



The Newsletter of  
Oxley Christian College

Issue No 14  
29 October 2020

## From the Principal

Dear Friends,

What a great celebration this week has held, with the return of the remaining students to onsite learning, the final assembly and last day of schooling for Year 12 and of course, the big step in opening up retail and hospitality in Victoria. Tuesday was a lovely day of celebration and sunshine, as Year 12 students made the best of finishing this highly disrupted year. We warmly congratulate these beloved young adults for their resilience and creativity, and our staff for the constant support they gave them. Miss Hogan and Mr Barker are worthy of a special mention for their advocacy and efforts on behalf of the cohort. We also acknowledge and thank parents for the great support they have provided under remote learning. Our collective prayer and hope now is for exemplary performances in the examinations ahead. We commit this group to God's absolute generosity of grace and gifting, to complete a delightful time at Oxley, and to look forward to the future with confidence.

This year continues to hold anomalies for most end of year events. We will update our community as we are able to finalise a schedule with some degree of certainty. Celebrations are symbolic of the things that unite us. Too often sections of our society want to fragment us

and focus on our differences. But in truth, our society and humanity is only sustainable to the extent we seek the common good and have a charitable and generous association with each other. Such an approach is deeply embedded in the gospel of Christ, in that through Him, God was reconciling the world to Himself and us to each other.

While school attendance was restricted, we were fortunate to be able to progress the Junior School building project and the services external to the building envelope. There are some benefits to lockdowns. As the site takes shape, it is easy to imagine our students enjoying the facilities in brand new rooms and collective spaces. We are still on track for completion around the end of May next year. Hopefully, you are following [the links to videos](#) of the progress. We are so grateful for God's providence across the whole site and for the resolve of the Directors of LMC Ltd to see this project through. Building projects require our patience, but the outcome is a great reward for whatever it takes to arrive. There is a metaphor in there somewhere for our own personal journeys.

Warm regards

Douglas Peck



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

# Chaplain's Corner

Each year, as our Year 12s complete their final week of schooling, I invite a Year 12 student to write a devotional reflection. I hope that the words below, written by **Callum Bish** (12.9), bless you and inspire you as much as it did me when I read it. We have an incredible community here at Oxley and the best students, I believe, in the State! I wish our Year 12s all the best and pray their final study preparation for exams will be effective and without stress. The class of 2020 is a special group, who have faced unprecedented challenges. We wish them every success!

Pastor Matt  
Chaplain

## 2020 – A reflection from a Year 12 student

Greetings fabulous members of the Oxley community. It is a privilege and a pleasure to be given the opportunity to write to you in this issue of *The Vine*. My name is Callum and I've been an Oxley student for 14 years, graduating this year with the Class of 2020.

Oxley has been my home for as long as I can remember and it has been brilliant to see the school grow, develop and expand over the years as I too have been growing. I went into this year with a goal to make the most of my last year at Oxley, to make the most of special moments with friends, making use of the common room and having fun in class. But while we still got some of this to a degree, it would seem that God had other plans for us, bigger things in store instead of just *fun*.

For a long time I have imagined that the Class of 2020 would be special, being such a significant number (two twenties in a row), and our Year 12 theme of *anointing* strongly resonated with me. Reminiscing, I can see that I was right. This year we had much removed from us. From our bonding times, to our school carnivals; opportunities for building friendships, replaced with countless trials that we had to face (like struggling with technology); facing mental barriers like stress and procrastination; and losing a large portion of what makes Year 12 so special – our community. You could say that we had a year like no other. But now that we have almost reached *the light at the end of the tunnel*, it is clear to see how much we have grown and improved since when we began.

As I reflected more on this year, the Bible story of Joseph came to mind. In Scripture, Joseph was betrayed by his brothers and sold in secrecy as a slave to the Egyptians. After facing the horrors of slave life, he was able to climb the ranks and build up enough trust that he eventually became the governor of Egypt – second in command to the Pharaoh. I believe that this story will hold true for the Class of 2020. We have

been placed into very challenging circumstances and the lessons that we have learned this year will empower us to become the best versions of ourselves that we can be – strong, powerful human beings and leaders over generations to come. **Romans 8:28** reminds me of this: *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.*

This year has forced me to push myself and step out of my comfort zone and participate in things that I usually wouldn't. Online learning has caused me to miss my friends and school very much. So in the last few months of my time here I have been trying to take hold of every opportunity to be involved in something. Whether it has been making submissions for the Oxley Olympics event, acting for the Year 12 Final Day drama, or speaking at Final Chapel. Looking back, I think that I have reached my goal of making the most of Year 12, even though it was never how I imagined it would be.

