



Dear Oakhill School Family

We are just over a month into the school year and staff and students are settling into the changes that we have made. The changes to the timetable, the length of academic day and our co-curricular programme are starting to reap the benefits of all the planning and consideration that has gone before. While the changes have been beneficial and in some cases necessary they have required effort and adaptation from all concerned. I thank our students, teachers and families for their patience as we navigate these changes and want to reassure you that we are very much ready and willing to assist and support you and your child where and if necessary. Please engage with us should you have any concerns as we would like to know where challenges exist or where additional support and guidance is required.

I recently had the opportunity of watching our U13 Boys and Girls Water Polo teams taking part in a festival in Makhanda. The event was graciously and warmly hosted by Kingswood who had in a short space of time kindly set the event up following the cancellation of our own water polo festivals. Our hard working sport department quickly set things in motion and we were delighted to be a part of this occasion. I was incredibly proud of our Oakhill teams who with the wonderful support of enthusiastic Oakhill supporters and parents in tow acquitted themselves superbly both on and off the field. For some of our U13 players it was their first experience of competitive water polo and they rose to the challenge and performed admirably over the two days of fixtures.

This experience along with the outstanding performance of the U14 Boys Water Polo Team at the Jason Murray Tournament in East London reminded me of the ambition and determination of our sports teams who often overcome the odds and produce remarkable results. The U14 Boys achieved a highly laudable 4th Place in the Tournament losing by 1 goal in the Semi-Finals to the eventual winners, Grey High. The semi-finalists of the tournament were Grey High, Selborne, Rondebosch and Oakhill. This is impressive company that we are keeping and when you start to factor in the size and age of these schools our achievements become even more remarkable. Congratulations to our very own U14 coach, Johan Swart, who was recognised by the event organisers as the coach with the best poolside manner reminding us that sportsmanship doesn't only apply to players but to coaches and officials as well.

This weekend sees our U19 Water Polo boys and girls heading to Makhanda to take part in a festival style experience. We are particularly pleased and proud that we will be sending our 2nd teams along with the 1st teams to this event. This milestone is further evidence of the growth, development and ambition of our water polo and the sport programme in general.



U14 Cricket team with Coach Wanda and Mr Cooney

Oakhill where we pride ourselves in punching above our weight in so many disciplines. We now have three cricket sides in the College including a 1st XI Girls team who are already impressing in this region. This resurgence in cricket interest and the hard work being put in bodes well for our players and the game itself. Tennis continues to enjoy high levels of participation along with the impressive strength and depth that we are experiencing across the school. A number of Oakhill players are currently ranked amongst the top players regionally and nationally in their various age groups.

Today Oakhill is represented by an impressive 40 Prep School athletes taking part in the Town Athletics Meeting which also forms the first round of regional trials.

While I have focused a great deal on sport in this communication I would like to remind us all that in a holistic environment such as ours, the secret to managing your child's sporting goals and expectations is treating academics, sport, and culture as a single, integrated journey. Encourage resilience by valuing consistent effort over trophies, ensuring they remain as dedicated to the classroom and the stage as they are in the pool, on the court or on the field. By balancing these pillars, you help them build a broad range of skills and a versatile and resilient character capable of handling both success and setbacks with grit and grace.

I wish you an enjoyable weekend.

*James*



Head of School: James Cross