



The Newsletter of
Oxley Christian College

Issue No 7
11 June 2020

From the Principal

Dear Friends,

Having students back onsite at the College is wonderful. Our staff love being with the children again and I am sure the feeling is mutual. There is no doubt we will learn much in the coming months about the many ways in which learning can be provided, and the government is organising conferences with the same purpose in mind. Thank you to all our families who have patiently endured these past weeks of remote learning.

While we are conscious of not presuming the COVID-19 event has come and gone, we are deeply grateful for God's protection over the College community in that we have no reported cases of infection in this pandemic. I pray that will continue. Rather than stepping back from our faith response at this time, we continue to uphold our community in prayer for the blessings of health, employment and God's peace in the face of uncertainty and the wider community returning to work. A Christian life does not offer an exemption from challenges or suffering, and it is through these experiences that the deepest qualities of our formation occurs. Oddly enough, challenge and suffering teach us gratitude and resilience in our own circumstances and compassion for others in theirs.

In this rather intermediate space of returning to onsite schooling, should there be a confirmed case of infection in your family, it is imperative that you let the College know immediately in order that we take the necessary steps to maintain our care for everyone. In turn, without identifying anyone, we will advise our community of any positive test to the virus and the steps DHHS will require us to take. Please know that we have rigorous cleaning regimes in place, heaps of sanitiser stations and reasonable physical distancing requirements. May I respectfully ask families who deliver young children to the College and farewell them at the new yellow square site to also maintain an appropriate physical distance.

This week may have been a bit frustrating with traffic flow and I again ask for your patience in this matter. Some restrictions in the availability of one car park may not have helped, but the carparks on the left-hand side

of the LMC usually have vacant spots. We urge you to use these areas as well and the new pedestrian crossing marked on that side of the church building. We are monitoring traffic flow with a view to potential changes should these be needed. However, we recognise the biggest issue to traffic flow is the queue that forms on leaving the property.

Now that the revised dates for VCE assessments have been published, we are able to begin working out new dates for key events during next semester. Hopefully, these dates can be published by the end of this term. Of course, we are still in the dark as to when groups in excess of 100 may gather, so even the best plans are tentative and may not work. We remain very hopeful that our Senior School production and Presentation Evening will not be affected by restrictions on the size of audiences later in the year.

Warm regards,
Douglas Peck



Ps Matt was very happy to welcome back students!

"I am the vine; you are the branches". John 15:5a

Chaplain's Corner

The Power of the Tongue

The tongue, the muscular organ inside your mouth that manipulates food for chewing, is used in the act of swallowing and allows you to experience tastes like sweet, salty, sour and bitter. The tongue also gives us the ability to speak. In fact the tongue is so vital an instrument of speech, it has become an alternate term, for *language*.

Our tongue not only helps us to understand part of the world around us, but it also reveals much about us. For example, a doctor may ask you to stick out your tongue to give clues on how hydrated you are. Or your Mum might use it to see if you are lying!

I don't know if your Mum told you this, but ours did. She said that *lying makes a pimple grow on the end of your tongue*. She would ask my sisters and I, to stick out our tongue so she could see if we were lying or not. If we were not telling the whole truth, as you can imagine, we were not too keen. I remember rubbing my tongue against my teeth to feel if there was a pimple there or not, before poking it out and potentially allowing my tongue to rebel against me and reveal my mistruths!

In the book of James, Chapter 3, we see James give specific focus to the tongue, highlighting its power and encouraging its correct use.

Think about it. The same God-given tool, we can use to lift people up, we can also use to tear people down. We can encourage a child for the things they have done right, or chastise them for their failings. We can give words of hope to one another or bring words of doom. We can share the language of love, or spread hate. We can be positive or negative. We can lead people into the loving arms of Jesus or lead them astray down a different path to destruction. We can bring joy or tears, laughter or fits of rage. This is the power of the tongue! No wonder James says it needs to be put under control.

Reading from James 3: 3-10, he puts it this way:

3 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. 4 Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. 5 Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. 6 The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. 7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.

James' challenge to us, is that the mature person is able to "bridle" his tongue. The person who can do this is master of the whole body.

Proverbs 15:4 says, *The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit.*

What a challenge it is, to know when to speak, what to say, how to say it and in all these things to do so graciously and in love. My prayer for you and I today, is that through God's word and the power of his spirit we would daily continue to grow in maturity.

In the same way, I pray that as parents, we would have the opportunity to help disciple our young people in the wise and restrained, yet generous and encouraging, life giving words of their tongues.

