



18 July 2016

A letter from the Headmaster to the Oakhill community

Dear Parents and Friends of Oakhill

By the end of the year I will have spent 8 years at Oakhill school. When I first arrived, there were just over 300 students and now the school boasts a student roll of 500 plus. More importantly, I am fortunate to work with the most magnificent team of administrators and educators who want only the best for the young men and women who have chosen Oakhill. The school now boasts its own sport facilities and has significantly improved its academic campus. These physical facilities have matched the growth and improvement of our academic results over the years and with higher expectations have come better results for all concerned. Oakhill has had a sustained period of development and growth in the last decade and we are extremely grateful that the school continues to take its rightful place on the education landscape in our country. Oakhill is now no longer a temperamental teenager but has emerged into a thoughtful, young adult who is ready to face the world with pride and courage.

Although this has been one of the most difficult decisions of my life, Robyn and I have decided to take up the offer of the Headmastership of St Alban's College in Pretoria, from January 2017. Our time in Knysna has been some of the most fulfilling of our lives and it has been a privilege to be part of a leadership team which has transformed the school into an example for others, of rigour and community partnership. The future is bright for the school and the Southern Cape and I will be watching its development with interest.

The process to search for a new Headmaster will be initiated by our Board under the guidance of our Board Chairman, Richard Foyn. It is a position that will attract interest from several of the country's top school leaders and I am certain that Oakhill will have an excellent new leader by January 2017. Richard, will be writing to the community in due course to communicate the process being followed and progress made.

Oakhill School will remain close to my heart. Knysna and Oakhill have been our home for 8 happy years and although our kids were not born here it is where they have been lucky enough to spend their formative years. Leaving will not be easy. However, it is my firm intention to close out strongly, and there will be many opportunities to celebrate what has been a wonderful learning experience for me.

Yours sincerely

Shane Kidwell
HEADMASTER