

INTRODUCTION

Grade 9 marks the beginning of an important stage in the school journey. As students prepare to select subjects for the National Senior Certificate, this booklet aims to provide families with guidance, clarity, and support. It outlines the subjects offered at Oakhill, the requirements of the qualification, and a concise overview of each subject's content.

Choosing subjects is not just an academic step — it is a decision that shapes future opportunities. While some students may already have a career direction in mind, many are still exploring their interests. Both paths are normal. The key is to select subjects that **keep doors open**, reflect **personal strengths**, and encourage success through **enjoyment** and engagement.

For those with a specific career goal, it is vital to review the admission requirements of universities and colleges, as some fields of study require particular subjects for Matric. For others still undecided, the best approach is to choose subjects that build on natural talents and genuine curiosity. In most cases, tertiary institutions look for applicants with a broad and balanced academic background, rather than one that is narrowly specialised.

When making subject decisions, students are encouraged to avoid:

- selecting subjects only because they appear easier,
- choosing subjects based solely on a preferred teacher, or
- following friends without personal consideration.

Support and guidance are available at Oakhill through multiple channels, including:

- Subject Teachers
- Subject Heads
- Deputy Head: Academics
- Academic Support Teachers
- IEB/Xhuma-Ed Career Guidance and Learning Ecosystem

In addition, families may also consult private educational psychologists or professional counsellors for further advice.

The **FET Phase (Grades 10–12)** is designed to prepare students for **higher education, the world of work, and active citizenship**. It also encourages personal growth, lifelong learning, and the development of skills that open pathways to a wide range of careers. The subjects chosen in Grade 9 will lay the foundation for this next chapter — shaping academic focus, unlocking future opportunities, and helping each student thrive in their senior years.

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GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. At Oakhill, Matric pupils write the Independent Examination Board National Senior Certificate examination. The IEB follows the national curriculum in conjunction with an independent and rigorous assessment process.
2. When selecting subjects, careful thought is essential. Students are encouraged to reflect on their strengths, areas for development, and long-term career goals. Research into possible university courses and career opportunities is strongly recommended before making a final decision.
3. Once subject choices have been submitted, changes are discouraged. Any request for a subject change must be managed through the Academic Head and requires written consent from parents. Grades 10 to 12 are regarded as a connected three-year cycle of study, with each year building upon the previous one. Portfolio requirements begin in Grade 10, and therefore, changes later in the cycle may place a student at a disadvantage. A subject change may be permitted during the first term of Grade 10, but this should not be taken lightly. In Grade 11, subject changes will only be permitted under exceptional circumstances.
4. Within the constraints of the timetable, the options structure, and staffing capacity, we attempt to offer a wide variety of possible subject combinations. It is not possible to entertain combinations other than those offered. **This will mean, regrettably, that we are not able to accommodate all students' subject combinations.** Our subject options/ lines have been selected to offer maximum flexibility and in keeping with subject choice trends over the past 5 years.
5. If too few pupils opt for a particular subject, it is not educationally or financially viable to offer it, and alternative arrangements will have to be negotiated. A Minimum of 4 students need to select the subject to make the offering viable.
6. Where a student does not demonstrate the necessary aptitude for a subject, particularly those requiring specific skills, the school reserves the right to advise against the choice.
7. The only extra subjects (above the mandatory 7 subjects) that are encouraged are Further Studies English, Further Studies Mathematics and Trinity Music. **We do not encourage students to take any other extra subjects** due to the high volume of work required in Matric by the various subject portfolios.
8. Students who have been granted Immigrant Status or exemption from Afrikaans FAL are required to select an elective subject in its place to make up the mandatory 7 subjects. Again, the choice of subject will be determined by the subject package lines on offer.
9. In some cases, the IEB awards accommodations for students with specific physical or learning barriers. These may include additional time, spelling assistance, or other forms of support. Such applications are only successful if backed by comprehensive, long-term documentation of interventions and support. At Oakhill, Ms Rau and Mrs van Zyl are responsible for managing accommodation applications.

SUBJECT CHOICE STRUCTURE

The National Curriculum Statement requires all pupils to study four compulsory subjects:

- English Home Language
- Afrikaans First Additional Language
- Mathematics or Mathematical Literacy
- Life Orientation

Students must take Afrikaans together with three elective subjects, ensuring that only one subject is selected from each subject line. Students who are exempt from Afrikaans or have been granted Immigrant Status are required to select one subject from each of the four subject lines.

SUBJECT CHOICES - to be completed ONLY by those entering Grade 10, 11 & 12

Please make three subject selections for one of the four lines below in the year your child matriculates.

Please only select a maximum of one subject per line

Please confirm if your child will be doing Maths or Maths Literacy.