God bless,
Matt Daly



Senior School

When you look out across the school grounds, it is difficult to imagine this year is different to any other. The sun still shines brightly, casting dancing shadows of trees across rooftops as the breeze gently disrupts the leaves. During lunch and recess the delightful sounds of students playing downball or basketball can be heard, celebrating great shots or lamenting near misses. The joy of both students and teachers being onsite together is evident all around.

The last few months have certainly demonstrated that great happiness can be found in working with young people and helping them uncover who God intends them to be. It has also taught reliance upon Him, acknowledging that we don't have the answers to many of the problems that arise; reliance on colleagues and their collective centuries of experience, and especially to spend each moment with family treasuring the time that we have together.

As we proceed cautiously, both nationally and as a College, from the threat which has been presented, may we continue to dwell upon the blessings experienced and the resolutions made. Like Mary in Luke 2:19, *Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.*

As we look forward, the one constant will be change. There are still decisions to be made about many upcoming events and we will keep families informed. Our desire is to preserve as many events as possible and practical, making changes to the format where necessary. Evenings at the BPAC, assembling families within a year level, may not be possible for months, so we will utilise skills and lessons learnt to find alternate ways to present information and allow interaction between parents and staff.

Thank you for your understanding, friendship, patience and assistance throughout this transition as we continue to work together to provide the best education and experience that we can for your children. We can continue to be optimistic about the future, not taking things for granted, but rather remembering to treasure each day as a gift from a loving Father.

Thankfulness abounds for God's provision through these trying times, for His favour shown to us, for His protection, grace and love. Let us emulate the Psalmist who declares, *I will sing of the Lord's great love forever, with my mouth I will make Your faithfulness known through all generations.* Psalm 89:1

Greg Barker
Deputy Principal – Head of Senior School

Junior School

We trust that you enjoyed the Queen's Birthday long weekend and valued both the beautiful winter weather and quality family time. With all students now on campus, we are eager to witness in person the rich learning experiences available to students and the goals to be reached before the term is out! We are so very proud of the students, who have demonstrated confidence, resilience, and have blossomed under the supportive care of their family. What a joy it is to serve in such a wonderful community as Oxley Christian College. I am so grateful!

As this period of remote learning ends, students and staff will now focus on the 'gold' discovered over the past months. Personally, I have learned many new things about myself, my children and my family. It has been a time to weigh up what is important in my life. I have discovered anew what is 'essential' to my life, health and wellbeing. Consequently, one can also reflect on the things that we have missed, like going to the movies or a nice dinner out. I encourage all families to take the time to reflect on what has been the most positive experience for you as a family during this period of remote learning. I am sure you will find some 'gold' worth keeping! I would love you to share that with me.

Our weekly Chapel service has been conducted via live stream to homes and classrooms of late. Whilst our time to gather as a school community looks different, students are engaging in worship within the classroom. Pastor Matt and Mr Cook have been an amazing support, as have the teachers who led worship or shared a message. Chapel is also a time to celebrate our learners, with one student from each class awarded a Student of the Week certificate each week. This week, classroom teachers acknowledged all worthy recipients with much applause. Praise God that we get to enjoy this time together!

Please remember that tomorrow, Friday 12 June, is Correction Day for our Junior School teachers and is a Student Free day. No students are required at school. Modified reports will be distributed on the last day of term for Prep to Year 6 students. In Term 3, we will conduct Parent Teacher Interviews on Tuesday 28 July and Thursday 30 July. We welcome the opportunity to discuss your child's progress. Information about booking your interview via the Parent Portal will be sent home in the letter accompanying your child's report.

These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1 Peter 1:7

Sharee Gaiser
Head of Junior School

What Did You Do at School Today?

Prep

Wow! What an incredible fortnight! We are so excited to be back at school with our peers and teachers. Each day has been full of engaging learning experiences and opportunities to grow our friendships. In Integrated Studies, we learned how animals can change their appearance to blend into their habitat. Did you know a chameleon can change the colour of its skin? This is called camouflage. We enjoyed creating our own pet chameleons and playing hide and seek with them in our classroom. They were very good at camouflaging

Year 1

What a fantastic start back to school! Students have settled back into classroom routines and reconnected with their friends. In Integrated Studies, we made bubble wands and spent time blowing clouds of bubbles all around the playground.

Year 2

We have had such an exciting fortnight! We enjoyed sharing our home learning experiences with each other. Thank you to all the wonderful families for putting in such a huge effort. In writing, we have been learning about Information Reports. We thought carefully about what we are an expert of, and created a topic web in our Writer's Notebook. Next week, we will begin writing our Information Reports.