It breaks my heart to be leaving the school family after 14 wonderful years, but I know that what God has in store for me and my classmates is going to be great!

God bless,

Callum Bish  
Year 12 (Class of 2020)



Callum speaking at Final Chapel recently



# Senior School

What an exciting day Monday 26 October was! After months of lockdown, the entire student body was finally back on site. Observing the joy of students catching up with each other after such a long absence was truly moving and exciting. There was little nervousness evident as friendships and routines were quickly re-established. Well done to all students, indeed all families, for your commitment to persevere through this year, supporting each other and trying your hardest. An *unusual* year is certainly an understatement, but several new skills have been acquired, including a plethora in IT, self-management, planning, and personal attributes have grown, such as confidence, resilience, adaptability and innovation. I hope that you are able to reflect and acknowledge how much personal growth has occurred – you should be well pleased!



Year 9 students enjoying a Welcome Back pizza lunch together

The week commenced with Year 12 Final Assembly and the realisation that Year 12 students are soon to sit examinations and embark on the future prepared for them. Hearing **Chloe** and **Joshua** reading from the New Testament, then **Erin** and **Chloe** singing with **John** accompanying them on keyboard, was an excellent reminder of how much education takes place at the College in subjects, but more importantly, immersion in the Christian faith. A highly polished and moving speech was delivered by **Erin** and **Liam** and the Assembly epitomised the teamwork and unity of the cohort.

Year 12 students spent the evening preparing the College for Year 12 Final Day and their enthusiasm could not be dampened as they arranged Covid-safe packages for Junior School students, and adorned several buildings with an assortment of artwork.

Year 12 Final Day was a remarkable success and an enormous thank you goes to Mr Frederik Kotzé, Mrs Jeannette Kotzé and Miss Claire Hogan for their organisation. It was vastly different from previous years, with a high focus on social distancing and cleaning of apparatus and required a high level of choreography between events. It was a little windy for the outdoor table tennis, but no one seemed to mind as the rain held off and students enjoyed catching up and competing with each other. The Year 12 victory in the Year 11 v Year 12 Basketball game was a lovely way for Year 12 students

to conclude the day, with the game streamed live to Year 7-11 Home Groups. Turn to pages 9-11 for a display of Year 12 Final Assembly and Final Day photos.

We thank all Year 12 students for their conclusion to the year, their ability to soldier on throughout 2020 and the unity demonstrated. To all students undertaking VCE Examinations, we wish you all the very best and trust your efforts will be rewarded by your results.

*May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:5-6*

Greg Barker  
Deputy Principal – Head of Senior School

## Junior School

We have enjoyed observing the exciting celebrations that mark Year 12 Final Day. Whilst things were very different this year, it was wonderful to witness the students and Senior School staff celebrate this wonderful cohort of learners. Junior School students viewed the Year 12 Concert from the comfort of their classrooms, and were gifted with tennis balls of encouragement as gifts. We pray a blessing over our Year 12 students as they now prepare for their examinations and the bright and promising future that lies ahead.

We wish to thank all parents who are supporting our safe practices in the carparks in the morning and afternoon. Carparks are clearly signposted for the relevant year levels. Your patience and support has ensured student safety on our property, and for this, we are grateful.

Our Prep teachers have researched creative options given we have been unable to conduct our usual *Step into Prep* Transition program for Prep 2021 students. With an on-screen presence, staff have enjoyed putting together a program which preschoolers and parents can view at home. Story reading, craft activities and a tour of the classrooms have been exciting features. We hope that, with the easing of restrictions, we can welcome small groups of preschoolers onto the property for future transition visits.

Prep-Year 2 students have been busily and enthusiastically preparing for the Athletics event, to be held on the main oval on Friday 30 October. This will be an event with a difference, with students competing with their class, to earn points for their house. It is always a delight to see the energy and enthusiasm of each student. I wonder who will be the winning house for this event?

## School Photos

Please ensure you have read the separate communication regarding whole class photographs, to be taken on Wednesday 4 November. It is important to note that as this day falls immediately after the Melbourne Cup

long weekend, we encourage families to use this time to ensure their child's full Summer uniform is prepared and in immaculate condition. Students who hold a position of leadership are required to wear their badges. Please take note of the uniform requirements included in the letter to parents.