These bands are available if qualifying requirements are met and there are sufficient students per class. Oakhill reserves the right to amend subject packages

	Compulsory subject	Line 1	Line 2	Line 3	Line 4	Further Studies Subjects
GRADE 10 (matriculate in 2028)	English HL Maths / Maths Lit Life Orientation	Business Studies History Life Sciences Physical Sciences	Afrikaans FAL Accounting CAT Life Sciences	Dramatic Arts Geography IT Tourism	Afrikaans FAL Business Studies Geography History Visual Arts	Further Studies English Further Studies Maths
GRADE 11 (matriculate in 2027)	English HL Maths / Maths Lit Life Orientation	Business Studies CAT History Physical Science Tourism	Business Studies Dramatic Arts Geography IT Life Sciences	Afrikaans FAL CAT Geography Visual Arts	Afrikaans FAL Accounting History Life Sciences	Further Studies English Further Studies Maths
GRADE 12 (matriculate in 2026)	English HL Maths / Maths Lit Life Orientation	Business Studies Geography Physical Sciences Visual Arts	Afrikaans FAL Dramatic Arts IT Life Sciences	Accounting Business Studies CAT History Life Sciences	Afrikaans FAL Geography History Tourism	Further Studies English Further Studies Maths

MUSIC (Trinity) may be taken as an eighth subject. In this case, examination fees and cost of practical lessons will apply.

Further Studies English and Further Studies Mathematics may be selected as additional subjects. While tuition is included, parents/guardians are required to cover the cost of textbooks and the additional examination fees.

Music may also be taken as an eighth subject. In this case, examination fees and the cost of practical lessons will apply. Refer to 'Music' in the Subject Information Section.

IMMIGRANT STATUS

A student may be recognised as an immigrant candidate under the following conditions:

1. The student is the child or dependent of a diplomatic representative of a foreign government accredited in South Africa, or
2. The student meets one of the following criteria:
 - First enrolled in a South African school only from Grade 7 or a more senior grade, or
 - Having begun his/her schooling in South Africa, has attended school outside South Africa for two or more consecutive years after Grade 3 (or its equivalent) and subsequently returned to South Africa. An application must be submitted to the IEB. Managed by the Oakhill Support Team

ASSESSMENT, PROMOTION, AND TERTIARY REQUIREMENTS

Oakhill follows the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS) as adapted by the Independent Examinations Board (IEB) Assessment consists of:

- A final examination which contributes 75 percent of the mark
- Continuous assessment tasks which contribute 25 percent of the mark

For promotion from Grade 10 to Grade 12, the minimum requirements are as follows:

- At least 40 percent in English and two other subjects
- At least 30 percent in three additional subjects
- Life Orientation is assessed through a portfolio only, as it does not have a final examination in Grade 12

Admission to tertiary institutions is primarily based on Grade 11 results, final Grade 12 results. Some universities require pupils to write the National Benchmarking Tests (NBTs), which assess core skills in language and numeracy.

A bachelor degree pass, which we encourage every student to aspire to, requires a minimum of 4 subjects at level 4 (50 - 60%).

Certain university programmes, particularly those in Science, Engineering, Medicine, and Business, require Mathematics and/or Physical Science as prerequisites. Students and parents are expected to confirm the exact entry requirements of individual programmes to ensure that subject choices meet the necessary conditions for admission.

ENGLISH

English is at the heart of communication, critical thinking, and creativity. It is the language of international exchange, of literature, and of higher learning. Strong English skills are essential for success in almost every field, from law and business to science and the arts.



The subject fosters appreciation for literature in all its forms - novels, poetry, drama, media texts, and essays - encouraging reflection on human experience and society. Analytical skills are sharpened through text interpretation, while writing tasks develop the ability to craft structured arguments, present viewpoints, and express original ideas. Listening and speaking refine confidence, empathy, and authority in presentation and dialogue.

Beyond the classroom, English cultivates the ability to analyse information, evaluate arguments, and communicate effectively - abilities valued across all professions.

CONTENT COVERED

Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Prepared and unprepared orals, discussions, debates	Speeches, panel discussions, debates	Advanced academic and persuasive presentations
Reading and viewing: novels, drama, short stories, poetry, transactional texts	Contemporary and classic literature, critical analysis	Extended set works, unseen texts, literary essays
Creative writing, discursive essays, transactional texts, media texts	Narrative, discursive and argumentative essays, media texts	Advanced academic writing, analytical and literary essays
Grammar, vocabulary, comprehension	Editing, advanced grammar, comprehension	Analysis of style, editing, advanced comprehension
Set works: Q & A – Vikas Swarup	Set work: <i>The Beekeeper of Aleppo</i> by Christy Lefteri	Set work: <i>The White Tiger</i> by Aravind Adiga

TERTIARY STUDY OPTIONS

English provides a strong foundation for degrees in education, journalism, law, linguistics, media studies, publishing, and communication. It is also a core requirement for most humanities and social sciences fields.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

English develops skills that support careers in teaching, publishing, editing, journalism, media, public relations, law, and corporate communications. It also strengthens career paths in creative writing, theatre, and film, where the ability to analyse and craft narratives is central.

“The limits of my language mean the limits of my world.” – Ludwig Wittgenstein

AFRIKAANS

Afrikaans is more than just a language subject. It is a window into South Africa's culture, heritage, and shared identity. Learning Afrikaans builds strong communication skills, deepens appreciation of literature, and provides access to a broader range of professional and personal opportunities.