Year 3

Students were buzzing with excitement as they returned to school this week. We listened to each other as we shared our experiences, and the work we completed while learning from home. The pencils are constantly moving as we draft and publish our information reports in preparation for presenting these to the class in the last week of school. We are so happy to be back at school!

Year 4

As part of our History focus, Year 4 have been learning about the Age of Exploration. We have been investigating the reasons for exploration, and discovered that many explorers travelled in search of fame and fortune. Items like gold, silver, herbs and spices were sought after commodities, and finding new trading places was a great incentive for many European governments. Do you know who the first explorer was to circumnavigate the world? It was the Portuguese explorer, Ferdinand Magellan, whose expedition extended from 1519 - 1522.

Year 5

We are so proud of every student who has demonstrated their personal best during the season of home learning. Even more so, we would love to extend our thanks to each parent who often went above the call of duty to assist their child with their learning. It has been very rewarding talking with families each week through our phone calls home and we cannot wait to see each student. Both Mrs McDonald and Mr Rodgers worked hard to move the entire Year 5 classrooms over the break

and we are looking forward to enjoying the rest of 2020 in our new homes.



The new 5M classroom



The new 5R classroom

Year 6

We are extremely excited to not only be back at school, but also to be in our new classrooms. After not seeing our teachers for nearly three months, they say that we are looking more like Year 7 students! When learning remotely, we chose to conduct an inquiry of a specific area of Australian History. It was wonderful to celebrate our learning in person this week and to give each other feedback on what we created. In IT, we have become more confident to use Office365 to share our documented learning with our teachers. We are looking forward to advancing these technological skills this year to collaborate while being physically distanced!



The new Year 6 classrooms



W E L C O M E



B A C K





Music

We are so excited to have everyone return to school. We are straight back into our music lessons and most of our ensemble rehearsals and it is a joy to have the students and music back in the BPAC.

We had an interesting time over the last two months of partial lessons. While we have undertaken lessons via videoconference for our classroom music program, under very strict guidelines we have also been able to continue in person, private music lessons for our VCE Music Performance students throughout the term. In addition to this, approximately 50 students were able to undertake private lessons via videoconference. This was very interesting, and while it was not anywhere near as ideal as in person lessons, these students were able to continue their learning progress.

The return of our Year 10 to 12 students for two weeks meant that our instructors were able to teach 40 students in person at the College and also continue to teach the students undertaking lessons via videoconference as well as some of their classroom music from home. It was certainly a very interesting timetable.

Now that we are back to our new normal we are preparing our Term 3 timetables. These should be distributed to students in the final week of Term 2.

We would like to remind families that the new normal now means that parents are no longer permitted in the BPAC or the surrounding area. We ask that students drop off and pick up their instruments. Parents who have students who need to drop off large instruments are allowed to use the Teardrop carpark but we kindly ask parents to stay in or near their car. If they need to walk their child across the road, then do so to the footpath and return to their car.

As the gradual return to school has taken place, most of our ensembles have also returned to rehearsals. We have delayed the start of our Cherub Choir, Seraphim Choir, and Vivace ensembles until Term 3. This is simply just due to the number of students in each of these ensembles and ensuring we create a safe environment for both students and staff with such a large number of students involved.

At the beginning of the year, all performing arts students received a Performing Arts Handbook, in which details were provided for all the events that would be held throughout 2020. Little did we know what the year would bring. The College is currently looking at what events will now take place and when they will take place. We will provide you with more details once they are known.

The one event that will be going ahead this term is the VCE Unit 1 and 3 Music Performance Concert. This concert will now be held on 24 June. Unfortunately, family and friends will not be able to attend. Students will be supported by their VCE Music peers, their instructors and a small group of relevant staff. This will give the students the practice they need in preparation for their assessed performances in Unit 4.

Please email apeacock@oxley.vic.edu.au if you have any questions about music lessons or ensembles.

Angela Peacock
Performing Arts & Events Administrator

Charity Knitting



KOGO (*knit one give one*) has opened up their collection points for all charity knitting. I am sure that all my fellow knitters in our community have been knitting up a storm during isolation. If you have any finished items for charity please hand them in at Student Reception and I will take them to a KOGO collection point. Your knitted garments and toys are always received with gratitude and thanks.

Dru Law
Senior School Teacher

CSEF Closing Soon

The Victorian Government has established the Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF) to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. These costs are included in the levies that are billed to your school account.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card, (e.g. Centrelink Health Care Card, Veterans Affairs Gold Card, or Pensioner Concession Card), or you are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

For more information about CSEF, and to download the CSEF application form, visit <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>.