**Student Free Days** – Just a reminder that Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 November (Melbourne Cup Day) are student free days. We trust that all families will enjoy this mid-term break. In addition, Friday 27 (Correction Day) and Monday 30 November (Report Writing Day) are also student free days. Parents will need to organise alternative care for their children on student free days.

As the end of the year approaches, we also move into our assessment and reporting period. It brings us such pride and delight to celebrate the unique learning journey of every student at Oxley. We also look forward to celebrations such as the Prep Nativity, Year 6 Graduation and Final Junior Assembly, which will run differently this year due to Covid protocols, with links to events to be provided for online viewing at home. We will enjoy warmly welcoming our parent community to these functions. Please see the calendar on the back page of *The Vine* for key dates and read the corresponding communications that are sent to families.

*Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people. Philemon 1:7*

Sharee Gaiser  
Head of Junior School

## What Did You Do at School Today?

### Prep

It was fun to celebrate Book Week, dressing up as our favourite book characters. Wally, Anne of Green Gables, Bob the Builder, Peter Rabbit, Mr Men and many more came to school that day. We loved it when Mrs Sernio and Mrs Gaiser visited our classroom dressed up as bears! Mrs Gaiser was *Winnie the Pooh* and Mrs Sernio was a bear with a huge red balloon from the book *Nop* by Caroline Magerl. We enjoyed reading all the books that everyone brought to school. We are looking forward to many more exciting things this term.



Prep G



Prep M



Prep W

### Year 1

We were very excited to celebrate Book Week dress up day. There was an array of book characters, from adoring princesses, to cute Pig the Pug, and agile Ninja Kids. We also enjoyed making the Year 12s last few days of school very special by creating celebratory decorations for lockers and classrooms, to congratulate them on their final year. Furthermore, we have been enthusiastically working on writing our first piece of our Multi Genre Writing Project. Finally, the highlight of the week has been the many observations we have been making in regard to a baby bird that has made its presence known in the playground and, to everyone's delight, has learnt to fly!

### Year 2

We have had an incredible start to Term 4! We have been learning about what it means to be resilient and how to bounce back after tough situations. We have also been writing wonderful narrative texts and decorating our front covers to make sure they are bright and colourful. This week we spent some time designing posters to congratulate our Year 12s on their wonderful efforts and for finishing their schooling. We thought it was so amazing that they have been at school for 13 years!!

### Year 3

We were engaged and eager to write texts for our Multi Genre Writing Project. Each of us completed a narrative and are working on other selected texts. We cannot wait to see the final results.



In Integrated Studies, we created our own sundials. This raised many questions: *Why did the shadow move? Why did the shadow change length? How do you tell the time if there is no sun?*

We had a great discussion about how the Earth's rotation affects the position of the sun in relation to where we are and that, during the day, we move closer towards the sun and then further away. Did you know that night time is just a big shadow?



Hayley and Isla (above) and Kobi and Jacob (below) testing out their sundials



#### Year 4



During Remote Learning, my brother and I wrote Haiku poems. Our local Council ran a program that encouraged people to share their lockdown story or point of view about nature, using poetry. They invited people to submit a poem and they then sent it back to us on a sticker. If you have seen the *Spoonville* villages in your local area, it was like that. My poem was called *Lake*.

By Sophie Degenhardt

#### Year 5

We are very excited at the moment. We are looking forward to Year 6 next year by participating in leadership training with Mrs Gaiser. We are learning what makes a great leader and how we can further develop our leadership skills. We are also enjoying fortnightly sessions at the barn with Mrs Gaschk. Her passion for the environment stirs within us a desire to look after God's creation. Another amazing way for us to lead!

#### Year 6

We continue to delve deeper into the area of economics and business as we discover the terms *Natural*, *Human* and *Capital Resources*, as well as *Opportunity Costs*. Have you heard of these? Ask us what they mean to allow us to bedazzle you with our newfound knowledge! We are bubbling with excitement at the thought of developing a business plan with our team to win over potential investors – a.k.a. Sharks! We wonder which product we would like to sell or which service we would like to offer... Will our investors part with their money? Only time will tell.

## Resource Centre

### Book Week 2020

This year's Book Week Dress Up day was a huge success, with many students participating in the day. Students were invited to either dress up in their favourite book character or bring their favourite book to school to share.

Thank you to all the families for supporting this event.

Ruth Hogg  
Resource Centre Manager



Mrs Sernio, Emilia (1A), Cindy (4K) and Weylen (4K)





Allissa (4K), Lily (4K) and Annie (4B)



Junior School teachers in character

## Music

What a joy it is to have all students back at school. The BPAC is alive with music again!