The subject develops fluency in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students study novels, short stories, poetry, and drama, and they are encouraged to engage critically with literature and society. Oral work develops confidence and public speaking ability, while writing tasks encourage creativity and analytical thought.



Afrikaans promotes bilingualism, a valuable skill in South Africa's multilingual society, and strengthens opportunities in careers where clear communication is vital.

CONTENT COVERED

Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Vocabulary and grammar	Advanced grammar and vocabulary	Complex texts and advanced grammar
Short stories, poetry, novel	Drama, novels, short stories	Independent literary analysis and extended essays
Oral presentations, conversations	Analytical essays, transactional writing	Critical essays, advanced discursive writing
Creative and transactional writing	Literature analysis	Literature: poetry, prose, drama

TERTIARY STUDY OPTIONS

Afrikaans supports further study in language, education, journalism, translation, and communication. It is particularly useful in law, media, and public administration, where bilingualism provides a professional advantage.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Afrikaans is valuable in careers such as teaching, journalism, translation, editing, publishing, interpreting, and public service. Strong bilingual communication also enhances opportunities in law, business, and government.

"Taal is die sleutel tot begrip."

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics is the study of patterns, relationships, and logical reasoning. It develops abstract thought, problem-solving ability, and analytical precision. Mathematics teaches perseverance and critical thinking — qualities needed for higher studies and professional success.

The subject begins with algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and measurement before advancing to calculus, probability, and analytical geometry. Each step strengthens logical thinking, accuracy, and the ability to apply knowledge in unfamiliar contexts. Mathematics forms the backbone of science, engineering, technology, and finance.

CONTENT COVERED

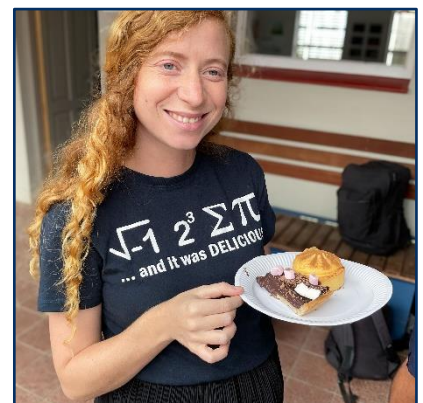
Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Algebra: exponents, surds, factorisation, equations	Functions and graphs	Advanced calculus: differentiation and integration
Geometry: triangles, theorems, constructions	Trigonometry (functions, identities, equations)	Probability distributions and statistics
Trigonometry basics	Analytical geometry	Euclidean geometry and circle theorems
Functions and equations	Sequences and series	Advanced trigonometry and financial mathematics
Measurement and mensuration	Financial mathematics and probability	Sequences, series, and sigma notation

TERTIARY STUDY OPTIONS

Mathematics is a requirement for engineering, actuarial science, data science, architecture, and the physical sciences. It also supports degrees in computer science, economics, health sciences, and business analytics.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Mathematics provides pathways into engineering, actuarial science, computer programming, architecture, quantitative finance, research, and applied sciences. Mathematical skills are also valued in consulting, management, economics, and data analysis.

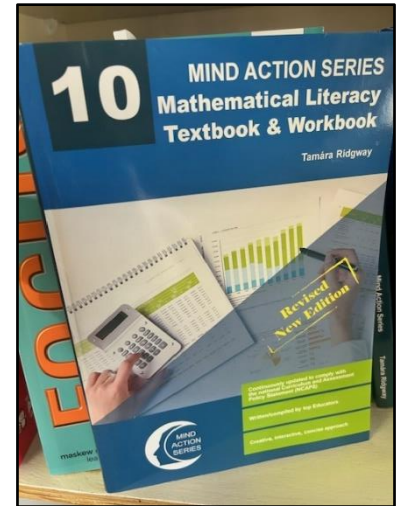


“Without mathematics, there’s nothing you can do. Everything around you is mathematics. Everything around you is numbers.” – Shakuntala Devi

MATHEMATICAL LITERACY

Mathematical Literacy equips students to use mathematics to solve real-world problems. It focuses on applying numerical skills in contexts such as finance, measurement, data, and probability. The subject builds confidence in handling calculations, evaluating information, and making informed decisions.

Mathematical Literacy ensures that students understand everyday concepts such as budgets, loans, tariffs, contracts, and statistical information. By exploring these topics in real-life settings, it prepares students to navigate personal, professional, and community responsibilities.

