



Newsletter
17 April 2026

Dear Oakhill School Family

Welcome back to the start of Term 2. I hope that you and your families have had the opportunity to hit pause and take time out from the busyness even for a moment over the course of the holiday.

As is the case with the seasonal changes in nature, so do people experience season changes in their own lives. We welcome Ms Amy Taylor to the English department in the College and wish her everything of the best as she takes up the position and settles into the Oakhill family. As this season shifts, I must also share some bittersweet news. Mrs Elzette Bennett (Grade 00) and Mrs Melissa Hodgkinson (Grade 2) have resigned and will be leaving Oakhill at the end of Term 2. Both Elzette and Melissa have contributed greatly to our school for a significant period of time, pouring years of dedication and care into their teaching. They have reached a season in their lives where the needs of their own families have become their primary focus. We respect their decision to step away from teaching to prioritise these vital family responsibilities, and we wish them every happiness as they embrace this new chapter.

On Monday, following a busy morning of staff development and meetings, all of the Oakhill staff descended on the Knysna Bowling Club for an afternoon of bowls. The afternoon was punctuated with moments of intense rivalry, impressive and not so impressive skill, hilarity and good natured fun as staff took to the greens in search of fame and fortune. Staff across all departments were placed in teams, got dressed up and competed for the all important bragging rights up for grabs.



Oakhill College enjoyed a highly successful March holiday sporting period, with 11 teams competing in a variety of tournaments and festivals across the country. The performances across all codes marked an excellent start to the winter season, with players representing the school with pride and achieving some commendable results.

The U15 and 1st Netball teams opened their campaigns at the Mega Festival hosted at Outeniqua High School. Both teams impressed throughout the group stages, securing semi final spots after consistent performances over the first three days. Despite narrowly missing out on a podium finish, both sides claimed a commendable fourth place overall.

In Hockey, an Oakhill Invitational Boys team competed in the U16 section of the Knysna based Mega Festival, delivering a strong showing by winning three of their four matches over the two day event. The U13 Hockey Boys and Girls also participated in the U14 division of the Mega Festival gaining valuable experience against older opposition from around the country.

The U14A Hockey teams travelled to East London for the Rob Taylor Festival at Selborne College. The boys' side remained unbeaten, recording three wins and a draw, including a high quality encounter against the hosts Selborne College. The girls' team also impressed, winning three of their four fixtures and showcasing exciting attacking play throughout the tournament.

Oakhill's 1st Boys and Girls Hockey teams participated in the prestigious Belgotex Hockey Tournament in Cape



Head of School: James Cross

Town, which featured 128 teams. (see team photos below)



The boys finished second in their pool, advancing to the Plate Section. They went on to win three consecutive matches to reach the final, where they suffered a narrow 3–2 defeat in a thrilling match. The team ultimately placed 18th out of 64 teams in their division, an excellent result at their first appearance at the tournament.

The 1st Girls faced tough opposition in their pool, finishing fourth before progressing to the Bowl Section, where they secured two further victories. While results were mixed, the experience proved invaluable for the squad.

The holiday programme concluded with Oakhill hosting the U18 Co-Ed Hockey Festival and the inaugural U19 Oakhill Netball Festival. The events delivered three days of high quality sport at the Oakhill Sports Campus and Knysna High Astro. The 1st Boys Hockey team went

unbeaten, winning four of their five matches, while the 1st Girls produced strong performances to secure three victories. In Netball, both the 1st and 2nd teams competed with distinction, achieving excellent results against quality opposition.

The winter sport season is well underway. This weekend we will be hosting the annual U13 Oakhill Co-Ed Hockey Festival and the inaugural U13 Oakhill Netball Festival. Please come down to the OSC and the Knysna Hockey Astro to support the U13 Oakhill teams involved. Inter school league fixtures in a number of other codes have also commenced.

We have a number of special days to look forward to next week. We will be holding a Belonging Day in conjunction with BACT to celebrate and acknowledge diversity on Wednesday, 22 April. A range of activities and discussions have been planned across the school.

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Friday, 24 April. Along with a number of class and phase based activities we will also be hosting a *Books for Bursaries* book sale. This initiative from the PACT Committee will see us selling well loved books that have been donated at school to the children during break times and to parents in the afternoon. I encourage you and your children to support this great initiative and let us all get reading. Please follow [this link](#) for more information in this regard.

We look forward to seeing photographs from the Matric Dance which took place on Friday evening.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

James

For more photos follow Oakhill School on social media