Our private music lessons have all recommenced and students should have received their timetables for the remainder of the year. Just a reminder that it is the student's responsibility to know when their lesson is and to attend their lesson on time.

Our string and Vivace ensembles have also all recommenced rehearsals. Here is a reminder of the day and time for each ensemble rehearsal:

Cabaletta	Monday	8.00am – 8.45am
Ostinato	Monday	8.00am – 8.45am
Vivace	Monday	3.30pm – 4.30pm
Andante	Monday	3.45pm – 4.30pm
Malaguena	Tuesday	3.45pm – 4.30pm
Sinfonia Con-Brio	Thursday	12.45pm – 1.30pm
Sinfonia Con-Gravita	Thursday	12.45pm – 1.30pm
Sinfonia Con-Fevore	Thursday	3.45pm – 5.00pm
Camerata	Friday	3.45pm – 5.00pm
Vocal Ensemble	Friday	3.45pm – 5.00pm (online)

This week our featured student is Alex Salomon from Year 12.

*Hi. My name is Alex, I am in Year 12, and I have studied music throughout my Senior Years at Oxley.*

*Starting on Tenor Saxophone in the Year 7 Instrumental program, I enjoyed it so much that I have continued lessons right through to the end of this year. I was invited to join the Training Band at the beginning of Year 8 and progressed to the Concert Band and into the Saxophone Trio, now Quartet Sforzando, by the end of Year 8 and the Jazz Band for Year 11 and 12.*

*The ensembles give me a great camaraderie with my fellow musicians and have given me opportunities to perform at Open Days, Presentation Evenings, Ensemble Evening Concerts, School at Work, Year 7 Concerts, Art Display Evenings, Music Camps, Soirees and many more. I have also had the opportunity to play and perform the Baritone Saxophone, which is great fun with its deep sound. I will also continue music beyond Year 12 at Oxley, having been accepted in the Music course I wish to study at university.*



Please email [apeacock@oxley.vic.edu.au](mailto:apeacock@oxley.vic.edu.au) if you have any questions about music lessons or ensembles.

Angela Peacock  
Performing Arts & Events Administrator

## Sport

### Year 12 Final Day House Competition

Although this year's Year 12 Final Day House Competition looked different due to the current Covid restrictions, we were still able to keep up the Oxley tradition by getting the whole Senior School involved. With careful planning we were able to keep the year levels separated throughout the day.



Each year level rotated in House groups from one event to the next, with only one year level participating in an event at a time. We were blessed with great weather throughout the day, which helped to create an enjoyable, but competitive atmosphere.

There were six different activities on the day. Students were able to watch the pre-recorded concert in their Home Groups and Year Level Coordinators also ran an activity with the students as part of the rotation. The Houses competed against each other in basketball, indoor-style hockey on the tennis courts, table tennis outside the stadium, and soccer on the main oval. All sporting activities were held outdoors this year.

The day ended with the traditional basketball match between the Year 11s and 12s. This year the Year 12s won this very anticipated game to finish off their last day at school in style. The competition between the Houses was very close throughout the day, but at the end of the day it was Zion Crusaders (Blue House) that managed to snap the win away from Gibeon Warriors (Red House). Blue House won with a total of 188 points to Red House 160 points. In close third place was Tabor Trojans (White House) with 155 points.

Congratulations to all students who competed for their House. A big thank you to all staff and students for making this a memorable day for our Year 12 students. The combined efforts of everyone made this a most enjoyable and successful day. Lastly, I wish all the Year 12 students God's greatest blessings as they undertake their examinations in the coming weeks.



Frederik Kotzé  
Head of Sport



# Chinese Excellence Award

On Friday 16 October, **Keishi Sasuga** (8.33) participated in the state-wide CLTAV Chinese Speaking Competition. Keishi was awarded an excellence award in the Year 8 category. Congratulations Keishi! We wish you continued success in your Chinese language learning.