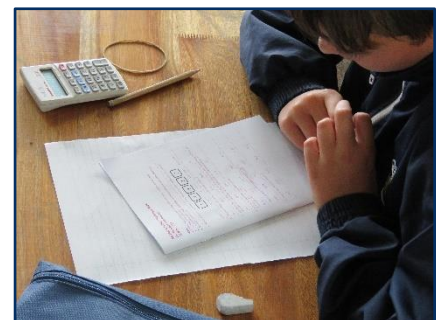


CONTENT COVERED

Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Numbers and calculations in context	Financial documents, loans, banking, interest	Advanced finance, including taxation, pensions, investments
Measurement: perimeter, area, volume	Household costs such as water and electricity tariffs	Budgets, financial planning, tariffs, and escalation factors
Maps, plans, and assembling instructions	Car finance and instalments	Business finance, inflation, foreign exchange
Data handling: graphs, charts, tables	Data handling: surveys, reports	Advanced data interpretation and misleading data
Probability basics in daily life	Probability and risk	Probability in health, insurance, and elections

TERTIARY STUDY OPTIONS

Mathematical Literacy supports study in commerce, education, tourism, hospitality, and the arts. It is particularly relevant for fields where the practical application of mathematics is required rather than abstract theory.



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Mathematical Literacy prepares students for careers in business management, retail, hospitality, social services, tourism, education, and administrative roles. It also supports careers in community development, customer service, marketing, and design.

“Mathematics is not about numbers, equations, computations, or algorithms: it is about understanding.” – William Paul Thurston

LIFE ORIENTATION

Life Orientation equips students with the knowledge, skills, and values to live purposeful and responsible lives. It focuses on personal development, social engagement, citizenship, and preparing for the world of work.

The subject strengthens emotional intelligence, self-awareness, and resilience. It builds understanding of human rights, diversity, and ethics, while also engaging students in physical education and lifestyle choices that promote health and well-being. Career guidance is a key focus, enabling students to make informed choices about study and work.

Life Orientation uniquely links personal growth to active citizenship, preparing students to adapt to change, manage stress, and participate meaningfully in society.



CONTENT COVERED

Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Self-awareness and decision-making	Diversity, human rights, and community involvement	Coping with change and challenges
Physical well-being and lifestyle choices	Career exploration and workplace readiness	Stress management and resilience
Emotional intelligence and relationships	Leadership, responsibility, and ethics	Preparation for life beyond school
Citizenship and social responsibility	Democracy and active participation	Social responsibility and active citizenship

TERTIARY STUDY OPTIONS

Life Orientation strengthens readiness for study in education, psychology, sport science, health sciences, social sciences, and human resources.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Life Orientation prepares students for careers in teaching, coaching, counselling, psychology, community work, public service, and health promotion. The personal and professional skills developed are transferable across all professions.



“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.” – W.B. Yeats

ACCOUNTING

Accounting is the language of business and the foundation of every successful organisation. It provides the skills to track, analyse, and interpret financial information, allowing businesses to grow and thrive. Every transaction, decision, and investment depends on accurate financial management, making Accounting an essential skill in today's world.

The subject develops discipline, attention to detail, and logical problem-solving. Knowledge extends beyond numbers to include ethical awareness and responsibility — qualities that are vital in business and leadership. Accounting not only prepares for careers in finance but also equips with life-long skills for managing personal finances effectively.

With its focus on financial reporting, analysis, and decision-making, Accounting opens pathways into some of the most respected and well-paid professions. It is a subject that empowers those who wish to understand how economies and organisations truly operate.

CONTENT COVERED

Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Introduction to Accounting Concepts	Accounting for Partnerships	Accounting for Companies
Accounting Equation	Accounting for Sole Traders	Cash Flow Statements
Double-Entry System & Ledger Accounts	Inventory Valuation	Interpretation & Analysis of Published AFS
Debtors & Creditors	Fixed Assets	Manufacturing Accounts
Financial Statements for Sole Traders	Reconciliation & Internal Control	Value-Added Tax (VAT)
Ethics in Accounting	Budgeting & Forecasting	Auditing Principles and Practices

TERTIARY STUDY OPTIONS

Accounting, Financial Management, Business Management, Economics, Taxation, Investment Management, Auditing, Law, Bookkeeping, Taxation, Office Administration, Public Sector Finance, Internal Auditing, Chartered Accountant (CA), Professional Accountant (SAIPA), Chartered Management Accountant (CIMA), Tax Practitioner, Internal Auditor (IIA), ACCA international certification.



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Chartered Accountant, Auditor, Tax Consultant, Financial Manager, Financial Analyst, Cost Accountant, Risk Manager, Payroll Officer, Corporate Treasurer, Forensic Accountant, Entrepreneur, and roles in banking, insurance, government finance, and NGOs.

“Beware of little expenses; a small leak will sink a great ship.” – Benjamin Franklin

BUSINESS STUDIES

Business Studies explores the world of commerce, innovation, and strategy. It uncovers how organisations operate, how leaders make decisions, and how opportunities are created in dynamic environments. The subject reveals the role of entrepreneurship in driving progress and shows how businesses adapt to technological, social, and global change. More than just understanding business, it develops critical thinkers who can analyse challenges, communicate effectively, and design solutions that add value to society. With its focus on leadership, problem-solving, and ethics, Business Studies provides skills that remain relevant in every field of work.

