OAKHILL
THE JOY OF LEARNING

HEADS UP

Newsletter
30 October 2026

Dear Oakhill School Family

I am delighted to announce some exciting new staff appointments. Kyle Kumm will be joining Oakhill as Head of College Sport from 1 March 2027 and joins us from Kingswood College in Makhanda. With five successful years as Head of Water Polo at Kingswood and a proven track record as a sports manager, elite coach, and passionate educator, Kyle brings exceptional expertise and vision to our sporting programme. Deeply committed to both whole-child development and athletic excellence, he is set to inspire our students and further elevate our sports culture. We look forward to officially welcoming Kyle, his wife, Joanne and their two sons, Maison (10) and Luca (7) to Oakhill at the start of March. I am also pleased to announce that Fred Davis, our recently appointed Head of Water Polo, will be taking up the interim College Head of Sport position until Kyle joins us.

We also have two new wonderful additions to our administration team starting 1 November. We welcome Robyn Hogeweg, who joins us to lead Events & Functions. Robyn brings extensive experience and expertise to the role from a significant events career, and we are excited for all the wonderful events and future opportunities for our community to engage. We also welcome Tarryn Stewart as our new Operations Coordinator. Tarryn will be adding value across our operations, procurement, uniform shop, and book room with her efficient skills and supportive approach. Both Robyn and Tarryn will begin a transition period with our admin and marketing teams before the new year begins. We are so happy to have them on board!

Finally, we share that Amy Taylor will be leaving us at the end of the month to move to Limpopo to be closer to her family following the loss of her father. We wish Amy every success and happiness in her next chapter beyond Oakhill. We are in the process of interviewing prospective staff to fill this vacancy.

Our College water polo teams have had a busy and successful end to the 2026 season, with the U15A Girls competing at the Clarendon Tournament in East London, the U14A Girls, U14A Boys and U15A Boys participating in the St Francis Festival, while our First Team Girls travelled to Johannesburg for the Inspired Stayers Tournament. Special mention goes to our U14A Boys, who finished the St Francis Festival unbeaten. Our First Team Girls also secured a top-eight finish at the Inspired Stayers Tournament. One of the girls achieved her 75th cap for the First Team

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Girls which is a remarkable achievement. Across all three tournaments, our teams demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and achieved some fantastic results, bringing this year's water polo season in the College to a positive close. The Prep U13B Water Polo Boys travelled to East London to take part in the Harrison Water Polo Festival. The boys did us proud winning half of the games they played while also learning a great deal and growing in ability throughout the experience. We wish our U13 Water Polo Girls everything of the best as they head to Kingswood in Makhanda this weekend.

I am proud to share the results of the 2026 IEB Grade 7 MATCH assessment, which was written in July this year. The MATCH assessment measures core literacy and numeracy skills, as well as a range of transversal competencies. The assessment aims to provide a clear picture of pupil performance while offering teachers practical insights to strengthen teaching and learning. The assessment was written by 1 453 Grade 7 pupils from independent schools throughout Southern Africa. Oakhill maintained an overall average 9% above the IEB average this year. Twelve pupils (27%) achieved over 80% across the two papers written. Significantly, this is 22 percentage points higher than the IEB national figure (5%). The school's overall average for the assessment was 70%, with 24 out of the 45 Oakhill pupils who wrote the assessment scoring 70% or above. 7 pupils from Oakhill placed in the Top 3% of the IEB.

The Grade 6 group have just returned from their camp in Harkerville. The camp, which focused on outdoor activities and has a strong leadership theme, was a great success and the students are to be commended on their impressive level of enthusiasm and engagement throughout the experience.

On Thursday this week we acknowledged and showed appreciation to some very special members of our Oakhill community who serve our school in a variety of important roles. A light luncheon held at the OSC celebrated the invaluable contribution made by members of our parent and broader community body who make up the Scribes, Class Reps, PACT and the Supporters Club. As a school we are extraordinarily fortunate to have an active, involved parent body and broader community who give so generously of their time, expertise, and heart in service of our school. On behalf of a truly grateful school I wish to further echo our sincere appreciation to these and the many other individuals who add so much to our school and help to make it such a remarkable place.

We have a busy month ahead filled with exams, celebrations and events, focusing on wrapping up 2026. There is also much excitement building as we look ahead to 2027.

To the students writing exams we wish you everything of the best - you have got this!

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

James