous learning experiences in and about the 'real world', students are challenged and encouraged in their emerging identity as global citizens in God's world. The City Cite program, inclusive of three weeks of school in the CBD, is instrumental in this approach and is a life-long highlight for many students.

### Core Subjects

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Christian Studies
- Physical Education
- Sport (Please refer to page 13)

### 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

#### Drama

#### Duke of Edinburgh Award

- Bronze Award

#### English Extension

- Creative Writing
- Media Studies

#### Food Studies

- Celebrations
- Everyday Food

#### Information Technology

- Coding
- Robotics

#### Music

- Music Multimedia
- Music Performance

#### Visual Arts

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



## 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.

### Election Program

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 Election Program 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

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## Preparing pathways for Years 11 and 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 or English as an Additional Language (EAL)
- 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 page 13)

### Elective Subjects

#### Humanities Subjects

Semester-long subjects

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

#### Science Subjects

Semester-long subjects (must complete at least one)

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

### Languages and Music

Year-long subjects

- Chinese 2nd Language, 2nd Language Advanced
- German
- Music

### Arts, Technology and Sport Subjects

Semester-long subjects

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

### 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, subject to ongoing satisfactory progress.



## Features of Year 10

### Aquatic Camp

Long after graduating from Oxley, students enthusiastically talk about the now legendary Aqua Camp. Students select one of three streams: SCUBA diving, Surfing or Boating, which aim to cater for interests and swimming abilities, and introduce new experiences under expert instruction. All students participate in snorkelling and sailing sessions. Additional highlights often chosen, include staying underwater for a length of time breathing on tank air, swimming with the seals at 'Chinaman's Hat', controlling a motor boat prior to gaining a learner's license, and enjoying a fun camp with peers.

### Careers and Work Experience

The Careers program is a highly valued part of Year 10. Students complete a range of tasks, including Career Interest Inventories, potential career investigation and resume writing which culminates in Job Search Day, a formalised mock interview program utilising external interviewers. This all helps to guide career choices and subject selections. 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!

### Student Leadership

Students have various opportunities to develop leadership skills including serving their community as:

- Faculty Captains / Vice Captains – Year 10 and 11
- Home Group Captains / Vice Captains – All year levels
- Sport Team Captains

Other opportunities include:

- Junior School Athletics Assistants – Year 10
- School at Work Ambassadors – All year levels
- Open Day Ambassadors – All year levels



# Years 11 & 12

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## 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
- IT – Software Development (Applied Computing is the Year 11 precursor to this subject)
- Legal Studies
- Literature
- Mathematical Methods (CAS)
- Music Performance
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Psychology
- Specialist Mathematics
- Texts & Traditions
- Visual Communication Design



## 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
- Music Captain
- Faculty Subject Captains

Many other leadership roles are offered, including opportunities in sporting teams, Home Groups, Christian groups and other community service activities.

### Careers

The Careers program involves multiple individual interviews with our Careers Coordinator based on interests, abilities and career aspirations. 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 Coordinator.

### 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.

### Christian Studies

Throughout Year 11, Oxley students participate in fortnightly pastoral Christian Studies small group sessions. These small groups are invaluable for support during Year 11 and feature exploration of goal setting strategies, faith questions and life issues, practical life skills, Christian service and more.

During Year 12, students participate in our Year 12 seminar series, which features high quality guest speakers who explore the realities of navigating post-school life from a Christian perspective, often through the framework of their own inspiring life stories.

### Dinners

Students in Years 11 and 12 each enjoy a celebratory dinner. The Year 11 dinner is a student run event from selecting decorations, to entertainment and student musical performances. It is a special evening to enjoy the company of friends and to share with the Year 11 Oxley student body in a busy VCE year. 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

Sport Students in Year 11 participate fully in EISM Sport as shown on page 13. Students in Year 12 may elect to participate fully in EISM Sport, or utilise this time to study in the Common Room, or study in other ways subject to parental consent.





# Sport

## 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 and Fitness Room after school when teacher supervision is scheduled.

## 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	Term 2 EISM	Term 3 EISM	Term 4 EISM
Years 8–9	Thursday	Oxley Sport	Term 2 EISM	Term 3 EISM	Term 4 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.

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

Teams are selected following trials. The opportunity to represent the College 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 College 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 an Open Tennis Competition Day. Students will be informed of these opportunities as they arise.

## Inter-House Sport

Students compete in swimming, athletics and cross country school carnivals. They will represent their House: Gibeon Warriors (Red), Tabor Trojans (White) or Zion Crusaders (Blue). An additional competition day (Year 12 Final 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 sports (subject to numbers), which may include basketball 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. Students will be notified by the end of Term 1 if the program will run.



# Performing Arts

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## Broadley Performing Arts Centre

This state-of-the-art centre is a fabulous facility for hundreds of Oxley students who love to be involved in music and drama. It 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 (BPAC) 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 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.

## Music Ensembles

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

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

Additional offerings 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, 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

Senior School students have the opportunity to be a part of a musical production as part of the Performing Arts co-curricular offerings. Every two years, students may audition to take part in the Senior School Production. Past shows have included *Mary Poppins*, *Singin' in the Rain* and *Seussical*. Oxley musicals are well known for their high standards of staging, costuming and performance, and are highly anticipated events in the College community.

In alternating years, students in Years 7-9 are able to participate in a Middle Years Production. Our most recent show was *High School Musical Jr.*



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