CONTENT COVERED

Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Role of business in society	Human resources, marketing, production & finance	Business strategies for growth
Business sectors & functions	Advantages & limitations of ownership forms	Investment evaluation & risk management
Entrepreneurship & business opportunities	Ethics & corporate social responsibility	Effects of globalisation & change

TERTIARY STUDY OPTIONS

Business Studies offers pathways to degrees in Business Management, Marketing, Human Resource Management, Economics, and International Business. Diplomas in Retail, Office Administration, and Event Management open practical routes into careers. Specialist qualifications in Project Management, Logistics, and Digital Marketing provide additional opportunities to refine skills and gain competitive advantage.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates with Business Studies enter diverse careers, including marketing, management, consulting, operations, human resources, and finance. Entrepreneurial skills also provide the foundation for starting and growing independent ventures. Business acumen is valued in corporate organisations, government, and NGOs, ensuring flexibility across industries.

"The best way to predict the future is to create it." – Peter Drucker

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (CAT)

Computer Applications Technology is about more than using computers — it is about mastering digital tools to communicate, organise, and problem-solve effectively. In today's technology-driven world, CAT equips individuals with essential skills to manage information, design solutions, and work productively in academic and professional contexts.

The subject develops proficiency in software applications such as word processing, spreadsheets, and databases. Skills in digital communication, information management, and presentation design prepare individuals for the modern workplace. Ethical use of technology and responsible digital citizenship are emphasised, ensuring readiness for a world shaped by innovation.

CAT provides practical skills relevant to every industry. It enhances employability and adaptability while offering an excellent foundation for further study in business, information systems, and digital media.

CONTENT COVERED

Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Hardware & software basics	Integrated applications	Advanced spreadsheets
File management	Presentations & problem solving	Database design
Documents, spreadsheets & databases	Website design basics	Responsible use of technology

TERTIARY STUDY OPTIONS

CAT supports further study in Office Management, Business Administration, Information Systems, Digital Media, and Education. It provides a foundation for studies in Marketing, Public Relations, and Tourism, where digital literacy is essential. At many universities, students with CAT are exempted from the compulsory first-year Computer Literacy course.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

CAT skills are in demand across industries. Careers include office administration, systems support, project coordination, data capturing, and content management. With further training, graduates may move into web design, IT support, or business analysis. CAT equips students with versatile skills for a technology-driven future.

"The advance of technology is based on making it fit in so that you don't really even notice it, so it's part of everyday life." – Bill Gates

DRAMATIC ARTS

Dramatic Arts is the study of performance, storytelling, and creative expression. It develops confidence, empathy, and imagination by exploring human experiences through theatre and performance. Students learn how to interpret scripts, embody characters, and communicate powerfully with audiences. Beyond acting, Dramatic Arts explores directing, stagecraft, theatre history, and world performance traditions. It fosters collaboration, discipline, and critical reflection — skills that extend far beyond the stage and into leadership, communication, and creativity in every sphere of life.



CONTENT COVERED

Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Theatre history basics	Script analysis	World theatre traditions
Acting techniques	Stagecraft & directing	Production & performance
Voice & movement	Ensemble collaboration	Critical play analysis
Improvisation	Performance projects	Theatre theory & critique

TERTIARY STUDY OPTIONS

Dramatic Arts supports degrees in Theatre, Performance Studies, Film and Television, and Education. Diplomas in Acting, Scriptwriting, Stage Management, and Arts Administration offer practical routes into the performing arts industry. Specialist training in voice work, directing, or screen acting deepens expertise and builds professional opportunities.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Careers include acting, directing, playwriting, stage management, drama teaching, arts administration, and technical theatre. Skills developed in performance also enhance careers in education, corporate training, law, and media. Communication, teamwork, and creativity make Dramatic Arts graduates adaptable to a wide range of fields.



"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players." – William Shakespeare

GEOGRAPHY

Geography provides the lens through which to understand Earth's systems, people, and environments. It reveals the links between landscapes and societies, economies and ecosystems, development and sustainability. More than the study of maps and places, Geography offers insight into pressing issues such as urbanisation, climate change, migration, and resource management. It fosters problem-solving and global awareness, preparing students to think critically about the challenges facing the modern world.



CONTENT COVERED

Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Mapwork basics	Geomorphology	Climate change & sustainability
Climate & ecosystems	Urbanisation	Resource management
Settlement patterns	Economic geography	Globalisation impacts
Resource use	Water resource management	Human-environment interactions

TERTIARY STUDY OPTIONS

Geography builds a foundation for degrees in Environmental Science, Geography, Urban & Regional Planning, Geology, and Tourism Studies. Diplomas in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Conservation, and Disaster Management expand professional expertise. Further study can lead to Town Planning, Environmental Law, and Development Studies.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Geography opens doors to careers in environmental consultancy, GIS and mapping, climatology, town planning, conservation, and international development. Employers value Geography graduates for their analytical thinking, research ability, and global perspective.



"The study of geography is more than just memorising places on a map. It's about understanding the complexity of our world." – Barack Obama

HISTORY

History is the study of humanity's journey — revolutions, struggles, innovations, and achievements. It shows how societies are shaped by events and how the past continues to influence the present. History teaches students to question, investigate, and interpret evidence, fostering critical thinking and empathy. By examining diverse perspectives and global narratives, History develops informed citizens who can contribute thoughtfully to the future.