Application forms must be submitted by 28 June 2020. Please note that the College is required to hold a copy of any relevant concession cards that you may hold to support eligibility for the CSEF. Can you please email the application and copy of your concession card to Dawn Pryor, Accounts Receivable Officer, email: dpryor@oxley.vic.edu.au.

Upon approval by the Victorian Government, the allowance will be paid to the College, which will then be applied to your school account.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either Mrs Dawn Pryor, Accounts Receivable Officer, or Mr Andrew Holland, Business Manager, on 9727 9900.

Andrew Holland
Business Manager



For children currently attending school at Oxley, Before and After School Care is available, if needed. Contact Oxley Kids to make a booking.

We are currently processing enrolments for kindergarten in 2021. If you have not yet applied, contact us on 9727 9200 or office@oxleykids.vic.edu.au.

Kim Sopar
Director

Entertainment Books

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Renew or get your Entertainment Membership NOW to help Oxley raise funds for our Student Clubs. 20% of your Membership renewal purchase goes directly to the Student Clubs. You'll receive hundreds of valuable offers for everything you love to do, and help our fundraising at the same time. Just \$70 will give you over \$20,000 of value!

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Thank you for your support!



Notice Board

UNIFORM SHOP

Gate 7, 15-49 Old Melbourne Rd
Ph: 9036 7359

Tuesdays & Thursdays (term time)
8.15am - 9.00am & 1.00pm - 4.30pm

Uniform regulations and price list are
available at the Office or online at:
<http://www.bobstewart.com.au>

CLASSIFIEDS

The Oxley Classifieds are a
convenient way to buy and sell items
(directly related to the education of
your child) such as textbooks, uniform
and musical instruments.

To advertise or purchase
second hand items:
[http://online.oxley.vic.edu.au/
classifieds.php](http://online.oxley.vic.edu.au/classifieds.php)
username: parent
password: oxley

OXLEY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The College may, from time-to-
time, review and update various
policies and procedures. Online /
digital copies of College policies
and procedures can be found on the
Oxley website (under 'Publications'),
or on the Parent Portal (under the
'Docs' tab) which is accessible from
the College website



Open 6.30am - 6.30pm | 9727 9200

FOLLOW US



Calendar

Jun	Friday	12	Student Free Day – Correction Day
	Tuesday	16	Mary Poppins Rehearsals (3.45pm - 5.00pm, BPAC, Selected students)
	Wednesday	17	Mary Poppins Rehearsals (3.45pm - 5.00pm, BPAC, Selected students)
	Tuesday	23	Mary Poppins Rehearsals (3.45pm - 5.00pm, BPAC Selected students)
	Wednesday	24	VCE Music Performance Concert (5.30pm, BPAC) Mary Poppins Rehearsals (3.45pm - 5.00pm, BPAC, Selected students)
	Friday	26	Last Day Term 2
Jul	Mon-Fri	13-17	Mary Poppins Rehearsals (9.00am - 4.00pm, BPAC)
	Monday	20	First Day Term 3
	Wednesday	22	Year 10 into 11 Evening (7.30pm BPAC)
	Saturday	26	Mary Poppins Rehearsals (8.00am - 5.15pm, BPAC)
	Tuesday	28	Senior Cross Country Afternoon
	Wednesday	29	VTAC Information Night (7.30pm, BPAC)
Aug	Mon-Fri	10-14	International Week
	Friday	21	Prep - Year 6 House Cross Country (9.30am - 12.30pm, Bottom Oval)
Sep	Wed-Fri	2-4	Year 4 Camp
	Sunday	6	Father's Day
	Wednesday	16	Year 12 English Practice Exam
	Friday	18	Last Day Term 3
	Mon-Wed	28-30	Year 12 Practice Exams
Oct	Thu-Fri	1-2	Year 12 Practice Exams
	Monday	5	First Day Term 4
	Tuesday	6	Year 9 into Year 10 Information Night (7.30pm, BPAC)
	Thursday	8	Unit 4 Music Concert
	Friday	16	Year 8 One Day Wonder Year 12 Valedictory Dinner
	Tuesday	20	Year 12 Final Chapel
	Friday	23	Year 2 Late Night and Year 3 Sleepover
	Monday	26	Year 12 Final Assembly
	Tuesday	27	Year 12 Final Day
	Wednesday	28	Job Search Day
Nov	Thu-Fri	29-30	VCE Unit 2 Concert
	Monday	2	Student Free Day
	Tuesday	3	Student Free Day - Melbourne Cup Day
	Friday	6	Year 10 Dinner



OXLEY CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

A Coeducational School | Prep to Year 12

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