



Dear Parents, Guardians, Students and Oakhill Community,

As we look ahead to the 2026 Oakhill year, I am pleased to share important information on our Co-Curricular Programme and its direction for the year ahead.

Our focus for 2026 centres on school representation and teamwork. At Oakhill, we believe that every student should be working towards a shared goal, whether that is on the sports field, on stage or through cultural performance. This is where discipline is built, pride is developed and an understanding grows that success takes commitment and time. The hours of training and rehearsal become visible when students represent our school.

We value sport and culture equally, and we are intentional in ensuring that all students have access to both areas of school life. The addition of an extra cultural timeslot within the timetable strengthens preparation for music, drama and art showcases. This change also supports our belief in the holistic development of every student. Importantly, we have structured the programme to eliminate clashes between sporting and cultural activities, so students can participate fully in both without compromise.

Our sporting programme continues to grow, especially in water polo, tennis, netball and hockey. In response, we are adjusting practice times so that sport will begin earlier on Mondays and Wednesdays for our Grade 8 and 9 students. This helps alleviate pressure on shared facilities and enables coaching expertise across all sessions. The shift benefits our Grade 8 and 9 students by providing extended practice and the opportunity to engage in an additional sport should they wish. Senior students will also enjoy improved practice times ensuring a higher level co-curricular engagement.

Next year promises to be an exciting one for our sports community. We are proud to be expanding to five full-school winter derbies, further strengthening school spirit and unity across Oakhill. Alongside this, our inaugural Netball Festival will launch next year and will run alongside with our Co-Ed Hockey Festivals for both the U15 and U19 age groups. We are also taking a more deliberate approach to fixturing, building on the progress made this year, with the majority of our fixtures scheduled for Fridays and Saturdays. This structure ensures our players have a full weekly training schedule, allowing them to prepare properly for fixtures. This isn't always possible due to the timing of fixtures and the opposition we play but it remains our goal moving forward.



We are excited to introduce video analysis into our 1st Team sport environments next year. As the new generation is highly visual, players will benefit from access to filmed matches and performance feedback. The new Oakhill “War Room,” currently under construction at the OSC changing room facility, will provide a dedicated space for team talks and video review sessions, further enhancing tactical understanding, and overall player development.

Building staff expertise remains a priority, and we are delighted to welcome new coaches who will play a meaningful role in our programme. Samuel Marston joins our water polo programme, who has played and coached provincially. Our netball department will be strengthened by the arrival of experienced provincial and schools coach, Ria Ferreira. Meanwhile, our chess players will benefit from the strategic insight of Adrian Lawrance. Our hockey teams welcome Graham Bennetts and Mellissa Bennetts, who both have a wealth of experience in all aspects of South African hockey. We are also excited to add archery to our summer co-curricular programme, and along with the Knysna Target Archery Club coaches, will look to build a schools programme with regular competition in the area. These additions build on the positive developments already made this year through the Great Tennis Academy’s involvement and the strong structures introduced by Aldo Lahoud in football following his work in MLS Junior Academies in the United States. Our existing coaching team remains committed and continues to play a vital role in our co-curricular programme moving forward.

As the year draws to a close, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to our College Co-Curricular journey this year. To our students, thank you for embracing the challenges and opportunities that have shaped your growth and inspired everything we aim to achieve. To our parents, your support on the sidelines, in the audience, and behind the scenes remains invaluable to our progress. To all our sports coaches, managers, and club co-ordinators, thank you for your time, energy, and dedication throughout the year. And to my right-hand men, Mr Swart and Mr Mtshilibe, your exceptional work ethic and commitment to driving sport forward at Oakhill have been truly immense.

Please take note of the important information attached below. I wish you and your families a safe, fulfilling and joyful festive season. We look forward to welcoming you back in 2026 for an exciting year!

Kind regards,
Alastair Trafford
Head of Sport: College



Important documents: Co-Curricular Programme

Guide to Co-Curricular Programme and Sign-up

Please read through the guide to familiarise yourself with the co-curricular programme and the expectations for all students: [Click here](#)

Please read through the guide before signing up for the programme: [Click here](#)

Co-Curricular Programme

The Term 1 programme will officially commence on Wednesday, 14 January.

- Term 1A: [Click here](#)

Term 1B and Term 2 programmes

- Term 1B(Starts on 2 March): [Click here](#)
- Term 2: [Click here](#)

Start of season sport documents: Term 1

- Cricket: [Click here](#)
- Tennis: [Click here](#)
- Water Polo: [Click here](#)
- Mountain Biking: [Click here](#)
- Archery: [Click here](#)

Pre-Season

- Hockey: [Click here](#)
- Netball: [Click here](#)

Sport Communication

- Refer to link: [Click here](#)

Dates to Diarise

- [Click here](#)

Tour: Approximate Costs

- [Click here](#)

Sports Attire

- [Oakhill College Sport Attire](#)