CONTENT COVERED

Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
French Revolution	USA boom & depression	Cold War
Industrial Revolution	Rise of Nazi Germany	USA Civil Rights Movement
Transformations in Southern Africa	Segregation in SA pre-Apartheid	Black Consciousness Movement
Mineral Revolution & SA War	20th-century world events	End of Apartheid & SA democracy

TERTIARY STUDY OPTIONS

History provides pathways into degrees in History, Political Science, International Relations, Sociology, Anthropology, Law, and Education. Diplomas in Heritage and Museum Studies, Archival Science, and Policy Studies provide specialised skills.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

History graduates can pursue careers as teachers, researchers, policy analysts, diplomats, journalists, archivists, museum curators, and public officials. The critical thinking, writing, and research skills developed are valued across professions.

"The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future." – Theodore Roosevelt

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

Information Technology unlocks the ability to design, create, and manage the systems that shape modern life. From programming to networking, IT equips students to understand and build the digital infrastructure that powers innovation worldwide. The subject develops problem-solving, logical thinking, and creativity, while offering exposure to emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and cybersecurity. IT is not just about coding — it is about building the future, one solution at a time.



CONTENT COVERED

Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Computer hardware & software	Object-oriented programming	Complex programming projects
Algorithms & problem-solving	Advanced database design	Application & database integration
Introduction to programming	Networking fundamentals	Network design & security basics
Basics of databases	Systems development cycle	Emerging technologies (AI, Cloud, IoT)

TERTIARY STUDY OPTIONS

IT leads to degrees in Computer Science, Software Engineering, Data Science, Cybersecurity, and Artificial Intelligence. Diplomas in Systems Analysis, Web Development, and Network Administration provide applied skills. Professional certifications in cloud architecture, cybersecurity, and database management create international opportunities.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Career paths include software developer, data scientist, web designer, IT project manager, network engineer, and cybersecurity analyst. IT professionals are in demand worldwide, with skills that apply across industries.

"The advance of technology is based on making it fit in so that you don't even notice it, so it's part of everyday life." – Bill Gates

LIFE SCIENCES

Life Sciences is the study of life in all its forms — from the structure of microscopic cells to the functioning of entire ecosystems. It explores the complexity of living organisms, human biology, genetics, and biodiversity. This subject nurtures curiosity about the natural world while equipping students to understand health, sustainability, and environmental responsibility. Life Sciences develops analytical thinking, scientific reasoning, and a deep appreciation of the interconnections that sustain life.

CONTENT COVERED

Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Cells & tissues	Human body systems (circulatory, digestive, respiratory, excretory)	Genetics & DNA technology
Classification of organisms	Plant reproduction	Human evolution
Plant & animal support systems	Population ecology	Body regulation & response systems
Energy flow in ecosystems	Human impacts on environment	Environmental sustainability

TERTIARY STUDY OPTIONS

Life Sciences provides a strong foundation for degrees in Medicine, Nursing, Veterinary Science, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Genetics, Biotechnology, and Environmental Science. Diplomas in Nature Conservation, Agricultural Management, and Environmental Health expand opportunities into applied science fields. Specialisations such as Forensic Biology, Wildlife Management, and Genetic Counselling emerge from this subject.



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



Life Sciences leads to careers in healthcare, biotechnology, veterinary practice, conservation, environmental management, and forensic investigation. Careers range from doctor, nurse, pharmacist, and geneticist to ecologist, conservationist, or research scientist. The subject builds the knowledge required for roles that protect, heal, and advance life.

Life Science is the Study of Complicated Things that Have the Appearance of having been Designed with a Purpose - Richard Dawkins

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Physical Science explains the building blocks of the universe, from atoms and molecules to forces and motion. It combines Physics and Chemistry to reveal how natural laws govern everyday phenomena and cutting-edge innovations. Physical Science develops logical reasoning, experimentation, and perseverance, while building the foundation for engineering, medicine, and technology. It challenges students to solve problems, apply mathematics to real-world contexts, and approach the unknown with curiosity.



CONTENT COVERED

Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Chemistry & physics basics	Motion & mechanics	Organic chemistry
Energy & matter	Electricity & magnetism	Waves, sound & light
Scientific investigations	Chemical reactions	Electrochemistry & energy systems
Experimental methods	Properties of matter	Advanced physics concepts

TERTIARY STUDY OPTIONS

Physical Science is essential for degrees in Engineering, Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Veterinary Science, and Architecture. It also leads to studies in Physics, Chemistry, Astronomy, and Electronics. Diplomas in Technical Engineering, Laboratory Sciences, and Applied Chemistry open specialised technical fields.



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Physical Science opens careers in medicine, engineering, research, environmental sciences, pharmaceuticals, and space technology. Careers range from doctor, engineer, and architect to chemist, physicist, and innovator in renewable energy and advanced technologies.