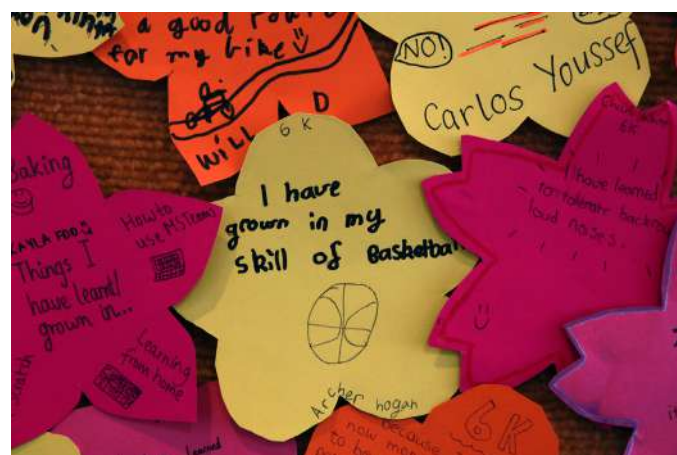
Seh Yeh Ong  
Senior School Head of Languages

# You Grow Through What You Go Through

Junior School students and staff recently completed a beautiful display representing a challenge or something they missed during the period of remote learning. Then, they had to think of an area in which they had grown during this time. The challenge was represented by a water drop with the area of growth represented by a flower.

They then reflected upon the fact that it is often the challenges, the difficult times, which are food or nourishment for our growth.

A big thank you to Mrs Claudia Weller for running with this idea and seeing it through to fruition!



## Enrolments

### 2021

We have limited vacancies for next year and would encourage you to submit your Enrolment Application Form as soon as possible, if you wish your child to be considered for a place.

### 2022

We are now accepting enrolments for 2022 and beyond (particularly Prep and Year 7) and look forward to hearing from you if you wish to enrol your child(ren).

### Notice to Withdraw

Parents are reminded of their obligation to give the College one full term's notice, in writing to the Principal, if their children are not continuing at Oxley Christian College. The lack of one term's notice will result in the payment of one term's Tuition Fees.

It is also a legal requirement for you to inform us of the school to which your child's enrolment is transferring.

Caroline Lewis  
Registrar



Oxley Kids adds their prayers for all students preparing for exams and hopes that all have the ability to finish the year well. We are so blessed to be part of the Oxley / LMC community, especially through a difficult year.

If you, or someone you know, would like your child to begin their Oxley journey in preschool, please contact us on 9727 9200 or email [office@oxleykids.vic.edu.au](mailto:office@oxleykids.vic.edu.au).

Kim Sopar  
Oxley Kids Director





## Year 12 Final Assembly







## Year 12 Final Day









# Notice Board

# Calendar of Events

## UNIFORM SHOP

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

Online orders only available during current restrictions

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>

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

**OXLEY KIDS**

Open 6.30am - 6.30pm | 9727 9200

## FOLLOW US



Oct	Fri	30	Prep-Year 2 Athletics Day
Nov	Monday	2	Student Free Day
	Tuesday	3	Public Holiday – Melbourne Cup Day
	Thursday	5	VCE Unit 2 Concert
	Tuesday	10	VCE Exams Commence
	Wednesday	11	Year 10 Job Search Day
	Thursday	12	Prep Information Session (7.00pm)
	Friday	13	Year 11 Study Day
	Mon-Fri	16-20	Year 10-11 Exams
	Tue-Thu	24-26	Year 11 and Year 12 Head Start
	Thursday	26	Year 2 Strings Concert (10.00am - 12.30pm, BPAC) Year 6 Graduation Filming
	Friday	27	Student Free Day – Correction Day
Dec	Monday	30	Student Free Day – Report Writing Day
	Tuesday	1	VCE Exams Conclude
	Thursday	3	Year 6 Graduation Live Event
	Friday	4	Year 6 into Year 7 Orientation Day Prep-Year 5 Transition Day
	Tuesday	8	Year 12 Valedictory Dinner
	Wednesday	9	Junior School Final Assembly
	Thursday	10	Junior School Tabloid Sports Day
	Thursday	24	College Admin Office closed
	Friday	25	Christmas Day
	Monday	28	Boxing Day Public Holiday in Lieu
<b>2021</b>			
Jan	Friday	1	New Years Day
	Thursday	7	College Office Re-Opens
	Wednesday	13	Book Collection Day
	Friday	22	All Staff Return
	Thursday	28	First Day Term 1 Prep Morning Tea
Feb	Thursday	4	Junior School New Families Meet & Greet (7.00pm - 7.45pm) Junior School Curriculum Night (8.00pm - 9.00pm)
	Sunday	7	College Dedication Service
	Monday	8	<i>Mary Poppins</i> Technical Rehearsal
	Tuesday	9	<i>Mary Poppins</i> Dress Rehearsal
	Wed-Sat	10-13	<i>Mary Poppins</i> Shows
	Thursday	11	Junior School Investiture (1.30pm - 2.25pm, LMC)



## OXLEY CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

A Coeducational School | Prep to Year 12

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