"Equipped with his five senses, man explores the universe around him and calls the adventure Science." – Edwin Hubble

TOURISM

Tourism is the study of one of the fastest-growing global industries. It explores travel, hospitality, customer service, and the cultural and environmental aspects of tourism. The subject builds knowledge of destinations, sustainable practices, and business opportunities within this dynamic sector.



Tourism develops practical and organisational skills. Mapwork, foreign exchange, marketing, and legislation are studied alongside the importance of professional conduct and customer care. Global events and environmental responsibility are also central themes.

Tourism opens doors to careers worldwide. It fosters an understanding of people and places while preparing for opportunities in one of the most vibrant service industries.

CONTENT COVERED

Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Introduction to tourism industry	Tourism sectors & careers	Tourism legislation
South African tourism attractions	Foreign exchange	Professional image & customer care
Mapwork & world icons	Responsible tourism	Tourism marketing
Customer service basics	Global events & tourism	Sustainable tourism development

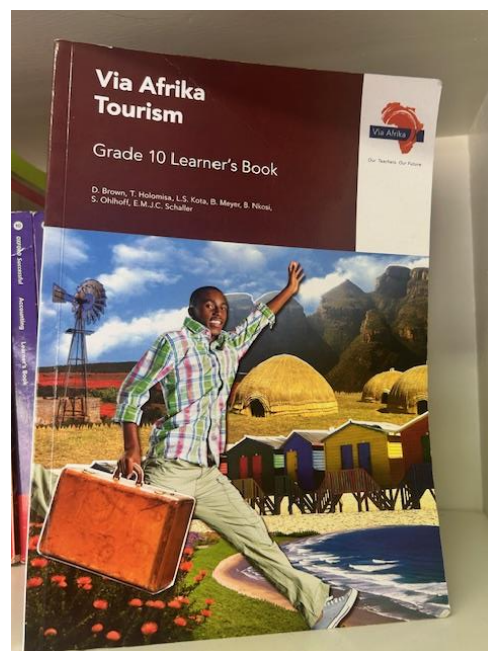
TERTIARY STUDY OPTIONS

Tourism leads to degrees and diplomas in Tourism Management, Hospitality, Event Management, Hotel and Catering, and Travel & Leisure Studies. Specialist pathways include Ecotourism, Heritage Tourism, and Aviation Management.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Tourism provides careers as travel consultants, event coordinators, tour guides, hotel managers, airline staff, and conference planners. With South Africa's vibrant tourism sector, opportunities also include ecotourism, heritage site management, and international travel services.

"The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page." – Saint Augustine

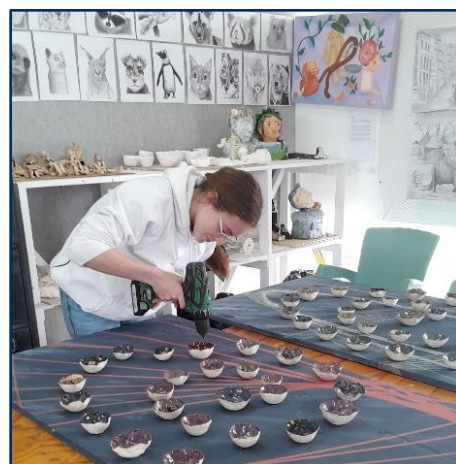


VISUAL ARTS

Visual Arts is the study of creativity, design, and visual communication. It develops technical skills in drawing, painting, and design, while fostering imagination and personal expression. Art connects culture, identity, and ideas in powerful ways, making it a vital part of human history and innovation.

The subject encourages experimentation with media including painting, ceramics, sculpture, mixed media and lino printing. Visual Culture Studies (Art history) deepens understanding of cultural traditions, while critical analysis strengthens intellectual engagement. By Grade 12, portfolios and research projects showcase independent creativity and critical thinking.

Visual Arts cultivates originality, problem-solving, and innovation — skills valued not only in creative industries but also in fields such as architecture, design, and communication.



CONTENT COVERED

Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Drawing, painting, and design basics	Refining technical skills	Independent practical portfolio
Introduction to visual culture studies	Experimenting with styles	Research in visual culture
Sculpture and mixed media	Deeper engagement with visual culture studies	Advanced visual culture studies
Ceramics and lino printing	Critical analysis of artworks	Critical evaluation of artworks

TERTIARY STUDY OPTIONS

Visual Arts leads to degrees and diplomas in Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Architecture, Interior Design, Photography, and Multimedia. Specialist pathways include Animation, Illustration, Fashion Design, and Art Therapy.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Careers include professional artist, designer, illustrator, curator, architect, animator, photographer, and art educator. Creative skills are also valued in advertising, media, and product design.



"Learn the rules like a pro, so you can break them like an artist" - Pablo Picasso

FURTHER STUDIES ENGLISH

Further Studies English challenges advanced learners with higher-level reading, writing, and analysis. It deepens appreciation of literature, philosophy, and language while developing skills in critical thinking, persuasion, and interpretation. The subject cultivates intellectual curiosity, academic rigour, and creative expression, preparing students for tertiary study and careers that demand advanced communication skills.



CONTENT COVERED

Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Advanced grammar & composition	Thematic literary studies	Critical discourse analysis
Academic essay writing	Persuasive & argumentative writing	Poetry, prose & drama studies
Critical thinking exercises	Linguistic analysis	Comparative literary analysis

TERTIARY STUDY OPTIONS

Further Studies English is highly valued for degrees in Law, Journalism, Education, Philosophy, Linguistics, and Media Studies. It strengthens applications for Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences and provides a foundation for postgraduate research.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Careers include journalism, teaching, publishing, editing, law, research, and communications. The ability to analyse, argue, and express ideas persuasively is highly transferable across industries.



"Language is the dress of thought." – Samuel Johnson

FURTHER STUDIES MATHEMATICS

Further Studies Mathematics extends beyond the core curriculum, offering depth in problem-solving, logical reasoning, and abstract thinking. It cultivates precision, perseverance, and creativity in tackling complex mathematical concepts. The subject is ideal for students interested in advanced study in science, technology, and engineering, and it develops the resilience required to solve unfamiliar problems with confidence.

CONTENT COVERED

Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Advanced algebra	Calculus & differential equations	Abstract algebra
Extended geometry	Probability & statistics	Advanced calculus
Number theory	Analytical geometry	Linear programming
Mathematical modelling	Logic & proof techniques	Advanced probability & statistics

TERTIARY STUDY OPTIONS

Further Studies Mathematics supports degrees in Engineering, Actuarial Science, Data Science, Physics, Computer Science, and Applied Mathematics. It is particularly valuable for students aiming for selective university programmes and research fields.



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Careers include engineering, actuarial analysis, data science, finance, computer programming, architecture, and scientific research. Employers prize the analytical skills and resilience gained through advanced mathematical study.

"Pure mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas." – Albert Einstein

MUSIC (TRINITY SUBJECT)

Music at Oakhill is both a discipline and an art form, blending creativity with theory, practice, and performance. It nurtures technical proficiency, discipline, and expressive artistry, while also fostering skills in listening, analysis, and collaboration. Beyond developing cultural understanding, music offers students opportunities in performance, composition, and appreciation. It builds confidence, perseverance, and artistry, enriching both personal growth and academic achievement.



REQUIREMENTS AND STRUCTURE

To complete **Music as an eighth subject**, students are required to achieve a **Grade 7 Practical** and **Grade 6 Theory** level. These examinations are scheduled for the second half of Grade 11, ensuring they are completed before the pressures of matric. This timeline also provides students with the flexibility to retake either component should they wish to improve their results.

Successful candidates receive a separate **IEB certificate**, which can be attached to their final matric results. This internationally recognised qualification is highly regarded by universities and can earn valuable credits towards further studies.

WHY CHOOSE MUSIC AS AN EIGHTH SUBJECT?

A common question is why students should register for Music as an eighth subject rather than selecting it within the core curriculum. Since 2019, thirteen Oakhill students have successfully completed Music as an eighth subject, many achieving above the minimum requirement with **Grade 8 Practical** exams. A number of these students were ranked among Oakhill's **Top 10 Grade 12 achievers**.

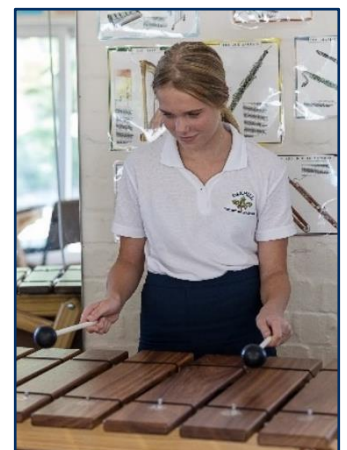
Electing to take Music as an eighth subject, students are able to pursue their passion for music without sacrificing subjects required for their chosen tertiary pathways. Furthermore, unlike the elective subject option, this route does not require the submission of a portfolio. Students instead focus on their weekly practical lessons, with the theory component forming the additional academic requirement.

THEORY TUITION AND LESSONS

- **Grades 10–12:** Theory classes are available twice weekly.
- **Grades 8–9:** Theory classes are available once weekly.

Many students choose to attend these classes even without practical tuition, as they offer valuable musical grounding. Practical lessons take place weekly in an instrument of the student's choice—voice lessons are also an option.

Commitment to the subject is only finalised in Grade 12, when official registration takes place. However, students are expected to work steadily towards the necessary requirements throughout their high school years.



Tertiary Study Options

Music provides pathways into a wide range of degrees and diplomas, including: Music; Music Education; Sound Engineering; Music Technology; Performance
Trinity College qualifications carry international recognition, strengthening applications for both local and overseas institutions.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Possible career fields include: Professional musician; Composer or arranger; Sound engineer; Music teacher or conductor; Music therapist; Arts manager

Additionally, the skills gained through music, such as creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking, are highly transferable to industries such as broadcasting, film, and the wider creative economy.

“Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent.” – Victor Hugo

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